



Dixie Town Crier

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

February 2014

Volume 6, Issue 2



March 14-16

Make Plans to Attend the 2014 Dixie District Spring Convention and Contest in Nashville

We are just a few short weeks away from the 2014 Dixie District Spring Convention and Contest to be held in beautiful Nashville, Tennessee! The venue for the contest session will be Donelson Fellowship Church, and the official hotel is the Nashville Airport Marriott.

Contest Administrator Jim Sams has outlined a variety of contest, evaluation only, and coaching session plans. Details are included on page 4 of this issue.



The hotel is now accepting reservations for the weekend. The rate code for the convention rate is "Dixie District". You have three ways to reserve your room:

1. Call the hotel directly at 615-889-9300.
2. Call the Marriott reservation line at 1-800-228-9290.
3. Book online thru the link located on the convention page at www.dixiedistrict.org.

Rooms will be available from Thursday, March 13, through Sunday, March 16. The last day to make reservations at the convention rate is Wednesday, February 13th. After 5pm on February 13th rates will be based on hotel occupancy. Don't delay - book now!

Several suites are available for chapter hospitality rooms at a really great price. For information contact Jack Donaldson, jdevents@hotmail.com, 865-607-7681.

Please check the Dixie District website for registration information updates.

www.dixiedistrict.org



Suggestions for Dixie District Chapters in 2014

by Stan Peppenhorst
VP of Marketing & Public Relations
Memphis Men of Harmony and the Dixie District

Data gathered during the 2011 Society Chapter Visitation Program, provided five main areas of focus for the Society to further assist chapters. Society members personally contacted 756 chapters, and the results indicate that chapters would like assistance in and better strategies for these areas:

- **Recruitment**
- **Frequent visits from and communication with District and Society staff and officers**
- **Coaching help for chapters**
- **Planning and implementing shared activities with other chapters**
- **Modernization of the music and arrangements available through the Society.**

The first four areas were discussed in focus groups during the Society Leadership Forum in Nashville in November 2013, and more information and assistance is forthcoming from the Society on each of these areas. (See the current January/February 2014 issue of *The Harmonizer*, pages 14-17. In the area of music, be sure to look at the “Song(s) of the Week” on the Society’s weekly *LiveWire* being sent by email. There is also an archive of previous issues.

As a chapter sets its goals for 2014 and beyond, it is important that the members and chapter realize that each is also part of a greater brotherhood and society. It is through our individual and chapter commitments in the Dixie District that we are also able to assist each other in individual and chapter goals and in the above-mentioned focus areas. We should continue to share information, ideas, and suggestions with other barbershoppers during our two Dixie Conventions, through articles in this publication, and by social media as well as personal email and phone contact.

One area of focus is the planning and implanting of shared activities. Various opportunities can be created during the year for shared activities with other chapters to gain a greater unity of brotherhood. One shared activity that the *Memphis Men of Harmony (MMOH)* held last year was a night of fun, food, song, and fellowship with the *Casey Jones Barbershop Chorus*—the barbershoppers and their wives from Jackson and Henderson in West Tennessee. The Memphis Chapter provided the food and drink, while those from Jackson made the 90-mile trip to join in singing on the common rehearsal night. Activities included singing as a merged chorus, as individual choruses, and as mixed quartets with each quartet singing its choice of Polecat. Glenn Arnold, the *Casey Jones* Director, (a member of *MMOH* and *RSVP*) and D. C. Nash, Director of *MMOH*, shared in warm-up and directorship responsibilities.

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Suggestions for Dixie District Chapters in 2014

Providing Singing Valentines to the community is not only an excellent method to accomplish personal and chapter goals for the year, but the endeavor can strengthen a chapter's marketing and public relations efforts. Singing Valentines can aid in recruitment efforts, involve other chapters, and provide an opportunity for quartets to use more modern music and songs of love arranged in the barbershop style. Contact local television stations for media coverage and be sure to give the news-room event and contact information so a reporter and videographer can be present prior to and during the singing and presentation. This type of human-interest story provides an opportunity for barbershop singing and your chapter to be noticed by the public.

"QuickSilver", one of the quartets of *Memphis Men of Harmony*, was joined last Valentine's Day by the writer/producer and a videographer of *The Best Times* television show. *The Best Times* is a locally-produced half-hour show for the Memphis PBS station WKNO-TV. This particular episode entitled "A Musical Celebration!" features three segments on music and performance. The third and last segment (at 18:30 minutes) highlights barbershop history and singing and features "Quicksilver". The quartet surprises a person at a business, sings at an elementary school and presents roses to two teachers, and visit ladies at a senior retirement facility. Jim McLane and Jim Warner, veteran members of the quartet, are interviewed during the segment. When the interviewer asks Jim Warner what his favorite song is (and Jim does not hesitate in his answer), he replies, "I guess my favorite barbershop song is the one I am going to sing next."



