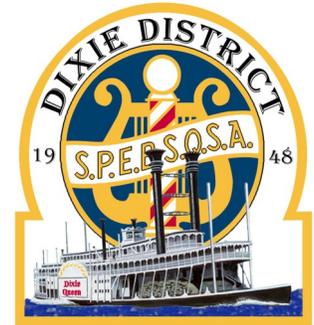




Dixie Town Crier

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



March 2019 Volume 11, Issue 3



Dixie District Spring Convention in Huntsville, Alabama

It's Time for Some March Musical Magic!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, March 15

Noon—8:00 p.m.	Registration (Embassy Suites) Redstone Room
Noon—5:00 p.m.	Marketplace (Embassy Suites) Redstone Room
1:00 p.m.	House of Delegates (Embassy) Madison Room
3:00 p.m.	Everyone in Harmony Road Show (Embassy Suites) Madison Room
7:00 p.m.	Quartet Semi-Finals/Mixed Von Braun Center, East Hall 1/2

Saturday, March 16

8:00 a.m.—Noon	Registration (Embassy Suites) Redstone Room
10:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.	Marketplace (Embassy Suites) Redstone Room
11:00 a.m.	Chorus Contest Von Braun Center, East Hall 1/2
3:00 p.m.	Classes and Activities
6:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.	Marketplace Von Braun Center East Hall 3
7:00	Quartet Finals & Show of Champions

Quartet Semi-Finals (Friday Night)

MT	Mac-n-Cheese
1	Bad Decisions
2	Rocky Toppers
3	Sibling Rivalry
4	Up Front
5	B-List
6	Copeland Road
7	Four Bass Hit
8	Channel 4
9	Fourcasting Chords
10	Category 4
11	Quadrphonics
12	High Gravity
13	Front Page News
14	Christmas at Monell's
15	Entourage
16	Parks & Wreck



Chorus Contest (Saturday)

MT	Joe Barbershop Chorus
1	Memphis Men of Harmony
2	Southern Splendor Chorus
3	Stone Mountain Chorus
4	Choo Choo Chorus
5	RSVP
6	Appalachian Express
7	Big Chicken Chorus
8	Crimson Pride Chorus
	Dixie Senior Chorus (International Senior Chorus Cham- pions)
	Music City Chorus (International Chorus Medalists)

Dixie District Spring Convention

Huntsville, Al • March 15-17, 2019

Dixie Chorus Championship * International Quartet Prelims
Youth Quartet Contest • Mixed Quartet Contest

Contest Venue

Von Braun Center

700 Monroe St. • Huntsville, AL 35801

Headquarters Hotel

Embassy Suites

800 Monroe St. • Huntsville, AL
35801

800-362-2779

Hotel Rate: \$110.00 plus tax
Group rate if reserved by Feb. 15

Link available at
www.dixiedistrict.org

Springhill Suites

745 Constellation Place Dr. •
Huntsville, AL 35801

844-246-5820

Hotel Rates: \$85.00 plus tax
Group rate if reserved by Feb.
22

Link available at
www.Dixiedistrict.org

Homewood Suites

714 Gallatin St SW. •
Huntsville, AL 35801

256-539-1445

Hotel Rates: \$85.00 plus tax
Group rate if reserved by Feb
22

Link available at
www.Dixiedistrict.org

**Online Registration
Available Now
At:**

www.dixiedistrict.org



Music City Chorus “Music Medics” Leaves Them Smiling at Centennial Children’s Hospital

On Friday, 22 February, eight members of The Music City Chorus MUSIC MEDICS, brought smiles to the children staying in Centennial Children’s Hospital. With the help of the Children’s Staff Nurses and Child Life Specialist, Kelsey Bryant, The MEDICS were warmly greeted and thanked by each patient and their family.

Our MEDICS made sure that each child was made to feel special and most importantly loved. What great fun to watch them smile when we told them we had a special song written just for them. The MEDICS ended their program with the familiar “You’ve Got A Friend in Me” from Toy Story. Lots of singing along by every one during that song. The day was full of emotion especially when we finished our singing in the Oncology Unit, where we sang to several little ladies who were 18 mos. and 2-years old. We were the ones with tears in our eyes as we were so impressed by their bravery.

