



Dixie Town Crier

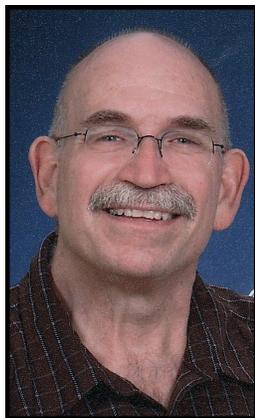
Dixie's monthly chapter newsletter
dedicated to the original town crier,
Chuck Witherspoon



April 1, 2012

Volume 4, Issue 1

Welcome to the renewed Dixie Town Crier



By David J. Belden, Editor

It is my pleasure to present to you the first edition of the "renewed" Dixie Town Crier. The original Dixie Town Crier was published for several years by Steve Dorn, and was extremely well-received throughout the district. After he stepped down, a gap in publication occurred. Bob Davenport, Dixie District VP of Marketing and Public Relations, recently asked if I would consider taking on the editor's role, and I am hon-

ored to do so. I hope you will find this to be a valuable tool to share chapter activities with your fellow barbershoppers throughout the Dixie District.

I am probably a stranger to most of you. I have been singing with the Music City Chorus in Nashville since 2008 after starting my BHS experience in the Pioneer District. I have spent almost 40 years in the field of education, retiring in Ohio after a career as a teacher and principal. However, I still work part-time as a teacher evaluator here in Tennessee. My tie to journalism came through the "second job" most teachers acquire as they support their families. Mine was as sports editor and eventually managing editor of a small town newspaper in Ohio. After 25 years, I still write a monthly column for that Ohio newspaper.

For years I was a barbershop husband as my wife, Barbara (also a teacher), sang in Sweet Adeline choruses and quartets while I worked nights at the newspaper. She sings with the Metro Nashville Chorus and recently won a gold medal as Metro won the 2011 Harmony Classic mid-size chorus division.

Please let me know what you think of this issue and offer suggestions for improvement as time goes on. I would love to see every chapter in the Dixie District contribute to every issue!

I can be contacted by e-mail at:

david.belden@comcast.net

Keith Therrell, reporting

RSVP shows off chorus pride

Thanks to the work of master promoter, Facebook guru, and Membership VP Craig Brown, RSVP has some spiffy new ways to show off our chorus pride.

Our chorus logo is featured prominently on the backs of all-black tee shirts that answer the oft-asked question, "What does RSVP stand for?"

In addition to the shirts, we have RSVP stickers that are designed to look similar to the "26.2" marathon emblems that are on the rear window of many automobiles. Our bumper stickers look great not only on cars, but also on backpacks, notebooks, and would make handsome belt buckles.

These are two of the most recent methods we are using to get our name into the community and generate conversations that hopefully will lead to performance opportunities and future members.



Russell Bell, Reporting

Atlanta Metro Chapter hosts multi-chapter meeting

On March 19, 2012 the Atlanta Metro Chapter hosted a multi-chapter meeting.

All the Atlanta Area chapters from BHS, SAI, HI were invited to Atlanta Metro's normal rehearsal hall. It was also a special occasion because we had Adam Scott from the Society Headquarters in town to meet with us as well. The night started off with warm-ups and some learning of tags. After brief introductions Adam took over and taught more tags and taught some vocal techniques.

Dave Fobart of the Atlanta Metro Chapter acted as MC for the evening, making all the introductions.

Before we started the presentations by each group in attendance, we paid respects to our brothers no longer with us since our last meeting. We honored:

Marietta Chapter – Miller Weiss, Charlie Roberts, Joe McDonald, Bill Leachman, Paul Bussa, Ken Lyon, Tom Schlinkert

Marietta and Roswell Chapters – Don Schumacher

Roswell Chapter – Bill St Johns, Bill Nordmark, Tom Roberts

Greater Atlanta Chapter – Wayne Van de Ryt, Dave Laushey, Phil Petty, Haven Coles, Tom Kinney, Gus Ghirandini, Don Schussler, John Little.

After the warm-ups, each group present had a spot to sing to the audience. Did I mention we had about 150 in attendance? The groups that sang were, the newly formed Lake Lanier Chapter - The

(continued on page 3)



ALL SINGING TOGETHER!



ATLANTA HARMONY CELEBRATION



BACKDRAFT



HARMONY EXPRESS



SWEET TEA



UP FRONT



NORTH GEORGIA BARBERSHOP SINGERS



BIG CHICKEN CHORUS



STONE MOUNTAIN CHORUS



FIREHOUSE HARMONY BRIGADE



BALLISTIC!



CASHMERE



MAKE'



129 AND COUNTING



LADS

Multi-chapter meeting

(continued from page 2)

North Georgia Barbershop Singers, Roswell Chapter – Firehouse Harmony Brigade, Marietta Chapter – Big Chicken Chorus, from Harmony Inc. Atlanta Harmony Celebration, Greater Atlanta Area Chapter (Formerly the Stone Mountain Chapter) – Stone Mountain Chorus, and Atlanta Metro Chapter - The Atlanta Vocal Project. Along with the choruses were representatives of Sweet Adelines Inc. – Song of Atlanta Show Chorus, from Harmony Inc. – Georgia Connection and the Youth Chorus – Georgia Spirit.

