



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** June 26th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

Board Meeting. Board meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of every month at 5:00 pm at Wally's Restaurant on McCallie Avenue. **Reminder:** Board meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend! Next meeting is July 10th.

Music & Performance VP – Roger Coffman

Music Leadership Team Meeting. MLT meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of every month at 5:00 pm at Wally's Restaurant on McCallie Avenue. **Reminder:** Meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend! July meeting was held early, June 19th, due to July 4th holiday conflicts. The business was how to administer assessment for contest songs.

Annual Show Song List. We have a lot of work to do to learn the music for the Annual Show. Everyone by now should have the sheet music and learning CDs (Contact Paul for these materials.) Below is the schedule. I don't know about you, but I keep my learning CD in the car and practice with it as I drive.

Frank Delaney needs help in selling program ads. Everyone needs to be planning a strategy for selling his share of the tickets. Steve Wixson is looking for help to build the Annual Show set.

Song	Practice Begins (On Music)	Off Sheet Music	Song Learned	Song 1 st Performed
Susie	n/a	n/a	Done	Contest 2005
Lulu	n/a	n/a	Done	?
Yona	About March 2006	Now	June 19	Creekside June 2006
Sally	About May 2006	Now	Tonight	Annual Show
Rose	Tonight (sang thru in May)	Next week	July 10	Annual Show
Kathleen	Tonight	July 10	July 10	Annual Show
Maggie Alone	July 10	July 17	July 24	Annual Show
Georgia Brown	July 10	July 17	July 24	Annual Show
Louisville Lou	July 17	July 24	July 31	Annual Show

Chapter Development VP – Steve Wixson

Thanks to Paul, we had a nice going away party for Dave Reynolds. Dave's new address is:

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Program for tonight:

6:45 – Arrive at All Saints – Everybody

6:58 – Call to Arms – Gary

7:00 – "The Old Songs" – Chuck

7:02 – Warm-Ups – Chuck

7:10 – Polecat Song of the Month – Chuck

7:12 – Rehearsal – Paul

8:20 – Business Meeting – Announcements – Gary

8:30 – Break

8:40 – Four on the Floor

8:45 – Rehearsal – Paul

9:25 – Gandy Dancer – Paul

9:28 – Keep the World Singing – Gandy Dancer

9:30 – Dismissal

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	Sep 14 th	5:30 pm #	Elderhostel	Red Top Mtn	TBD
Sun	Dec 3 rd	5:30 pm	Mt Pisgah Baptist Church	Ringgold, GA	TBD

Tue	Dec 12 th	6:30 pm	Alexian Brothers	Alexian Brothers	TBD
Thu	Dec 14 th	6:30 pm	Creekside	Creekside	TBD

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Tux-Purple is Black Tux Coat, Black Tux Pants, White Suspenders (if needed), and Pleated White Tux Shirt (tab collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks, Purple accessories (Bowtie & Cumberbund).

Gold Vest is Gold Vest, Black Tux Pants, Black Bowtie, White Suspenders (if needed), and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks.

Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

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Summer Casual is white chorus shirt with logo, blue chorus pants, black wingtips, black socks, and black belt.

* Time we need to be there.

*** We will be eating at the Red Top Mtn. Restaurant after we sing.

Bus/vans will leave from Big Lots parking lot on Hwy 27 in Fort Oglethorpe.

Upcoming Special Events

July 5 th -8 th	SPEBSQSA International Convention	Indianapolis, IN
August 5th	Annual Show	Notre Dame HS
July 21st – 23rd	Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend	Clemson University
September 29th & 30th	Dixie District Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN

Public Relations VP – Steve Grubb

Clothing Manager – Lamar Owens

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in June

2rd Gary Fisher
18th Erby Erwin
21st Barbara Keegan
21st Pat Dawson

Anniversaries in June

4th Johnny & Sally Jackson
5th Steve & Janet Wixson
13th Sam & Pat Jones
18th Fred & Judy Jesse

Please contact Dan Bruns for anything about the newsletter. (Temporarily contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net)



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
July 10th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

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Music & Performance VP – Roger Coffman

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Gold Vest is Gold Vest, Black Tux Pants, Black Bowtie, White Suspenders (if needed), and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks.

Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cummerbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks.

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August 5 th	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>Notre Dame HS</i>
July 21 st – 23 rd	<i>Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend</i>	<i>Clemson University</i>
September 29 th & 30 th	<i>Dixie District Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Publicity – Steve Grubb

Hello, and greetings from sunny Florida, and the President of The Academy, the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. We are a relatively new chapter with lofty goals: we want to increase our membership, do well in competition, entertain audiences throughout our area and have great fun. Pretty much the same as your chapter I imagine... We are very fortunate to have a great Musical Director in Drew Kirkman (Tenor, Michigan Jake), and 25 men who absolutely love this hobby. Some guys are brand new to the Society while others have 30+ years of experience. What we don't have is the financial resources to do all the things we need to do such as buying risers and new uniforms. So we've come up with what I think is a unique idea, and I'm hoping you'll help us spread the word.

We are holding a raffle that will be of interest to all barbershoppers. The prize is a collection of 30+ CDs from top quartets, past and present, AND an iPod Nano mp3 player. (We say 30+ as the number keeps growing - we may end up with 40 CDs once Drew gets back from International!) Imagine, for the cost of less than one CD, a chance to win CDs from quartets such as Acoustix, Michigan Jake, Realtime, Chiefs of Staff, Vocal Spectrum, Keepsake, Gas House Gang, Grandma's Boys as well as women's foursomes including Showtime, The Buzz and Rumours! And an iPod! Tickets are only \$10 and the prize package is worth well over \$750. (In some ways it's worth even more than that, given the amount of time and effort it would take to purchase all these amazing CDs.)

I hope that you'll agree that this is a one-of-a-kind raffle with a prize that every barbershop enthusiast would LOVE to own. I also hope that you'll help us spread the word by letting the men in your chapter know about our fund-raising effort. The web site for more information or to order tickets is: <http://www.theacademychorus.com/raffle>

I would be most grateful if you could announce this at an upcoming meeting, put it in your newsletter or on your web site - anything you could do to let your members (and families) know would be most appreciated!! Thanks so much for your time! In Harmony. Dave Cross, President, The Academy Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, The Barbershop Harmony Society.

PS. Tickets can be bought online or by mail, but the deadline is September 3, 2006

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in July

4th Janet Wixson
7th Bud Moore
16th Pat Slack
29th J. N. Howard

Anniversaries in July

21st Brooks and Audrey Gist
25th Erby and Glenda Erwin

Please contact Dan Bruns for anything about the newsletter. (Temporarily contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net)



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
August 14th, 2006



There were no submissions this week.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in August

10th Audrey Brooks
20th Lindy Blazek
20th Clarence Wall
28th JW Kirk
29th Lebron Brock

Anniversaries in August

10th JW & Joy Kirk
20th Jerry & Connie Bradwell
21st Bernard & Glenda Peek

Please contact Dan Bruns for anything about the newsletter. (Temporarily contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net)



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** *August 21th, 2006*



President – Beau Christian

The Assessment procedure, adopted last week, has been a difficult, sometimes painful, topic. On the one hand, we struggle mightily to improve our competition performance, and to encourage all who will to get 'up to speed' on the competition songs. The vast majority of Chorus members have indicated a desire to improve our competition. On the other hand, no one wishes to damage the unique and wonderful fellowship of the Choo Choo Chorus. If you choose to sing at competition, by now you should have figured out which procedure seems best for you and you should have advised your section leader so that your assessment can be scheduled. I emailed every Chorus member a copy of the Assessment Procedure on last Monday. If you don't do email, I also pinned up a copy in the rehearsal room. You might want to be brushing up, if need be, on 'Rose' and 'Kathleen'. But if you choose not to participate in competition, please get and stay involved with the competition. As most of you already know, there are a thousand details that need to be attended to. Ask Wilbur - he'll find all the participation you can handle! Remember, about two-thirds of the District's Choruses do not participate in competitions at all. It's something the Choo Choo Chorus has chosen to do. But, at least in our case, the most important thing we have going is our fellowship. We cherish it, we nourish it, we hope never to harm it.

Director – Paul Blazek

We will sing the member requested Sally and Yona with the slim possibility of making them the contest songs. We will also work on Mary Lou, Rose and Kathleen.

Chapter Development VP – Steve Wixson

Dave's Reynolds new address is: Room 352, Williamsburg Retirement Community, 5445 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. His computer is setup in his room and his email address is still UncledaveR@aol.com. His brother-in-law says he likes his new home.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Program for tonight:

6:45 – Arrive at All Saints – Everybody

6:58 – Call to Arms – Gary

7:00 – “The Old Songs” – Chuck

7:02 – Warm-Ups – Chuck

7:10 – Polecat “Heart of My Heart” – Chuck

7:12 – Rehearsal – Paul

8:20 – Business Meeting – Announcements – Gary

8:30 – Break

8:40 – Four on the Floor

8:45 – Rehearsal – Paul

9:25 – Gandy Dancer – Paul

9:28 – Keep the World Singing – Gandy Dancer

9:30 – Dismissal

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Sep 16 th	3:00 pm	Lee and Gordon's Mill	Chickamauga, GA (tentative depending on the response from members)	TBD
Sun	Dec 3 rd	5:30 pm ?	Mt Pisgah Baptist Church	Ringgold, GA	TBD
Tue	Dec 12 th	6:30 pm	Alexian Brothers	Alexian Brothers	TBD
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TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

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Upcoming Special Events

September 29th & 30th	<i>Dixie District Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
December 2	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CSTCC Auditorium</i>
December 8th	<i>Christmas Party</i>	<i>Steve and Janet Wixson's Home</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in August

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Anniversaries in August

10th JW & Joy Kirk
20th Jerry & Connie Bradwell
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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
August 28th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

I was pleased and impressed with the number of members who stayed late last Monday evening in order to be assessed for competition. By the time I left, several were complete and more members were lined up to have at it. Thanks to Paul, Chuck and others for staying late and helping.

As we move toward the Fall competition, don't forget to get registered. A print form was in the last Rebel Rouser, or it can be done via the internet by going to the Dixie District web site. And, of course, you must be a member of the Society in good standing, in order to compete. That said, get with Wilbur, see how you can help with hosting the competition.

Music Leadership VP—Roger Coffman

Roger is on vacation this week.

Director – Paul Blazek

Songs for this week: Wild Irish Rose, Kathleen (with sectionals), contest; Hello Mary Lou, general repertoire.

Secretary and Historian— Fred Jesse

In the anticipated remodeling of the meeting place, a location is being planned for storage of the chapter archives. I have material that David Reynolds has kept for many years. I have sorted through a good share of it and hope to organize it for easy info retrieval if needed. However, if while I am doing this, you have any chapter history you would donate to the archives, I would appreciate having it now to include. This would include show programs and scripts (I have most of them); contest score sheets; video and audio tapes; newspaper articles, ads, and pictures; photos; newsletters, Blenders, and Rebel Rousers; Board and Music Team minutes; Harmonizers; barbershop related books and articles. I need barbershop music books, sheet music, and tags for a file I would like to start of one copy of all the sheet music we have, and any other perhaps out of print music to be kept for reference purposes. Check your closets, file drawers, shelves, boxes, etc., for stuff to be saved. I would most appreciate it. Many thanks.

Chapter Development VP – Steve Wixson

The initiation flyer for the 2006 Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus (CCCC) will be available on Monday. I remember how it felt to have 70 men and women singing on stage at last year's Christmas program, and I would like that feeling again this year. I will mail the flyer to former CCCC members and former chapter members. Start thinking about who you can recruit this year and give them a flyer. Also think about where you could post a flyer. This has been one of our best recruiting tools.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Program for tonight:

6:45 – Arrive at All Saints – Everybody

6:58 – Call to Arms – Gary

7:00 – “The Old Songs” – Chuck

7:02 – Warm-Ups – Chuck

7:10 – Polecat “Heart of My Heart” – Chuck

7:12 – Rehearsal – Paul

8:20 – Business Meeting – Announcements – Gary

8:30 – Break

8:40 – Four on the Floor

8:45 – Rehearsal – Paul

9:25 – Gandy Dancer – Paul

9:28 – Keep the World Singing – Gandy Dancer

9:30 – Dismissal

Note: there will be no meeting on Labor Day, Monday, September 4th.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Sep 16 th	3:00 pm	Lee and Gordon's Mill	Chickamauga, GA (tentative depending on the response from members)	TBD
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Upcoming Special Events

<i>September 29th & 30th</i>	<i>Dixie District Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>December 2</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CSTCC Auditorium</i>
<i>December 8th</i>	<i>Christmas Party</i>	<i>Steve and Janet Wixson's Home</i>

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Weekly Newsletter for
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September 11th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

We are only about 6 rehearsals away from our Fall competition and a few reminders seem in order: If you haven't yet been assessed for competition and plan to compete, that needs to be done very soon. Also, don't forget to get registered. A printed form was made available at last rehearsal, or you can register online. As usual, we need everyone to help host the competition - see Wilbur Strickland to find out where you can do us some good. And lastly - be disciplined in your work on the competition songs both in and out of rehearsal. Be on time, work with your section, focus on blend and following Paul's direction. I believe these things will help us at the competition.

Music Leadership VP—Roger Coffman

The MLT will meet this Monday at 5:00 pm at Wally's Restaurant on McCallie. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Director – Paul Blazek

Songs for this week: During the first half, Hello Mary Lou, Star Spangled Banner, Dixie and start looking at Battle Hymn of the Republic. Second half, Wild Irish Rose and Kathleen for contest. Let's be off the sheet music for Mary Lou by next Monday, September 18th.

Assistant Director – Chuck Wilson

The Polecat of the Month for September is Honey L'il Lize (Bb). I will be out of town Monday, but I will let Paul know.

Chapter Development VP – Steve Wixson

A very late second quarter issue of the weekly newsletter is about finished. It has a lead article on Dave Reynolds with photographs by Tom as well as notes from Dave and others. Also a short article on Frank Delaney's WWII video by Johnny.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Program for tonight:

6:45 – Arrive at All Saints – Everybody

6:58 – Call to Arms – Gary

7:00 – “The Old Songs” – Chuck

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7:10 – Polecat “Honey L'il Lize” – Chuck

7:12 – Rehearsal – Paul

8:20 – Business Meeting – Announcements – Gary

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9:30 – Dismissal

Break out your sleigh bells and mark your calendars for Saturday, December 2nd when we traipse up the mountain to Steve Wixson's humble abode for a bodacious Christmas party. Steve says the eggnog will flow freely and if you drink too much of it, he'll let you sleep it off on his patio overnight. Bring your wife, bring your girl friend--and we'll let that be the evening's entertainment. We will take a show of hands sometime in November to get an idea of who is coming.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

The September 16th sing out has been cancelled.

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<i>December 8th</i>	<i>Christmas Party</i>	<i>Steve and Janet Wixson's Home</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in September

5th Benny Malone
 9th Sam Jones
 9th Gelda Malone
 16th Carol Collins
 26th Sally Jackson
 30th Barry Owens

Anniversaries in September

5th Barry & Nancy Owens
 9th Bud & Cheri Moore
 16th Bill & Pat Slack

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
September 18th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

The Board will meet this Monday at 5:00 pm at Wally's Restaurant on McCallie. Everyone is welcome to attend.

It turns out that inviting men to join us in the CCCC is one of our best recruiting tools for new members of the Chorus. October 9 has been set for the 'kick-off' rehearsal toward our annual Christmas show and would be an ideal time for new (or old) participants join with us. As you probably know, there are no strings attached to a person's participation in the CCCC. Of course, it is our hope that, sampling our harmony and fellowship, CCCC members will want to become full Chorus members. The remainder of September and into early October would be a good time to approach acquaintances to invite them to come be with us for the holidays.

Music Leadership VP—Roger Coffman

We will be learning some new songs for the Christmas show and rehearsals for the Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus begin October 9th.

Director – Paul Blazek

Songs for this week: During the first half, Hello Mary Lou, Star Spangled Banner, Battle Hymn of the Republic. Second half, Wild Irish Rose and Kathleen for contest. Let's be off the sheet music for Mary Lou this week. Last week we spent over an hour on Battle Hymn and it was time well spent. This week we don't want to spend much time on it, so please practice with the sheet music and the learning CD during the week.

Chapter Development VP – Steve Wixson

Thank you for acknowledging my 32nd barbershop anniversary. I am proud of the fact that I am the oldest member (in point of service) in my Clarksburg-Fairmont chapter. We went to Charleston WV to compete in our JAD Divisional., and will then go to Independence, Ohio for the District in October. We don't really expect to out score the Alliance Chorus, The Singing Buckeyes, or Cincinnati Western Hills, but it will be interesting to compare scores. I finally got a quartet started here, but it will be 6 months or a year before we are ready to perform in public. The bass just joined our chapter this month with no previous experience, the bari about 3 months ago and the lead is a veteran of 3 years in the chapter. I love a challenge. My health is still excellent and I am enjoying life immensely although I do miss the Choo-choo-ers and the guys at Cleveland. I often wish I could live here and sing there but with the price of gas- I hope to visit with ya-all before too long. KASTOS, *Argyle Kauffman*

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Program for tonight:

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6:58 – Call to Arms – Gary
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8:40 – Four on the Floor-
8:45 – Rehearsal – Paul
9:25 – Gandy Dancer – Paul
9:28 – Keep the World Singing – Gandy Dancer
9:30 – Dismissal

Correction: the Christmas party is Saturday, December 9th.

Four on the Floor are Michael Prentice, Michael Cyr, Johnny Jackson and Gary Fisher

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

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TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Tux-Purple is Black Tux Coat, Black Tux Pants, White Suspenders (if needed), and Pleated White Tux Shirt (tab collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks, Purple accessories (Bowtie & Cummerbund).

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Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cummerbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks.

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Upcoming Special Events

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in September

5th Benny Malone
9th Sam Jones
9th Gelda Malone
16th Carol Collins
26th Sally Jackson
30th Barry Owens

Anniversaries in September

5th Barry & Nancy Owens
9th Bud & Cheri Moore
16th Bill & Pat Slack

Please contact Dan Bruns for anything about the newsletter. (Temporarily contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net)

The



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
September 25, 2006



President – Beau Christian

In visiting with a Chorus member, he was telling me that we shouldn't be worrying about our score for our competition - just go out there and enjoy and never mind the opinion of some judges. I told him that, in my view, the vast majority of the Chorus members were very concerned about the scoring and set a high priority on improving our competition scores. I'm remembering the mood and comments following last spring's dismal outcome. It just seems to me that we can work our tails off, take the competition quite seriously, and still enjoy the music and fellowship.

Music Leadership VP—Roger Coffman

The dress for contest at next week's convention is black tux with purple accessories. We will look sharp and perform well!

Director – Paul Blazek

Songs for this week: During the first half, Hello Mary Lou and Star Spangled Banner in preparation for the Special Olympics performance. Let's again be off the sheet music for Mary Lou. Last week there were five who had to retreat to sheet music. Also continue to work on Battle Hymn of the Republic and plan to be off the sheet music week after next. Second half on risers, Wild Irish Rose and Kathleen for contest

Convention Coordinator – Wilbur Strickland

I would like for all who have red "tee" shirts, the ones with the train on the back, to please wear them on Friday and Saturday of the Convention. I have new ones ordered for those who have never had one and the volunteers who have not got one. There is a very limited supply due to the cost and only have a very few. So please don't ask for a new "tee" shirt just because you want one. We need to be recognized at the Convention and can do this by wearing the red shirt with the logo or train on the back. Most of the Belles have new shirts, which they have bought, and will wear them rather than the "tee" shirts with the train on the back.

Chapter Development VP – Steve Wixson

Fred presented two renewals, Johnny Jackson (20 years) and Pete Jones (15)

We need to get rid of some items in preparation for the construction in the storage room. Can anyone use the cabinets, Polaroid camera, steamer or teddy bear now in the riser room?

Here are last weeks Four on the Floor, Benny, Paul, Bill and Fred, singing a hilarious version of the Battle Hymn.



Program VP – Gary Fisher

Program for tonight:

6:45 – Arrive at All Saints – Everybody

6:58 – Call to Arms – Gary

7:00 – “The Old Songs” – Chuck

7:02 – Warm-Ups – Chuck

7:10 – Polecat “Honey L’il Lize” – Chuck

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Four on the Floor are Michael Prentice, Michael Cyr, Johnny Jackson and Gary Fisher

Business Manager – Pete Jones

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** *October 2nd, 2006*



President – Beau Christian

With the Fall Competition now behind us, our next big event, just like Wal-Mart, is preparing for Christmas, Chorus style. We have several sing outs already booked and, of course, our Christmas show is now set for Dec. 2 at Chattanooga State. As I mentioned previously, the inclusion of CCCC singers is one of our best recruiting tools and Steve, among others, is working hard to get the word out that we officially begin our Christmas season on October 9. To that end, it is important that everyone recruit men for the season (at least), and heartily welcome any who come to rehearsal.

