

# The Dixie District's REBELROUSER

Alabama · Georgia · Mississippi · North Carolina · South  
Carolina · Tennessee  
Fall 2008



## Inside:

Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend  
Harmony Explosion Camps  
Leadership Academy Time  
"Friday Night Favorites"





# The RebeI Rouser

Volume 51, Number 3

Editor

Keith Therrell

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The RebeI 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 life-long 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 by Bob Davnport

## 2008 Dixie District Executive Team/Board of Directors



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Thom Hine



Executive VP  
Mike Schie rm ann



Secretary  
Russel Bell



Treasurer  
Curt Douglas



Member At Large  
emie Bookman



Member At Large  
Drayton Justus



Immediate Past President  
Dwain Chambers

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Marketing & Public Relations  
Bob Davnport



Membership Development  
Il arland Ragle



Chorus Director Development  
John Phillips



Contest & Judging  
Jim Sam s



Chapter Support & Leadership Training  
Dave Millson



Youth Harmony  
Jim Moore



Membership Events  
Jack Donaldson



Dixie Awards  
Allen Finley



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Financial Development  
Al Carter



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RebeI Rouser Editor  
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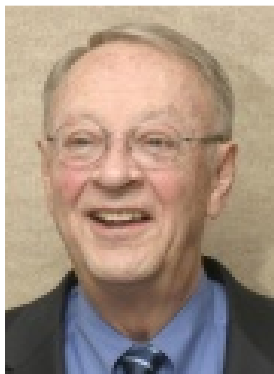


Society Board Member  
Dan Brinkman

# Much Already Accomplished In 2008 and the Year's Not Over!

It's difficult to believe that seven and a half months of the 2008 year are now behind us. Let's take stock of that time frame.

1. Three members of the Board officiated at five chapter officer installations, filling all requests. If your chapter is interested in having a Board member conduct your chapter installation in early 2009, put it on your calendar now and send me a request in early December. We'll try to make it happen.



By Thom Hine  
District  
President

2. The annual DIX District Top Gun Invitational was one of the most successful in the history of the program. Congrats to Ralph Cordaro and Jack Donaldson for the outstanding planning and orchestration. The Top Gun Invitational is a full week end coaching workshop for our top-drawer DIX quartets in preparation for the upcoming International Quartet Competition and has a sustaining, outside grant to cover all costs. No district funds have been expended in the last two years for this program.

3. We conducted three regional CO TS Schools (now termed Leadership Academies) with in our DIX District. The die is cast; regional Leadership Academies are the wave of the future.

4. The annual Midwinter Convention in San Antonio was the finest I've ever attended. The Youth Chorus Contest was outstanding and the 2009 Midwinter Convention in Pasadena, CA promises to be even greater.

5. The DIX Board met in Norcross, GA on February 1/3, 2008 and confirmed/shared their 2008 work plans. Al Carter was appointed as VP for Financial Development but moved to Florida in June (bummer). Much of our discussion revolved around producing a more finite recording of district income and expense by line and sub-line coding in order to better track results and take corrective measures where deemed necessary. Software was finally obtained (at a huge discount) and is now being programmed to fit our needs. This will be of immense assistance in

ongoing financial tracking and measurement.

6. The 2008 Spring Convention in Greenville, SC was one of the best ever held in the District. I congratulate members from the Carolinas for their tremendous support and for making it a major success.

7. I and three other members of the 2008 Board met with Nate Pendley, Bob Anderson, Jack Cox and Randy Miller (of the Carolinas) on July 12 in Columbia, SC to address a number of concerns expressed by members and leaders of the Carolinas chapters. It was the first in a series of opportunities to find out what the "hot buttons" are, and we will continue to seek such input on how we can improve District operations and assist chapters and members in enjoying this hobby. These items were also discussed at our

(see President on page 4)

## Dixie District Addresses

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## President (continued from page 3)

August Board meeting (see below), and one idea that is getting a closer look is the possibility of creating a Carolinas Division (the remaining four states would form a second Division). We will continue to explore this latter issue, and I'm hopeful this will eventually come about, giving each Division a greater degree of independence and freedom within our District.

8. Did YOU attend the Society's Nashville International Convention? If you didn't you missed a super contest with (DIX) State Line Grocery in 3rd place medals, (DIX) Redline in fourth place, (DIX one member of) Storm Front in 6th place, (DIX one member of) Glory Days in 7th place, (DIX) Lunch Break in 13th place, (DIX) Great Nashville Singout in 37th place and (DIX) Finstripe in 39th place. All of these competitors were outstanding. (DIX) Atlanta Vocal Project performed their way to 7th place and is knocking on the door of the "top five." If that wasn't enough, the Memphis, TN Chapter was just a short stone's throw away from being selected as a "wild card chorus competitor" and became mic testers. It looks like 2009 could be the year that the DIX District has two choruses (or more) going to the Society International Convention in Anaheim, CA. Bring it on!

