

The Dixie District's

# REBEL ROUSER

Alabama • Georgia • Mississippi • North Carolina • South Carolina • Tennessee

Spring 2008

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# The Rebel Rouser

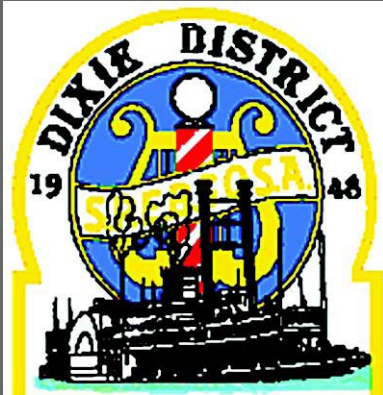
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The **Rebel Rouser** is published quarterly by the Dixie District Association of Chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society.



## Vision

The Dixie District is committed to enriching lives in every generation and community through the lifelong benefits of the barbershop style and other forms of a cappella singing.

## Mission

The Dixie District SPEBSQSA, Inc., a charitable and non-profit organization, enriches lives through singing.

- We enrich lives through singing.
- We perpetuate and celebrate the barbershop harmony style.
- We serve each new generation of singers through support of vocal music education.
- We serve audiences through an uplifting, wholesome variety of a cappella musical entertainment.
- We serve our members by sharing fellowship, performance skills and leadership development.
- We help build better communities and a better world, bonding diverse people through the pure fun of a cappella harmony as we keep the whole world singing!

Cover Photo of Lunch Break by  
Ralph Cordaro

## 2008 Dixie District Executive Team/Board of Directors



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**Executive VP**  
Mike Schiermann



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**Member At Large**  
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**Society Board Member**  
Dan Brinkmann

# Looking Forward to Serving the District...Again!

**A**s I left the DIX District President post on 12-31-2000, I had absolutely no expectation of repeating in that office again. Well, we're now looking down the gun barrel of 2008 and, yes, strange things have happened. My first thought is to extend a huge "Thank You" to outgoing President Dwain Chambers for his leadership these past two-plus years. I further boldly state we have a fantastic Board and Leadership Team in place for the coming year.



**By Thom Hine  
District  
President**

It is appropriate and anticipated that every District President establish a motto early in his term of office that describes and sets the tone (pardon the pun) for expectations. Throughout my 40-year professional life, I was employed by only two corporations and experienced seven relocations. Fortunately, each relocation was to a city where barbershop was well entrenched, and I was either accepted as a member of a local barbershop chapter or became involved in assisting a start-up chapter that more exemplified the ideals and principles to which I subscribe. What were those principles?

- To love of barbershop, camaraderie and mutual respect for all fellow chapter members.
- To collectively decide the future path of the chapter and put it on a course where the chapter can become "an identifiable" something special.
- To always work to perform at the next higher level (performances, administration, planning, execution.)
- To enjoy the journey and concentrate less on the destination.
- To celebrate successes and learn from my failures.
- To surround yourself with talented and energetic men who share these same principles.
- Above all, to have "fun." Build the chapter in a manner where "fun" becomes contagious.

As I think back and reexamine these simple statements, I must ask, "Isn't this basically how we approach our jobs, our family?" Some might disagree, but I choose to believe there is an obvious overlay. So much so that I have decided to adopt my (our) 2008 district motto,

## **BUILD A HOME = BUILD A CHAPTER.**

2008 Dixie District Priorities:

1. All that we do will be prioritized to serve our chapters and our members. There exists an absolute necessity for the Society and Districts to better serve the "chapters and members" and, in so doing, create greater ownership on the part of our members.
2. The District Board cannot grow your chapter but we can provide resources and programs that will allow YOU to do so. Retention of members is dismal throughout the Society (which ties into the next item). We can assist you in changing that into positive membership growth.
3. Your District Leadership Team is determined to provide YOU with the tools you

*(see **President** on page 4)*

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# President (continued from page 3)

require to accomplish YOUR chapter vision and prosper. Do you need assistance in the form of chapter officer training, chorus director training, coaching, a Chapter Support Rep or "you name it"? You got it! All it takes is an email or phone call to me.

4. Dave Millson, VP for Chapter Support Leadership Training, requires assistance in rebuilding the "Chapter Support Representative Program." Basically, it is the responsibility for the CSRs to stay in constant contact with two or three chapters and become their "conduit" to the DIX District Board of Directors for district services needed by the chapters. They also assist their assigned chapters through difficult situations that may arise. The DIX District Board Members are dedicated to searching out and finding volunteers within our member ranks who will serve in this capacity. If YOU, the reader of this article, have a desire to "give back" some of the benefits you've received from membership in our Society, please contact me and YOU WILL have that opportunity.

5. I welcome YOUR input for potential chapter extension sites. Do you know of a town/city where a new barbershop chapter might flourish? Do you know of a town/city where a barbershop chapter once fell on hard times and relinquished its charter, but now has men willing to take on the task of starting anew? If so, please share that information with me.

6. Over the past few years, I've heard some chapter members suggest that the "fun" has been removed from their weekly chapter meeting. OK, you're in charge. Let's bring the fraternal and fun elements back into our chapter life. How can your District Leadership Team help? How can your members help? The only response I will not accept is, "We tried that once and it didn't work!"

7. Nothing stands still... change is inevitable. The important element is to manage "change" so we may continue to move forward,

succeed, and grow.

