



# Dixie Town Crier

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



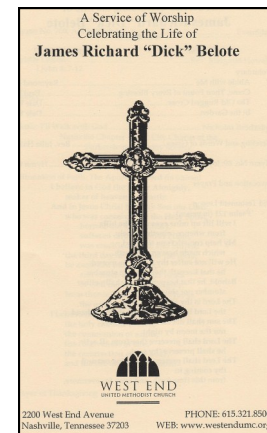
July 1, 2012

Volume 4, Issue 4

## Music City Chorus sings in honor of Dixie District Hall-of-Famer Dick Belote

It was certainly an honor for Nashville's Music City Chorus to be asked to sing at the funeral of longtime chapter member Dick Belote in June. Dick was remembered not only as an active member of the Nashville Chapter, but as one who volunteered years of service to the Dixie District. He was a member of the Dixie District Hall of Fame. Donations are being sought in Dick's memory to engrave his name on the Keep a Melody Ringing plaque at Harmony Hall. More information can be found at the following website:

<https://www.harmonyfoundation.org/donorinfo.aspx?id=4>




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**GOOD LUCK IN PORTLAND TO OUR DIXIE DISTRICT COMPETING  
CHORUSES & QUARTETS!**

**(See Page 12)**



Stone Mountain Chorus**HS student leaders explore barbershop style**

By Dave Whitehead  
VP Membership Dixie District  
Stone Mountain Chorus



**Scott Copeland and Dylan Oxford, of SMC conducting one of three vocal workshops for Monsignor Donovan High School educational and spiritual retreat.**

Early in April two members of the Stone Mountain Chorus met with the principal of Monsignor Donovan Catholic High School in Athens, GA. The school is only a few years old and has plans next year to expand their programs for the arts, which will include more emphasis on chorus.

The school has approximately 130 students and the purpose of the meeting was for the Stone Mountain Chorus to expose barbershop style of singing to a group of around 40 of the students who are considered the leaders of the student body.

On May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> MDHS held a spiritual and educational retreat at Unicoi State Park near Helen, GA. The students actually boarded a bus at 5:00 a.m. to get to Unicoi and were kept busy the entire day with various activities.

About 5:00 p.m. the kids went to downtown Helen to hold a flash mob. (We hope all you old guys know what that is.) The kids had a ball and it was a chance to let off some steam after a full tiresome day.

After the flash mob, they returned to Unicoi for dinner and that's when the barbershop guys went into full mode. Fourteen members of Stone Mountain presented a concert that lasted about one hour. They sang many different genres, explaining to the kids the differences along the way. The director of Stone Mountain, Dylan Oxford, got the kids involved by teaching and having them sing a tag.

For many of the fourteen singers it was one of the most exciting and rewarding barbershop experiences they have had. From the moment we entered the room, the excitement of our being there was loudly expressed. And it was repeated by cheering and more excitement after the performance of each and every song.

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**Very Large Quartet performing an hour of entertainment for Monsignor Donovan High School's educational and spiritual retreat.**

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Up Front, one of the chapter quartets, along with Dylan Oxford and “lead” section leader Scott Copeland stayed overnight in order for them to conduct three separate workshops with the kids on Friday morning. The sessions were held outdoors next to a meandering mountain brook as the kids were taught how to warm up to sing, learn about what barbershop harmony was, and to learn a couple of tags. It was stressed to each child that they had the capability to sing, and each learned that it was a fact not just hyperbole. Many surprised themselves. We had learned that morning that one of the students had been trying to start a quartet, but with no success as of yet. After our performance and workshops, there were a couple students who expressed interest in starting the quartet with him. Of course, we offered our support, and Up Front offered coaching for the group.

Later in the morning, following a few more activities, a few members of Stone Mountain stayed to enjoy lunch with the kids. One of the students had to be reminded to return to the group as he was engaged in acquiring any additional information and advice we could give him. At least one student had “caught the fever”.