9. But with all we have to be truly thankful for, there is an urgent need to provide even better service to our DIX Chapters/members and create chapter extension sites. Much of that is in the mixer and I hope to be able to share it with you in the near future.

10. On the heels of the Society Convention, our annual Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend (Clemson, SC) occurred on July 17/20, 2008. Attendance was a bit stagnant (approx. 120), probably because many DIX barbershoppers had to make a choice between the International and DLH W. But it was a terrific weekend of craft, quartet coaching, and workshops that still dazzle my mind. In addition, we sold \$6,000 of tickets to the local community, thanks, in part, to the members of the Seneca and Spartanburg, SC Chapters, tons of PSA radio advertisements, the DIX website, and posters hung in just about every church in the area. And what a show it was! Next year, we'll do even better.

11. I didn't mention the Harmony Explosion Camp (above) but it was truly exceptional, as we seem to reach a new milestone each and every July. Congratulations to Jim and Barbara Moore and all the giving and talented folks who break their backs to make this an annual success. Did I mention? The H X Camp Chorus wowed our Saturday night audience, again, and again, and again!

12. The DIX Board convened again on August 8/10, 2008 at Red Top Mountain Georgia State Park just outside of Cartersville, GA to conduct ongoing District business. We had a very lengthy agenda including, but not limited to the following actions:

- The 2009 Spring Convention will be held in Winston-Salem, NC. More info will be forthcoming in the near future.

- The Board will place three motions before the Chattanooga House of Delegates meeting.

- A 2009 DIX budget will be proposed to the Chattanooga House of Delegates.

- The DIX Nominating Committee finalized and presented the 2009 slate of DIX officers, it was endorsed by the Board and will be introduced to the House of Delegates in Chattanooga.

- A new DIX District Policy Manual will be published on the DIX Website shortly.

- We are in the midst of updating our DIX Convention Manual.

- Each DIX VPh as completed or is in the process of completing an action time-flow chart for all DIX events. This documentation will be extremely useful for new Board members as they come onto the Board and take on responsibilities.

- There's much more but you'll hear it at the House of Delegates meeting in Chattanooga. Guests are always invited. I will ask all Board members to make themselves available for your questions and comments as the House of Delegates meeting is adjourned.

It's great to be a member of the DIX District and share the passion of barbershop with you all... or should that be "y'all?"

# Sixty Years in Dixie Approaches

Our upcoming convention in Chattanooga will be special to many of us in many ways. Our 60th Anniversary celebration is a big part of what makes this convention one very special Barbershop clam bake.

We'll have special honors to bestow on some of our most respected high achievers. We'll demonstrate our appreciation for the men who have helped to lead the Dixie District through the good times and the tough times. We will enjoy one heck of an amazing Saturday night show and choralatorium afterwards. And somewhere along the way, maybe some young singer will be so struck by the tradition and the heritage and the dedication of all these remarkable people that he will want to be a permanent part of it all.



By Mike Schiermann,  
Executive Vice  
President

How well I recall the first time I realized it for myself. I was just a young stripling of a bass singer back then in the mid 1990s. My quartet, Loose Change, after years of struggling and rehearsing 2 or 3 times a week ... and every night for two weeks coming up to contest... had finally achieved something that shattered all of our highest hopes and most daring dreams: we had cracked the Top Ten at District!

As I finally lay in my hotel bed that Friday night in Greenville... or was it Chattanooga... or Knoxville... (I know, I know, I know), knowing that, for the first time, I would sing again on Saturday night, I thought to myself, "You know, maybe this whole barbershop quartet thing isn't so bad after all." Back in those days, I was a fresh young kid who didn't need much encouragement. And I was in for life! That's all part of the magic of what happens when we blend our voices in perfectly-balanced, flawlessly-tuned barbershop harmony.

Another thing I've noticed is that when I am singing, my back never hurts, my feet are never sore, and I am not worried at all about global climate change, the price of gas, or that drip in the kitchen sink. Suddenly one day, I looked around and found that I had been singing and rehearsing and performing and traveling and eating and sleeping with Loose Change for 15 years! How did that happen? Seems like only last convention we broke into the Top Ten for the very first time. We've been together through 15 years of hope and hard work, the loss of loved ones, changing job situations, the joy of performing, health complications, marriages, family situations and court costs. And I know I speak for at least three out of the four of us when I say that I wouldn't trade a minute of it for a District championship. The relationships you build with the guys you sing with can be some of the most treasured relationships of your life. Like the Dixie District, Loose Change has 60 years among us. They've been 60 of the best years of my life.

