

The Dixie District's

# REBEL ROUSER

Alabama · Georgia · Mississippi · Tennessee · Eastern Arkansas

Spring 2014

Long Beach

M I D W I N T E R 2 0 1 4



Long Beach

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# The Rebel Rouser

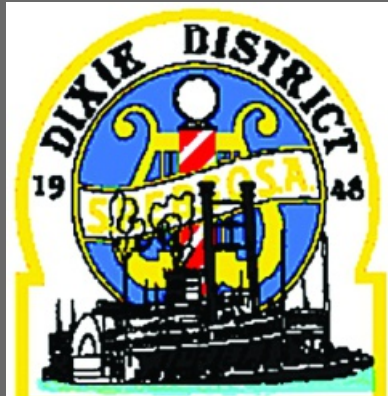
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Editor

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!

## Cover:

*Midwinter Convention performances by Koxville's Foothills Sound and Atlanta's Georgia Spirit.*

*Photos by Becca Grimmer, Barbershop Harmony Society. Used by Permission.*

# 2014 Dixie District Executive Team/Board of Directors



President  
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Chambers



Executive VP  
Noah  
Funderburg



Secretary  
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Paul Wietlisbach



Youth In  
Harmony  
Jim Moore



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Thom Hine



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Paul Blazek



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Mark Hyde



Rebel Rouser  
Editor  
Keith Therrell



Society Board  
Member  
Randy Loos



# The Prez Sez!



**Dwain  
Chambers  
District  
President**

We are starting 2014 with a big bang that has several new projects already underway.

**Spring Convention** - Other than 2 INTL's, I can't recall a DIX convention held in Nashville. This Spring, we are in a large hotel, the Airport Marriott, and the venue is a large church only a short 2 miles from the Marriott.

**Fall Convention** - we're following Spring Convention up with a 3 year cycle in the Atlanta area in a hotel that will also house our venue in a large ballroom.

**Our district officer training** is being developed in on-line sessions using WEBEX, and once all of the sessions are completed they can be used all year long and into the next year.

I have also been serving as DIX Director of Communications and one of my first goals was to get our **email communication system** converted to our web site, and thanks to our webmaster Mark Hyde, we now have group addresses that will permit our DIX VP's to send emails to each of their chapter counterparts. And we have a brand new DIX Member group where we can send emails to all DIX members with email addresses in their member record. We can also periodically compare what we have with ebiz and make updates as needed.

The Society is bringing **Harmony University to Belmont University** in Nashville this year and if you've never been to HU, this is a great

opportunity for all DIX Barbershoppers, and it is one week that you will never forget.

We did not want to have a conflict with our own DLHW usually held in July, so we are not having it this year but we are planning to do two different MINI-HEP schools on two Saturdays later this year. Watch for announcements from VP M&P Jimmie DeBusman!!

We are continuing our **YIH program** and had 2 different youth choruses at the Mid-Winter convention in Long Beach. Give a big shout out to the Foothills Sounds from Knoxville directed by Lee Franks and the Georgia Spirit from the

(see President on page 4)

## Dixie District Addresses

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# President

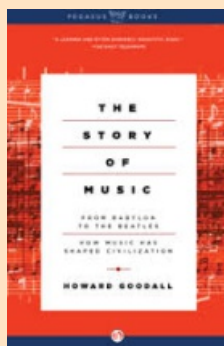
(Continued from page 3)

Atlanta area directed by Clay Hine and Tim Brooks.

The **Society Contest & Judging Committee** continues to take a more in-depth look at the judging program in an effort to provide competitors more of what they'd like to see in the competition. Our own VP C&J Jim Sams is on this committee, and DIX is the only district running a pilot project at our Spring convention, and each competitor is able to select from a list of unique types of evaluation processes that they would like after they have finished their competition.

I want to close my initial article with a great big "THANKS" to our previous PREZ Larry Deters. He did a magnificent job while also acting as the BHS Interim CEO until the SBOD selected Marty Monson!!

Harmoniously,  
Dwain Chambers  
Dixie District President



"**The Story of Music**" is a recent book by British award-winning composer Howard Goodall. Goodall takes us on a musical journey from 40,000+ year old bone flutes to modern pop. And there's even a respectful, although brief, mention of Barbershop

harmony. A Spotify playlist is included that features examples from the various periods of music discussed in the book. Goodall navigates a formidable amount of history with a clear, approachable, unintimidating style, and he does so in only slightly more than 300 pages.

