

The Dixie District's

REBEL ROUSER

Alabama · Georgia · Mississippi · Tennessee

Spring 2011

Inside This Issue

Some Ways to Build Quartets in Your Chapter

The Brigade Train Arrives in Chattanooga

Hall of Fame Inductees

And Much More!



The Rebel Rouser

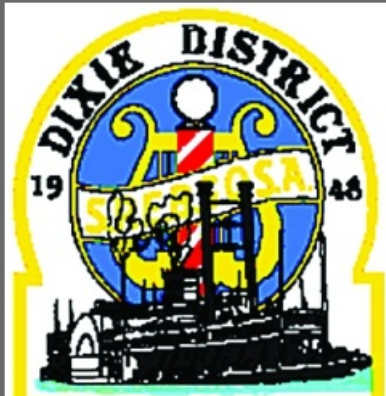
Volume 54, Number 1

Editor

Keith Therrell

rebelrouser@dixiedistrict.org

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!

Front Cover: "Time and Again" perform at a wedding rehearsal dinner. From left, Steve Cochran (Tenor), Greg Detty (Lead), Jim Sams (Bass), and Ken Taylor (Bari).

2011 Dixie District Executive Team/Board of Directors



President

Drayton Justus



Executive VP

Larry Deters



Secretary

Russell Bell



Treasurer

Curt Douglass



Immediate Past President

Thom Hine

Dixie District Management Team



Music & Performance
Jim DeBusman



Marketing & Public Relations
Bob Davenport



Membership Development
Dave Whitehead



Chorus Director Development
Open



Contest & Judging
Jim Sams



Chapter Support & Leadership Training
Ralph Cordaro



Youth In Harmony
Jim Moore



Membership Events
Jack Donaldson



Communications
Dwain Chambers



Historian
Gerald Adams



Financial Development
Paul Blazek



Web Master
Mark Hyde



Rebel Rouser Editor
Keith Therrell

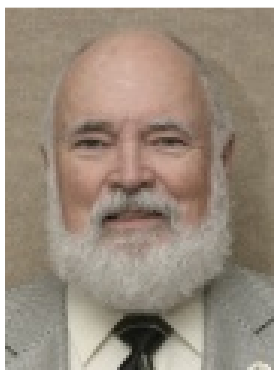


Society Board Member
Jim Sams

2011: A Year for New Challenges to Preserve and Encourage!

Many thanks to district and chapter leadership teams who have worked diligently throughout 2010 to spread the gospel of barbershop harmony. It has been an unusual and sometimes difficult year for Dixie.

The mid-year change in our boundaries and resulting reduction in district membership have made district services/events and financial planning a brand new ball game. It would be easy to become discouraged.



**Drayton Justus
District
President**

But wait a minute – at this point in our history, the primary goal at every level of our beloved Barbershop Harmony Society is to reverse membership decline – indeed, to achieve membership growth – right? And the individual chapter is where membership either

increases or doesn't – right? So, even though your Dixie District leadership team will work toward efficient and effective use of available funds for all district services and events, its PRIMARY focus in 2011 should be those services which promote chapter growth – assistance to our twenty-five existing chapters, and renewed efforts to charter new chapters. You will hear more about these efforts in the very near future.

If your chapter has not already developed a plan and goals for the new year, now is the time! Be aggressive and specific, and formulate goals in a manner so that results are measurable. Search for ways to grow the chapter, ensure that chapter meetings are fun, and don't hesitate to call upon your District VP for Membership and VP for Chapter Support &

Leadership Training -- David Whitehead and Ralph Cordaro are ready, willing, and able to provide assistance. Mr. Chapter President, make sure you (or your representative) check with our District Secretary, Russell Bell, regarding necessary financial and reporting requirements. And by the way, I encourage you to make regular visits to both the Society and Dixie District web sites; there's a wealth of helpful information there.

The challenge is a positive one, and I believe we are up to it. I hope everyone had a wonderful family Christmas, that your New Year will be the happiest ever, and that 2011 will be a year of preserving, encouraging, and growing in Dixieland!

