

The Dixie District's **REBEL ROUSER**

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



**Inside:
Contest Quartet and Chorus Photos
Noise! from the President
Society Leadership Forum Review
And More!**



The Rebel Rouser

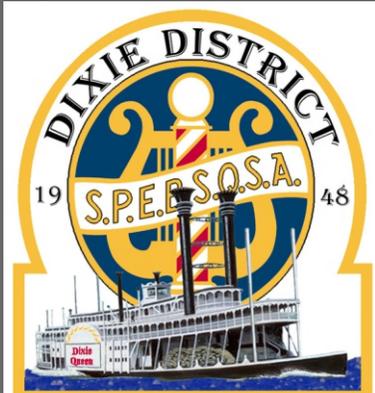
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Editor

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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 champion, Great American Sound Machine, and International chorus representative, Nashville's Music City Chorus. Photos by Keith Therrell.

2016 Dixie District Executive Team/Board of Directors



President
Charlie
Davenport



Executive VP
Russell Bell



Secretary
Russell Bell



Treasurer
Dennis
Brannon



Immediate Past
President
Dwain Chambers

Dixie District Management Team



Music &
Performance
Clay Hine



Marketing &
Public Relations
James Donaldson



Membership
Development
Stan Peppenhorst



Chorus Director
Development
Roger Beale



Contest &
Judging
Jim Sams



Chapter Support &
Leadership Training
Paul Wietlisbach



Youth In
Harmony
Jim Moore



Membership
Events
Jack Donaldson



Communications
Dwain Chambers



Historian
Gerald Adams



Board Member at
Large
Paul Blazek



Financial
Development
Paul Blazek



Web Master
Mark Hyde



Rebel Rouser
Editor
Keith Therrell



Society Board
Member
Dick Powell

Noise! from the 2016 President



Charlie Davenport
2016 District President

It is likely that many of you are wondering who Charlie Davenport is, so here's a thumbnail sketch.

- Society Member since 1979. Nashville Music City Chorus (2008 – Present), Greendale Midwest Vocal Express, Greendale, WI (2007), and Wyoming Valley Chorus, Wilkes-Barre PA (1979 – present).

- Past Mid-Atlantic District President (2001-02), and many Membership-related offices in MAD (1989 – 2001).
- COTS/Leadership Academy Membership Instructor 1999 to present
- Past Society Director of Membership (2006-2009)
- Chapter Experience: Most officer positions, excluding Secretary and Treasurer, in the 35-50 member Wilkes-Barre Chapter (C level chorus) and EVP/President of the Music City Chorus.
- Professional Experience: Retired in 2014 with primary focus of career being over 35 years in Professional Recruiting.

Please contact me, stop me at a convention, call me, or whatever it takes -- just please make some noise and get to know me.

Speaking of making noise, NOISE is something I make and what I expect your District leadership to make. You are going to

hear noise from us -- ideas, activities, suggestions, offerings, questions, and more.

“What’s this guy talking about?” is an acceptable response at this point. Answer: Your Dixie District Leadership Team is in place to support making your barbershop experience better -- better individually, as a chapter, in the Dixie District and within the Society. We are here to help improve your barbershop experience, be it singing, leading your chapter, getting better known in your community, or recruiting new members. We are here to help your chapter be a more attractive place for current and new

(see Noise! on page 4)

2016 Dixie District Addresses

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(Noise!, continued from page 3)

members and to help your chapter leadership prepare for the future.

You are going to hear from us. You are going to hear from me, from your District Officers, and Leadership people. AND WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! What's on your mind? What can we do to help you have a better time singing, being involved, and loving barbershop? And please, if you ask a question of someone and don't get an answer, let me know.

I am really looking forward to a great 2016. Together, making noise, we are going to enjoy this fantastic thing called barbershop more than ever! Seriously! Listen for more *noise* soon!!!

Charlie Davenport
CharlieDBHS@gmail.com

2016 District Officers

Beginning January 1, the new slate of District officers will begin their tenure. Here is a list of the incoming officers.

President	Charlie Davenport
Executive VP	Russell Bell
Treasurer	Dennis Brannon
Secretary	Russell Bell
VP CSLT	Paul Wietlisbach
VP Chorus Development	Roger Beale
VP Contest/Judging	Jim Sams
VP Events	Jack Donaldson
VP Marketing/PR	James Donaldson
VP Membership Dev.	Stan Peppenhorst
VP Music/Performance	Clay Hine
Board Member at Large	Paul Blazek

Attention MidWinter Attendees!