Anyone who has wondered about the path that the evolution of music has taken over the centuries, indeed millennia, will find *The Story of Music* an entertaining and informative read. Check it out at your local library or bookstore.

—KT

## Slight Dues Change Upcoming News from the DIX Fall House of Delegates Meeting

Thom Hine, DIX Board member At-large & Chairman of the DIX Budget and Finance Committee

Our district dues are structured to give senior categories a discount. The problem with that approach is that we are an aging Society and district. Thirty-one DIX members pay no dues at all (myself included), while 206 pay half dues (\$15 per year). That's 29% of our district's total dues paying membership. If we take no action to remedy this situation, what will that percentage be next year? 35%? Be advised the DIX Board discussed this issue during our 2013 Summer Board meeting, a motion was made, seconded and approved by the Board to set all senior categories DIX dues at \$20 per year.

Any changes to an existing DIX dues structure must be approved by the House of Delegates. That issue was placed on the agenda and sent in advance to all DIX Chapters. The adjustment in DIX senior dues was approved by the House of Delegates to be effective January 1, 2014.

## Micro-HEPs (Harmony Education Programs) Are Happening in 2014 And Here Is the Reason Why!!!



**Jim DeBusman**  
**Music and**  
**Performance**

Dixie District Members, we need to make a change in the Dixie District's music education and coaching school's structure and we have found it.

Micro-HEPs will be one-day (8:00am - 6:30pm on a Saturday) coaching and educational events and will take the place of our Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend.

There will be both quartet/chorus coaching and music education classes — PVI's, Tag singing, plus any other classes that you, yes you, would like to have at these two Micro- HEP events.

There will be two of these Saturday schools. One will be located in Atlanta, GA at the Covenant Presbyterian Church on September 13th , and the other will be located in Nashville, TN at the Calvary United Methodist Church on October 25th.

The biggest reason for this decision is because our Society's outstanding Harmony University is coming to the Dixie District. Having been a member of the Society's staff, I know firsthand what happens when a district attempts to continue with its district music school when HU moves to its district. The Micro-HEPs will be a positive alternative to having Harmony University in our own Dixie District.

We really want every district quartet and chapter member that does not go to HU to consider coming to one of the Micro-HEP events.

The cost will only be \$50.00 and your lunch will be included. We will start at 8:00 am on Saturday and be done no later than 6:30 pm that evening.

Registration for these two Micro-HEPs will be up on our Dixie District Website on or before May 1st. We are very excited about this new concept of providing a new event that is not going to be so difficult to travel to and still help you receive an excellent day of music education and coaching.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Jim

### **If your quartet has competed in a recent Dixie Contest...**

Then you will want to check out the new **RebelRouserPics** on Flickr!

During each contest, I take hundreds of pictures of chorus and quartet performances. I can only use a small number in the Rebel Rouser and the rest go unseen. So I've decided to post them on Flickr. Feel free to download and use them. Many pictures from Fall 2013 are posted already. Check back often for additions of older contest photos. Spring Contest photos will be posted in the weeks following the convention.

*Keith Therrell*  
*Editor*

# Youth In Harmony



**Jim Moore**  
Youth In  
Harmony

The 2014 Dixie District **Harmony Explosion Camp** will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee on July 17, 18 and 19th at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. The camp will be for boys and girls up to the age of 22. We expect around 80 male campers and 80 female campers from our four states in Dixie. In order

to assure that the camp is available to many schools rather than just a few, there will be an initial limitation of 8 boys and 8 girls from any one school. If registration requests exceed these numbers, a wait list will be kept and applications will be filled if possible after July 1.

Each student will be asked to pay a registration fee of \$100. Since the cost to hold the camp is over \$200 per student, we need sponsorships from chapters, quartets and individuals in the District. An amount of \$100 will sponsor a student, or \$150 will sponsor a music educator. If a chapter wants to pay the entire amount including registration for a student, that amount would be \$150. However donations in any amount will be accepted and will be very helpful. The cost to a student is a tremendous bargain for what the camp offers. Music teachers attend for free. Harmony Foundation supplements the cost of each camper, as does the Dixie District. Scholarships will be accepted from Chapters, quartets and individuals. These scholarships may be paid by sending a check to the District YIH.

