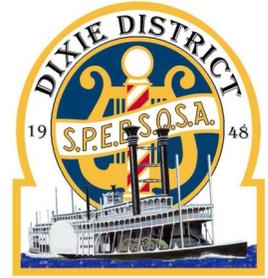




# Dixie Town Crier

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



February 2013

Volume 5, Issue 2

*David Crenshaw reporting*

## AVP entertains Georgia Governor



**Georgia Governor Nathan Deal and his wife Sandra hosted the Atlanta Vocal Project at the Governor's Mansion on Wednesday, December 12, 2012, to perform for Department of Transportation officials from around the country. AVP dined with the Governor and VIP guests before entertaining the crowd with a rousing set of our favorite Christmas and other songs, which elicited a heartfelt standing ovation.**

*Jim Moore reporting*

## Georgia Spirit earns excellent rating at International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival

Georgia Spirit represented Atlanta Vocal Project, Stone Mountain, and other Atlanta area barbershoppers very well in Orlando at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival. They earned an Excellent rating, scored 73.7, and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in their age plateau. They also were third in voting for "Audience Favorite" out of 19 choruses.

The 27-man chorus was made up of 8 singers from Calhoun, Georgia and 16 from Atlanta, including 7 with AVP or Stone Mountain ties. Three singers were from Florida. Co-directors were Clay Hine and Tim Brooks. The group sang "Who Put the Bomp," "Georgia On My Mind," and "I Got Rhythm."

The trip was made on a brand new 54-passenger executive charter bus that began at 6 am in Calhoun. A pick up stop was made in Atlanta and then continued to Orlando, where the boys arrived at 3:30. That was followed by a gigantic pizza party for the nearly 500 youth singers, and a show featuring among others, Main Street, Masterpiece, and The Liberty Voices.

On Friday morning a rehearsal at 8:30 preceded the contest performance at around noon. The winning chorus of the AA plateau, The Recruits, put up an amazing score of 85.2. An A & R session was attended by all the guys, and that evening they were treated to a show that featured The Buzz, Crossroads and Gas House Gang.

On Saturday, several attended a master class by the Dapper Dans, a master class by Ringmasters, and then went to Downtown Disney. Others watched the Senior Quartet Contest, where Dixie's own Stacked Deck placed 5<sup>th</sup>, The evening show featured A Mighty Wind, Musical Island Boys, and Ringmasters. What an amazing lineup of talent for these young guys to see!

The trip back to Atlanta and Calhoun was not without excitement, too, since Ballistics (Melody Hine's quartet) and Ringmasters were aboard with us.

A great time was had by all, and there is already talk of the next trip to Long Beach, CA.



# Gospel Chorus in Gadsden!

Last year, several of you participated in a Gospel Chorus on Sunday after the spring convention concluded. The church that hosted the guest singers (Gladeview Baptist Church) appreciated it so much that they have invited us again to share in their Sunday morning worship service on March 10. The church is located at 300 West Medders Drive, Anniston, AL 36206.

Frank Holmes of the Central Alabama chapter will be directing the chorus, which will rehearse at 4:00 pm on Saturday, March 9 at a place to be determined and at 9:15 am on Sunday at the church before the worship service at 10:30 am. There will also be a quartet or two and soloists during the service. The chorus will sing "Gospel Medley" and "I'll Walk With God" and possibly "It Is Well With My Soul." As was true last year, we will attempt to post the music on the District website – [www.dixiedistrict.org](http://www.dixiedistrict.org). The church will also provide lunch for all participants and their families after the service; they will just a head count as to how many plan to participate.

Those interested in participating need to contact Convention Chairman Tony Ivey at (256) 689-9704 or [tonyivey1@cableone.net](mailto:tonyivey1@cableone.net). We'll see you in Gadsden!



## Singing Valentines

*Brought to you by the Music City Chorus & Quartets*



Say "I Love You" with a song!

*Multiple Delivery Options:*

<b>Basic</b> <b>\$50</b> Any time all day	<b>Standard</b> <b>\$75</b> 2-4 hour window	<b>Deluxe</b> <b>\$100</b> Time-specific <small>(restaurant or business) or outside the area</small>
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*Deliveries will be on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>*

Call **615-469-4555**, or order online at [www.musiccitychorus.org](http://www.musiccitychorus.org)

**ORDER YOURS TODAY!**

## Music City Chorus gears up for Valentine's Day

Like many chapters, the quartets of Nashville's Music City Chorus are busy scheduling deliveries of Singing Valentines for Thursday, February 14. The Singing Valentines program has become a tradition for the Nashville Chapter, raising both money for the chapter and name recognition throughout the community.

