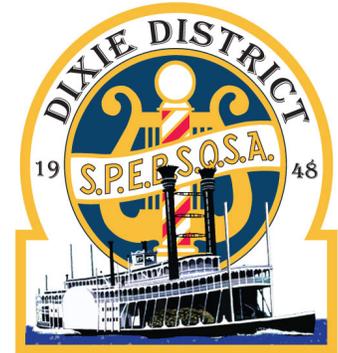




Dixie Town Crier

Dixie District's monthly chapter newsletter
dedicated to the original Town Crier,
Chuck Witherspoon



March 2020

dixiedistrict.org

Volume 12 - Issue 2

2020 DIXIE DISTRICT SPRING CONTEST - MARCH 20-22

Chorus Order of Appearance*

- MT - Joe Barbershop Chorus
- 1. Noteworthy (Mixed) (S)
- 2. Smokyland Sound
- 3. Choo Choo Chorus
- 4. Stone Mountain Chorus
- INTERMISSION
- 5. RSVP
- 6. Appalachian Express
- 7. Big Chicken Chorus
- 8. AVP
- 9. Voices of the South

MT = Mic Tester
(S) = Score only

*Orders of appearance are tentative and subject to change before contest.

Quartet Order of Appearance*

- MT - KaBooM!
- 1. Sentimental Gentlemen
- 2. Up Front
- 3. Silver Ring
- 4. B-List
- 5. Fourcasting Chords
- 6. Eight Feet Wide
- INTERMISSION
- 7. Quadraphonics
- 8. Look! A Dog! (Mixed)(S)
- 9. Stay Tuned
- 10. Grey Matter
- 11. cityScape (S)
- 12. Entourage
- 13. The One and Only, Genuine, Original Family Band

Where has the year gone?! We are just a few weeks away from our Spring Convention! We look forward to seeing everyone in Alabaster, AL, as some of our best quartets compete to qualify for LA2020. Our choruses are also gearing up for what should be a phenomenal Championship Competition! Who will bring home the hardware?

We also have a very special quartet as the Mic Testers for Friday. They will be a surprise to many, but they're sure to be explosive. It's a

weekend you certainly don't want to miss! Registration is still ongoing, so make sure you get registered and join us in Alabama!

dixiedistrict.org

SPRING CONTEST

March 20-22

**Alabaster Performing Arts Center at
Thompson High School, Alabaster, AL**

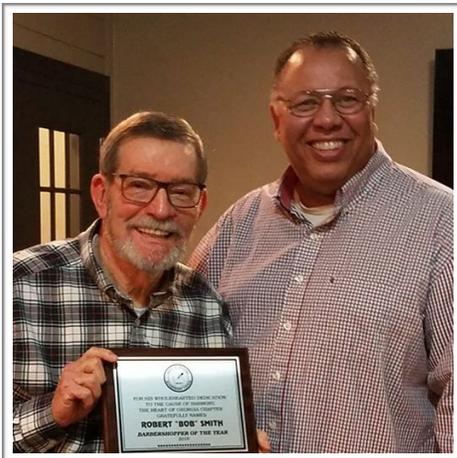
AROUND THE DISTRICT BARBERSHOPPERS OF THE YEAR



Noah Dutton
Sound of Tennessee



Ron Montgomery (middle)
Crimson Pride Chorus



Bob Smith (left)
Heart of Georgia Chorus



Lincoln Parrott (right)
Voices of the South



David Murphree (right)
Rocket City Chorus



Jeremy Lee
Music City Chorus

HAPPY BIRTHDAY “knarf”!

Family, friends, neighbors and a whole bunch of Barbershoppers gathered at the Cahaba Ridge Retirement Community in Vestavia Hills February 22 to honor Frank Buttler on his birthday. *Voices of the South* chorus members came out in force and a contingent of members from the nearby Tuscaloosa chapter, *Crimson Pride* chorus, joined in on the fun.

