

## 2002 Convention Business News

Tom Purvis, Pres. FFS

Our annual conventions are intended to be primarily social in nature but we do take a few hours to address the business issues that have become necessary to insure our continuing success. What follows is a brief summary of the more significant items that were addressed in our two business meetings.

Our financial status is satisfactory and we remain on track in our efforts to develop a more businesslike approach to society affairs. A somewhat more detailed record keeping system has been introduced over the past several months and our treasurer has developed procedures and forms for reporting of financial activity from our several areas of activity. It has become important that we monitor our expenditures more carefully as we do not seem to be attracting the numbers of new members that are so essential to maintain our growth. Additionally, we have been encouraging members to pay dues in multiple years to ease the work of our Membership Directors. This has been successful, but it places our treasurer in the position where he must protect these funds for future needs. Therefore, our approval procedures are directed toward insuring the availability of funds for our current obligations and the future.

Our Music Mart has been relocated to Pittsburgh and is now in operation under the capable direction of long time member, Bob Lininger. Historically, the Music Mart has been our primary source of financial support; however, while we expect such support to be continued it is quite likely to be at a reduced level. We simply will have less product to offer! Music Mart sales at the convention were very good and we were able to reduce our inventory of dated products to make room for newer items. Bob is now looking into some new areas for items which can be offered, with the advice and counsel of retiring Director, John Bangs.

Our dues collections substantially support the preparation and publication of FRESH NEWS and some administrative costs. An analysis has suggested that we must make ongoing efforts to control these costs and to even reduce them somewhat, but in a manner that does not diminish the exceptional quality of the publication. You may recall that a while back we made a change in the type of paper and the folding for mailing was eliminated. These were cost-control efforts to offset anticipated increases in postage and printing, and these changes were helpful. We hope that we may introduce some color pages in the future and continue to maintain the size at the current level of 16 to 20 pages. A recommendation was offered by the Editor of FRESH NEWS that we consider a change in frequency of publication from bimonthly to quarterly, thus reducing our costs by some \$2,700.00 and insuring the continuation of the established quality level.

This change was approved by the Board of Trustees, so beginning in January 2003 FRESH NEWS will be published in January, April, July and October, with an additional "Convention Issue" when appropriate, thus the elimination of only one issue per year.

An extended discussion was held during our general membership meeting relating to our annual conventions. I had received some suggestions that we might wish to consider holding conventions only on alternate years; however, our membership was nearly unanimous in their desire to continue on an annual basis. That is our intent and I am pleased to confirm that the site selected for the 2003 Convention is Orlando, FL, on September 25, 26 and 27, 2003. Our host will be Hall of Fame member, Ray Brown! Full details will be included in the January issue of FRESH NEWS, but I can confirm that the location will be the Holiday Inn on International Drive and all hotel rooms will be \$85.00 plus taxes! I have visited the hotel and I have seen the preliminary plans, and I assure you it will be another outstanding event. Mark your calendar!

And finally, another important item was the nomination and election of two members to the Corporate Board of Directors. The nominating committee asked that I continue for an additional two-year term and I was honored to accept. Additionally, the membership elected Wayne Corey of Wisconsin to the other vacancy. Wayne is a welcome addition to our board and will, I am sure, provide good advice and counsel to our officers and staff.

These increasingly important meetings require only a very few hours out of a full weekend of fun, so I encourage our members to attend and participate to insure the worthwhile continuation of this very unique band of music fans. Please make plans now to join us in Orlando.

## NAME THAT TUNE

by Dave Barnes

Greg Stegeman has arranged quite a few vocal charts for the FF. I propose a contest to name these tunes. Three prize winners naming the most titles will receive rare Lps from Greg's own collection: the Pausa label reissues of FF & 5 Trombones, 5 Trumpets, 5 Saxes, 5 Guitars, and Voices in Brass. If the winners can't use vinyl, then I will award FF CDs.

Some of Greg's charts have not been recorded. A special prize to be determined will go to the person naming the most unrecorded songs. Ask any question via telephone, email, & USPS. Deadline for entries is Dec. 6.

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