Dixie District barbershoppers who have family and friends in the Nashville area and who would like to share their love in a harmonious way are urged to schedule a Singing Valentine by calling 615-469-4555, or order online at [www.musiccitychorus.org](http://www.musiccitychorus.org).

You may now register for the Dixie District Spring 2013 Convention  
 online at [www.dixiedistrict.org](http://www.dixiedistrict.org)  
 or by using the form below.



**Dixie District Spring 2013 Convention**  
**March 8 – 10, 2013 – Gadsden, AL**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (ex. B104)  
 Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Chorus/Quartet: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Part (Circle One) Bass Baritone Lead Tenor Member Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Handicapped Services Needed **(Request must be received by Friday February 22, 2013)**

Description	How Many	Cost	Total
Early Bird Registration Member†		\$39.00	
Early Bird Registration Guests†		\$39.00	
Mailed after February 22 add \$10.00 per registration		\$10.00	
		Total Due	

†Registration gets you admittance to the Quartet Semi-Finals, Chorus Contest, and Quartet Finals

**Make check/money order payable to “Dixie District BHS”**  
**PLEASE WEAR YOUR CHAPTER NAME TAG**  
**We will be using pre-printed tickets for entrance. No Name tags will be printed.**

Credit card payment: Complete the information below. **(MasterCard, Visa, or Discover ONLY)**

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ exp. (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name as it appears on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:  
 Russell Bell  
 2716 Braemore Glenn  
 Powder Springs, GA 30127-1760  
 Phone: (770) 439-8249

email to:  
[registration@dixiedistrict.org](mailto:registration@dixiedistrict.org)

\*Form must be Postmarked by  
 February 22, 2013 to receive early  
 bird registration rate.

**Official Use only**  
 Circle One - Mail - Online - Email Form Received on \_\_\_\_\_ Entered into Database \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ticket Numbers assigned \_\_\_\_\_

*Lee Franks reporting*

# The Foothills Sound debuts at Youth Chorus Festival in Orlando

Dixie District was well represented in the Youth Chorus Festival at the Society's Midwinter Convention in Orlando on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Along with Atlanta Metro chapter's Georgia Spirit chorus, The Foothills Sound, a newly formed group based out of Knoxville, Tennessee's Powell High School, debuted with great success.

One of eighteen choruses participating in the festival, the group competed in the plateau of choruses with average age under 19. The eighteen singers in the group, made up of mostly students and a few alumni, averaged 17.4 years of age. Performing Bob Disney's "Drivin' Me Crazy," Dave Briner's arrangement of "Witchcraft," and Joe Liles's "The Moment I Saw Your Eyes," the chorus received excited ovations from the enthusiastic crowd. With only five rehearsals under their belt, the boys scored a very respectable 71.4, using the Society's contest and judging system and a three-man panel in each of the three scoring categories. While placing sixth in their plateau, the group was recognized as the highest scoring high school group in the festival. In addition, The Foothills Sound was recognized for having the highest percentage of non-Society members in the group (100%).

Performing in the festival was only part of the five day trip to Orlando. The boys saw all the 2012 medalist quartets in performance (Main Street, Masterpiece, A Mighty Wind, Musical Island Boys, and Ringmasters), the 2012 college champs, Lemon Squeezy, perennial Sweet Adeline champs The Buzz, and a rare performance by The Gas House Gang. In addition, all youth chorus participants were treated to a master class from the Dapper Dans of Disney World.

The group was directed by Lee Franks, member of the Greater Knoxville chapter and music director of the Smokyland Sound chorus. Co-founder of the group is Jim Kennedy, Powell High School choir director. Jim has been a longtime supporter of barbershop harmony and has been trying for some years to get a youth chorus up and running in the Knoxville area. The group was sponsored by the Knoxville chapter, with additional financial support from the Dixie District.

"In all of my years of teaching music, I have never seen an event that energized the excitement and love for music in the boys," says Kennedy. "The barbershop festival allowed them to stand tall and be accepted for who they are and what they love to do. The hallways, stairwells, and bathrooms of Powell High School have been ringing with barbershop tags all week as the proud boys of The Foothills Sound have been sharing the joy with their friends."

How would choristers describe the trip?