This 60th Anniversary convention will be complete with commemorative banners, special merchandise in the Dixie Marketplace and performances by past champions. We'll have birthday cake. Backs will be slapped and stories will be told of the good old days. And maybe, just maybe, once again, some fresh-faced, silk-voiced youngster with nothing in his heart but hope and love for the music will make his very first cut.

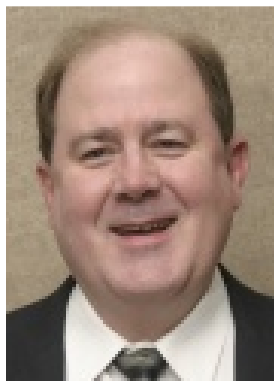




# Marketing Dixie in 2008

**I**ntroduction: This report will contain a brief summary of 2008 Marketing/PR activities and how we can improve in these areas.

I. 2008 Spring Convention in Greenville, SC – As we all know, this was one of the best attended conventions in recent memory. Not only did more District barber shopbers attend the convention, but our marketing/public relations efforts paid off in persuading about 240 people from the general public to purchase single-session contest tickets. To my knowledge, this is the largest number of tickets we have sold to the public for one of our District conventions! As a result, the District grossed about \$3,600 from these ticket sales.



Bob Davenport  
Marketing &  
Public Relations

Mike Schiermann once again produced an excellent radio advertisement that was aired on the strongest radio station in the Greenville/Spartanburg area. Also, I produced a press release which Jim Fannin (Spartanburg VP of Marketing/PR) helped me distribute to local media (print, radio, TV) outlets. Jim developed a list of local media outlets and personnel for us to contact. This list was invaluable! Furthermore, our efforts paid off in persuading a local TV station to do an

interview with myself, Thom Hine, Dr. Don Campbell (Spartanburg chorus director), and Lunch Break which aired on Friday night of the convention. We had to cancel a possible quartet appearance on a radio station because of scheduling conflicts, but hopefully we can do that in the future.

As I discussed at January's BOD meeting, building this kind of relationship with the Marketing VP of the local chapter hosting a convention will help build greater communication and relationships between myself and these chapter VPs. I plan to continue this practice in the fall and with future conventions. Overall, I was extremely pleased with the marketing effort for the Spring Convention.

II. Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend – As

Ralph Cordaro noted in his post-DLH W report, we had an attendance of over 600 people for the DLH W show, enabling us to gross almost \$6,000 from the show. Thom and Jim Moore distributed tickets and flyers to businesses, radio stations, etc. in the Clemson area. John Wimer with the Spartanburg chapter and Dean Manning helped tremendously with ticket sales for the show. Also, we furnished tables on the night of the show for the Spartanburg and Seneca chapters to distribute promotional materials to show patrons who expressed an interest in learning about them and about barber shop in general.

III. District communication channels – I have a great working relationship with Rebel Rouser editor Keith Therrell and with District Webmaster Mark Hyde. Both gentlemen have been extremely accommodating in helping me disseminate information, etc. to our District membership concerning our marketing efforts and goals. We have also added a few new chapter Marketing VPs to the District Marketing yahoo group (DIX-Chapter-Mktg-PR@yahoo.com) so that I can communicate with as many of them as possible. There is also a page on the District website explaining the services that I provide as District Marketing/PR VP. Additionally, one or two chapter VPs have reached out to the group for ideas and information in helping them accomplish their tasks, which is one of the visions I had for this yahoo group.

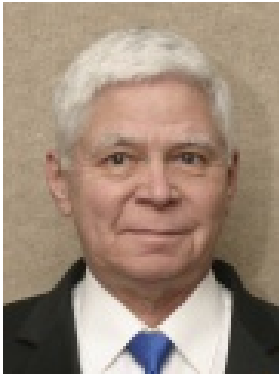
IV. Dixie District Marketplace – We continue to monitor the success and viability of the Marketplace and to find ways to improve its operation and profitability. A Marketplace manual is being developed to reflect these improvements and ensure the efficiency of its operation for future Marketplace managers. We completed a 2007 Marketplace inventory, but Steve D'Ambrósio also recently told me that Horace Benett had found some boxes of inventory in his garage, so we will probably have to revise those figures.

According to Steve's records, we sold \$29,525 worth of merchandise at the Greenville convention. At the recent DLH W, I operated the  
(see Marketing on page 9)

# Harmony Explosions Reported in Alabama and South Carolina!



With help from the Central Alabama Chapter, the first of what is hoped to be an annual Harmony Explosion Camp in Alabama was successfully held July 11-12. Twenty five campers and four educators from Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee spent two days learning five barbershop songs and performing them to a theater full of barbershopppers, parents and friends. Lunch



By Jim Moore,  
Youth In  
Harmony

Break and James Estes were the teaching quartet and clinician. Also performing on the evening show were Loose Change and the Central Alabama Chorus. From all indications, this camp is destined to become larger and even more successful very quickly.

