



Dixie Town Crier

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



November 1, 2015

Volume 7, Issue 11

MCC, AVP Qualify for International Chorus Contest



The **Music City Chorus** (above) from Nashville, TN, was the Plateau AAA winner at the Dixie District Fall Convention and will be the district representative at the 2016 BHS International Chorus Contest in Nashville next summer. **Music City Chorus** scored a Dixie District Fall Contest record of 87.2.

The **Atlanta Vocal Project** posted a score of 81.9. That score was enough to earn **AVP** a wild card spot at the international chorus contest.



(All District Contest Photos
Courtesy of Tony Nichols)



PLATEAU AA CHAMPION—**SOUND OF TENNESSEE**, CLEVELAND, TN



PLATEAU A CHAMPIONS and MOST IMPROVED CHORUS
CHOO CHOO CHORUS, CHATTANOOGA, TN



2015 DIXIE DISTRICT QUARTET CHAMPIONS
GREAT AMERICAN SOUND MACHINE
NASHVILLE, TN and ELIZABETHTOWN, KY

**SENIOR QUARTET
CHAMPIONS**

TIME AND AGAIN

**GERMANTOWN, TN
MEMPHIS, TN
FRANK THORNE**





**SENIOR QUARTET REPRESENTATIVES TO MIDWINTER
SWEET TEA
LAKE LANIER, GA**



**NOVICE QUARTET CHAMPIONS
BAKER'S HALF DOZEN
NASHVILLE, TN**



Stone Mountain Chorus

Presents their 2015 Fall Concert!

Featuring

"Atlanta's Premier Award-Winning Ladies Barbershop Chorus!"

Atlanta Harmony Celebration!



Barbershop Harmony from two Premier Choruses and their Quartets



Stone Mountain Chorus



Atlanta Harmony Celebration!

Saturday, Nov 14th (2pm and 8pm)

Peachtree Corners Baptist Church

4480 Peachtree Corners Circle, Norcross, GA

Doors Open One Hour Before Show Time

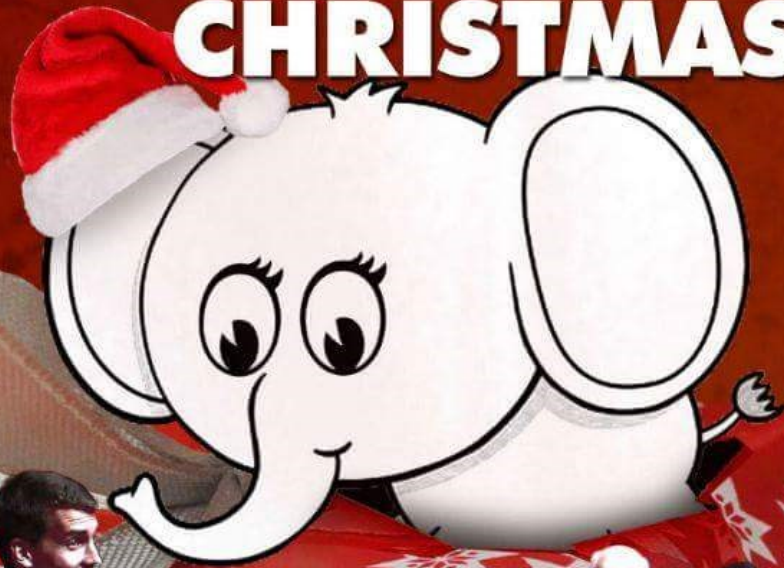


Order tickets online at www.stonemountainchorus.org

Advanced Tickets \$18 - Sr (60+) Student & Group (12+) \$15 - VIP Seating \$20 / Tickets at Door \$20

Music City
CHORUS
PRESENTS

A WHITE ELEPHANT CHRISTMAS



SATURDAY, DEC 5th, 2PM & 7PM

Live at Father Ryan High School

700 Norwood Dr, Nashville, TN 37203

Early Bird Price: \$15 (before Nov 1). Discounts available for students and seniors.

VIP seating also available for \$25 (VIP seating NOT available at the door).

For tickets, visit www.MusicCityChorus.org or call 615-200-6193



Henderson Hood's Legacy Continues

By Jess Helton

On September 6, 2015, several men of the **Appalachian Express Chorus** were able to attend and sing at a dedication for the late Henderson Hood who sang many years with the chorus. Henderson was also a leader and role model in the Boy Scouts, and he was honored with a bench at the local Boy Scout camp.

