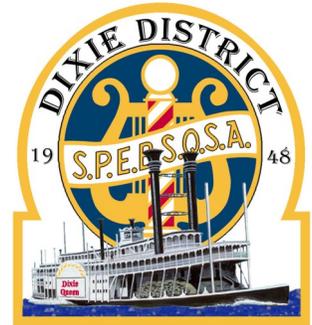




# Dixie Town Crier

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



September 2019

Volume 11, Issue 8

## It's Time to Register for Fall Convention

The time is fast approaching for the Dixie District Fall Convention. This year's event will be held in Ringgold, Georgia, which is located off I-75 about 30 minutes south of Chattanooga.

Early registration for the Dixie District Fall Convention is now underway. Early registration will run until September 20. The price will increase at that time. Registration for the event is being conducted by Eventbrite. Go to [www.dixiedistrict.com](http://www.dixiedistrict.com) and go to the Dixie District Fall Convention and Contest page to reach the link for Eventbrite.

This year's contests will include the international chorus preliminaries, the Dixie quartet championship, and a senior quartet contest. The Dixie District Senior Chorus, the reigning international champions, will also seek to qualify for a "invitation" spot at the 2020 Midwinter in Florida. Interested senior singers are urged to contact Jimmy Tompkins, director, at [dixieseniorchorus@gmail.com](mailto:dixieseniorchorus@gmail.com) for more information.

See page 2 for more contest details.



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# Dixie District Fall Convention



## Ringgold, GA • October 4-6, 2019

International Chorus Preliminaries • Dixie Quartet Championship

Senior Quartet Contest • House of Delegates

Contest Venue

## The Colonnade Center

SpringHill Suites Chattanooga  
South/Ringgold

155 General Lee Dr. • Ringgold, GA 30736

706-935-2525

Book your group rate for Dixie District

**Group Rate: \$109.00 plus tax**

Last day to book at this rate is September 3, 2019

Hampton Inn Ringgold/Ft. Oglethorpe

6785 Battlefield Parkway • Ringgold, GA  
30736

706-935-4800

Book your group rate for Dixie District

**Group Rate: \$109.00 plus tax**

Note: Do not be confused by the hotel names and addresses! They are both side by side at Exit 350 off I-75. Both hotels have free hot breakfast. Meetings and activities will be taking place at both hotels.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW!!**

[www.dixiedistrict.org](http://www.dixiedistrict.org)

# 2019 Chapter Challenge



Harmony Foundation International (HFI) is thankful for the generous support provided in support of the Barbershop Harmony Society. In turn, the Society is thankful for the support has provided to and for our members, such as Harmony University, Healthy Chapter Initiative, the Grants Program and the Youth Harmony Festival.

You may not be aware of the 2019 Harmony Foundation Chapter Challenge. This program is focused on BHS member participation as donors. The amount of your donation, while meaningful, is less significant than your participation at any dollar amount. Higher participation rates by our members will help bring in donations from non-member funding sources.

The Top 5 Chapters in donation participation percentage of Chapter membership will be recognized on stage at the 2020 Mid-Winter Convention in Jacksonville, FL with the presentation of a plaque in honor of their participation.

Even at single digit dollar amounts, the donor can specify up to 30% of their gift to be allocated to their CHAPTER or DISTRICT.

Dixie District is currently leading all other districts in this challenge and several of our chapters are already positioned to make a run for placement in the Top 5 chapters. Over 24% of our members have already made a contribution to Harmony Foundation International in 2019. The 2019 Chapter Challenge ends on September 31, 2019.

If you or any of your chapter members, are not yet a participant in 2019, we ask that you consider participating and encouraging their participation in the Chapter Challenge by completing the attached form, which accepts donations by check, credit card or direct deduction from a checking account, and mailing the form (and check, if applicable) to:

Harmony Foundation International  
110 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37203

Help keep Dixie District on top and challenge your chapter to be in the Top 5.  
Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Frank Hrach  
VP Financial Development  
Dixie District  
678 488-9511

# Sentimental Gentlemen star as the *SEC Smack-Talking Barbershop Quartet* on Shorts

The SEC Shorts video featuring *Voices of the South*'s own Sentimental Gentlemen has nearly gone viral on **You-tube** and **Facebook** with more than 750,000 likes and hits.

SEC Shorts "ended its off-season on a high note with this quartet's debut on the college-football-comedy channel that has averaged more than 8 million views per season," according to the *SEC Shorts* website.