The following week, July 17 – 20, 108 students and teachers from Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina descended on Clemson for their Harmony Explosion camp. Clinicians were Dr. Michael Martin and Dr. Bill Adams, and the

teaching quartet was again Lunch Break. Here are a few of the comments from the students who attended: "Awesome camp", "Great experience", "This camp challenged me musically and added to my summer", "My singing career and interest have been sparked", "... this camp is probably the most exciting part of my summer...", "I learned a lot about barbershop music and hope to join your choir one day.", "My experience at this year's camp was one of the better of my past four years. We had awesome teachers, songs and quartets", "... the best music camp ever!", "I have gained a new respect for barbershop singing", "I learned many valuable vocal techniques that will help me throughout my college career and throughout life", "... camp directors are the most musical and influential people I meet", "I've expanded my musical horizons. It has been one of the best experiences ever", "I love barbershop and now I know that it will be in my life forever. PS If you are looking for another member, let me know."

And here are a few of the comments from the teachers: "I learned several things which I will add

to my program. From H EX, we have already started a quartet choir and hope to continue to grow", "It was more than I could have expected. The growth I have seen in our guys over these three days is awesome", "I learn more each time and my students begin school with a built in excitement for singing", "... the quality of the music and performance will be an incredible memory for them", "My boys go home and recruit more every year."

So if you or your Chapter participated in the success of either Harmony Explosion Camp this year, you can rest assured that it was well worth while. Special thanks to the Jacksonville, Savannah, Beaufort and Central Alabama Chapters for providing staff assistance. Special thanks to Nashville, Athens, Huntsville Metro, Tuscaloosa, Loose Change Quartet, and Central Alabama Chapters for sponsoring campers for the Birmingham camp.

Atlanta Metro, Pete Pifer, Spartanburg, Stone Mountain, Marietta, Arthur Brause, Savannah, Beaufort, Research Triangle, Augusta, Roswell, Charlotte, Tim Brooks, Clay Hine, Asheville, Mooresville, Charlie Garrett, and Jacksonville were all sponsors for the Clemson Camp. THANK YOU! Your generosity is helping to assure the future of barbershop quartet singing. If your chapter is not on the above list, please consider joining with us for next year's camps.

Congratulations to High Country Post for their excellent showing in Nashville in what has to be the highest scoring College Quartet Contest yet.

The Society has announced that the program for youth choruses competition will be continued at the 2009 mid-winter convention in Pasadena. For (see Youth on page 9)

# 2008-2009 Leadership Academy Time

Once more we are approaching the time of the year when chapter nominating committees are finalizing and announcing the 2009 slate of officers they have worked on since January. As required by paragraph 4.1.1.1, Chapter Election Schedule/Procedure of the Society Operations Manual: "A slate of proposed officer candidates should be placed before the chapter in September so that elections can take place in late September through October. This permits chapter secretaries to notify their district directory agencies and the

Society regarding the new officers in sufficient time to allow for timely publication of appropriate directories for the following year. Completing elections in September provides more time for successful candidates to make plans to attend CO TS." Chapter elections need to take place by October 15th and the reporting of new officers needs to be accomplished as soon as possible after that.



By Dave Millson  
Chapter Support  
& Leadership  
Training

Chapter secretaries or substitute secretaries should update the newly elected officers immediately after election on the "Officer" web page of the Society ebiz web pages ([www.eBiz.barbershop.org](http://www.eBiz.barbershop.org)). This is the only place you will report the 2009 officers. Secretaries should make new entries for repeating officers using the dates of 1 January, 2009 and 31 December, 2009 respectively. Both the Society and District gets all information about chapter officers from ebiz.

All officers should attend a Leadership Academy. The nominating committee should have emphasized this requirement as a prerequisite to become a candidate for office. Chapters should budget for registration and travel expenses for officer's attendance to a Leadership Academy.

Last year we had three regional Leadership Academies (CO TS). We will again have three regional Leadership Academies for the 2008-2009 training cycle. On 22 November, 2008 the locations are the University of Alabama,

## Leadership Academy

Your Connection to ★ Great Ideas ★ Great People  
★ Exceptional Experiences ★ Essential Tools

Tuscaloosa, AL and Richmond Community College, Hamlet, NC. On 10 January, 2009 the central regional Leadership Academy will be at Hillside United Methodist Church, Woodstock, GA. These one day regional Leadership Academies provide the leadership training for you to excel in leading your chapter to succeed with minimal cost time and money. On all the exit evaluation sheets returned about CO TS last year only one recommended returning to a two day format.

