



Dixie Town Crier

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

Volume 2, Issue 3

August 31, 2010

Music City Chorus from Nashville, TN by David Belden

Nashville's **Music City Chorus** and a host of chapter quartets have plans to fine-tune their competition packages during the month of September. The chorus has high expectations as they try to attain scores in October in Knoxville that could earn them a third straight trip to International. The Nashville chapter quartet program hopes that some of our veteran and newly formed quartets will once again delight the Dixie District audiences! We are really looking forward to meeting up with all of our Dixie District friends for a weekend of outstanding barbershop harmony!

Off stage, the chorus is planning to host the "Music City Invitational" on Monday, October 18, at the beautiful Temple Hills Country Club in Franklin, TN. The 2-person scramble will have a 12:00 p.m. shotgun start, with registration and lunch at 11:00 a.m. The event will include cash prizes for the top teams, several contests (longest drive, closest to the pin, putting), and many silent auction items. We would sure like to see representatives on the golf course from all of our fellow Dixie District chapters!

Cost is \$89 per person if payment is received by October 15 or \$99 per person the day of the event. You can register online and make credit card payments at www.musiccitychorus.org. Mail registration should be sent by October 13 to Tony Clifton, 1632 Timber Run, Nashville, TN 37214. Checks should be made payable to Nashville Chapter, BHS.

More information may be obtained by calling Golf Chair **Tony Clifton** at (615) 686-7367.

Chorus & Quartet Contest in Knoxville by Jim Sams, VP C&J

The **deadline** for contest entries for the Dixie District International Chorus Prelims and Quartet Contest is still midnight **September 17, 2010**. Below is the current list of choruses and quartets who have submitted their CJ-20 forms to my attention. If you are not on the list, I have not received your entry form. If you have any questions or problems with the process and are interested in performing on stage, please don't delay contacting me and getting your CJ-20 form completed. Here are the current performers/competitors:

Quartets

TNS-mic testers
That's Life
Five 'n Dime
Second String
Second Fiddle
Up Front

Quartets

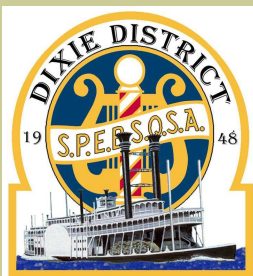
Standard Deviation
invoice
Sagacity
Sam's @7
Time And Again

Choruses

Knoxville Smokyland-mic testers
Atlanta Vocal Project
Stone Mountain
Nashville Music City Chorus
Tuscaloosa
Memphis

Once again, if I have not received your CJ-20, you are not entered in the contests. **ALL PERFORMERS MUST BE PAID-UP MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY AND HOLD CONVENTION REGISTRATIONS PRIOR TO SINGING ON STAGE. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE RULES WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF THE CHORUS AND/OR QUARTET IN WHICH YOU PERFORM.**

I truly hope you will all consider joining us for our first official NEW Dixie District convention. **We are planning to have one hour coaching sessions for all participating choruses during their evaluations.** This will be a first for us and hope you will all want to take advantage of this opportunity! When was the last time you had a coaching session with your chorus? Let me hear from you **SOON!**



NGBS Visit the BCC by Arthur Brause

On Monday evening August 2, 2010, over 75 barber-shoppers and guests got together for an inter-chapter visit with the **North Georgia Barbershop Singers** of the Lake Lanier Chapter visiting to sing with and for the **Big Chicken Chorus** of the Marietta Chapter and guests.



Big Chicken Chorus, Steve Dorn Directing

The NGBS arrived with 24 men, and the BCC had 39 active members plus a number of former members in attendance, so when assembled the joint chorus had over 70 men on the risers. What a great sound and such a pleasure to experience - it brought back real memories of what a full chorus with the risers packed is like!



North Georgia Barbershop Singers
Jack Martin Directing

Both the BCC and NGBS performed separately for each other. With the BCC's director **Rick Ramsey** away attending Harmony University/Director's College in Missouri, warm-up and tag singing and direction of the BCC was handled by assistant director **Steve Dorn**. Direction of the NGBS was handled by their director **Jack Martin**. The

direction of the joint chorus was shared by both Steve and Jack, and to say a great time was had by all is an understatement!