Dixie District Addresses

Drayton Justus	president@dixiedistrict.org
Larry Deters	exec-vp@dixiedistrict.org
Russell Bell	secretary@dixiedistrict.org
Curt Douglass	treasurer@dixiedistrict.org
Paul Blazek	bmal@dixiedistrict.org
Thom Hine	ipp@dixiedistrict.org
Jim DeBusman	vp-music@dixiedistrict.org
Bob Davenport	vp-marketing@dixiedistrict.org
Dave Whitehead	vp-memberservices@dixiedistrict.org
Open	vp-cdd@dixiedistrict.org
Jim Sams	vp-judging@dixiedistrict.org
Ralph Cordaro	vp-cslt@dixiedistrict.org
Jim Moore	vp-youth@dixiedistrict.org
Jack Donaldson	vp-events@dixiedistrict.org
Dwain Chambers	communications@dixiedistrict.org
Gerald Adams	historian@dixiedistrict.org
Paul Blazek	vp-development@dixiedistrict.org
Russell Bell	registration@dixiedistrict.org
Steve D'Ambrosio	marketplace@dixiedistrict.org
Mark Hyde	webmaster@dixiedistrict.org
Keith Therrell	rebelrouser@dixiedistrict.org
Jim Sams	societyboard@dixiedistrict.org

District Liason Report

Greetings to fellow members of the Dixie District on behalf of Society President Alan Lamson and the entire Society Board of Directors and belated New Year wishes for a successful 2011. I'm excited to have Dixie as my assignment for this year as Society Liaison and expect to have many fruitful discussions with the Dixie Board of Directors and many of you. I will be attending our Spring Convention in Boaz, AL and the Fall Convention in Chattanooga, TN. I look forward to seeing many of you there as well.



Jim Sams
Society Board
Liaison

My role as Society liaison to the Dixie District entails working closely with our President, Drayton Justus, and the Dixie Board of Directors of which I am a part. I will also be a resource to any chapter member to

answer questions about or take suggestions to the Society. By the time you read this, I will have met with your Dixie leaders in Las Vegas at the Midwinter Convention. I look forward to working with all of you during this year and look forward to all of the successes that will be achieved due to all of our efforts together. Please feel free to contact me at anytime via email or telephone (901-488-3128).

This report is of the society board meeting at our 2011 Mid Winter Convention. As always, I look forward to your comments and/or questions.

Jim Sams, Society Board Member-at-Large
Society Liaison for Dixie District 2011
jimsamsca@bellsouth.net

2011 Mid Winter Society Board Meeting

The Society Board met on Thursday and Friday, January 27th and 28th at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas. Both days the meeting was called to order and those present sang the American and Canadian national anthems. Immediate Past President Biffle read aloud the mission and vision statements of the society. The second day of the meeting, January 28th, President Lamson acknowledged Past Presidents, distinguished visitors, members of the Governance and Bylaws Committee and society staff who were in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

The board approved minutes of the October 2010 meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Dwayne Cooper, Treasurer

- Fiscal Year 2010 was completed with a net income from operations of \$470,931 against a breakeven budget.
- The board empowered the CEO to obtain a commitment for refinancing the mortgage on Harmony Hall.
- Liquidity requirement of \$1.5 million is met and exceeded with approx \$2.3 million in unrestricted cash and equivalents.

Consent agenda – passed

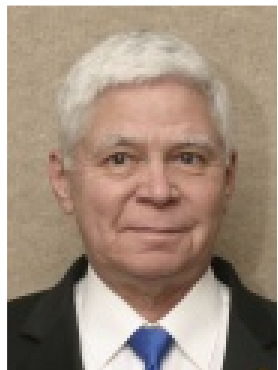
Global Policy Task Force – Ed Watson, reporting for Chairman Keil

The chair wants to see more push from the World Harmony Council toward establishing affiliates.