Nominating Committee – Steve Grubb

The Nominating Committee's slate of Officers for 2007 is below. Additional nominations can be made from the floor.

President: Beau Christian
Music VP: Roger Coffman
Membership VP: Lebron Brock
Publicity VP: Lamar Owens
Program VP: Gary Fisher
Secretary: Fred Jesse
Treasurer: Johnny Jackson
Bulletin Editor: Steve Wixson
Business Manager: Pete Jones
Board Member: Frank Delaney (3 years)
Board Member: Benny Malone (2 Years)
Board Member: W. C. Strickland (1 Year)

Music Leadership VP—Roger Coffman

On Monday evening, October 2, there will be a combined Music Leadership Team and Choo Choo Chorus Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m. We will meet as usual at Wally's on McCallie. If can pull this off, then we will not have to meet on the next Monday, except for rehearsal and to welcome the first of the Community Chorus members who will be joining us for the Christmas Show.

Director – Paul Blazek

We will discuss our chorus contest performance and look at the video. Songs for this week: Mary Lou, Battle Hymn of the Republic (be off the sheet music) and Dixie.

Chapter Development VP – Steve Wixson

I emailed the CCCC Invitation to the Men's group in my church and got back one hit so far from someone who I never would have asked thinking he was not interested in singing. If you have access to a men's email list in your church or etc., please forward the CCCC Invitation to them. Who knows who might turn up?

Update From Daniel Randolph. Lee University is a new experience. It has been extremely exciting, and I have learned a lot. I miss the Choo Choo Chorus a lot. I was really sad that I was away so much this summer. I hope things are going well back in Chattanooga. My car broke down about three weeks ago- I hope to get it fixed in about a month or so. Overall, I love college; it is a truly an amazing experience. I am looking into Screem Machine right now. I haven't had a chance to drop by rehearsals but I plan on it.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Program for tonight:

6:45 – Arrive at All Saints – Everybody

6:58 – Call to Arms – Gary

7:00 – “The Old Songs” – Chuck

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7:10 – Polecat “Sweet Adeline” – Chuck

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8:30 – Break

8:40 – Four on the Floor-

8:45 – Rehearsal – Paul

9:25 – Gandy Dancer – Paul

9:28 – Keep the World Singing – Gandy Dancer

9:30 – Dismissal

Four on the Floor for today were not at the last meeting and don't know they've volunteered. They are Ron, Steve Grubb, Beau and Lonnie.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

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TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

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Birthdays in October

8th Melissa Wilson
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Anniversaries in October

21st Benny & Guelda Malone
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Please contact Dan Bruns for anything about the newsletter. (Temporarily contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net)



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
October 9th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

The House of Delegates meeting for the Dixie District was, itself, a further example of evident declining interest in the convention. Only 19 chapters were represented at the meeting, one more than required for a quorum and doing business. Most of that business was given over to attempting to deal with declining revenues for the District. Several ideas were mentioned as possible ways to make more income. As to cutting expenses, the District will stop using color in the Rebel Rouser, and will publish the magazine electronically via email with only a small number of copies actually printed. This is projected to save some \$1,600 per issue. Also, COTS will no longer use a motel for the seminars, but will instead (this January) use a church in Marietta for the training. Finally, the District voted to increase dues by \$5.00 per year. It was noted that the Society presently had 29,200 members as of August 06, down 527. The District was down net 9 at this time, with an approximate total membership in the District of approximately 1,800 members.

Here is a note you might appreciate. "Gentlemen, It was a tremendous pleasure to have the opportunity to work with each of you again in Chattanooga. I primarily work with the five of you directly, but the entire convention team is to be commended for a superb effort in handling our competitors, attendees, judges and special guests.

Wilbur, please deliver my thanks to your people for their efforts during the weekend. WE could not have done it without you! Everyone was very pleasant and congenial. I always look forward to returning to Chattanooga.

Steve, you were a miracle worker and a very dependable and efficient driver. You saved the bell by delivering Brian and Curt as you did on Friday evening. And I know all of the judges were most appreciative of your services and friendship during the entire weekend. Thanks again for coming through for us! Please convey my thanks also to your team for their services as well.

Fred, I have never seen such quick turn around on the printing of the official scoring forms! I don't know how you did it, but you were most efficient! Thanks for seeing to the needs of the panel. I know they were all very appreciative of your efforts.

Sincerely, Jim Sams, VP of C&J-Dixie Contest Administrator."

There was a third reading of the Nomination Committee report and the following people were then elected for year 2007.

President: Beau Christian
Music VP: Roger Coffman
Membership VP: Lebron Brock
Publicity VP: Lamar Owens
Program VP: Gary Fisher
Secretary: Fred Jesse
Treasurer: Johnny Jackson
Bulletin Editor: Steve Wixson
Business Manager: Pete Jones
Board Member: Frank Delaney (3 years)
Board Member: Benny Malone (2 Years)
Board Member: W. C. Strickland (1 Year)

Music Leadership VP—Roger Coffman

CCCC starts this week and there will be music and learning CDs. Come early and welcome the CCCC visitors.

Director – Paul Blazek

Monday is the first rehearsal for the CCCC and we will be singing a couple of new Christmas Songs. Songs for after the break are Mary Lou, Battle Hymn of the Republic and Dixie.

Chapter Development VP – Steve Wixson

Recruiting for the CCCC continues and we need everyone's help. Please call and invite your friends. Also please welcome our CCCC members both before the meeting and during the break. Let's recruit a few new regular members.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Note the change in the Program during the time the CCCC are practicing with us. We will have the business meeting after the CCCC.

Program for tonight:

6:45 – Arrive at All Saints – Everybody

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8:40 – Four on the Floor-

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9:25 – Gandy Dancer – Paul

9:28 – Keep the World Singing – Gandy Dancer

9:30 – Dismissal

Four on the Floor for Monday are Chuck (tenor), Paul (lead), Benny and Gary

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

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March 23-25, 2007	Dixie Spring Convention	Knoxville, TN
July 1-8, 2007	International Convention	Denver, CO
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Anniversaries in October

21st Benny & Guelda Malone
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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
October 16th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

While away visiting my daughter and grandson in Virginia last week, I was trying, not very successfully, to access my email, see if there was any 'news' from the Chorus. There was, and I attempted to respond to some emails and found that I couldn't get the emails to go out from Virginia.

While doing all that, I found myself humming 'Mary Lou' and other selections. I began to ponder the impact of the Chorus on my life and decided that it was considerable. I do spend some time thinking about the Chorus, trying to act like a President, trying to help the Chorus.

But that's not really what it's about. What it is about is after rehearsal, three weeks ago, Paul, Oliver, me - and I forget who was doing tenor - huddled together singing Mary Lou at the top of our lungs and enjoying something really special that only barbershoppers understand. I am reminded of the old adage, 'For those who have experienced it, no explanation is needed. For those who have not experienced it, no explanation is possible.' The Chorus really is something special for all who participate.

Music Leadership VP—Roger Coffman

I was embarrassed by the poor attendance of our members at the first meeting of the CCCC. Let's make sure that we are there and that we make an effort to bring someone with us.

Director – Paul Blazek

Monday is the second rehearsal for the CCCC we will be singing O holy night, Children's Medley, Hark the Herald and It Came Upon. Songs for after the break are Battle Hymn of the Republic, Dixie and White Christmas (please learn or review in preparation for next week when the CCCC begins practice on it.)

Chapter Development VP – Steve Wixson

Recruiting for the CCCC continues and we need everyone's help. I've placed a flyer in Signal Mtn Plaza and just now thought about placing a couple in the Downtown and North River YMCAs. Please call and invite your friends. Also please welcome our CCCC members both before the meeting and during the break. Let's recruit a few new regular members.

Fred Jesse passed the Gandy to Mary Strickland last week. Wilbur read this note: "Fred, on behalf of all the ladies who worked during the convention, thank you so much for this recognition. The work at the convention, and all of our other endeavors, is truly a team effort. Everyone must do their share to pull it off. And, this time, again, everyone came through and Strick and I truly do appreciate it. Several people went 'the extra mile' during the convention. Thanks, Mary

A note from Pat Crowe about the upcoming time change. Sunday Oct 29th daylight savings time ends and we revert back to Standard time. Did you ever wonder when this all started?

On March 31, 1918, daylight saving time went into effect throughout the United States for the first time. It lasted only two years. The violent protests of farmers, who said their cows were giving milk after the milk trains passed by, brought repeal of the law over President Wilson's veto.

Daylight saving time did not return to the nation as a whole until World War II. Maybe we shouldn't tell those tardy members and they'll get there on time on the 30th. From the October 1999 issue of the Blender newsletter.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Note the change in the Program during the time the CCCC are practicing with us. We will have the business meeting after the CCCC.

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8:35 – Business Meeting – Announcements – Gary

8:45 – Rehearsal – Paul

9:25 – Gandy Dancer – Paul

9:28 – Keep the World Singing – Gandy Dancer

9:30 – Dismissal

Four on the Floor for Monday are Miles, Sam, Irby and Brooks

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Note the date change on the Mt Pisgah sing out.

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
October 30th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

As we get underway with our Christmas preparations, I again encourage everyone to recruit CCCC members. Not only do we get to meet some new guys, but as I have noted before, this is also one of our best recruiting tools. There is still time to bring in some men. Learning CD's and music are available; there is neither cost nor long-term obligation - so ask some friends or acquaintances to join us. I think that anyone who joins in and participates in our Christmas singouts and concert will experience what we all know - the fellowship and fun of barbershopping. It is unique.

Director – Paul Blazek

No new songs for tonight. Just more work on the songs we've practiced so far.

Chapter Development VP – Steve Wixson

I passed a list of former members around last meeting asking for input on whose still around. This week, I am sending a copy of the quarterly newsletter and a CCCC invitation to each of them still alive and in the area. If you are in contact with any of them, please add your invitation. We could reactivate a few of them.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

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The Christmas party has been moved to Saturday, December 16th from 7 - 9 pm at the home of Steve Wixson on Signal Mountain. All chorus members including the Community Chorus are invited as well as wives, girl friends and children. There will be a \$10/person cost to cover the eats. We will provide a map closer to time. If you wish to come to the party, give your money (cash or check) to Gary Fisher.

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Gold Vest is Gold Vest, Black Tux Pants, Black Bowtie, White Suspenders (if needed), and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks.

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- Time we need to be there.

*** We will be eating at the Red Top Mtn. Restaurant after we sing.

Bus/vans will leave from Big Lots parking lot on Hwy 27 in Fort Oglethorpe.

Upcoming Special Events

October 9th	CCCC Rehearsal Begins	All Saints
December 2	Christmas Show	CSTCC Auditorium
December 16th	Christmas Party	Steve and Janet Wixson's Home
January 12-13, 2007	COTS	Marietta, GA
March 23-25, 2007	Dixie Spring Convention	Knoxville, TN
July 1-8, 2007	International Convention	Denver, CO
September 28-30, 2007	Dixie Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in October

8th Melissa Wilson
11th Paul Blazek
18th Dave Reynolds
19th Lynn Pruett
24th Jerry Bradwell

Anniversaries in October

21st Benny & Guelda Malone
21ar Chuck & Melissa Wilson

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** November 6th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

I remind the membership that first Mondays are MLT meetings, 2nd Mondays (in this case Nov 13) are Board meetings. Both start at 5 pm at Wally's on McCallie and, as always, members are welcome to attend. The reason I bring this point forward again is that, frankly, we could use further input from the membership as to the direction of the Chorus.

I can't tell if it's just the winter blahs coming on, or if there's just a lot of things getting in the way, or if some sort of ennui is setting in. Whatever it is, our CCCC efforts have been less than spectacular (to say the least), and, for that matter, attendance at rehearsal is once again lagging - with just four rehearsals left between now and the Christmas show. One Board member has already questioned whether we should really try to go ahead with the show at all, print the tickets, etc. Has he got a good point?

I realize, as usual, that many or most of the members know at least a version of the Christmas music - but there are quite a few new guys who need help in their section and depend on the 'seasoned' membership to help them get on to the music.

We need your input, but even more, we need your presence. I was having a good time, last Monday, harmonizing with LeBron up the nosebleed section of the rehearsal room as we were working on Christmas music and I was thinking you just can't beat the fun and fellowship. Do you agree? Do you show it?

Director – Paul Blazek

Second week on *Deck the Halls*. Continued work on the rest of the songs

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Note the change in the Program during the time the CCCC are practicing with us. We will have the business meeting after the CCCC

Program for tonight:

6:45 – Arrive at All Saints – Everybody

6:58 – Call to Arms – Gary

7:00 – “The Old Songs” – Chuck

7:02 – Warm-Ups – Chuck

7:10 – Polecat “Down By the Old Mill Stream” – Chuck

7:12 – CCCC Rehearsal – Paul

8:20 – Break and time to greet CCCC guests

8:30 – Four on the Floor-

8:35 – Business Meeting – Announcements – Gary

8:45 – Rehearsal – Paul

9:25 – Gandy Dancer – Paul

9:28 – Keep the World Singing – Gandy Dancer

9:30 – Dismissal

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sun	Dec 10 rd	5:30 pm ?	Mt Pisgah Baptist Church	Ringgold, GA	TBD
Tue	Dec 12 th	6:30 pm	Alexian Brothers	Alexian Brothers	TBD
Thu	Dec 14 th	6:30 pm	Creekside	Creekside	TBD

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Tux-Purple is Black Tux Coat, Black Tux Pants, White Suspenders (if needed), and Pleated White Tux Shirt (tab collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks, Purple accessories (Bowtie & Cummerbund).

Gold Vest is Gold Vest, Black Tux Pants, Black Bowtie, White Suspenders (if needed), and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks.

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries (none in November)

Birthdays in November

2 nd	Joy Kirk
6 th	Lamar Owen
10 th	Hobby Thomas
13 th	Janice Owen
19 th	Wilbur Strickland
22 nd	Mary Strickland
23 rd	Fred Jesse
23 rd	John Johnston
23 rd	Pete Snyder
29 th	Frank Delaney
29 th	Pat Jones

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
November 13th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

'Tis the Season . . . ' for me when we start our Christmas selections. About the time we get to 4-part 'White Christmas', 'Chestnuts', and the like, I remember how much I enjoy harmonizing the selections. And, in about three weeks, we'll get to share them with the public in what is shaping up to be a very busy December for the Chorus. All of the above is merely to serve as a reminder that we need you all and that our fellowship in the Chorus just might be the nicest Christmas present of all.

Director – Paul Blazek

We will review previous music and work hard on *Winter Wonderland* and *Deck the Halls*. We will start working on *Let it snow*.

Music Leadership VP—Roger Coffman

The time is now for us to get serious about our Christmas Program. The show is set for Chattanooga State on Saturday night, December 2. That's less than a month away. Please be on time for these next three rehearsals and plan to stay the whole time, as we head down the home stretch.

Development VP – Steve Wixson

The Christmas party will be at our house. Janet will slow cook a couple of corn beef briskets and there will be a Honeybaked ham plus catered fixings and dessert. This will be a more casual party than usual. The pool table will be open for challenge matches. Come prepared to have fun. Singing is on the menu.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Be sure and sign up for the Christmas party with the number of people you expect to bring and pay Gary Fisher \$10 per person.

Program for tonight:

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9:25 – Gandy Dancer – Paul

9:28 – Keep the World Singing – Gandy Dancer

9:30 – Dismissal

Business Manager – Pete Jones

The Williamsburg/Washington DC trip was cancelled due to low interest.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
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22nd Mary Strickland
23rd Fred Jesse
23rd John Johnston
23rd Pete Snyder
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29th Pat Jones

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
November 20th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

If you haven't already indicated to Gary Fisher your intent to join us at the Christmas party December 16, it's time to get that done. I am hoping that the majority of the Chorus will be able to attend and that our usual fellowship abounds. Perhaps we will even be able to muster up the gumption to sing a couple of Christmas carols - though by then we will have sung a whole bunch of gigs! If my calendar is anything like accurate, we have six gigs booked, not counting the extra called rehearsal for Nov. 30. Wow! I thank you all, in advance, for your effort and endurance. And for the fellowship we all enjoy so much.

Director – Paul Blazek

On Monday, before the break - White Christmas, Christmas Song in chairs, review all other music on risers. After the break – the rest of the 12 Days and Let It Snow.

I talked about leading tone again last night. A leading tone is one-half step away from the tone you're aiming at. For example if you sing the scale - "do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti" - and stop, some (maybe most) people will try to kill you. The unfinished nature of the notes you sang almost demands a final "do". At that point "ti" is the leading tone, one-half step away from "do". Due to the nature of barbershop harmony, we find leading tones both in melody and harmony notes. Our harmony revolves (mostly) around the "circle of fifths", where a barbershop seventh chord "leads" to a tonic chord in the related key. An example of this would be a G7 chord (G, B, D, F) leading to a C chord (C, E, G, C). Notice that the B in the G7 is one-half step away from the C. Not only is this a leading-tone situation, but the B is the third of the G7 and would require extra attention to pitch anyway. We almost always tend to sing the leading tone flat and a little attention to these situations is a great way to keep on pitch in the chorus.

Development VP – Steve Wixson

Pat Crowe missed a couple of practices due to pneumonia. He hopes to make it this Monday.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Be sure and sign up for the Christmas party with the number of people you expect to bring and pay Gary Fisher \$10 per person.

Program for tonight:

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7:10 – Polecat “Down By the Old Mill Stream” – Chuck

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9:30 – Dismissal

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Our charity for our Christmas Show is Toy's for Tots. Etc.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries (none in November)

Birthdays in November

2nd Joy Kirk
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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
November 27th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

The Board and MLT are planning a seminar for January 20, 2007, 10 to 2 pm at Wally's on Ringgold Road. As usual, everyone is welcome. The purpose of the get-together is to establish directions and priorities for the Chorus for 2007. To that end, I would welcome your input. One item already on the agenda is the Assessment program, first put in place for last fall's competition.

Also, it's time to begin thinking about Singing Valentines for 2007. Quartets who wish to participate should identify themselves. If you have any ideas to improve the program, the MLT would welcome them. We will need everyone's help, singing or not, to get out the word, publicize, sell those Valentines. This program has routinely been one of our best funding sources and, as usual, we can use all the funding we can get.

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

Our final Christmas show rehearsals are this Monday at 7pm and Thursday at 7pm. We will meet at Bond Auditorium (changing room) at 3pm Saturday for a final run thru and warm-up.

Gary Fisher has written the script for the show and the song list follows. The dress for the show is dark blue pants, dark blue socks, white dress shirt with lay down collar, and a gaudy Christmas tie. Choo Choo Chorus members will wear their red coat for the songs we sing by ourselves.

Christmas Show Song Order

Winter Wonderland

Let it Snow

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Children's Medley

My too front teeth (quartet)

Diddy squat (quartet)

I saw mommy kissing Santa Claus (quartet)

Rudolf the red nosed reindeer (quartet)

Angels We Have Heard On High

It came up

Lo How a Rose er Blooming (quartet)

O Holy Night

Jingle Bells

Silver Bells (quartet)

I Heard the Bells

Christmas Song

I'll Be Home for Christmas (quartet)

Tender Tennessee Chrisdtmas (quartet)

Christmas Island (quartet)

12 Days of Christmas

White Christmas

Joy to the World

O, Come all Ye Faithful

Silent Night

Christmas Tag

Development VP – Steve Wixson

The Wednesday, November 22nd, issue of the Signal Mountain Community News insert to the Chattanooga Times newspaper has a story on our JN Howard and his book *Fire In the Mountains: A Story of Spiritual Awakening*. In the same issue is a photograph and short story on my animated Count Dracula Halloween display with voice and costume by my granddaughter, Abbie.

The following members are listed as suspended by the Society; James Correll (423-236-4836), Bernard Peek (706-398-3104) and Wayne Pruett (706-935-4210). These are highly trained singers. Give them a call and encourage them to stay active. I will invite them to the Christmas party.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Be sure and sign up for the Christmas party with the number of people you expect to bring and pay Gary Fisher \$10 per person. 45 have signed up so far.

