



Dixie Town Crier

Dixie's monthly chapter newsletter
dedicated to the original town crier,
Chuck Witherspoon

February 1, 2018

Volume 10, Issue 2



Dixie District Spring Convention



**Register Online NOW
for Early Bird Pricing!**

(Early Bird Pricing Before March 1)

www.dixiedistrict.org

The 2018 Dixie District Spring Convention will be held on March 16-18 in Huntsville, Alabama. The beautiful Von Braun Center will once again be the contest venue.

This year's contest will include the Dixie Chorus Championship, the International Quartet Prelims, a Youth Quartet Contest, and a Mixed Quartet Contest.

Registration is now available via the Dixie District website: www.dixiedistrict.org. Individual early bird pricing is \$48. The price will increase to regular pricing of \$58 beginning March 2. Family pricing (up to four family members) is set at \$112/\$122. Individual Contest Session Tickets will be available on-site: Quartet Semi-finals and Chorus Contest - \$20.00; Quartet Finals - \$25.00.

A mailable registration form is also available in this issue of the Dixie Town Crier.

All contestants must purchase a Convention Registration to be eligible to compete. Non-competitors have the option of purchasing individual session tickets at the door

The Embassy Suites will serve as the headquarters hotel. The hotel rate is \$110 plus tax. Reservations can be made at 800-362-2779. Use the Group Code "DIX." A direct link to the hotel reservation is available on the Dixie District website.

A link on the district website is also available for the Homewood Suites. The rate is \$85 plus tax. You can also use the group code "DXD" when calling 256-539-1445.

Hotel space is also available at Springhill Suites at \$85 plus tax by phone at 844-246-5820.

From Jim Sams

Chorus, Quartet Contest Registration Information

The time is upon us once again to gather for the **2018 Dixie International Quartet Prelims and Chorus Convention**. This convention will be held **March 16-18, 2018** in **Huntsville, Alabama**. The headquarters hotel is the **Embassy Suites Huntsville, 700 Monroe St. SW, Huntsville, AL 35801 (256-539-7373)**. This convention/contest will all be held under **ONE roof** in this immense hotel connected to our contest site, the **Von Braun Center**, which is connected to the hotel. I am depending on each of you to be sure that this word gets out to **every member, contestant, and/or performer** in your chapters/quartets. I am giving you **SIX WEEKS** to enter the contests. Log on to www.barberscore.or/login to begin entering your chorus and/or quartet starting Wednesday, January 10th. I can help, **PLEASE** contact me at my email address or call me

at **(901) 488-3128** and I will see that you can get your group entered into the contests. Stay tuned to the Dixie District website for convention registration and hotel reservations. **MIXED QUARTET contacts** should contact me via email or phone anytime you need info or want to enter the contest. I will be happy to help.

We will have an **International Quartet Prelim (2 rounds)**, a **Youth Quartet Contest**, a **Mixed Harmony Quartet Contest (1 Round)**, a **District Chorus Championship**, and a **Most Improved Chorus award** based on chorus scores from last spring. We will also offer a **Score for Evaluations Only** session for those choruses/quartets **who do not wish to compete** but would like to receive a **personal score sheet** and a **60-minute coaching or 30-minute evaluation session**. We just need **YOU** there to participate! There will be something for everyone!

***** PLEASE NOTE: We will crown a Youth Quartet Champion AND their scores will count toward the International Youth Quartet Contest entry. Each Youth Quartet will be given a 60-minute coaching session and a video of their performance along with a personal score sheet that the Society will use to enter your quartet for a potential invitation to the International Youth contest. (Districts are no longer involved in choosing their youth representatives to International.) PLEASE help us reach out to YOUTH Quartets in your area! We have "built it, so hopefully they will come!!??"**

***** As promised, the Evaluations/Coaching sessions following the Chorus Final and the Quartet Final will be YOUR CHOICE.** Depending on the number of quartets who enter, we may not be able to set up **choice** evaluations/coaching for the **Quartet Semifinals**, but please send in your choices regardless. I will do my best to meet all of your requests. **YOU MUST LET ME KNOW YOUR CHOICE OF EVALUATION OR COACHING IF** you want to have a choice. Otherwise I will schedule you for a 20min per judge, 3 judge session, automatically. Please look at these and make your choice in advance of filling out your entry form. Then make sure you let me know what your desires are for evaluation or coaching. **Here is the list along with the judging panel that will be on tap for our contest:**

PLEASE REMEMBER, EVALUATION JUDGE CHOICES ARE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED AS LONG AS THE JUDGES LAST! EARLY ENTRY IS BEST! PLEASE EMAIL ME OR CALL ME PERSONALLY!