QuickSilver: Jim McLane (Tenor), Erich Shultz (Lead), Jim Warner (Bass), Gary McPherson (Baritone)



Gary McPherson

In memoriam

November 24, 1939-November 29, 2013

This new year provides many opportunities at various events and locations to enjoy the hobby of barbershop singing and the fellowship it provides. One suggestion being offered is to have shared activities with other chapters and those who also love barbershop singing. The other suggestion is to provide Singing Valentines to the community and to connect with television reporters and staff. Contacts can be made by using Facebook, Twitter, email or telephone. Undertake the challenge to have your quartet(s) on the local news programs. Continually strive to attain your chapter's goals and those you have personally set. Yes, all of these apply: "Together, [we are] making the music that's making a difference". Be sure to "Sing to live and live to sing." and always "Keep the whole world singing."

New Options Available for Dixie District Spring Convention

Deadline Approaching for Chorus, Quartet Entries

By Jim Sams

VP Contest and Judging-Dixie Contest Administrator

vp-judging@dixiedistrict.org

The time is upon us once again to gather in Nashville, TN on March 14-16, 2014 for the 2014 International Quartet Prelims and Dixie Chorus Convention. The venue for the contest will be The Donelson Fellowship (church) at 3210 McGavock Pike, 37214, about 3.3 miles beeline from the headquarters Nashville Airport Marriott on 600 Marriott Drive, 37214, where most of us will be staying.

We will have a Dixie Quartet Prelim, HS/College Quartet Prelim, a Dixie Chorus Championship, and a Most Improved Chorus Award available. We will also offer a "Score for Evaluations Only" session for those choruses who do not wish to compete but would like to vie for the Most Improved Chorus. Your chorus will receive your personal scores and a 60 minute coaching evaluation session. We will also provide a "Score for Evaluation Only" option for any quartets, including NOVICE, to help you prepare for the Fall Dixie Quartet & Novice Quartet Championships! We just need YOU there to participate!

In addition to all of these exciting opportunities for our competitors, we will be changing up our "Evaluation Sessions" to actual "Coaching" opportunities unlike anything we have done before. Once the CJ-20's start coming in I will explain this competitor-oriented coaching and give each competitor, both quartets and choruses, your choice of what YOU are REALLY most interested in receiving during your hour-long coaching sessions!! More to follow!!

If there are choruses or non-competing quartets who do not wish to participate in the contest but would opt for another Chorus/Quartet Festival similar to what we had last fall (even BETTER!) in conjunction with the contest festivities, I need to hear from you post haste! We are striving to put together a cadre of Dixie coaches/judges, in addition to some judges from our regular judging panel, to work with 2-3 choruses or several quartets for at least an hour each. We could possibly put together a Joe Barbershopper mega chorus of these festival groups to sing a song or two for the convention audience in addition to singing as Mic Testers for the Chorus Contest on Saturday morning. Again, I need to hear from your chapters if you have ANY interest in this festival so that we can begin planning for those needs.
(jimsamsca@bellsouth.net)

If you have any trouble filling out the CJ-20 for your chorus or quartet, PLEASE contact me ASAP at 901-488-3128 and allow me to walk you through the process. If you need it, I will be more than happy to send you a copy of that lengthy explanation for you to work through. Again, I am available to help you fill out your CJ-20's if needed.

The cut off for CJ-20 entries for this convention is midnight **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21st**. That is three weeks from the start of the convention weekend. Any late entries will result in your quartet/chorus being put either at the beginning or end of the Official Draw! Please let me hear from you SOON as to what your plans are for this convention. I would like to know what your intentions are as early as possible so that I may contact you to discuss the possibilities with you. I want to be sure you understand ALL of the options available to you!

EACH of you is important to the well-being and future of our Dixie District. And we want you to have a grand experience at this 2014 Dixie Spring Convention. YES, Dixie **IS** having REAL CONVENTIONS now! IF you missed the 2013 Fall Convention, you DEFINITELY don't want to miss **THIS** Convention! Hopefully we may even have a few more surprises to whet your appetites! Stay tuned...and tune in!!

Y'all come!!

James Moore reporting

Georgia Spirit Sings at 2014 Youth Festival



Georgia Spirit participated in the 2014 International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival in Long Beach, California on January 31. The group included 39 singers, all from the Atlanta and North Georgia areas, with ages ranging from 12 to 23 and an average age of 16.5 years. The chorus worked hard for a period of three months on their performance set which included three barbershop songs performed under the direction of Clay Hine, Tim Brooks and Tim Reynolds.