Make plans now for all secretaries to attend. The Society advises that the 2009 Chapter Secretary Manual is being edited now. Look forward to seeing a number of new forms, changes, and correctly printed policies in the new manual. This new information will be taught and discussed at Leadership Academy.

New information and classes are being used each year at Leadership Academy. To improve your chapter and the district we need each officer who will lead and serve in 2009 in attendance. Even if you are repeating in the same office, you should attend to share your successes with others who have or will serve in that office and share your mistakes so others will not reinvent the wheel. Barbershop is about chapters and barbershoppers helping and assisting other chapters and barbershoppers grow in fun, wisdom, and song. The more barbershoppers who come and share, the better the experience will be for all.

LOOK FOR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY  
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REGISTRATION  
FORMS ON THE DIXIE DISTRICT WEB SITE  
SOON. [www.DixieDistrict.org](http://www.DixieDistrict.org)



## Marketing (continued from page 3)

Marketplace in Steve's absence. Because of the limited supply of available merchandise, etc., we only sold \$198 in merchandise.

Curt Douglass has donated a laptop computer to the District to be used for the Marketplace so that Steve does not have to transport the desktop computer to and from each convention. This and the software program loaded onto that computer will help Steve with the operation and record keeping.

I delivered a separate presentation at the BOD meeting about developing an "online store" for the District; but due to past management problems and the fact that much of our merchandise in stock is faded and not saleable at the prices marked, I strongly recommend that we have a "fire sale" of these items at the Fall Convention in Chattanooga and begin the process of creating an online store as a few Districts and several Society chapters (including AVP) have already done. We can still have a few items to sell at District events (CDs, etc.), but the majority of it would be sold online. I firmly believe that this concept, if properly implemented and managed, will mean even greater revenue for the District and greater efficiency of operation for the Marketplace.

Conclusion: I believe that we have achieved some of the goals I set for this year, but we have also only begun to "scratch the surface" of accomplishing other goals in helping market District events and in helping chapter Marketing VPs market their chapters more effectively. I look forward to working toward those goals in 2009.

## Youth (continued from page 3)

For more information on that project, contact me at [JamesT\\_Moore@bellsouth.net](mailto:JamesT_Moore@bellsouth.net).

As schools return to classes after the summer break, now is the time to contact them to set up classroom visits, distribute music educator packets, offer performance opportunities on Christmas shows, and in general, offer help to them in their music programs.

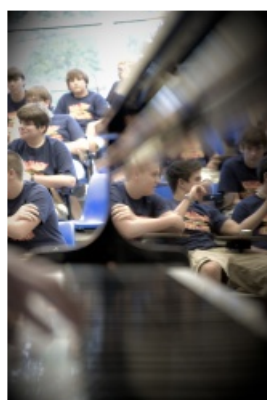
This is also the time when chapter budgets are being set for 2009, and therefore the time to ask your chapter to consider sponsoring students to the 2009 Harmony Explosion Camps.

Again this year, as in the past, Roland Moy and the Triad Harmony Express (Winston Salem Chapter), with the help of district funds, prepared an exhibit for the North Carolina Music Educators Association Convention in Winston Salem. If your state MEA is having a convention in your area, this is an excellent way to get barbershop resources to music educators. Roland can tell you how to go about making this type of event a success. Contact him at [moyrf@appstate.edu](mailto:moyrf@appstate.edu).

Be sure to visit the Dixie District website to view the description of Youth in Harmony services available for chapters, teachers and students.



# Harmony Explosion Camp Birmingham, AL Photos by Mark Parker





# Harmony Explosion Camp/ Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend Clemson, SC Photos by Barry Bryant





# D L H W 2008 – A Bird’s Eye View !

## Bob Davenport – D L H W Reporter

Just over 100 of our District brethren descended on Clemson University for the annual Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend on July 17-19, under the leadership of D L H W Dean Jack Donaldson and Ralph Cordaro, VP of Music & Performance. Attendance may have been hampered by the fact that the International Convention was in Dixie this year just two weeks earlier, because of high gas prices, the economy, etc., but those who attended feasted on some great classes, including some new classes.

Among those new classes were the revamped Standing Ovation Program (SOP) class and Chuck Greene’s popular course entitled “Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings.” Eleven District quartets were coached by some of the finest coaches in the Society, such as Clay Hine, David Harrington, and State Line Grocery.

The annual Harmony Explosion Camp was another huge success (see Jim Moore’s article in this issue) under the directorship of Dr. Bill Adams and Dr. Michael Martin. Lunch Break served as the teaching quartet and gained 100+ more young fans to their “fan club.”

The Saturday night D L H W show was, as Ed Sullivan used to say, “a really BIG show,” with appearances by Lunch Break, Atlanta Vocal Project (including Pins tripe), State Line Grocery, FRED, and the Harmony Explosion Camp Chorus.