There are two major opportunities each year for your chapter voice to be heard. You guessed it, the House of Delegates meeting at spring and fall conventions. I, personally, cannot understand why all chapters wouldn't want to be represented at this tremendously important forum. If the Chapter President CANNOT attend, he has the option of appointing a member who CAN attend.

All that member needs is a short note from his President stating the latter authorizes his appointee (insert name) as a Delegate of the XYZ Chapter to act on all matters addressed by the House of Delegates. If I were a Chapter President, I would certainly want my members to have representation. I spoke of the need for greater member ownership earlier. This is part of that same mindset.

As you well know, five of the Carolina Task Force members from NC and SC officially made application to the Society Board of Directors for a District Charter on November 3, 2007 in Nashville, TN. The Society Board will study the matter and respond at a later and, as yet, unspecified date. I know that's great news for some and terrible news for others. On behalf of the entire six-state, current Dixie District, I pledge to respond to all Society Board requests for information from a fair and impartial platform.

The proposition is now in the hands of the Society Board and only they will/can make that future determination.

I'm truly looking forward to working with YOU and each and every member of the Dixie District this year. My door is open as is my email folder.

If you have questions or suggestions, you have only to contact me at 770-419-7405 or shoot an email in my direction - thine@comcast.net.

# 60 Years of Barbershopping in Dixie!

**G**reetings, friends! As we begin another year of *Rebel Rousers*, please take a moment to drop a line to the Editor of this fine publication, Keith Therrell of the Memphis Chapter, and let him know how you like the new Reb. And while you're at it, write up a short article about what your Chapter has been up to lately. Got pictures to go along with it? Send 'em in! Folks in other Chapters love to know!

## Celebrating 60 Years of Harmony



**By Mike  
Schiermann,  
Executive Vice  
President**

As the Society celebrates Homecoming 2008 and its 70th Anniversary, we are celebrating a landmark year for the Dixie District. Our 60th. We are planning ways to mark the occasion at our Fall convention in Chattanooga, TN. Here are some of the ideas we are working on right now:

- Past President's Reunion: All surviving Dixie Past Presidents will be invited to be honored at our Fall convention
- Commemorative clothing items & souvenirs will be available in the Dixie Marketplace
- The Dixie Association of Quartet Champions is working on a display of historic Dixie items.
- One issue of the *Rebel Rouser* will be a special 60th Anniversary commemorative issue.
- District BOTY Reunion: all past Dixie Barbershoppers of the Year to be honored at Fall convention.
- Quartet contest to see who can sing Coney Island Washboard Roundelay the fastest.

Got any other ideas? I'd love to hear them, and soon! Fall contest is only 7 months away!

Dixie's 60th Anniversary year is going to be a great one! We have at least two Dixie quartets who will be seriously in the running for the #1 spot in Nashville this summer. You'll see them compete and qualify at the Spring convention. Wouldn't it be sweet to have a Dixie Homecoming 2008 this Fall, and welcome home our Society's new International Quartet Champions? It could happen! Plan to attend the Spring convention in Greenville, SC, and see the whole story unfold as it happens!

10 months from now, remember that I told you back in February... This is going to be a GREAT year to be part of the Dixie District! Stay tuned! 🎵

# It's All About Relationships!

**R**elationships? What is this Davenport guy talking about? Well, for our chapter Marketing/PR VPs, and for myself as your new District VP, it is absolutely necessary to build effective and ongoing relationships with outside entities who can help us accomplish our goals. Without those relationships, we cannot be successful in helping our chapters gain more members, raise more money, secure more public performances, or anything else we are called upon to do. "Relationship marketing" creates more exposure and credibility for our chapters and for our hobby.

Let me begin to build a relationship with my marketing and public relations comrades in the District by introducing myself. I am a 26-year



**Bob Davenport**  
**Marketing &**  
**Public Relations**

Society member and am currently the VP of Marketing/PR for the Nashville, TN chapter as well as for the District. I have held numerous chapter offices, served a three-year term on the Society Marketing/PR Committee (2003-2006), and have sung in several quartets. I will continue to build on Mike Schiermann's tremendous work as District Marketing/PR VP and do everything I can to market the District and facilitate more sharing of ideas, success stories, etc. between all of our chapter marketing gurus. This kind of

sharing will help us all become more "aggressive" in breaking down the old perceptions of being "the best kept secret in town."

To create greater marketing relationships inside and outside our chapters, I want to emphasize two important principles that my chapter marketing colleagues can use to help them meet their goals:

**1. Develop a "Marketing Team" within your chapter.** Regardless of your marketing skills and experience, you cannot do all the marketing work yourself: marketing all of your chapter's events, assisting with membership recruitment campaigns, telling the public about your chapter's successes, helping secure public performance opportunities, etc. Besides that, having other chapter members on your "team" gives them greater insight into,

and experience with, all the possible avenues through which we can communicate with the public. I have five people on my chapter marketing team, and I am looking for more guys to join the team! Mike Schiermann emphasized this necessity at COTS last month, and I will continue to "preach it."