Program for tonight:**6:45 – Arrive at All Saints – Everybody****6:58 – Call to Arms – Gary****7:00 – “The Old Songs” – Chuck****7:02 – Warm-Ups – Chuck****7:10 – Polecat “Down By the Old Mill Stream” – Chuck****7:12 – CCCC Rehearsal – Paul****8:20 – Break and time to greet CCCC guests****8:30 – Four on the Floor-****8:35 – Business Meeting – Announcements – Gary****8:45 – Rehearsal – Paul****9:25 – Gandy Dancer – Paul****9:28 – Keep the World Singing – Gandy Dancer****9:30 – Dismissal****Business Manager – Pete Jones**

Our charity for our Christmas Show is Toy's for Tots. Etc.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

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Thu	Dec 7 th	6:30 pm	Martin Boyd Retirement Home	Standifer Gap Road	Red
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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
December 4th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

I was pleased that the majority of the Chorus agreed to the (paid) gig at the South Pittsburg Senior Center. I couldn't help but laugh when JN advised me that he couldn't make that gig due to his own quartet gig - back in greater Chattanooga. The one time so far that he and I wouldn't have to drive 30 miles or so for a gig. I told him that's what he gets for being in a quartet. Jealousy, mostly.

As far as I know, this is the first time the Chorus has sung in South Pittsburg and it may lead to other gigs in the immediate area. Just goes to show that there are venues out there, if we just explore them.

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

Our final Christmas show rehearsal is Thursday, November 30 at 7pm. We will meet at Bond Auditorium (changing room) at 3pm Saturday, December 2nd for a final run thru and warm-up for the Christmas Show. Gary's wife will stage manage the show.

The dress for the show was incorrect in the November 27th newsletter. The dress is **black** pants, **black** socks, white dress shirt with lay down collar, black shoes (not patent/shiny), a gaudy Christmas tie, and red coat.

We need a couple of red coats for the Christmas Show. Call or email Lamar if you have one to loan.

Director – Paul Blazek

We had a good practice last Monday. Study the words to both the second verse of It Came Upon and the Children's Medley before the Thursday rehearsal.

Development VP – Steve Wixson

Paul would like a large star behind the chorus when we sing Silent Night. If anyone has such a star, could you bring it to the Nov 30 rehearsal? Thanks.

There were 36 members and 3 CCCC members on the risers at last Monday's rehearsal.

It is my sincere hope that none of you contract what I've come down with this past weekend by reading this E-mail, but I wanted all of you to know the reason for my absence. Note the time of this message, and you'll see that you are all singing right now without me. Something got me Friday afternoon while with my family in Atlanta and has been kicking my butt ever since. I chilled all day Saturday and missed both worship services Sunday. While I am loading up on Tylenol, antihistamines, expectorants and cough suppressants, I am still unable to be out. Barring a miraculous recovery, I will not be singing Saturday evening since all I'd be doing is coughing and spreading germs none of you need. Please know that I'd rather be well and singing with my chorus than suffering with this congestion. See you all when I can. Steve Grubb.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Be sure and sign up for the Christmas party with the number of people you expect to bring and pay Gary Fisher \$10 per person. 45 have signed up so far.

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location of Martin Boyd is 6845 Standifer Gap Rd., Chattanooga. It is in between Hickory Valley Rd. and Lee Highway on Standifer Gap

Ed Thornton provided these directions for Mt Pisgah sing out. From I-75 go to exit 348 and go south on hwy 151 (Alabama road) toward Lafayette. Continue about 3 miles looking for a Chevron Mega star convenience store on the right. Turn right just before you pass the store. That will be Mt. Pisgah Road. The Church is on the left a little over 3 miles. You will come upon it by surprise as you crest a hill.

From Hwy 27 turn east on Kay-Conley Road. Go about 1/4 mile to 4 way stop and turn left. Go to the dead end and turn right. You should see Peavine Baptist on the right (don't stop there that's not your destination). Continue on Peavine Road and it will change to Mt. Pisgah Road. From the dead end where you turned right go about 3 miles to Westbrook Road and turn right. You will be going up a long hill and just before you reach the top turn right on Westbrook Road. You should now see the church. We will meet for warmup in the building without the steeple. If you get lost give me a call 423-421-1222. Ed,

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Thu	Dec 14 th	6:30 pm	Creekside	Creekside	Same as show
Mon	Dec 18 th	?	So. Pittsburg Senior Center	South Pittsburg	Same as show

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

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Birthdays in December

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 6th Judy Jesse
 6th James Correll
 7th Bernard Peek

19th Steve Grubb
 24th Pete Snyder

Anniversaries in December

20th Pete and Barbara Snyder
23rd Lamar & Janice Owens

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter

Ah



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
December 11th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

We have scheduled a Chorus Seminar for January 20, 10 am to 2 pm at Wally's on Ringgold Road. As always, this meeting is open to all members and all members are encouraged to attend. By then we will be fresh back from COTS and, I hope, have taken in some new ideas to put with our priorities for 2007. As part of the activity for the Seminar, I have listed several topics which seem to be of some importance in the membership and which I hope to have the attendees prioritize and then work for practical solutions. If any of you have suggestions for topics, please forward them to me. Here is the list so far: Attendance, Assessment, Competition, Excellence, Finances, Fellowship, Gigs, Participation, Publicity, Recruitment, Rehearsal and Shows.

Here are directions to the South Pittsburg Senior Center: - I 24 West to Exit 152 (Kimball/South Pittsburg) -As you exit, keep right to South Pittsburg (approximately 2 miles) -Enter downtown South Pittsburg (Cedar Ave) -Turn right at the THIRD stop light -Go one block to Elm Ave, turn LEFT - Post Office is now on your left -The Senior Center is about midway down the same block as the Post Office, on your left, across from South Pittsburg Elementary School -There is an alley that runs between Cedar and Elm Ave, behind the Post Office and past the back of the Senior Center if needed

Director – Paul Blazek

Start listening to (but not singing with, unless you have music in hand) Sweet Georgia Brown and Georgia On My Mind. These are scheduled to be our new contest songs. Keep the Christmas songs warmed up - we still have a few performances left!

Development VP – Steve Wixson

Directions to our house for the Christmas Party. Highway 27 North or South as appropriate. Take Signal Mountain/Hwy 127 exit. Travel up the mountain past the Space Ship house (you can't miss it – it's by a very sharp turn.) Take the second right onto Sunset and the first left onto Lower Brow Road. Our house is the yellow (yes yellow) one. Party starts at 6:00 pm. If you have to arrive late, don't worry about food as it will be out all during the party. Tele# is 886-1744

A bit of history from Pat Crowe: Ten years ago the chorus was preparing to go to London England to be part of the 1997 London parade music festival. We cruised through the bone chilling windy streets of London atop a double decker bus singing Chattanooga Choo Choo. The low temperatures were record setting, the coldest winter in fifty years. Our wives took the blankets from the hotel to keep warm at the parade site.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

There are still about six chorus members that have not paid for the Christmas Party on December 16. Please submit ten dollars per person to Gary at Monday's rehearsal.

Also, we need to get a count of who is going to COTS on January 12/13 in Atlanta. Are you going down Friday and staying overnight or are you going down Saturday morning and coming back Saturday night. This is usually attended by members of the Board.

Program for tonight:

6:45 – Arrive at All Saints – Everybody

6:58 – Call to Arms – Gary

7:00 – “The Old Songs” – Chuck

7:02 – Warm-Ups – Chuck

7:10 – Polecat “Down By the Old Mill Stream” – Chuck

7:12 – Rehearsal – Paul

8:20 – Business Meeting – Announcements – Gary

8:30 – Break

8:35 – Four on the Floor-

8:45 – Rehearsal – Paul

9:25 – Gandy Dancer – Paul

9:28 – Keep the World Singing – Gandy Dancer

9:30 – Dismissal

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sun	Dec 10 rd	5:30 pm	Mt Pisgah Baptist Church	Ringgold, GA	Same as show
Tue	Dec 12 th	6:30 pm	Alexian Brothers	Alexian Brothers	Same as show
Thu	Dec 14 th	6:30 pm	Creekside	Creekside	Same as show
Mon	Dec 18th	7 pm EST	So Pittsburg Senior Center	South Pittsburg	Same as show

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Tux-Purple is Black Tux Coat, Black Tux Pants, White Suspenders (if needed), and Pleated White Tux Shirt (tab collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks, Purple accessories (Bowtie & Cumberbund).

Gold Vest is Gold Vest, Black Tux Pants, Black Bowtie, White Suspenders (if needed), and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks.

Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks.

Summer Casual is white chorus shirt with logo, blue chorus pants, black wingtips, black socks, and black belt.

- Time we need to be there.

Bus/vans will leave from Big Lots parking lot on Hwy 27 in Fort Oglethorpe.

Upcoming Special Events

<i>December 16th at 6:00pm</i>	<i>Christmas Party</i>	<i>Steve and Janet Wixson's Home</i>
<i>January 12-13, 2007</i>	<i>COTS</i>	<i>Marietta, GA</i>
<i>January 20th, 2007</i>	<i>Board/MLT Retreat</i>	<i>Wally's in East Ridge</i>
<i>March 23-25, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Knoxville, TN</i>
<i>May 5, 2006</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio'</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

1st Richard Poole
6th Judy Jesse
6th James Correll
7th Bernard Peek
19th Steve Grubb
24th Pete Snyder

Anniersaries in December

20th Pete and Barbara Snyder
23rd Lamar & Janice Owens

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
December 18th, 2006



President – Beau Christian

Here are directions for the South Pittsburg sing out. I'll make separate sheets available, but here are directions to the South Pittsburg Senior Center: - I 24 West to Exit 152 (Kimball/South Pittsburg) -As you exit, keep right to South Pittsburg (approximately 2 miles) -Enter downtown South Pittsburg (Cedar Ave) -Turn right at the THIRD stop light -Go one block to Elm Ave, turn LEFT - Post Office is now on your left -The Senior Center is about midway down the same block as the Post Office, on your left, across from South Pittsburg Elementary School. -There is an alley that runs between Cedar and Elm Ave, behind the Post Office and past the back of the Senior Center if needed. The driving time from All Saints is about 35 minutes.

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

'Twas four months ago not even an "Idear ", Hey! Ain't we gonna do a Christmas Show this year?
What are we gonna sing, where are we gonna do it? Not much time; let's get to it. Sound familiar?

Yes, we did procrastinate a little but things went well in the end. This years Christmas Show was again an effort to bring non-members in to swell the chorus on stage. Thus calling it A Community Chorus. Although not very fruitful in numbers (maybe 5 or 6) the end result is the possibility of getting a couple of new members.

In agreement to donate proceeds to a charity, the chapter will be giving \$500.00 to the local Toys for Tots drive, sponsored by the U S Marines.

Many thanks to those who helped to make the show a success: Paul Blazek-Director, Chuck Wilson- Associate Director, Gary Fisher- script, Marilyn Fisher-Stage manager, Bob Hobgood-lighting and sound, Barry and Nancy Owens-Program, Choo Choo Belles—ticket sales, all chorus members and guests. And, of course, the audience. Pete Jones. Show Chairman

Director – Paul Blazek

Development VP – Steve Wixson

Note from Steve Grubb. Many thanks to all of you who made the effort to be at Martin-Boyd and sing. The night was a rousing success and everyone (family and residents) who has spoken to me really had a great time. *Silent Night* got the response we always speak of, as everyone was mesmerized by the ending and couldn't bring themselves to clap in appreciation. Their silence was thanks enough, right? I'm sure we'll be asked back and that's because of the fine job we did Thursday.

Charles Abercrombie is now a former member and the following members are on the Society's suspended list; James Correll, Bernard Peek, Wayne Pruett and Pete Snyder. Give them a call and help get them singing again. I called Bernard and he said he is not renewing, but will visit from time to time and may sing in next year's CCCC.

This is my last entry as Development VP as Lebron Brook takes over next year. He has some good ideas and lots of energy, and will need your continued support. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

There is no rehearsal tonight. Instead we are singing in South Pittsburg. This is the last meeting/performance of the year. The next Monday night meeting is January 8, 2007.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Mon	Dec 18th	7pm EST	South Pittsburg Senior Center	South Pittsburg (directions above)	Same as show

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Tux-Purple is Black Tux Coat, Black Tux Pants, White Suspenders (if needed), and Pleated White Tux Shirt (tab collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks, Purple accessories (Bowtie & Cumberbund).

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- Time we need to be there.

Bus/vans will leave from Big Lots parking lot on Hwy 27 in Fort Oglethorpe.

Upcoming Special Events

<i>January 12-13, 2007</i>	<i>COTS</i>	<i>Marietta, GA</i>
<i>January 20th, 2007</i>	<i>Board/MLT Retreat</i>	<i>Wally's in East Ridge</i>
<i>March 23-25, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Knoxville, TN</i>
<i>May 5, 2006</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio'</i>	<i>TBA</i>
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

1st Richard Poole
6th Judy Jesse
6th James Correll
7th Bernard Peek
19th Steve Grubb
24th Pete Snyder

Anniersaries in December

20th Pete and Barbara Snyder
23rd Lamar & Janice Owens

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
January 8th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Gentlemen Songsters - just let me add my best wishes to you all for a good and harmonious new year. First, a reminder of our direction-setting get-together set for Jan 20, 10 am, at Wally's on Ringgold. We plan to get thru an MLT meeting, a Board meeting, and some direction setting for 2007 - all on that day. As always, all members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We have a very busy schedule as we start the new year. We have two new songs to prepare for the Spring competition. And, speaking of Spring competition - in Knoxville - does the Chorus wish to have a Hospitality Room? The Board is considering this as a way to offer an opportunity for fellowship among the members and significant others. Tell us what you think. It will take some money, but if it turns out to be good fellowship, then I, for one, think we ought to try it.

We have the Singing Valentines program to prepare for - we need ads, contracts, and quartets. This has historically been one of our best moneymakers for the year and we, as always, can use it. Pete will no doubt have materials and deadlines for when we next meet - January 8.

And, probably most importantly, I encourage you all to make a resolution to make this the best year yet for the Chorus. Part of doing this is being on time to rehearsals, staying for the whole rehearsal, practicing beyond rehearsal time, and being willing to lend a hand in all we do. The reward is rich, indeed, and stokes the fellowship we enjoy so much.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

I am scheduling performances for this year. If anyone knows of a possibility, have them contact me or get information for me to contact them. The sooner that we find out, the easier to work around locked in dates. Thanks

Upcoming Special Events

<i>January 12-13, 2007</i>	<i>COTS</i>	<i>Marietta, GA</i>
<i>January 20th, 2007</i>	<i>Board/MLT Retreat</i>	<i>Wally's in East Ridge</i>
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

1st Niles Fowler
22nd Steve Wixson
23rd Bill Slack

Anniversaries in January

20th Edgar and Pat Dawson
24th Clarence and Sally Wall

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
January 15th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

It seems to me that the best thing about COTS is the fellowship and interaction among and between the officers present. You will be pleased to note that our Choo Choo Chorus was pretty well represented and that we regaled, sometimes with help, the entire assembly with such items as 'Mary Lou', 'Irish Rose', etc., etc.

A couple of items from COTS did seem worth passing on to the entire membership. The first is that as Chapters go, we go a whole lot better than some. Horror stories from Chapter Presidents were numerous at our classes. That's a good thing to remember as we grapple with directions, goals, hopes, and dreams for 2007.

The second point worth mentioning, and a topic of considerable importance at our sessions, was that of communications throughout the Chapter. I ask you all to communicate your views, ideas, and concerns to the Board and among the Board. In turn, I charge the Board to redouble efforts to communicate with fellow officers and to the entire membership. If in any case I can be of help, do please let me know.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

I need to know what q'tets are going to deliver Singing Valentines. Please let me know by way of email, telephone or at the meeting on Monday. Pete---<packratpj@bellsouth.net> or (706) 861-2113

Upcoming Special Events

<i>January 20th, 2007</i>	<i>Board/MLT Retreat</i>	<i>Wally's in East Ridge</i>
<i>March 23-25, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Knoxville, TN</i>
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

1st Niles Fowler
22nd Steve Wixson
23rd Bill Slack

Anniversaries in January

20th Edgar and Pat Dawson
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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
January 22th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

. The Board and Directions 2007 Meeting went very well and the Board was particularly pleased to have Art and Michael join us. Probably the topic we were longest on was that of Assessment for Competition. The Board agreed to hand out to the membership at large a page containing the Chapter regulations concerning attendance and assessment. Most of this has been 'on the books' for some time, though the regulation requiring attendance in order to compete has been dropped by Board action last month. What we intend to do is pass this page out, give everyone a week to look it over, then ask by show of hands those who support the regulations contained there. If a majority of the membership is in support, then we will proceed with assessment in preparation for the Spring competition in Knoxville. If a majority is not in support of it, then we will drop the formal assessment routine adopted last year. The handout will be on the 22nd, the vote will be on the 29th. Needless to say, we need everyone's input on this topic. Following that, we will solicit the individual input of members as to areas in which they are prepared to commit.

Director – Paul Blazek

I am excited with the progress we are making on our contest songs, particularly Georgia on my Mind. For the next two weeks we will concentrate on Sweet Georgia Brown.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

I put a pyramid on the blackboard Monday night and labeled it "Why Barbershop?" I think it summarizes, in a nutshell, just exactly why we do this part-time hobby.

First of all...at the base of the pyramid is "Brotherhood". Think of brotherhood as a type of fraternity, a group of men gathered together to achieve one particular purpose, to perform a public service, to achieve a level that we could not reach on our own through rehearsals. We certainly didn't join the ChooChoo Chorus for the money, for the prestige, for the driving force it makes upon the world. We do it because it's fun. We hope to achieve, with the assistance of the men around us, a harmony of sound that blends together into a pleasing tune that will entertain others.

Second on the pyramid is "Perform". Ah...the true reason for us getting together and spending countless hours of rehearsal just for the 10 minutes, half hour, or an hour of time we stand in front of a group of people hoping to elicit the emotion from them that also inspires us. How much time do you spend away from Monday nights for two-and-a-half hours? I personally give it just about as much time over the expanse of a week in tuning my ear to the training CD and trying to emulate the sounds I hear there...whether it be in my car, at home, or in my office (with the door closed). The "Perform" section of the pyramid is the true reason we do what we do.

Our third pyramid block is "Compete". There are some that don't like to compete and are downcast when we do and come in last place. I guess that is why "compete" is at the top of the pyramid...because it gives us a place to aspire to. It's a pinnacle that we have to get to by building upon those two blocks (Brotherhood and Perform) that are below us. Discouraging to come in last? Of course, but the only way up and out of the cellar is to climb those two steps and keep striving to reach the top. So...

- 1) BROTHERHOOD - rehearse, rehearse, rehearse...and have fun doing it with a group of men who all want the same thing.
2. PERFORM - get out onto the stage before the public and put all those rehearsal hours to good use by entertaining and hearing the applause.
3. COMPETE - a goal to continuously strive to do better by building on the lower blocks. Work toward being the best you can be and hearing the efforts of like brotherhoods during a competition.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Upcoming Special Events

<i>March 23-25, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Knoxville, TN</i>
<i>May 5, 2006</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio'</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Fellowship Items

From the Signal Mountain Community Newspaper. J.N. Howard's Signal Mountain United Methodist Church begins a yearlong celebration of their 150th year of service with a 2007 calendar of church photographs including their first log cabin home.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in Febuary

17th Connie Bradwell
18nd Joyce Delaney
19rd Sally Wall

Anniversaries in Febuary

10th Tom & Barbara Keegan

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
January 29th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

At the January 20, 2007 Board meeting, we adopted the budget for 2007. It is quite similar to that of 2006 other than that money was set-aside in the budget to at least begin needed repairs and upgrades to our rehearsal area. Johnny reports that we finished 2006 pretty nicely in the 'black' as we begin the new year. I remind everyone that our Singing Valentines program has historically been one of our chief moneymakers and we have to count on it again. At this writing we have 5 quartets in preparation - so we could use 100 Valentines Contracts.

