



Dixie Town Crier

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

Chuck Witherspoon

September 1, 2016 Volume 8, Issue 9



Dixie District Fall Convention

Atlanta, GA • October 7-9, 2016

International Chorus Preliminaries • Dixie Quartet Championship

Youth Quartet Contest • House of Delegates

Contest Venue and Hotel All Under One Roof!

Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia

4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road • Atlanta, GA 30346

Host Chapter: Greater Atlanta • Stone Mountain Chorus

District Convention Chairman: Jack Donaldson

Registrar: Russell Bell

Convention Registration

All Contestants must buy a Convention Registration.

Type	EARLY-BIRD <i>Order by Sep 23</i>	REGULAR <i>Sep 24 - Oct 5</i>	Online registration ends Oct 5. Registration will be available on site.
Individual	\$41.00	\$51.00	
Family (up to 4 people)	\$100.00	\$110.00	
Child (6 and under)	Free	Free	

Individual Contest Session Tickets for will be available on-site:

Quartet Semi-finals and Chorus Contest - \$20.00

Quartet Finals - \$25.00

HOTEL INFORMATION and ONLINE REGISTRATION

www.dixiedistrict.org

Deadline is September 16

Quartets and Choruses: Time to Register for Fall Contests

The Dixie District Fall Convention is scheduled for October 7—9, 2016. Everything is scheduled to be held under one roof at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30346.

Information has been emailed to chapter representatives. The cut-off date for CJ-20 entries for this convention is midnight September 16. Contests include Dixie Quartet Championship, Seniors Quartet Prelim, a Senior Quartet Championship, a Novice Quartet Championship, a Super Novice Quartet Championship, an International Chorus Prelim, Chorus Plateau winners and Most Improved Chorus Award. A Score for Evaluations Only session will also be offered.

The Evaluation/Coaching Sessions will be held following the quartet finals and the chorus finals. Different evaluation/coaching options will be offered:

- 1) No Evaluation or Coaching
- 2) Evaluation Only-3 judges 15min each
- 3) Coaching-3 judges 20min each
- 4) Coaching-2 judges (SNG/PER) 30min each
- 5) Coaching-2 judges (SNG/MUS) 30min each
- 6) Coaching-2 judges (MUS/PER) 30min each
- 7) Your choice of judges (based on 1st come, 1st served)
for options 4-6 (Indicate in comment section on CJ-20.)

Judges who are on the Official Panel: MUS- John Burri (EVG) and Tom Genrty (JAD); PER-Mike Lietke (LOL) and Paul Wietlisbach (DIX); SNG-Matt Fellows (MAD) and Bob McFadden (CAR). All judges just completed certification at the C & J Category School in Nashville.

All questions and requests for assistance should be directed to Jim Sams, Contest Administrator



***Fall Convention:
October 7-9 in Atlanta***

Reported by Jim Moore, Atlanta Vocal Project

One Thing Leads to Another

When an opportunity to sing for a group of disabled Veterans in Carrollton, Georgia came up, Dennis Brannon quickly assembled a quartet consisting of himself and Jim Moore from the **Atlanta Vocal Project**, and Roger Beale and Paul Butterworth from the **Peachtree City Chapter**. So on Saturday, August 20, at an ice cream social at the Trinka Davis Veterans Facility (with the help of the Patriot Guard Riders), that performance happened

It also happened that conversations had been taking place with a high school music educator in Carrollton regarding her use of barbershop in her classroom and with her boys' quartet. Teacher Sydney Sewell attended our BHS 2016 Harmony University and is engaged to a barbershopper who sang in a youth chorus from Georgia Southern University in the New Orleans mid-winter festival.

Sydney was made aware that the VA quartet would be in the area. Timing could not have been better. It turned out that there was a choir wide retreat at the high school taking place at the exact time that the VA gig finished, so we were invited to Central High School.