**2. Develop an "outside the box" mentality and be willing to take marketing risks.** You and your marketing team need to brainstorm ideas and channels that will cause you to be more aggressive marketers. You must communicate these ideas with your chapter Board and you need to stay within your budget, but don't let that keep you from analyzing new marketing methods and avenues. Even if your chapter is highly successful in marketing itself, there is always the need to investigate new, fresh, and creative ways of communicating the "gospel" of barbershop harmony through media outlets, community groups, etc. It was not an accident or coincidence, for example, that the **Westminster Chorus** was invited to audition for **America's Got Talent!** last year – it was due to relationship development ("networking" as the business world calls it)! I strongly encourage my colleagues to share your bold ideas with each other through the District website, the Rebel Rouser, and the DIX-Chapter-Mktg-PR yahoo group (if you are not a member yet, PLEASE contact **Don Lang** or **Dwain Chambers** ASAP). You can contact me at [vp-marketing@dixiedistrict.org](mailto:vp-marketing@dixiedistrict.org) or at 615-331-7377. Feel free also to share your ideas with me at the spring convention in Greenville! Not every idea will work for every chapter, but a multitude of ideas will lead to the formation of even more creative ideas.

Implementing these two principles will serve as a great foundation for success in our marketing efforts this year and in the future. We'll talk more specifically in future issues about how to accomplish our goals. None of us has all the marketing "answers," but I look forward to doing what I can to help all of you build stronger marketing relationships. This will translate into greater exposure for our chapters. It truly is "**all about relationships!**" 🎵

# 2008 Brings Many YIH Opportunities



**Y** For many Dixie District barbershoppers, and for many high school singers from the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Georgia, the musical highlight of last summer was the Harmony Explosion Camp Chorus show at Clemson. The Clemson Harmony Explosion Camp in 2008 will take place on July 17 – 20. The clinicians are Dr. Bill Adams and Michael Martin, both of whom are extremely



**By Jim Moore,  
Youth In  
Harmony**

popular, talented, and experienced choices for youth camps. The teaching quartet will be Lunch Break, the hilarious Dixie District Champions. This time, the Saturday night HX Camp Chorus show will be held at Brooks Performing Arts Theater.

New this year, due to interest shown in barbershop “standards” and feedback by teachers and campers, two standard and four barbershop songs will be taught and performed during the three-day camp. We expect that around 120 campers and

teachers will attend, and we will want to sponsor each of them, so that students pay only \$20 to attend and teachers are free. If you or your chapter can be a sponsor, \$90 a person will be graciously accepted. The remaining costs will be covered by the District funds and by a Harmony Foundation grant. Please start now to find boys who will want to attend this camp.

Again this year, we will attempt to provide a second Harmony Explosion Camp to serve the western part of the district. Indian Springs School just outside Birmingham will be the location, and the dates will be July 11 – 12. The clinician will be James Estes from the Society office, and the teaching quartet is yet to be determined. To be successful, I will need the help of all of the Chapters that are within driving distance of Birmingham in finding high school campers to attend and in helping to sponsor students to the camp. We should know soon if HXC West will take place, and you will be informed when we know.

Young men between the ages of 15 and 25, who

wish to compete in the Bank of America College Quartet Contest need to be getting their act together. Contest rules can be found at [www.barbershop.org/college](http://www.barbershop.org/college). If you know of any potential college quartet contestants, please be sure to make them aware of the rules and the location of the Dixie contest preliminaries in Greenville on Friday, March 14.

Also in 2008, the District will once again award a full scholarship (tuition and travel) to Harmony University to a school music educator from the Dixie District. The dates of this weeklong school are July 27 – August 3, and the location will be St. Joseph, Missouri. If you would like to nominate someone for this scholarship, then send your letter of recommendation, along with a resume of the teacher, and a statement of assurance that that person will attend if selected. Deadline for this submission will be March 31. Submit to Youth In Harmony VP, 3385 Breton Court NE, Atlanta, GA 30319.

The District will assist Chapters who want to sponsor a display at Music Educator Conferences. In addition, some financial assistance may be available for one-day workshops. If your Chapter has an interest in these activities, contact me.

If you are a new YIH chairman in your chapter, and you need information about how to develop a program, let me know and I will send you a CD that is filled with information directly related to Youth In Harmony activities. If your chapter does not have a YIH chairman, consider taking on the job. You will not be disappointed with the satisfaction that you can have. Contact me at [JamesT\\_Moore@bellsouth.net](mailto:JamesT_Moore@bellsouth.net)

Dixie came close to sponsoring a youth chorus in

*(see YIH on page 8)*

## YIH *(continued from page 7)*

the San Antonio Mid-Winter Contest, but just couldn't quite make it happen. Here are some comments heard from a well respected member and quartet gold medalist: "This event has the potential to turn Midwinter into a real showplace of barbershop's future...It was comparable to any International chorus contest I've seen."

The next mid-winter convention will be in Pasadena, and we hope Dixie will be represented there. If you have an interest in organizing a youth chorus for that event, please contact me. 🎵

## Greenville First Stop On Road to Nashville!



By Dwain Chambers,  
Immediate Past  
President

As we get closer to the spring convention in Greenville, I know that some of you have already made the commitment to attend, while others are still in the process of making that decision. Let me tell you about some exciting things that are going to happen of which you may not be aware!

This convention is our DIX Quartet Prelims where we select our representatives to the International Convention in Nashville this summer. In addition to your favorite DIX quartets, many of you will recall the thrill we had last year as we propelled **MAX Q** to their gold medal in Denver. Here are some of the quartets that will be in the line-up in Greenville whom you may not have had the opportunity to hear in person.