(see Society on page 18)

Youth In Harmony

The Las Vegas Mid-Winter Convention saw two Dixie District Youth Choruses in the 4th Annual International Youth Chorus Festival. Cleveland, Tennessee and Savannah, Georgia both sponsored choruses. Many of these young singers are familiar with barbershop through our summer Harmony Explosion Camps. Harmony Foundation and the Dixie District both help supplement the



By Jim Moore
Youth In
Harmony

expenses for these groups. If you get the chance, be sure to support and encourage these young men. It appears, at this writing, that there will be 19 youth choruses with over 600 young singers in this competition.

Thanks to the Marietta Big Chicken Chorus should be noted for their

support of the Savannah Storm Youth Chorus, who appeared on all three of the Big Chicken's recent Christmas shows.

A one-day festival for high school boys and girls in the North Georgia area was sponsored by the Atlanta Vocal Project. It was held January 22 in Calhoun, Georgia. Clinicians were Clay and Becki Hine, and teaching quartets were Lunch Break and Last Minute. Information is available on www.AtlantaVocalProject.com.

Again in 2011, the Dixie District will provide a Harmony Explosion Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. This will be a three day camp at the University of Alabama, and will be held June 9 - 12. Clinicians and quartets will be announced later. More information about this camp will be forthcoming in early 2011. As you know, all

students and educators to this camp are given scholarships, so now would be a good time to prepare your chapter budget to help support them. Harmony Foundation and the Dixie District also contribute to the costs of presenting the camp.

In 2011, the District will again award two or more music educator scholarships to attend Harmony University in St. Joseph, Missouri. This is a great way to make teachers aware of the benefits of introducing barbershop into their music programs. If you would like to nominate a music teacher for a 2011 District scholarship to HU, send to me the following by March 31: a nomination letter, a copy of the teachers resume, and a statement assuring that the teacher can attend. The dates of Harmony University in 2011 are July 24 through the 31st.

Your Dixie District Board of Directors recently approved a Youth In Harmony 2011 budget that will also allow financial assistance for up to two College Quartet competitors in Philadelphia, and two one-day Festivals. Funds to help with funding exhibits at two Music Educator Conventions were also approved.

If your chapter puts on a one-day Youth Festival in your area, you may be eligible for funds from Harmony Foundation as well. "Festivals" can include just about any barbershop teaching experience, which can receive up to \$1000 in a grant from Harmony Foundation. Let me know the details of your event so that I can check this out for you. And if your Chapter is sponsoring a booth at an MENC Convention, you need to let me know.

If your chapter is one of those that does not now have a YIH Chairman, and you have an

*(see **Youth** on page 7)*

Some Ways to Build Quartets in Your Chapter

One of the greatest ways to get singers in your chapter excited about wanting to sing in a quartet is to provide them with as many opportunities that you can. There are many chapters that do just that by having quartets form from their chorus so they can sing for their performances, cabarets, and annual shows. We're not just talking about their established quartets, but chapter quartets put together specifically for these shows.



To get the quartet program started, the music leadership team might pick four voices that they feel might sound good together. Trained ears sometimes can do a better job of this than four untrained guys.

Jim DeBusman The quartet could sing a Polecat song or something from your chapter's current repertoire. If the quartet doesn't want to sing a song from the chorus's current repertoire, they could use voice-dominant learning tapes to learn another song. The idea is to give the fledging foursome all the help-aids they need to be successful.

Their coaching can come from experienced quartet singers. This coaching can take place before, at break, or after chapter meeting. The coaching could even happen another evening during the week.

Many chapters use quartets in their performances as a part of their performance package. There are also songs a chorus sings that provide an opportunity for a quartet to sing a part. What a great way to start an introduction of a song; create a beautiful mood in a bridge section or the beginning of the

repeat. All these uses can be done effectively and add variety to a chorus's performances package.

Can you imagine how much more variety you'll have in each performance and how much better the chorus will sing because of this practice?