The Stone Mountain guys left on a high note, pun intended. We had left a barbershop legacy and done our part for the wonderful Youth in Harmony Program that is so important to our hobby.



*David Belden reporting*

# Nashville chorus, quartets are Portland bound



The Nashville Chapter's Music City Chorus invited friends and family members to its final rehearsal on Tuesday, June 26, before heading to the Portland International Convention. The chorus earned a wild card slot in the international contest and will be pleased to represent the Dixie District, along with our friends from the Atlanta Vocal Project.

Preparation for the contest included a three-day retreat.



**Patrick Claypool coached the chorus on its visual plan.**

Guest coaches Mark Hale (director of the international champion Masters of Harmony) and Patrick Claypool (Masters of Harmony, Westminster Chorus, OC Times) pushed the Nashville men to find new levels of performance both vocally and visually.



**Mark Hale works with the Music City Chorus.**

The Nashville Chapter will also be well-represented on the quartet contest stage as well. **TNS (Dusty Schleier, Rick Spencer, David Carden, and Ryan Killeen)**, finalists a year ago, and the newly formed **Contingency Plan (Eddie Holt, Adam Scott, Howard McAdory, and James Estes)** are both made up of members from within the Nashville Chapter. Joining them in the contest will be Nashville members **Wayne Grimmer** (singing with **Round Midnight**) and **Sean Devine** (singing with **Throwback**).

While not competing in the quartet contest this year, **Lunch Break (Eddie Holt, Shane Scott, Mike O'Neill, K.J. McAleesejergins)** has a number of appearances set for the week. **Sean Devine** will also be on stage when **OC Times** performs. **Mike O'Neill** was a member of the college quartet champion **Station 59**, which will reunite and sing.

# *From Nashville, Tennessee .... To Portland, Oregon*



Music City Chorus



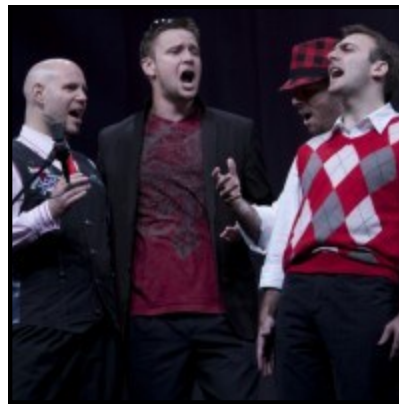
TNS



Contingency Plan



Throwback



Round Midnight



Lunch Break



*Ron Magnuson reporting*

## Marietta Chapter, Big Chicken Chorus, partner with Underground Atlanta

The Big Chicken Chorus in Marietta, Georgia has maintained a partnership with Underground Atlanta in downtown Atlanta for a number of years and is continuing that relationship in 2012 with several activities.

In February, the Assistant Director of Marketing for Underground Atlanta, Mandy Manlove, kicked things off for 2012 by ordering a special Singing Valentine. A quartet, 4U, from the Big Chicken Chorus strolled for 90 minutes during the Valentine's Day lunch time. Loaded with arms full of roses and carnations provided by the Underground Atlanta marketing staff, the quartet handed out flowers and sang the traditional barbershop love songs, "The Story of the Rose" and "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," in the food court and in a number of restaurants and shops in the Underground.



Mandy, our Underground Atlanta POC, contacted chorus representatives in March and asked if the Big Chicken Chorus could provide a quartet or a VLQ to participate in Underground's Eat Street!, Food



Quartet from Big Chicken Chorus ready to sing Take Me Out to the Ball Game on a Braves Shuttle, l-r, Bill Schreiner (baritone), 2012 Chapter President Rick French (lead), Jake Simpson (baritone), and Mac McKenzie (bass).

Truck Wednesdays held on Upper Alabama Street. On a cool, breezy April day, a hardy VLQ provided entertainment to an outdoor lunch time crowd that was enjoying a variety of food items from a dozen food trucks providing lunch time cuisine. The VLQ entertained with a number of our favorite barbershop polecats.

