



Dixie District SPEBSQSA **REBEL ROUSER**

Alabama - Georgia - Mississippi
North Carolina - South Carolina - Tennessee

Jan - Feb - Mar, 2002 - Volume 45, Number 1

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DISTRICT
CHAMPION



2002

???



The Dixie District Quest

Who Will Be Next?

2001, CRESCENDO



2000, Overture

1999, Four Voices



1998, Riptide



1997, Split Decision



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DEADLINE CLARIFIED

Deadlines for the Rebel Rouser are approximately four to five weeks before the publication reaches the membership. Please keep this in mind when planning advertisements for upcoming shows.

Deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October.

DIXIE DISTRICT - VISION

To be the best "cotton-pickin'" district within the Society in every conceivable way by promoting excellence in barbershop quartet singing throughout the states within the geographic borders of the Dixie District.

DIXIE DISTRICT - MISSION

To provide support and assistance to the members and chapters of the Dixie District in fully developing and realizing their individual chapter missions, to conduct conventions, festivals and other events at which members and chapters can share and enjoy their common love for barbershop harmony, to conduct schools and other educational events at which members and others can learn and improve their musical skills, to support a wide range of charitable activities, and to widely promote barbershop quartet harmony in communities throughout the District.

Advertising Rates, B/W ads

Business card (2X3.5)	\$10
1/8 Page	\$30
1/4 page	\$60
1/2 Page	\$80
Full Page	\$120

COLOR ADS

Inside front or back cover

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Articles with no byline are
contributed by the Editor

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

By Ron Hesketh

OK! Now What!

As I head into my second year as editor of the *Rebel Rouser*, I look back and realize that I have been very fortunate to have so many people willing to add their two cents worth to the publication. The Dixie District board members have really come forth and provided us all with timely and relevant information.

OK, how about the rest of you? We, as a district, need to know what the average Joe barbershopper has to say about what is happening in their world. I know you have something to say and many of you probably tell someone at one time or another that you wish someone would have said something about a subject or event.

I am attempting to make the "*Letters To The Editor*" section an every issue event but I need YOUR input to make that happen. If you haven't sent an article in for publication, it's about time you get on the bandwagon. All I ask is that you include your name and chapter affiliation and "let 'er rip!"

I want your opinions, but I also want them to be a positive tool for your ideas and suggestions. Believe me, I have received a few verbal spankings in the past year for blunders I have committed. They have all been warranted, but they also have helped me refine my skills and become more aware of what I am doing. I have a long way to go to reach the level of a **Lorin May**, but I am making every effort to get there.

Speaking of Lorin, I think he has turned the *Harmonizer* into a premier publication that competes favorably with anything out there in the commercial world. What a job he has done. I also feel privileged to have worked with him on a more personal level while publishing the daily bulletins at the 2001 international convention here in Nashville. My learning curve as relates to the publishing program I am using for the *Rebel Rouser* took a sharp upward turn during that time and I thank him from the bottom of my heart. I still am in contact with him and actively seeking his input to make this a better publication.

OK, ladies and gentlemen of the Dixie District, NOW WHAT? What will the year 2002 bring for our membership and this publication arm? What contribution will YOU make to our success?

Come on now, don't sit on your duffs; get up and get active in all aspects of your chapter and the district. Together we can, and will, continue to grow the Dixie District and keep it the "best cotton-pickin' district" in the society. (Thanks **Jim**, for that phrase) Your words are the most important tool in accomplishing that goal.

*Our old baritone's name is Clare,
his voice is more than just flair.
Eighty eight is his age,
with the girls he's a rage,
he is most unusual—I swear.*

Stan Myers

*taken from Probe Presents
Limericks Unlimited, 1986*



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DREAMS DO COME TRUE

By Jim Napier

With the tragedy and sorrow of September 11 putting everything in perspective as to importance, the Dixie fall convention was still a very special and meaningful time to **CRESCENDO**.

CRESCENDO was formed in January 1999 at the *NC Harmony Brigade*. We gathered in a small room after everything was over on Saturday night and sang brigade songs for a couple of hours. We liked how it sounded and decided to get together the next week. Being spread apart (**Tom** and **Mark** are in Kernersville/Winston Salem, **Matt** is in Greensboro) and **Jim** is in Clayton, we knew we must make good use of our time and set some lofty goals to accomplish.

The first goal was to always entertain our audiences with good singing and laughter thrown in. Secondly, we wanted to win the Dixie District Quartet Championship. Some of us had been competing for many years and had never experienced that feeling.

Through lots of hard work, good coaching from some of the best coaches in the society, and lots of support from friends, family and other quartets, our goal was reached this past October when we won the District Championship. We had been working hard, particularly on our presentation package, feeling that if our presentation improved so would everything else. With the help of **David Leeder** and **Dave Labar**, we worked to make that happen.

We entered this contest as relaxed as we have ever been. Dave Labar was with us and he kept us focused and relaxed at the same time. We knew what we were to do and we went out each night and did it.

We were all sitting in the back of the hall on Saturday night waiting

for the announcement. What a thrill when **Don Lang** said “and now your 2001 Dixie District Champions, CRESCENDO”.

I must admit that the next few minutes were a blur, as tears and hugs were being shared freely. The Standing O as we went up on the stage will always be remembered. Being introduced as the 2001 Champs for the rest of the evening at the hospitality suites was a great feeling.