Henderson T. Hood (Lead), 82, of Kingsport, TN entered Chapter Eternal on Friday, January 10, 2014. He was a beloved presence in the chorus for years and was involved in various community initiatives. Henderson was an extreme people person. An inside joke among the chorus members is that Henderson knew everyone, literally. One story goes that a bus indicating it was from Northeast Tennessee stopped somewhere out of state. A native of that state inquired if anyone happened to know Henderson Hood just by associating the bus to Northeast Tennessee. Needless to say, he enjoyed the company of others. Henderson always had a story to tell and he never met a stranger.



Appalachian Express Chorus at East Tennessee State University Events

By Jess Helton

Appalachian Express Chorus (AEC) has been in the Tri-City area of East Tennessee for 45 plus years. However, our presence on the ETSU campus was very slim with an exception of a college quartet or two affiliated with the AEC. This changed in fall 2013.

At this time, newly-hired vocal professors for the ETSU Music Department had not yet formed musical ensembles nor had they selected a repertoire. ETSU was conducting its first undergraduate new student convocation in conjunction with the 32nd Annual Preview Program. The event needed vocals and the Music Department did not have a group available.

Tyler Carpenter, an ETSU undergraduate student at the time & AEC member, was associated with the New Student & Family Programs Office at ETSU. He recommended a quartet from AEC. The quartet consisting of Jess Helton (Lead), Larry Taylor (Tenor), Tyler Carpenter (Bass) and Phil Robertson (Baritone) sang the National Anthem and "What a Wonderful World" for over a thousand new students, current students, staff and faculty. This is how we got our foot in the door at ETSU.

This initial event has provided numerous opportunities for AEC members to sing at various sporting events and other engagements. The majority of the time the request is for a quartet to sing the National Anthem at an ETSU baseball, soccer, or basketball game. Our visibility has given the chorus opportunities such as participating in the "Men In Song" Choral Festival where AEC sang with male ensembles in our region. AEC hopes the opportunities will continue with ETSU.





Bill Schreiner: 50 Years of Falcon Football Memories

Barbershopper Bill Schreiner has been a fan of the Atlanta Falcons for all 50 years of their existence. In fact, Bill has been a season ticket holder for all 50 seasons. When the Falcons were planning their 50-year celebration, Bill was one of the people the team contacted to see if he had any special memories to share.

Indeed he did!

Bill shared that he had not only been attending games for 50 years, but that he had performed the National Anthem at games 25 times, both as a soloist and as a member of either a barbershop chorus or quartet. Bill proudly boasts that the Falcons have a record of 20 wins and only five losses when he sings, including a 9-1 stretch since 1999.

Bill was quite precise in detailing his singing experiences:

- * 2 appearances as a member of the **Atlanta Peachtree Chorus**
- * 2 appearances with the **Big Chicken Chorus**
- * 9 appearances with the **Good Time Singers Quartet**
- * 3 appearances with **129 & Counting Quartet**
- * 5 appearances with other BHS quartets
- * 4 solo performances of the National Anthem

One experience stands out as his most memorable performance. "I was paged out of the stands to perform the anthem when the scheduled anthem singer didn't show up. And yes, the Falcons beat the New Orleans Saints 35 to 7. So, I don't believe there are any other Falcon fans who can equal that one!"

Bill's story was shared in the **Atlanta Journal & Constitution** and was featured on the Jumbo Screen at the stadium as part of the 50-year celebration.



Bill Schreiner (on the left in both photos) is pictured singing with the quartet **129 & Counting** at two different Atlanta Falcon football games.)

Appalachian Express Chorus performs at second “Men in Song” Festival By Jess Helton

“Men in Song,” a two-day festival and concert celebrating male singers from throughout the region, was presented by the music departments of East Tennessee State University and Milligan College.

The festival included two days of rehearsals on October 3 and 4 and culminated in a free public concert in Milligan’s Seeger Chapel.

This second annual event was hosted by five community ensembles. Each was featured in the final concert. They include ETSU’s BucsWorth Men’s Choir, Milligan’s Heard Mentality, the **Appalachian Express Barbershop Chorus**, the Appalachian Men’s Ensemble, and MECCA Men (Mountain Empire Children’s Choral Academy).