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

NO MUSIC LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING IN FEBRUARY. Our president, Beau Christian, lead a really good combined meeting of the Board and the Music Leadership Team at Wally's in East Ridge on Saturday, January 20. Because of that I see no real reason for their being a MLT meeting in February. Another good reason is that I will be out of town from February 2 until the 20th.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

I have reserved a room at Mt. Vernon Restaurant for Saturday, February 17th at 6:30 for our Valentine's party. We will have a variety of choices for a meal but we can select only two from those choices. Prices range from \$16.95 each for the fried chicken up to \$25.95 each for the choice rib eye. There are several other entrees in between and we can go with whatever the majority wants. With your meal you get two vegetables (one of which can be a salad), a drink and a dessert. I will need your money Monday night so Johnny can cut a \$200 check to the restaurant as a down payment, which means we need to order at least \$200 worth of food to reserve the room. I had a show of hands of about 30 people last Monday night. Here are the choices of entrees (remember we can only select two): Beef Tips \$20, Chicken Cordon Bleu \$22, Pork Loin \$20, Sirloin of Beef \$20, Chicken Florentine \$22, Roast Pork \$19, New York Strip \$26, Florentine Chicken \$22, Pasta \$18, Rib eye \$26, Sautéed Chicken \$20, Turkey & Dressing \$18, Grouper \$20, Fried Chicken \$17, Salmon \$23.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

I need to know what q'tets are going to deliver Singing Valentines. Please let me know by way of email, telephone or at the meeting on Monday. Pete---<packratpj@bellsouth.net> or (706) 861-2113

Upcoming Special Events

<i>February 14th, 2007</i>	<i>Valentines Fund Raiser</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>March 23-25, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Knoxville, TN</i>
<i>May 5, 2006</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio'</i>	<i>TBA</i>
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

1st Niles Fowler
22nd Steve Wixson
23rd Bill Slack

Anniversaries in January

20th Edgar and Pat Dawson
24rd Clarence and Sally Wall



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
February 5th, 2007



My internet connection failed and this newsletter was not sent.

President – Beau Christian

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

Director – Paul Blazek

Development VP – Lebron Brock

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Upcoming Special Events

<i>February 14th, 2007</i>	<i>Valentines Fund Raiser</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>March 23-25, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Knoxville, TN</i>
<i>May 5, 2006</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio'</i>	<i>TBA</i>
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

1st Niles Fowler
22nd Steve Wixson
23rd Bill Slack

Anniversaries in January

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
February 12th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

The Board will meet as usual this Monday, February 12, usual 5 pm, Wally's on McCallie.

Secretary – Fred Jesse

I will have copies of the newly revised Chapter Code of Regulations as voted on and approved by the membership at the meeting of January 29 with a vote of 25 in favor, 2 abstentions, and no negative votes. Any member wishing a copy, see me.

Steve Grubb has volunteered to be the Chairman for the spring show on May 5 at Notre Dame. The theme is a repeat of the "Radio" show done in 1995. Chapter and quartet song selections are yet needed to incorporate into the script. Quartets need to advise Paul of their choice of songs.

Director – Paul Blazek

Guys, we had to move Lindy's mother into Hospice care last Tuesday, so I ask for your prayers and understanding as we go through these trying times. My concentration will be divided over the next week or two so I will need support from all of you. I especially need quartets to volunteer for the Radio show so we can get song lists set up and get the final lineup of songs for the chorus. Please talk to me as soon as you can. Thanks for everything you do.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

I have made arrangements with Mt. Vernon Restaurant for us to order whatever we want from the menu...so we're not restricted to just the grouper or the beef. I had to make one concession, however, for that to happen. We have been moved from 6:30 to 6:00 on the evening of Saturday, February 17th. We also have to sing. Oh, like we had to be encouraged to do that!

Please remember that the Walleye Club (Walleye-Wallies...get it?) meets every 3rd, 4th and 5th Mondays at 5:30 at the Wallies on McCallie. If you are a member of the chorus you are a member of the Walleye Club and we welcome you to join us for dinner before rehearsal.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

I need to know what quartets are going to deliver Singing Valentines. Please let me know by way of email, telephone or at the meeting on Monday. Pete---<packratpj@bellsouth.net> or (706) 861-2113

Upcoming Special Events

February 14th, 2007	Valentines Fund Raiser	Chattanooga, TN
March 23-25, 2007	Dixie Spring Convention	Knoxville, TN
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in February

17th Connie Bradwell
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Anniversaries in February

10th Tom & Barbara Keegan

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** February 19th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

This is just a reminder to put Friday, June 15 on your calendars for the sing out on Monteagle Mountain. We will do a one hour concert, no intermission, starting at 8 pm **CDT**. We are looking into getting the bus or perhaps a couple of vans for those who would like them. We are also thinking that perhaps we could have a meal together enroute to Monteagle. Mainly, for right now, put this on your schedule - we are being paid \$500.00 for this gig, and we need everybody and quartets as well.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Just a reminder if you get this in time– the Valentine Party at Mt. Vernon Restaurant on Broad Street has been changed to SIX (6:00) PM on Saturday, February 17th. You will be allowed to order whatever you want from the menu.

Also don't forget...the Walleyes Club meets every third, fourth and fifth Monday evenings at 5:30 at Wallies on McCallie for dinner before our 7 pm rehearsal. It's a great time to learn more about your fellow songsters and develop the camaraderie that makes our chorus a fun group. We had 33 people at rehearsal Monday night and there were a lot of laughs - linoleum!). See you next Monday at 5:30.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	June 15 th	8pm CDT	Monteagle Assumbly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Tux-Purple is Black Tux Coat, Black Tux Pants, White Suspenders (if needed), and Pleated White Tux Shirt (tab collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks, Purple accessories (Bowtie & Cummerbund).

Gold Vest is Gold Vest, Black Tux Pants, Black Bowtie, White Suspenders (if needed), and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks.

Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cummerbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks.

Summer Casual is white chorus shirt with logo, blue chorus pants, black wingtips, black socks, and black belt.

- Time we need to be there.

Bus/vans will leave from Big Lots parking lot on Hwy 27 in Fort Oglethorpe.

Upcoming Special Events

<i>March 23-25, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Knoxville, TN</i>
<i>May 5, 2006</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio'</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in February

17th Connie Bradwell
18th Steve Wixson
19th Sally Wall

Anniversaries in February

10th Tom and Barbara Keegan

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
February 26th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Another Singing Valentine's program is behind us and, at this writing, the final figures are not yet in. Pete said that he thought we sang about 50 contracts. I just wanted to thank all those who helped to get the program done. A critique of the Singing Valentine's program is on the agenda for the March 12 Board meeting and I invite members to attend the meeting, share your thoughts on that - or any agenda item.

The next big item for us is the spring competition at Knoxville, March 23 - 25. If you haven't already done so, please get your individual registration in as time for that is getting short. And that, in turn, brings me to the assessment routine - we want and need you all to sing at competition and for that reason I urge you to bear down on the two 'Georgia's' and get ready for Knoxville. I hope to get at least one of the numbers 'under my belt' this week and, as for 'Sweet Georgia' - well I'm working on it. Funniest thing: when I picked out the baritone notes on my keyboard at home, I think I heard some notes I never knew were there!

Business Manager – Pete Jones

We have an opportunity to sing at East Ridge Retirement Center. The date is Thursday, March 8. The time is 6:30 pm--warm-up, 7:00 pm sing. We have a director, now I need to know if we have a chorus. Check your calendars to see if you are available. We will take a head count on Monday night. If you are not going to be there Monday, then let me know by email or let your section lead know so we can include you in the count. This will be a freebee but don't let that discourage us from doing it. We have agreed to do a few of these during the year.

Here is another opportunity for you. Not for us to sing, but rather to see and hear some young folks singing, playing, performing, etc. GPS and McCallie schools together will be performing a classical music concert on Sunday, March 4--2:30 pm (no charge, I believe)

Secondly, their drama classes will be doing a take off of the movie "Grease". The dates are-- April 20, 21 & 22. There will be a charge for this. If you are interested, let me know. The thought occurred to me that there could be some future Barbershoppers or Sweet Adelines amongst the cast in these performances.

Upcoming Special Events

March 23-25, 2007	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Knoxville, TN</i>
May 5, 2006	<i>Annual Show 'Radio'</i>	<i>TBA</i>
July 1-8, 2007	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
September 28-30, 2007	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in Febuary

17th Connie Bradwell
18nd Joyce Delaney
19rd Sally Wall

Anniversaries in February

10th Tom & Barbara Keegan

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
March 5th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

At the last two Monday rehearsals there were a bunch of members staying late, getting their assessments done or at least underway. It was great to see all the guys working so hard to be ready for competition, and, by the way, very good of Paul, Chuck, and the section leaders to stay late and help us.

I heard tell of a chorus that was importing otherwise non-barbershoppers in order to bolster their chances of success at competition. Now, there isn't anybody in our chorus who wants to score well more than I do, and probably nobody who pouts about it more if we don't do well. Seems I always get told by somebody, 'Take a deep breath, it'll be alright.' Anyway, if it came to it, I would rather come out dead last in competition than to artificially inflate our numbers and our voices solely for the purpose of a score. All of the above is by way of saying, 'As we wander on thru life brothers, whatever be our goals, keep our eyes upon the doughnuts, and not upon the holes.'

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

The Music Leadership Team will meet this Monday evening at Wally's on McCallie. Dinner at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will follow at 5:30.

Director – Paul Blazek

The Saturday night show at the Dixie Convention in Knoxville will be one of the best in recent years with MaxQ competing out of district for international.

Secretary – Fred Jesse

The Barbershopper Of The Year (BOTY) committee has met and selected the BOTY for 2006 based on scoring means used for the previous 2005 BOTY, which was Paul Blazek. The BOTY is not awarded to the same person for three years after winning. However, this was not an issue in this year's selection. The customary plaque has been ordered, and when received, will be presented to the 2006 winner by Paul.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Members, if you can, please get a story in their words from a Valentine recipient as to what it was like to be serenaded. I think it would make for some interesting filler in a news letter.

Directions to East Ridge Retirement Center: Take East Ridge exit off I-75 just south of the 24/75 split. Go west on Ringgold Rd to the first road to the right (N. Mack Smith Rd.) Turn right; go about 1/4 mile to end of road. E.R. Center on your left.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	March 8	6:30pm	East Ridge Retirement Ctr	1417 Mack Smith Road	Gold Vest
Thu	March 15	9:45am	Special Olympics	GPS	TBA
Fri	June 15		Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Gold Vest is Gold Vest, Black Tux Pants, Black Bowtie, White Suspenders (if needed), and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Patent Leather shoes, Black socks.

Upcoming Special Events

<i>March 23-25, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Knoxville, TN</i>
<i>May 5, 2006</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio'</i>	<i>Notre Dame High School</i>
<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays

Birthdays in March

17th Pat Crowe
18th Johnny Jackson
18nd Oliver Jenkins
23rd Cynthia Johnston

23rd Lonnie Satterfield
23rd Ron Satterfield
24th Glenda Erwin
25th Beau Christain
30th Richard Poole

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
March 12th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Steve Grubb is off and running with our annual show, 'Radio'. We need you all to help him and I know some of you have already been enlisted in the effort. I wasn't around for the last rendition of the show, but it is certainly highly regarded by members who were around, and I look forward to the production. As Steve pointed out last night, with our less than spectacular Singing Valentine's program, we will need all the income we can get and, other than gigs, the annual show is our next big potential money-maker. I guess my battle cry would be, 'Sing, sell, help!'

Both the MLT and Board meetings for April will occur on the same evening - Monday, April 2. I will be out of town during the 2nd week of April and didn't want to be absent from another Board meeting. Please adjust your calendars accordingly. Board - you are getting an extra day 'off'.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Directions to Special Olympics Swimming, Girls Preparatory School. From 4th street and Georgia Ave., Go north across Veterans Bridge, G. P. S. is on your right. Uniform--White Chorus Shirt, dark pants

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	March 15	9:45am	Special Olympics	GPS	See above
Fri	May 11	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	TBA
Fri	June 15		Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

<i>March 23-25, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Knoxville, TN</i>
<i>May 5, 2006</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio'</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in March

17th Pat Crowe
18th Johnny Jackson
18nd Oliver Jenkins
23rd Cynthia Johnston

23rd Lonnie Satterfield
23rd Ron Satterfield
24th Glenda Erwin
25th Beau Christain
30th Richard Poole

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
March 19th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

First, permit me this opportunity to once again express the sympathy of the entire Chorus membership to Lindy and Paul on the recent lost of Lindy's Mother. Our fellowship is such that when one of us is hurting or grieving, we all share in it.

And secondly, I want to convey to you all my pride in the effort you are making getting ready for the Knoxville spring competition. Seems like I wasn't the only one who struggled with 'Sweet Georgia'! Through it all, our fun and fellowship continues. It just doesn't get any better than that.

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

I have made the leap from Bell South to Comcast. Please change my email address to - rogerandmilbrey@comcast.net.

Annual Show Chairman – Steve Grubb

Show: RADIO DAYS

Time: 8:00 PM, 05/05/07

Place: Notre Dame High School

Ticket Costs: \$10 for everyone; children 10 and under are free

Ads: Patron Listing is \$15; 1/4 Page is \$30; 1/2 Page is \$55; Full Page is \$100.

We will need "actors" for the Bart Holiday skit that is performed during the show itself. Please be considering volunteering for one of these roles. If you have ideas for the drawings at intermission, please share them with me (donated items are the way to go). We need old radios that can be brought to the school for the performance (only those you know you can part with). Also, I need clips of old radio shows that can be played before, during and after the show to set the tone and mood. I'd also like to have two men perform the old Abott & Costello "Who's On First?" routine. Every member needs to contribute to make this show a success--learn that music, sell those tickets and ads, volunteer for duties and promote this show!!!!

Director – Paul Blazek

As for the upcoming convention: work hard, sing well and enjoy the competition.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

The Walleyes will meet at Wallies at 5:30 on Monday. Come join us for dinner before rehearsal.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	May 11	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	TBA
Fri	June 15		Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

<i>March 23-25, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Knoxville, TN</i>
<i>May 5, 2007</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio'</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in March

17th Pat Crowe
18th Johnny Jackson
18nd Oliver Jenkins
23rd Cynthia Johnston

23rd Lonnie Satterfield
23rd Ron Satterfield
24th Glenda Erwin
25th Beau Christain
30th Richard Poole

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
March 26th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

A reminder that the next Board meeting will be with the MLT meeting, first Monday in April (April 2), usual time, usual location. I will be out of town starting April 5 and will miss the rehearsal April 9.

The next big item for us is the Annual Show, May 5, under the chairmanship of Steve Grubb. As I've said before, we need everyone to help in some capacity or other. Sell tickets, sell ads, be ready to help Steve with whatever he needs. And, there are several of us 'new' guys who have to learn the whole show, music and all in about 5 weeks. We can use all the help we can get!

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

The Music Leadership Team and the Board will have a joint meeting on Monday evening, April 2, at Wally's on Mc Callie Ave. We'll begin eating at 5:00; the meeting will begin at 5:30. Everyone is invited.

Secretary – Fred Jesse

Just a few thoughts about the spring Dixie convention. I did not attend the evaluation session for the chorus, so I have no judge's comments to comment on. However, I believe Beau and Johnny did go, and you might get comments from them. I felt good about our set, and note that our presentation scores were better than both the music and singing scores. But we would have had to improve considerably in all three to have moved up even one spot. The bad news is that we have never scored this low with a two judge panel per category. I do believe that judging is getting more critical, and that all chorus competition is getting tougher. I had a great weekend however, didn't you?

Annual Show Chairman – Steve Grubb

Show: RADIO DAYS

Time: 8:00 PM, 05/05/07

Place: Notre Dame High School

Ticket Costs: \$10 for everyone; children 10 and under are free

Ads: Patron Listing is \$15; 1/4 Page is \$30; 1/2 Page is \$55; Full Page is \$100.

We will need "actors" for the Bart Holiday skit that is performed during the show itself. Please be considering volunteering for one of these roles. If you have ideas for the drawings at intermission, please share them with me (donated items are the way to go). We need old radios that can be brought to the school for the performance (only those you know you can part with). Also, I need clips of old radio shows that can be played before, during and after the show to set the tone and mood. I'd also like to have two men perform the old Abott & Costello "Who's On First?" routine. Every member needs to contribute to make this show a success--learn that music, sell those tickets and ads, volunteer for duties and promote this show!!!!

Director – Paul Blazek

By the time you read this, contest will be over and we'll be working hard towards the show. I'm excited about the contest. I think the assessment process has made us more cognizant of the effort involved in competition, and I want to publicly thank all members who made the effort to put our best foot forward (how about that front row!). For those of you who chose not to compete (and, of course, those who *did* compete), here's the challenge - let's make Radio Daze a great show! Use those learning CDs, contact your section leader about music you do not have, and let's get busy!

Business Manager – Pete Jones

There's been a request from the Mayors' Office in Chattanooga to perform The National Anthem at the grand reopening of City Hall on Saturday, May 19th. The original thought was to have just a quartet. In talking to the Mayors' assistant we are now considering more than one quartet and the chorus. I am sending out the information that they sent to me. I will be talking to the assistant more on Monday before practice. Once i know more about what can be done, we can discuss if and how we can do it.

To me this looks like a very good opportunity for some much needed publicity. If we do this and everyone handed out pamphlets and business cards it would mean reaching some people that probably didn't know we existed.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	May 11	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	TBA
Fri	June 15		Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

<i>May 5, 2007</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio Days'</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in March

17th Pat Crowe
18th Johnny Jackson
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23rd Ron Satterfield
24th Glenda Erwin
25th Beau Christain
30th Richard Poole

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
April 2nd, 2007



President – Beau Christian

A reminder that the next Board meeting will be with the MLT meeting, this Monday, April 2, usual time, usual location. I will be out of town starting April 5 and will miss the rehearsal April 9.

I was proud of our efforts at competition last week and really enjoyed the camaraderie. As we head toward the fall competition, we just need to work on those items which the judges and Paul have highlighted. Do we want/need some outside coaching? If so, we need to be securing the talent fairly soon.

Meanwhile, on with the Annual Show! Steve said it all in his 'sermon' of last Monday. Let's take it to heart.

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

The Music Leadership Team and the Board will have a joint meeting on Monday evening, April 2, at Wally's on Mc Callie Ave. We'll begin eating at 5:00; the meeting will begin at 5:30. Everyone is invited.

Director – Paul Blazek

Well, gentlemen, contest is over until the fall and it's time to concentrate on our upcoming show. Work will continue on the contest package and Radio, and we'll add Lulu's Back In Town, Caroline, and Mother Machree this Monday. The following week we'll add Oh You Beautiful Doll and Side By Side. Congratulations to all of you who participated in the contest and welcome back to those who didn't but plan to perform on the show. Notice the word "perform" instead of "sing" - we'll be concentrating on more than just words and notes as we prepare for the show. In the words of two of my heroes, Mr. Bartles and Mr. Jaymes, "Thank you for your support!"

Board Member – Wilbur Strickland

We might want to take a look at the "code of ethics" of the Society for barbershoppers. It appears that some of the guys don't realize that the Society does not condone groups singing in business places unless they are asked to do so. This happened in Knoxville on Saturday evening when the group sang too many songs at Calhouns. We can get by with one or maybe two songs, if they are not too long, but any more than that, for some people, it is a nuisance and they could cause serious problems.

I just found out this morning that Chattanooga will host the Fall Convention in '07, '09, '11, plus '13. The Spring Conventions will be held in Greenville SC in '08, '10, and '12.

Spring Dixie Convention House of Delegates Report – Bill Slack

The district, as always, is short of money. Because attendance at Chattanooga has fallen off, they have moved the fall conventions for 2008 & 2010 to unnamed cities. Bill Brinkman reported: national president Noah Funderburk is from Dixie, membership is still declining and we are down to 28,900 internationally, a loss of 800 this year, we are trying to divide the district into subregions to boost attendance at meetings, please attend International in Denver, headquarters moves to Nashville in August, conventions are not just about competition, but a chance to see friends and engage in singing for fun, and the Rocky Mount Chorus will be 'mic tester' at International and is open for anyone whether you are a member or not. So if anyone wants to sing on the International stage, they can obtain the music and a learning CD for \$20. You must qualify in Denver before you are allowed to go on stage. The 2007 budget was passed. Chattanooga was recognized as a Gold contributor to Harmony Foundation donating \$75 per member.

Annual Show Chairman – Steve Grubb

The show is progressing nicely. Local entertainment is procured for the break and all of the Bart Holiday players have been lined up. AD contracts are in the hands of the chorus and tickets should be available the first Monday evening of April. Please be selling those ad's and tickets for what will be a great show. Still need old radios to display at the show. Learn your music and let's put on a great show!!

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	May 11	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	TBA
Fri	June 15		Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

<i>May 5, 2007</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio Days'</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

16th Pete Jones
23rd Dan Bruns

Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margret Crowe

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
April 9th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

I was very pleased to see the large turn out at rehearsal last week which reminds me to remind you that we need you all and especially for the Annual Show May 5.

The Board seems to be at consensus that we could use the services of a coach in preparation for the fall competition, and especially for intonation concerns. We think perhaps something could be worked out to get the services of a coach already scheduled for Cleveland. That way we could save some expense, as could Cleveland.