Before the A&R sessions on Sunday morning, we decided to show up at the church service and sing a couple of songs for the service. Probably should have rethought that, singing at 8AM after being up half the night, but it was a great experience and we were glad that we did it.



CRESCENDO accepts their award

This was the first championship for all of us. I've been a member for 26 years, while Mark and Tom have both been members for over 18 years. Matt is in his 5th year. It was a long time coming, but well worth the wait.

We are looking forward to this year as your champions. We are working even harder to qualify for International, (our next goal), and to have the honor of representing our district in Portland.

Thanks to all of our friends who have supported us; our families, coaches, and most of all to the good Lord above for giving us the talent. It's a wonderful hobby and I wish all quartets could experience what we have.

We look forward to our year as champions.

With A Song,
Matt, Mark, Tom and Jim

Freedom Isn't Free

By Charles V. Wilson
President, Mississippi Gulf Coast SeaChords

February is the month for sharing and expressing love for those who are important to us. As you take these precious moments to remember those close to us, I ask that you add an additional moment to think of service members, both those who are defending our country while deployed overseas and those here

defending our homeland. We enjoy our freedom, but “Freedom Isn't FREE”. Our Service members express and love a country that regularly takes them for granted. If you see a soldier in uniform or know the person to be a soldier, take the time and say thank you for defending us. It will really make the soldier feel warm inside. Take it from me. I am a soldier.

CSLT Report

By Jim Napier
VP, Chapter Support &
Leadership Training



2002 is off and running. Before you know it, the spring convention in Knoxville will be here. This is another great opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. It is also an opportunity to attend the House of Delegates meeting. Every chapter should have an official delegate to this meeting. HOD presents the membership with a public forum to talk to all the district officers in one place. I encourage all of our chapters to send a representative to the meeting with voting rights to represent your chapter in the direction you want your District to go.

One other thing, our Member Services VP, **Fred Hinesley**, has been sending out some great ideas to the chapter presidents on recruitment. Please consider these ideas, and contact your chapter coach for help. Opps, there is that word, CHAPTER COACH. Use your chapter coach to help you in any matter that you think needs attention in your chapter. We are here to serve you any way that we can. Feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

With A Song,

Has your quartet or chorus registered for the Dixie District spring convention yet?

You had better get on the stick if you haven't!

By Larry Deters, VP Contest & Judging

Entry forms for the Dixie District contests to be held in Knoxville, TN on March 15-17 are available on line at www.spebsqsa.org (the society WebPages).



To submit an entry, go the website and click on forms, then click on **CJ-20 Contest Entry Form** for either chorus or quartet as appropriate. Answer the questions, sign the agreement and click on submit. This form will automatically be forwarded to your district VP for C&J who will periodically publish (e-mail) the list of approved entries for the contest.

Guess Who's Coming to Contest!

Editor's Note: *Due to scheduling conflicts, the Dixie District is honored to host an internationally famous quartet competitor. The following letter was sent to Jim Sams from none other than Jay Gillombardo.*

Jim Sams, President
Dixie District, SPEBSQSA, Inc.

Hi Jim,

On behalf of **Excalibur** Quartet from **LOL District**, I wish to thank the Dixie District for approving our request to sing in the Dixie District this Spring at the International Preliminary Contest in Knoxville, TN. We appreciate the opportunity to attempt to qualify for the international contest in Portland Oregon this July, and look forward to seeing and singing for our many friends in the Dixie District.

After the retirement of **John Korby**, former Bass of Excalibur, I was contacted by the quartet and asked if I might try a session with them as the quartet wished to continue on. In late September last year, we had our first rehearsal and needless to say were excited about the potential of this new combination. We set forth on our rehearsal plan including a modest change of direction for the quartet. We think folks will be delighted with a more conventional selection of barbershop music and the new robust sound of Excalibur.

Our busy schedules (we have two chorus directors in the quartet) found us without much leeway in the competition schedule. The LOL District has strongly supported Excalibur since its inception; we were saddened that we could not sing for the hometown folks in our first competition. We were grateful that the Dixie District would accommodate our request to sing in your prelims. It is our hope that we can delight your audience and continue to build a strong rapport with our barbershop friends across the country.

Best regards to all. We looking forward to our visit to the Dixie District with great anticipation.

Sincerely,
Jay Giallombardo
Bass, Excalibur

If, after a week your entry is not shown on the approved list, please resubmit your entry. If this fails a second time, call **Larry Deters**, VP for C&J at 615-373-4507 or e-mail at detersL@aol.com.

Entries must be received by midnight Friday, March 1, 2002.

SHARE THE WEALTH

By Jim Sams, Dixie District President

I can hardly believe my first year as district president has already passed and a new year is now under way. Hopefully, I can get it right the second time around!

Dixie District has been blessed with an outstanding group of leaders through 2001. I cannot praise the District Leadership Team enough, along with their committees, for the work they have done so far. But we are all aware that the work and the challenges continue to meet us head on. And I can confidently say that these men are more determined than ever to keep our district on track and moving ever upward and onward for 2002.

My thrust for 2002 will focus mainly on membership recruitment and retention, improvement in musical quality within our chapters, and improved communication between our district board and our chapter leaders. I feel that these are areas that are being stressed throughout other districts and are paramount to the overall well-being of our district.