Our Society's Singing Valentine program is one of the greatest programs to get singers involved in doing a quartet activity. One successful way that many chapters do to get their quartet program off the ground is to have the entire chorus learn three or four appropriate songs. They then ask their singers to put together combinations for the two or three day program. Some of the basses and baritone can sing falsetto to learn the tenor part, so they have enough parts for the quartets. Once again, having a music team and/or an established musical talent in the chorus available for coaching is a real assistance to these aspiring quartets. The more members performing in quartets the better your chorus sound will be.

Another opportunity for quartet development is having a novice quartet activity of some kind in your division or area. It can come in many forms such as a "So You Wanna to be in a Quartet?" workshop, or a Novice Quartet Contest/Festival in your chapter, division, or district.

Just think of the advantages of being a part of any one of these opportunities to sing or become a part of a barbershop quartet. They would be:

- Discussing the voice ranges of each part finding out you could sing more than one part.
- Finding out what each part should do to allow the quartet to be most successful.
- Learning how to sing with three other guys.
- Feeling the joy of singing with three other guys.

- Finding out you can sing your part by yourself.
- Finding different rehearsal techniques that can help you be your best.
- Finding out the many roles quartet members need to take for the quartet to be successful.
- Finding out about the different kinds of coaching available to quartets.
- Finding out how to ask a qualified coach to work with your quartet.
- Finding out how to get voice-dominant learning tapes, CD's and music for your quartet.
- Finding out how to get along.

You can't go wrong when you go to an event that is promotion quartetting. You meet many Barbershoppers who are interested in singing four part harmony just like you. Singing in a quartet gives you so many more opportunities to perform than singing in a chorus. Four guys and a pitch pipe . . . that's all it takes. Doing chapter shows and performances around your community is a lot of fun. The greatest part of this is that there are singers in your chapter right now that don't know the thrill of singing in a barbershop quartet. They don't know what it's like to ring a chord with three other guys. They've had the opportunity to feel it with a chorus, but it's so much different when you are the guy singing the part that makes the four of you sound so good.

The next time you're at a show, a chapter meeting, or barbershop get together, ask the guys around you to sing a tag or a song anytime you get the chance, you won't regret it. You just might be on your way to finding three other guys who'll want to sing in a barbershop quartet just like you do. Wouldn't that be a heck of a deal!

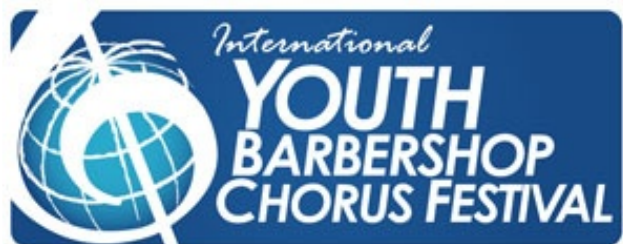
Jim Debusman now serves the Dixie District as Vice President for Music and Performance.

Youth *(continued from page 5)*

interest in working with youth, please let your Chapter administration know. Also contact me, so that I can help you establish a program for your chapter.

Barbershoppers connected with any youth activities such as quartet contests, festivals, work-shops, etc. are now required to conform to special insurance requirements regarding sexual harassment training. It is very important that I know of all youth activities that your Chapter plans, and who your YIH person is, so that this information can be sent to the proper person.

Society Youth 1 and Youth 2 membership plans are still in effect. A new member under the age of 26 pays only an enrollment fee of \$10 for their first year (unless your chapter charges them dues). Thereafter, and for returning members under the age of 26, they pay ½ Society and \$10 Dixie District dues. Take advantage of these rates and bring young members into your Chapter.



The Brigade Train Arrives in Chattanooga

Ron Hesketh, Confederate Harmony Brigade Brigadier General, Mkt. & PR

On the weekend of September 10 through 12 the Confederate Harmony Brigade held their annual Rally at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel in Tennessee. In all, about 70 Brigade members and guests attended for a weekend of fellowship & singing. As in most all Rallies, a Saturday night show, hosted by the Choo Choo Chorus, was greeted with thunderous applause by the appreciative audience in attendance. The guest quartet, The Real McCoy, out of Nashville, wowed the audience with their own blend of close harmony, with a splash of humor. Loose Change, another Dixie District quartet, displayed their unique brand of 4-part comedy as well with a different take on legal issues.

