



# Dixie Town Crier

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



March 1, 2015      Volume 7, Issue 3



Huntsville, AL, March 13-15

## Its Spring Contest Time!

The Spring 2015 Dixie District Convention and Contest will be held in Huntsville, AL on March 13-15. The convention venue will be the East Hall of the Von Braun Center in downtown Huntsville. The headquarters hotel is the Embassy Suites next to the Von Braun Center.

Registration for the convention is now taking place online at [www.dixiedistrict.org](http://www.dixiedistrict.org). The registration price is now \$51. A mail-in form is also available on page 3 of this issue.

In addition to the headquarters hotel, rooms will be available at the Spring Hills Suites and Homestead Suites. Links to these hotels, including rates and convention codes, are available on the district website: [www.dixiedistrict.org](http://www.dixiedistrict.org).

### QUARTET PRELIMINARIES Friday 7:00 p.m.

- MT
- 1 Out of the Blue
  - 2 Loop 10
  - 3 Solid Racket Boosters
  - 4 Sagacity
  - 5 The Fine and Dandies
  - 6 Steel City Four
  - 7 High Gravity
  - 8 Crew Tones
  - 9 Debut
  - 10 RedZone
  - 11 MC4
  - 12 A Mighty Wind
  - 13 The Crush

### QUARTET FINALS Saturday 6:00 p.m.

### CHORUS CONTEST Saturday 10:00 a.m.

- MT Joe Barbershopper  
Chorus
- 1 Choo Choo Chorus
  - 2 Southern Splendor  
Chorus
  - 3 Stone Mountain  
Chorus
  - 4 The Big Chicken  
Chorus
  - 5 Memphis Men of  
Harmony
  - 6 Smokyland Sound
  - 7 The Appalachian  
Express
  - 8 Crimson Pride Chorus
  - 9 Voices of the South
  - 10 Music City Chorus

*Michael Brunson Reporting*

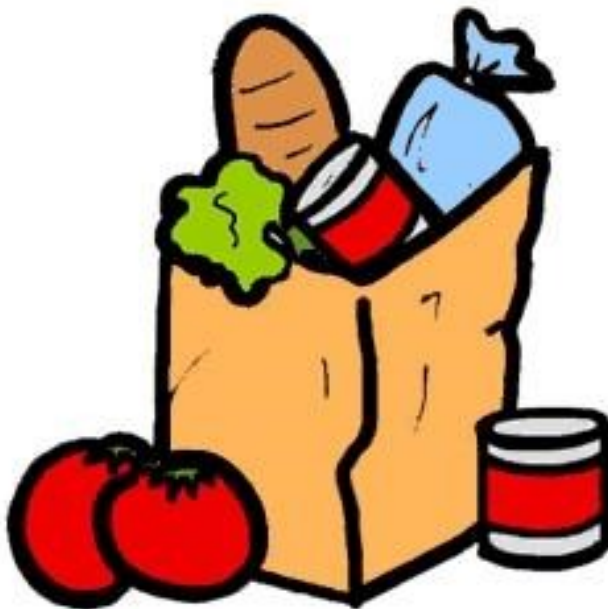
## Co-Op Pantry restocked thanks to SMC



**Stone Mountain Chorus** helped the Southeast Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry raise more than \$4,000 and over 1,200 pantry food items. On Saturday, January 31, **Stone Mountain Chorus** performed at Grayson United Methodist Church in a benefit for the Southeast Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry, a food-relief ministry located in Grayson. This event was aimed at restocking the shelves after a busy holiday season. In front of a nearly full house, SMC regaled the audience with classic barbershop songs, as well as some more contemporary pieces. The Co-op managed to raise \$4345 and to collect 1,267 pantry items, thus meeting their goals for the event..

The Southeast Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry serves Grayson, Loganville, and Snellville in Gwinnett County, GA which includes a population of 32,000 residents.

**Stone Mountain Chorus** has been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society since 1981, and remains a major player in the barbershop scene in Atlanta. The Chorus most recently won the Dixie District contest in 2010. The chapter is located in Peachtree Corners, GA and perform year round.





