



Dixie Town Crier

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



September 2013

Volume 5, Issue 9

October 4 and 5 in Chattanooga

Countdown to the Dixie District Fall Convention

The Dixie District is just a few weeks away from its annual Fall Convention. This year the convention will be held in Chattanooga, with contest performances set for October 4 and 5 at the University of Tennessee—Chattanooga Fine Arts Center.

Registrations may now be made online at the Dixie District website: www.dixiedistrict.org

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel Registration:

Conference Hotels are:

Chattanooga Marriott Downtown (Headquarters)

2 Carter Plaza

Chattanooga, TN 34702

Convention Rate: \$109.00 + tax

Phone Reservations: 800-841-1674

Rate Code: **BHS Dixie District**

Days Inn Rivergate

One block from Marriott

901 Carter Street

Chattanooga, TN 34702

Convention Rate: \$95.00 + tax

Reservations: 423-266-7331

Must make reservations through this direct phone number

Rate Code: **Barbershop Harmony Society**



DAQC Show

and Ice Cream Bar!!!

Saturday Night after the Quartet Finals
and Show of Champions!!!

Tickets are only \$10!!!

All-you-can-eat Ice Cream Bar!!!

Great entertainment by several Dixie
District champion quartets!!!

Featured quartet is the zany 1988 cham-
pion, A Class Apart!!!

Purchase tickets when you register for
the convention, or at the door, but don't
wait, we may sell out!!!

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE 
CHATTANOOGA
Fine Arts Center



What a July! – A Month of Firsts

by Stan Peppenhorst, *Memphis Men of Harmony*

July contained a month of barbershop firsts for me—the International Convention at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto, Ontario, and the Dixie Harmony Lakeside Weekend at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama. Both events inspired and encouraged me and other barbershoppers to improve and to continue the love of singing in harmony and to maintain the fellowship of our Society.

Last November, **Bob Williams**, a fellow chorus member of the *Memphis Men of Harmony*, sought someone in the Chapter to share hotel accommodations, and I jumped at the opportunity to attend the 75th Anniversary Convention with him.



Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention, July 2-July 7

July finally arrived, and Bob (pictured above to my right) and I volunteered for two days at the Front of the House (FOH) outside the arena seating area. We had the assignment to quiet those talking near our designated area during the contest singing on stage. Believe it or not, the attendees were cooperative, and there were a number of positive comments about the shortened “Quiet Please” hockey sticks that we would hold above our heads. Many liked the design of the volunteer convention jerseys, but others outside the Convention were confused and did not know who the player with number 13 was. [The back of the jersey had a “13” for the Barbershop Harmony Society anniversary year of 2013.]

We took the opportunity to visit with barbershoppers from many states and other countries. Volunteering gave us additional chances to meet members of various quartets as well as local and international leaders of the Society. I had interesting conversations with Greg Backwell, a former member of The Nighthawks and Gentlemen’s Agreement, coach, director, an arranger, designer of the 75th Anniversary Convention logo and inductee into the 2013 Hall of Fame; with a man from California who was attending his 55th Convention with 54 being consecutive; with Al from Fargo, ND, who was the oldest man (92) singing in a chorus at the Convention; and with Felice whose husband John sings in Denver, CO, but was introduced to barbershop singing 18 years ago in New Orleans by Sherwood Platt who is a member of my chapter. There’s definitely a bond of fellowship and a love of singing that spans time and distance!



The Dixie District was represented by the quartets The Real McCoy, A Mighty Wind, Decades, and Lunch Break, and the collegiate quartet Phase IV. The choruses were RSVP and Atlanta Vocal Project. Even though Bob and I worked during the Quartet Quarterfinals and Semifinals, other volunteers were willing to fill our positions so we could see and hear those from Dixie. We returned the favor to our hosts, of course, whenever a Canadian finalist from Ontario sang.

The Association of International Champions (AIC) Show on Thursday included these gold-medal champions: Happiness Emporium (1975), Interstate Rivals (1987), Chiefs of Staff (1988), Joker’s Wild (1994), FRED (1999), Gotcha! (2004), Vocal Spectrum (2006), Crossroads (2009), Storm Front (2010), Old School (2011), and Ringmasters (2013). Wonderful sounds and emotions also were attached to each song that filled the Air Canada Centre during the Chorus Contests of Friday and Quartet Finals on Saturday night. There are times you just have to be there to hear and feel the songs!