The Choo Choo Chorus filled the first half of the show with a river boat flavor of chorus and quartet numbers and then, in the second half, the Confederate Harmony Brigade Chorus blasted the auditorium with their 70-man sound and a finale that was both heartwarming and spectacular. Complete with a slide presentation, the combined choruses sang Clay Hine's arrangement of "America The Beautiful" in tribute to those who died nine years ago on September 11, as well as all those who are or have served our country in all branches of service. By the end, there wasn't a dry eye in the house and the entire audience stood in tribute to the theme and the chorus members.

One of the main highlights of the Brigade Rally was the presentation of a sword to the retired Commanding General, Jim Sams, from the Memphis Chapter. It has



Jim Sams (left) and Larry Deters

become a tradition to present the retiring General with a sword in recognition of his service to the Briogade. It was also the time to recognize and remember one of our former Commanding Generals and only the second Field Marshall ever commissioned, Jeb Stewart, from Pensacola Florida, who passed away this past July. Jeb was one of the mainstays in the Confederate Harmony Brigade and we were all proud to remember him.



CHB Chorus Finale in Chattanooga

Also, awards were presented to Gen. Dwain Chambers (Memphis Chapter) as the Barbershopper of the Annual Rally (B.O.A.R.) and to Frank Roberts (Citrus County, Florida Chapter) as the "Camp Follower" of the Rally.

Our next Rally will be held the second weekend of September, 2011 in Mobile Alabama. The Confederate Harmony Brigade is made up of members from the Dixie, Sunshine, the new Carolinas districts, and Frank Thorne members living within those district boundaries who have served their chapters, districts, or the Society. They are invited to join in a weekend of fun, relaxation and singing. This Brigade is the "Granddaddy" of all Brigades, formed in 1958, and is a certified Society Subsidiary.

We are led currently by Commanding General Larry Deters from the Nashville Tennessee Chapter and invite all members of the Dixie, Sunshine and Carolinas Districts to contact their district Representatives, Gen. John Phillips, Gen. Chad Bennett or Gen. Jeff James for further information.



Frank Roberts (2nd from R) accepts the "Camp" award from Gen. John Phillips (R) and past recipients.

Dixie District Hall of Fame

2010 Inductees



Chuck Greene, Asheville, NC



Dwain Chambers, Memphis, TN



Frank Cristina, Nashville, TN
Accepted by Diane Cristina Deters



Randy Miller Passes

Dixie District Hall of Fame member Randy Miller passed away on October 17, 2010.

Randy joined the Society in 1960 and over the last 50 years was an active member to say the least. At the time of his death he was heavily involved in the First Inaugural Convention of the Carolinas District as a member of the Convention Team and was entered in the Quartet Competition. He was a Past President of the Dixie District, a member of the DIX District Hall of Fame, Past President of the Lexington Main Street Harmonizers, a dual member with the Augusta Chapter, and had also served both chapters as a board member and Music Director.

Randy was proud of the fact that through his membership with the Augusta Chapter he could continue his association with his beloved Dixie District, even after the official chartering of the new Carolinas District.

John Phillips and Doug McMillan contributed to this story.

2010 Fall Quartet Competitors



Dinner On Thursday



Diverse City



Five 'n Dime



Gridlock



JR's Boys



*Lighthouse
District Champions*

2010 Fall Quartet Competitors



Macon Harmony



Middle-age Spread



Next Wave



Sagacity - Seniors Quartet Champions & International Seniors Quartet Representatives



Sam's @ 7



Second String

2010 Fall Quartet Competitors



Standard Deviation



Stock Arrangement



That's Life



The Post-It Notes



The Real Nashville Music League



Time and Again

2010 Fall Quartet Competitors



Up Front

Quartet Photos courtesy of Jack Deere



Keith Therrell

District Champions "Lighthouse"