Opening night for the 2012 Atlanta Braves home season was initiated with chords of "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" ringing again from the MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) Braves Shuttle buses. This tradition was resumed after a temporary suspension of services by MARTA to Atlanta Braves home games from Underground Atlanta. The Big Chicken Chorus is again providing quartets (for 18 games this year) to hop on to buses leaving for Turner Field to lead patrons in singing "Take Me Out To The Ball Game." After completing the song, the quartet gets off the bus and climbs on the next bus to repeat the process.

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Reactions from the busloads of baseball fans range from “hurry and get done so we can get to the game” to rousing participation and cheering of Braves and visiting team fans. The numbers of appreciative bus loads far outnumber the less enthusiastic patrons. It is not unusual for the quartets to sing on 40 or more buses during the 90 minutes prior to the Braves’ first pitch. This activity provides an opportunity for chorus members who are not otherwise actively involved with a quartet to volunteer to participate and experience singing in a quartet.

The Big Chicken Chorus enjoys its relationship with Underground Atlanta and the Marketing staff and looks forward to continuing to participate in Underground Atlanta activities that generate interest and support of Underground in the Atlanta community.



**Big Chicken 4U Quartet, l-r, Terry Morrison (tenor), Harry Bis-singer (lead), Bob Slaney (bass), Ron Magnuson (baritone) with Underground Atlanta visitors from Arizona on Valentine’s Day.**



**Big Chicken Chorus VLQ at Underground Atlanta Eat Street!, Food Truck Wednesdays, l-r, Jeff Hoffman (lead), Ron Magnuson (baritone), Keith Lay (baritone), Ron Regan (lead), Bob Slaney (bass), Drayton Justus (lead), and Dan Shelles (tenor).**





The North Georgia Barbershop Singers perform “The Star Spangled Banner” at the city of Cumming’s Memorial Day service.

***A.J. Puckett reporting***

## Lake Lanier gives back through song

“Service to others through our music” is at the heart of what the Barbershop Harmony Society values.

This summer, members of the North Georgia Barbershop Singers (Lake Lanier Chapter B103) have gone the extra mile to give back to the community with performances in honor of veterans, America’s fallen heroes, and local charitable organizations.

### **Remembering our heroes:**

In May, the North Georgia Barbershop Singers were invited to sing for the city of Cumming’s Memorial Day service for the first time. Being able to participate in this memorial was a special treat for our chorus, and it was particularly special for our members who are veterans.

The chorus helped open the festivities and led the audience in “The Star Spangled Banner” and “God Bless America” as the honor guard placed the colors.

Our chorus was given a chance earlier this month to honor a group of World War II veterans. The group of vets had a special bond beyond that of men who had solely survived the horrors of war together. Each of the men had been captured and held in the same German stalags as prisoners of

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war. This was the group's 25th reunion and its last, as the remaining 15 men are unable to travel due to age and health reasons.

"As I walked around and shook hands with some of them, I told them we all felt honored to sing for them," said Rich Pilch, assistant director, who led the group of 10 men at the performance. "Many of them just smiled and told me thank you. Sharing our hobby doing things like this is what it's all about."

### Helping our neighbors with a song:

Barbershoppers are often asked to sing under unusual circumstances, and a breakfast fundraiser definitely falls into that category.

Dawson County Family Connection, a resource for families and non-profits in Dawson County, asked us to send over a quartet to entertain at its annual Celebrity Waiter Breakfast fundraiser. According to Nancy Stites, the director of Dawson County Family Connection, our little act was the hit of the morning.

"We thoroughly enjoyed having you sing for our guests," she said in a thank you letter. "I received more compliments about your singing and performance than any entertainment we've had before. Thank you so much for joining us," she said.