**Redline** – This new quartet formed and registered as a DIX quartet. I saw them perform recently and

I think you'll be very pleased if you come and hear the exciting new sound of Chris Vaughn, formerly lead of Gotcha!, singing with Tim McCormic (BR), Kevin Stinson (BS), and Rick Spencer (T), formerly of 5th place medalist Flipside. Yes, the same Rick Spencer who is the Society's Director of Musical Services now living in Nashville!

**Storm Front** -- The 3rd place medalist quartet from Denver, representing the RMD, Storm Front is competing out of district in Dixie as they had a date conflict with the RMD Prelims. Watch very closely for the new tenor in Storm Front and see if you can recognize him!

**Wheelhouse** - The 9th place finalist quartet from Denver, representing the MAD, Wheelhouse is competing in Dixie as they had a date conflict with the MAD Prelims.

And if this isn't enough – how about the District Chorus Championship? **Atlanta Vocal Project**, our 9th place Int'l chorus representative in Denver, is returning after sitting out 2 years and will be challenged by the likes of **RTP, Nashville, Stone Mountain, Rocky Mount, Cleveland**, and many others!

PASS THIS ON TO YOUR FRIENDS AND WE'LL SEE YOU IN GREENVILLE! 🎵

*(Greenville Convention Registration on page 19)*



See page 18 for more information.



# COTS Becomes Dixie Leadership Academy

**C**OTS is no more. It is finished. There will be no more Chapter Officer Training Seminars in Dixie. The last Dixie District COTS was held at Woodstock, GA on 12 January, 2008 where we trained forty-nine chapter officers from fourteen of our chapters.

There will be no more COTS in this District. Are we going to discontinue training chapter officers?

**NO!** COTS is evolving into the **Dixie Leadership Academy**. If you attended a Dixie District COTS for the 2007-2008 cycle you should have noticed a difference from the previous traditional COTS. COTS has evolved into a two-hour block for core track instruction, a two-hour block of advanced track instruction, plus a two hour elective: track discussion, joint classes, or mentored planning.



**By Dave Millson  
Chapter Support  
& Leadership  
Training**

## COTS Photos by Steve Dorn

The updated and changed COTS will be the Dixie District Leadership Academy for the 2008-09 Officer Training cycle. [We will use the term COTS-Leadership Academy in the interim so folks will understand what we are describing.]

For the 2007-2008 training cycle at three regional COTS -- Birmingham, AL and Hamlet, NC on 17 November 2007 and Woodstock, GA on 12 January 2008 -- we trained one hundred and nineteen chapter officers from thirty-two different chapters. This represents a 59 per cent chapter participation rate. We had three very successful regional COTS due to the Herculean efforts of the excellent instructors (too many to list individually) and our coordinators: **David Brennan, Russell Bell, Steve Dorn, and Jeff Harte**. Thanks again!

Why can't we have a 100% chapter participation rate? All chapter officers should attend training.

Training your officers is a legitimate chapter expense. Even if you have attended before there is always something new to learn or a successful



**COTS Coordinator Jeff Harte with caterer.**

endeavor you could share with other officers attending your track that will make your experience worthwhile and add to theirs at the same time. I spoke with one long-term officer who I see each year and asked him how many COTS he had attended. His reply was, "Each year since I have been an officer because I learn new things and hear about and find solutions to common problems."

We are planning on three regional Dixie COTS-Leadership Academies for the 2008-2009 officer training cycle. The evaluation surveys were overwhelmingly in favor of one-day regional training by a vote of 75 to 1. It is more cost effective from both the time and monetary aspect for our officers and their chapters. Elect your 2009 Officers prior to

*(see Leadership on page 10)*



**Thom Hine (left) leads the Presidents Class**

**Leadership** *(continued from page 7)*

October 15, 2008 so they will have adequate time to clear their calendars for the Dixie COTS-Leadership Academy in your area of the district. Mr. Chapter President, you should appoint your nominating committee NOW and nominees should COMMIT to attend officer training when they accept becoming a candidate for office. See you at the next Dixie COTS-Leadership Academy! 🎵



**Chapter Development Class**



**Curt Douglass (standing) and the Treasurers Class**



**Bill Schreiner (standing) leads the Program VP Class**



**Russell Bell instructing the Secretaries**



**Everyone's favorite class!**

# TOP GUN

## Stepping Stones to Performance Improvement

The Society and the Dixie District, throughout their histories, have provided a variety of programs to help both quartets and choruses improve their level of performance. These programs are not just focused on the competitive aspects of the hobby, but the entertainment value as well. The District currently provides several opportunities for its members to participate in these types of programs.

The largest (by number of participants) of these programs is Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend (DLHW). For the past several years, this event has been held at Clemson University during July. At the heart of the program is the quartet coaching matrix -- a weekend long coaching session. It is open to quartets (and choruses) of any level of proficiency, from rank novice to International competitor. We have had quartets numbering in the 20's participate in past the DLHW coaching matrix. The underlying objective of the matrix is to provide the opportunity to step up in terms of the quality of the performance product by exposure to a number of different (and imminently qualified) coaches from several different categories, i.e. singing, presentation, music, etc.

When a performing group feels they are ready to step in to the competitive arena they have their choice of several events to enter. Novice quartets (those that have not competed in the past) can participate in a Novice quartet contest. More seasoned performers have the District contests and International Qualifier (Spring Contest for quartets and Fall contest for choruses).

As I am sure you are all aware, stepping into the competitive arena entails a great deal of time and effort.