“I wish you could have heard the stories that were being told,” Steve Callahan, *Voices*, president said. “I wish you could have listened as those Barbershoppers remembered the many events they had shared with Frank.” Frank has been singing Barbershop and been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society for more than 50 years.

It was when Frank was serving in the Navy as a radar man that he got his nickname, “Knarf.” On board ship, the radar operator sat opposite an officer with a plastic screen separating them. To identify himself Frank had to write his name backwards on the divider. That means he wrote his name as “knarf.” Much later while attending a barbershop board meeting Frank had to write his name on the attendance pad. He wrote “Knarf.” It stuck.



John, Frank Jr., and Frank Butler
grandson Matthew



CRIMSON PRIDE CHORUS

Proudly Presents Our 2020 Spring Show

Live at the Bama Theatre: A Rockin' Radio Show

Saturday, April 4, 2020
600 Greensboro Avenue
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
Tickets \$15

[facebook.com/
crimsonpridechorus](https://facebook.com/crimsonpridechorus)
Or
crimsonpride.org



ATLANTA VOCAL PROJECT

Atlanta Vocal Project, the singing unit of the Atlanta Metro Chapter, is seeking a new Musical Director to lead us on to the next chapter of our journey. We've had lots of success in our 15 years – 5 District Championships, 10 appearances at International with 5 top-ten finishes, and a robust local performance program in a thriving Southern metropolis. We have a strong musical team, dedicated administration, good rehearsal facilities, and a loyal local following.

We seek a new director with the following qualifications:

- 1) An enthusiastic and proven musical leader with advanced directing skills
- 2) A team player who is an effective planner, a positive role model and people motivator
- 3) A person with a proven track record and barbershop experience

Our preferred candidate will be available on Thursday nights, able to lead us in contest prep and performance, and available for a number of paid performances throughout the year.

The chorus typically has two annual shows, one in spring and another at Christmas, as well as a number of paid engagements in our community throughout the year.

This is a paid position, and includes reimbursement for expenses.

Interested candidates should complete this application, attach a resume, and return it to directorsearch@Atlantavocalproject.com no later than March 10. We anticipate having auditions in the month of April, with a decision in May and a start date in August.

Application for Musical Director, Atlanta Vocal Project

1. Why are you interested in becoming the next Musical Director of Atlanta Vocal Project?
2. Have you worked with a Music Team and an Administration Team in other musical ensembles? If so, please describe your experiences, both good and bad.
3. Have you worked with outside coaches in other musical ensembles? If so, please describe your experiences, both good and bad.
4. If Atlanta Vocal Project were to become your musical home, what would be your highest priorities for the chorus?
5. A year from now, after you've been with us for quite a while, how will we know that we made the right decision in hiring you?



Music City Chorus
presents

Bluegrass and Barbershop

Featuring some of the best of bluegrass and
barbershop harmony entertainment, together for one show only:



From
Gatlinburg, TN



"One of the most
entertaining acts on the
bluegrass scene today"

And the International Award Winning

Music City Chorus

Saturday, June 6th, 2020 @ 3:00pm

Lebanon High School Auditorium
500 Blue Devil Blvd, Lebanon, TN 37087

Tickets at Musiccitychorus.org or call (615) 200-6193

Stone Mountain Singing Valentine Makes The News



On February 14, quartets representing Stone Mountain Chorus spread out far and wide across the Atlanta area to spread love and good feelings by delivering some very special Singing Valentines. It has been a special opportunity for SMC for almost three decades, and the singers seem to get as much out of it as the victims...I mean, the recipients. This year, though, was even more special.

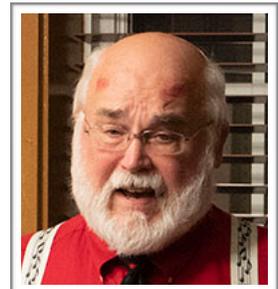
Sydney Lund and her husband have been long-time patrons of Stone Mountain, never missing an opportunity

to go to the Spring and Fall shows held annually. In 2014, however, her husband passed away, and she started to develop dementia. Her daughter, Kathy, decided that her mom needed a pick-me-up, so a quartet from the chorus made their way to her. As luck would have it, a crew from the local CBS news station just happened to be there. Mrs. Lund was incredibly grateful for the gift, and she is looking forward to seeing the entire chorus at the Spring Show, April 25th featuring Atlanta Harmony Celebration! Tickets available soon at stonemountainchorus.org.