David Belden reporting

Nashville Chapter Honors Shane Scott

The Nashville Chapter bid a fond farewell to tenor Shane Scott during the January 14 chapter meeting. Shane and his wife Kristi have moved to Valrico, Florida where Shane has accepted the pastorate of a church.

Shane was honored for his many contributions to the chapter. In addition to leading the tenor section, Shane frequently led the Music City Chorus through its focus and warm-up sessions.

Shane may be best known in the Dixie District as the tenor of the **2007 Dixie Quartet Champion Lunch Break**. As part of the evening, the original members of **Lunch Break** (Shane Scott, Eddie Holt, Mike O'Neill, and Drew Ellis) sang together one more time. Shane plans to continue to sing and perform with **Lunch Break**.



Shane will maintain his Nashville Chapter membership and plans to sing with the Music City Chorus in Las Vegas this summer.



GARY GROOT was also honored at a January meeting of the Nashville Chapter. Gary was presented the 2013 President's Cup in recognition of all of the "behind the scenes" work he undertakes to make the chapter a success. In the photo, Gary receives his award from Chapter President Charlie Davenport.

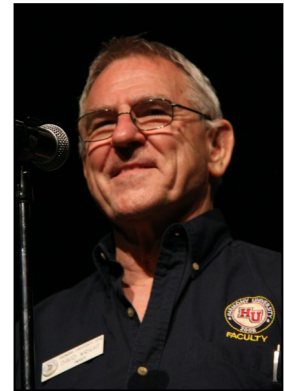


David Wright Presents his History of Barbershop in Atlanta

By Paul Schultz, Atlanta Vocal Project

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, David Wright will be presenting his History of Barbershop class in the Atlanta area. This is the same class David has been teaching at Harmony College since the early 1990s.

“I’ve sat in on at least a half dozen “David Wright History of Barbershop” classes over the years and wouldn’t dare miss the opportunity to take it again. David’s History of Barbershop Harmony is one of the finest presentations I’ve ever attended in all my years with the Society.” — Thom Hine



Between the morning and afternoon class sessions, a Chick-fil-A box lunch will be provided for those who choose to purchase the \$20.00 ticket. If you prefer to bring your own lunch, a \$15 ticket should be purchased for the training session only.

In addition to David’s History of Barbershop class, participants will also be entertained by the BHS 2013 International 3rd Place Quartet **A Mighty Wind**.

We invite all of our barbershop friends in the Dixie District to join us for David’s unique presentation as we learn more about our wonderful hobby together.

Tickets: \$20 Training Session + Chick-fil-A lunch included
\$15 Training Session only

Class time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

To purchase tickets, please make your check made payable to: **Atlanta Vocal Project**. Checks should be mailed along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Paul Schultz

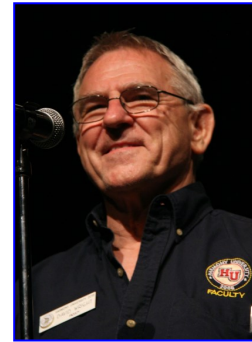
7 Tomahawk Trail

Anderson, SC 29621

If you have questions or would like more information about David’s History of Barbershop class, please contact Paul Schultz at: historyofbarbershop@gmail.com.

What is the History of Barbershop Harmony?

*On February 22, 2014, Atlanta Vocal Project will host a **History of Barbershop** class presented by David Wright. David has taught this very popular class at Harmony College since the early 1990s.*



*Attendees will also be entertained by the 2013 International Bronze Medalist Quartet **A Mighty Wind**.*

We invite all of our barbershop friends in the Dixie District to join us for David's unique presentation as we learn more about our wonderful hobby. David will also be teaching us some great tags during his very interesting class.

When: February 22, 2014
10:00AM – 4:00PM

Where: St. John United Methodist Church
550 Mt Paran Rd NW
Atlanta, GA 30327

Tickets: \$20 Training Session + Chick-fil-A box lunch included
\$15 Training Session only

For more information about the class or to purchase tickets, please contact

Paul Schultz at: historyofbarbershop@gmail.com



THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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

Dwain Chambers, President

Stan Peppenhorst, 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. Submissions should be sent to:

david.belden@comcast.net

Leadership Training Online!

Paul Wietlisbach, the new Dixie VP of Chapter Support and Leadership Training is pleased to announce that, for the first time, the Chapter Officer Training Program is making available recorded training sessions for Dixie chapter officers that can be accessed online. The sessions are available under "Training Online" on the Dixie District website (www.dixiedistrict.org) and can be viewed directly in any modern web browser. The sessions currently available are for Chapter Membership, Chapter Treasurer and Chapter Secretary. Sessions for other officer positions will be recorded and made available soon.



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