Dixie Quartet Champions, Lunch Break, improve their craft during a Top Gun session.

Again, the District can help those who make the decision to step up. The District Coaching Guild has numerous talented individuals available to work with you one on one. We provide up to two coaches a year to both choruses and quartets. The cost is covered by the District (well—you could buy the guy lunch!).

The highest level of assistance provided by the District to individual quartets is the Top Gun Invitational. Held annually at the beginning of January, Top Gun is designed for the highest level of performers—specifically, those who have committed to International competition. We call it an Invitational because participation is by invitation only. Participants usually include the top three finishers in the Fall District contest as well as any other active International competitors in the District.

Top Gun 2008 was held the weekend of January 4th-6th in Norcross, Ga. (an Atlanta suburb). This year's participants included our fourth place International quartet State Line Grocery, our current champs Lunch Break, Pinstripe, and Quadzilla. The coaches at this year's event were Thom Hine (pinch hitting for an ailing Don Claus), arranging phenom Aaron Dale, Rick LaRosa (lead of FRED and comedic genius), and Dusty Schleier from the Nashville headquarters staff. The weekend is non-stop coaching with coaches rotating among quartets at regular intervals. It is intense!



For this event, the quartets pay their own way while the District (see **Top Gun** on page 12)

Text and Photos By  
Ralph Cordaro  
Music and  
Performance

## Top Gun

(continued from page 11)

covers the expenses of the coaches. Actually, for the past 2 years, the District has paid nothing for this event. Two years ago, an anonymous individual stepped forward and made a grant to the District dedicated to covering the cost of Top Gun. The donor repeated the grant again this year. This individual explained that he understood the District's fiscal situation and feared that Top Gun might be a budget-cutting casualty. He so believes in the value of the event that he made the grants to assure that it continued. Was it worth it? Here is a sampling of comments from these participants:



Top Gun coach Aaron Dale in deep thought.

"For State Line Grocery, this is our fifth TG weekend. Considering our progression in International contests during this same period, I think the results speak for themselves.....As all four of us are active in coaching, directing and teaching, the skills acquired on these weekends are invaluable and help us to grow individually as well." (Tim Brooks, State Line Grocery)



State Line Grocery - Mark Lamback (left), Drew McMillan, Tim Brooks, and Dylan Oxford - singing for coach Thom Hine.

"I just wanted to drop you a line to tell you what a wonderful experience Top Gun was for Quadzilla and for me personally. Never in ten years of Barbershopping have I experienced such improvement in such a short period of time. It was definitely a rejuvenating experience for the quartet, and we are already working at a higher level and seeing the rewards..." (Travis Murray, Quadzilla)

"Pinstripe had an amazing time at Top Gun this past weekend. It was a long weekend, but the insights the coaches gave us were invaluable. We left with enough things to work on to keep us very busy between now and Prelims.....We will be able to apply and share this knowledge with the quartets and choruses we coach and sing with...." (Steve Dorn, Pinstripe).

Enough said! My personal thanks go to Jack Donaldson for his assistance in putting this event together. If your quartet or chorus wishes to participate in any of the events and services noted above (except Top Gun—I'll call you!) please don't hesitate to contact me at [bsbass@bellsouth.net](mailto:bsbass@bellsouth.net). 🎵



Fred's Rick LaRosa works with Pinstripe.



From left, Travis Murray, John Earnhardt, Rob Jordan, and Mike Fitch, aka Quadzilla.

# Come Join Us In Nashville!

**T**I'm guessing that you know Nashville is hosting the International BHS Convention come this July. The Nashville Chapter has been working for some time now on getting ready to make this the most fantastic convention since... well, the last Nashville convention in 2001! With the addition of the BHS Headquarters relocating to Nashville, literally a block away from the 2008 HQ hotel, we have the unique pleasure of providing HQ tours throughout the week. With the tours, the music, the friends, the food, the shopping (ladies, I know you read the *Rebel Rouser*, too!), catching up with old friends and making new ones, we are gearing up for one amazing week.



**Patrick Thomas**  
Nashville 2008  
International  
Convention General  
Chairman

What you may or may not be aware of, is how much work it takes to put on an international convention. Did you realize we have to have staffing of nearly 60 people just to man the doors and the hallways while performers are on stage? I can't begin to tell you how many it takes to run things behind the stage. How many people does it take to help with tours, the Ladies' Hospitality room, the Information Desk, manage the Registration Desk, help in the Barbartots Room, setup for the Gospel Sing, the Church Service, the AIC show, the

World Harmony Jamboree, the Chorditorium, the transportation back and forth, put out a Daily Bulletin, etc., etc. I think you get the idea, don't you? I guess what I'm saying here is, we sure could use some assistance to make this convention the best ever!

I know many of you don't come to the convention with the main idea in your minds, "I want to WORK." However, if you could find the time to offer your services for just a few hours, we would be able to cover the 350-400 volunteers it takes to make all this happen from behind the scenes. Now we aren't asking you give up all your time just to help us out. There is nearly a week's worth of

enjoyment to be had during the convention. But I know that Dixie is the best district in the society, and its members and families are the best people out there. I couldn't be asking a better and more willing group of people to offer just a little of your time to let us show the rest of the Society just what "Southern Hospitality" is all about!

We have a website at [www.nashville2008.org](http://www.nashville2008.org) that you can go to in order to get updated info on the convention and its committees.