1. No Evaluation or Coaching
2. Evaluation Only-3 judges 15min each
3. Coaching-3 judges 20min each
4. Coaching-2 judges (SNG/PRS) 30min each
5. Coaching-2 judges (SNG/MUS) 30min each
6. Coaching-2 judges (MUS/PRS) 30min each

Your choice of judges (based on 1st come/ 1st served) for options 3-6

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

Here are the judges who are on the Official Panel: **MUS-Jay Dougherty & Jeremiah Pope; PER Gene "Doc" Spilker & Shawn Mondragon; SNG-Chris Hebert & John Ward.** I can assure you that each of these men are well-trained, experienced, and are ready and willing to work with each of you to help improve your performances regardless of what level you are. If you need help in choosing, call or email me personally! If you have any trouble filling out the **Barberscore forms** for your chorus or quartet, **PLEASE contact me!** **Barberscore** will be ready for entry effective Wednesday January 10th. Only those who are recognized as **official contacts for your quartet or chorus** can enter your group and add song titles. IF you are unable to log in and make those additions/changes, contact me immediately and we will make it happen!

***** PLEASE be aware:** I will need to know **WHO your dual members are** and their **email addresses** so I can contact them personally about how much/little time they may have for moving to their dual chorus/quartet. I will no longer be able to make pre-determined moves, for the most part, but a couple may need to be as before. At best, there may be **one chorus between dual choruses** but that may not happen in all scenarios so that a more "random draw" may be used. The draw will **NOT** be **100%** random but it will be fully at the discretion of the DRCJ as situations arise. It has been my finding that at the **District AND Society levels, pure random draws** are **NOT used entirely** and some adjustments **ARE made depending upon serious requests.** I will continue to be **fair and considerate to ALL competitors** to the very best of my abilities. That is why I am paid the big bucks as your DRCJ. I have **full support** of the **Dixie Board of Directors**, the **SCJC**, and the **Sixteen other DRCJs** who are fully aware of **ALL** of the possible scenarios that come into play in producing **Orders of Appearance for all competitors.** Thank you in advance for your trust and support!

The cut off for CJ-20 entries for this convention is Friday midnight February 23th. That is **3 weeks from the start of the convention weekend.** Please let me hear from you **SOON** as to what your plans are for this convention. I would like to know what your intentions are as early as possible so that I may contact you to discuss the possibilities with you. Start polling your quartets and quartets now and contact me by phone or email if you have concerns, questions, or know for sure that you will not be performing for score or competing in the contests. This will help in my planning for the weekend convention. **Jim Sams (901) 488-3128** or jimsam-sca@bellsouth.net

AGAIN, Judge Choices for Coaching ARE limited! EACH of you is important to the well-being and future of our Dixie District. And we want you to have a grand experience at this **2018 Dixie Spring Convention.** Bring your family and friends to enjoy the very best that **DIXIE DISTRICT** has to offer!

ALL y'all come now, ya hear??!! Singing IS Grand in Dixieland!

Jim Sams
DRCJ-Dixie District
Contest Administrator
CA BOR
Society Nominating Committee
jimsamsca@bellsouth.net

(901) 488-3128

From Jim Sams

Calling All Mixed Barbershop Harmony Quartets and Wannabees!

We will have a one-round Dixie District Mixed Quartet Championship sub-session during the Quartet Semi-Finals on Friday night March 16th starting at 7:00pm. All quartets will be coached if requested!

ALL Mixed Quartets will be welcome including BOTH the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association (MBHA) members and non-MBHA members. ALL male barbershop singers, however, MUST be paid-up BHS members, a district member, and a Chapter Member. A mixed quartet MUST have at least 1-3 female members or 1-3 male members. The females may be SAI, HI, or BHS Associates, or affiliates. Non barbershop females ARE welcome to compete in a Mixed Quartet contest, but ALL SINGERS must hold a Dixie Convention registration (\$48.00 early bird or \$58.00 after March 3, 2017. Early family registrations are \$112.00/four) to participate. Songs performed in the contest must be barbershop quartet arrangements only. IF there is a male singer in the quartet that is not a member of the BHS, districts, and chapters, the quartet cannot compete but may sing for a score and coaching only but no awards will be given. But you can still register for the weekend, perform before a Dixie audience, be coached, and enjoy a wonderful weekend of quartet and chorus competition. Just maybe the guys will join the Society afterward and you may return to compete in March 2019!

For those of you who wish to join the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association (MBHA) you can Google this group and read all about what they have to offer. For all district contests, the cost is \$20.00 per member/year and a \$20.00 quartet name registration/year (a total of \$100.00). There is a travel trophy for the winning MBHA quartet along with 4 plaques for the championship quartet whether a member of MBHA or not. All MBHA quartets will have their contest scores submitted to MBHA for consideration to compete in the BinG World Mixed Quartet competition. The next World Mixed Quartet contest will be held in April 2018 in Munich, Germany. The MBHA also offers other support for members and you can read all about it on their website. I also have an article I will be happy to send to any interested quartets. Again, there will be only ONE 1st place award for the highest scoring quartet. AND, male members of Mixed Quartets can also compete in the International Quartet Prelims in another regular Dixie quartet and will be allowed to sing the same songs in both Mixed and Regular quartet session

On the Dixie District website, there will be a Mixed Quartet entry form available for signup for just the Mixed Harmony Quartet contest. IF you have ANY interest at all and want to chat/call/text/email me, contact Jim Sams (jimsamsca@bellsouth.net (901) 488-3128) at your earliest convenience. I will answer any questions and help you sign up for the weekend. Dixie is only one of about 5 districts in our Society that are regularly holding these contests. A couple of districts are even holding Mixed Chorus contests as well. This is all a part of the BHS vision to involve "Everyone In Harmony" as a massive outreach program but Mixed Quarteting is totally supported by individual districts like ours. Our audiences are very supportive of this program and look forward to hearing mixed quartets. I will be looking forward to hearing from any interested groups. So start looking, forming, rehearsing, and planning on joining us in Huntsville in March!