We also had quartets in attendance as well: Sweet Tea and LADS from North Georgia Barbershop Singers, Cashmere and Ballistic! from Song of Atlanta, 129 and Counting from Marietta Chapter, MAKE' (Mah-Kay), Backdraft, Harmony Express, and Up Front from the Greater Atlanta Chapter.

It was great to have so many barbershoppers from all organizations, BHS, SAI, HI. After we all sang, we closed the evening with Keep the Whole World Singing.

The afterglow was held at a local restaurant about 5 miles from the rehearsal hall – Hudson Grille. We had a private dining room. There were close to 70 people at the afterglow. I left at midnight, but I understand there were several still singing tags at 2:00 am when the restaurant closed.

James Larkin, Reporting

Cleveland Chapter plans powerhouse show for May 19

The Cleveland, Tennessee Chapter has put together a powerhouse line-up for its May 19, 2012 show. Three international champion quartets will appear.

The Suntones, 1961 champions, are scheduled to make their very last public appearance on this show, making it a unique musical experience for any member of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

One of the society's favorite champion quartets, Vocal Spectrum (2006), will travel to Tennessee to appear on the show.

And the 2002 international champions, Four Voices, will certainly help to make the evening an experience that will not be soon forgotten.

Adding to the all-star lineup will be The Vigilantes. This quartet was the silver medalists in the 2011 College Quartet Contest in Kansas City.

The host chapter's Sound of Tennessee Barbershop Chorus will be presenting "A Western Omelette with Extra HAM."

The 7:00 p.m. show will be held at the Conn Center on the campus of Lee University in Cleveland, TN. Orchestra seat tickets are priced at \$27, main floor tickets are \$21, and balcony seats are \$15. For more information, including group orders, contact **Jim Larkin**, show chairman, at 423-479-2553 or barilead0597@bellsouth.net.



THE SUNTONES

1961 International Quartet Champions



VOCAL SPECTRUM, 2006 Champions



FOUR VOICES, 2002 Champions

Lloyd Unfred reporting

New director to make debut appearance with Rocket City Chorus at Panoply on April 28

The Rocket City Chorus and Huntsville Chapter quartets will be appearing at Panoply in Huntsville on April 28. The chorus will sing in the Buffalo Rock Family Food Tent at 10:15 a.m., with the quartets scheduled to sing at several other times.

The appearance will mark the first performance for our new Director. Cathy Rosol has been our chorus director since January. The chorus seems to be responding well to her energy and style. I can hear the excitement in our music.

The 30th annual Panoply Arts Festival will be held April 27-29 in Huntsville, Alabama. Tickets are \$5 per day or \$10 for the weekend, with children 12 and under admitted free.

For more information and updates, go to the chapter website at www.rocketcitychorus.org.



Rocket City Chorus director Cathy Rosol is pictured with a Singing Valentines quartet from the Rocket City Chorus.



Rocket City Chorus



David Belden, reporting

2012 brings changes, challenges, successes to Nashville's Music City Chorus

The beginning of the new year has brought both changes and challenges to the Music City Chorus ... and also some successes.

Director Mike O'Neill stepped down at the end of 2011, and the board tapped associate director Dusty Schleier to take the helm. Rick Spencer became the associate director, with James Estes becoming assistant director, and Sean Devine in charge of the visuals.

The new team had just over six weeks to prepare a whole new set for the chorus to take to the Dixie District chorus contest in March. The hard work from the directing team and the chorus members as a whole paid off as the Music City Chorus won the Dixie District championship in Gadsden, Alabama. MCC previously won district championships in 1976 and 2009.

The Nashville chapter was well represented in the quartet contest as well. **Contingency Plan** qualified for the international contest. Also competing were **Take the 5th** (6th), **7th & Broadway** (7th), **Four the Record** (8th), **Better with Bacon** (14th), **Gridlock** (2nd in the college contest), and **Copeland Road** (evaluation only). **TNS** sang out-of-district and also qualified to represent the Dixie District in Portland.

Next up for the Nashville Chapter is its annual show on April 21 (see flyer on the next page). The chorus and chapter quartets will be joined by bluegrass band **The Westbound Rangers** for two shows on that day. Tickets can be ordered online at www.musiccitychorus.org.



CONTINGENCY PLAN



TNS

HARMONY



PRESENTED BY



A Showcase of American Music in the barbershop style by the award-winning **Music City Chorus** And the fabulous chorus quartets!



With special guests
The Westbound Rangers
a bluegrass band
www.westboundrangers.com

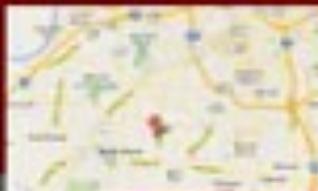
Saturday, April 21, 2012

Matinee 2:00 p.m. and Evening 7:00 p.m.

