



# Dixie Town Crier

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



November 2013

Volume 5, Issue 11

*Music City Chorus, Atlanta Vocal Project earn berths at international*

## RedZone wins Dixie District Quartet Championship

Packed house crowds at the Dixie District Fall Convention were treated to some memorable performances by district choruses and quartets all weekend long.

**RedZone** posted the top scores in Friday night's quartet semi-finals, then came back to top the score sheets again on Saturday to win the 2013 District Quartet Championship with an overall average score of 78.7.

**Boardwalk** placed second, with **Instant Message**, the **In-surGents**, and **Perimeter Sound** rounding out the top five. **Steel City Four** took the Dixie Novice Quartet title.

The **DinoChords** earned the Dixie District Senior Quartet Championship, while **Stacked Deck** won the right to represent the Dixie District at the 2014 International Senior Quartet Contest.

Saturday's chorus contest saw the Dixie District gain two qualifiers for the Last Vegas International next July.



The **Music City Chorus** from the Nashville Chapter had the top qualifying score of 85.8 and earned the automatic bid to the international contest. The **Atlanta Vocal Project** (Atlanta Metro Chapter) had an 83.5 average, high enough to earn a wild card invitation to Las Vegas.

**Plateau AAA awards:** 1st - **Music City Chorus**, Nashville, TN; 2nd - **Atlanta Vocal Project**, Atlanta Metro, GA; 3rd - **RSVP**, Germantown, TN

**Plateau AA awards:** 1st - **Crimson Pride Chorus**, Tuscaloosa, AL; 2nd - **Stone Mountain Chorus**, Greater Atlanta, GA; 3rd - **Voices of the South** - Central Alabama, AL.

**Plateau A awards:** 1st - **Big Chicken Chorus**, Marietta, GA; 2nd - **Memphis Men of Harmony**, Memphis, TN; 3rd - **Smokyland Sound**, Greater Knoxville, TN (also winner of Most Improved award)

# Huntsville Metropolitan Chapter remembers Fred Bender



On Wednesday afternoon, September 25, 2013 at approximately 4pm, Fred Bender, a longtime Barbershopper and friend to many, was involved in a traffic accident that tragically took his life. Although Fred recently moved from Huntsville to Birmingham, he was still working for a Huntsville based company on a part time basis. On this particular day, because of his background and experience, Fred had been specifically asked to attend a meeting in support of his government customer. Little did he know when he got up that morning, it would be his last. After the meeting was over he departed Huntsville heading for his home in Birmingham; instead he was actually leaving on a journey where he would depart this world headed for his new home, heaven.

As a vibrant young man, Fred was well known in his hometown of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Fred was a man who was lucky in love, and it was in Fond du Lac that he met his first great love, his wife, Kathy. Fred was a proud father, incredibly honored to have been blessed with children who resembled him. Both a family and community man, Fred's love extended and touched many lives beyond just his wife, children and close family. As a genuine person, Fred took interest in other people, always believing in the good of others and lending support whenever asked. Donating his time and money to charity was a big part of Fred's life. A few years ago Kathy lost a battle with Pancreatic Cancer.

Fred served in the United States Navy for four years. He was proud of his country and was honored to serve her.

With a PhD in astrophysics, Fred clearly believed in hard work and was a self-made man, always holding hope that his children would follow in his footsteps and pursue their dreams. Even though he had a PhD, he never flaunted his accomplishment or attempted to make others feel inferior. Fred enjoyed singing in the Rocket City Chorus, collecting rare comics and taking his children on a yearly tradition of travel in the summertime to see family. Generous, smart and a man of integrity, Fred's passing has indeed come all too quickly. His memory will endure with us always.

About 3 years ago, Fred met a very gracious lady and they began dating on a regular basis. It was a real blessing that Sharon August, from Birmingham, came into his life. The friendship quickly blossomed, and it soon became apparent to both of them that they had met their "Soul Mate." They were a very happy couple and she became his fiancé with a wedding planned for the near future.

