



Dixie Town Crier

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



August 1, 2012

Volume 4, Issue 5

Dixie District rocks Portland!



Music City Chorus—7th



Atlanta Vocal Project—12th



A Mighty Wind—3rd



TNS—10th



The Vigilantes—37th



Contingency Plan—41st



Photos by Lorin May
Courtesy of the
Barbershop Harmony Society



To the Fore—College 7th

David Belden, reporting

Nashville Chapter has best ever finish at international contest



Every “best ever” moment in life is someday meant to be topped. For the Music City Chorus, achieving its “best ever” placement in the Barbershop Harmony Society’s International Chorus Contest was a 35-year process. It was in 1977 that the Nashville Chapter had its “best ever” moment, placing eighth at the 1977 convention in Philadelphia. Now, three and a half decades later, the Music City Chorus can point to a seventh place finish at the 2012 International Contest on Portland, Oregon as its new standard of “best ever.”

The scoring system has changed since 1977, of course, so it is impossible to compare scores, but under the modern BHS scoring system, the Music City Chorus achieved another “best ever” benchmark of 85.7.

The 2012 trip to international was an amazing run for the men on stage, as well as for the chorus members who did not make the trip but who pushed their riser-mates each week in rehearsal. Under the helm of Dusty Schleier and his associates and assistants (Rick Spencer, James Estes, and Sean Devine), the chorus continued the progress made in the three consecutive trips to international under former director Mike O’Neill. But “best ever” is a TEAM effort, from the section leaders, to the music team, to every committee head and chorus officer, Entourage member ... and on to every man who pushed himself to achieve a personal “best ever.”

But there was so much more to this week than the “best ever” performance of the chorus. Sean Devine’s quartet, “Throwback” burst onto the international stage with a sixth place finish. Nashville’s own “TNS” had its third straight top 10 finish and a “best ever” score of 85.3. Wayne Grimmer’s “Round Midnight” quartet was 12th with a “best ever” 84.8. “Contingency Plan,” another chapter quartet was 41st and drew a standing ovation for its “Unforgettable” parody. And while “Lunch Break” chose not to compete, they stole the show several times in guest spots.

It was a great week to be a “Nashville Barbershopper!”



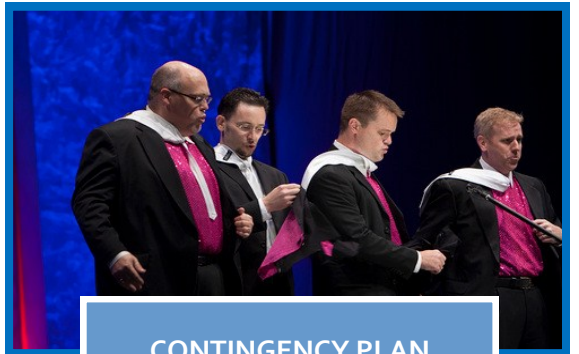
TNS



THROWBACK



ROUND MIDNIGHT



CONTINGENCY PLAN

Steve Wixson, reporting

Chattanooga Chapter celebrated 50 years in

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

June 1, 2012 was a memorable day for the Choo Choo Chorus as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the signing our charter with a banquet held at the Colonnade Convention Center in Ringgold, GA. Steve Grubb was Emcee, and did a fabulous job.

David Reynolds, whom we considered as our Secretary and Historian for life, though suffering from Parkinson's, attended from Baton Rouge LA, and was received with thunderous applause.

The Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boys, our 1981 Dixie District Quartet Champions, brought the house down as they rang the rafters. Also singing were Scenic City Sound and The Chattanooga Guys. We had the pleasure of three Charter Members in attendance who looked and sounded like they were ready to rejoin the fun and fellowship of Barbershop Harmony.

Paul Blazek was recognized for 25 years as Director (his Plaque is on Page 14.) He led all men in singing some familiar songs. He and six former Directors together led our closing song, 'Keep The Whole World Singing.' An afterglow rounded out the evening. *Pat Crowe*

THE CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER OF SPEBSQSA

Barbershop harmony came to Chattanooga Tennessee with a police escort on a cold day, January 27, 1962. The caravan was met by 75 Chattanoogaans, including the Mayor and 20 former barbershoppers, all singing "You're As Welcome As The Flowers In May". By the end of the day, nearly 150 barbershoppers and guests enjoyed activities designed to establish a chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America in the only major city in Tennessee without one.