Our VP of Member Services, **Fred Hinesley**, has already begun an educational thrust to encourage chapters to be more proactive in recruitment and retention of members. Dixie has led the society for yet another year with a 3.2% growth primarily due to chartering of a number of new chapters. Many chapters have re-established the office of Membership VP to deal more adequately with growth and retention. We will continue to look at ways to train and encourage interested members throughout our chapters to develop better programs to bring in new members and to keep current members more actively involved in the life of their chapters.

We are often asked which comes first, the chicken or the egg? (**Marietta MAY** have the answer!) Do our chapters grow because we sing better or do we sing better because we are growing? You can see how closely membership and music & performance work hand in hand.

In order to help our chapters grow musically AND numerically, **Drayton Justus**, VP of M&P, has stepped up his efforts to promote and encourage more show reviews by our Standing Ovation Program team. We have approximately twenty reviewers who are willing to come to your shows, chorus and/or quartets, to provide your performance teams with positive

reinforcement of what you are doing well and what more can be done to make your shows and performances even more appealing to the general public. This in turn may just be the tool to draw more local singers into your chapters.

The District Coaches Guild is also being upgraded to provide outstanding coaches to our chapters for improved singing and performance techniques. If your chapter is looking to improve musically in any of these areas, we would love to help you achieve those goals this year. We just need to hear from you. We are already getting some positive feedback from chapters who are taking advantage of these tools for musical growth.

And, finally, we are continuing to make contacts with leaders in the chapters in an attempt to improve positive dialog and to provide for an exchange of thoughts and ideas. This is not limited, however, to chapter presidents and chapter contacts. Even though we would love to hear more from chapter boards, we would also encourage feedback and comments from any and every Joe Barbershopper in Dixie. We are here to serve you and to help make this hobby exciting and educational for all of our members. But we need YOUR input and encouragement to succeed. Please help us help you to make barbershopping the greatest in the best cotton-pickin' district in the society!

In closing I would like to take a page from our humble editor, **Ron Hesketh**, to encourage all of our chapters to send in newsworthy items to be shared in the hallowed pages of our **Rebel Rouser**. We are much more interested in hearing what is happening at the chapter level than we are to hear what the district and society leaders are promoting. EVERYONE of our members is also offered the opportunity to share comments and questions with the editor. We will get every question and comment answered in a very timely manner. Please get involved in promoting your chapter throughout Dixie AND the society with your comments and articles.

We want to hear from you!

Best wishes to all for a very successful year in your chapters. We stand ready to "share the wealth" of all the Society has to offer to help you meet your chapter goals during 2002. Please stay in touch and let us hear from you. I promise you will be hearing from us!



We are often asked which comes first, the chicken or the egg? (Marietta MAY have the answer!)

SCENE & HERD
Fall 2001 Convention
Chattanooga, Tennessee



I thought they were supposed to be working!



CRESCENDO
 kicks up it's heels
 All the gold is NOT in California!



Smackdown is no longer NOVICE!



Curry Chapter Coach Award



*with all the Loose Change around
 can anybody spare a dime?*



OH.... so close for Spectrum



Is Don awarded for all the directions he gives?
 or is Larry directing him on what to say?



*the RIPTIDE must have washed the
 other 3 out to sea!!*



*this was an OVERTURE
 not an OPUS!
 where's Jim Hams?*

**INTERNATIONAL
 COMPETITORS
 HONORED**



*do these guys keep all their
 music in a ROW?*



Confederates Award
 for
 4 Voices

photos on these
 pages are
 courtesy of the
 editor

**SCENE & HERD
(continued)**



A. K. A.

JIM HAMS??

he gets to give out all the awards



**LARGE CHORUS
AWARDS**



**MEDIUM CHORUS
AWARDS**



SMALL CHORUS AWARDS



did these guys make a SPECTRUM of themselves?

the lead says "gimme-a-break"!

See related article on page 8



COACH.... "walk like this"
CHORUS.... "but coach, my back hurts"!

Integrated Product Team Approach Works in Dixie

By Fred Hinesley, VP, Member Services

A few years ago I heard a barbershopper say, “My chapter is made up of elderly men—and their fathers.” His comment reflected the fact that the Society was a graying organization.

Perhaps that trend is beginning to change. **Dick Bek**, our society membership specialist, told me last week that 22 per cent of our members are now between the ages of 18 and 30. I am not sure what has brought about this encouraging phenomenon, but I’ve always been certain that the fact that a person is young does not mean that he can’t appreciate the music we sing.

A few years ago, when I lived in Macon I coached some high school quartets. When I began working with them, these youngsters didn’t really seem thrilled at the thought of singing barbershop harmony. But they were competing in a literary meet and wanted to win. Once they began ringing chords, they were hooked, and I’ll bet that, in a few years, some of them will join the Society.

Anyone who saw the young men at the *Harmony Explosion* camp last summer saw that these youngsters were also hooked. Not only did they trail after **Dave Calland** (lead of 2001’s Silver Medalist quartet *Uptown Sound* and their instructor) as if he were some sort of magic Pied Piper, but they also rang some fantastic chords during their performance. The expression on their faces—and on Dave’s (who isn’t such an old man himself)—told the tale: many of them will be back for more barbershopping. And isn’t that what efforts on our part should, at least partly, be about?