As many of you know, Fred enjoyed music and singing in our chorus. However, you can bet that he is now singing in a much larger chorus and looking down on each of us. He is at peace and enjoying his new life.

We will miss you Fred.

*The men of the Huntsville Metropolitan Chapter, Rocket City Chorus*

# Three added to Dixie District Hall of Fame

**Gerald "Jerry" Adams** has been a barbershopper as long as the Dixie District has been in existence - 65 years! He is the last remaining charter member of the Nashville, TN chapter and might be one of the last remaining initial members of the District. Jerry continues to be an active member of the Nashville Chapter as a singer and as Chapter historian, a position he has held for 30+ years. He has been an active member of the Confederate Harmony Brigade since the early 70's. During his barbershop career Jerry has been best known for his work "behind the scenes", performing tasks for his chapter, the District and the Society. Jerry may never have sung in a championship quartet or served as a District officer, but he is a "giant" to countless Nashville and District barbershoppers whom he encouraged and mentored, even some who are already in the District Hall of Fame. We applaud his great service and dedication to his chapter and to the Dixie District and now his induction into the Hall of Fame!



**Tim Brooks** is a 30-year member of the BHS and has made quite a mark in his singing and administrative barbershop lifestyle. Musically he has done it all. He is the only man to win the District quartet championship in four quartets. He has a total of six International quartet medals. Tim has served as a Certified Singing Judge both at home and abroad. He is also an accomplished Society-wide quartet and chorus coach, and he directed the Stone Mountain Chorus for over 15 years. Administratively, Tim prepares learning tracks and discs, he works in many aspects with a local Atlanta youth chorus, served on the Dixie Board in chorus director development, served on the C&J Singing Category Board of Review, and serves on the Society Production Committee for district and International contests. He has served and continues to serve his chapter, Dixie District, and the Society and affiliates in many ways.

**Jack Frobose** joined the Stone Mountain chapter in 1981 and immediately became very active in the chapter leadership. He ran the Dixie COTS chapter officer schools for several years as well as becoming VP of the Peach Division for several years and was elected EVP in 1993 and 1994. He and his wife, Helenanne, planned and hosted several Dixie BOD meetings and made sure that all of the BOD ladies had sightseeing and/or shopping activities while the BOD transacted their business. Jack moved up to Dixie President and served 1995-1996. They retired to Sun City, Florida where he started a new Sunshine chapter called Par for the Chorus. Unfortunately Jack has suffered some health issues recently, and he and Helenanne were not able to attend the Fall Convention. He will be honored with his Hall of Fame induction presentation at the 2014 Dixie Spring Convention.



*Nashville Chapter, David Belden reporting*

## Music City Chorus readies for Christmas Show, International

It was a good weekend of barbershop harmony with friends for the men of the Nashville Chapter at the Dixie District Fall Convention in Chattanooga. While it was an honor for the chorus and its associated quartets to do so well, it was a bigger honor to just spend the weekend with all of the talented men of the Dixie District!



The **Music City Chorus** is excited to be able to represent the Dixie District at the 2014 International Chorus Contest in Las Vegas! We appreciated all of the kind comments and support from our Dixie District brothers while at the fall convention. It is also good to know that our friends from the **Atlanta Vocal Project** have also earned a spot in the Las Vegas contest. Congratulations, AVP!

It was also a great weekend for quartets with a Nashville connection. Friday night saw past district champions, **TNS**, open the night as mic testers. And the weekend closed with outgoing champs, **The Real McCoy**, singing away their trophy.

**RedZone**, the 2013 District Champion Quartet, includes two men who sing in the Music City Chorus, Adam Scott and Robert Strong.

**DinoChords** won the 2013 Senior Quartet championship.

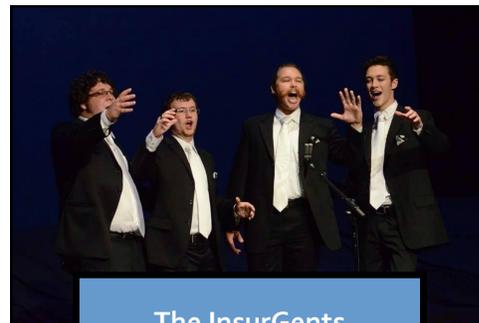
Three Nashville quartets, **The Insurgents**, **Phase IV**, and **Dark Horse** sang in Saturday night's finals and placed in the top ten, while several other quartets sang in the semi-finals.