**Dixie District Spring 2015 Convention  
March 13-15, 2015 – Huntsville, Alabama**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (ex. B104)

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Chorus/Quartet: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Handicapped Services Needed **(Request must be received prior to March 1, 2015)**

Description	How Many	Cost	Total
Early Bird Registration Member		\$41.00	
Early Bird Registration Guests		\$41.00	
If mailed after March 1 add \$10.00 per registration		\$10.00	
		Total Due	

**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, American Express or Discover)**

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

Print Name as it appears on Card \_\_\_\_\_ CVV2 Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

email to:  
 registration@dixiedistrict.org

\*Form must be Postmarked by  
 March 1, 2015 to receive early  
 bird registration rate.

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

**OR REGISTER ONLINE AT [www.dixiedistrict.org](http://www.dixiedistrict.org)**

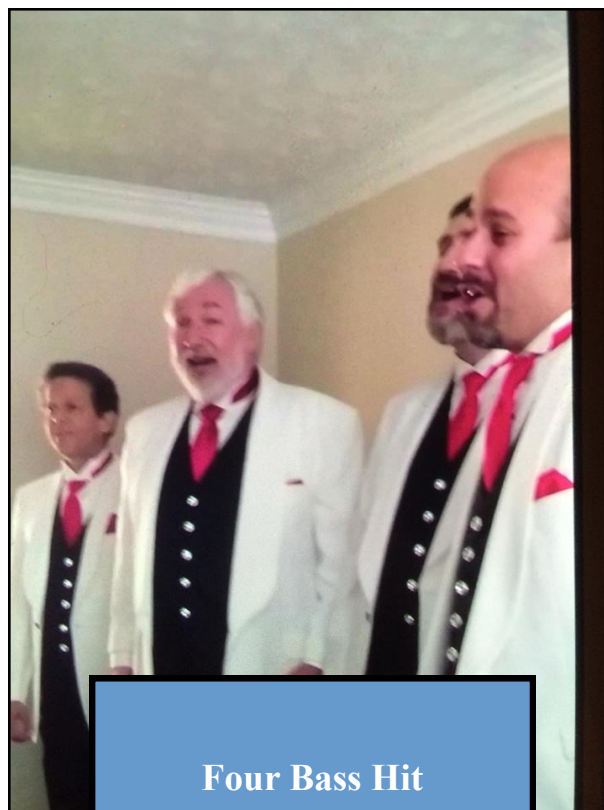
Stone Mountain Chorus, Michael Brunson reporting

# Charity benefits from Singing Valentine Program



Up Front

The Stone Mountain Chorus used their Singing Valentines program this year to help assist Families of Children Under Stress (FOCUS), a charity supporting the families of children with extra and special needs.



Four Bass Hit  
featuring Dylan Oxford



## Youth In Harmony

Jim Moore, VP

### Date set for Harmony Explosion Camp

Put this date on your calendar: July 16 – 19, 2015, Harmony Explosion Camp, University of Tennessee Chattanooga.

### Harmony University Music Educator Scholarship Nominations

If you know of a music educator that would like to attend Harmony University on a full Dixie District scholarship, you may submit that teacher's nomination before April 1, to Jim Moore, 3385 Breton Court NE, Atlanta, GA 30319. Include a resume and a letter indicating interest in attending.



**Did you know there is NO CHARGE to run your chapter's show flyer in the Dixie Town Crier?**

## COMING THIS SPRING!

### Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive (CDWI)

This one-day event is open to chorus directors and assistants\*. Here is your chance to sharpen your directing skills under the tutelage of some of the very best chorus director coaches in the Society.

In this one-day workshop:

**Learn** through one-on-one coaching in front of a live chorus.

**Grow** through immediate video review and trainer feedback.

**Be Empowered** to effect positive change in yourself and in the chorus.

**CDWI is limited to 5 directors so secure your spot early.**

**Date:** May 16, 2015

**Place:** Birmingham, AL

**Cost:** \$150 (a great chapter investment in its director)

For further information contact: John Buttler: [jbuttler@my.athens.edu](mailto:jbuttler@my.athens.edu) or  
Frank Holmes: [fholmes@devsollc.com](mailto:fholmes@devsollc.com)

\*Front line directors will be given preference.