As a part of his visit to Dixie in January, **Dick Bek** visited schools in Effingham County, Georgia, and in Decatur, Alabama. Along with a quartet from the Savannah chapter, the **Savannah Sounds**, I accompanied Dick to Effingham County High School and to South Effingham County High School. **Cindy Demarest**, the Effingham County High choral director, had contacted Dick, for his help in introducing barbershop to her students. She let us know that **Ray Ellis**, the South Effingham County choral director was also interested, and with the help of the Springfield, Georgia, mayor, **Neel Ackerman** (the Savannah Sounds bass) and **Maurice Gwinner** (Savannah Sounds lead) we arranged for Dick to visit the two schools.

We discovered that Cindy and Ray have done exceptionally good jobs with their students. Those kids know about vocal techniques and music, and they sing beautifully. The Savannah Sounds and I discovered that Dick Bek is exceptionally good at working with young people and at teaching them about the barbershop style. The



What Happened to Spectrum?

By Tommy Brown, Lead

Loyal fans of The Spectrum Quartet were devastated when the last issue of the Rebel Rouser arrived. They quickly thumbed past the photos of the top ten to catch a glimpse of their new favorite quartet’s picture. It was truly a sad day in the lives of all Spectrum fans. For you see, there was no picture of Spectrum to be found.

Thousands of disappointed fans... Hundreds??...

Ok, there were a few who noticed that our picture was accidentally omitted from the last issue. We contacted Ron Hesketh and he graciously offered to put us in this issue.



Where’d they go??

Spectrum, narrowly missed being in the top ten in the October contest by one small point. Hey, they missed being in the top nine by only two little points. Rats!! Having only been together about 5 months and considering the quality of the quartets participating in that contest, Spectrum was happy with their very close 11th place Mic tester finish in October. The members of Spectrum are, **Joe Ezell** (Bs), **Tommy Brown** (L), **Rick Ramsey** (Br) and **Allen Reynolds** (T).

Spectrum believes that Ron Hesketh has done a fantastic job as the new editor of the Rebel Rouser Newsletter. Furthermore, since he is letting us put our picture in this issue of the Rebel Rouser, Spectrum has officially decided to completely forgive Ron for this terrible error, and unnamed quartet members promise not to follow through with the bodily injury previously threatened. *Editor: Especially from Joe. I may need him to make me sound good again someday.*

kids loved him, and now they love barbershop harmony. Several boys told me that they’d like to sing in a quartet.

There was a fortunate spin-off from these sessions. Cindy’s husband, a former barbershopper, who is pastor of the Guyton, Georgia, Christian Church attended the session at Effingham County High School. He told us that there are around 14 men in his church choir who would love to sing barbershop, and there is now an extension site in nearby Springfield, Georgia.

Following his visit to Effingham County and Savannah (where he

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Dixie District Hall Of Fame Your Nominations are Requested

By Bill Lester

The purpose of the Dixie District Hall of Fame is to give recognition to those men who have made exceptional, long standing, unselfish, dedicated and devoted contributions to the Dixie District, their chapter(s) and the society. This award shall serve to honor such person's participation and focus on these activities.

QUALIFICATION:

Induction into the Hall of Fame shall be limited to persons, living or dead, whose contributions to the District have spanned no less than 10 years. These contributions may have been on various levels of organization whether musical or administrative. These contributions shall be service or activities which have added to the overall well-being of the District and furtherance of the hobby. Recognition need not be limited to current Society members, but the recognized service must have been performed while the individual was a member of the Society and the District.

The basic criteria for qualification includes, but is not limited to, quarteting activities, chorus directing, coaching, contest judging, composing, arranging, publishing, administering, writing, promoting, teaching, philanthropy, or preferably some combination of these, which shall be marked by unselfish, dedicated and devoted service.

NOMINATIONS

Nomination of persons for induction into the Hall of Fame shall be made by any member of the District and shall be made in writing to the District Historian between April 1 and June 30 of any year. The initiating nominator shall provide a legible, detailed description of the nominee's qualifications. Such description need not be precise on dates, places, results, etc. but must provide sufficient credible information to substantiate the qualification offered. Corroborating sources, such as publications or individuals, may be used, but such must be either generally available or made available by the nominator. A specific person may be nominated more than once. If someone is nominated by more than one person, it shall be treated as a single nomination, but the combined facts and information may be considered. A quartet may be nominated, but it shall be considered as one nomination.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The Committee shall review the information by mail. As soon as practical after June 30 of each year, the District Historian shall send to the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee all of the nominations and supporting documentation. The Selection Committee Chairman shall review all of the nominations to determine the eligibility of each nominee. Questions regarding eligibility shall be referred to the Chairman of the Dixie District Laws and Regulations Committee. The nominations of all eligible nominees shall constitute the slate of potential inductees for that year. The members of the Selection Committee may wish to discuss the nominees' qualifications before voting. Voting shall be by written ballot and shall be by rank, for example each voting member shall list his first, second, third, and successive choices. After the order of ranking is determined by the vote of the Selection Committee, the Committee shall determine how many nominees shall be inducted for that year. The final selection vote may be by telephone poll, by mail or e-mail, or, at the request of any member of the Selection Committee, shall be by written ballot. The Committee's action each year shall be completed by August 15th.

The Dixie District extends this invitation for you to submit your nomination, to the Dixie District Hall of Fame, for evaluation and consideration by the Selection Committee .

Please mail your nomination and supporting information to:

Bill Lester
Dixie District Historian
1045 Seven Springs Circle
Marietta, GA. 30068-2660.