At the retreat, three mixed ensembles performed for us, and the Central Harmony Quartet sang for us. What a great music program Sydney is developing there! Then we performed for them, taught a tag and sang tags with the quartet and with the very appreciative teacher. An unexpected and last minute arrangement turned out to be a wonderful and rewarding experience. You can expect to see more involvement in barbershop from these wonderful young singers.



Would You Like to Be a Judge?

by **Jim Sams,**

VP of C&J-Dixie (DRCJ)/Contest Administrator

The time is drawing near for all barbershoppers to begin thinking seriously about getting into the Contest and Judging program. Currently we have only **fifteen certified judges** in Dixie District (2-Contest Administrators, 2-Music, 6 Performance, and 5-Singing Judges). We are always looking for more men who have a desire to study and prepare for the C&J program. It takes time, money, and commitment to make the "cut," but the rewards of camaraderie and service far outweigh the costs of preparation.

I would suggest that you begin to line up TWO certified judges in the category that you wish to enter (Contest Administrator, Music, Performance, Singing) to recommend you, via letter or email, to your DRCJ (that's me!). You will also need to find FIVE other character references to vouch for you as an applicant for the C&J program. Please consider Society members who know your abilities and who can comment on your suitability for the judging program. Application forms for all four categories are in my possession at the present time. In three years from now when this process starts over, the forms will be online in the Contest and Judging Handbook. I will be happy to send them to you if you are interested. I also have the newest brochures describing these four categories for your reading enjoyment. Don't let them scare you out of applying! These will also be located in the C&J Manual as well in 3 years. I would strongly suggest that you do some study and ask some questions of certified judges or reading your particular category brochure before deciding to enter the program.

Timeline: The TWO letters or emails of recommendation can be sent immediately. EACH RECOMMENDATION LETTER MUST BE SIGNED BY YOUR TWO SPONSORS and them can be faxed or emailed to me as well. You can also send the application form TO ME at the same time or shortly thereafter. When the application form is completed and I have received the two letters from your sponsor, and I have received the five reference surveys that I will send out based on your application, I will send your packet, along with my recommendation, to the Category Specialist over your chosen judging category. The application process will end **December 15, 2016**. You will be notified in early 2016 if you have been accepted as an **Applicant** in the program. Your training will begin as you are prepared for **C&J Candidate School** which will be held in July, 2017 during the week-end of the beginning of Harmony University on the campus of Belmont University in Nashville.

Once you have "passed" the requirements at Candidate School you will then be a **Candidate Judge** in your category. You will then have another **two** years to prepare for the **2019 Category School** in July where you will hopefully be certified for **three years**. During this two year program you will attend a minimum of THREE conventions a year as a GUEST panelist to ply your trade and learn from the certified panel you will be working with. You will also have some homework to complete during those two years which will also help determine whether or not you receive an invitation to attend the Category School. It is not an automatic invitation anymore. You have to earn your wings before you can fly!

I hope this helps answer any questions you might have about the C&J application process. I will be more than happy to help any of you along the way. Please feel free to contact me at any time. Best wishes and a pleasant journey in your search for the "holy grail" of certification in the C&J program.

Jim Sams, jimsamsca@bellsouth.net, (901) 488-3128



The **Heart of Georgia Chorus** supported the recent Southeast Regional Little League Championship games on August 6th, 2016 by singing the National Anthem. (Photo by Eric Shoemaker, bass.)

Chapter News? Show Posters? Photos?

Please share in the Dixie Town Crier!

Email information to: david.belden@comcast.net

Mixed Harmony Quartetting Is Alive In Dixie!

By Jim Sams

Finally, the opportunity has arrived for our community mixed quartets to have another outlet to ply their craft! A few years ago, the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) challenged our districts to begin inviting mixed quartets to participate in our district quartet contest sessions. The guidelines and rules were left up to the Districts.