“The goal for this festival is to inspire men of all ages, from students to retirees, to sing together,” said Dr. Alan Stevens, ETSU’s Associate Director of Choral Activities, who created the festival in 2014. “We want men in the region to be aware of the outstanding singing opportunities available in the Tri-Cities.”

The Men in Song Festival Choir was led by the following conductors: Mark Kettner, **Appalachian Express Chorus**; Dr. Thomas Jenrette, ETSU Professor Emeritus; Noah DeLong, Milligan Assistant Professor of Music; Dr. Matthew Potterton, ETSU Director of Choral Activities; and Dr. Alan Stevens. The Boys in Song Festival Choir was led by Jane Morison, director of MECCA.

The Appalachian Express Chorus was excited to partner once again in this celebration of male singers. It was a great experience for our participating singers to perform in a different venue to an audience that may not be familiar with our chorus or genre of music. AEC hopes to partner with this festival in future years to come. The weekend is funded through a gift from Jim and Sandy Powell.





Appalachian Express Chorus Proposes Unique Singing Valentines Partnership

By Jess Helton

The **Appalachian Express Chorus** seeks to partner its Singing Valentine Fundraising Program with the Southside Elementary School in Johnson City, Tennessee. If the PTA will advertise the **AEC** Singing Valentine Program to its membership, **AEC** will donate a portion of the proceeds to the PTA.

The **AEC** board discussed how valentine orders tend to fall when Valentine's Day is on the weekend and the difficulty in selling orders. Singing Valentine's is one of **AEC**'s primary sources of income for the year. Valentine's Day is on Sunday in 2016. **AEC** member Jess Helton's son goes to Southside Elementary School, and Jess reflected on the PTA's fundraising efforts, BHS articles on partnerships with community entities and **AEC**'s own fundraising efforts. An idea was formed, was approved by the **AEC** board, and a proposal was submitted to the PTA.

How will this work?

1. PTA will send correspondence to its membership prior to Valentine's Day.
2. Southside PTA membership will call the **AEC** phone number, **let the AEC representative know they are with Southside**, and place their order.
3. Singing Valentines will be delivered on Friday and Saturday, February 12-13, 2016. The **AEC** will submit payment within 14 days or by the end of the month to the PTA. The delay is due to credit card processing.

How will this benefit AEC?

1. It allows **AEC** to assist the PTA in raising funds it needs.
 2. It gives **AEC** exposure to people who may not be familiar with **AEC** or this program.
- It will hopefully increase **AEC** sales volume in a concentrated area.

A Singing Valentine costs \$40. For each valentine purchased by the Southside PTA membership, the **AEC** will give the PTA \$10. The **AEC** feels it is able to meet 50 orders maximum for Southside. **AEC** wanted to ensure it is able to fulfill its promise with the following considerations: number of quartets **AEC** has, unknown amount of orders outside of the PTA, and this being first year of possible implementation. This would be a possibility of \$500 for the PTA. All the PTA would have to do is make this known to its membership through its normal avenues of communication.

The proposal was submitted to the PTA President in October 2015. The **AEC** leadership is currently awaiting a reply.

All Chapters, Choruses, and Quartets Are Encouraged to Submit Photos, Articles, and Show Flyers for Publication in the DIXIE TOWN CRIER!



NO CHARGE

Please Submit Materials to:
David Belden, Editor
david.belden@comcast.net



NO CHARGE



The Nashville Chapter has been making an effort to increase its presence in the Nashville community. Recently the chapter sent speaker Wayne Grimmer and quartet **High Gravity** to make a presentation to the Nashville Chamber of Commerce—East Side. Future presentations to the West Side and Downtown groups are planned.



THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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

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

david.belden@comcast.net

2015 Dixie District Calendar

DIXIE DISTRICT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

January 16, 2016—Near Huntsville, AL

DIXIE DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION

March 18-20, 2016—Oxford, AL

BHS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

July 3-10, 2016—Nashville, TN

DIXIE HARMONY EXPLOSION CAMP

July 14-17, 2016

University of Tennessee—Chattanooga

BHS HARMONY UNIVERSITY

July 24-31, 2016

Belmont University—Nashville, TN

DIXIE DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

October 7-9, 2016—Dunwoody, GA