New Dixie District photographer named

We are please to announce that the Dixie District Board of Directors has awarded the 2002 convention photography contract to **Jack Deere Photography** in Raleigh, North Carolina. This name may sound familiar to many of you as Jack is a long time member of the Dixie District and the **RTP Chapter**. Jack's company specializes in digital photography and will bring the latest technology advances to our convention photographic services.

Quartets will now be able to view and approve their photograph before they are purchased or printed. They will also receive their photograph order before they leave the performance site. "Because of our technology, we can take the picture, let the quartet see it on the computer, and then print it immediately. This allows us to fulfill the quartet orders and deliver them in the lobby that evening" said Jack Deere. "We will also offer smaller sizes, black and white PR shots, and the photo on computer disk for web site and other needs."

Chorus services will be much the same, but due to the number of prints ordered, all of the orders can not be fulfilled before the end of convention. "Smaller choruses can have their pictures before they leave on Sunday, but the larger groups may have to wait until the following Tuesday before their order is mailed to them", Jack added. "We will also provide an index print of all the men who raise their hand to order the chorus photo. This will aide the Chapter administrators in money collection after the convention." Choruses will also be able to order large poster prints, black and white PR shots, and computer disks for web site and other uses.

"I am very excited about the possibilities this technology brings to our con-

It's all getting easier

By Frank Cristina, VP Marketing & PR

Friends, I don't know if you noticed, but being a barbershopper in Dixie is as easy as water rolling off a duck's back. Some of the innovations we can quack about are:

Registration on Line – Pay Pal is up and running. We can now make payment for registration, register and secure housing on our web site, for all Dixie District events.

Rebel Rouser on Line – The current and recent past issues of the RR are on our web site.

Chapter Web Sites – Many chapters have individual web sites – that can be located through the Dixie web site page (WWW.DDSPEBS.org). There is no better way to tell about your chapter or advertise your performances than through your own web page. Guests are now finding their way to rehearsal halls by looking for barbershopping activities on the web. Do you want your own web page? Then please contact our web master **Patrick Thomas** at Patrickthomas@home.com for information on how to set up your chapter's web site.

DD Market Place – We no longer have to wait until the next convention to buy barber-

shop product. Since Pay Pal has been installed, you can now purchase Dixie District barbershop product on line. Manager **Rusty Kirkpatrick** is now deciding on the product he believes Dixie members would like to purchase. There will be a photo display of product for sale on this site in the very near future. If there are certain items you would like to see to purchase on this site, then contact **Rusty** at jrustyk@worldnet.att.net.

Remember, if you want to advertise your chapter show, chapter quartets, special events, etc., then place your advertisements either in the *Rebel Rouser*; Dixie District web site, or on your own web page. This is where Dixie barbershoppers first look for the latest news! See you at the spring convention!



Grant Writing – This is a hot topic currently being discussed throughout barbershop land. There are a number of pots of money just waiting for someone to submit the proper paper work to obtain these funds. We are working on having a grant writing class, as part of our COTS curriculum this fall, and also for the foreseeable future.

vention photographic services", said **Jack Donaldson**, Dixie District VP Events. "The new products and services are a real plus to our Quartets and Choruses but the reduction in delivery time from 6-8 weeks down to one, is the major benefit. All of these new products will be offered at virtually the same cost structure as in previous years and I am confident that Jack's skill as a photographer, experience as a Quartet and Chorus competitor, and use of the latest technology will make this a winning combination for the District."

*A good barbershop limirick's
neater,
if it rhymes, which will make it
sound sweeter.
But just as in singing
my trouble is bringing
to the poem, a solid, regular and
consistant sense of meter!*

(Richard Treptow)

*taken from Probe Presents
Limericks Unlimited, 1986*

The Journey

By Drayton Justice, VP of Music & Performance

While back, I read an essay by **Robert J. Hastings** entitled “The Station.” The gist of this little piece of philosophy is that most of us spend most of our lives working toward a final destination (the station) a few selected goals like paying off the mortgage, putting the last kid through college, or retiring.

As a barbershopper, your “station” could be winning a district or international contest, directing a 100+ member chorus, or holding high office in the society. However, the essay goes on to say that sooner or later we must realize there is no station, no one place to arrive at once and for all.

The true joy of life is the trip; the journey itself. Most “stations” are only dreams which have a way of constantly outdistancing us. So, let's agree that, in spite of the necessity and great value of goals, it is the day-to-day journey toward them that matters most. I am further suggesting that those things you do at the chapter level to make the weekly experience more enjoyable for you and your fellow barbershoppers are far more important than anything you do at the district or international level—and you can quote me!

I know of at least one chapter whose chorus won the international contest and the chapter no longer exists (It's happened more

than once); in my humble opinion, the demise of that chapter can be attributed, at least in part, to paying more attention to the station than the journey.

What can you do to make the journey more enjoyable? Find out what your fellow chapter members enjoy most and organize your activities to provide a variety of those things. Hold office, or otherwise be an active “mover and shaker” in the chapter.

The true joy of life is the trip; the journey itself

The district officers only exist to serve you, so don't hesitate to ask for whatever help we can give. Likewise, the society board and *Kenosha* staff only exist to serve us at the grass roots level, so we've got lots of places to turn for assistance.