### Restaurant Partnership “Experiment” a Big Success

## The Big Chicken Chorus, Roswell Firehouse Harmony Brigade team up to deliver more than 100 Singing Valentines

Topping over 100 Singing Valentine orders and performing over 150 times, eight quartets and a 10-man VLQ hit the ball out of the park this past Valentine’s Day. According to Terry “T-Bone” Morrison, the coordinator for the Singing Valentine Program, a total of 45 members from the **Big Chicken Chorus**, Marietta, GA, and the **Roswell Firehouse Harmony Brigade**, Roswell, GA, teamed up and made every delivery on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup>. Although there were some last-minute substitutes needed due to illness, and a few last-minute orders were made, members came through “like champs” to support the cause.

In addition to newspaper coverage and a web-based ordering system, a new initiative that boosted sales this year was the “Restaurant Partnership.” This was an idea to sell a “SV order” to selected restaurants. A quartet was provided to any time in a 3-hour time window (6pm – 9 pm) for their dinner guests. We were interested in higher-end restaurants that would be attracting a reservation for a romantic Valentine’s Day dinner. A few restaurant owners were approached with this concept, and they were very receptive to the idea. The restaurants were willing to work with us, with one even purchasing their own roses, so we called this a “Restaurant Partnership.” The local newspaper editor was equally enthusiastic and ran a special front page Lifestyle section article mentioning the restaurants, which was nice advertising for them. One restaurant even agreed to host a photo shoot for us and we sent one of our quartets. Dressed in the tuxedos, they also performed, so an additional benefit is that we now have a publicity video for next year.

The price started at the standard rate for a song at a few different tables, but it was higher for those who requested more time and more songs. One restaurant owner promoted this on their marquee and immediately received 12 dinner reservations. We will re-visit pricing next year.

The quartets all agreed that this made for a very enjoyable evening for them. They even stayed and enjoyed the good food and libations!



**The Men of Note** quartet members Jake Simpson (sub), Rick French, Hal Freshour, and Ron Magnuson with a satisfied customer.



**“129 and Counting”** quartet members Bill Schreiner, Shelby Robert, Ray Taylor and Bob Snelling, entertained many guests at the Delkwood Grill in Marietta.



**The Cartersville Crooners** VLQ secured their own radio and newspaper publicity, and delivered 16 Singing Valentines to residents and businesses in the Cartersville area. From left to right: Keith Lay, Steven Smith, E.J. Loi, Jim Cox, Bill Devine, Dave Elvers, Alan Bowen, Tony Boyd, Frank Evans, Mac McKenzie.



**Sunday Serenade** quartet members Terry Morrison, Wayne Austin, Mike Cumbie and Jake Overton deliver a Singing Valentine to the Gift Shop manager at the Wellstar-Paulding Hospital.



**The Untouchables** quartet members Tony Boyd, Rufus Massey, Doug Eades (sub), and Neil Hutcheson delivered a Singing Valentine to a local restaurant owner's wife.



Our quartet **Drew Grindley** provided a publicity photo for the restaurant partnership which was used in the newspaper. Members are Josh Grindley, Reed Williams, Brian Williams, Drew Grindley.

Roswell's **Sunnyside Up** quartet delivering a Singing Valentine - Chuck Pettis, Dick Lord, Stan Checkoway, and Dan Robeson.



**Terry "T-Bone" Morrison Reporting**



**WORLD'S BEST WARM-UP ROOM**—When the Nashville Chapter quartet **High Gravity** made a Singing Valentines promotional stop at WSM Radio, they were invited to use the center stage of the Grand Ole Opry as their warm-up room!

