

## NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I received an interesting e-mail recently from an old friend of the Freshmen. Bob Caudill, who now lives in Florida, was the "all-night Jock" at radio station CKLW in Windsor Ontario, Canada. This was a 50,000 watt clear-channel station that featured good music. He informed me that "I first met Bob Flanigan and the rest of the Four Freshmen at the Crest Lounge in Detroit in 1952. It was my pleasure, at that time, to help the Freshmen by "laying on" IT'S A BLUE WORLD on my show." Bob now operates the American Music Classics which he describes as an old-time record store and creates compilations of recordings from the 1920's through the 1960's. Check him out at <[www.americanmusicclassics.com](http://www.americanmusicclassics.com)>. He can make you a custom CD of your favorite Freshmen tunes.

He adds..."you have all my best wishes in making the current Four Freshmen as successful as the first."

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FFS member, Hal Fryar, another former radio personality submits an offer that one of our newer members might enjoy. Hal has a collection of FRESH NEWS issues, some dating from 1995 to the present that he offers, without cost, to anyone interested. Hal is moving and needs to thin out his treasures. Hal can be contacted by e-mail at <[hhfryar@aol.com](mailto:hhfryar@aol.com)> or by mail at 441 Reagan Circle, Franklin, IN 46131. (Hal served some radio time at WLEC-AM1450 in Sandusky OH, my hometown, a great station which continues to offer excellent music, including a Freshmen song 3-4 times a day.)

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We would still entertain proposals for hosting the 2004 Four Freshmen Society convention or beyond. We have a pending proposal from Grand Rapids, Michigan, which is very attractive but this does not preclude interest from others. Please contact me if you would like more information on submitting a proposal for 2004 or beyond.

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Kevin Stout's CD, Good Pals, continues to sell well through our Music Mart. We are pleased to learn that Kevin has a second record nearing completion titled **Up Jazz Creek** which is scheduled for release in June.

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Recently retired Freshmen, Greg Stegeman, is also working on a recording which he plans to have available at our September Convention in Orlando. Greg is recording some Freshmen style songs which he had arranged for the Freshmen but which have not been performed or recorded. Greg will be singing all four parts!

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I regret to report that 2002 was not a great year for attracting new members. Actually, our total of new members has declined annually since 1999! We seem to need an aggressive effort to recruit some younger folks as an aging and declining membership

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will not serve us well into the future. We still have a good membership roster, but I encourage all of you to solicit new members at concert venues to enable us to continue with the excellent services and support that we offer.

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We have now an established merchant agreement to permit FFS to accept credit card payments for purchases from the Music Mart, dues and convention registrations. You will find separate forms within this issue to accommodate such payments. We will evaluate the costs associated with this system and determine at some later date if increases in fees become necessary to offset credit card fees. We have applied a small "handling fee" to purchases from our Music Mart as the individual sales are typically small and our profit margin on most items is also modest.

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I am informed that registrations for our 2003 convention in Orlando are strong, with about 120 recorded by mid-February. This suggests that we can expect good attendance. Send yours in soon!

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An interesting bit of trivia....Frank Sinatra's manager of many years helped to launch his pal from an unknown band singer in the 1940's to fame and fortune. Seems that Nick Sevano wrote Sinatra's name on hundreds of ballots from a readers poll of favorite musicians in Down Beat magazine. The ruse resulted in Sinatra winning the title of Best Band Singer, and a lot of public notice. This story is included within a biography being written by Cleveland author, Ted Swartz.

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FFS continues to prosper, which enables us to continue in our efforts of support for the performing Freshmen. We have become much more business-like, and in the process have identified needs for some additional resources. We would like to provide our membership with an opportunity to provide some of the needed services when appropriate. To that end we solicit members who may have an interest in offering insurance coverages, printing services, tax advice and preparation, etc. Should you have skills or associations in these areas, drop me a note describing how you might help. I feel sure that we must have an inventory of resources that we have not capitalized upon.

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We have a couple of support-type projects underway for the FRESHMEN. We are financially assisting in the development of promotional material in video and/or audio taken from "live" performances recently. Hopefully this may provide valuable assistance in gaining access to new performance venues, as many such facilities are within the control of young folks who may not be even a little familiar with this legendary group. There are also efforts underway toward improvements on our web site which should similarly help in promoting these talented young entertainers.