Only 2 of the 17 districts in the BHS (Mid-Atlantic and Southwestern Districts) have accepted this challenge and have held several contests. Now Dixie District is ready to jump in and begin looking for mixed quartets in our geographical area who might be interested in coming to our Spring Convention the weekend of March 17-19, 2017 to participate with us!

The competition will be held on Friday evening March 17, 2017 in Huntsville, AL and will be limited to 10 quartets on a first come/first served basis. As you can see, we have plenty of time to find active mixed quartets or to encourage some who have always wanted to try mixed quartetting to prepare for this appearance! Here are the guidelines:

- **Quartets must be composed of one, two, or three members of one gender (M/F) and at least one member of the opposite gender, e.g., MMMF, MMFF, or MFFF.**
- **Any vocal configuration (T, L, Br, Bs) is acceptable.**
- **This event is open to ALL singers regardless of BHS, SAI, and /or HI affiliation.**
- **Each quartet member must purchase an all-events ticket (\$39.00) to the Dixie District Convention in which the contest is held.**
- **Quartets are not expected to be registered with the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS).**
- **Each contestant is expected to perform two songs.**
- **All songs performed in the contest must be contestable and arranged in the barbershop style according to BHS rules and MUS/PER/SNG category descriptions. The following is the link to the Contest & Judging Handbook should you need it. <http://www.barbershop.org/files/documents/contestandjudging/C&J%20Handbook.pdf>**
- **All contestants are required to observe copyright laws in the acquisition, arranging, learning, and performance of songs and arrangements.**
- **Other than a pitch pipe (manual or electronic) used for brief pitch taking prior to the beginning of a song, no musical instruments or instrumental accompaniment is permitted.**
- **All competing mixed quartets will have the opportunity to participate in evaluation/coaching with the judging panel following the contest session.**
- **Quartet members may compete in only one mixed quartet at this event.**
- **A Championship plaque will be presented to the winning quartet.**
- **For those interested, the top scores will be shared with one or our affiliates, BinG (Barbershop in Germany) for a possible invitation to sing in the International Mixed Barbershop Quartet Championship held every two years in March in Munich, Germany. The next Barbershop Musik Festival will be held in March 2018.**

Mixed barbershop opens exciting new opportunities and perspectives to barbershop as a modern, living style of music. It will help promote barbershop even more and makes it even more interesting, especially to young singers.

My contact information will be given below. Please share this information with ALL of your chapter members and anyone who can share this with other singing groups in your community. IF you need any other information, please contact me and I will be more than happy to talk with you about this opportunity.

I look forward to an exciting weekend in Huntsville next spring as we introduce mixed quartetting to our district membership and audiences. I hope each of you will plan on coming and bringing others with you to enjoy a great barber-shopping weekend of harmony! Mark your calendars NOW!

jimsamsca@bellsouth.net

(901) 488-3128



THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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

Charlie Davenport, President

James Donaldson, 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. Submissions should be sent to:

david.belden@comcast.net

2016 Dixie District Calendar

DIXIE DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

October 7-9, 2016

Dunwoody, GA

You are invited to...

THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE!

This Fall, Harmony Foundation International and the Contest & Judging program are again teaming up to auction off the Best Seat in the House. So if you've ever wanted to test out your judging chops, you can bid on a seat in the Judge's pit at the Dixie District Contest/Convention and be a 'Judge for a Day'.

[Register on the BSITH website \(http://BSITH.Harmonize.com\)](http://BSITH.Harmonize.com) and bid for as many contest sessions as you wish. Winners will sit with the judging panel, will be able to (unofficially) score contestants, will discuss the contest afterwards with the judges, and will participate in the evaluation sessions that follow. They will be afforded the same access and privileges as the official panel.

Funds raised by the BSITH program will be applied to the programs and projects supported by Harmony Foundation.

Contact: BSITH@harmonize.com. If you have any further questions, please contact Jim Sams VP of Contest & Judging for the Dixie District. jimsamsca@bellsouth.net (901) 488-3128.