The clinician for the boys will be **Clay Hine**, director of Atlanta Vocal Project and baritone of A Mighty Wind quartet. The teaching quartet for the boys will be **A Mighty Wind** from Atlanta. The boys' chorus will learn four barbershop songs and two eight part songs. The girls' clinician will be **Becki Hine**, and the teaching quartet will be **Last Minute** from Nashville. They too will learn four songs and will perform two with the combined chorus. All these will be performed in the Saturday night show at the UTC Fine Arts Center. **PLEASE PUT THE DATE OF SATURDAY, JULY 19, 7:30 PM ON YOUR CALENDAR AND ATTEND THIS SHOW.**



Watch for an email announcement for the opening of registration and other camp details. We will also be taking chaperone

applications and scholarship donations soon. Please help support this camp, either financially or by volunteering your time, if you are able. It will be one of the largest camps in the country and promises to be one of the most successful but only with your help.

Dixie was well represented at the BHS Mid-Winter Convention and International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival in Long Beach



Foothills Sound

(see Youth on page 7)



# Youth

(Continued from page 6)



California in January by 2 youth choruses. The 39 man Georgia Spirit chorus represented Atlanta Vocal Project, Stone Mountain, and other Atlanta area barbershoppers, and the 30 man Foothills Sound represented Knoxville, Tennessee's Powell High School. Both attained an

"Outstanding" rating. Directors were Clay Hine and Tim Brooks for Georgia Spirit, and Lee Franks for the Foothills Sound. Both choruses are already looking forward to a trip to New Orleans next January.

Dixie will make tuition scholarships available for two choral music educators to attend the 2014 Harmony University in Nashville. If you have a person in mind for this, just send me a resume and a letter by March 31 saying that that person will attend if awarded the scholarship. All nominations will be reviewed at that time. Send to [vp-yih@dixiedistrict.org](mailto:vp-yih@dixiedistrict.org), or mail to:

Jim Moore  
VP YIH DIX  
3385 Breton Court NE  
Atlanta, GA 30319

## NASHVILLE! MARCH 14-16!

It is going to be a weekend to remember! Nineteen great quartets vying for a chance to represent Dixie in Las Vegas! Eleven excellent choruses fighting it out for the Dixie District championship! The 2nd semi-annual Dixie District Festival with choruses and quartets receiving coaching and instruction from some of the best in the Society! A great Headquarters hotel with plenty of little "nooks and crannies" for singing! Can it possibly get any better than this?

Yes! The reason: Hospitality is back at Dixie District Conventions!!! There will be a huge Chordatorium featuring all the awesome quartets! And, get this — no fewer than six (yes that's 6!) chapters and one quartet will be hosting **Hospitality Rooms** at this convention! The entire weekend is going to be great, AND Saturday Night will be epic!!!

If you have not already registered, what are you waiting for? The HQ hotel (Nashville Airport Marriott) has been sold out for weeks, but there are several dozen hotels in the area. You DO NOT want to miss this one!!!!

Harmoniously,  
Jack

Jack Donaldson  
Dixie District VP for Events

Registration info can be found on the Dixie District website: [dixiedistrict.org](http://dixiedistrict.org)

# F-F-F Frankly, My Dear...



**Stan Peppenhorst**  
**Marketing/PR**

Many of you may have made one or more resolutions for the New Year. Think for a moment and consider the results at this point in time. Certain events of the year may have been factors in altering your decisions or plans. These may have been Super Bowl Sunday, the Winter Olympics on television, weather

conditions, a vacation, a wedding, the birth of a child, or one-day festivities such as Valentine's Day, a birthday, a wedding anniversary, or a holiday.

Our minds undoubtedly wander to our hobby of barbershop singing when we consider the effect of this year's events and experiences of the previous year that helped determine those resolutions. As I think of barbershop's impact and effect upon my life past, I must reflect on the activities of the past year. I have been able to attend rehearsals, be in the chapter's shows, sing at events in the community such as singing songs of love to unsuspecting ladies during Valentine's Day, and visit other chapters. Fortunately, I have been able to attend and participate at Dixie District conventions in chorus competition, Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend, the Confederate Harmony Brigade Weekend, the Toronto International Convention, a BHS Leadership Forum, and the December 2013 Barbershop Festival at Carnegie Hall in New York City. What a joy it has been singing polecats and other songs and tags at these occasions!