“Inter-Chapter Meeting equals FUN!”

In addition to the singing by the BCC, the NGBS, the joint chorus and **129 & Counting Quartet**, a number of other important activities occurred:

- The BCC ladies had their quarterly meeting of the Rooster Boosters, the chapter's support group who also supplied all the snacks and goodies that were offered at the break - WOW what treats!



129 & Counting — (L-R) Bill Schreiner, Shelby Robert, Ray Taylor and Bob Snelling



NGBS & BCC Choruses, Jack Martin Directing

- In lieu of a business meeting, the Marietta Chapter reflected upon the two year anniversary of the passing of **Jack Sweitzer**, a devoted Marietta Chapter member who passed away suddenly in 2008. A plaque with a photo of Jack was installed on the Jack Sweitzer Memorial Trophy Case located at the BCC's rehearsal venue which contains many of the BCC photos, trophies and memorabilia that Jack accumulated over the years and kept in his home for the chapter. The plaque was designed by members of the chapter to remember Jack and his very special contributions to the Marietta Chapter and the BCC.

By 10:00 PM everyone was headed home, and with all so pleased there will definitely be more of this type of inter-chapter visits to come for the BCC! So thanks again go to **Rufus Massey** - Marietta Chapter President, **Dick Rockwell** - Lake Lanier Chapter President, Steve Dorn, Jack Martin, and the members of both chapters that made this event possible. It was many months in the planning but well worth it!



NGBS & BCC Choruses, Steve Dorn Directing



Jack Sweitzer Memorial Trophy Case

Pickup Contest Promotes Fellowship & Quarteting by Mark Kettner, VP M&P, NE Tennessee Chapter



"Pagliacci's Boys"
2010 Pickup Quartet Champions
Doug Miller, Joe Poore,
Calvin Crim, Nathan Goodwin

The NE Tennessee Chapter, **Appalachian Express Chorus**, has enjoyed a great 2010 filled with successful shows, singouts, and highest ever score at the Spring Dixie District convention and contest.

The end of summer brings time for the guys to enjoy their accomplishments, socialize and better yet ... **QUARTET!!**

On Monday August 23rd, the chapter hosted it's 7th Annual NE Tennessee Pickup Quartet Contest. This event offers the chapter members a full evening of quartet singing, which is great for those who do not quartet on a regular basis.

The rules for the contest are simple:

- Each chapter member can sing in as many quartets as he wishes, on any voice part.
- Each quartet must sing either one song or two tags.
- Each quartet must come up with a unique and appropriate name.
- No more than two members of a past Pickup Quartet Champion quartet can sing together in a new competing quartet.

Each quartet is scored by the rest of the chapter using a simple rating system. Upon completion of the contest, the scores are compiled and the winning quartet is presented with the coveted NE Tennessee Pickup Quartet Champion Trophy. The trophy is then engraved with the winning quartet's name and members.

The evening started off with chapter members gathering their quartets and practicing their numbers. Over the course of an hour, TWENTY-ONE quartets signed up to sing in a highly competitive contest. These quartets were comprised of approximately THIRTY chapter members, a very impressive number. Chorus Director **Tony Bowman** said this of the evening: "We encouraged the men to participate, and over 90% of them did! Even some who are new to barbershop. And the quality is getting better each year. It was an exciting night!" As a matter of fact, two of the new chapter members (**Darren Malcolm** and **Barry Myers Sr.**) each sang in Pickup Quartets AND received their official new member pins and plaques on Monday, both doing an outstanding job. Chapter emcee "**Howlin'**" **Harry Arnold** did a great job keeping the contest rolling along, and everyone supported each quartet as they crossed the stage.

When the dust settled, one quartet emerged as the 2010 Pickup Quartet Champion: Pagliacci's Boys, consisting of tenor **Doug Miller**, lead **Joe Poore**, bass **Calvin Crim**, and baritone **Nathan Goodwin**. An average score of 4.5 (pretty darn good) was earned by great singing and performance by the quartet. This was a great end of the summer chapter social activity, and NE Tennessee is looking forward to a great Christmas show season in 2010!!!