The news story can be seen here: [CBS46](#)

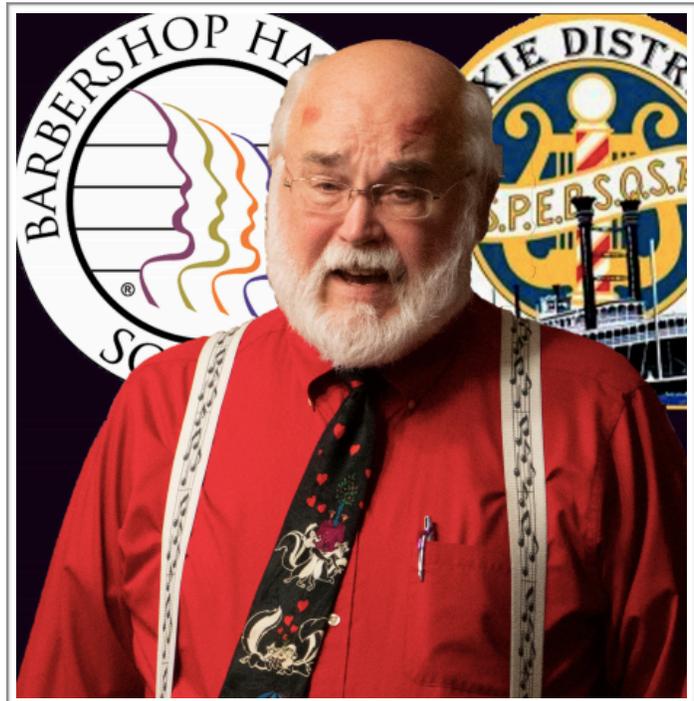
FROM THE PREZ - WITH PAUL BLAZEK

Boy – where has 2020 gone? We're already in the third month and preparing for a wonderful spring convention, and this is the first opportunity I've taken to speak to District members as a whole. First of all, thanks to all of you who offered prayers and support during my recovery from septuple-bypass surgery. I'm feeling great and progressing well in cardiac rehab. I've told people for years that singers live longer, and my doctors agree that my quick recovery is due in part to the great shape my lungs are in after 44 years singing barbershop. Singing is life, indeed! Secondly, I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Convention March 20-22 in Alabaster, Alabama. There will be more than just a contest, so check [DIXIE DISTRICT SPRING CONTEST](#) for details and plan on being there! Find me – we'll sing a tag or two. Finally, although I'm making some changes in my life (look elsewhere for details), I'm not giving up the hobby that has sustained me for two-thirds of my life. I am a much better human being because of the people who have laughed, cried, and sung with me. I still try to find opportunities to bring others into our barbershop family so they, too, can enjoy what I have enjoyed. Make an effort this week to find a new singer and introduce them to our marvelous hobby/lifestyle/obsession – whatever it is, it's great! - **Paul Blazek, District President**



CHOO CHOO DIRECTOR RETIRES AFTER 33 YEARS!

The planets have aligned, and circumstances in my life have coalesced to lead me to a decision both happy and sad at the same time. I have enjoyed directing the Choo Choo Chorus since 1987, making hundreds of new friends, performing who knows how many times, going to dozens of conventions, and living the barbershop life tremendously. I will be stepping down as Musical Director after the convention in Alabaster, leaving the Chorus in the fine and capable hands of Jimmy Tompkins. I will continue to be active in the Chattanooga Chapter, as well as the Cleveland and Nashville Chapters, and I plan to sing at every opportunity for decades to come. Please join me in welcoming Jimmy to the position that has sustained me for literally half of my life. - **Paul Blazek**