The Nashville Chapter was also very proud to see our very own **Jerry Adams** inducted into the Dixie District Hall of Fame.

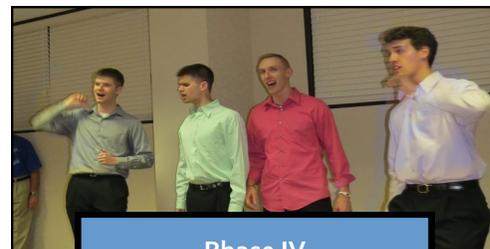
While preparations have already begun for our trip to Las Vegas, our first order of business is preparation for our annual Christmas shows. This year the chorus will present a matinee and evening show on Saturday, December 7, at Blackman High School in Murfreesboro. Our guests will be the **Tune Town Show Chorus**, international Sweet Adeline qualifiers. Tickets to the shows will go on sale soon. Please check the chorus website at [www.musiccitychorus.org](http://www.musiccitychorus.org) for ticket information.



DinoChords



The InsurGents



Phase IV



Dark Horse

# *Music City Chorus*

2014 International Chorus Contest Competitor

# *Tune Town Show Chorus*

2013 Sweet Adelines International  
Chorus Contest Competitor

*Together on one great barbershop*

# CHRISTMAS SHOW

Saturday, December 7

Matinee and Evening Performances

Blackman High School, Murfreesboro, TN



Ticket information available soon at:

[www.musiccitychorus.org](http://www.musiccitychorus.org)

**Atlanta Vocal Project  
presents**

# *The Sounds of Christmastime*

**Saturday, December 7, 2013  
2:00PM and 7:00PM**

**With our featured guests**



**A Mighty Wind**

2013 International 3rd Place Quartet

**Boardwalk**

2013 Dixie District 2nd Place Quartet

**Perimeter Sound**

2013 Dixie District 5th Place Quartet

**Vox**

2013 Dixie District 7th Place Quartet

and the

## **Atlanta Vocal Project**

2013 17th Place International Chorus

Johns Creek High School  
5575 State Bridge Rd  
Johns Creek, GA 30022

Saturday, December 7, 2013  
2:00PM and 7:00PM

**Ticket information available at: [www.atlantavocalproject.com](http://www.atlantavocalproject.com)**

MARIETTA'S BIG CHICKEN CHORUS PRESENTS...

# Have Yourself A Merry-etta Christmas!

Saturday, December 14, 3:00PM & 7:30PM  
at the Jennie T. Anderson Theater, Cobb County Civic Center

Featuring our special guests...

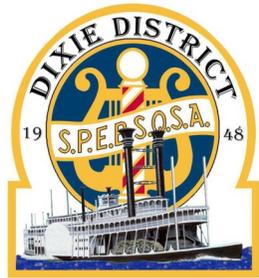


Lunch   
Break

Bearing the overwhelming  
burden of stupid

**Ticket information available at:**

[www.bigchickenchorus.org](http://www.bigchickenchorus.org)



## THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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

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

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



**THREE HALL OF FAMERS ... AND BOB!** Guest Night visitors to a recent Music City Chorus rehearsal were treated to the ultimate barbershop experience. Three Dixie District Hall of Fame members (Charlie McCann, Jerry Adams, and Freeman Groat) joined Bob Davenport in a quartet. What a wealth of barbershop experience these men were able to share with our guests!

**THE DEADLINE FOR CHAPTER, CHORUS,  
AND QUARTET NEWS FOR THE DECEMBER 1 ISSUE  
IS NOVEMBER 25!  
SEND YOUR NEWS TO  
[DAVID.BELDEN@COMCAST.NET](mailto:DAVID.BELDEN@COMCAST.NET)**