The Knoxville-Smokeyland and Atlanta-Peachtree Choruses, plus Quartets from Knoxville, Atlanta, Birmingham, and Huntsville, all attended the organizational meeting that day in the Read House Continental Room. The groundwork for the Chattanooga chapter, to be known as the Rock City chapter, had begun in late 1961 by the host chapter, the Dixie District Chorus Champion, Smokeyland Chorus, in Knoxville. Chattanoogaans involved with this effort included Ernest Jordan, Ray Beebee, and Dick Clem, all of whom in particular were very much responsible for the meeting's success. Ernest Jordan later became the first President, Ray Beebee the Program Vice President, and Dick Clem the first Music Director.

Thus began 50 years of barbershop music in Chattanooga. But the best day was to follow when the SPEBSQSA International organization informed the Rock City chapter that its charter was granted on May 17, 1962. Celebration followed with a Charter Presentation and Chapter Show planned for July 14, 1962, at the Chattanooga City High auditorium. The above choruses and Quartets returned for an evening of singing, and presentation of the Rock City charter by the Dixie District President Dr. Thomas Prince, Jr. of Knoxville.

The next 50 years kept the Chorus busy. A name change to the Mountain City Chorus in 1974, and the Choo Choo Chorus in 1982, did not dampen the desire to contribute to the community. There were annual shows, sing-outs at many local organizations and charitable events, programs for the elderly, Special Olympics, performances of

(continued on next page)

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Chattanooga Chapter History: Celebrating 50 Years

the National Anthem at the National Cemetery services and sporting events, religious performances at local churches, and Christmas shows with the proceeds contributed to local charities.

The Chorus has performed Christmas shows since 1990. This year marks 10 years sponsoring the Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus which brings men from the surrounding area to sing Christmas music in the barbershop style. These shows have benefited local charities as the Ronald McDonald House, Signal Centers/United Cerebral Palsy, and Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center.

Barbershop music has always been associated with Quartets, and the Chattanooga chapter is no exception. It has a long list of Quartets that have registered with the SPEBSQSA, now commonly known as the Barbershop Harmony Society. These and numerous other Quartets have been formed to just sing, perform, have fun, and contribute to the preservation, advancement, and enjoyment of barbershop harmony in the Chattanooga area.

The last 50 years is just the beginning. Barbershop harmony is here to stay in Chattanooga.

Fred Jesse, Chapter Secretary and Historian

**50th
Anniversary**

**Five Decades of
Harmony
Service
Fellowship
Fun**



The Chattanooga Choo Choo Chorus

The Really Big 50th Show

'FIFTY YEAR PARADE OF HARMONY'