CHOO CHOO CHORUS SANG THEIR HEART OUT



(Johnny Jackson, Pete Jones, Jerry Wright-alternate lead, Lady making a hand heart, Steve Grubb and Wendell Whitmire)

The Choo Choo Chorus completed a very successful Singing Valentine Adventure! A total of 72 locations were covered in Chattanooga and surrounding areas by three quartets. Included were 30 businesses, 41 stops for individuals and one group of 30 surprised and delighted ladies at a restaurant luncheon. Paul Blazek's Forecasting

Chords even serenaded a much appreciative girlfriend in New York City. Each recipient thoroughly enjoyed the experience and greatly appreciated the thoughtfulness of the patron. All of the quartets sang wonderfully over the long day and had a lot of fun along the way. Emails of the Singing Valentines offering and poster were sent to all of our email addresses. At the end of the message, everyone was asked to please forward the email to folks on their personal emails. The subject read "Surprise Your Sweetheart With A Valentine She Will Always Remember!" Patrons from past years were phoned to encourage repeats, which often worked. One quartet sang at two local radio stations, The resultant video was posted on one of the stations Facebook page. A notice also appeared in The Chattanooga Times and Free Press. Overall, singing at the 72 locations will provide a gross profit of over \$3,800. Our objective for next year is to sell 100 orders to gross over \$5,000.



Dixie District Spring 2020 Convention
March 20-22, 2020 – Alabaster, Alabama

Name: _____ Member Number: _____
Chapter: _____ Chorus/Quartet: _____
Home Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Special Handicapped Services Needed (Request must be received prior to March 1, 2020)

Description	How Many	Cost	Total
Early Bird Registration Member		\$50.00	
Early Bird Registration Guests		\$50.00	
Family* Registration		\$113.00	
Additional Family members		\$10.00	
If mailed after March 1 add \$10.00 per registration†		\$10.00	
		Total Due	

*Family is defined as two adults and two or more "youth" from the same household
†This applies to the family registration as well (Not each member of the family).

Make check/money order payable to "Dixie District BHS"
PLEASE WEAR YOUR CHAPTER NAME TAG
We will be using pre-printed tickets for entrance. No Name tags will be printed.

Credit card payment complete the information below. (MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover)

Credit Card No. _____ exp(MM/YY) _____
Print Name as it appears on Card _____ CVV2 Code _____
Signature _____

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:
Russell Bell
2716 Braemore Gln SW
Powder Springs, GA 30127-1760
cell: (404) 863-8241

email to:
registration@dixiedistrict.org

*Form must be Postmarked by
March 6, 2020 to receive early
bird registration rate. If emailed,
timestamp must be prior to
11:59 PM 3/6/20

Official Use only
Circle One - Mail - Online - Email Form Received on _____ Entered into Database _____
Ticket Numbers assigned _____



THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

An electronic publication of the Dixie District of the
Barbershop Harmony Society

Paul Blazek, President

Mike Brunson, VP of Marketing and Public Relations

David Murphree, Editor

REMEMBERING FREEMAN GROAT

On February 21st, Freeman Groat, one time Director of the Music City Chorus and longtime member, passed away from heart complications. He was loved by all who knew him, and he did so much for Nashville and Dixie. In his last few years he devoted hours of volunteer work at BHS Headquarters in Nashville. There will be a memorial service for Freeman sometime in March (that info will be passed along when the date is determined). We will miss him greatly but will never forget his contributions in almost 75 years of Society membership.

Freeman Groat was very proud to be the first ever Lifetime Member of the SPEBSQSA/ Barbershop Harmony Society. After a long barbershop career (and 75 years of membership!), Freeman spent hundreds of hours volunteering at Harmony Hall and was a huge contributor to our Old Songs Library project.



TOWN CRIER NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Town Crier needs your input each month. Please send photos, flyers, articles, and anything of interest to towncrier@dixiedistrict.org by the 25th of each month.

POSITION OPEN

Interested in becoming the new Town Crier Editor? Please contact Mike Brunson, VP - Marketing and Public Relations at vp-marketing@dixiedistrict.com.