**A VLQ from the North Georgia Barbershop Singers performs "God Bless America" at a banquet honoring World War II Prisoners of War.**



**Sweet Tea, a NGBS quartet, entertained for a fundraiser for the reunion banquet. Sweet Tea is from left, Tenor Rich Pilch, Lead Tom Riggle, Bass Terry Gillim and substitute Bari Duane Hunter.**

# A CAPPPELLA 101: A STUDY IN CONTRASTS

**RVP**  
CHORUS



rsvpchorus.com

Saturday, August 18, 7:00pm  
Germantown Performing Arts Centre

**DeltaCappella**  
contemporary a cappella



deltacappella.com

\$15 Reserved Seats  
*(all tickets subject to GPAC handling fee of \$2 for phone sales or \$4 for online sales)*  
GPAC Box Office 901.751.7500



## *Dixie District Calendar*

### *Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend July 20-21*

Register now at  
[www.dixiedistrict.org](http://www.dixiedistrict.org)



### *Dixie District Fall Convention September 28-30*

The 2012 Dixie District Fall Convention and Contest will be held in Tunica, MS. This represents a big change from our recent history. The convention will be held at the Gold Strike Casino Resort in Tunica, about 30 miles south of Memphis, TN. All of the convention activities will be held in the Gold Strike, so you will not have to drive or depend on any transportation from hotel to contest venue. It's not too early to start making your plans for September 28-30!

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

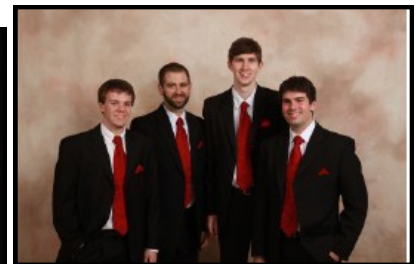
# Your Dixie District Representatives to International!



*A Mighty Wind*



*TNS*

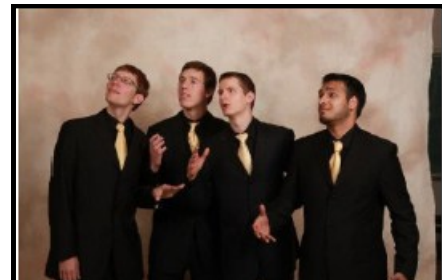


*The Vigilantes*

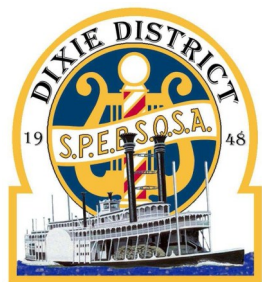


*Contingency Plan*

*To the Fore*  
Collegiate Quartet







## **THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER**

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

Larry Deters, President

Bob Davenport, VP of Marketing and Public Relations

David Belden, Editor

Deadline for chapters and quartets to submit articles and photographs for the next issue is **JULY 25, 2012**. Submissions should be sent to:

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

## **DIXIE DISTRICT HALL OF FAME**

The purpose of the Dixie District Hall of Fame is to give recognition to those men who have made exceptional, long-standing, unselfish, dedicated and devoted contributions to the Dixie District, their chapter(s) and the Society. Nomination of persons (or quartets) for induction into the Hall of Fame shall be made by any member of the District and shall be made in writing to the District Historian between April 1 and June 30 of any year. The nominator shall provide a legible detailed description of the nominee's qualifications.

Nominations should be mailed to :  
**Jerry Adams, Dixie District Historian**  
4826 Briarwood Drive  
Nashville, TN 37211

The District Historian shall then send to the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee all nominations and supporting documentation. The Committee's action each year shall be completed by August 15, and any inductions into the Hall of Fame that year occur at the District's Fall Convention.

This notice is submitted for your general information. Any questions may be directed to the committee chairman.

**THE DEADLINE FOR CHAPTER, CHORUS,  
AND QUARTET NEWS FOR THE AUGUST 1 ISSUE  
IS JULY 25!  
SEND YOUR NEWS TO  
**DAVID.BELDEN@COMCAST.NET****