You can also sign up to volunteer while you are visiting the site. We will have a table setup with signup sheets at the Greenville HQ in March, and of course, the Nashville chapter members are more than willing to tell you all about what's going on. So come join us in Nashville, as we can't wait to have all your friendly faces come by and hang out with us. Pull up a chair and stay a spell..., and while you are at it, pitch in and help us out. You don't know how much we'd appreciate it! 🎵



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**harmonymarketplace.com**



# Are You "Outstanding in Front?"

**T**here are many chapter members who "stand in front" of the chorus, or maybe a part of the chorus, for a least a portion of many rehearsal nights. I'm talking warm-up leaders, section leaders, presentation coaches, sound coaches, etc. Maybe you perform this task regularly, or maybe you never have but think you'd like to give it a shot.

Believe me when I say that our chorus directors, on the whole, need more help with the music element of the chapter activities. It's great if your music team is 100% competent and functional. Some chapters are fortunate that way, while others struggle with the administration of the music program.



**John Phillips**  
**Chorus Director**  
**Development**

Several years ago, the Society Chorus Director Development Committee identified the need to train potential directors in an effort to have prepared men in the wings, ready to step in if an emergency were to arise with a frontline director. In extreme cases, chapter choruses found themselves without a director entirely, and were not prepared to push someone else out to "stand in front". The Director of the Future training module was created as an answer to this need. DIX has had about 20 or so men

complete the course in the past two years that it has been offered at our Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend. A year ago, Robert Cox and Larry Deters participated in the training program and became certified trainers. (I was not real sure about Robert, but I knew that Larry was certifiable!) So, this past summer, Robert presented his very first DoF class, and he did an outstanding job.

It became obvious that the Director of the Future program was attracting a great number of warm-up leaders, section leaders, Music and Performance VPs, and regular Joe Barbershoppers. The fact that more men were obtaining this training, not to become frontline directors, but to become better servants to the music program of their chapter, has again driven a

change at the Society level.

The Director of the Future program is no more! Actually, the same materials and format has been revamped in an effort to better serve the musical needs at the chapter level, and has been rechristened "Outstanding in Front". The OiF, as I'll refer to it, will be adaptable to the point that it can be brought right to your chapter, if needed, in an effort to train your section leaders, warm-up leaders, etc. in techniques that will help assure success. The purpose of identifying and training potential future directors is not lost one bit with the new format that is available for the instructors. All this, is in addition to helping to identify and train those among us who may have the inherent abilities that most frontline directors usually exhibit. Areas that can be covered in more depth will include:

- Directing Opportunities 1 and 2 (Various directing patterns and when/how to use them)
- Developing a Section Team
- Directing a Tag
- Elements of the Warm-up
- On Being a Leader
- What They See is What You Get, and
- Holding a Productive Section Rehearsal

I hope that every member of every music team of every chapter in the District can see a need to attend this class. By March of this year, Dixie will have at least 4 Certified Trainers for this course, and with that, the ability to bring these classes to various portions of the district. The class is designed for one trainer to teach only a small number of men at one time, assuring that all participants enjoy some one-on-one coaching of their directing technique, leadership and presentation skills.

So, what are you waiting for? Why not host an "Outstanding in Front" workshop at your chapter soon. Let me know, and I'll start scheduling our trainers – none other than: Larry Deters, Robert Cox, Paul Blazek, and from HQ in Nashville, Jim DeBusman. Let's get this going so that you and your director are more comfortable when you are "Outstanding in Front!" 🎵

## Wouldn't It Be eXtreme Fun to Quartet These Dynamite Arrangements?

*Blue Skies—asb Keepsake*  
*Dinah—asb Michigan Jake*  
*If I Only Had a Brain—asb 4 Voices*  
*You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You—asb Excalibur*  
*Lullaby—asb Gas House Gang*  
*Too Marvelous for Words—asb Michigan Jake*  
*Mam'selle—asb Vocal Spectrum*  
*Louise—asb Michigan Jake*  
*When I Lift Up My Head—asb Nightlife*  
*One for My Baby—asb State Line Grocery*

YOU CAN!! At Harmony University's First Ever eXtreme Quartetting Brigade July 31-Aug 3, 2008

That's right! Harmony University is hosting HUXQB—Harmony University eXtreme Quartetting Brigade—alongside Harmony College and Director's College this summer!!!!

Where are the applications? What's the deadline?

Harmony University eXtreme Quartetting Brigade Application & Registration 2008 is available on the Society's website:  
[http://www.barbershop.org/ID\\_107931](http://www.barbershop.org/ID_107931)

The absolute deadline is March 15, but apply earlier if possible. There are limited slots—35 per voice part—and it's expected they will go quickly. Besides, early application allows more time with the music and learning tracks.

Application and further details are available at: [http://www.barbershop.org/ID\\_107931](http://www.barbershop.org/ID_107931)

## Important Information for Collegiate Quartet Competitors

Please pass this information on to your chapters and any college quartets you may wish to sponsor!