DHLW Marks Successful Return

By James Donaldson

More than 100 Dixie barbershoppers gathered January 26-27 in Chattanooga, Tenn., for the new version of DLHW: Dixie 'Leadership' Harmony Weekend. The weekend actually combined three events: District board meeting, Leadership Academy, and HEP school. New DIX Music & Performance VP Jimmy Tompkins layered the different events so that people who needed/wanted to attend multiple classes could do so while staying in one venue. Three choruses and five quartets received coaching throughout the day on Saturday before performing on the show later that night. They were joined on the show by Dixie's own international finalist quartet Category 4 (who also served as coaches and clinicians during the day) as well as special guests — and current 11th place international quartet — Rooftop Records, who happened to be in nearby Cleveland recording their first album. They even premiered a new song to the public on the show!

This was the first attempt at the new format, and the weekend was a rousing success. Special thanks go out to the choruses (Memphis, NE Tennessee, and Chattanooga), quartets (Old Fashioned, Brickyard, Volunteer Statesmen, Pickup Sticks, and Foothills Connection), coaches (especially the members of Category 4), and our guests Rooftop Records. Our new CSLT VP Bob Davenport also deserves recognition for organizing and implementing Leadership Academy into the weekend. And a HUGE thank you and well done goes out to Jimmy Tompkins for his hard work and leadership in bringing back this Dixie tradition. See you at DLHW 2019!



More Photos on Pages 6 & 7. All Photos Courtesy of Tony Nichols

DIXIE DLHW LEADERSHIP & HARMONY Weekend

Photo Highlights Courtesy of Tony Nichols



*Photo Highlights
Courtesy of Tony Nichols*



Choo Choo Chorus Donations Now Exceed \$50,000



The **Choo Choo Chorus** (Chattanooga Chapter) was a sponsor of “Christmas in Harmony: an A Cappella Extravaganza” in December. The chorus joined forces with the **Scenic City Chorus** (Sweet Adelines) and the **Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus** to present this Christmas spectacular. The men's portion of the ticket and ad sales were donated to the Walter Boehm Birth Defects Center. Donations from this event, which has been part of the Chattanooga community for many years, has now exceeded \$50,000.



2018 HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHAPTER RESOLUTION:

Send a photo or article to The Dixie Town Crier every month!

Email to: david.belden@comcast.net

Date Change for Fall 2018 Convention

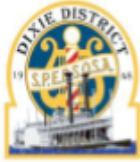
The date for the Fall 2018 convention has changed. NASCAR released their 2018 schedule after our date was set and the fall race in Talladega, AL (located about 25 miles away from Oxford) conflicted with our original convention date. We have a contractual obligation with the hotels that stipulates that we will not hold our convention the same weekend as either Talladega race. We will still have our contest in Oxford but the new date is **September 28-30, 2018**. Please adjust your chapter calendars accordingly. See y'all (two weeks earlier) in Oxford!

Congratulations

NO
GREEN
BANANAS

on your
Senior Quartet
Performance at





**Dixie District Spring 2018 Convention
March 16-18, 2018 – Huntsville, Alabama**

Name: _____ Chapter Number: _____ (ex. B104)

Chapter: _____ Chorus/Quartet: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Special Handicapped Services Needed (Request must be received prior to March 2, 2017)

| Description | How Many | Cost | Total |
|---|----------|----------|-------|
| Early Bird Registration Member | | \$48.00 | |
| Early Bird Registration Guests | | \$48.00 | |
| Family* Registration | | \$112.00 | |
| Additional Family members | | \$10.00 | |
| If mailed after March 2 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
 Phone: (770) 439-8249

email to:
 registration@dixiedistrict.org

*Form must be Postmarked by
 March 2, 2018 to receive early
 bird registration rate.

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 Wietlisbach President

James Donaldson, VP of Marketing and Public Relations

David Belden, Editor

Deadline for chapters and quartets to submit articles and photographs for the next issue is February 25. Submissions should be sent to:

david.belden@comcast.net

2018 Dixie District Calendar

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| March 16-18 | Dixie District Sprint Convention/Contest, Huntsville, Alabama |
| July 1-8 | International Convention, Orlando, Florida |
| July 19-21 | Harmony Explosion Camp, Chattanooga, Tennessee |
| July 22-29 | Harmony University, Nashville, Tennessee |
| September 28-30 | Dixie District Fall Convention/Contest, Oxford, Alabama |

DIXIE DISTRICT WEBSITE:

www.dixiedistrict.org