Over 600 people attended the show and enthusiastically cheered each performer in the

Chuck Greene teaching his Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings class.



beautiful Brooks Theatre on the Clemson campus.

D L H W is now the venue for the District Novice Quartet Contest. Three quartets vied for the top prize. The first place winners were Island Treasures from the Hilton Head, SC chapter, followed by Out of Bounds from Pinehurst, NC, and Break Away from Augusta, GA. The judging panel was comprised of Clay Hine, Dusty Schleiter from BHSH headquarters, Jeremy Conover (who



Novice Quartet Champions Island Treasures and DIX President Thom Hine now directs the Savannah, GA chapter), and Larry Deters, who served as Contest Administrator.

On a sad note, this year’s D L H W is the last time many of us saw our dear friend, Jack Sweitzer before his untimely death about three weeks later. D L H W will not be the same without Jack and his willingness to do anything that needed to be done during that weekend to make sure everything ran smoothly. He will not be easily replaced. Our prayers go out to his family, but we will never forget his work ethic and his tremendous personality.

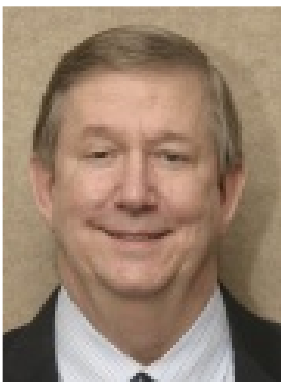
It’s not too early to think about making plans for next year’s D L H W. We encourage all of you to take advantage of the classes and fellowship that are offered each year. We’ll do our best to advertise the school much earlier in 2009 so that you can make those plans. Thanks to all who made D L H W successful in 2008!

# Friday Night Favorites!

Coming SOON to Dixie -- Audience Participation at Quartet Contests!

Ladies and Gentlemen, have you ever wanted to express your judging talents during a contest session and have it counted? Well NOW you will have your chance! Beginning on Friday night, October 3rd, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, you will have the opportunity to make a number of "judging decisions" that will result in winners! How does this work? Well, let me tell you all about it!

When you arrive at the registration desk at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo hotel to pick up your packets for the Dixie Fall Convention weekend, you will look inside your convention program. There you will find a "tear-out"



By Jim Sam's,  
Contest and  
Judging

Friday Night Favorites ballot on which you will make the following judgments during the Quartet Semi-Finals. Who are the best Tenor, Lead, Bass, and Baritone you will hear perform during the evening? And they don't necessarily belong in the same quartet! Which quartet will strike your fancy as the Best Dressed Quartet who will cross the stage? What will be the very best ballad that will truly stir your soul and pluck your heart strings? What will be the best Up-Tune that will really excite you and turn you on Friday night?

Once you have made copious notes, you will put the best part names, your best dressed favorites, and the songs that really grabbed you and put them on your ballot. Then tear out your ballots and place them in the boxes at the entrances to the auditorium. The ballots will be counted and the results will be announced immediately following the Saturday night quartet finals. Hats will be given to the best individual singers, and official certificates will be awarded to all the winners. Then you will get to see just how good you are at judging performances!

It is my hope that this audience involvement will help make your listening experience even more enjoyable. I will be looking for input to tweak this program and provide an even more enjoyable experience for everyone who attends. See you on Friday night, October 3rd, at the Friday Night Favorites contest!





# Small Chorus Shows

Bob Johns, VP, Carolina Moonlighters Bill Jones, President, Carolina Moonlighters  
Bill Rogers, President, Gaston Chord Weavers

One of the characteristics of the many chapters within the Society is a large number of small chapters in relatively small markets. Small chapters share several characteristics among which are:

- Small market areas for both "product" and membership options.
- Fund raising issues due to limited options, problems with getting all four voice parts together for a gig, resources for staging major events like shows.
- Providing a quality product. Small choruses often have no or only one quartet and limited singing skills among members.

The "problems" present opportunities. One example has been the cooperation between the Carolina Moonlighters located in Hickory, NC and the Gaston Chord Weavers located in Gastonia, NC. Between the two chapters are the collective problems of size, limited markets, limited resources, age demographics, quality of product due to chorus size, voice part logistics from time to time, exposure opportunities and the related ability to generate revenue to continue existing operations and grow. The chapters have recognized these issues and, in October, will present their third joint show.

The first two shows, one a "regular" annual show and the other a Christmas show done with a local Sweet Adeline chorus (Carolina Style from Newton-Conover), were highly successful and have led to continuing cooperation. While those shows presented quality shows to both communities, there is always room for

improvement—especially when the choruses only rehearse together in preparation for shows.