I'll miss the April 9 rehearsal in order to attend the 4th birthday celebration of my grandson in Great Falls, Va. But O my will I be working on the songs!

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

Below is the list of songs that the chorus will sing at the annual show. The numbers are the track numbers on the Radio Days learning CD. Contact your Section Leader if you need sheet music for any of these songs.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 2. Radio | 8. O, You Beautiful Doll |
| 3. We Ain't Got a Barrel of Money | 10. Caroline |
| 4. I'll Be Down to Get You in a Taxi, Honey | 11. Georgia on My Mind |
| 6. Lulu's Back in Town | 12. Sweet Georgia Brown |
| 7. Mother Machree | |

Director – Paul Blazek

Work will continue on Lulu's Back In Town, Caroline, and Mother Machree this Monday, and we'll add Oh You Beautiful Doll and Side By Side. For Special Olympics wear the white Choo Choo knit shirt and any pants.

Development VP – Lebron Brock

We are a chorus divided. Not on a social level. We get along great. It is on the issue of how we practice that we disagree. The disagreement is expressed not in words so much as in attendance. In spite of having a good inflow of new members our numbers remain about the same. We lose people as fast as we gain new ones. At this point in my new job as chapter development VP I have not pushed recruiting new members but have spent my time trying to understand why this is happening. Almost everyone I talk to thinks they know what is wrong and what we should do to fix it. Unfortunately nearly all these opinions are different. I have come to the conclusion that we just can't agree. When we were "big sloppy fun" we lost members that didn't want to be a part of poor quality singing. When Paul tries to improve our quality by making us practice until we get it right we lose members who don't like starting and stopping all the time. When we try to improve our quality of singing at contest by spending most of our practice time on contest songs we lose some because they get bored. When we insist that those who are going to contest learn 95 % all the words and notes, and prove it by assessments; we lose some because they think we are going too far and we lose others because they think we aren't going far enough. When we did a survey to try to document what the members of the chorus wanted, we had little we agreed upon and had opinions as far apart as you can get on many issues. It appears that we can maintain the chorus at it's current level by recruiting enough new members to replace those we lose. If we do nothing different this is probably our fate. It could be worse- for sure. I for one am not satisfied with this, however; because I know it could be better. The only solution I see is compromise, not compromise on our singing quality but on what it takes to improve it. The most talented singers need to be more patient with the process of bringing the less talented up to an acceptable level and the less talented need to be willing to work harder at improving their ability. One of these without the other will not work. It takes both sides of this coin to buy what we want. This is not something leadership can fix. Individuals have to want it enough to make it happen. Exactly how individuals can do this I don't know but the answers can be found if every member is motivated enough to try. Everyone should ask themselves, what can I do to improve the chorus? Formulate a

plan, talk about your plan with your section leader or other officers of the chapter. Don't sit around doing nothing but complaining. Accept the responsibility to make the chorus better all by yourself. If everyone does this the sky is the limit for us.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Fellow Harmonists: I have booked the Wallies in East Ridge for 6:00 pm, Saturday, April 28. I had a show of about 27 hands Monday night and a few have backed out since then. Remember it is to announce our Barbershopper of the Year Award, celebrate the 69th anniversary of the Barbershop Harmony Society and the 45th anniversary of the ChooChooChorus. We may sing a few songs, eat a lot of food and just enjoy each other's company. I will have an official sign up list next Monday. Ye Olde Programme Director

Secretary – Fred Jesse

The following renewals were passed out last Monday; Roger for 6 years, Brooks for 12 and me for 22.

Annual Show Chairman – Steve Grubb

The show is progressing nicely. The food for the chorus is BBQ and trimmings with drinks and desserts by the Belles. I challenged everyone to sell \$50 worth of ads and 10 tickets to the show. Show flyers are available and please pick up and distribute as many as you can. It's going to be a great show!

Business Manager – Pete Jones

I am still working on the City Hall Grand Reopening sing out on March 19th. They want a quartet riding and singing on a flat bed truck plus the chorus to sing the Star Spangled Banner. Maybe at noontime

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 21 st	9:45am	Special Olympics Track	McCallie High School	See above
Fri	May 11	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	TBA
Fri	June 15		Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

<i>April 28, 2007</i>	<i>ChooChoo Chorus 45th Anniversary Party</i>	<i>Wally' in East Ridge</i>
<i>May 5, 2007</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio Days'</i>	<i>Notre Dame High School</i>
<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

16th Pete Jones
23rd Dan Bruns

Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margret Crowe

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
April 23th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Keep a good thought for Lisa Mannet—she is the person who fixed us up for Monteagle on June 15th. Her husband is on the faculty at Virginia Tech.

I am sorry to have to miss our get together on the 28th—I've got a previous commitment.

Secretary – Fred Jesse

Renewals were given to Dave Collins, 22 years and Tom Keegan, 44 years

Annual Show Chairman – Steve Grubb

There will be a practice session for the people in the annual show skit on Monday. Frank mentioned that the last day to turn in ads for the annual show is April 28th. Also sell lots of tickets.

Director – Paul Blazek

A reminder that the singout for the Special Olympics Track and Field event is **this Saturday** at the McCallie High School football field. Meet at 9:45am. Wear white knit chorus shirt and most any pants or shorts.

Also work on all the show music. **There will be extra rehearsals** on the next three Thursdays, April 19th and 26th and May 3rd beginning at 7:15pm.

Chapter Development VP – Lebron Brock

The upcoming sing out for the Grand Reopening of City Hall is a great opportunity to get new members. I hope every member will have a handfull of Chapter brochures and business cards and then pass them out to people at the event. This is a chance of a lifetime.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

A reminder about the big party at Wally's in East Ridge on Saturday, April 28th at 6pm.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

The chapter voted to perform at the National Cemetery on May 28th. We will sing at 8am, and meet at 7:30am.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 21	9:45am	Special Olympic Track/Field	McCallie High School	See above
Fri	May 11	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	TBA
Sat	May 19	11:00am	City Hall Grand Reopening	Downtown	TBA
Mon	May 28	7:30am	Memorial Day Activities	National Cemetery	TBA
Fri	June 15	Night	Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

<i>April 28, 2007</i>	<i>ChooChoo Chorus 45th Anniversary Party</i>	<i>Wally' in East Ridge</i>
<i>May 5, 2007</i>	<i>Annual Show 'Radio Days'</i>	<i>Notre Dame High School</i>
<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

16th Pete Jones
23rd Dan Bruns

Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margret Crowe

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
April 30th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Gentlemen Songsters - You may have seen the item in the latest Newsletter, but in response to a question put to me, it appears that we DO have extra rehearsals on the remaining Thursdays prior to the show May 5.

Gentlemen Songsters - I just heard from Paul in California a few minutes ago and he says NO, repeat NO rehearsal Thursday, 26th. I pointed out that in the Newsletter he says differently, but he noted that he had written that before heading for California. I've tried to call several Chorus members, and now hope to reach you with this. Sorry for the inadvertant confusion - see you next Monday.

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

Secretary – Fred Jesse

?

Annual Show Chairman – Steve Grubb

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Wallies at 5:45 for dinner before rehearsal. I will not be able to attend but I hope to make it to rehearsal at 7.

Director – Paul Blazek

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	May 11	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	TBA
Fri	June 15		Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

May 5, 2007	Annual Show 'Radio Days'	Notre Dame High School
July 1-8, 2007	International Convention	Denver, CO
September 28-30, 2007	Dixie Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

16th Pete Jones

23rd Dan Bruns

Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler

16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margret Crowe

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** *May 14th, 2007*



Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	May 11	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	Summer Black
Sat	May 19	11:00am	City Hall Grand Reopening	Downtown	Valentine
Sat	May 26	7:30am	Memorial Day Activities	National Cemetary	Summer Black
Fri	June 15	9pm EDT	Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

Valentine Outfit is red coat, black slacks, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black shoes and black belt.

Summer Black is white chorus shirt with logo, black pants, black wingtips, black socks, and black belt.

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in May

3rd Margeret Crowe
20th Chuck Wilson
22rd Nancy Owens

Anniversaries in May

25th Paul & Lindy Blazek

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
May 21st, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

Secretary – Fred Jesse

Annual Show Chairman – Steve Grubb

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Director – Paul Blazek

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	May 11	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	TBA
Sat	May 19	11:00am	City Hall Grand Reopening	Downtown	TBA
Sat	May 26	7:30am	Memorial Day Activities	National Cemetary	TBA
Fri	June 15	9pm EDT	Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks.

Summer Casual is white chorus shirt with logo, blue chorus pants, black wingtips, black socks, and black belt.

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

July 1-8, 2007	International Convention	Denver, CO
September 28-30, 2007	Dixie Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in May

3rd Margeret Crowe
20th Chuck Wilson
22rd Nancy Owens

Anniversaries in May

25th Paul & Lindy Blazek



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
May 28th, 2007



President – Beau Christian

First, thanks to all who made the effort to help with the City Hall opening. I think we did ourselves some good and accomplished the objective of getting us visible (or more visible) in the community.

Secondly - As I noted during last rehearsal, we are working on getting a coach over the summer to help with competition for this fall. As soon as we get that scheduled we will, of course, advise everyone. Along that line I am asking for ideas to help keep and sustain attendance over the summer. If you have a thought, share it. I realize that many or most of us take

vacations over the summer months, but I also think there is a tendency to just let things slide re the Chorus. Perhaps if we had some good stuff scheduled it would encourage better attendance. Let me know what you think.

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

Everyone keep the June 15 singout on Monteagle on your schedule. This is an important occasion for us to do a really good job of representing the Choo Choo Chorus in a grand way.

Development VP – Lebron Brock

Things went great at the city hall event. We had about 23 singers. We sang the NA on the steps of city hall with the Mayor standing behind us looking like he was in the group, except for no uniform. As expected the news people were there and we appeared on several news broadcasts. Many of us had friends who didn't know about the event call us up and say they saw us on TV. Even though the segments were small (a few seconds only) I think it got us more exposure than anything we have done since I have been in the chorus. We handed out 50 - 100 of our pamphlets and had several show a lot of interest. A few promised to visit us.

People who were in the audience in addition to the gov. officials were people who are in positions of influence. The Dean of UTC, the manager of the Tivoli and Memorial Auditorium, Directors of other musical groups are examples. Pete has two pictures of us singing with the Mayor behind us. The Mayor's assistant sent Pete a letter with unsolicited praise for us. He said it was the best presentation of the NA he had ever heard and wished he would never hear it any other way.

The 30 minute performance on the stage across from city hall was well recieved but there were not many people around by then. We had more than most other groups though because we were 2nd to appear. I am told that by the time the Sweet Adelines appeared (they were last) there was nobody around. Paul thought we did an exceptional performance of the NA and cited good sound and aproprate stage presence. We have had 5 visitors at the practice sessions the last two weeks and several appear to be interested in joining.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Because of Memorial Day family functions, I will not be at rehearsal on Monday night. Sorry.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	June 15	9pm EDT	Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in May

3rd Margeret Crowe
20th Chuck Wilson
22rd Nancy Owens

Anniversaries in May

25th Paul & Lindy Blazek

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
June 4, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Trying to look ahead to the next Board meeting, June 11, I recall that we are starting to think about the Christmas show. Yes, I know this is June but dates have to be found, venue contracted, AND a SHOW CHAIRMAN procured. We have set Dec. 1 as the date but so far no one has leaped forward to Chair the show. As shows go, the Christmas show is relatively easy and simple - please, everyone, think about it and let me or any Board member know if you are willing.

You probably saw Barry's email accounting of who has and has not paid for purchased ads for the Annual Show. If you sold an ad, please check with me or Barry or look at Barry's email - see if the ad you sold has been paid for. We need to get these in so that we can 'close the books' on the show.

Director – Paul Blazek

Song pool for Monteagle (not necessarily in order, not necessarily all used, but we'll run them all Monday night):

Mother Machree
Caroline
Star-Spangled Banner
God Bless America
Radio
Side By Side
Oh, You Beautiful Doll
Georgia On My Mind
Sweet Georgia Brown
Lulu's Back In Town
Battle Hymn of the Republic
Dixie

Program VP – Gary Fisher

I would like to have a get-together picnic sometime in July or August for the Chorus and all our families, maybe out at Chester Frost Park. Swimming, boating, Frisbee playing, with hot dogs, burgers, baked beans, potato salad...the whole enchilada. Well, maybe no enchiladas. Please be thinking of a time that would be appropriate where the whole chorus could be there and we'll discuss it on June 4.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Thank You! Thank You! for the performance Saturday at the National Cemetery. Yes, that's right, a double thank you.

One from me personally and the other from the local Boy Scout Council. There were other descriptive words like--WOW! and Awesome!--from those that I talked to afterwards. I stayed and talked to some of the scout folks that I knew till almost everyone was gone, and was still getting compliments. I told them thank you in return and that was only about half of our chorus that could make it. They would have enjoyed more songs if the program would have allowed it.

On the personal side it was definitely an honor to perform due to being a member of the scouting program and also with the number of family and friends that are buried at the cemetery.

As they mentioned, it is amazing how fast that all of the flags are placed by the graves (probably a little over an hour). The downside is that when they are to be taken up (Tuesday after Memorial Day) very few people can show up. I went back up on Tuesday morning and along with about 20 something other scouts and adults we pulled as many as we

could for about three hours. The cemetery employees thanked us immensely for doing what we could and said they would get the rest of them during the next day or two. They have to count them before putting up for storage and replace those that are damaged. They said that they had to purchase 2000 more this year.

I forgot to mention that I have some patches to give to those who performed at the cemetery. They were actually for the scouts but, they wanted us to have one too. I'll have them Monday night.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	June 15	9pm EDT	Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in June

2nd Gary Fisher
 18th Erby Erwin
 21st Pat Dawson
 21st Pat Keegan

Anniversaries in June

4th Johnny & Sally Jackson
 5th Steve & Janet Wixson
 13th Sam & Pat Jones
 18th Fred & Judy Jesse
 24th Jebron & Margie Brock

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
June 11, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Looks like we're about all set for the Monteagle gig, June 15. Uniform has been decided, dinner site is selected, maps and directions have been sent, the song selections are complete. Wow! All we need now is good attendance at the last rehearsal tonight, and good participation at Monteagle.

Paul is still working on securing John Butler as our coach, probably bi-weekly, probably in July. Assessment for the fall competition will include 'show face' as well as knowledge of the music itself.

Director – Paul Blazek

Same as last week. Song pool for Monteagle (not necessarily in order, not necessarily all used, but we'll run them all Monday night):

Mother Machree	Radio	Sweet Georgia Brown
Caroline	Side By Side	Lulu's Back In Town
Star-Spangled Banner	Oh, You Beautiful Doll	Battle Hymn of the Republic
God Bless America	Georgia On My Mind	Dixie

Program VP – Gary Fisher

I am hoping we can find a weekend in August on either a Saturday or Sunday in which we can schedule a date for a Chorus Picnic at Chester Frost. Check your calendars and let me know at our Monday meeting.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Outfit for Monteagle sing out is black pants, black belt, long sleeve white dress shirt, black bow tie, black shoes, and an arm band garter of any color if you have one. We will wear our new campaign hats.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	June 15	9pm EDT	Monteagle Assembly	Monteagle, TN	See above

Upcoming Special Events

<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in June

2nd Gary Fisher
18th Erby Erwin
21st Pat Dawson
21st Pat Keegan

Anniversaries in June

4th Johnny & Sally Jackson
5th Steve & Janet Wixson
13th Sam & Pat Jones
18th Fred & Judy Jesse
24th Jebron & Margie Brock



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
June 18, 2007



President – Beau Christian

One of my chores as President is to try to think ahead about Chorus activities, events, concerns. One such concern is the fall competition and our efforts to improve our score. As I mentioned at last rehearsal, we will soon be getting underway with the assessment routine. Competing members will need to be assessed with higher accuracy as to words and music and also with regard to 'presence' - what some call 'show face'. In most cases, your Section Leader will handle the assessment and guide you thru it. Also we are still planning to bring in a coach to help prepare for the fall competition. We are thinking perhaps mid-July thru mid-August or so. Paul is working on getting that item secured.

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

We want and need a coach and sooner is better. We need a singing coach and preferable one who can be here more than once, perhaps 3-4 times. The Board consensus is to schedule one soon, and John Butler may be good. He has been here before and was well received. The fall competition will be the same two songs as in the spring. The music team has agreed to a 98% correct words and notes for the fall assessment. Assessing faces, stage presence and vowel matching will be included.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

There seemed to be a general consensus of opinion at Monday's business meeting that you would like to have a picnic for all families. I contacted Chester Frost Park and the facilities are mostly rented for some of the times you said you would like.

I have booked Shelter #2 at Chester Frost Park for Saturday, August 25th from 4 - 8 pm. Most people know where Chester Frost is located, but just in case...go north on Hixson Pike. You will see a Nana's Frozen Custard shop on the left and the turn off to Chester Frost is a little less than a mile past that. Hixson Pike curves around to the left and you will make a right at that juncture (there are signs pointing to Chester Frost Park). I will give further details at a later meeting concerning the location of Shelter #2.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thur	July 12 or 19	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement	Chattanooga	TBA

Upcoming Special Events

July 1-8, 2007	International Convention	Denver, CO
August 25, 2007	Chapter Picnic from 4 – 8 pm	Chester Frost Park
September 28-30, 2007	Dixie Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in June

2nd Gary Fisher
18th Erby Erwin
21st Pat Dawson
21st Pat Keegan

Anniversaries in June

4th Johnny & Sally Jackson
5th Steve & Janet Wixson
13th Sam & Pat Jones
18th Fred & Judy Jesse
24th Lebron & Margie Brock



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
June 25, 2007



President – Beau Christian

In trying to think about what might get and keep good attendance over the summer, somebody noted that if we had regular gigs it would help sustain attendance. Good point. And a classic example would be the outing to Monteagle on the 15th. I believe we had 27 or 28 members on the risers for the gig and due to a very enthusiastic audience among other things, several members noted that this gig was one of the best ones they could remember. The Monteagle outing was a kind of serendipity happening. We were contacted thru our web page and the BHS. I'd love to see more such happenings, but in real life we all just need to make contacts, hand out the brochures and cards.

As you all know, Pete is our mainstay in this effort - but we can all help to try to keep the gigs coming. As I write this, we have a gig set for July 12. It would be nice to have the summer pretty much filled in with gigs as often as we can take them. And perhaps that would keep us coming regularly to rehearsals when we are not away on vacation outings. It's a thought.

I will be absent from the June 25 rehearsal and, in case you hadn't heard, there will be no rehearsal on July 2

Director – Paul Blazek

Program VP – Gary Fisher

I'm out of town this Monday the 25th, but the "Wall-Eyes" will still be meeting for dinner at Wallies at 5:30. Hope you can make it.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

The Hickory Valley gig is a definite for July 12, 6:30 pm. Outfit--Black shoes, black pants, white chorus polo shirt

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thur	July 12	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement	Hixson, TN	See above

Upcoming Special Events

<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>July 2, 2007</i>	<i>No Choo Choo Chorus meeting</i>	
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in June

2nd Gary Fisher
18th Erby Erwin
21st Pat Dawson
21st Pat Keegan

Anniversaries in June

4th Johnny & Sally Jackson
5th Steve & Janet Wixson
13th Sam & Pat Jones
18th Fred & Judy Jesse
24th Lebron & Margie Brock

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
July 9, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Just got a phone call from Paul Blazek, who is in Denver this evening, but expects to be back in time for Board and rehearsal tomorrow. He told me that John Buttler will be with us tomorrow night to begin coaching and further dates will follow.

Tom Keegan's mother-in-law died on Saturday and her funeral is today.

Director – Paul Blazek

See above

Business Manager – Pete Jones

The Hickory Valley gig is this Thursday, July 12, 6:30 pm. Outfit--Black shoes, black pants, white chorus polo shirt. Address is 6705 Ballard Dr. Directions, I-75 to Hwy 153. Take Lee Highway exit to the right. Turn left onto Ballard Drive (across from Ryan's Restaurant.)

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thur	July 12	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement	Hixson, TN	See above

Upcoming Special Events

<i>July 1-8, 2007</i>	<i>International Convention</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>July 2, 2007</i>	<i>No Choo Choo Chorus meeting</i>	
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in June

3rd Tom Keegan
16th Pat Slack
23rd Margie Brook
29th J.N. Howard
31st Edgar Dawson

Anniversaries in June

21st Gist & Audry Brooks
25th Erby & Glenda Erwin

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
July 16, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Steve Wixson sent out an email to all members who missed last Monday's meeting highlighting last week's rehearsal and John Buttler's efforts in our behalf. Seems like we all got a lot out of it and hope to do more. One topic that John stressed was that of helping our Director. Specifically, he was talking about knowing the words to songs so that Paul doesn't need to 'mouth' them to us as we sing. As one who couldn't seem to remember all of Side by Side in instant recall, his point certainly hit home with me.

