

The Dixie District's

# REBEL ROUSER

Alabama · Georgia · Mississippi · Tennessee

Summer 2011



# The Rebel Rouser

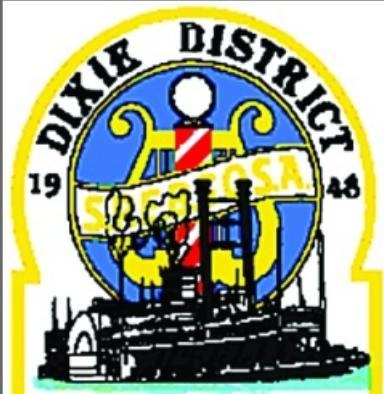
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Editor

Keith Therrell

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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!

## Front Cover:

*Able to leap good taste with a single bound -- Look, up in the sky! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's...a Big Chicken from Marietta, GA!*

## 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  
John Buttler



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



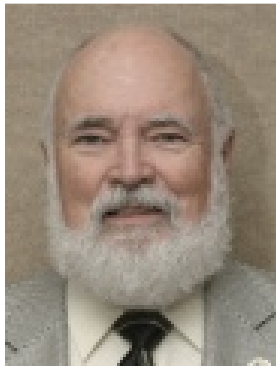
Rebel Rouser Editor  
Keith Therrell



Society Board Member  
Jim Sams

# What Do We Need? What Do We Want? Where Are Our Best Sources?

**G**reetings and best wishes to all members of our beloved Dixie District--the district everyone sings about! Here's hoping your Spring season has gone well and that your plans for the remainder of 2011 include the Kansas City International Convention and our own Fall District Convention in Chattanooga--they will be wonderful, harmonious gatherings, and you won't want to miss them. Our hearts



**Drayton Justus  
District  
President**

go out to any members, friends and families who have suffered loss and damage due to the recent unusually destructive weather.

In the Spring issue of the Rebel Rouser, you noted from Jim Sams' District Liaison Report that the Society's Strategic Planning Task Force,

chaired by our own Noah Funderberg, proposed creating a system for making personal visits by a district leader to every chapter in the Society. Meetings between the Society Board, CEO, and District Presidents at the January MidWinter Convention resulted in further development of this proposal into a "Chapter Wellness Survey" to be completed by the end of this year. Assignments have been made, chapter leaders will be contacted for mutually convenient meeting times, and every chapter in Dixie will be personally visited by a district official in 2011.

It is important that chapter members and leaders understand the nature of these chapter wellness visits and their intention. As the title implies, the basic focus of the survey is to determine the needs, wants, concerns and general health of the individual chapter and to

better enable district and Society leaders to address them. It is NOT meant to be considered an evaluation, assessment, or "statistical grading" -- rather, it is designed to improve Society and district communications and assistance to our individual chapters. I urge your support and acceptance of this project in the spirit in which it is intended. When the time comes, give your visitor the full benefit of your desires and concerns.

Hope to see you in Kansas City. Grab me for a tag or "polecat!"

In harmony,  
Drayton Justus, President

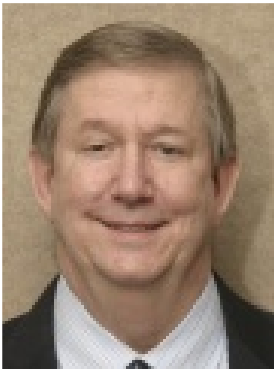
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# Dixie District Liason Report

Spring is springing and it was chilly but beautiful in Nashville the last weekend in March. The Barbershop Harmony Society Board met for its spring planning meeting and here is a summary of what we did. Thanks to Shannon Elswick, EVP SBOD, for putting this article together for the SBOD members.

As always, I look forward to your comments and/or questions. Feel free to contact me anytime if I can be of service to you or your chapters.



**Jim Sams**  
**Societ Board**  
**Liason**

## 2011 Spring Planning Meeting of the Society Board

The Society Board met on Friday, March 25th and Saturday, March 26th at the Society offices in Nashville. Friday's meeting was devoted to board education. Alan Valentine, President and CEO of the Nashville Symphony, gave a keynote address and told the story of the turn-around of his organization. Our facilitator for the afternoon session was Doug Brown, Founder and CEO of Paradigm Associates. The board members were privileged to be able to tour the Schermerhorn Symphony Center.

Saturday's meeting was dedicated to Society Board meeting. President Alan Lamson called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and adjourned to executive session to receive official notice of the retirement of our CEO. Ed Watson has served with distinction and led the Society through some difficult transitions.

