

The Dixie District's **REBEL ROUSER**

Alabama · Georgia · Mississippi · Tennessee · Eastern Arkansas
Summer 2015



Ready to Blast Off
From Huntsville to
Pittsburgh!

The Rebel Rouser

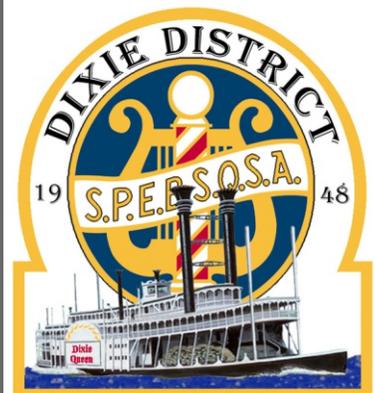
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Editor

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The Rebel Rouser is published quarterly by the Dixie District Association of Chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society.



Vision

The Dixie District is committed to enriching lives in every generation and community through the lifelong benefits of the barbershop style and other forms of a cappella singing.

Mission

The Dixie District SPEBSQSA, Inc., a charitable and nonprofit organization:

- Enriches lives through singing.
- Perpetuates and celebrates the barbershop harmony style.
- Serves each new generation of singers through support of vocal music education.
- Serves audiences through an uplifting, wholesome variety of a cappella musical entertainment.
- Helps our members by sharing fellowship, performance skills and leadership development.
- Helps build better communities and a better world by bonding diverse people through the pure fun of a cappella harmony as we keep the whole world singing!

Cover quartet photos courtesy of Miller Photography.

US Space and Rocket Center photo by Keith Therrell.

2015 Dixie District Executive Team/Board of Directors



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Dwain Chambers



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Charlie Davenport



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Keith Therrell



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Youth In Harmony



Jim Moore
Dixie District
YIH VP

In North Georgia, there are a number of high schools that have had a close relationship with Youth In Harmony programs over the past ten years. There have been several one day festivals, Harmony Explosion camps, combined shows with AVP, quartet contest participation, youth chorus festival participation, and

teachers attending Harmony College and University on scholarships. It should have been no surprise when several of these teachers came to me at the 2014 Harmony Explosion Camp suggesting that a great way to get barbershop exposure at other schools in Georgia would be to hold an ice cream social at the Georgia Music Educators Association All-State Chorus event in Athens in early March. This event is attended by just about every teacher with a successful vocal music program, as well as many of the state's best choral music students.

The suggestion was taken, and planning began. The students' busy rehearsal schedules left little flexibility, but it turned out that a Thursday night hour would fit. That happened to be the night that AVP normally rehearses. After some concessions on costs and catering, we arranged to hold the social in a space adjacent to the students' rehearsal rooms. How convenient is that?

With the help of a grant from Harmony Foundation, invitations to attend a barbershop workshop and enjoy a free ice cream and cookie treat went out to several hundred All-State choral students, as well as to more

than thirty music educators who had expressed an interest in knowing more about barbershop. Over 180 attended. They watched videos of some of barbershop's best quartets and choruses and heard explanations and demonstrations of the style by Dave Fobart. Loop 10, the Dixie District's College Quartet Champions, sang a couple of songs for them, as did Vox quartet. Clay Hine taught several tags to the group, and AVP performed a few of their Disney songs.

The teachers that suggested the event addressed the group and gave their endorsements, and Tim Sharp, the Executive Director of the National ACDA, who was at **(see YIH on page 4)**

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(YIH, continued from page 3)



tending the event as a director of one of the All-State choruses, also addressed the group and gave barbershop a great plug.

Already, I can see positive results from this event as registrations come in for the 2015 Harmony Explosion camp from new schools and from teachers who attended the event.

Each state in our District has a similar All-State Chorus event each year, and there is an opportunity to present barbershop at these. If you have an interest in this type of event and would like help in organizing it, please let me know.

Speaking of the HX Camp, it will be July 16 – 19 at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. This year, the dorms will be ones that are considered the best on the campus. The camp will again be co-ed, and the clinicians are Clay and Becki Hine, and Dusty Schleier. The teaching quartets for the girls will be Ballistic! from Atlanta, and for the boys, The Academy, 2014 International College Quartet Champions from Florida and Texas. The Saturday night show will be one that you will not want to miss,

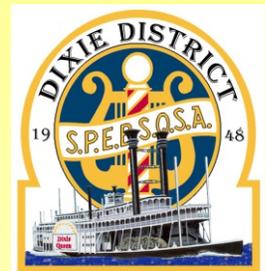
YOUTH
IN HARMONY

so please plan to attend at least that. If you can attend the entire camp as a teacher, singer, or chaperone, get your registration in soon. Forms and other information are on the Dixie website. Harmony Foundation and the Dixie District help to pay for the camp, so thank you for your help. Student fees this year are set at \$100.