If you are attending the BHS MidWinter Convention in Reno, be sure to register for the All Chapter Chorus. Each district that has 30% of its chapters represented in the All Chapter Chorus will receive a Harmony University scholarship.

The All Chapter Chorus is growing and bearing fruit. Last year in New Orleans, it was the first opportunity for one participant to sing barbershop with others. He planned the trip after learning about barbershop on YouTube, and one year later has started his first quartet in his home, Taiwan!

The second All Chapter Chorus is progressing nicely, with over 70 people signed up. While some may have gold medals, most of us don't, and the chance to be inside that "Westminster" sound will be, well, life changing! That will be a gold medal moment for many participants!

Help the District get an HU scholarship, and grab a gold medal moment for yourself. Sign up for the All Chapter Chorus in Reno.

Donny Rose contributed to this story.



Plan to Be in Oxford in March!

Oxford is the name of a well-known town in Mississippi and a famous university in England, but it's not a name that is often associated with Alabama. However, the charming little town of Oxford, AL is the site of the Dixie District Spring Convention and Contests, March 18 - 20, 2016.

Don't miss the singing and fellowship that are important parts of these semi-annual events. Bring your family to experience the fun, too! Be a part of the contest with your chapter's chorus and a quartet. Not only will you have a great time, the judging and coaching opportunities will help you to hone your craft as a barbershopper in the "best cotton-pickin' district" in the Society.

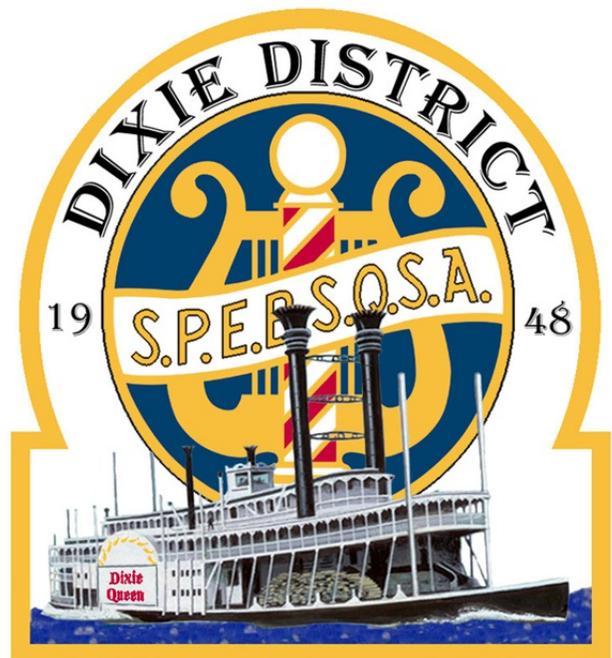
Quartets will be singing to qualify for the 2016 International Quartet Contest in Nashville, while choruses will be competing for the District Chorus Championship.

The contests will take place in the beautiful, state-of-the-art, 1,130-seat Oxford Performing Arts Center. Opened in 2013, the venue is located in historic downtown Oxford.

Oxford is conveniently located between Birmingham and Atlanta, just south of Anniston, on Interstate 20.



Stay tuned to District communications for important registration and housing information.



2015 Fall Quartet Competitors



Great American Sound Machine
Dixie Quartet Champion



Boardwalk - Second Place Quartet



Prelude - Third Place Quartet



Instant Message - Fourth Place Quartet



High Gravity - Fifth Place Quartet



Vox

2015 Fall Quartet Competitors



Frequency



Baker's Half Dozen - *Novice Quartet Champ*



Snooky and the Munnsters



Amplitude



Altr-ego



Time and Again - *Seniors Quartet Champion*

2015 Fall Quartet Competitors



The Untouchables



Eye Candy



Copeland Road



Stay Tuned



Four Bass Hit



Sweet Tea - International Seniors Quartet Representative

2015 Fall Quartet Competitors



Upstream



Minor Adjustments



Three Nice Guys



Mike and the Testers

Quartet photos by Keith Therrell, except Vox - courtesy of Miller Photography.
Chorus photos courtesy of Miller Photography.
Quartets and choruses pictured in order of finish.