McMurray Center

on the campus of Harpeth Hall School
3801 Hobbs Road, Nashville 37215

(Corner of Hobbs Road and Carver Drive in East Nashville, TN. Please park in the lot at Eastwood Drive. Enter Eastwood Drive from Carver Drive.)



General Admission \$20, Seniors \$15, Students \$10

Order: Online www.MusicCityChorus.org, by phone 615-469-4555, or purchase at the door.

Harry Arnold, reporting

Mellow Fellows share quartet contest experience

Article by Jess Helton



Dr. Zachary Marshall (T), Jess Helton (L), Bill Boggs (B), Phil Robertson (Bari)

Our Quartet to Sing at District...Why Not?

When this year's Dixie District at Gadsden, Alabama came around, I wondered if we (Mellow Fellows) could at least get two songs together in order to represent our chorus. Our chorus has not had a non-collegiate quartet sing at district since 2003. We all were going to be there anyway singing with the chorus so why not sing as a quartet?

Forming: As many of my fellow leads out there know, since you are labeled the lead, it is somewhat presumed that you are not only leading via the melody but the group as well. An example of this might be assuming the quarterback is the leader of a football team since he controls the ball (melody). I initiated the conversation and the questions and dialogue began to flow. We did have a hiccup in that our tenor was not going to attend district. Another tenor was asked to join us and we continued on.

Storming : The Mellow Fellows have been together for around 3 years with some personnel changes. We are not a registered quartet. We knew some songs but when we had to pick up a new tenor, it changed our conversation to what are we going to sing at district.

Our tenor competed in a college quartet years ago and knew "Bright was the Night". The bass and baritone had sung the song in chorus before. I was familiar with the tune but did not know it like the rest being only a four year member with the society. We agreed on the song and selected another which was familiar with three of us but not the tenor. In other words, I had to learn one and the tenor had to learn one.

Norming: The next thing we had to do was schedule a rehearsal time which is difficult in the best of circumstances. A day and time were selected. We met weekly for less than two months. We did not have a lot of time but did the best we could with our rehearsals.

Our baritone Phil is the treasurer for the chorus. He already had connections with district leadership. Phil communicated with district. He got us registered as a quartet and forwarded the rest of us information sent from district.

Performing: Our goal was to represent our chorus and do the best we could. We registered for evaluation only which took some pressure off. As I said before, we did not have a lot of time. We learned the songs as fast as we could. Once we were off paper and doing okay with the song, we asked our director to attend our rehearsals for some coaching which helped.

Singing at District: At district, we did well in my opinion considering the time, and we scored okay. Our major goal of representing our chorus as a quartet came to fruition. The most rewarding aspect for me was receiving the warm comments from chorus members and observing their pride in us.

Photos by David Belden

Nashville Youth Voices Only bring four-part harmony to area students



NYCO CAMP

Clinicians:

Adam Scott & Wayne Grimmer

Coordinator:

K.J. McAleesejergins

Assistant Coordinator:

Erica Kawano

Special Guests:

Gridlock

The Real McCoy

Last Minute

TNS

Sponsored by:

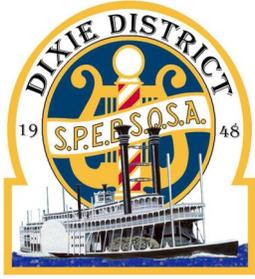
Music City Chorus

TuneTown Show Chorus

Harmony Foundation International

FEBRUARY 11, 2012





THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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

Larry Deters, President

Bob Davenport, VP of Marketing and Public Relations

David Belden, Editor

Deadline for chapters and quartets to submit articles and photographs for the next issue is **April 25, 2012**. Submissions should be sent to:

david.belden@comcast.net

Register Now For DLHW in July!

Bob Davenport, District VP of Marketing/PR

We encourage everyone to take advantage of the great classes and coaching offered by the District at Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend! The dates are July 20-22 on the campus of the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Quartets and small choruses can receive coaching from the finest coaches in the District. Classes in music theory, vocal production, chapter marketing, chapter leadership, etc. will be taught by experienced instructors who will help you improve your singing, chapter administration, etc.

Additionally, there will be a great show for DLHW attendees and the general public at Columbia High School in Huntsville, featuring *A Mighty Wind*, *TNS*, the 2011 Collegiate Quartet Champs *Prestige*, and the *Harmony Explosion Camp Chorus*. If you know of high school boys who would like to attend the Harmony Explosion Camp, please contact Jim Moore, District VP for Youth in Harmony. Jim's email is vp-youth@dixiedistrict.org.

Online registration for DLHW is now available on the District website – www.dixiedistrict.org. You can also mail the registration form everyone received in the mail in January to District Secretary Russell Bell – 2716 Braemore Glen SW, Powder Springs, GA 30127-1760.

We'll see you at DLHW on July 20-22!

Singing Valentines from around the Dixie District!