"Magical!" – William Seay

"In my opinion, the Barbershop Harmony Society is one of the most amazing things that someone can get into. It is a wonderful chance to sing barbershop music with people that you know and even better, people that you meet. Hearing the audience cheer after every chorus just goes to show the appreciation that everyone has for barbershop. It was a great experience and I plan on attending many years in the future. I love barbershop." – Jacob Mahler





*The Foothills  
Sound*



*Photos courtesy of Lorin May, Barbershop Harmony Society*

# Ringmasters promote Youth in Harmony in Atlanta area

Following the 2013 International Mid-Winter Convention in Orlando, Ringmasters, 2012 International Quartet Champions, came to Atlanta. While here, they visited high schools and university choral classrooms, giving workshops and promoting Youth In Harmony activities.

Chattahoochee High School in Alpharetta was the first visit, where the Intermediate Mixed Choir of around 30 singers learned about barbershop. Then at Johns Creek High School, band, choir and orchestra students enthusiastically received their presentation. Next was the Chamber Choir of Chattahoochee, where each group performed for the other. Other schools in the area wanted to join in, but the limitations of Atlanta traffic put a damper on that.

After the high schools came a visit to Georgia State University, where students related well with our Swedish friends who were in similar music classes in Sweden not long ago.



Then in the evening, Atlanta area barbershoppers and the public, numbering close to 500, were treated to a Ringmaster show. Fantastic and Awesome are inadequate words to describe their performance. Many friends were made in Atlanta.

The next day, the Champions presented to over 80 students at Brookwood High School before boarding a flight to the Washington, DC area. The trip was made possible through planning by Society President Alan Lamson, with the cooperation and support of Atlanta area barbershoppers, including the Greater Atlanta Chapter (Stone Mountain Chorus), Metro Atlanta Chapter (Atlanta Vocal Project) and Marietta Chapter (Big Chicken Chorus).



**Georgia Spirit performs "I Got Rhythm" at the Ringmasters Show**

**Ringmasters and Up Front  
at Brookwood High School**



**Interested students at  
Brookwood High School**



**Ringmasters at Georgia State University**

*Steve Wixson reporting*

# Chattanooga Chapter helps raise more than \$11,000 for local charity

The Choo Choo Chorus celebrated its 50th anniversary this year with a party, a big show, the 10th annual Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus (we call it the CCCC), and a great write-up in the slick paper Chattanooga Magazine. The CCCC includes the 34 man Choo Choo Chorus, help from the Cleveland Chorus, and men from the Chattanooga area who joined us the first Monday after the Fall Dixie Convention. They rehearsed for two months and sang in the Christmas benefit show, with many joining us for six Christmas sing-outs at nursing and retirement homes ... and tourist attraction, Rock City, *ON A VERY COLD NIGHT!*

With this being our 50th year and also the 10th annual CCCC, the chapter set a goal of raising \$10,000 for a local charity, the Walter Boehm Birth Defects Center. The goal almost doubled what was raised in 2011. When the expenses were paid and the ticket and donation money counted, we presented the Boehm people with a check for \$11,115, a sum that amazed everyone. This year we had the largest CCCC with 80 men on stage, the largest audience, and the largest donation to charity in our 50 year history. What a way to celebrate our golden anniversary!



**Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus**

Photo by Shannon Edmondson



**Check Presentation 2012** - Shown in the photograph are front row to back, left to right; Paul Blazek, Director, Denise Wilson, Chair of Boehm Board, Elizabeth Myers, Boehm Executive Director, Wally Edmondson, Second row; Brooks Gist, Gene Huelman, Chuck Wilson, Associate Director, Wendell Whitmire, Gary Fisher, Third row; Rich Ptacin, Daniel Randolf, Beau Christian, Pat Crowe, Fred Jesse, Fourth row; Will Rogers, Erby Erwin, Steve Grubb, Wilbur Strickland and Chet Tschetter. Photo by Steve Wixson.



**Singing at Rock City**  
Photo by Melissa Wilson

# DIXIE DISTRICT 2013 SPRING CONVENTION

## Gadsden, Alabama Housing Information

**March 8-10, 2013**

### GENERAL INFO

Hotels are at I-59, Exit 181. All three hotels are next door to one another.

The contest venue, Wallace Hall at Gadsden State Community College is at I-759, Exit 4. It is 7.5 miles, or 9-10 minutes, from the hotels to Wallace Hall.

Wallace Hall address is 1001 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden, AL, 35903. **Use this for GPS.** Do not enter Gadsden State Community College.

All three hotels feature free, hot breakfast and mini-fridge/microwave in every room.

Rooms available Thursday, March 7 – Sunday, March 10.

Reservations made before Friday, February 15 will be at the listed convention rates.

Convention meetings and activities will take place at all three hotels.