2015 Fall Chorus Competitors



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



Nashville, TN
Music City Chorus
Dusty Schleier, Director
District International Chorus
Representative



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



Atlanta Metro, GA
Atlanta Vocal Project
Clay Hine, Director



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



Cleveland, TN
Sound of Tennessee
Chad and Brandon Guyton, Directors
Plateau AA Champion

2015 Fall Chorus Competitors



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



Germantown, TN
RSVP Chorus
Robert Strong, Director



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



Central Alabama
Voices of the South
Kenny Ray Hatton, Director



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



Greater Atlanta, GA
Stone Mountain Chorus
Dylan Oxford, Director

2015 Fall Chorus Competitors



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



Marietta, GA
The Big Chicken Chorus
Lars Grevstad, Director



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



Chattanooga, TN
Choo Choo Chorus
Paul Blazek, Director
Plateau A Champion



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



Lake Lanier, GA
North Georgia Barbershop Singers
Steve Dorn, Director

2015 Fall Chorus Competitors



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



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



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



**Athens, AL
Southern Splendor Chorus
Tommy Mitchell, Director**



2015 Fall Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



**Peachtree City, GA
Cart Path Chorus
Roger Beale, Director**

Dixie Leaders Attend Society Leadership Forum



The Barbershop Harmony Society's *Healthy Chapters: Take Action, Get Results* Leadership Forum was held November 13-15, 2015, at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville. More than eighty delegates from the 17 districts of the Society gathered to learn, share, and discuss leadership principles and chorus director/musical leadership, membership and outreach, and event priorities.

The following is the Executive Summary of the Leadership Forum as presented by Donny Rose, Facilitator of the Forum and Director of Harmony University.

Stan Peppenhorst
2016 Membership Development VP

OVERVIEW

Our 2016 leadership forum, *Healthy Chapters: Take Action, Get Results* was held in Nashville at the Music City Sheraton on November 13-15, 2015. The consensus of our attendees was overwhelmingly positive about the reading homework given before the event, the location, our staff and facilitators, singing from our new Polecat 2 books, our preparation, the food, our pre and post communication, and our content in general. Our anecdotal and survey data confirmed that our 2015 was GREAT! Many of our leaders have already purchased our homework book (Good to Great) for chapter presidents in their home districts, as well as contacted our presenters for district school instruction, and have generated district leadership materials to share.

ATTENDEES

We had 86 attendees with 17 of our 17 districts represented. We were excited to be joined by Society Board Members for meals and shared singing activities. We brought in 6 facilitators with special skills in leadership, and 9 members of headquarters staff to help with meetings and on-site event logistics with both the forum and board meetings.

THEME

The theme for our weekend was *Healthy Chapters: Take Action, Get Results*. So many of us have witnessed great plans in our home districts with ready, set, study, set, study, set, study....abandon. Clearly the Barbershop Harmony Society is not suggesting ready aim fire, but we have witnessed the trap in both Harmony Hall and some of our districts with planning and studying 25 programs and NOT executing. We need to take action on core programs for our districts, measure, and improve for next time. We must take action and measure results.

As a group, we tend to focus on lagging indicators, rather than leading indicators. Lagging indicators are used to measure performance and allow the leadership team to track how things are going. Because output (performance) is always easier to measure by assessing whether your goals were achieved, lagging indicators are backward-focused or "trailing"—they measure performance data already captured. Just about anything you wish to monitor will have lag-



Developing the District's 2016 Scorecard, are from left President Charlie Davenport, Frank Holmes (representing Chorus Director Development VP Roger Beale), Marketing & Public Relations VP James Donaldson, Membership Development VP Stan Peppenhorst, and Executive VP and current Secretary Russell Bell.

ging indicators: returns on investment, number of sick days, bags moved per day, or even the total paid membership of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Leading indicators, on the other hand, change quickly and are generally seen as a precursor to the direction something is going. For example, changes in building permits may affect the housing market, an increase in new business orders could lead to increased production, interest rate changes will impact spending and investments, or "Crossroads" getting standing ovations at sold-out audiences for ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) or NAFME (National Association for Music Education). Because leading indicators come before a trend, they are considered business drivers. Identifying specific, focused leading indicators should be a part of our strategic planning. We must use metrics (our scorecard) and measure, measure, measure.

HIGHLIGHTS

Some of our attendees came by and visited Harmony Hall for a tour of the building our members built!