As your Vice President for Music & Performance, I have come to believe that a major factor in “enjoying the journey” is finding ways to improve our singing, and then taking pride in the accomplishment. May I suggest three opportunities for your chapter that are provided by the Dixie District:

1. The Coaches Guild: a group of experienced, talented barbershoppers who are willing to share their expertise (without fee), and encourage and assist groups within the District who request such assistance. The District will pay the coach's mileage (lim-

ited to two visits per year per chorus), and the chorus has the responsibility to house and feed the coach if such is necessary. (call me at 770-562-9629 or e-mail just4us@mindspring.com with your request).

2. The “Standing Ovation” Review: performed at your request by a trained certified reviewer, selected for his barbershop experience and expertise. There is no cost to the chapter (or quartet) except reserved seats for reviewer and spouse/friend (your annual show is an excellent venue for this activity). Travel expense is covered by the District. (Again, call or e-mail me as indicated above).

3. Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend: our District's “mini-HEP School” (*HEP stands for Harmony Education Program*), which will be held at **Clemson University** on July 19-21, 2002. Outstanding classes, a youth camp, quartet coaching, and a superb Saturday evening show are all part of this exciting event. We will be celebrating Dixie's own, featuring Four Voices, Riptide, Overture, and a number of other district champs.

Lets change the focus from the station to the journey, and enjoy every minute of it!



Team approach (continued)

Continued from page 10

had a productive session with the Savannah chapter), Dick was scheduled to visit an extension site in Decatur, Alabama, and a high school there. At the time of this writing, I haven't heard how things went there, but knowing Dick Bek, I'll bet that his visit there was also successful.

Dick's title is, of course, Membership Spe-

cialist, and it was only as a result of Cindy's request that we visited two high schools and thus met Cindy's husband. This chance request and meeting prove that there are potential barbershoppers everywhere and that every member of the society who believes that this is a worthwhile hobby should always be aware that he can recruit.

Dick's visit proves that the integrated prod-

uct concept about which we have heard so much lately can be effective.

Thanks for your great work, Dick.

YMIH Notes

By Bob Dickson, Coordinator, Young Men in Harmony

Greetings from the YMIH desk and best wishes for your Youth and Community outreach efforts in 2002.

There are plans underway for the District to develop a YMIH team to help us achieve the Society's goal of "...being an ever-growing fraternity of Barbershop style singers, leading the cause of encouraging vocal music in our schools & communities".

You've heard it said before that the future of our Society is in the youth of today, so we've got to make them aware of what we're all about. To that end invitations have been sent out to a half dozen or so of our brother barbershoppers who have successfully conducted a variety of YMIH events for the last few years to meet, form a team and generate some plans that could be applied by every chapter in the district. If this is something you'd like to be involved in, send me an email and I'll send you the details of our first planning session.

MEA Conventions:

There is still some lead-time left if any chapters would like to chip in and sponsor a Barbershop information booth at their state's Music Educator Association Convention this spring. If you'd care to lead the effort in your State send me an email to that effect and I'll provide you with convention details. Here are the dates:

Mississippi (Jackson) Mar 21-23; **Tennessee** (Nashville) Apr 10-13 (Incidentally, this is the 2002 National MEA Convention; **Kenosha** will have a booth and our music specialist staff will be on the convention program. This is a great opportunity for some of our TN chapters to offer some manpower that'll help the staff carry out their mission. Call **Bill Rashleigh** and make him an offer he can't refuse. 1-800-876-7464)

MBNA/College Barbershop Quartet Contest:

As you know the prelims for the 2002 CBQC will be held in con-

junction with our Spring Convention in **Knoxville** (March 15-16). All chapters should have the MBNA/CBQC information package in hand so you're able to properly guide your collegiate foursomes thru the registration procedures. Call **Jim DeBusman** at 1-800-876-7464 and he'll send you the packet.



Harmony Camp at Clemson:

It's not too soon to start promoting the 2002 Harmony Camp for male high school age singers to be held concurrently with the DLHW at Clemson, July 19,20 and 21. Last year we had 26 young men in attendance and from their feedback it was a great experience for them and no doubt benefited their high school music programs.(The 2001 Camp was really special : 26 rookies singing on the Saturday night stage with 3 Gold Medal quartets).

The cost this year will be in the \$70 range for the boys and their chaperones. Music educators (male and female) will be given full scholarships for the weekend; start recruiting them at this time also since they get awful busy with other educational opportunities and travel during the summer. They can take DLHW courses, sit in on camp activities or some combination of the two.

Harmony College Scholarship:

The district is again offering a scholarship for tuition and airfare to a full time music educator (M/E)from our district to attend the 2002 Harmony College in St. Joseph, MO. It'll be held from July 28-Aug 4. If you'd care to nominate a male or female M/E the procedure is simple: (1) make sure your candidate has that week open (2) obtain the teachers resume' and (3) write a letter of recommendation. Submit items (2) and (3) to me by April 15th, and the selection will be announced by May 1st.



Dixie's Ted Leinbach, teaching a tag aboard the Star Dipper cruise ship as it moved up the Yangtze River on a Barbershop Chorus tour of China. Other members of his teaching quartet were Michael Hatton (son of Kenny Hatton, Bluegrass Student Union), Lynn Hauldron (Chordiac Arrest) and a non-barbershopper

(photo courtesy of Arnold Wade)



"I expect hospitalization, retirement benefits, profit sharing and a paid-up membership in the local S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. chapter!"