"We encouraged the men to participate, and over 90% of them did!"



"I Don't Know" quartet croons a tune
Dick Blaney, Dean Renfro,
John Durham, Jim Foote



"One Full Head of Hair" quartet shows off new chapter member
James Hughes, David Guy,
Darren Malcolm, Pete Leuck

So, You Think You Would Like To Be A Judge? by Jim Sams

"You will be rewarded by the opportunity of working with and helping other competitors achieve their goals."

I would like to preface this article by letting all of you know that I am back in the saddle again as the VP of Contest and Judging (DRCJ) as we are officially known by the Society) for the new Dixie District. I had an 18 month leave of absence from the Dixie BOD as I adjusted to a new life on the Society Board. My very good friend and fellow Contest Administrator, Steve Tremper, filled in for me and did an outstanding job in his role as DRCJ for Dixie. He has been called into active duty in the new NSC (North/South Carolina District) as their first official DRCJ. I know he will do an outstanding job there and I wish him and his fellow board members all the best!

The time is drawing near for all barbershoppers to begin thinking seriously about getting into the Contest and Judging program. You still have plenty of time, but I would suggest that you begin getting your ducks in a row in preparation for your application.

Currently we have 17 certified judges and who certified at category school in July. We are always looking for more men who have a desire to study and prepare for the C&J program. It takes time, money, and commitment to make the "cut". But the rewards of camaraderie and service far outweigh the costs of preparation.

I would suggest that you begin to line up **TWO** certified judges in the category that you wish to enter (Contest Administrator, Music, Presentation, Singing) to recommend you, via letter or email, to your District Representative of C&J (that's me!) You will also need to find **FIVE** other character references to vouch for you as an applicant for the C&J program. Please consider Society members who know your abilities and who can comment on your suitability for the judging program. Forms for both the CA and scoring categories can be found in the **Contest and Judging Handbook** in the Document section of the Society website. If you have trouble obtaining copies, I will be happy to send them to you. You can also read and study all about these categories in the C&J Handbook as well. I would strongly suggest that you do some study and ask some questions of certified judges before deciding to enter the program.

Now here is the time line we will be utilizing. The **TWO** letters or emails of recommendation can be sent immediately following the **2010 Judging Category School** which will be held on July 28-Aug 1, 2010. You can also send the application forms at the same time or shortly thereafter. When the application form is completed and I have received the two letters and the five reference surveys that I will send out, I will send your packet, along with my recommendation, to the Category Specialist over your chosen judging category. The application process will end December 31, 2010. You will be notified in early 2011 if you have been accepted as an **Applicant** in the program. Your training will begin as you are prepared for **Judging Candidate School** which will be held in July, 2011, during the weekend of the beginning of Harmony University at the same location in St. Joseph, MO.

Once you have "passed" the requirements at Candidate School you will then be a **Candidate Judge** in your category. You will then have another **two** years to prepare for the **2013 Category School** where you will hopefully be certified for another three years. During this two year program you will attend a minimum of **THREE** conventions a year as a **GUEST** panelist to ply your trade and learn from the certified panel you will be working with. You will also have some homework to complete during those two years which will also help determine whether or not you receive an invitation to attend the Category School. It is not an automatic invitation anymore. You have to earn your wings before you can fly!

For those of you who will be attending the new Harmony College Southeast on the campus of the University of Alabama-Huntsville on July 16-18, you will have an opportunity to take a class on how to become a judge and more information about the responsibilities of judging contests. Our own Dwain Chambers, Immediate Past SCJC chairman and fellow Contest Administrator, will be conducting the class. You will not want to miss this most informative and interesting class instruction!

I didn't say it was easy. But I did say it is a **VERY** rewarding experience. You will meet and work with some of the most talented and congenial men in the Society. You will be rewarded by the opportunity of working with and helping other competitors achieve their goals. And you will have the best seat in the house at all the contests you judge!

I hope this helps answer any questions you might have about the C&J application process. I will be more than happy to help any of you along the way. Please feel free to contact me at any time. I will be sending out another reminder or two in early 2007. Best wishes and a pleasant journey in your search for the "holy grail" of certification in the C&J program.