Other activities which I enjoyed during the Convention included singing polecats with men from other states while in Toronto’s Union Station where many were getting food for lunch or passing to catch a train or bus, visiting “The Past”, the 75th Anniversary Historical Display of

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clothing (such as Dave LaBonte's uniform as a member of the Confederates from Memphis, the 1956 Quartet Champion) and other items of the Society's past. On Saturday, a Reading Session held by Adam Scott and a Comedy Quartet Hour hosted by Shane Scott of Lunch Break with members of Storm Front and FRED quartets were very informative. Polecats and other songs were sung during the MegaSing directed by Adam Scott at Roundhouse Park and more polecats were sung as men gathered into smaller groups. Unfortunately, the singing had to stop, for soon afterwards, Bob Williams and I attended the Blue Jays baseball game and sang along as other barbershoppers on the field sang the National Anthems of Canada and the United States.

My time at the Convention was definitely eventful and inspirational. It was a great time of shared enthusiasm. I'm glad I had the opportunity to attend and enjoy more of life through song and fellowships. Las Vegas in July 2014? Yes, very possibly! Make your plans to attend. By the way, volunteers will be needed there too.



Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend, July 19-20

This July was also my first time to attend the Dixie District's Lakeside Harmony Weekend. The University of Alabama in Huntsville provided a dormitory for our use for Friday and Saturday. Four men shared a suite which included four bedrooms--two bedrooms and a bathroom on each side with a shared, separate living space and kitchenette between. There was plenty of space, and since each had his own room, one man was heard to say, "This is great. I don't have to hear someone snore!"

Except for a Friday night sing with the young men of the Youth in Harmony program, all sessions were in rooms within the dorm. Meals were a short distance away at a University cafeteria and were in a buffet style. There was a final Show at a high school which included the Youth in Harmony Festival Chorus and Lunch Break.

At a University auditorium on Friday night, any combination of youth and men could sing tags or songs in the lobby and later on stage. There were numerous youth quartets who volunteered to sing on stage and some men decided they would share in the fun too. I joined as Lead with Allen Reynolds (Tenor), Jerry Wilhoite (Baritone), and J. D. Horne (Bass) to sing "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie". What a thrill that was!



Saturday's sessions that were attended included "How to be a Great Lead" with Eddie Holt of Lunch Break, "Care of the Senior Voice" and "Tune It or Die" with Jim DeBusman, "Sounds Good to Me" with George Joslyn, and "Music Theory 1" with Jack Donaldson. There were other sessions for the other voice parts, on being an emcee, directing, on vocal techniques, and there were private voice lessons. Quartets and choruses were able to get coaching as well from some of the Society's best educators and coaches. I do plan on attending again next year, and I hope you and/or your quartet or chorus will also. What a great addition to a wonderful July of barbershopping!

Youth in Harmony: Drew Nelson, Phillip McCown, Spencer Phinazee, and Antoine Adams rehearse a tag of "Ebb Tide."

David Belden reporting

No Lazy days of August for Nashville Chapter

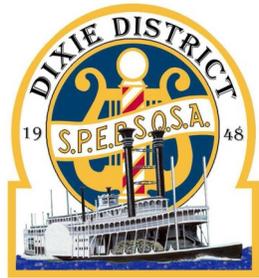
While many chapters may look to those dog days of summer as a time of relaxation, the Nashville Chapter had a busy August.

Twice in August chapter members worked concession stands at LP Field. Not only does this make money for the chapter, but it gets the Music City Chorus name out in the public in the Nashville Community.

In mid-August the Music City Chorus and quartets performed a show at the Del Webb community in Mt. Juliet. The audience packed the ballroom and was extremely enthusiastic about our performance.

The month ended with our annual chorus retreat. We spent three days at the Paris Landing State Park, and our guest instructor for the weekend was Mark Hale. It was an incredible experience both in the learning that took place and the bonding among chorus members.





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 **SEPTEMBER 25**. Submissions should be sent to:

david.belden@comcast.net



SORRY WE MISSED YOU!

CHAPTER NEWS—CHORUSES—QUARTETS—SHOW POSTERS—INDIVIDUAL STORIES

WANTED for the DIXIE TOWN CRIER

**THE DEADLINE FOR CHAPTER, CHORUS,
AND QUARTET NEWS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 1 ISSUE
IS SEPTEMBER 25!
SEND YOUR NEWS TO
DAVID.BELDEN@COMCAST.NET**