Singing from the Polecat 2 books at the start of each session!

Free merchandise given away at the start of each session...if you were on time!

Saturday Night Keynote address: Marty Monson connecting the past with where we are going today.

Dr. Duane Gunn helped us reflect and understand our personality traits and how this impacts our interaction with others (says the "Pioneer"). Additionally, he introduced overall concepts of developing trust and embracing influence and communication in order to help chapters grow.

Collaboration between district officers to share best practices.

Strong positive reaction to Jim Collins “Good to Great and the Social Sectors” book....again.

Direct instruction and conversation in breakouts, designed by attendee feedback, guided by facilitators, with BHS staff available (but not leading).

Downtime at night to share, collaborate, network, and sing.

Interaction between board and district leaders.

Marty Monson closing out Saturday night with success stories of our looking out the window, including ACDA, NAFME, letters from music educators about the quality of our music instruction, and even a virtual visit from “Crossroads”.

After the event was over, we kept the room open for continued conversations, singing, drinks, and fellowship.

A Sunday morning DP council that led to a frank and very positive dialog about membership numbers is a lagging indicator and doesn't share all the positive ways to engage with the Society.

Breakout Session Overviews

Events Breakout. The District Events VPs agreed to use Basecamp to share ideas and continue the discussions that were started during the weekend. In addition, it was decided that there would be three annual conference calls for the Events VPs (replacing the monthly calls). There was a great deal of information sharing centered around three key points: District Convention Activities--focusing on events in addition to the contests; Driving attendance to the district convention--how to get more participation from the district membership; Hotel and venue challenges--focusing on contractual language and how to communicate with the venues

Musical Leadership Breakout. Our healthy and functioning top 1/3 of our chapters are doing so much right. Our middle 1/3 needs mentoring and musical guidance from the top 1/3. Our bottom 1/3 has both musical and administrative challenges and have not asked for help in the past. It gets worse because they are getting smaller, not attending events, and becoming disenfranchised with district and society programs, as they feel alone. Even when we offer Outstanding In Front, Chorus Director Intensive Development, and online tutorials, we struggle getting this bottom 1/3 to move forward and get help. We must renew our efforts to use CDWI training in our districts!

Membership & Outreach Breakout.

Membership--Discussion centered around recruitment and retention of members. We shared “elevator speeches” and how to turn a guest into a member. Determining chapter identity is important (Are we performance or contest or community focused?) and what leads to a fulfilling experience for the members. Most in attendance felt pretty confidently that (if pressed) their members could define what value they get out of membership at the chapter, district, and national level.

Outreach--Provided definitions of 'outreach.' Districts shared what outreach meant to them and BHS Staff provided overall explanation of current and planned BHS Outreach programs. Attendees learned about the events and organizations partnering with BHS, the depth of community engagement and how lifelong singing (community) would be such an integral part of Outreach in the future.

DP/EVP Breakout. Leadership OPT divided their session into two parts, a curriculum session and a chapter assessment. Leadership OPT will be sharing their materials with the full group after some revision ASAP.

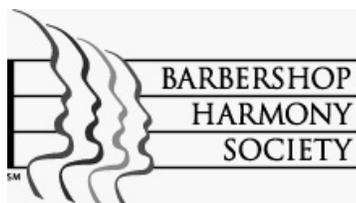
District leaders had time to collaborate with other districts on best practices, problems, and solutions to take back home. Like 2014 (and last year), district leaders were also grouped in home districts to plan a scorecard to set goals and a way to measure if they achieved these goals and programs when they return home, with a support group from both BHS and other districts.

DATES

Our 2016 Leadership Forum will be held the weekend BEFORE Harmony University on Friday, July 22nd to Saturday, July 23rd next year at Belmont University in Nashville. Registration information, facilitators and feedback will be sought by district leadership in the early part of next year.

The Rebel Rouser

Keith Therrell, Editor
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Plan Ahead...

1/26 - 1/31/2016	BHS Midwinter Convention and Contests Reno, NV
3/18 - 3/20	Spring Convention and Contests Oxford, AL
4/30	Greater Atlanta Chapter Show
7/3 - 7/10	BHS International Convention and Contests Nashville, TN
7/22 - 7/23	BHS Leadership Forum Nashville, TN
10/7 - 10/9	Fall Convention and Contests Atlanta, GA