2010 Fall Chorus Competitors



*Athens, AL
Southern Splendor Chorus*



*Atlanta Metro, GA
Atlanta Vocal Project*



*Central Alabama
Voices of the South*



*Chattanooga, TN
Choo Choo Chorus*



*Cleveland, TN
Sound of Tennessee Chorus
14 The Rebel Rouser • Spring 2011*



*Knoxville, TN
Smokyland Sound*

2010 Fall Chorus Competitors



Marietta, GA
The Big Chicken Chorus



Memphis, TN
Memphis Men of Harmony



Nashville, TN
The Music City Chorus



Stone Mountain, GA
Stone Mountain Chorus



Tuscaloosa, AL
Crimson Pride Chorus

Chorus Photos courtesy of Jack Deere

2010 Standing Ovation Program

The Dixie District Standing Ovation Program provides an opportunity for your chorus and quartets to be evaluated in their public performance presentations. 2010 has been a great year for our District's Standing Ovation Program, as we have been able to meet all requests.

This is a voluntary, confidential program.



Results are not reported to the Society, any of its committees, or anyone else. The evaluation is strictly between the chorus or quartet being evaluated and the trained reviewer.

Sherwood Platt
Standing Ovation
Program
Chairman

The performers would prepare for a review with a 20 to 40 minute presentation reflecting the group's typical performance or have the reviewer attend a rehearsal or an actual show.

The review would include consideration of the music selected, the quality of singing, musicality and presentation in the barbershop (or other) style, song sequencing for entertaining flow, non-singing comments related to the master of ceremonies, scripted dialogue, set design, venue, stage presence, including entrance and exit skills, costuming, grooming and overall entertainment value.

If the performance is not given in a theater setting, detailed explanations of technical matters such as lighting, sound, microphones, and anything else related to the presentation should be explained to the evaluator. The review will include suggestions and resources

that may be of help to improve your public performance.

After receiving a request from a chapter chorus or quartet, a Standing Ovation Program reviewer is assigned; the visit is scheduled at a mutually convenient time. The cost to the chapter consists of two complimentary tickets to the performance and any hospitality they wish to provide; reviewer travel expenses are reimbursed by the District.

Are you interested in having a SOP review of your performance? Would you like information on becoming a SOP reviewer?

Contact:
Sherwood Platt, Dixie District SOP Chairman
901-747-2358
901-219-8793 (cell)
asp11@juno.com

Garden City Chorus Honored



Members of the Garden City Chorus receive a Commendation from Garrison Commander Colonel Kennedy. From left to right: Bob Kaltenbach, Bob Reichl, Colonel Kennedy, Director John Phillips, John Plotts and Phil Plantamura

Fort Gordon, GA.

The Garden City Chorus received a commendation plaque from Fort Gordon for “embodying the true spirit of a great community partnership.” It was presented by Garrison Commander Colonel Kennedy at a ceremony honoring groups that made a contribution to the Ft. Gordon community. The Garden City Chorus, which has sung at numerous events at Ft. Gordon over several years, was cited for “artistic excellence, dedication and desire to provide the best possible entertainment to our service members and military families.” Accepting for the membership were Chorus Director John Phillips and members for the Board of Directors, Dr. Bob Kaltenbach, Dr. Bob Reichl, John Plotts, and Phil Plantamura.

The Garden City Chorus is a men's a cappella group that sings in four part harmony. It is the singing arm of the Augusta Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, an international organization. The GCC has entertained at civic, community, and private functions for almost 50 years. This year they will sing for service personnel and their spouses at a Wounded Warriors Care Program Marriage Retreat.

Upcoming events include The Dixie District Spring Competition in Alabama and our 48th annual show on April 30, 2011, at the Maxwell Performing Arts Center at Augusta State University. For information call 803-279-4198 or visit the website at www.gardencitychorus.org. Men interested in auditioning may attend our weekly rehearsal at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays at the Church Of Christ, 600 W. Martintown Rd, North Augusta.