Sentimental Gentlemen — **Keith Lowry**, Lead; **Ed Wharton**, Bass; **John Holladay**, Baritone; and **Steve Callahan**, Tenor — performed parodies of some of *Voices*' repertoire. The songs were altered to fit the format of SEC Shorts.

"Remember us when you guys become the next internet sensation," **Matt Powell**, *Voices* director, said.

**Josh Snead**, SEC Shorts co-producer, reached out to Callahan in **Instant Messenger**. "I'm looking for a Barbershop Quartet," he said. "Are you guys able to do this?" The other producer is **Robert Clay**.

"We made it work," Callahan said. "It only took us about two weeks. We filmed it in the Avondale community of Birmingham, Ala. SEC Shorts bought everything we had to have including our costumes. It only took us about two hours to do everything we had to do to make *The SEC Smack-Talking Barbershop Quartet* segment become a reality.

"The hardest part about the filming was that we had to stand there and put this bland look on our faces," Callahan added. "That was really hard because we practice and practice being totally animated when we sing."

SEC Shorts is an online comedy series exploring the crazy world of college football in the South. The series was created by Clay and Snead in 2014. SEC Shorts has been featured on the *Paul Finebaum Show*, *SEC Nation*, *Saturday Down South*, and many other reputable places.

"Snead met with us at **Saint Mark United Methodist Church** July 6 to start the whole process," Wharton said. "We went through some of the songs we knew from our chorus repertoire. Josh (Snead) just needed to hear them. He and his crew came back in a couple of days with some freshly penned parody lyrics. They pitched one song that they had composed the melody for, *Greetings from Alabama*. I arranged their score into four-part harmony.

The 3-minute, 12-second episode featured six segments:

- *The 12 Days of Christmas* highlighting the **Texas A&M Aggies'** epic seven-overtime victory over **LSU** last season.
- **Alabama** always beating **Tennessee**.
- **Vanderbilt** beating **Missouri** (but probably nobody else).
- **Mississippi State** ensuring **Ole Miss** didn't get a sixth win and consequently no bowl game.

(continued on next page)



The Georgia/Florida recruiting smack.

And, nobody beats Kentucky 32 years in a row.

“It was a paid gig and we got paid a fair price,” Callahan said. “We got bashed a couple of times in the comments section on Facebook. But most of the more than 700 comments were very good.”

“The whole process took less than four-to-five weeks,” he added. “We had about two weeks to learn the lyrics. The biggest delay was when all of the cars on the street in Avondale went rushing by. Even with that, most of the time we were able to do most of the songs in one or two takes.”

“It took about two hours to shoot all of our segments on July 28,” Wharton said. “The SEC Shorts crew had recorded the other parts of the video even before we were brought in. The crew spent the rest of that Sunday editing the whole bit. The final product was posted early in the morning, July 29.”

Holladay said, “This was just a lot of fun to do. I’m an Alabama fan. Any time I can get a dig in at Tennessee, that’s a good time. The guys from SEC Shorts were great. They were

flexible, but they had a clear plan for what they wanted.”

“I loved the *Twelve Days of Christmas* rewrite about the LSU vs. Texas A&M game.” Holladay added, “I also loved the line directed at Florida to the tune of *Can You Feel the Love Tonight?* that goes “Those 10-win days are gone like Spurrier.”

Lowry added a great ending to the story. “It was a really fun experience to have been a part of! I’ve heard from people all over the Southeast about it. Friends have contacted me that I went to college and high school with, even back in the ‘70s. What a trip!”

Callahan said, “Hey, you know what? We’re optimistic that we will get the opportunity to continue to work with SEC Shorts. There may be another gig in our future.”

— Dennis R. Jones, eVoices editor



**Sentimental Gentlemen star in latest SEC Short that has almost gone viral** — Photos by Mickie Holladay





### THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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

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David Belden, Editor

Deadline for chapters and quartets to submit articles and photographs for the next issue is September 25, 2019. Submissions should be sent to:

[david.belden@comcast.net](mailto:david.belden@comcast.net)



HOUSTON HEALTHCARE



## Leisure Time

An Evening of Barbershop Harmony

Presented by Heart of Georgia Barbershop Chorus



**State Farm**  
 Andy Thomas, Agent  
 478-975-0069  
[www.andythomas.us](http://www.andythomas.us)



The Southern Harmony Brigade, an invitation-only a Capella chorus will join us singing many old-time songs in barbershop harmony.

Tickets \$15 (\$10 for groups (10 or more), students, military, and seniors)

September 7th, 2019, 7:00p.m.

Southside Baptist Church, 1040 S Houston Lake Rd, Warner Robins, GA 31088