What better way to start your day than by bringing some joy to and by putting smiles on the faces of these wonderful children. We came away from the sing-out feeling uplifted by the joy we experienced just from singing a few happy songs. There’s no doubt that music has the power to bring joy and happiness to every one we meet.



Dixie District Next Generation Singers Well Represented at 2019 BHS Midwinter

Dixie District (DIX) youth had a fantastic showing in Nashville at BHS Midwinter! We were thrilled to be represented by one chorus in the Next Generation Junior Division Chorus Contest and two four-somes in the Society's inaugural Next Generation Junior Division Quartet Contest.

Georgia Spirit youth chorus, led by Lars Grevstad and Becki and Clay Hine, brought out the inner animal in all of us with their amazing Lion King set, earning an "Outstanding" ranking in the AAA plateau of the chorus contest with 112 singers onstage. The chorus was made up of young men and women from several high schools in the Atlanta area.

According to BHS Director of Outreach Joe Ceruti, forty quartets submitted videos seeking invitations to the first-ever quartet contest for high schoolers. Only fifteen foursomes made the cut, and DIX was represented by two quartets from Powell High School in Knoxville, TN. Makeshift ranked EXCELLENT with a 62.3% average, while Brickyard ranked OUTSTANDING with a 70.0%, placing fourth place with the third highest score of the contest.

The Dixie District Board of Directors has earmarked a portion of funds returned to DIX through Harmony Foundation's Donors Choice program specifically for youth initiatives. These funds have been used to help finance the hefty expense of attending our Society conventions and contests for these young men and women; without them, some kids might not be able to attend. Members of the two quartets have expressed their gratitude for the District's financial aid:

- *This past weekend at the Midwinter convention was an absolute blast! From competing on Thursday night, to singing tags all night (and all morning) long on Saturday. It was one of the greatest trips I've been on and I am never going to forget it. I just want to say thank you all for your support and contributions to me and the quartet. Without you guys, this trip wouldn't not have been possible. Thank you guys so much and I hope to see you all down in Huntsville for the Dixie District spring convention! ... **Hayden Rupert, Lead, Brickyard***
- *Thank you so much for the help last weekend. For someone who is looking to pursue Barbershop, and choral music in general, it was really great being with those with more experience than me, and I'm sure that the rest of Brickyard thought this as well. The necessity of getting out and learning from others cannot be understated when it comes to music, and without the help of Dixie District or of The Greater Knoxville Area Smokyland Chorus, none of this would be possible. Even if Brickyard did not get 4th place, we still would've learned from seeing and hearing other quartets. We learned a few new warm-up techniques that we can apply to the start of rehearsals to unify our sound. The next time Brickyard rehearses, we will definitely use them! Brickyard and Makeshift are very thankful for the opportunity to learn, to sing, and to have fun while doing it! ... **Turner Bell, Tenor, Brickyard***
- *Without your support of the Jr. Quartet Competition in Nashville, it would have been much more difficult on my family. Because of you, I was able to enjoy the weekend without the worry of any financial burden. I thoroughly enjoyed all of the events, especially the Thursday night show where Crossroads and Signature performed. These are my favorite quartets and it was an honor to meet them and sing with them. In addition to your generosity of hotel and registration costs, the spending/meal money was awesome! It is evident that you care about young singers in your district. Thank you for continuing to support us and believe in us. ... **Jordan Cagle, Bass, Brickyard***

(continued on next page)

Dixie District Next Generation Singers Well Represented at 2019 BHS Midwinter

(continued from previous page)