Submitted by Bob Kaltenbach
VP Public Relations
Garden City Chorus

Society *(continued from page 4)*

Board Education Responsibilities – Gary Parker, Chair

Gary Parker gave the report on behalf of committee members Paul Wietlisbach and Doug Brown, both of whom were in attendance.

Immediate task is to develop an appropriate program for the spring board meeting.

Currently looking to bring in someone to present a case study on an organizational turn-around.

Two Year chorus Rotation Update – Ed Watson, CEO

- District Presidents generally do not support
- Discussion has practically faded to nothing
- The two-year chorus discussion, as originally discussed, will not be pursued
- Some districts are asking to convert C&J rules to allow prelims in one contest per year
- The most recent suggestion which has been tentatively supported by C&J Committee is to consider the spring only prelims.
- There is no recommendation pending for the board at this time but Ed will continue to work with the District Presidents and the appropriate committees and keep the board informed.

Board Job Descriptions – Jim Sams, Committee Chair

Jim Sams gave the report for task force members Ted Devonshire and Chris Buechler (with assistance from Alan Wile, Greg Caetano, and Rod Sgrignoli). Existing documents were retrieved, reviewed and promulgated in pdf format to Governance and Bylaws for committee review. Proposed Job Descriptions were presented to the board, amended, and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

District Presidents joined the board for the

presentations by the MGTf mini task forces

Membership Growth Task Force Mini Task Force Reports – Bill Biffle, MGTf Chair

All Ages Task Force – Jack Fitzpatrick, Chair

“Montana Jack” Fitzpatrick gave the report for task force members Charlie Davenport, David R. Updegraff, Mike Stoll, and James Estes. (Bob Fichtner, Special Consultant). The report presents significant statistical evidence of the challenge we currently face in membership. There are specific recommendations for both recruiting and retention detailed in the report.

Delivery Mechanism Task Force – John Donehower, Chair

John Donehower gave the report for task force members Christian Hunter, Greg Caetano, Mike Scott, and Andrew Shackleton. The primary focus is to develop a system to provide a solid foundation for cost/benefit analysis for all new membership programs proposed. The secondary focus is to develop a methodology of making available contemporary training tools for chapters to use in pursuing membership growth programs at the local level.

New Chapters Task Force – Don Fuson, Chair

Don Fuson gave the report for task force members Rob MacDonald, Steve Zorn, Pete Carentz, and Rick Spencer. Don read a list of new licenses and asked the DPs from those districts to stand and be recognized. Overwhelming feedback was that nearly all new chapters were formed by someone who knew barbershop and made it happen. The report will also include a retroactive review of the past, specifically during a more successful chapter proliferation era.

External Focus Task Force – Gary Parker, Chair

Gary Parker gave the report for task force members Brandon Guyton, John Miller, Mike Lietke, and

Melanie Chapman. The current list of potential initiatives is up to 18 and is currently being sorted into the following five categories:

- already in progress (no brainers)
- soon to begin (quick hits)
- higher priority long term
- lower priority long term
- drop from the list

Solutions focus on low cost technology. 15 initiatives being considered such as:

- Chapter Show and Recruiting tools consolidated in an easy to find location on the web site
- Use headline quartets (former gold medalists) to help market the show and to recruit
- Social Media approaches to enhance recruiting
- Video on Demand cable channel dedicated to barbershop harmony
- Expand the CDD program to provide more marketing and resources to attract external talent to increase the current talent pool of highly qualified directors (both recruiting and retention)
- Push vs pull communications technology

Strategic Planning Task Force – Noah Funderburg

Noah Funderburg gave the report for task force members Ed Watson and Shannon Elswick. Noah told the group that his father's tools were not clean and pretty, that is because the tools were well used and used well. He admonished that the board cannot let all this work just be pretty and gather dust. Noah encouraged the total group that this is our proverbial Sputnik moment and challenged everyone to convert our research into passion and action.