CHRISTMAS IN DIXIE

chorus performances from around the district

EDITOR'S NOTE: As part of the barbershop heritage, choruses from around the society perform at venues ranging from shopping malls to hospitals. Here are a few stories from around the Dixie District.

Big Chicken Chorus Marietta, GA

By Charlie Roberts

December was both busy and so rewarding for the Big Chicken Chorus! Three Christmas Shows on the 7th and 8th, two shows at the Governor's Mansion



Big Chicken Chorus at Centennial Park

on the 15th and then the same night at 6:00 P.M. We were the opening 30 Minute Act at WPCB-94.9 FM's Carols in the Park at *Centennial Park* and they requested that we close our Christmas Program with **Clay Hine's** new arrangement of *America The Beautiful*. The Governor and WPCB both asked that we make this an annual affair.

Finally, on Sunday the 23rd we sang two Christmas songs and *The Star Spangled Banner* at the Falcon/ Buffalo game in the *Georgia Dome!!* Thom Hine also added that they had three performances at the *Rialto Center for the Performing Arts* in downtown Atlanta



Atlanta football fans blessed with the National Anthem, barbershop style

High Country Harmonizers Dixie District's newest chapter

By Donn Smith

Dixie District's newest chartered chapter, *Blue Ridge Mt Foothill*, kept their chorus busy during the Christmas season. Our chorus, **High Country Harmonizers**, consisting of 18-20 members, sang for several organizations, in two nursing homes as well as in an assisted-care complex.

We also appeared before a large crowd at *North Georgia Tech College* in Blairsville, Ga. Our only quartet, **The Senior Moments**, had an additional half-dozen performances throughout the area. This ambitious bunch is now planning for Valentine sings and then they will begin rehearsals in earnest for their charter show on Sept. 28, 2002. It seems as though there is usually a "member-Prospect" in the audience every time we sing.

Rocket City Chorus Huntsville, AL

By Fred Bender

On December 8, the *Rocket City Chorus* and an ensemble from the *Valley Harmony Chapter of the Sweet Adelines* held a benefit concert for "Toys for Tots" in Huntsville. The Marine Corps representatives present expressed their gratitude for the donations of toys and cash they received.

An additional "benefit" of the performance was the inclusion of four guest singers in the chorus following the "Holiday Chorus" recruiting suggestion. Three of the guests have already taken out membership applications and the fourth has expressed interest in continuing to visit chorus rehearsals.

Director Wanted

Director needed for a 28 yr old established Chapter of 40+ in beautiful resort town of Hilton Head Island. Excellent admin and strong community following. Contact Bernie Bookman at 843-671-2052, 770-509-7549 or bbbookman@yahoo.com.

A Busy Christmas Season in the Music City

By Bob Davenport
Chorus Manager/VP for Music & Performance

The Music City Chorus in Nashville, TN spread Christmas cheer through six performances at various venues in the Nashville area. We also invited men who were non-members to join us in these performances. The chorus began with two performances at an amphitheater setting within the fabulous *Opryland Hotel* on consecutive Friday nights to packed and enthusiastic audiences of local people and tourists.

December 14 was a busy day for the chorus as we performed at a luncheon for a church group and then that evening at the *Parthenon* (see picture). This was a "Toys for Tots" benefit performance for a local daycare center. The acoustics in the Parthenon are unbelievable and caused more than a few "goosebumps" within us as we performed.

That was a great prelude to our performance the next morning at the *Renaissance Hotel Grand Ballroom* (where last summer's Collegiate Quartet Championship and the Chorditorium



Singing Christmas songs at the foot of a "Graven Image"?

were held). We sang at the "Kids Café Christmas Party" for underprivileged kids. The kids especially enjoyed our rendition of "Jingle Bell Rock".

We closed our busy Christmas performing schedule on December 17 with our annual Christmas caroling at the local *VA Hospital*, in which we stroll each floor of the hospital and sing to the patients. This is always a sobering but heartwarming way for us to showcase our love of harmony and goodwill to those who can use some encouragement through song. Our former director, **Larry Deters**, began this tradition when he was the director of the hospital. We encourage every Dixie chapter to consider this kind of performance...it will do you a lot of good!

The Christmas season is always busy for everyone, but we always consider it worthwhile to make some time during the season to spread our joy and love of barbershop in various ways. We believe that performing at this time of year serves as a great foundation for the momentum and musical activities of the coming New Year and helps us build even greater camaraderie within our chapter. Remember...a busy chapter is a happy chapter!

Other Chapter Happenings

Triad Harmony Express Show

By Roland Moy, President

This past November the Triad Harmony Express chorus of Winston-Salem produced its first Veterans Day show.

The first half of the show by the chorus and chapter quartets featured patriotic songs and several from the World War II era. The second half focused on songs with a religious theme. Most of these songs were already in the chorus repertoire, and in the repertoire of chapter quartets, but this was the first

time that they all had been put together in a show package.

The timing worked well for us because our annual show is in the spring. Since we do not do a Christmas show, it offered a production focus for the other half of the year, and it was well received by the community. Other choruses in the same scheduling situation might find that a Veterans Day show would also be a worthwhile production for the chapter as well as for the community.