Do visitors and prospective members at your chapter rehearsals and the audiences in the community comment on the fantastic sound they heard? Do they remark about the fun or

enjoyment they had or their noticing your enjoyment of singing? Do they also mention the friendliness exhibited before or after a show or community event? After receiving a Singing Valentine, a lady remarked, "You guys really enjoy singing, don't you?" The baritone in the quartet responded, "Yes, we really do!" These three—the *fantastic* singing, the *fun*, and the *friendliness* exhibited can maintain and gain a positive public image. All of us are involved in this public image, for *public relations* is establishing, maintaining, or improving a favorable relationship between you/your quartet/your chorus and the public. In *marketing*, one must promote, advertise, publicize, and present your quartet or chapter in such a way as to make barbershop harmony desirable to the public.

Instead of the three F's of fun, fantastic singing, and friendliness, I would like to propose three others for consideration. These are **faith**, **fire**, and **fellowship**. I have noticed these three as being evident in every activity of which I have been a part in the Dixie District and the Society.

**Faith:** The confidence you have in your director and he/she has in you. The reliance you have on the others in your quartet, your section, and your chorus. The commitment, the dedication, the allegiance. The trust you place in your chapter officers. The belief in yourself and in other members that all are prepared for rehearsal and events. Loyalty, assurance, devotion.

**Fire:** Energy, passion, power. The emotion to evoke a smile, a laugh, or a tear. fervor, vigor, excitement, enthusiasm, spirit, intensity. That which can inspire, enliven, and excite.

**Fellowship:** Camaraderie, comradeship, partnership, companionship, community, affiliation, brotherhood, society.

(see Marketing on page 9)



# Marketing

(Continued from page 8)

Frankly, my dear brothers, it is definitely **faith, fire, and fellowship** that are exhibited throughout the Dixie District and the Barbershop Harmony Society. Whether you are at your chapter's rehearsal, visiting another chapter, at a convention in the Dixie District, in or at a Show, or at an International Convention, you will see all of these exhibited by those in our Society, our brotherhood. As each week passes, let's be sure others view us as having these characteristics. Let us resolve to remember these three F's and to constantly increase our faith, our fire, and our fellowship.



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## Dixie District Convention and Contest Around the Corner!



**Jim Sams**  
VP Contests  
and Judging

The time is upon us to gather in Nashville, TN on March 14-16, 2014 for the 2014 International Quartet Prelims and Dixie Chorus Convention.

The venue for the contest is The Donelson Fellowship (church) at 3210 McGavock Pike, 37214, about a 3.3 mile beeline from the headquarters hotel, the Nashville Airport Marriott at 600 Marriott Drive, 37214.

We will have a Dixie Quartet Prelim, High School/College Quartet Prelim, a Dixie Chorus Championship, and Most Improved Chorus Awards available. We will also offer a "Score for Evaluations Only" session for those choruses who do not wish to compete but would like to vie for the Most Improved Chorus and receive scores and a 60 minute coaching/evaluation session. We will also provide a "Score for Evaluation Only" option for quartets, including Novice, to help you prepare for the Fall Dixie Quartet & Novice Quartet Championships! We just need YOU there to participate! In addition to all of these exciting opportunities for our competitors, we will be changing up our evaluation sessions to actual coaching opportunities unlike anything we have done before.

Also, for those choruses or quartets who do not wish to participate in the contest, we are planning on another Chorus/Quartet Festival similar to (or even better!) than what we had last fall in conjunction with the contest festivities.

# The Dixie Standing Ovation Program



**Sherwood Platt**  
**Standing**  
**Ovation**  
**Program**

The Standing Ovation Program is a Society sponsored effort offering, at no cost to your chorus or quartet members, an honest review of your presentation. Reviewers are trained to critique, evaluate and make suggestions to improve your performance. The review is not shared with anyone except the persons who requested the evaluation.

The confidential SOP review includes the following categories, plus the unique thoughts of the person doing the review. Following is a sampling of what might be considered.

**FACILITY:** Parking, Handicap Access, Lobby, Auditorium, Lighting, Sound, Temperature, Seating Comfort, Sight lines, Washrooms, Overall impression.