Special Guest: TNS, International Top Ten Quartet

Saturday, June 9th, 2012 at 7:30 PM

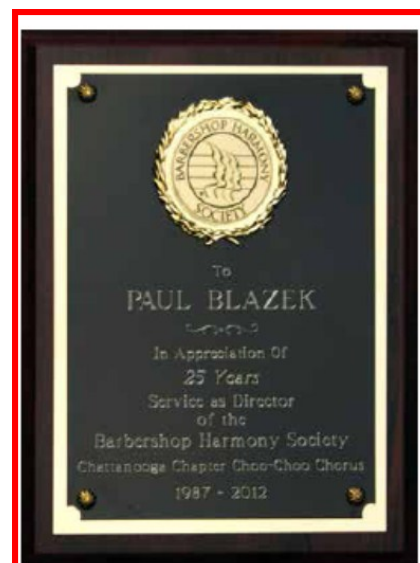
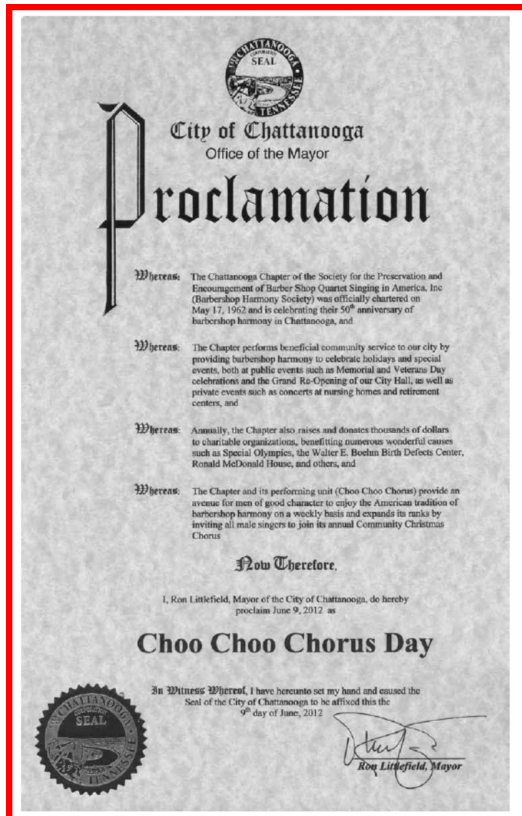
Girls Preparatory School Fine Arts Auditorium

CHOO CHOO CHORUS MEMBERS

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Wally Bigbee | Tom Keegan |
| Paul Blazek | JW Kirk |
| Lebron Brock | Benny Malone |
| Beau Christian | Brandon Middlebrooks |
| Albert Clairmont | Lamar Owens |
| David Collao | Barry Owens |
| David Collins | Richard Poole |
| Pat Crowe | Rich Ptacin |
| Frank Delaney | David Rack |
| Cameron Druyor | Daniel Randolph |
| Wally Edmondson | Grady Rhoden |
| Erby Erwin | Marcellus Scott |
| Gary Fisher | Bill Slack |
| David Fleury | Art Southerlin |
| Niles Fowler | Wilbur Strickland |
| Brooks Gist | Hobby Thomas |
| Steven Grubb | Chet Tschetter |
| Charlie Holder | Clarence Wall |
| Gene Huelman | David White |
| Johnny Jackson | Wendell Whitmire |
| Fred Jesse | Chuck Wilson |
| John Johnston | Steve Wixson |

KNOWN LIVING CHARTER MEMBERS

- Ara Carapetyan
 - W. Frank Conger*
 - W. Cecil Cook
 - Malone J. Everett
 - Kenneth Pendergrass*
 - Vernon Pirtle
 - Charles W Reep
 - Robert E Roark
 - Paul M Starnes
 - Donald Vance*
- (*Attended 50th Party)



Jim Moore, reporting

Harmony explodes at Dixie District Camp in Huntsville

The 2012 Dixie District Harmony Explosion Camp in Huntsville is now history, and a fine one it was. There were 76 young singers on the risers and 10 of their music educators too. The educators not only learned how to use the barbershop style in their classrooms, but they also learned and performed a song themselves. Forty three of the 76 were brand new to the camp, proving that the word is getting around of the wonderful opportunity that this camp holds for enjoyable singing and for barbershop.

As in the past few years, our campers were largely from areas within the District where there are no local chapters to help directly with sponsorships. As a result, I need to appeal to District barbershoppers for help for sponsoring approximately 22 campers. The rest are being paid for by funds from the District (donor's choice), Harmony Foundation, and chapters who are near the students from their area.

A sponsorship for a student amounts to \$90 and for a teacher \$125. I will gladly accept any amount that you can give toward this very worthy cause. Checks should be made to: Dixie District HX Camp and sent to me at 3385 Breton Court NE Atlanta, Georgia 30319. Any donor whose amount is over \$50 will receive a thank-you note from the camper(s) that you helped to sponsor.

If you were not at the Saturday evening show in Huntsville, you missed seeing these very fine young men having the time of their lives performing barbershop, many for the first time. This is the future of our Society. They will remember this event forever and, when the time is right, will become a part of our family. In their evaluations, which each camper submitted, many mentioned that this was a life changing experience. Some said that they learned more in this camp than they have learned in their music classroom.