At Leadership Forum in November, 2006, the Society Board voted on, and approved, an updated set of rules for the Collegiate Quartet Contest effective Spring, 2007. While the majority of the rules are the exact same as in years past, there are a few updates that I will draw to your attention:

- 1) The Collegiate Quartet Contest is now open to male quartets with members ages 15-25.
- 2) The highest scoring Collegiate quartet from each District qualifies for the CBQC International Contest in July (like before), but they **MUST** compete in their HOME district for the automatic bid. By competing "out of district" they are forfeiting their chance to qualify based on having the highest score of their fellow district quartets. (See #5 below)
- 3) ANY collegiate quartet that scores 69% or higher in a preliminary contest qualifies for the CBQC International Contest.
- 4) A Collegiate Quartet can now compete in BOTH the CBQC and the regular Society quartet contests (assuming all four guys are Society members.) So, if they score high enough to compete in the CBQC and the International Quartet contest, they can compete in BOTH contests at International. In addition, if their district requires a qualification score from the spring contest, they may use their college score or registered quartet score for the qualification score.
- 5) Society headquarters will determine which district each quartet represents when the quartet registers for the contest. If a quartet chooses to compete outside their home district (determined by Headquarters), they may **ONLY** qualify for the CBQC by scoring 69% or higher.



**By Jim Sams,  
Contest and  
Judging**

Please be sure that you and any collegiate quartet you may be supporting or sponsoring understands these new rule changes.🎵

# On Ethics

**Erich Shultz**  
**District Ethics Committee**

Read The Directions. This is the best advice, personal, professional, or spiritual that I have been given in my adult life. On starting in the practice of law, the senior attorney told me I should always reread the statutes and rules applicable to any new client's problem, just in case any part had been changed, misremembered, or missed in previous reading. Following Dad's advice has not only prevented some mistakes, but also kept my mind sharp for the nuance of legal interpretation. When I became a single parent and lamented to my mom that I couldn't cook, she said, "I know you can read. I'll send a cookbook." Now, I make no claim to culinary artistry, but I can make a meal that none would reject as inedible.

So, when Thom Hine asked if I would consider serving on the District Ethics Committee, I first read the Code of Ethics. Then I read the Society's By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations to learn all about the process. I found some things worth sharing. One of the most important things I found was that, despite reference in the Rules, there was no form to report an ethics violation. That has been remedied, but what it told me was that in sixty years, we have lived up to our Code well enough that there has not been a NEED for a form. We have followed Canon 4 and become a Society of "congenial men of good character." That is not to say that we should rest upon our laurels; short of heaven, there is always room for improvement.

I confess that it had been some years since I had read the Code of Ethics. I also confess that in more than twenty years, I have not on every occasion met the high standards set by the Code. But the worst negligence is only a condition of humanity so long as it does no serious damage. I pray that my shortcomings have had no great impact and offer a sincere apology to any who have been offended in the least way. I encourage each of you to also reread the Code of Ethics and consider how you can better live up to the spirit of Barbershop Harmony. 🎵

## **Barbershop Harmony Society Code Of Ethics**

The Society aspires to preserve for its members and for all future generations of prospective members the sacred right of men to seek haven from the burden of their daily cares through indulgence in old-fashioned vocal quartet harmony, and to that end we do hereby solemnly pledge ourselves to abide by the precepts of the Code of Ethics. Please refer to the Society's Statements of Policy for further clarification of some of the following canons.

1. We shall do everything in our power to perpetuate the Society.
2. We shall deport ourselves and conduct the Society's functions in such manner as to reflect credit upon the Society and its membership.
3. We shall conform in all respects to the bylaws of the Society and the rules from time to time promulgated by its Society Board of Directors.
4. We shall accept for membership only congenial men of good character who love harmony in music or have a desire to harmonize.
5. We shall exhibit a spirit of good fellowship toward all members.
6. We shall refrain from forcing our songs upon unsympathetic ears.
7. We shall not use our membership in the Society for personal gain.
8. We shall not permit the introduction of political, religious or other similar controversial issues into the affairs of the Society.
9. We shall, by our stimulus to good music and vocal harmony, endeavor to spread the spirit of harmony throughout the world.
10. We shall render all possible altruistic service through the medium of barbershop harmony.



# Fifty Years Later In Memphis

By Craig Brown, Memphis Cotton Boll Chorus

In 1958, the Dixie Cotton Boll Chorus from Memphis, Tennessee was on stage for the International Competition held in Columbus, Ohio. Once the scores were tallied and the smoke cleared, the Cotton Boll Chorus was crowned International Gold Medalists. To date, the Cotton Boll Chorus is the only Dixie District Chorus to have won that title.

Since that time 50 years ago, the Cotton Boll Chorus has remained a strong chapter in the District, and was home to one of the most popular quartets in Society history, The Confederates. It is to those men of 50 years ago that today's Cotton Boll Chorus owes its existence. We sing in the shadows of some giants, and quite often we remind ourselves that we too are laying a pathway that will allow this chapter to continue into the next 50 years.

In 2003, that path became brighter when the Cotton Boll Chorus was named 'Most Improved Chorus' in Gatlinburg at the chorus prelims. The following spring, the Cotton Boll Chorus won the 2004 District Chorus Championship. Winning that competition gave our chapter a shot of energy and a renewed commitment to musical excellence. With that as our focus, the Chapter grew and began seeking the help from the best coaches we could find. Following their advice, we continued to grow musically and learned that being a great chorus takes hard work from every man on the risers. After winning the District Championship in 2004, we defended that title and were once again named District Champs in 2007. We were honored to have that title, and winning once again made us hungry for bigger and better things.