**SONG SELECTION:** Traditional, Barbershop Style, Novelty, Show Tunes, Comedy, Inspirational / Religious, Contemporary.

**SONG SEQUENCE:** Opener, Flow, Impact, Closer.

**QUALITY of PRESENTATION:** Singing, Musicality, Presentation, Notes, Words, Energy, Intonation, Discipline.

**ENTRANCES & EXITS:** Plan, Discipline, Deportment.

**NON – SINGING CONTENT:** Commentary, Amount, Timing, Quality, Material, Entertainment Value.

**COSTUME & GROOMING:** Appropriate, Fit, Stage Worthy, Personal Appearance.

The reviewer will comment on the overall entertainment value and may make suggestions and recommendations about ticket sales, the event program, the script, intermission possibilities, presentation resources and everything else you can imagine.

For more information, to become a reviewer or to request a review, contact the Dixie District Standing Ovation Program Chairman.

Sherwood Platt  
[asp11@Juno.com](mailto:asp11@Juno.com)  
901-747-2358.



# Remembering the Dream

On January 20, the Germantown, TN Chapter, RSVP, marked the 2014 Martin Luther King Day by singing to the large crowd gathered at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. The museum is located on the grounds of the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was assassinated in April, 1968.

RSVP performed selections made popular by Nat King Cole, Louis Armstrong, WC Handy, and one of King's favorite hymns, "Precious Lord," by the composer known as the "father of black gospel music," Thomas A. Dorsey.

The crowd response was positive, and the organizers have invited RSVP back to perform at next year's event.



NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

THE LEGACY

BUILDING



Photos by Whit Winfrey





# Huntsville Barbershopper Fred Bender Passes

On Wednesday afternoon, September 25, 2013 at approximately 4pm, Fred Bender, a longtime Barbershopper and friend to many, was involved in a traffic accident that tragically took his life. Although Fred recently moved from Huntsville to Birmingham, he was still working for a Huntsville based company on a part time basis. On this particular day, because of his background and experience, Fred had been specifically asked to attend a meeting in support of his government customer. Little did he know when he got up that morning that it would be his last. After the meeting was over he departed Huntsville heading for his home in Birmingham. He was actually leaving on a journey where he would depart this world headed for his new home, heaven.

As a vibrant young man, Fred was well known in his hometown of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Fred was a man who was lucky in love, and it was in Fond du Lac that he met his first great love, his wife, Kathy. Fred was a proud father, incredibly honored to have been blessed with children who resembled him. Both a family and community man, Fred's love extended and touched many lives beyond just his wife, children and close family. As a genuine person, Fred took interest in other people, always believing in the good of others and lending support whenever asked. Donating his time and money to charity was a big part of Fred's life. A few years ago Kathy lost a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Fred served in the United States Navy for four years. He was proud of his country and was honored to serve her.

With a PhD in astrophysics, Fred clearly believed in hard work and was a self-made man, always holding hope that his children would follow in his footsteps and pursue their dreams. Even though he had a PhD, he never flaunted his accomplishment or attempted to make others feel inferior. Fred enjoyed singing in the Rocket City Chorus, collecting rare comics and taking his children on a yearly tradition of travel in the summertime to see family. Generous, smart and a man of integrity, Fred's passing has indeed come all too quickly. His memory will endure with us always.

About 3 years ago, Fred met a very gracious lady and they began dating on a regular basis. It was a real blessing that Sharon August, from Birmingham, came into his life. The friendship quickly blossomed, and it soon became apparent to both of them that they had met their "Soul Mate." They were a very happy couple and she became his fiancé with a wedding planned for the near future.

As many of you know, Fred enjoyed music and singing in our chorus. However, you can bet that he is now singing in a much larger chorus and looking down on each of us. He is at peace and enjoying his new life.

We will miss you Fred.

The men of the Huntsville Metropolitan Chapter, Rocket City Chorus

# The Rebel Rouser

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



## Plan Ahead...

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3/14 - 3/16/2014	Dixie Spring Convention and Contests Nashville, TN
4/26/2014	Greater Atlanta Chapter Show
5/3/2014	Marietta, GA Chapter Show
6/29 - 7/5	BHS International Convention Las Vegas, Nevada
7/17 - 7/19	Harmony Explosion Camp Chattanooga, TN
9/13	Micro-HEP (Harmony Education Program) Atlanta, GA
10/25	Micro-HEP (Harmony Education Program) Nashville, TN