If you have never seen the expressions on the faces of young men who attend these camps when they realize what they are getting into, and how much enjoyment there is in good barbershop singing, you owe it to yourself to be at the next such event. Every one of them said that they are looking forward to the next camp, and we are, as we speak, planning for that camp in Dixie in mid-July, 2013.

If you want to see our youth programs continue and can help with a donation, please do so. As we all know, Youth In Harmony is not an immediate recruiting thing. It's all about preserving our wonderful style of music for future generations, and sponsoring these young singers, no matter where they are from, is a very effective way of doing this. If you agree, and if you can see your way to help continue this effort, you can send any donation to me at the address given below. A full sponsorship for a student is \$90 and for a teacher is \$125. (Payable to Dixie HX Camp). Your generosity will be rewarded by receiving a personal thank you note from the camper that you sponsor, and by knowing that you are helping to make barbershop available to those who will be here long after we are gone.

Keep Barbershop alive. Support young singers.

SOUND CELEBRATION

Musical Entertainment by

**Rocket City Barbershop Chorus and Quartets,
Zamboni Brothers, Shugah, and Huntsville Irish Dancers**

Admission includes tasty hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages



Saturday, September 8th, 7:00 PM

Location: Mayfair Church of Christ, 1095 Carl T Jones Drive SE

Cost: \$15 Adults \$10 Students - Advance Sales

\$20 Adults \$15 Students - at the door

Children 6 and under are Free



Tickets available from any chorus member

or Call Lloyd at 256-693-7215

A CAPPELLA 101: A STUDY IN CONTRASTS

RVP
CHORUS

DeltaCappella
contemporary a cappella



rsvpchorus.com

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



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

September 28-30

Register now for fall convention at www.dixiedistrict.org

The Gold Strike Casino Resort is a 31-story luxury hotel and resort. The hotel is the tallest inhabited building in the state of Mississippi.

**All convention activities are
under one roof!**

**1010 Casino Center Drive
Tunica Resorts, MS 38664**

- Contests will take place in the Millennium Theater, located within the Resort
- Registration, Marketplace, meetings, etc., are located within the Resort
- Hotel rooms and hospitality rooms are located within the Resort
- Everything is within the Resort – all under one roof!
- Casino: Enjoy 24-hour nonstop gaming action with 30,000 square feet of casino area including 48 table games and 1400 slot machines.
- Golf: There are several championship courses located only minutes away.
- Shopping: The on-site souvenir gift shop is open 24 hours. There is additional shopping at the Casino Factory Shoppes just down the road.
- The Pool and Spa: Heated swimming pool and Jacuzzi, work out room, and massage therapy.



PROBE honors two Dixie bulletins

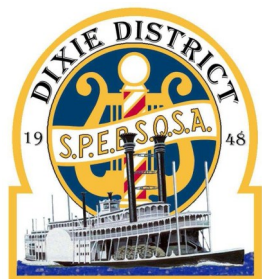
Two Dixie District bulletins placed in the top 10 in the PROBE International Bulletin Contest announced at the 2012 convention.

Down our Way (Lake Lanier, GA), edited by **Jack Martin**, placed 8th overall.



The Music City Huzzah! (Nashville, TN), edited by **David Belden**, was 10th overall and first among the weekly bulletins.





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 **AUGUST 25, 2012**. Submissions should be sent to:

david.belden@comcast.net

The High Country Harmonizers

will be holding our 11th Annual concert

at the Clegg Auditorium on the Young Harris College campus

on Saturday, August 25, 2012, at 3pm.

We will be featuring our Chorus and Quartets singing the hits of the 50's and 60's, along with other great singing groups from our local area.

You don't want to miss this one...if you enjoyed the music of the 50's and the 60's.

www.harmonize.com/hch/



Student tickets: \$ 8.00

Advanced Student tickets with dinner: \$23.00

Advance tickets to the public: \$12.00

Advance tickets to the public with dinner: \$27.00

Tickets at the door to the public: \$15.00

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