It just seems to me that, given a list in advance of what Paul intends to rehearse, our job is to go over it in advance to recall both the music and words and be ready to relieve Paul of at least part of that concern. An added benefit of doing so is that we can then concentrate on 'face' and movement, blend, vowel shaping and the like. I thought John made a good point.

Mulsic Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

The special called meeting of the Music Leadership Team for this Monday, July 16, has been CANCELLED. Some key folks could not attend because of prior commitments. We will plan to meet at the regularly scheduled time on Monday, August 6, at 5:00 pm.

Director – Paul Blazek

For Monday, come prepared to work on Side by Side and Oh You Beautiful Doll

Upcoming Special Events

<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>December 3, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in July

3rd Tom Keegan
16th Pat Slack
23rd Margie Brook
29th J.N. Howard
31st Edgar Dawson

Anniversaries in July

21st Gist & Audry Brooks
25th Erby & Glenda Erwin

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
July 23, 2007



President – Beau Christian

I hope all of you have seen and read the recent proposal to split Dixie District. As I understand it, splitting the District east of here would grow the BHS in that more chapters would participate in competitions and District get-togethers, being then closer geographically to such offerings.

This would answer the common concern expressed by many of our Dixie District chapters to the east that the reason they don't participate readily is that it is too far to go - to Chattanooga, or to Knoxville, or to Atlanta.

I don't know how this would affect us as a Chapter. One thought I had, was that presumably we would have even few participants in what would be the new smaller District. Another is that Chattanooga might not be as central to the 'new' Dixie District as it is now - relieving us, for better or worse, of hosting duties sometime in the future.

The reason I am on this topic is that a vote is expected at this fall's competition in late September. I need your input so that I can vote the wishes of the chapter. Probably at the September Board meeting I will be asking for a resolution from our Board as to our vote on the matter and, if you want a voice in that, share your view with a Board member.

Director – Paul Blazek

Continue to work on all of the Annual Show songs Radio, Lulu's Back in Town, Caroline, Mother Macree, Georgia on My Mind and in particular Side by Side, Oh You Beautiful Doll and Sweet Georgia Brown.

Check out the new **Song Learning Method** that we studied in Asheville. Enter or click on this web address: <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/choochoochorus/>. Then Click on Files which will take you to a Sign In page. If you do not have a password, skip to the Don't Have a Yahoo ID box, click and follow instructions. After you are signed in, you will return to the Files page and then click on Song Learning Method box.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

ChooChoo Chorus Picnic at Chester Frost Park from 4 - 8 pm on Saturday, August 25th. Strick and Paul will be providing the meat and grill while the rest of us watch 'em cook. I need a show of hands at our next meeting to determine how many of you are going to be there. I will also have a sign up sheet on stuff to bring to enhance our dining pleasures. Remember to bring your Frisbees, lawn games, etc. We may have a special quartet singing an old favorite that you probably have not heard a quartet sing recently.

Don't forget...we meet at Wallies every Monday at 5:30 for dinner before rehearsal. Our core group of Art, Frank, Chuck and Gary has learned much of our fellow diners and have some pretty good laughs as well. Consider joining us (Dee is usually our waitress) and enjoy our frivolity.

Our Christmas Show is scheduled for Saturday, December 1 (not December 3rd as in the last newsletter), at the Chattanooga State Humanities Auditorium. The board will soon decide which charity is to receive our net proceeds so if you have a favorite in mind, let one of our members know. Previous recipients have been Toys for Tots, Special Olympics and Care Chattanooga.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Upcoming Special Events

September 28-30, 2007	Dixie Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
December 1, 2007	Christmas Show	CTSCC Bond Auditorium
May 3, 2008	Annual Show	TBA

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in July

3rd Tom Keegan
16th Pat Slack
23rd Margie Brook
29th J.N. Howard
31st Edgar Dawson

Anniversaries in July

21st Gist & Audry Brooks
25th Erby & Glenda Erwin

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
July 30, 2007



President – Beau Christian

A couple of weeks ago I arrived at All Saints to discover that several ceiling tiles had fallen. I got to thinking that at one time we had some thoughts of putting in a work day or two for the ceiling, perhaps a coat of paint for the walls, and, just maybe, a re-finish of the floor. Somehow that effort got sidelined. I'd have to check with Johnny, but I believe there are sufficient monies on hand to afford to do at least some of the needed items. The next thing is, are you interested, could you help, what do you think should get the priority? If there is sufficient interest, I'll try to get somebody to take charge, set a date and see if we can at least get some of the items done.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

We meet at Wallies on McCallie Avenue every Monday at 5:30 for dinner before rehearsal. Please join us.

I will have a list for sign-up of items needed for our picnic on August 25th at Chester Frost. Please contribute.

Upcoming Special Events

<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in July

3rd Tom Keegan
16th Pat Slack
23rd Margie Brook
29th J.N. Howard
31st Edgar Dawson

Anniversaries in July

21st Gist & Audry Brooks
25th Erby & Glenda Erwin

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
August 6, 2007



President – Beau Christian

The Board will meet Monday, August 13th at Wally's at 5:00 pm.

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

The Music Leadership Team will meet this Monday night, August 6, at Wally's on McCallie. We will eat at 5:00 pm and the business meeting will begin at 5:30. We will discuss assessments for Fall Contest and some of the things learned by the group that went to Asheville recently. Everyone is invited.

Director – Paul Blazek

John Butler will not be coaching us this Monday, but probably August 13th or 20th. Continue to work on Side-by-Side and Oh, You Beautiful Doll.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

We have two tentative singouts. The first is for Saturday, Sept. 1st, location---Lee and Gordons' Mill, Chickamauga, Ga., for a Celtic Festival, still working details for a time --9--10- ish in the a.m. Outfit - TBD

The second is for Monday, Sept. 3rd, location--Polo field, Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga, Time---12:00 noon, Agreement is pending on having enough tenors and baritones to fill out the chorus.

Upcoming Special Events

<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in August

10th Audry Brooks
15th Sherry Fowler
20th Clarence Wall
25th Lebron Brock
28th JW Kirk

Anniversaries in August

8th Dave & Carol Collins
10th JW & Joy Kirk
13th Gary & Marilyn Fisher
20th Jerry & Conny Bradwell

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
August 13, 2007



President – Beau Christian

As I write this, we are barely six weeks away from the fall competition. As Strick has said, be ready to assume your usual duties as we host the event and, if you haven't already been assigned, let Strick know you are willing to help. As usual, we need everybody. I don't think we get much credit for it in the District, but it really makes me proud to watch the Choo Choo Chorus carry off the mind-boggling task.

And then there's the little matter of our competing. We need everyone at rehearsals and working on music outside of rehearsals and . . . well, whatever it takes. To me, the bottom line at competition is whether each of us sang the very best he possibly could as a member of the Chorus, not just words and music, and face, but also in blending with the entire Chorus. If we did that, then, in my opinion, we have won, whatever the judges' scores.

Secretary – Fred Jesse

When I took the job as Secretary for the Chorus, I knew it was a job in perpetuum (forever). When David Renolds left the job and then retired to Louisiana, I also assumed the job of Chapter Historian and Archivist. His historical and archival stuff now resides at my home. This includes old attendance records, Blenders (the former newsletter), Board meeting notes, chapter show programs and scripts, Harmonizers, chapter show and contest audio and video tapes, Society stuff, and lots of music in the form of Society printed sheet and music books, hand written arrangements, and other non-BHS quartet music. I have sorted through much of this stuff and saved the music in a separate archive. More about this later. If anyone has stuff to be archived, please contact me. Thanks.

Chapter Development VP – Lebron Brock

The idea of administrative section leaders came about because the job of section leader as described by the society is a big, big job. We actually have few members who have the musical ability to do the job of section leader and the ones we do have are not able to do all that is needed. An administrative section leader would work with the musical section leader to help him do a better job. If you look at the list of things a section leader should do and leave off the musical part, what is left is what the administrative section leader could do.

As things stand now, Paul is carrying too much of the load. This didn't come from him, it is my observation. He may even enjoy carrying this much of the load but it is not efficient and is hurting the chorus. I say this because the comments and complaints I hear from members are about things that would not exist if our sections were better managed.

The adm. SL could be a liaison to the membership VP by being an advocate and spokesman for their sections and the person who would inform and implement actions in their sections that the director and/or board believe is needed. In addition to this, an adm. SL could play a key role in implementing the ideas we brought back from the Ashville meeting and even participate in deciding how these ideas will be implemented.

When I asked for volunteers to function as adm. SL I got little response. This may be because I didn't promote it enough or explain what it would entail. The key thing about this is – it gives more members a chance to have a big impact on the direction, emphasis and quality of singing our chorus does. Yes, there will be responsibility, but it can also be very rewarding. These people could be the difference in whether our hobby survives to the next generation.

At our regular meeting on Aug. 20 we will have section meetings to elect people to this office. It is my hope that all who would be willing to do this job would make it known to their sections at this meeting. The person elected should want to do the job, not just get drafted. If a large number of members want the chorus to improve, a lot of members will want to do this job.

Music Leadership VP – Roger Coffman

There is the possibility that the Annual Show will move to the UTC theatre auditorium on May 17th.

Director – Paul Blazek

I still have not heard from John Butler. I will notify everyone by email if I learn that he is coming to coach us this Monday,. Continue to work on contest songs plus Battle Hymn and for the Lookout's game—The National Anthem.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

There are still plenty of items on the list of things to bring to our Chester Frost picnic on Saturday, August 25th. Please consider signing up for more than one item.

Four-on-the-Floor will be Michael (we drafted you), Frank, Johnny and Paul.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

The dress for the Lookout's game is white chorus knit shirt and khaki pants. Free admission for singers but guests pay (general admission is \$4, seat with back \$5.)

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Aug 18	6:45 pm	Chattanooga Lookouts	AT&T Field	See above
Sat	Sep 1	??	??	??	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

<i>August 20, 2007</i>	<i>Election for Admin Section Leaders</i>	<i>All Saints</i>
<i>August 25, 2007</i>	<i>Chapter Picnic</i>	<i>Chester Frost Park</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in August

10th Audry Brooks
15th Sherry Fowler
20th Clarence Wall
25th Lebron Brock
28th JW Kirk

Anniversaries in August

8th Dave & Carol Collins
10th JW & Joy Kirk
13th Gary & Marilyn Fisher
20th Jerry & Conny Bradwell

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
August 20, 2007



President – Beau Christian

I was reminded, last Monday at rehearsal, that the time is upon us to present a proposed slate of officers for 2008. According to BHS regs, we are supposed to present the slate in October. Our custom is to ask previous Chorus Presidents to form a committee and develop the slate. I am underway on seeking past Presidents to help. Once formed, give the committee your thoughts as to nominees for offices.

And again - I urge everyone to attend regularly and work diligently as we again have John Buttler here to coach us and head for the home stretch on the fall competition.

Secretary/Historian – Fred Jesse

As I noted last week, I am compiling a barbershop music archive. It is intended to include one copy of each music title in the chapter music files at All Saints. This I have already collected and it is at my home. I have added to the archive the collection of music Charlie McDowell gave me, which also included music he got from Dick Clem. Both of these guys are former members, and their history with the chapter is another article. Also, I hope David Reynolds is glad that his music collection is also being added to this archive. I have sorted out all this music, saved one copy of each arrangement, tossed music photocopied from printed pages, and tossed other obviously illegal copies. Extra copies were returned to the chapter music file cabinet. (Lloyd Gimber was not the only one saving multiple copies.) More next week.

Director – Paul Blazek

John Buttler will be coaching us - please be on time for warm-ups so we can be in the best shape possible for him - we will, of course, be working on Georgia On My Mind and Sweet Georgia Brown

Program VP – Gary Fisher

All items for the Chapter picnic have been signed up for except the ice cream and cookies. Pete said he would bring potato chips.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Dress for Lee & Gordon sing out is chorus white knit shirt, khaki pants and black shoes.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Sep 1	9:30 am	Lee & Gordon Mill	Chickamauga, GA	See above

Upcoming Special Events

<i>August 20, 2007</i>	<i>Election for Admin Section Leaders</i>	<i>All Saints</i>
<i>August 25, 2007</i>	<i>Chapter Picnic</i>	<i>Chester Frost Park</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in August

10th Audry Brooks
15th Sherry Fowler
20th Lindy Blazek & Clarence
Wall
25th Lebron Brock
28th JW Kirk

Anniversaries in August

8th Dave & Carol Collins
10th JW & Joy Kirk
13th Gary & Marilyn Fisher
20th Jerry & Conny Bradwell

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
August 27, 2007



President – Beau Christian

First, let me publically add my thanks to John Buttler for his coaching assistance last Monday. As Steve Wixson has already noted, there were a lot of good pointers.

Secondly - many thanks, also, to Gary Fisher et al for the harmonious outing on Saturday. It takes more work than you might think to put a thing like this together and a word of thanks to Gary is in order.

And thirdly - don't forget to give your input to a Board member about whether you would favor a split in the Dixie District. So far, I've only heard from one Chorus member. The Board will vote on this item on September 10 and I will be carrying the outcome of that vote to the House of Delegates meeting at the fall competition.

Director – Paul Blazek

First half - general repertoire and contest set

Second half - more contest set

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Don't forget there is no rehearsal on Labor Day, Monday, September 3rd.

Picnic this Saturday is 4-8 pm at Chester Frost Park.

Johnny & JW Kirk - one gallon potato salad each
Gary & Steve Wixson - one gallon baked beans each
Brooks & Frank - Four packages hamburger buns
Wally & Strick - four packages hot dog buns
Gary - Five packages of sliced cheese
Steve Wixson - Six onions pre-sliced
Pat Crowe - Three bottles ketchup, two of mustard, two of relish, three of mayo
Paul - 200 napkins
Tom - one package each 100c of forks, spoons, knives
Niles - 100 plastic cups
Erby - Four 2-liters of coke
Beau - Four 2-liters of sprite
Lamar - Four 2 liters of diet coke
Lucien - Five ten lb bags of ice
Ron - Cookies
Gary will be bringing ice cream, toppings and bowls

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Dress for Lee & Gordon sing out is chorus white knit shirt, khaki pants and black shoes.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Sep 1	9:30 am	Lee & Gordon Mill	Chickamauga, GA	See above

Upcoming Special Events

<i>August 25, 2007</i>	<i>Chapter Picnic</i>	<i>Chester Frost Park</i>
<i>August 27, 2007</i>	<i>Election for Admin Section Leaders</i>	<i>All Saints</i>
<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in August

10th Audry Brooks
15th Sherry Fowler
20th Clarence Wall
25th Lebron Brock
28th JW Kirk

Anniversaries in August

8th Dave & Carol Collins
10th JW & Joy Kirk
13th Gary & Marilyn Fisher
20th Jerry & Conny Bradwell

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
September 10, 2007



President – Beau Christian

A couple of weeks ago, I asked for your input concerning repair of the rehearsal rooms and what items ought to get a priority. Now Dave Rack advises me that our current storage area will be taken over for other use as had been scheduled some time back. This will begin to happen, Dave says, in about a month or so. So - again, it is time to think about what to do for storage and, perhaps at the same time, what we would like to do to improve the rehearsal rooms.

Upcoming Special Events

<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in September

5th Benny Malone
9th Sam Jones
16th Dave Collins
26th Sally Jackson
30th Barry Owen

Anniversaries in September

5th Barry and Nancy Owen
5th Bill and Pat Slack

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
September 17, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Director – Paul Blazek

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Don't forget there is no rehearsal on Labor Day, Monday, September 3rd.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform

Upcoming Special Events

<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in September

5th Benny Malone
9th Sam Jones
16th Dave Collins
26th Sally Jackson
30th Barry Owen

Anniversaries in September

5th Barry and Nancy Owen
5th Bill and Pat Slack

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
September 24, 2007



President – Beau Christian

One more time, perhaps even by the time you see this, a slate of officers for 2008 will have been generated. If you wish to seek a position of leadership, let Strick or Steve Grubb know about it. Otherwise, our usual 'unanimous ballot' motion will be forthcoming.

Following the competition, the next big item is the CCCC project. Be thinking of who you could ask to join us at least thru Christmas. We will have the Christmas show and presumably lots of gigs between October and Christmas and it would really be nice to put a bunch of new faces on the risers. We will get underway formally following the Oct. Board meeting.

Nominating Committee – Wilbur Strickland

The nominating committee is working on a new slate of officers for the upcoming year. There are some of the officers that are continuing to take on their responsibilities but some are not. There will be one "Member at Large" that has to be replaced; this is a three year term for those who don't know. The Member at Large is the "voice" of the chorus. These folks are the ones the individuals go to when they have a complaint or praise. Nominations will be asked from the floor but if someone nominates a person they should have asked that person if they would be willing to hold that Office for a year.

The nominees will be read for three times over a three week period and the upcoming Monday will be the first. The members of the nominating committee are the past Presidents and that is Steve Grubb, immediate past President, Wilbur Strickland, Bill Slack and Fred Jesse. You can change any or all of this as you like or not use it.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Special Olympics Bowling at Tri State Bowling Lanes, 3636 Ringgold Rd. This is in East Ridge behind Magoo's Restaurant. Dress---Chorus Polo Shirt

Dalton First Baptist Church---Seniors. Dress to be determined. Directions and map forth coming

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thur	Sept 27	10:00 am	Special Olympics Bowling	Tri State Bowling Lanes	See above
Tues	Oct 23	6:00 pm	First Baptist Church	Dalton, GA	See above

Upcoming Special Events

<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in September

5th Benny Malone
9th Sam Jones
16th Dave Collins
26th Sally Jackson
30th Barry Owen

Anniversaries in September

5th Barry and Nancy Owen
5th Bill and Pat Slack



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** October 1, 2007



President – Beau Christian

As if you needed any more reasons for barbershopping:

1. We almost always have a good laugh about something during rehearsal and laughter has long been known to be highly therapeutic, both physically and psychologically. Years ago a doctor discovered that it is medically impossible to laugh and sprout an ulcer at the same time. Even Mark Twain observed: "Laughter is the strongest force in the universe. Against the force of laughter, nothing can stand."

2. Singing is good exercise, both physically and mentally. If you've ever attended a rehearsal, you know the truth of that. Many of us are at an age when a little physical and mental exercise wouldn't hurt.

3. You can't sing, and especially you can't sing harmony with other guys, and remain angry - at anything, at least not while the chord echoes. If you doubt this, look at the faces around you as we 'Keep the Whole World Singing'. More often than not, there are arms wrapped around another guy's shoulder, and bliss on the faces of those participating. Sorta' makes our petty concerns about our Chorus seem, well, petty doesn't it?

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Special Olympics Bowling at Tri State Bowling Lanes, 3636 Ringgold Rd. This is in East Ridge behind Magoo's Restaurant. Dress---Chorus Polo Shirt

Dalton First Baptist Church---Seniors. Dress to be determined. Directions and map forth coming

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thur	Sept 27	10:00 am	Special Olympics Bowling	Tri State Bowling Lanes	See above
Tues	Oct 23	6:00 pm	First Baptist Church	Dalton, GA	See above

Upcoming Special Events

<i>September 28-30, 2007</i>	<i>Dixie Fall Convention</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in October

8th Melissa Wilson
11th Paul Blazek
24th Jerry Bradwell

Anniversaries in October

21st Benny & Gelda Malone
21st Chuck & Melissa Wilson

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** *October 8, 2007*



President – Beau Christian

Thanks to all the members, and our Southern Belles, for the efforts last weekend. I am proud of our ability to carry off the many, many details of hosting a competition. And, of course, special thanks to Wilbur. I know well how the weekend wears on a person - but try to remember that the \$1500 we make is an integral part of our budget.

And - I'm really pleased with our score on the competition. I believe we improved all around, and came within a point or two of winning 'most improved' Chorus. I know we have to move on to the next upcoming events, but let's just take a minute or two to bask in a good weekend, well done.

Nomination Committee – Steve Grubb

Here are the nominations for Officers for 2008. They will be read for a third time on Monday and the election will follow. Nominations can be made from the floor, but make sure the person nominated is willing to serve.