While both choruses have excellent and dedicated



Coach Thom Hine provides valuable tips to the Carolina Moonlighters and Gaston Chord Weavers as they work on their joint shows scheduled for 10/11 in Hickory and 10/18 in Gastonia.

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



directors, it is always helpful to get a "second opinion" (in this case, the third opinion) to help with singing skills and presentation. Continuous improvement requires looking at different ways to explain things and coaching. So, the two choruses agreed to present the best show possible given all the "disadvantages" of small choruses and utilize District resources to accomplish that goal.

The choruses arranged to have Thom Hine come to Gastonia to help us be the best we can be. And what a job Thom did! By the end of a 6 hour coaching session the combined chorus sounded better than the sum of its parts.

It sounded like a chorus that had rehearsed frequently as one and made major strides in producing a product far better than the good product that resulted from the first two shows. If the old adage "the third time is a charm" is true, then Thom's efforts with the Moonlighters and Chord Weavers will result in the best joint show yet.

There are a couple of morals to the story, so far.

- Small chapters can benefit from joint efforts and might want to create their own joint coaching opportunities. Call your neighbor and set one up.
- Regardless of chapter size, take advantage of the resources available to improve the quality of your chapter's product.

As a post-script, many of the Moonlighters had not been through an intense coaching experience – several eyes were opened and the benefits carried over to the first post-coaching rehearsal and a small gig a week later. The embarrassing part, of course, is that many of the things Thom helped us with were really validations of what our directors had already told us. Drat the luck ... .. Anyhow, kudos to Thom for making the trip from Atlanta to help our choruses improve. We deeply appreciate his knowledge, coaching abilities and dedication to helping chapters do their best.



## Congratulations To All Who Represented Dixie in Nashville!

### Quartets

State Line Grocery	3rd Place
Redline	4th Place
Storm Front	6th Place
Glory Days	7th Place
Lunch Break	13th Place
Great Nashville Singout	37th Place
Pins tripe	39th Place

### Choruses

Atlanta Vocal Project	7th Place
Memphis Cotton Boll Chorus	
Mic Testers	
Nashville Music City Chorus	
Hosts Extraordinaire!	

# Naked Voice Records Releases Audio Catalog of The Vocal Majority

International Chorus Champions has  
storied 35-year history

NEW YORK, New York – August 26, 2008– Naked Voice Records today announced that The Vocal Majority, 11-Time International Chorus Champions of the Barbershop Harmony Society, have signed with the label for the digital release of their audio catalog. Thirteen of the Vocal Majority's audio recordings are now available at [www.nakedvoice.com](http://www.nakedvoice.com). NVR is the only all-digital a cappella record label in the world and features an audio catalog of over 4,000 songs.

The Dallas, Texas-based chorus has won the coveted gold medal in every year it has been eligible for competition since 1979. In its 35-year history, the VM has sung for Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush and has made appearances with The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, The Four Freshmen, The Lettermen, the Oak Ridge Boys, the Suntones, and the Texas Boys Choir. They have also joined many solo artists in concert including Glen Campbell, Jimmy Dean, Bob Flanagan, John Gary, Lee Greenwood, Jack Jones, and Johnny Mann. In addition, the chorus has performed with The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Texas Wind Symphony, Las Colinas Symphony, Mid-Cities Orchestra, Richardson Symphony, Irving Symphony, San Angelo Symphony, Utah State Symphony, and the Constitution Symphony Orchestra.

Naked Voice Records currently represents world-class a cappella artists such as ACOSTIX, Jokers Wild, Michigan Juke, The Alley Cats, Dealer's Choice, Power Play, Gotcha!, The Masters of Harmony, Nightlife, Shalimars, and The Westminster Chorus. Its artists span many genres of music from barbershop to doo-wop to jazz to contemporary. The label also has a partnership with the Barbershop Harmony Society to archive and release the entire contest audio catalog of the 70-year-old all-male singing organization.

About the Barbershop Harmony Society: Founded in 1938 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Barbershop Harmony Society is the largest all-male singing organization in the world

with 28,500 members including 1,500 quartets in over 800 chapters. There are also nine official foreign affiliates of the Society.

About barbershop-style a cappella music: Barbershop harmony is an American musical art form. It is known for its four-part harmony and the "expanded sound" created by its unique chord structure.

For more information about the Barbershop Harmony Society, visit [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org) or call 615.823.3993 ext. 4119.

From a Naked Voice press release.



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LOOSE!**



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# Singing For Life 2009

By Bob Burns, Land of the Sky Chorus, Asheville, NC

Registration for this project, which is an incredible opportunity to foster goodwill and community spirit, will open mid-September. The Singing For Life (SFL) event held May 10, 2008, involved 176 BHS Chapters throughout North America. Over 3000 units of blood were collected, many new blood donors were recruited, and nearly 16,000 performers entertained donors, blood center staff, and the public.