### **Hampton Inn Gadsden/Attalla I-59 (Co-Headquarters)**

#### **NOT Hampton Inn Gadsden – that is a different hotel**

206 Walker Street

Gadsden, AL 35904

Call 256-538-5222 for Reservations

King	\$92
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Queen/Queen	\$92
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### **Comfort Suites (Co-Headquarters)**

96 Walker Street

Gadsden, AL 35904

Call 256-538-5770 for Reservations

King	\$80
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Queen/Queen	\$80
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Room upgrades available for additional cost, ask the reservationist if interested.

### **Holiday Inn Express**

106 Walker Street

Gadsden, AL 35901

Call 256-691-0225 for Reservations

King	\$89.99
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Queen/Queen	\$89.99
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Room upgrades available for additional cost, ask the reservationist if interested.

*David Crenshaw reporting*

## Atlanta Vocal Project are Pirates of the Caribbean



Most people get dirty looks and terse rebukes for just whispering in a movie theater, but members of Atlanta Vocal Project not only spoke but also sang during a movie and received roaring standing ovations for doing so. The chorus was invited by the famed Atlanta Symphony Orchestra to sing with them under the direction of legendary Hollywood conductor Richard Kaufman as the Disney film *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* played in Atlanta's Symphony Hall. The 27 singers were happy to work through the 144-page vocal score to get the amazing experience of sharing the stage with such amazing musicians. The enthusiastic audience responses from the two packed performances showed they enjoyed the experience almost as much as we did.

*David Crenshaw, reporting*

# Atlanta Vocal Project meets to install officers, presents awards

On January 24, 2013, the Atlanta Vocal Project held its annual Installation and Awards Dinner at Sophia's in Roswell, GA. with over 70 people attending this joyous event that featured great Food, Fun, Fellowship, and FRED!



The honorable Dr. Drayton Justus installed AVP's officers with the gusto and passion you would expect from a Quartet Gold Medalist and past President of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Three AVP members were honored with awards as follows: President's Award - Harland Ragle; Director's Award - David Crenshaw; and Barbershopper of the Year Award - Dave Fobart.

The ever-hilarious FRED entertained the crowd with their wacky antics and incredible harmonies and we realized how fortunate we are to have these characters in the Atlanta area.

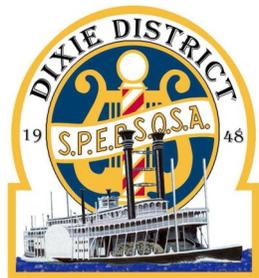
It was a wonderful night that celebrated a fantastic 2012 and kicked off what promises to be an exciting 2013 for the Project.

## Alabama Music Educators Association

The Dixie District was represented at the Alabama Music Educators Association (AMEA) convention in Montgomery, Alabama on January 10-13. Copies of the Music Educator's Packet were provided by the Society. The booth and a program advertisement were paid for by the District and manned by Woody Westmore and Fred Bender of the Huntsville Chapter.

Interested visitors included a number of music teachers and students. Teacher packets were given to current music teachers and recent graduates hoping for positions in the near future. HX Camp flyers were given to both teachers and students. Some expressed surprise at the low cost for the camp.

Hundreds of high school and university students and around 140 choral music teachers attended the convention and may have seen the program ad and display booth.



## 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 **February 25, 2013**. Submissions should be sent to:

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

## Promote Yourself In The Convention Program!

Bob Davenport, District VP, Marketing/PR

All Dixie District chapters and quartets are invited to purchase advertising in the upcoming spring convention program to promote annual shows, etc. As you know, the spring convention is March 8-10 in Gadsden, AL. The deadline for ads and payment is Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Camera-ready ads and payments MUST be sent to District Secretary Russell Bell. Russell's address is 2716 Braemore Glen SW, Powder Springs, GA 30127-1760. His email is [r.k.bell2007@gmail.com](mailto:r.k.bell2007@gmail.com), and his phone number is 404-863-8241. Vernon Lunsford, the program publisher, can be contacted at [vernon@qpgraphics.com](mailto:vernon@qpgraphics.com) if you have any questions for him.

Here are the dimensions and prices for the program ads:

- Quarter Page: 2 1/8 x 3 1/4..... \$50.00
- Half Page: 4 3/4 x 3 1/4..... \$75.00
- Full Page: 10 x 3 1/4..... \$100.00

This is a great avenue through which chapters can announce their shows and other events and for quartets to promote themselves for performance opportunities, etc. Please let me know if you have any questions. We'll see you in Gadsden on March 8!

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