Ed will remain in office until after the Kansas City convention. President Lamson will appoint a committee to oversee the CEO transition.

The regular meeting was reconvened with the official routines of singing the national anthems, reviewing the mission and vision statements and accepting the minutes of the midwinter meeting. In addition to the board members, staff and governance representatives, Bob Brutsman, Chairman of the Harmony Foundation, was also in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report** – Dwayne Cooper, Society Treasurer, introduced Becky Harrell, Audit Partner with Kraft CPAs, our audit firm in Nashville. Becky presented the preliminary results of the 2010 consolidated audit. The Board discussed the report and asked questions to more fully understand the numbers and required footnote disclosures.

Dwayne Cooper and Heather Verble gave the financial report. Net income through two months of the new fiscal year was \$129,472 which was significantly better than the budget due to a very successful Midwinter Convention in Las Vegas.

**Operations Team Reports** – Written reports were received from the following committees: Chapter Support & Leadership Development, Chorus Director Development, Contest & Judging,

*(see Society on page 14)*

# Youth In Harmony

**T**he 2011 Harmony Explosion Camp at the University of Alabama in Huntsville will be held on June 9 – 12 and is shaping up to be an exciting one. Clinicians will be Dr. Bill Adams, professional musician and educator from Durham, North Carolina, and James Estes, Music Specialist with the Society. The teaching quartet will be Prestige, our International 2010 College Quartet Silver Medalists. These campers and teachers will get to experience some of the best of barbershop. It will be an unforgettable experience for them. Information and forms are available on the District website.



**By Jim Moore  
Youth In  
Harmony**

Again this year, many of the campers will be from areas within the District where there are no local barbershop chapters to support or sponsor them. The only problem that this creates is that with no local chapter to pay their costs, the District must rely on generous barbershoppers, quartets, and indirectly related chapters to sponsor these kids that they may never see. In the past this has not been a problem, and costs have been covered.

Please, if you want to ensure that the fun and enjoyment of barbershop music that you now experience is passed on to future generations, contribute to the sponsorship of these kids. They have each paid a \$35 fee to attend, and Harmony Foundation helps with funding, but there are still costs which need to be covered. You may sponsor a camper for \$90, or a teacher for \$125. In the past, several chapters have sponsored multiple campers. If, however, you cannot give such an amount at this time, any contribution will be welcomed. Checks should be made out to the Dixie District HX Camp, and sent to the HX Camp Director at 3385 Breton Court NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30319. You will receive a thank you note from the camper who benefits from your generosity.

This year there was one nomination for a teacher scholarship to Harmony University. The recipient is Barry Bryant, Minister of Music for the First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Georgia. Barry was an integral part of the HarmonyFest festival that was recently held in Calhoun, and hopes to see that barbershopping thrives in that area. Please keep in mind that the District and the Society does offer these scholarships each year, and this is a great way to expose interested teachers to our music.

Our representative to the College Quartet Contest in Philadelphia will be Vigilantes. This is a quartet made up of young men from Cleveland, Tennessee, Atlanta (Atlanta Metro Chapter) and Samford University in Birmingham (Central Alabama Chapter). They are:  
Tenor: Adam Murphy  
Lead: Ian Galvin  
Baritone: Chase Guyton  
Bass: Jackson Pinder.

Let's all pull for them to do well in Kansas City. For those of you not able to attend, there will be a webcast available. Information on the webcast can be obtained on the Society website.

Two other Dixie college quartets competed in the prelims – To The Fore, from the Atlanta Metro Chapter, and Instant Message from the Memphis area. Both posted impressive scores of over 69%.

Congratulations to both of our Dixie Youth Choruses for their success in the International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival held in Las Vegas at the Society Mid-Winter Convention. Savannah Storm and The Cleveland Scream Machine both received Excellent ratings.

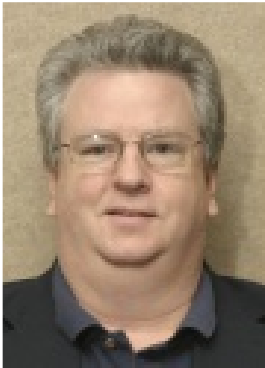
Please let me know of any Youth In Harmony activities planned by your chapter. The District has financial assistance for many of those programs and you may qualify. If your chapter is one of those that does not have a YIH Chairman, and you have an interest in working with youth, please let your Chapter administration know, and contact me so that I can help you establish a program for your chapter.