There were no nominations this year for the music educator scholarships to attend Harmony University in Nashville. Keep this in mind for next year. This is a great way to make teachers aware of the benefits of introducing barbershop into their music programs.

Don't Forget!

**Dixie District
Fall Convention
& Contests**



October 23 -- 25, 2015

Crowne Plaza Ravinia

Atlanta, GA



David Belden: Dixie District 2014 Barbershopper of the Year

by Bob Davenport

At every Spring Convention, we honor a District member who has distinguished himself in service to the entire District. It was my privilege to present the 2014 Dixie District Barbershopper of the Year Award.



As Bob began his presentation, David was in position to photograph the 2014 BOTY for The Town Crier.

This year's recipient was an educator for 42 years in Ohio and Michigan, teaching special education, including middle school language arts, and later became a Principal. Even though he retired and moved to the South with his wife, Barbara, and their two dogs, he still cannot stay away from the classroom and continues to substitute teach in middle schools in the Middle Tennessee area. He also occasionally tutors young people who have various academic needs. I have seen firsthand how much he truly loves working with young people.

He has been a barbershopper for about 10 years, beginning with the Hillsdale, Michigan chapter and the **Town and Country Chorus**. While in Michigan, he was also the editor of the local Hillsdale newspaper. He continues to use those skills as the editor of the Nashville, TN chapter's weekly newslet-

ter, the **Music City Huzzah!** About 4 years ago, he agreed to become the editor of the **Dixie Town Crier**. His terrific work with the **Town Crier** was rewarded in 2012 when he received the District's Chuck Witherspoon Award.

This past December, the Nashville chapter also recognized him by naming him the chapter's 2014 Barbershopper of the Year. It has been quite a year for this gentleman, and it was my distinct honor to present the 2014 Dixie District Barbershopper of the Year Award to...Mr. David Belden!



David Belden (left) and Bob Davenport.



David and Barbara Belden.

2015 Spring Quartet Competitors



A Mighty Wind - International Qualifiers



MC4 - International Qualifiers



High Gravity



CREW Tones



Steel City Four



Sagacity

2015 Spring Quartet Competitors



The Fine and Dandies



Solid Racket Boosters



Debut (Score Only)



Phat Chords (Mic Tester)



The Crush (Out of District Qualifiers)

2015 Collegiate Quartet Competitors



Loop 10



Dixie District Collegiate Quartet Champion and Harmony Foundation Collegiate Quartet Contest Representatives.



Out of the Blue



Dixie District 2nd Place Collegiate Quartet Camden Hine accepts for Out of the Blue.



Also Headed to Pittsburgh...

Congratulations to three additional Dixie quartets that qualified out of district to compete in Pittsburgh in July. Good luck to all!



RedZone



Boardwalk



Prelude

2015 Spring Chorus Competitors



Nashville, TN
Music City Chorus
Dusty Schlier, Director
Dixie District Chorus Champions



Tuscaloosa, AL
Crimson Pride Chorus
Ron Montgomery, Director
Second Place Chorus



Central Alabama
Voices of the South
Kenny Ray Hatton, Director
Third Place & Most Improved Chorus

2015 Spring Chorus Competitors



**Northeast Tennessee
The Appalachian Express
Mark Kettner, Director
Fourth Place Chorus**



**Stone Mountain, GA
Stone Mountain Chorus
Dylan Oxford, Director
Fifth Place Chorus**



**Marietta, GA
The Big Chicken Chorus
Lars Grevstad, Director**

2015 Spring Chorus Competitors



**Greater Knoxville, TN
Smokyland Sound
Lee Franks, Director**



**Chattanooga, TN
Choo Choo Chorus
Paul Blazek, Director**



**Memphis, TN
Memphis Men of Harmony
DC Nash, Director**

2015 Spring Chorus Competitors



Athens, AL
Southern Splendor Chorus
Tommy Mitchell, Director



Mic Testers
Joe Barbershopper Chorus
Rick Ramsey, Director



We Sing. We Serve.

2014 Leadership Forum Executive Summary & Vision for 2015

By Danny Rose, Director of Harmony University, Barbershop Harmony Society

On November 1- 3, 2014 at the Airport Marriott, the Society hosted 80 leaders at the 2014 Leadership Forum- *We sing. We serve.* We had representatives from 15 of our 17 districts. Twenty-five of these men were invited as “future leaders” with districts grooming these men for foreseeable leadership roles with the Society. We were also excited to be joined by Society current and future Board members for meals and shared singing activities. We brought in six facilitators with special skills in leadership, secretary or treasurer skills, and finally nine Harmony Hall staff to help with direct facilitation or onsite event logistics with both the forum and board meetings.