Down here in Dixie we had 10 of our 57 Chapters involved. We all know we can do much better than that.

There are two important changes to SFL2009 (go to [www.barbershop.org/blood](http://www.barbershop.org/blood) for SFL FAQ's; job description of the Chapter SFL Chairman, and other helpful links):

1) The registration period will be from mid-Sept until Jan. 31, 2009. When it opens, registration will be done at [www.SingingForLife.org](http://www.SingingForLife.org). Watch your Livewire and the Society website for the start date.

2) SFL2009 WILL NOT have to be held on a specific date. You can have it on any day in May, 2009, which can be worked out between your Chapter and the local blood center.

Although SFL supports one of the four BHS AIMS, it is Chapter driven. What are the benefits to your Chapter?

1) Blood donations save lives. This is our gift to the blood collection centers, and their donors. You will get a rush of goodwill!

2) It's an external, community service project. You will bring joy to your community and increase awareness in barbershop harmony and this unique American art form.

3) Develop new relationships with other performing arts organizations.

4) Increase your media exposure.

5) Possibly gain new members. One of our new members here in the Asheville Chapter is an RN who works at the Western North Carolina Red Cross Center we teamed with.

6) Pride in your Society and a North American-wide community service project.

So, go to [www.barbershop.org/blood](http://www.barbershop.org/blood) and read about it. Then pick your Chairman, register your Chapter at [www.SingingForLife.org](http://www.SingingForLife.org), and get Singing For Life going in your community. You will be giving a lot more than blood and a day of your time.





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

The new BH SAPTIFY 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)

## New Society Plan & Dues Policy for Youth

Thom Hine, District President

Effective January 1, 2009, the Society student membership dues category will be eliminated, and a new Society youth membership dues category will be established with the following qualifications and dues:

- (i) New youth members must be under 26 years of age at the date of enrollment;
- (ii) Society dues for new youth members are waived for the first year of membership (but subject to a \$10.00 enrollment fee); and
- (iii) Renewal dues for all youth members (under age 26 at the effective date of renewal) are set at the rate of 50% of the dues for the Society's regular membership dues category.

The DIX District Board will propose a district "overlying" dues policy during the October 3, 2008 Fall House of Delegates meeting in Chattanooga, TN. I strongly encourage all DIX Chapter House of Delegates Representatives to be in attendance and vote "for" the motion.

We (that means you and me) sometimes employ the mindset that "we" are the future of our District and Society. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is the young men we bring into the Society over the next many years who WILL BE THE/OUR FUTURE.



**DIXIE DISTRICT FALL 2008 CONVENTION**  
**OCTOBER 3-5, 2008**  
**CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE**

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 Sept. 26th)

Transportation \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN FROM AUG 15-SEP 26, 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 SEPT 19<sup>TH</sup>\***  
**\*\*EARLY REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT ON SEPT 26, 2008\*\***  
**\*\*WE WILL RE-OPEN FOR ON SITE REGISTRATION (\$38.00) ON OCT 3<sup>RD</sup>\*\***  
**\*\*NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN ANY FORMAT SEPT 27<sup>TH</sup> - OCT 3<sup>RD</sup>\*\***

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 THIS SECTION FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT ONLY

**\*\*MASTER CARD, VISA, OR DISCOVER ONLY\*\***

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
 CVV2 Code \_\_\_\_\_ (3 digit code from back of card)

Print name as it appears on the card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:**  
**\*Must be postmarked by Sept 19, 2008 to receive early bird discount.**

Ted & Pamela Jett  
 7201 Donna Lane  
 Knoxville, TN 37920  
 EMAIL: [registration@dixiedistrict.org](mailto:registration@dixiedistrict.org)  
 PHONE: (865) 567-8026  
 FAX: Available upon request

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E-mail _____	Payment Processed _____
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Database _____	



# The Rebel Rouser

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



## Plan Ahead ...

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- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 10/3-5                 | DIX Fall Convention -- Chattanooga, TN  |
| 11/22                  | Dixie Regional Leadership Academies,<br>University of Alabama Law School, Tuscaloosa, Alabama<br>Richmond Community College, Hamlet, North Carolina |
| 01/10/2009             | Dixie Regional Leadership Academy<br>Hillside United Methodist Church, Woodstock, Georgia   |
| Upcoming Chapter Shows |   |
| 9/20                   | Atlanta Metro/Marie tta Chapters Joint Show   |
| 10/25                  | Central Carolina Chapter Show   |
| 11/1                   | Pinehurst, NC Chapter Show  |
| 11/14 - 15             | Stone Mountain Chapter Show   |
| 12/6                   | Atlanta Metro Chapter Show  |
| 12/12 - 13             | Marie tta Chapter Show  |