# Show Assessment Process Changes

Currently, the assessment process for district-cleared shows is as follows:

- Your chapter sells tickets and ads to a performance
- Your chapter performs and totals up the gross receipts for the show and the ad sales for the show
- Your chapter sends the show assessment form along with payment to the secretary
- The secretary receives the form and check
- The secretary forwards the form and check to the treasurer
- The treasurer deposits your check



**Russell Bell**  
Secretary

In the recent past it has become increasingly hit or miss that the chapter check either does not get to the secretary or the check from the secretary does not reach the treasurer. We are changing the process for sending the payment for the show assessments. It makes more sense for the chapter to send the check for show assessment directly to the district treasurer since he is the one to ultimately get the funds for deposit.

To help remind chapters of the new process, the mailing address on the show assessment form your chapter receives will have the treasurer's address and not the secretary's address. There also will be a note in the show clearance package your secretary receives reminding your chapter of the new process.

This only affects the show assessment process, not the show clearance process. All clearance requests are still to be mailed to the secretary. You can also email the secretary ([secretary@dixiedistrict.org](mailto:secretary@dixiedistrict.org)) with the show date and any information about the show you want on the calendar. That way I will know a clearance request is on its way and I should look for it.

Hopefully this "one less mail stop" solution will help us get everything correct and help keep records current and correct.

# 2011 Standing Ovation Program

Chuck Alexander, Music and Performance Advisor for the Barbershop Harmony Society Standing Ovation Program, will be leading an SOP Certification/Review class at the 2011 International Convention and Contest this coming July in Kansas City. The class is slated to take place on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Marriott headquarters hotel.

If you have any interest in learning more about the Standing Ovation Program, or if you are already an SOP Reviewer, I encourage you to pre-register for the class by sending an e-mail to [chuckalexander@rogers.com](mailto:chuckalexander@rogers.com) Include your name, e-mail and home addresses.



As Dixie District Standing Ovation Program Chairman, I continue to seek men in our district to serve as SOP Reviewers. Reviewers are trained to observe the overall performance of a chorus or quartet, identify performance strengths and weaknesses, make recommendations to improve the presentation, and make suggestions that might be useful to the performers.

While we are fortunate to have a number of talented Certified Reviewers in our district, it would be useful for us to have a few more qualified men that reside in various Dixie District locations.

## **Sherwood Platt Standing Ovation Program Chairman**

The Reviewer is trained to observe all elements of the event that contribute to the enjoyment, comfort, and entertainment of the audience. Special emphasis is given to the performance, but some aspects not directly related to the actual performance are also considered:

*Ease in purchasing tickets*  
*Directions to show venue*  
*Ease of parking*  
*Handicap access*  
*Show Program*  
*Theater seating comfort*  
*Temperature*  
*Quality of show lighting*

*Quality of sound system*  
*Quality of show program*  
*Sound levels for speaking versus singing parts*  
*Intermission planning and execution*  
*Restrooms clean and available*  
*Safety Issues (Location of venue,  
Patron safety, security if needed)*

If you have any questions, would like additional information, or want to have a performance reviewed, please contact me.