President – Beau Christain
Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland
Treasurer – Johnny Jackson
Secretary/Historian – Fred Jesse
Member Involvement – Lebron Brock
Program VP – Gary Fisher
Marketing – Lamar Owen
Business Manager – Pete Jones
Newsletter Editor – Steve Wixson
Members at Large - Benny Malone, Frank Delaney, Clyde Rogers

Program VP– Gary Fisher

We will begin our Christmas rehearsals on October 8th and we will repeat a show that was done several years ago called "What the Dickens!" or "A Partridge in a Parody". Chuck Wilson is the director of the play with Gary Fisher as Ernie (the Scrooge part), Jerry Bradwell as Jack Murley, Johnny Jackson as the Stage Manager, and the three Christmas spirits played by Michael Prentice, JN Howard and Steve Grubb.

Does anybody know where we can book a hay ride? Is anybody even interested in this as an October evening activity? We need a place to start from and finish up and then go in, have some hot chocolate and sing a few ditties. Give me your input on the idea.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Dalton First Baptist Church---Seniors. Dress to be determined. Directions and map forth coming

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tues	Oct 23	6:00 pm	First Baptist Church	Dalton, GA	See above

Upcoming Special Events

<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in October

8th Melissa Wilson
11th Paul Blazek
24th Jerry Bradwell

Anniversaries in October

21st Benny & Gelda Malone
21st Chuck & Melissa Wilson

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
October 15, 2007



President – Beau Christian

Here are some items from the Oct. 8 Board meeting:

1. The Board has elected the Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center of Chattanooga as our charity for the Christmas show. This continues our long-standing Christmas tradition of sharing our blessings at Christmas with others.
2. Finances are getting a bit tight as we begin to approach the end of 2007. We will receive the \$1,500 from Dixie District for hosting the competition and that should, along with upcoming gigs, see us thru.
3. Officers for 2008 are now elected. You can see the slate elsewhere in the Newsletter. We thank everyone for their willingness to serve and help.
4. Strick will be checking on our copier with an eye toward an overhaul and the installation of some sort of 'key' so that only the Chorus can use it.
5. By the needed 75% vote, the Dixie District supports the pursuit of the Carolinas toward dividing the District. As the Board directed, the Choo Choo Chorus voted 'No'.

Nomination Committee – Steve Grubb

The following people were elected to the offices shown at last Monday's meeting. A big thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee.

President – Beau Christain
Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland
Treasurer – Johnny Jackson
Secretary/Historian – Fred Jesse
Member Involvement – Lebron Brock
Program VP – Gary Fisher
Marketing – Lamar Owen
Business Manager – Pete Jones
Newsletter Editor – Steve Wixson
Members at Large - Benny Malone, Frank Delaney, Clyde Rogers

Program VP– Gary Fisher

Get ready for another bang-up special outing when we go on a hay ride Friday, October 26th. We will be meeting at 5:00 pm at a location I will announce on Monday night because it will take 45 minute to get to the place we're going following Niles Fowler as we wander the back roads of Georgia. I will also have a sign-up list for items you will need to bring so we can eat after the ride. This should be a great time with singin', ridin', and laughin'.

We had a great turn-out of newcomers Monday night and we hope they all stay after the New Year. Let's make sure these guys have a real good time with us and please invite three or four more from each of you. Church choirs, community singing groups, the employee at the McDonald's drive-through and the garbage man as long as they can carry a tune. "What the Dickens! or A Partridge in a Parody" is the title of our Christmas show on Saturday, December 1st at Chattanooga State Humanities Auditorium at 7:30 pm. We will also be planning an "Afterglow" for later. Paul will have learning CDs for us all as we learn a few new songs and brush up on our old ones. I especially would like to see our established quartets to bring out their repertoires and give us a few tunes each. PLEASE consider getting up a quartet of your own, practice a tune and let Paul and me know what you're going to be doing so we can incorporate it into the script.

Be thinking of a date on your calendar AFTER the Christmas show, the first or second week of December so we can have our annual Christmas party. Again, this year, Steve Wixson has opened up his fantastic home on Signal Mountain for our festivities. Be thinking of December 7, 8, 14 or 15 for this bash.

Director– Paul Blazek

We will review Silent Night, White Christmas and O Holy Night. We will work on last weeks I Want to Wish You a Merry Christmas and add Jingle Bells and Winter Wonderland.

Please bring a friend to join the CCCC Chorus.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Just a reminder to put the uniforming in the info for the Oct. 23 gig. Red Coat outfit

As most of you know a chorus performance is to be auctioned off on the Channel 45 public auction. Volunteers are needed to man the telephones during the auction times. We had a show of hands of those interested in doing this. Since that time i have found out that you must be computer savvy to handle this job. This may eliminate some who wanted to help. If you are comfortable on using a computer and are willing to help, let me know. Preferably, they want at least a team of four people for a four hour period. The preferred dates are-- Sunday, Oct. 28 / Sunday, Nov. 4 --Hours to be determined.

We will take a head count next Monday. Let me know before then if possible.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tues	Oct 23	6:00 pm	First Baptist Church	Dalton, GA	See above

Upcoming Special Events

<i>October 26, 2007</i>	<i>Hayride Social Event</i>	<i>North Georgia</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>June 29 – July 6, 2008</i>	<i>International Barbershop Convention</i>	<i>Nashville, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in October

8th Melissa Wilson
 11th Paul Blazek
 24th Jerry Bradwell

Anniversaries in October

21st Benny & Guelda Malone
 21st Chuck & Melissa Wilson

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** October 22, 2007



President – Beau Christian

About all I can think of to say this week is "WOW!" and keep up the good work. If I heard the count right, we had 35 people in rehearsal last Monday including Paul. We continue to have guests joining us and I continue to urge you all to keep them coming. Just great to see Pete, Clarence, and Dave J. back with us.

Program VP– Gary Fisher

The hayride scheduled for Friday, October 26th is still on. I will bring maps and a sign-up sheet for whatever we need to eat while there to Monday's meeting. We are to meet at 4:30 to drive down there but many of you have indicated you cannot make it that early and 5 would be better. I am going to call the wagon master of this train and see if we can go "Wagon's Hoooo!" at 6 instead of 5:30. There is not much light provided where we are going to eat so it will be dark when we settle down to break bread but that will probably just add to the ambiance. See you Monday.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tues	Oct 23	6:00 pm	First Baptist Church	Dalton, GA	Red Outfit

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks

Upcoming Special Events

<i>October 26, 2007</i>	<i>Hayride Social Event (meet at 5:00pm)</i>	<i>North Georgia</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>June 29 – July 6, 2008</i>	<i>International Barbershop Convention</i>	<i>Nashville, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in October

8th Melissa Wilson
11th Paul Blazek
24th Jerry Bradwell

Anniversaries in October

21st Benny & Gelda Malone
21st Chuck & Melissa Wilson

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** October 29, 2007



President – Beau Christain

As I write this (from Great Falls, VA), I'm thinking how quickly the Christmas show is approaching. Assuming no extra rehearsals, we are just five rehearsals from showtime. And, as we always do, we will manage. Still, it would be really good if everyone would make it a point to get to rehearsal (on time and wear those badges) prepared and ready. And a reminder - help the new guys get comfortable with the songs.

Director – Paul Blazek

There will be one more new song this week. Also please arrive on time as our guests outnumbered members when the meeting started last week.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Please don't let Gary eat alone any more. You won't like Gary when he gets lonely. Be very, very afraid. Be at Wally's on McCallie Avenue at 5:30 on the third, fourth and fifth Mondays of every month.

Calling all Actors for What the Dickens! Chuck Wilson will begin rehearsal starting Monday at 6 in Rehearsal Hall. These include Gary Fisher, Michael Prentice, Jerry Bradford, JN Howard, Steve Grubb and Johnny Jackson. (Johnny, you have no lines and very little to do except scatter snow so you are excused from all but the final rehearsal.) Gary, Michael, JN and Steve - we have to rehearse a quartet song and we need to get crackin'. I'm hoping we can do Jingle Bell Rock if Paul approves.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Dec 14	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement Ctr	Shallowford Road	TBD
Tues	Dec 18	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn	TBD

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks

Upcoming Special Events

<i>October 26, 2007</i>	<i>Hayride Social Event (meet at 5:00pm)</i>	<i>North Georgia</i>
<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>December 7, 2007</i>	<i>Chirstmas Party</i>	<i>Wixson Home</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>June 29 – July 6, 2008</i>	<i>International Barbershop Convention</i>	<i>Nashville, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in October

8th Melissa Wilson
11th Paul Blazek
24th Jerry Bradwell

Anniversaries in October

21st Benny & Guelda Malone
21st Chuck & Melissa Wilson



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** November 5, 2007



President – Beau Christain

What a BIG sound can be accomplished with nearly 50 men in rehearsal last Monday! If I heard correctly, there were 45 of us there. Just Great!

As we begin to approach the Christmas show, and with all the work we are doing, I would urge everyone, first, to approach possible venues for a Christmas gig - churches, nursing homes, assisted living centers, malls, Senior centers and the like. Pete is doing a great job of working on these, but he can't be everywhere. We currently have two booked, and perhaps three more in the works. We could use more and, besides, it's great fun to sing these outings.

Secondly, tickets for the Christmas show will be available next week. Please, everyone plan on taking, buying, and selling as many as you can. Not only would a big audience be a lot of fun, but also remember that this is in behalf of the Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center, our named charity of the season.

Director – Paul Blazek

Below is the near completed song list for the show.

CCCC

Mary Had A Baby
It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
White Christmas
Angels We Have Heard On High (new tag)

w/Sweet Adelines and Audience

Joy to the World
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Silent Night (first verse)

Choo Choo Chorus

Jingle Bells
We Want to Wish You A Merry Christmas
Winter Wonderland
Let It Snow
more to come...

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Tickets and flyers should be available Monday for the Christmas show. We have 250 tickets to sell and wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if every single, blessed one was purchased! My thanks to Frank Delaney, Steve Wixson and Paul Blazek for their continued support in helping me pull this show together. I hope I do you proud!

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Dec 14	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement Ctr	Shallowford Road	TBD
Tues	Dec 18	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn	TBD

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cummerbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks

Upcoming Special Events

October 26, 2007	Hayride Social Event (meet at 5:00pm)	North Georgia
December 1, 2007	Christmas Show	CTSCC Bond Auditorium
December 7, 2007	Chirstmas Party	Wixson Home
March 14-15, 2008	Dixie Spring Convention	Greenville, SC
May 3, 2008	Annual Show	TBA
June 29 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries (no anniversaries in November)

Birthdays in November

2nd Joy Kirk
6th Lamar Owens
10th Hobby Thomas
13th Janice Owens

14th Ed Thornton
19th Wilbur Strickland
22nd Mary Strickland
23rd Fred Jesse

23rd John Johnston
29th Frank Delaney
29th Pat Jones

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** **November 12, 2007**



President – Beau Christain

We have had a lot of guys turn out for our CCCC Christmas program and the big sound we get is surely a joy to us all. I hope everyone is continuing to make our guests feel welcome and comfortable. One of the important ways we can all do that is by wearing our nametags. It just makes guests feel better when they can call us by name, even if that means glancing at the nametag in order to do it, at least at first. And, let's not forget, having a good time over Christmas is a good way to recruit some new members to the Chorus, as well.

Director – Paul Blazek

We need to be off sheet music for every song by next week. This will inspire the CCCC get off sheet music.

We are loosing 15 to 20 minutes of rehearsal time each week with talking, etc resulting in a longer CCCC time and less time for us to work on our songs. There is time during the break when we can talk and also get to know our CCCC guests. I need your help to fix this.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Many, many thanks to great response you gave at Monday's meeting to Sharee Stoker of the Walter Boehm Birth Defects Center. Your questions showed a real interest in this great organization. Obviously, with my own personal experiences, watching that video caused me to get a little emotional. I am hopeful that we can fill every seat in the house on December 1st. That would raise over \$2,000 for them and the money will help pay for one of those \$35,000 operations or put a down payment on a \$21,000 wheelchair. Thanks, fellas, I love each and every one of you.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Dec 14	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement Ctr	Shallowford Road	TBD
Tues	Dec 18	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn	TBD

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks

Upcoming Special Events

December 1, 2007	Christmas Show	CTSCC Bond Auditorium
December 7, 2007	Chirstmas Party	Wixson Home
March 14-15, 2008	Dixie Spring Convention	Greenville, SC
May 3, 2008	Annual Show	TBA
June 29 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries (no anniversaries in November)

Birthdays in November

2nd Joy Kirk
6th Lamar Owens
10th Hobby Thomas
13th Janice Owens

14th Ed Thornton
19th Wilbur Strickland
22nd Mary Strickland
23rd Fred Jesse

23rd John Johnston
29th Frank Delaney
29th Pat Jones

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** **November 19, 2007**



President – Beau Christain

Things are really percolating in the Chorus as we 'round the bend' toward the Christmas show. I was very pleased with the rehearsal last Monday, with 43 men on risers. If we ever managed to get ALL of us there at one time, we would probably be pretty close to 50.

Couple of reminders: Our Christmas party is moved to Dec. 10 in favor of being available to sing at the Tennessee Pavilion on the 7th. We are thinking of having the afterglow following the show at Blue Orleans - which is very near CSTCC. We have Creekside booked for the 14th and Alexian Village on the 18th. At long last the amplifier and related equipment is ready to be ordered, finally keeping a promise to our quartets whose efforts generated the money initially for that purchase.

Steve Wixson has finalized a plan to repair the ceilings mainly using the existing ceiling tile. If you can help Steve, see him and volunteer. My we are a busy bunch. Sort of fun, don't you think?

Program VP – Gary Fisher

ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!! It was decided at the business meeting on Monday night that in lieu of rehearsal on Monday, December 10, we will have our Christmas Party at the Wixsons. There were too many people who were going to miss the Friday night date, so we moved it to a time when you were supposed to be free anyway. Since we are no longer rehearsing Christmas songs by that date, we will have the party. Please count on \$10 a head to finance this little endeavor. Anybody that was at last year's Wixson party know that the food was great, the house was awesome and the camaraderie was matchless.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Dec 14	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement Ctr	Shallowford Road	TBD
Tues	Dec 18	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn	TBD

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks

Upcoming Special Events

<i>December 1, 2007</i>	<i>Christmas Show</i>	<i>CTSCC Bond Auditorium</i>
<i>December 10, 2007</i>	<i>Chirstmas Party</i>	<i>Wixson Home</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 3, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>June 29 – July 6, 2008</i>	<i>International Barbershop Convention</i>	<i>Nashville, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries (no anniversaries in November)

Birthdays in November

2nd Joy Kirk
6th Lamar Owens
10th Hobby Thomas
13th Janice Owens

14th Ed Thornton
19th Wilbur Strickland
22nd Mary Strickland
23rd Fred Jesse

23rd John Johnston
29th Frank Delaney
29th Pat Jones

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** **November 26, 2007**



President – Beau Christain

Based on a response from a CCCC member last Monday, it occurs to me that they may not understand that they are more than welcome to join us for our Christmas gigs. It appears that some may think they are only involved for the Christmas Show. Be sure to spread the word among the CCCC members around you to 'come on down' for our gigs.

Wouldn't we LOVE to fill the CSTCC auditorium for our show? SRO sounds great to me and we can do that IF you sell your tickets. And remember, next Monday bring back any unsold tickets so that they may be redistributed.

The Board meeting has been moved to December 3rd due to the Christmas party now scheduled for December 10th.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Party time, party time, dashing all the way.
Oh, what fun it will be to see the Wixson House that day - HEY!
Party time, party time, December 10ths the day,
Be there at seven o'clock to eat the night away.

The singing will be bright on that merry night,
The sights from the back porch will be a star-lit night.
Bring the wives and kids, for just ten bucks a head
You will be sorry if you stayed at home instead.

Party time, party time, give your money to Gary
He's the big guy on the front row, looking kind of scary - HEY
Party time, party time, we hope to see you there.
The fun is much, the love is grand, the songs will be extraordin-aire.

Directions to Wixson's house for the Christmas party. Get on highway 27 North or South as appropriate. Take Signal Mtn/Highway 127 exit and start up the hill to Signal Mtn. Take the second right after the Space Ship house onto Sunset Drive. Then the first left onto Lower Brow Road and drive up the hill to the yellow house on the right. His grandkids will escort you to the house.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Dec 7	5:00 pm	Chattanooga Market Show	1 st Tennessee Pavilion	TBD
Thu	Dec 13	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement	6705 Ballard Dr off Lee Highway	Show uniform
Fri	Dec 14	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement Ctr	Shallowford Road	Show uniform
Tues	Dec 18	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn	Show uniform

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cummerbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks

Upcoming Special Events

December 1, 2007	Christmas Show	CTSCC Bond Auditorium
December 6, 2007	Cleveland's Christmas Show	Cleveland, TN
December 10, 2007	Chirstmas Party	Wixson Home
March 14-15, 2008	Dixie Spring Convention	Greenville, SC
May 3, 2008	Annual Show	TBA
June 29 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries (no anniversaries in November)

Birthdays in November

2nd Joy Kirk
6th Lamar Owens
10th Hobby Thomas
13th Janice Owens

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19th Wilbur Strickland
22nd Mary Strickland
23rd Fred Jesse

23rd John Johnston
29th Frank Delaney
29th Pat Jones

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** December 3, 2007



President – Beau Christain

To any of you who missed last year's Chorus party at Steve's beautiful home on Signal Mountain, and to all of our CCCC members, you don't want to miss it this year! Beautiful surroundings, great food, great fellowship - could be some woodshedding in there somewhere, as well. Do plan to be at Steve's on Dec 10.

And a note to incoming 2008 Officers - installation this year will be at the Christmas party, with Dave Collins presiding. COTS is scheduled for January 12.

Chapter Development VP – Lebron Brock

Section administrators should call the CCCC singers in their section before the concert to see if they have any last minute questions and to make sure they know the section adm. phone numbers. They should also make sure they (administrators) have the names, addresses, phone nos., and e-mail addresses of the CCCC singers.

After the show the adm. should contact the CCCC singers and ask them:

1. How they would rate the experience.
2. Do they have complaints or suggestions for how we could do better.
3. Would they be interested in being in the CCCC next year?
4. Would they be interested in joining the ChooChoo Chorus?

(Note) If they want to join the chorus they should be informed about who and what we are, what we do, what would be expected of them, what membership costs and that an audition will be required. If adm. are not sure what our bylaws say about these issues they should ask for a copy from Fred Jesse or Lebron Brock.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

The "Afterglow" following the show on Saturday night will be at the Golden Corral, corner of Hixson Pike and Hamill Road. I have arranged with the manager to allow EVERYONE be charged the Senior rate and he will let us have drinks Free. I will need a definite count on Thursday night so I can inform GC of how many they can expect. This is a great price with great food and there is plenty of room for everybody. Golden Corral closes at 10 on Saturday but they will hold it open for us so we will need to be there as soon after the show as we can. The Afterglow is open EVERYBODY involved with the show and that includes the Community Chorus members and the Sweet Adelines if they so choose. I would like to see at least 50 people there and more if we can. Husbands, wives, and children are all invited. If there is somebody in the audience you want to include, invite them too.

Directions to Wixson's house for the Christmas party. Get on highway 27 North or South as appropriate. Take Signal Mtn/Highway 127 exit and start up the hill to Signal Mtn. Take the second right after the Space Ship house onto Sunset Drive. Then the first left onto Lower Brow Road and drive up the hill to the yellow house on the right. His grandkids will escort you to the house.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	Dec 13	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement	6705 Ballard Dr off Lee Highway	Show uniform
Fri	Dec 14	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement Ctr	Shallowford Road	Show uniform
Tues	Dec 18	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn	Show uniform

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks

Upcoming Special Events

December 1, 2007	Christmas Show	CTSCC Bond Auditorium
December 6, 2007	Cleveland's Christmas Show	Cleveland, TN
December 10, 2007	Chirstmas Party	Wixson Home

March 14-15, 2008	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
May 3, 2008	<i>Annual Show</i>	<i>TBA</i>
June 29 – July 6, 2008	<i>International Barbershop Convention</i>	<i>Nashville, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

1st Richard Poole
 6th Judy Jesse
 6th James Correll
 7th Bernard Peek
 19th Steve Grubb
 24th Pete Snyder

Anniversaries in December

20th Pete and Barbara Snyder
 23rd Lamar & Janice Owens

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
December 10, 2007



President – Beau Christain

Not only was the Christmas show a joy, but also the many, many comments by Chorus members and CCCC members about how we all just seemed to come together in the effort. I add my thanks to all.

Make an effort to talk to any CCCC member about joining us for our upcoming gigs - Dec. 13, 14, 18. Let them know we would welcome their continued participation, at least thru Christmas. We will record the Dec 18th sing out at Alexian and possibly use the recording next year to recruit CCCC members and advertise the Christmas show. It would be great to have the full CCCC present.

