

Our New President, **Neil Lantz**



Neil Lantz of Fishers, Indiana has been elected by the Corporate Board of Directors to replace retiring president, Mel Meyers. Lantz and his wife Sara Lou have been Freshmen fans since the 1950's and members of the Society since 2000. They co-chaired the highly successful 2008 convention in Indianapolis in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Four Freshmen.

Neil has served as the FFS Indiana Representative, as a member of the Convention Site Selection Committee, and the Advisory Council. He is the immediate past president of the Jazz Arts Society of Indiana and both he and Sara Lou continue to serve on that organization's board of directors. After a 40-year sabbatical, he recently resumed his musical hobby by playing tenor sax in several big bands in the Indianapolis area.

He began his professional career as a teacher with the Fort Wayne, Community Schools where he later served as a junior high school assistant principal. He then was named registrar of the Indiana-Purdue (IUPFW) campus in Fort Wayne and subsequently held major administrative positions at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis (IUPUI) and for the Indiana University system-wide system.

In 1985, Neil became a broker manager of a large real estate office in Indianapolis and later served as associate broker and vice president, residential division, of the largest independent real estate company in Indiana from which he retired in 2010.

Neil has a long history of volunteer work in a variety of non-profit organizations including the United Way, American Red Cross, Ronald McDonald House, USA Baseball, and the International Baseball Association. He was president of USA Baseball, the national governing body of all amateur baseball in the United States, when the U.S. team won the Olympic gold medal in Sydney, Australia in 2000. His 18 year involvement with national and international baseball involved travel throughout the world in a variety of official capacities at the Olympics, the Pan American Games, World University Games, and world championships.

Neil and Sara Lou have three adult children and nine grandchildren. Both remain active in a variety of music, church, and volunteer efforts in the central Indiana area.

From the Outgoing Pres...

Mel Meyers, Past President, FFS

The recently completed Reno Convention was done nicely by Dennis and Joy Dobies and their staff. Hopefully all had a good time.

The Four Freshmen brought their latest "offering", *Love Songs* and it was exciting to watch and listen to the lovely songs with strings accompaniment. They become more diverse than ever before. Their "book" now includes strings, symphony, big band jazz, self-contained, and more selective presentations like the music of Stan Kenton using their *Live Trombones* as a lead in.

The songlist on the new album includes a variety of styles all focused on being in love. All were done well. The stage presentation conducted by Dr. Rod Henley was very pleasant and added a "touch of love".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board, and Advisory Council for the support they gave me during my three-year hitch as President. To all the members who came to the last three conventions, "Thank You, Thank you, and Thank you."

So its now my time to hand over the reins of President to a man well groomed to take my place. We did that at the convention as well, leaving Neil Lantz in charge. He is a studied successor and I say to him the words of Sage, Dave Barnes, "Call any time!"

HOT NEW FF CHARTS ON **HOTTER SUMMER NIGHT**

by Wayne Corey, FFS - Wisconsin

The Four Freshmen opened with a swinger from their new CD and later added three more of the new songs in a 50 minute set opening for The Lettermen Saturday night. The two groups that sold a lot of albums for Capitol Records in the pre-Beatles 1960s appeared in the Music by the Lake series at George Williams College.

The venue offers a lovely outdoor setting on the north shore of beautiful Geneva Lake in southeast Wisconsin. Geneva Lake is noted for being the summer home to a lot of old Chicago money. Temperatures hovered around 90 degrees as the Freshmen took the stage, causing Curtis Calderon, with flugelhorn but sans trumpet, to comment, "You may be wondering why we're wearing suits." Yup!

Three Great American Songbook classics from the new CD were grouped together late in the set. *I Can't Believe That You're in Love with Me* was taken at a moderately swinging pace while *Stardust* and *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* seem likely to compete for fan favorite on the new CD. *Stardust* and *Nightingale* are both Brian Eichenberger charts drenched with classic Four Freshmen chords.

The remainder of the Four Freshmen set was predictable and predictably excellent. *Poinciana*, *Route 66*, *It's a Blue World* and other Freshmen classics received enthusiastic deserved applause.

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