A. Sherwood Platt, Dixie District SOP Chairman  
(901) 747 2358  
[asp11@juno.com](mailto:asp11@juno.com)

# 2011 Spring Quartet Competitors



*A Mighty Wind*  
*International Qualifier*



*Better With Bacon*



*Decades*



*DiverseCity*



*Four Grand*



*High Tide*



# 2011 Spring Quartet Competitors



*Knuckleheads*



*Lighthouse*



*North Georgia Gentlemen*



*Stock Arrangement*



*Take the Fifth*



*Time and Again*

# 2011 Spring Quartet Competitors



*TNS  
International Qualifier*

Quartet and Chorus Photos  
Courtesy of Jack Deere

## Contest Results

### Chorus Contest

*Dixie Chorus Champion  
Atlanta Metro, GA*

*Most Improved Chorus  
Central Alabama*

### Quartet Contest

*International Qualifiers*

*A Mighty Wind*

*TNS*

*The Vigilantes - Harmony Foundation Collegiate Contest*

*Other Dixie Quartets Qualifying Out of District*

*Lunch Break*

*The Real McCoy*

# 2010 Dixie Barbershopper of the Year



**Congratulations to Russell Bell,  
the 2011 Dixie BOTY.**

**Russell is the District Secretary  
and is a member of the Atlanta  
Metro Chapter.**

**With Russell are his wife, Claudia,  
and daughter, Sydney.**



**Gregg Tingle from Germantown, TN enjoys  
his first Dixie District Convention.**

# 2011 Spring Chorus Competitors



*North East Tennessee  
The Appalachian Express Chorus*



*Athens, AL  
Southern Splendor Chorus*



*Augusta, GA  
Garden City Chorus*



*Atlanta Metro, GA  
Atlanta Vocal Project*



*Central Alabama  
Voices of the South*



*Chattanooga, TN  
Choo Choo Chorus*

# 2011 Spring Chorus Competitors



*Cleveland, TN  
Sound of Tennessee*



*Marietta, GA  
The Big Chicken Chorus*



*Memphis, TN  
Memphis Men of Harmony*



*Lake Lanier, GA  
North Georgia Barbershop Singers*



*Tuscaloosa, AL  
Crimson Pride Chorus*



*Mic Tester Chorus*

## Society *(continued from page 4)*

Events, Marketing & Public Relations, Membership, Music & Performance and Youth in Harmony. Board member questions regarding the reports and plans for moving forward with the various program ideas were represented in the reports.

**Board Standing Reports** – Written reports were received from the following committees: Annual Planning Cycle, Education, Ethics, Governance & Bylaws, Hall of Fame, Honorary Membership, Joint Audit Review and Nominating. The board also received a report from the Strategic Planning Task Force.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Harmony Foundation Cash Flow Analysis** – Society Treasurer Dwayne Cooper and Harmony Foundation CEO Clarke Caldwell led the board through an analysis of the timing of pledges and cash flows through the Foundation. Discussions included a review of the breakout of Foundation functional expenses and funding back to the Society.

**Refinancing HQ Mortgage Loan** – Regions, Sun Trust, and USBank have submitted proposals for refinancing the HQ mortgage. A board committee was appointed to review and recommend which bank to choose. IPP Bill Biffle recommended a committee be appointed to review and monitor the consolidated liquidity of the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Harmony Foundation.

**Timing of Preliminary Contests** – Ed Watson reported that there was not sufficient support from the districts to move in the direction of consolidating preliminary contests in any manner. It was reported that 14 of the 17 districts make money on both Spring and Fall conventions each year. The board discussed the

possibility of allowing districts to arrange for their quartets to qualify in other districts. Ed Watson will discuss with C&J and the District Presidents and then report back to the board.

**Report of the Strategic Planning Task Force** – Bill Biffle presented the report on behalf of Noah Funderburg, Ed Watson, Shannon Elswick, and himself. The three primary areas of focus recommended by the task force are membership growth, creation of new chapters and development of an enhanced external focus. Ed Watson commented that he was in full support of the major focus areas but wanted to review the specific programs which were being discussed. It was agreed that the list would be reviewed by Ed and his staff with input to come back to the board for further review.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Annual Planning Cycle Committee** – Rick Ashby reported on behalf of the committee. The spring meeting in the cycle is simply the preliminary discussion of the board regarding the AIMS for 2012 and beyond. There was discussion suggesting an alignment of 2012 AIMS with the major areas of focus recommended by the Strategic Planning Task Force.

**District Liaison Assignments** – Shannon Elswick led a discussion regarding the district liaison assignments and the current process for assigning society representatives to district conventions. It was decided that Shannon would communicate with the District Presidents and revise the liaison assignments if needed. It was noted that the fall schedule has six conventions on the weekend of September 30th. That weekend will present multiple scheduling challenges.

**CEO Report** – Ed Watson reported our total membership as of the date of the meeting is 25,002, which is up from year-end. An

additional license kit has been issued to bring the total of outstanding license kits to 13.

Ed gave an overview of income and expenses related to supporting the Affiliates. The basic affiliate agreements are being rewritten and will be presented to the Affiliates for review. The group in Spain is poised to become an official affiliate of the society but no official action has come to the board for action.

Chapter Achievement Program results are finalized for the 2010 cycle. The number of chapters participating was 327, or 41%. The results will be tabulated and shared with the board, districts and participating chapters.

The pace of registrations for Kansas City has picked up and we are now on pace to reach the budgeted level of 6,250.

**CLOSING:**

President Lamson thanked the board members and staff for their time and diligence on behalf of the Society. The attendees sang Keep the Whole World Singing and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

The next regular meeting of the society board will be in Kansas City the week of the International Convention.

# The Rebel Rouser

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



## Plan Ahead...

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06/09 - 06/12	Harmony Explosion Camp Huntsville, AL
07/03 - 07/10	BHS International Convention and Contest Kansas City, MO
09/30-10/02	Dixie Fall Convention Chattanooga, TN