- *We are extremely grateful for your support and generosity as the Brickyard quartet traveled to Nashville to participate in the first ever Next Generation Youth Quartet Contest. We are so pleased that we were able to place fourth with the third highest score of the contest! You have a special place in our hearts as you have contributed so much in our growth and love of Barbershop. We were fortunate to be able to see great quartets like Crossroads, Throwback, Signature, and the 2018 quartet champion, After Hours. The shows were world class and extremely entertaining. We got the chance to sing with and alongside some of these quartets at the fantastic afterglow on Saturday night. It was also wonderful to see the Dixie Senior Chorus walk away with the win on Friday night. None of these wonderful opportunities would have been possible without your kind gifts to us. We are very thankful, and we are excited to continue to stay involved in our great district! ... **Wyatt McCarter, Baritone, Brickyard***
- *Thank you for your donation to makeshift quartet. The convention was a blast, and I learned much from watching other quartets. Again, thank your contribution to my quartet and the chance to have a great weekend ... **Britten Hutchison, Lead, Makeshift***
- *Thank you so much for funding us, helping us have the opportunity to have a wonderful, amazing time being able to sing barbershop for the whole weekend. It was truly inspiring and I loved every minute of the trip. So thank you so much for helping us be able to make this trip possible. ... **Lukas Mills, Baritone, Makeshift***
- *Thank you! Thank you for helping all of us out. With your help we were able to listen to and experience some great barbershop. We all got to see what barbershop was all about. This weekend, I learned that it's not really about how you do in contest, or who wins and loses, it's about having an amazing time singing with old and new friends. Thank you. ... **Geoffrey Helveston, Tenor, Makeshift***
- *Thank you Dixie District and Smokyland Sound for what you guys have allowed me to do this weekend. I was given so many opportunities to learn more about the barbershop world. I listed and talked to professional quartets and that was a huge honor. Thanks to you guys I got to sing tags with After Hours, the current world champions. I know in order for this to happen it took sacrifices on your part, and I want to thank you guys so much for all that you've done. I'm now officially part of the Barbershop Harmony Society! ... **Tre Leese, Bass, Makeshift***

Why is all this important? One, the District's participation in the Society's Next Generation Barbershop programs introduces barbershop harmony to the future icons of the Society. More importantly, it plants the seed for a lifelong love of singing. It's wonderful to celebrate the accomplishments of these great kids, and we have ourselves to thank for a bit of their success. Well done, DIX!

Lee Franks
DIX VP-YIH

“Celebrating the Gentlemen”

Tribute Show Planned for Gentlemen’s Agreement

On June 22, 2019, the **Marietta, Georgia Chapter** will present *Celebrating the Gentlemen*, a tribute show honoring Gentlemen’s Agreement. Barber shoppers from throughout the Dixie District will join together in celebration of these iconic winners of the 1971 International Barbershop Harmony Society Gold Medal. They will gather also to honor the sole surviving member of the group, Drayton Justus—a man who has, for nearly 60 years, served the Society as a performer, chorus director, valued mentor, and international president.



The show will feature many of Gentlemen’s Agreement’s classic renditions to be performed by the **Big Chicken Chorus**, the **Atlanta Vocal Project**, the **Stone Mountain Chorus**, and **Chicken Little**. Featured quartets performing will be **Interstate Rivals**, **Category 4** and **Quadraphonics**.

In addition, all Dixie District members (indeed, all Society members) are invited to join in *Celebrating the Gentlemen* by singing with the special “**Gentlemen’s Gentlemen**” chorus which will perform on the stage that day.

The event and a gala afterglow will be held at the newly opened Byers Theatre, a 1000+ seat venue in Sandy Springs, Georgia. More detailed ticket information concerning the tribute and how to join **Gentlemen’s Gentlemen** will be available soon at www.bigchickenchorus.org.





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 March 25, 2019. Submissions should be sent to:

david.belden@comcast.net

UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* EVENTS



- March 15-17:** Dixie District Spring Convention, Huntsville, AL
- June 30-July 7:** BHS International Convention, Salt Lake City, UT
- July 21-28:** BHS Harmony University, Nashville, TN
- October 4-6:** Dixie District Fall Convention, Oxford, AL

Harmony Explosion Camp 2019 is coming!

DIX HXC 2019 is set for July 10-13 at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga! This event has spawned a love of barbershop for hundreds of young people, and this year won't disappoint!

A few changes are in store for this fantastic youth outreach event. First, due to campus construction the final camp show will take place at the fabulous Frierson Theater at Girls Preparatory School. Secondly, the camp has been lengthened to three full days-- more time for rehearsals, tag singing, and socializing!

One thing NOT changing is the cost: still only \$175 for three days of unforgettable four-part harmony! AND, choral music educators still attend FREE! Count on clinicians Clay and Becki Hine to program great music for boys, girls, and mixed choirs. More information on our awesome male and female teaching quartets is forthcoming.

HXC is open to all high school boys AND girls in the Dixie District (and their choir directors!) who have an interest in barbershop singing. Contact music educators in your communities; talk to high schoolers you know; spread the word!

Information about DIX HXC 2019 will be on the district website very soon. Contact Lee Franks, DIX VP- Youth in Harmony, at lee.franks@charter.net or (901) 489-9683 for information.