Governance and Bylaws Report

Youth in Harmony recommendations:

Changed minimum score from 70 to 71 for qualifying for CBQC contest in 2011

Accepted recommendation that only 1 past CBQC or BHS champion per quartet be allowed beginning in 2012.

Society Contest Rules

Codified the current practice of having the SCJC Chairman serve as the Panel Chairman for the International Contest.

Affirmed the priority order of audience, contestant, then panel for resolving environmental issues at contests. This is the practice which has previously been followed but is now formalized in the rules.

Subsidiary Requests

Three requests for subsidiary organizations were reviewed. The one for the High Sierra Harmony Brigade was approved.

Other Committees:

Reports were received from the Honorary Membership Committee and the Ethics Committee. The board discussed and provided input for the Nominating Committee.

CEO Report – Ed Watson, CEO

The society finished in the black for 2010

Mid Winter 2011 has sold out twice and the same day ticket sales are very strong

Increased revenue associated with increased ticket sales

Convention expenses are going to be up as well so it is hard to tell how the bottom line will be

Executive limitations were all met

Final 2009 audit has been completed and will be sent to the board

Discussion of process related to tracking and monitoring the number of chapters with less than 12 members

Update on world harmony development per the newest executive limitation

Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers ready to affiliate

Bing (Barbershoppers in Germany) is making two song books, one for men and one for women, and they are thrilled with the support of the staff

Combined Meeting of the Society Board and the District Presidents

Jim Warner, Chair of Governance and Bylaws Committee, gave a briefing on the various issues of organization and the documents which have the information most often requested.

Alan Lamson described the role of the Society Board and how that has evolved over the years, especially since 2005 when the Carver Governance Model was adopted. He talked about the use of executive limitations and how that led to the formation of the Operations Team (OT). Alan described the form, structure and process of the original OT and how that led to shrinking the number of people actually on the OT. The Society Board has taken a slightly larger slice of the society pie since forming the MGTF and input from and collaboration with the District Presidents is more important than ever. Alan looks at the current governance model, six years after the change, as an evolution.

Pete Carentz gave a presentation to the group suggesting some language be added to the operations manual to better describe the role of the District Presidents as related to the governance function of the barbershop harmony society. Ed Watson agreed to make the changes as requested.

Regarding the Strategic Planning Task Force recommendation for chapter visitation, the following agreements were reached:

- CSLT Committee will design a set of questions for the chapter visits and have them ready to be submitted to the district presidents by Feb 15th
- The questions should be finalized by the district presidents by March 1st
- Chapter visits should be 66 percent completed by Aug 31
- Chapter visits should be 100 percent completed by Dec 31

The meeting was recessed until the following morning.

January 28, 2011

Installation of Officers – Skipp Kropp officiated to recognize and install the following new officers:

Don Fuson – Board Member
John Miller – Board Member
Dewayne Cooper – Treasurer
Shannon Elswick – Executive Vice President
Alan Lamson – President

The following remaining business was conducted:

- Board reports were given for district delegates, guests, and visitors.
- Review of the Governance process.
- Special presentation of appreciation to Bill Biffle.

CLOSING:

The Governance Advocate report was given by Shannon Elswick.
The Parking Lot report was given by Rick Ashby.
The Sergeant-at-arms Report was given by Jim Sams.
Keep the Whole World Singing was directed by Gary Parker and the meeting was adjourned.

The Rebel Rouser

Keith Therrell, Editor
6846 Holly Hill Drive
Germantown, TN 38138



Plan Ahead...

03/11 - 03/13 Dixie Spring Convention and Contests
Boaz, AL
06/09 - 06/12 Harmony Explosion Camp
Huntsville, AL
06/10 - 06/12 Harmony College Southeast
Huntsville, AL
07/03 - 07/10 BHS International Convention and Contest
Kansas City, MO

Upcoming Chapter Shows

04/02 Jackson, MS Chapter
04/09 Cleveland, TN Chapter
05/21 Nashville, TN Chapter
06/04 Stone Mountain, GA Chapter
Lake Lanier, GA Chapter