

Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS & FRESHMEN FANS

We could not have asked for a better 75th Anniversary Celebration of The Four Freshmen than the recent event in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Our hosts, Marlene Lobsiger and Dave Blackwell and their team put together three wonderful days of all things Fresh. Even the weather was perfect for exploring the area outside the hotel.

The Silent Auction opened on Thursday with many interesting items to bid on in the 113 Club. All proceeds would go to FFS. That evening the Jam Session was one of the best I have ever had the pleasure of witnessing in the 32 years of conventions I have been attending, and we were thrilled to have former Freshmen Curtis Calderon participating.

On Friday, the Freshmen performed a beautiful arrangement of our *National Anthem* at Veterans Memorial in front of the impressive wall engraved with names of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Friday night at the dinner and show the ladies were in gorgeous attire, and the men were suited up with some in tuxedos! What a lovely sight for our eyes to behold. To top off the celebration, our ears were equally blessed by a performance of our favorite group which is, of course, The Four Freshmen!

Saturday afternoon was a blast at Fresh Memories where a panel of former Freshmen, current Freshmen and family members of the original Freshmen kept us laughing and engaged as they told of their experiences. Being on the road as a member of the group or growing up in a Freshmen family was full of challenges and memorable situations. (continued on page 10)

A Tribute to Dave, Marlene and Their Entire Committee

by Gil Peterson

The 75th anniversary convention in Fort Wayne was a smashing success due to the amazing Co-chairs and their committee. Every facet of the event was beautifully orchestrated from start to finish. All of us who have chaired a convention know there are always a few glitches here and there. However, I feel sure there were some, but if so, they were beautifully and quickly eliminated.

We did have one major problem that no one anticipated. Tommy took ill and this could have spelled total disaster for the entire convention. But thankfully, although he was quite ill, he performed flawlessly at both Friday and Saturday concerts. We should all give him a standing ovation for the diligence and tenacity he demonstrated for our benefit. You were simply marvelous, Tommy and we love you. You demonstrated the true meaning of the phrase "the show must go on."

Speaking of performances, how about the fabulous performances of Group #27? I have had the privilege of seeing and hearing Group #27 on several occasions over the past several years and frankly, I have never heard them perform better than they did on Friday and Saturday. They were simply outstanding. I know that they, like all of us, were very concerned about Tommy, but they performed like the true professionals they are. When I have introduced them in the past, I always say "please welcome the number one jazz vocal harmony group in the history of the entire music industry..... The fabulous Four Freshmen." Without a doubt, that is a 100% correct statement. Thank you Group #27you were simply amazing.

We were fortunate to have Curtis Calderon and Kirk Marcy with us. They both participated in the jam session and several other events. It was wonderful to have them in Ft. Wayne. Thanks to both of you for being with us.

The general consensus at the convention was that this could very well be our last convention. This topic was discussed in the meetings of the FFS Board of Director, the Convention Coordination Committee, the Four Freshmen Music Foundation as well as the general meeting. There was a discussion of possibly having some kind of a reunion/gathering in various parts of the country. I personally spoke with several members who indicated an interest in at least looking into the possibility of having such an event in their area. If something like that should develop, you will certainly be informed of such an event in the Fresh News.

Our problem is obvious. We are an aging group, our membership is dwindling and traveling is becoming more difficult. Having said all that, I am somewhat optimistic that someday or other, there will be some kind of reunion/gathering in 2024 and "WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN".