Saying that we would like to be on the International stage is an understatement. We have talked about it for years. In 2006, International was on our mind as we felt we had an outside shot at making it as a Wild Card. Denver was not to be, however, as we finished outside of the qualifying choruses, but we knew with the right work and commitment we could get it done.

The naming of Nashville as the 2008 International host city became an opportunity to get our Chapter back to the International Stage. Nashville, a short

three-hour drive east of Memphis, would be the perfect place for us to get our feet wet, without incurring the expenses some chapters face. With this in the back of our minds, we set out with the goal of making it to Nashville. Because making International is so tough, and the competition is fierce, we were careful not to expect more than we were capable of, but at the same time, we did not want to sell ourselves short. After a lot of preparation and even more heart, the Cotton Boll Chorus competed in the chorus prelims in 2007 in Chattanooga. We can only say that we were honored to finish 2nd overall, and overwhelmed when we were contacted by the Society and offered the chance to be mic testers for the International Competition in 2008.

Since that time, we have worked hard to prepare ourselves for Nashville, not to mention Greenville, and our spring show, PEACE, LOVE and BARBERSHOP, featuring Fred, which just happens to be taking place on April 19th right here in Memphis. (We will even sell you a ticket if you like!)

Some might say that we fell short of our desires to make it as a Wild Card, and truly compete on the International Stage. But looking at the big picture, we think that this chance is exactly what we needed.

We will open the second half of what promises to be an awesome chorus contest. It is our chance to set the stage for the night, representing our Chapter, including the men who came before, our District, and the Society. Going to Nashville is truly a Home Coming for the Memphis Cotton Boll Chorus, a Home Coming that will welcome a Chorus who has been gone for 50 years! I can say without hesitation that it will feel so good finally to come home!

## Want to share what your chapter's doing?

Let the rest of District know what's cookin' in your corner of Dixie. Email your story and/or pictures to [rebelrouser@dixiedistrict.org](mailto:rebelrouser@dixiedistrict.org).

# Take a Look at the Society Web Site's Revised Members Only Area

The new BHS APTIFY computer system is beginning to take roots. Take some time to get acquainted with the new EBIZ portion of the system. Here are some things that a member or a chapter officer can do.

- Online Member Renewal
- Find a Member
- View, print, or download Roster
- View and update your personal info (address, phone, emails, etc.)
- Update your skill-set/interests, for use by our District and Chapter leaders
- View another chapter within your district
- View, update, renew, register your Quartet
- View order history
- Pay on an open order
- The use of American Express and Discover are now available on Ebiz
- View/Add officers
- View/Add/Change Meeting times and dates of Chapter meetings

All available at: [ebiz.barbershop.org/business](http://ebiz.barbershop.org/business)

## Singing For Life International Blood Drive and Donor Recruitment

SINGING FOR LIFE is a HUGE opportunity for chapters and quartets to...

- build awareness for barbershop in their area, through the great PR this program can attract
- build alliances with other arts organizations in their community
- have a chance to perform for the blood donors in attendance
- earn respect and admiration from our strategic partners in this project, the American Red Cross, Hem-Quebec, America's Blood Centers and Canadian Blood Services
- attract new members



For information on how to get your chapter involved go to [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org).



**DIXIE DISTRICT SPRING 2008 CONVENTION  
MARCH 14-16, 2008  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter/Chorus \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Part: (Circle One) Tenor Lead Bari Bass \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Handicapped Services Needed: (Requests must be received before Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>)**

Transportation \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN FROM JAN 14-MAR 7, 2008

CATEGORY	REGISTRATION FEE	NUMBER	ADDITIONAL \$5.00 FEE*	TOTAL
MEMBER	\$33.00 Early Bird	X _____ +	\$ _____	= \$ _____
GUESTS	\$33.00 Early Bird	X _____ +	\$ _____	= \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED				\$ _____

MAKE CHECK/MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO "DIXIE DISTRICT BHS"

**\*ADDITIONAL FEE OF \$5.00 FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS APPLIES AFTER FEBRUARY 29, 2008  
\*\*NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN ANY FORMAT AFTER MARCH 7, 2008\*\***

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**MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:  
\*Must be postmarked by FEB 29, 2008 to receive early bird discount.**

Ted & Pamela Jett  
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Knoxville, TN 37920  
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# The Rebel Rouser

Keith Therrell, Editor  
1713 Hunters Bluff Drive, #101  
Memphis, TN 38120



## Plan Ahead...

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- 3/14 - 3/16**      **Dixie Spring Convention, Greenville, South Carolina**
- 6/29 - 7/6**      **BHS International Convention, Nashville, Tennessee**
- 7/11 - 7/13**      **Friday - Sunday — Harmony Explosion Camp, Birmingham, Alabama**
- 7/17 - 7/20**      **Thursday - Sunday — Harmony Explosion Camp, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina**
- 7/18 - 7/20**      **Friday - Sunday — Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend Mini-HEP, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina**
- 7/27 - 8/3**      **Harmony University - Quartet College, Director's College, MWSU, St. Joseph, Missouri**
- 10/3-5**      **DIX Fall Convention -- Chattanooga, TN**

### **Upcoming Chapter Shows:**

- April 19 -- Memphis, TN at the Germantown Performing Arts Center**  
**April 26 -- Atlanta Metro at Holy Family Catholic Church**  
**May 3 -- New Bern, NC at Grover C. Fields Middle School**  
**May 31 -- Stone Mountain, GA at Mountain Park United Methodist Church**