*David Belden Reporting*

## Nashville Quartets Cover Hundreds of Square Miles



With hundreds of square miles to cover, six different **Nashville Chapter** quartets spread out across Middle Tennessee on February 13 and 14 to deliver musical love. Participating quartets included **Legacy, Sagacity, High Gravity, Tennessee Vocal Authority, MC4, and Dino Chords**. Bob Davenport was the coordinator of this year's Singing Valentine program. The quartets visited schools, homes, churches, restaurants, places of business, and gatherings big and small.





# Celebrating 100 Valentine Days

Very few people can say they have celebrated 100 Valentine Days, but Olive Davenport, mother of Dixie District Executive VP Charlie Davenport, has done just that. Mrs. Davenport was feted at a memorable 100th birthday celebration in Nashville on February 14, 2015. Among the many friends and family present for the occasion was **MC4**, the current Dixie District Champion Quartet. **MC4** had appeared earlier in the week on Nashville TV 4 and were out delivering Singing Valentines when they made their most memorable stop. The **Nashville Chapter** is honored to say "Happy 100th Birthday, Miss Olive!"



## MUSIC CITY CHORUS COACHING SESSION —

International Gold Medalist Brandon Guyton conducted a coaching session during a **Music City Chorus** rehearsal in early February. Brandon asked chorus members to consider which was prominent when singing: The Storyteller or The Barbershopper? Chorus member Stan Peppenhorst created this illustration of that message to help the men on the risers focus on the message.



**HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD  
THE SEQUEL!**

Saturday, April 18, 2015  
7:30 pm

**Central High Auditorium**

905 15th St., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

*Special Guest Quartet:*

**STORM FRONT**

*2010 International Champions*

**Tickets: \$15 Adults \$10 Student/Senior**

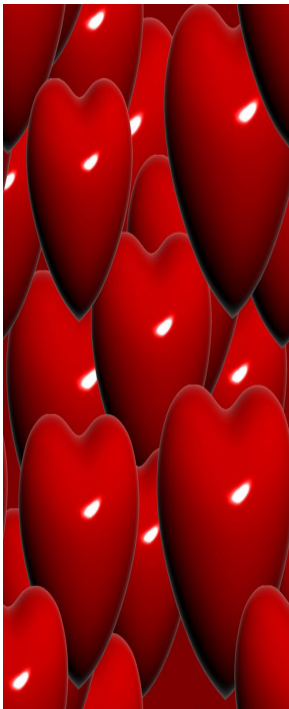
For More Information Call (205) 345-5805

*Frank Holmes Reporting*

# Central Alabama Chapter's Six Quartets Deliver 60 Singing Valentines

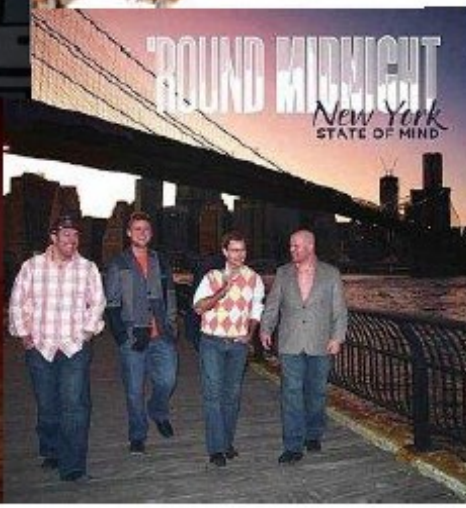


Central Alabama Chapter had a total of six quartets in various configurations of personnel that delivered 60 valentines over a three-day period (Feb 12-14). This resulted in gross income to the chapter of just over \$4,300. Interestingly, about one-third of the recipients this year were male. There were many more females ordering valentines than in the past.



## Dixie District Marketplace

While at the Spring Convention, be sure to visit the Marketplace and purchase those barbershop items you need and want. There will be Society and Dixie District products such as pitch pipes, CDs, lapel/lanyard pins, and shirts.





## 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 March 25. Submissions should be sent to:

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

# 2015 Dixie District Calendar

## Spring Contest

March 13-15

Huntsville, Alabama

## Harmony Explosion Camp

July 16-19

University of Tennessee Chattanooga

## Fall Contest

October 23-25

Dunwoody, Georgia

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