Because we are administrators from a singing organization, planners worked at connecting parables from our music world to leadership: everyone has stood in front of a conductor and understands the need for this leadership role. Facilitators directed the group to teach songs and concepts, always bringing it back to district leadership principles. Eye contact and body language result in a better product. Positive modeling, sharing skills, small group work can elevate the group much faster and higher than an executive style leader. After our singing culture was established, we referenced our founders’ mandate to give back to the community. Giving back to the community was so important to our leaders like OC Cash, Rupert Hall, and Dr. Val Hicks, that they included this mandate in our Code of Ethics on the back of our membership cards:

We shall render all possible altruistic service through the medium of barbershop harmony.

For years the Society and its members have allowed the focus of the majority of its time and efforts to be on singing, performing and competing. It is understandable as it is easier to focus inwardly on ourselves rather than engaging the broader communities in which we live. The renewed strategic vision for the organization continues to celebrate these long held traditions and strive for excellence through competitions. Equally importantly, however, this strategic vision returns us to our roots to emphasize one of the best kept secrets of the organization: serving others.

We serve others through song, through good deeds, through helping hands, through fundraising, and much more. The BHS Leadership of today, tomorrow and the future must think differently, act differently. They must encourage and cultivate the dual nature of the organization's strategic focus in order to build its long term success.

Simply put, we need to ensure that at every level of our Society, we and others outside our organization, connect us to a simplified purpose: we sing, we serve, we bring joy to each other. This is who we are; what guides us. This is what enriches us, makes us feel good. This is what separates us from other organizations, what keeps us coming back and what attracts others to join. This is what we need to tell others we're all about.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Singing at the start of each session in a 100 man chorus that was good!
- 2013 goals achieved with chapter connections...it's working!
- Many of our leaders have already purchased our homework book (Good to Great) for chapter presidents in their home districts!
- Starting each session with a merchandise giveaway of new Barbershop clothing...if you arrived on time!
- Our WE SING bus of 45 went out in the community and sang:
 - Inside a restaurant on a stage at ACME feed and seed.
 - Outside on a street corner where onlookers would stop and smile.
 - On a rooftop, singing down to people walking by on Broadway.
- Our WE SERVE bus of 35 of us went out and removed huge mounds of debris from a watershed, returning it to a pristine state. The folks at Hands Around Nashville were our contact, and were very excited to have our help!
- Saturday Night Keynote address: Donny Rose connecting 10 leadership principles to barbershop singing.
- Collaboration between district officers to share best practices.
- Strong positive reaction to Jim Collins "Good to Great and the social sectors" book.
- Direct instruction for all attendees on required job descriptions.
- Video recording of Secretary track training. This will be available online for every secretary in the society.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) were generated and recorded, and will be available for all district officers
- District leaders had time to collaborate with other districts on best practices, problems, and solutions to take back home.
- District leaders were also grouped in home districts to plan a scorecard to set goals and a way to measure if they achieved these goals and programs when they return home, with a support group from both BHS and other districts.
- The hotel staff was very easy to work with and exceeded expectations, including food service, WIFI for all our people staying at the hotel, and all our technology needs on site.
- Down time at night to share, collaborate, network, and sing.
- Interaction between board and district leaders.

- Marty Monson closing out Sunday night with offering project management help and training. Headquarters will pay for Basecamp for each district for 3 years, and will re-evaluate effectiveness in 2017.
- 100% of our respondents felt that Nashville is a great location for the forum.
- Marty will provide a 2014 executive summary letter of 2014 results prior to the end of the year to all chapter presidents/boards demonstrating the collective successes already captured via the CVP activities over the past year.

SCORECARD

During the Forum, attendees identified indicators that (if measured) would demonstrate BHS is a healthy & impactful organization. They came up with over 30 possibilities. Although Districts can measure whatever they believe will be helpful for their District, the Society as a whole agrees to measure the following indicators in 2015:

HEALTH INDICATORS	IMPACT INDICATORS
% of chapters that filed their ASCAP form	% of chapters that have either sung or served with outside organizations
% of chapters that have prepared a budget	# of guests at a chapter meeting, performance, or event
% of chapters that have filed their 990	% of chapters participating in grant programs?
% of chapters that filed state incorporation paperwork	
% of chapters have completed a financial review	

ONGOING NEEDS & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

The 2014 Leadership Forum identified the below high-level needs to begin capturing the health and impact of the Barbershop Harmony Society. We (staff and DP Council) will prioritize these needs and revisit these needs up and through next year’s Leadership Forum.