OK Steve, let us all in on the joke!
Steve Wyszomerski at last fall's COTS

The Nashville, TN chapter
Of SPEBSQSA presents
"Have Harmony... Will Travel"

Our 2002 Annual Show

Featuring the **MUSIC CITY CHORUS**
And its chapter barbershop quartets

Special Guest Quartet

2001 SPEBSQSA
International
Champions

**MICHIGAN
JAKE**



April 20, 2002 - 7:30pm
BellSouth Acuff Theatre at Opry Mills
Nashville, Tennessee

Tickets: \$15 General Admission, \$20 Reserved

Order tickets by calling (615) 365-8996

Or by e-mail at rld42@bellsouth.net

O.C. Cash: PROBE Member?

By Dave Stock, PROBE VP for Membership

I have no doubt that if **O.C. Cash** were still with us, he would belong to the Association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors, PROBE. Just read over that first letter which he and **Rupert Hall** sent out all those years ago, inviting friends and acquaintances to their “songfest” at the **Tulsa Club**, and you see a masterpiece in public relations and recruiting all rolled into one. You see, O.C. was not only interested in singing barbershop harmony; he was also interested in having as many others as possible join him in the enjoyment of it. When you come down to it, that’s what PROBE is all about: getting men interested in barbershop harmony, recruiting them as members, and then keeping them informed, educated, and interested—and singing too!

PROBE membership is open to all members of the Society, with membership primarily aimed at the public relations officers and bulletin editors of our chapters and districts. Right now, our membership stands at just 500; if all the PROs and BEs in the Society were members, we could be well over 1000—which just happens to my current goal. Please consider this as my personal invitation to you to join PROBE today; not only to reach that goal, but also because of what is possible with that many members all working together.

Why Join PROBE?

Over the years our members have exchanged recruiting ideas, clip art, history, important event news, and other information that has promoted barbershopping in all sorts of media, both within and outside the Society. Membership in our fraternity—at a mere \$10 per year—connects you with other like-minded souls, and gives you a wealth of knowledge and advice that is only a phone call, a mouse click, or an email away. In fact, there is quite an array of PROBE resources available to you on the PROBE web site: www.probe.com. Yes, it’s all “free”; there is no special password to access anything on the site. There is also no requirement to be a PROBE member to compete in our annual bulletin and public relations contests. All of which may lead you to ask, “Why should I pay for something that is free to anyone?”

The NPR and PBS of SPEBSQSA

PROBE is like your local public radio and television stations. You don’t need to be a paying member of these to enjoy the programs; just tune in your radio or TV. However, all that wonderful programming is supported, in large part, by contributing members of stations across the country who care enough to help make it all happen. Just like the public broadcast networks, PROBE services do have expenses, and cannot continue without member support.

Quite honestly, right now our chief cost is the printing and distribution of the association’s bulletin, PROBE^moter. We’re continuing into our electronic age, but not all of us are there yet, so we must keep on printing and mailing this important publication. Our lower membership level, and the resulting lack of funds, has already led to fewer issues being available. And right now, if we can’t print it, it also doesn’t get put on the web. There are also various administrative costs related to our current web site and the bulletin and PR contests.

Looking beyond the PROBE^moter and the contests, I also believe there are other possible services that PROBE could provide in the future. Indulge me in a little “blue sky” thinking for a moment. Could we:

- *become a partial sponsor of the live webcasts from International conventions and Harmony College?
- *help cover travel costs for bulletin and public relations instructors for every district COTS?
- *engage some graphic artists to draw some fresh clip art for our bulletins and PR fliers?

We could do these things, but they take time, equipment, personnel and money. If you’re interested in seeing these kinds of services, the first step is to get your dues in to PROBE, whether you are a new member or renewing your current membership.

So How Do I Join?

Beginning this year, PROBE membership runs concurrent with the calendar year. The annual dues are only \$10—just think of it as being a member of another chapter—a very large chapter! **PLEASE NOTE: Because of a recent Society policy change, all PROBE dues, beginning with 2002, must be sent directly to the PROBE Treasurer; they will NOT be billed to the chapters through the Society.** There are two ways to sign up:

*You can join on line via our web site; follow up by sending your dues to the PROBE Treasurer, Dick Girvin.

OR

*You can simply send a letter to Dick, providing your name, Society membership number, address, chapter (or district) office, along with your dues. His address is: 57 Calle Cadiz, Unit F, Laguna Hills, CA 92653-3941.

Help yourself, help your chapter, and help your Society towards better communication, a more informed membership, and greater enjoyment of our barbershop hobby. Join PROBE today!



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M A T E R I A L**

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DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2002

March	15-17	Dixie Spring Convention - Knoxville, TN
June 30 - July 7		SPEBSQSA International Convention - Portland, OR
July	19-21	Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend - Clemson, SC
	28-8/4	Harmony College, Directors College - St. Joseph, MO
October	4-6	Dixie Fall Convention - Chattanooga, TN
November	16-17	COTS -TBA

SHOWS

2002

March	8-9	Hilton Head, SC
April	7	Troy, AL
April	13	Upper Cumberland, TN
April	20	Nashville, TN
		Greater Knoxville, TN
April	27	Beaufort, SC
		New Bern, NC
May	11	Augusta, GA
May	18	Fayetteville, GA
		Hickory, NC
June	1	Spartanburg, SC
June	15	Wilmington, SC
November	2	Pinehurst, NC

**Visit the Dixie Website at
www.ddspebs.org**

If your show is not listed here, please inform District Secretary Noah Funderburg, if you have not already done so.
Chapter shows must have received a Show Clearance from the District Secretary in order to be listed here.
Also, check the Dixie District Web Page at www.ddspebs.org for more listings.