ONGOING NEEDS	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
Money & grants	Two grant cycles at BHS exist (Sept. to Dec. & March to June) with more monies available for outreach activities
Best practices for District programs	TBD
Project management software	Each District has their own Basecamp account beginning in 2015
Two-way communication tools	Basecamp will provide two-way communication with BHS and Districts.
Succession planning	TBD
More barbershop leaders in the right positions	Districts and BHS actively recruiting Future Leaders
Readily available chapter information	COO at BHS will upload monthly membership data via a shared Google sheet into Basecamp
Method of collecting & reporting metrics	A shared spreadsheet allows Districts to capture their successes and metrics and see other Districts as well
Finding chapters' mission/passion	TBD

LEADERSHIP FORUM 2015

Our 2015 Leadership Forum will be held on lucky Friday, November 13th to Sunday, November 15th in Nashville, Tennessee. Harmony Hall will provide registration information to district leadership by September 2015. Gathering content for the Leadership Forum, recruiting facilitators, and soliciting feedback will be ongoing throughout the 2015 year. Be thinking about future leaders you want to bring!

Central Alabama Hosts Directors' Workshop

by Frank Holmes

On Saturday, May 16, the Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society held a Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive (CD-WI) in Birmingham, AL. Hosted by the Central Alabama chapter, chorus director trainers Raisha Quinn from Grand Junction, Colorado and John Devine from Houston, Texas spent the day intensely working with five chorus directors to strengthen their directing skills. The morning was spent in interviews and discussions with the directors. In the afternoon, the directors were able to work with a live chorus to practice their directing skills and to be coached by the trainers. They were videoed and had the chance to view their recordings with the trainers after their session.

by everyone and the directors learned some techniques that will help their choruses improve.



Frank Holmes

John Devine working with Roger Beale of the Peachtree City Chapter.



Frank Holmes

Raisha Quinn working with Andy Doetsch of the North Georgia Chapter.

Voices of the South was tasked with providing the demonstration chorus. In an ecumenical effort, members from the Central Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Athens, and Huntsville, AL chapters along with participants from the Peachtree City, GA and Houston, TX chapters made up the demonstration chorus. Four and one-half hours of top quality, high energy singing and fellowship were enjoyed



Frank Holmes

What's Your Story?



**Keith Therrell
Dixie District
Storytellers**

Have you ever wished your chapter got more recognition in **The Rebel Rouser**, **The Town Crier**, or even in **The Harmonizer**? We all love seeing our efforts recognized and valued. For many of us, be it in the workplace or in our hobbies and volunteer work, hearing someone say, "I see what you did, and I appreciate your efforts" goes a long way.

Last year Barbershop Harmony Society CEO Marty Monson started the Storytellers program to give each of us a way to let the barbershop community know what great things our chapters and quartets are accomplishing. Perhaps you have a story about something touching that happened at a recent sing-out. Maybe your chapter is involved in charitable work or other ways of giving back to your community. Maybe you have some really cool chapter traditions that the rest of us would enjoy hearing about. Whatever your story, chances are you have one or two that other Barbershoppers would find very interesting, fun, or even inspiring.

Here is how Storytellers will work. Each chapter in Dixie will be contacted periodically,

either by me, or by another District representative. We will set up a convenient time to talk by phone, and you will have an opportunity to let the world know about anything that is happening in your chapter. There is no writing required on your part! Your only requirement is to spend a few minutes telling your story. The stories from around the Society will be vetted by a committee, and each week a Top 10, if you will, will be published on BarbershopHQ.com and shared with bulletin editors and webmasters. Some stories will be included in **The Live Wire**, and some will even make it into **The Harmonizer**. You

may have noticed already the Storytellers banner in recent issues.

The benefits of Storytellers will be expanded communication among chapters and districts, recognition for our chapters and quartets, increased pride in our amazing accomplishments, and inspiration from other chapters to spur each of us on to greater and more meaningful accomplishment in Barbershopping.



I am looking forward to talking with you in the near future. What story do you have to tell?

The Rebel Rouser

Keith Therrell, Editor
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Plan Ahead...

6/28 - 7/5

**BHS International Convention
Pittsburgh, PA**

7/16 - 7/19

**Harmony Explosion Camp
Chattanooga, TN**

7/26 - 8/2

**Harmony University
Nashville, TN**

10/23 - 10/25

**Fall Convention
Atlanta, GA**