Wilbur as MLT Chair has set the first MLT meeting of the new year for Jan 7 at Wally's. Regular Board meeting will follow on the 14th. As usual, we need to hit the ground running for 2008 - lots to do.

Director – Paul Blazek

We plan to record the December 18th Alexian Village singout, and use the recording to advertise for both CCCC singers and audience for next year's Christmas show. It would be great to have a large chorus for that singout including our 2007 CCCC members. If you know any of these, please get the word out to them.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

What a terrific program! Saturday night's performance was a success in every way. Most seats in the 300 plus auditorium were filled and I don't think we've sounded any better vocally. Congratulations to each and every one of you. I must, however, give a special thanks to a group of people without whom I could not have done my job as show chairman:

1. Paul Blazek - Paul was with me every step of the way in script development and he pushed, pushed, pushed to get the best out of us and he succeeded quite well, thank you.
2. Steve Wixson - Steve stepped in and took charge of gathering props, making sure the star was delivered and hung, and diligent in keeping us updated with his newsletters. He was also responsible for getting the tickets printed up from my design.
3. Pete Jones - Pete does a tremendous amount of work for this chorus without complaint and I, for one, am very appreciative of all he does. He delivers risers, platforms, and is always there with a helping hand.
4. J.W. Kirk - J.W. stepped in at the last minute and deftly handled the tickets, collected money, and kept us all honest. He stayed after the show and cleaned up our choir room space.
5. Mary Strickland and the Belles - Mary, Wilbur and the Belles whipped up about 80 sandwiches, purchased water and put it on ice, shopped for fruit cups and put in a brownie for our 5 pm snack on Saturday. She also assembled the group that took tickets and handed out programs. I appreciate her and all that she and the other ladies did for us. Thanks, Mary!
6. Chuck Wilson - Chuck directed the play performance of What the Dickens! He had a motley crew to work with but I think he did a pretty good job in spite of that. Thanks also to Michael, Jerry, Steve G, J.N., and Johnny.
7. And the BEST HELP of all - FRANK DELANEY!!! Frank did his usual superb job of making sure the programs were printed, accumulating the names of everybody involved including the quartets, researching everybody that had purchased an ad in the past two years and giving them all a mention. He worked with the printer and got some of my mistakes corrected and giving last minute instructions on how it was to be printed. He picked up the programs from the printer and delivered them to the auditorium Saturday afternoon. Frank, you are a true asset to this organization. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Special mention goes to Marilyn Fisher and Robert Hobgood. Marilyn stepped in as stage manager, working from the light booth giving light and sound cues. Bob Hobgood, bless his heart, was ill during the performance but was right in there, running the spotlight, the light board and sound cues. Not only that, but he donated his services to the ChooChoo Chorus, insisting that the money we would have paid him just go to the Walter Boehm Birth Defects Center.

I guess I should give special mention, also, to Henry's deputy who was at his side throughout the evening (except when he was on stage) as well as the judge who let Henry out while being sequestered. Sure hope he likes Barbershop!

Extra special mention goes to the Community Christmas Chorus. Guys...you were hanging in there with us and you sounded great. My greatest hope is that you will continue your participation with us every Monday night throughout the year.

CHRISTMAS PARTY NEWS. Fourty people have paid for the Christmas party and over 50 told Steve they would attend. If you have not paid me for the party but still plan on coming and pay!NG at the door, please email me at gary.fisher@chattanoogaastate.edu with the number who will be attending. It's going to be a fun party.

Directions to Wixson's house for the Christmas party. Get on highway 27 North or South as appropriate. Take Signal Mtn/Highway 127 exit and start up the hill to Signal Mtn. Take the second right after the Space Ship house onto Sunset Drive (Come to think of it, this is the second right after you start up the hill.) Then the first left onto Lower Brow Road and drive up the hill to the yellow house on the right. His grandkids will escort you to the house.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	Dec 13	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement	6705 Ballard Dr off Lee Highway	Show uniform
Fri	Dec 14	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement Ctr	Shallowford Road	Show uniform
Tues	Dec 18	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn	Show uniform

Show Uniform. White long sleeve dress shirt, black pants, belt, socks and shoes. Christmas tie.

Upcoming Special Events

<i>December 10, 2007</i>	<i>Chirstmas Party</i>	<i>Wixson Home</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 17, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show with Loose Change</i>	<i>UTC Roland Hays Auditorium</i>
<i>June 29 – July 6, 2008</i>	<i>International Barbershop Convention</i>	<i>Nashville, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

1st Richard Poole
6th Judy Jesse
6th James Correll
7th Bernard Peek
19th Steve Grubb
24th Pete Snyder

Anniersaries in December

20th Pete and Barbara Snyder
23rd Lamar & Janice Owens

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
December 17, 2007



President – Beau Christain

I'm sure I can speak for the entire Chorus when I offer my thanks to Steve and Janet Wixson for again hosting the Chorus Christmas party. Steve told me that there were over 50 people there and, for those of you who missed it, we all had a great time enjoying food, fellowship, harmony, and a view from the Wixson residence that is truly beautiful. Chorus officers were installed for 2008. I was pleased to see some CCCC members join us for the festivities. An event like this reminds me of what we as a group are really all about.

Director – Paul Blazek

We contacted the CCCC singers to again invite them to our upcoming sing outs. There will be at least 7 at both the December 13th and 14th sing outs, and we will record both of these for future use, such as advertising for CCCC singers and audience for next year's Christmas show. It would be great to have a large chorus for these singouts.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Many thanks to the party goers Monday night. We had a terrific time with terrific friends in a terrific house with terrific hosts.

Remember that we meet at Wallies about 5:30 before rehearsal every third, fourth and fifth Mondays. Come join us for an added bit of camaraderie.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	Dec 13	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement	6705 Ballard Dr off Lee Highway	Show uniform
Fri	Dec 14	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement Ctr	Shallowford Road	Show uniform
Tues	Dec 18	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn	Show uniform

Show Uniform. White long sleeve dress shirt, black pants, belt, socks and shoes. Christmas tie.

Upcoming Special Events

<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 17, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show with Loose Change</i>	<i>UTC Roland Hays Auditorium</i>
<i>June 29 – July 6, 2008</i>	<i>International Barbershop Convention</i>	<i>Nashville, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

1st Richard Poole
6th Judy Jesse
6th James Correll
7th Bernard Peek
19th Steve Grubb
24th Pete Snyder

Anniersaries in December

20th Pete and Barbara Snyder
23rd Lamar & Janice Owens



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** January 7, 2008



President – Beau Christain

Welcome Gentlemen Songsters to 2008. A reminder that MLT meets on Jan 7, Wally's, 5:30 pm. We have a lot of things to get moving on early this year. These include Singing Valentines program, spring competition - including selection of songs, learning CD's, and assessment for competing. And, too, we need to start shaping the Annual show for May. From these, and maybe some 'older' previous selections, we need to build a set for possible gigs thru the winter and on into spring. Got lots to do - see you January.

All aboard the Choo Choo for 2008! As this is being written we are preparing for the MLT meeting on Jan. 7 and the Board meeting for the 14th. In between, Board members plan to attend the January 12 COTS. We usually get some good pointers at COTS and, if nothing else, find out that we of the Choo Choo Chorus do pretty well across the board in barbershopping. So I invite you all to resolve to make 2008 another banner year for the Chorus: work hard, enjoy, attend, perform and give thanks always for who and what we are.

Director – Paul Blazek

Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland

There will be a Music Team meeting on January 7th @ 5 o'clock @ Wally's on McCallie Ave. I would like all of the Section Leads be there and also all of the Board Members. I would like to set a goal for the coming year so all of the practices will be fun and maybe create more interest in staying longer and becoming more involved. Hopefully have more sectionals and less repetitiveness, sing more songs, have more quarteting and in general, make it fun and productive for everybody. We can do this if everyone will listen to their tapes (just to learn the notes and words) and let Paul interpret the song (this means that we will not sing the song the way the tape is made). Of course, everyone is invited to attend the meeting to hear what is going on and maybe have some input.

Upcoming Special Events

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

1st Niles Fowler
22nd Steve Wixson
23rd Bill Slack

Anniversaries in January

20th Edgar and Pat Dawson
24rd Clarence and Sally Wall

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
January 15, 2008



President – Beau Christain

At this writing, five Board members are planning to attend the annual COTS. We usually get some good pointers, hear some truly gruesome tales of chapter problems, and enjoy good fellowship. I've said this before, but I generally come back from COTS with a good stiff dose of optimism - all things taken we do quite well and there are many, many chapters who would love to have as few real problems as we have.

That said, we have much to do and there are several planned changes in rehearsal procedures we want to try. Music and CD's are coming, we have a gig booked for Feb. 5, upcoming Singing Valentines, and contest looms.

Upcoming Special Events

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** January 21, 2008



President – Beau Christain

I know we are all pleased to find some new faces at our rehearsal. Needless to say, recruitment and retainment of new members is ultimately the life-blood of our Chapter. Be sure you are welcoming and mentoring these guys, get them comfortable with all the fellowship and fun we have to offer. Also, as I said last night, the Singing Valentine's program is critical to our finances for the year. We need everyone to hang posters, put up signs, call friends, and sell. Pete is in charge of organizing the program and LaMar is working on publicity. We will have at least four quartets working - so we should be able to handle at least 100 Valentines.

Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland

Practice disciple; When in the practice room, in the chairs, wanting to sing and not listen to a bunch of crap from some folks who think they are funny, etc. There are probably 30 percent of the practice time wasted on frivolous chatter. We don't want to have a "riser cop" blowing whistles and yelling at people for making wise-cracks and generally creating havoc during practice. It is important that people respect the others in the chorus who are there to sing and learn to sing better. I'll get off my soap box now.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

I presented a check for \$1,977 to Sharee Stoker, Executive Director of the Walter Boehm Birth Defects Center. The money represents the net proceeds of the Christmas performance of "What The Dickens!".

Director – Paul Blazek

Last Monday, I passed out learning CDs and music for our new contest song 'Sentimental Gentleman from Georgia.' Those learning CDs have track 1 with the full mix, track 2 has your part predominate with your part on left channel and remaining three voices on the right channel (use your balance control to adjust your part's loudness as desired), track 3 has your part loud, and track 4 has the other three voices without your part.

Your homework is to learn the song. Listen to the song 4 times without singing. Then replay it 4 times and sing your part without words. Then replay 4 times mouthing the words without notes. Only then should you start singing along with your part.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Quartets please verify with me the times that you are available to deliver Valentines on the 14th. Also, if you are available any other day or time in case that we get a special request.

Upcoming Special Events

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

1st Niles Fowler
22nd Steve Wixson
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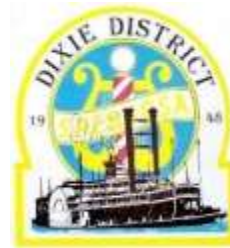
Anniversaries in January

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24rd Clarence and Sally Wall

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
January 28, 2008



President – Beau Christain

It's time to bear down on selling Singing Valentines. With two weeks to go, or thereabout, it's time to take posters, signs, and signup contracts with you and out into the public. Post them at church, your office, favorite restaurant, super market, etc., etc. Lamar and Pete are working hard and we will need everyone's help.

Also we all owe Steve Wixson a big 'atta boy' for leading the refurbishing of the riser room. The floor remains in need but I think you would agree that the riser room looks a lot better.

Member Involvement VP – Lebron Brock

Here is a message from Frank Delaney. "I would like to thank all of you my friends for your prayers, your concerns and thoughts for me, your phone calls, plus the beautiful vase of flowers that was sent to me the other day by the ChooChooChorus. I shurley do miss being with you all with the singing and fellowship and hope it wont be too long before I can be back with you again."

Director – Paul Blazek

Song Learning Method, (Easy, Accurate and Fast!)

Balance the left and right channels of your stereo so your voice part on the learning recording is loud enough to be easily heard above the other 3 parts, or use the part-predominant track if you don't have a balance control.

1. Listening Step - While following your voice part notes on the sheet music (if you do not read music, follow the notes visually by position), listen to your part without singing 2 to 4 times through depending on difficulty. Listen extra times to places that seem tough or that do not seem to match what you see on the sheet music. (The recording and sheet music are pre-checked and should match - if you do find an error, please notify the music committee.)

2. Doo-doo-doo Step - Sing "doo-doo-doo" on your part 2 to 4 times through. Learn to match the pitches and rhythms of the learning recording. Set the recording louder than your "doo-ing" and let it lead your learning. Again, "doo" extra times on the tough places. If there's a place too tough to get from the recording, see your section leader - do not "shrug-off" and rehearse mistakes.

3. Muscle Memory Step - Stand and silently mime the song 2 to 4 times through with the recording. Breathe and support as if actually singing. Form vowels and consonants with lips and tongue as if you were singing a perfect rendition. Silently create the physical throat and larynx formations for accurate pitches and freely produced tone as if singing a perfect unison duet with the recorded voice.

4. Full Singing Step - Put it all together and fully sing with the recording. Let the recording continue to lead your learning on the first run-through or two. Then, on successive reps, gradually shift the channel balance on the stereo until you are tuning your voice to the other three parts quartet-style. You can also sing with the full mix or 3-part track.

Material contained from "Learning A Song," Copyright C 2002 by Jay Giallombardo, Copyright controlled by GSB Medal Music, Inc, Used by Permission. All Rights Reserved.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Don't forget we meet every Monday at Wallies on McCallie about 5:30-5:45 for dinner before rehearsal. It's a great way to get to know your fellow singing brothers better.

Upcoming Special Events

<i>February 14, 2008</i>	<i>Singing Valentine Day Fund Raier</i>	<i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
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Birthdays in January

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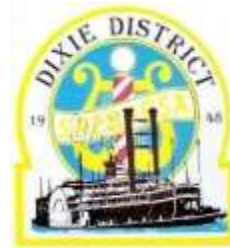
Anniversaries in January

20th Edgar and Pat Dawson
24rd Clarence and Sally Wall

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
February 4, 2008



President – Beau Christain

If any members have a quartet generated for Singing Valentines be sure to check in with Strick, sing audition as may be required, and advise Pete Jones that you are available for assignment on Valentine's Day.

Also, don't forget to get registered for the competition in Greenville. The cost is \$33 and you can register either by picking up and mailing a registration form available in the riser room or online by going to dixiedistrict.org. Also, it was my experience last spring that hotel rooms get filled up pretty quickly, so don't neglect to get your reservation in as soon as possible.

Music Leadership VP– Wilbur Strickland

At this time we have 5 quartets singing Valentines, SCS., RC4, Classic Harmony, Pauls quartet yet to be named and a new quartet with Art, Wally, Gary and Jimmy. That will be enough I think to take care of all of the Valentines that will be sold.

The Spring Show will be call "An Evening Of Barbershop Harmony". There will be no script, only good Barbershop singing with the guest quartet "Loose Change" from Birmingham Alabama. There will be several new songs that will have to be learned by the chorus along with several songs sung by our own Quartets. The prices of the Tickets are \$12 and \$10 for students and Seniors. More info will come later.

The Housing is on the Dixie District Web page now at <http://www.dixiedistrict.org/main.php> (control + ckick on website address to go directly there). There is a change if the cost however, the Holiday Inn Express is \$104 and the Hyatt is \$110, the Westin is the same as I said last evening \$119. [Note from Steve Wixson. When I called the Westin national t telephone number listed on the website, they did not have the conference listed. I call the Westin Poinsett directly at 864-421-9700 to make my reservation.]

Director – Paul Blazek

This year's show will be titled "An Evening of Barbershop Harmony" and be a concert-format show with a Master of Ceremonies to be announced. Our guest quartet will be Loose Change from Birmingham, an exciting, funny, extremely entertaining quartet sure to be a hit with our audience. They will also perform for us at the Afterglow, the "cast party" to be held after the show at a location to be announced.

The first act of the show will include songs from the following list, sung by the chorus or chapter quartets:

Star-Spangled Banner
California Here I Come
Carolina In The Morning
Caroline
Chattanooga Choo Choo
Darktown Strutters Ball
Give My Regards To Broadway
God Bless The USA

Hello Mary Lou
I'm Sitting On Top Of The World
Lulu's Back In Town
Sweet Georgia Brown
When You Wish Upon A Star
Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah

The second act will include one or two "opening" quartets, our special guests Loose Change, and a chorus finale consisting of Georgia On My Mind, Sentimental Gentleman From Georgia, and God Bless America (audience sing-along). Our "encore" will be Keep The Whole World Singing (basses, that means you're going to have to learn it!).

Learning CDs will be available 2/4/08.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Please remember to practice Riser Etiquette at all our rehearsals. That is good practice for when we are actually performing.

1. NEVER applaud a quartet after performing before an audience (this does NOT include Four-On-The-Floor during rehearsal).
2. Do not talk to each other, whisper, or make other comments during a performance. If we practice this during rehearsals we can get a lot more work done. Making remarks that YOU think is funny does not lend itself to a particularly good rehearsal time.
3. Stand straight and tall with a good singing posture...one foot slightly ahead of the other about six inches apart, hands at your side unless you are doing a rehearsed gesture (this is at Paul's direction).
4. Keep your face animated, smile, make your eyes dance.
5. Did I mention SMILE? If not...SMILE.

On our Valentine's Day quartets. If you wish to be involved but not necessarily sing, a good Valentine's Day quartet is composed of FIVE people. We desperately need drivers for each of the quartets. Each quartet needs a driver with a car that will comfortably carry that many people. You will be paid mileage at the going rate (I think that is now 48 cents a mile, might be slightly less). Sometimes a gig is in an area where parking may be a problem. The driver drops off the quartet and is able to circle the block while they are performing. That usually takes no more than five to ten minutes. If you would like to be a driver please contact Strick and let him know. His email address is strick@vol.com and he would love to hear from you.

Don't forget Wallies on McCallie every 3rd, 4th and 5th Monday nights at 5:30 for dinner before rehearsal.

Publicity VP – Lamar Owens

We will have advertising for Valentines' Day on the followings venues:

Time Free Press-Article with picture in WeekEnd on Friday, Feb. 8.

WDYN-FM Earl's program which is on beginning at 3:00 PM. This is already running.

WDEF-FM Luther

WDOD-AM. In the rotation

WRCB-TV Jed Mescon will be running our verbal PSA.

Cable Channel 3-Our PSA will be running the week before Valentines' Day

WUTC-FM Richard Winham's show at 3:00 PM everyday. We will have someone on the air with Richard, either a quartet or a person with CD's to play.

We will have our chorus posted on the national web site for Valentines's Day.

Paul Blazek will call in to the local talk shows and talk about our program.

There is also the possibility that because we will be delivering a Valentine to a lady at WTVG, channel 9 the quartet will be taped delivering the Valentine for showing on the air. I also have a call in to Patrick Core, WDEF, channel 12 about the possibility of a quartet being taped there." WUTC-FM, 88.1 also will sell what they call endowment ads for up to seven times a week that I am checking into.

Guidelines for putting out Singing Valentines Yard Signs

Note that last year almost 1/3 of sales came from yard signs and yet only about 20 were put out. Please help get them in the ground!

This section lists information about where Road/Yard sign may be placed in the Chattanooga area. Signs are ok on private property, but you must have the approval of the owner. When signs are allowed, they must be removed soon after the event.

It is legal to put signs in stores and store windows (and Barbershops will get the attention of guys). All you need to do is get the store owner's permission. This is a way to advertise in downtown Chattanooga.

Specific City Guidelines

Chattanooga - No signs on city right of way. 10' back on private property

Collegedale - No signs on city right of way. 10' back on private property.

East Ridge - OK, but not in residential areas and must not be a traffic hazard

Ft. Oglethorpe - No signs on city right of way.

Lookout Mtn, GA - No, not even on private property

Lookout Mtn, TN - No, not even on private property

Red Bank - OK, but must not a traffic hazard

Rossville - OK, but must not a traffic hazard

Signal Mtn - Not on city right of way. If on private property the must be on the other side of power line which marks the right of way

Walden - Not on city right of way, but we are approved for one sign at top of W road for seven days.

Hamilton County - OK on Country Roads as long as they are not a traffic hazard

Interstates and State Highways - Officially not allowed on state property. Many people put signs up for a short time (like for a Kmart sale on Hwy 58) and if the maintenance people see them, they may be removed. For a short promotion like ours, we may be ok. Interstate off ramps are state property. Since they connect to city property, it is not clear how they would be treated by cities that do not allow signs (if the city complained, the state would most likely would remove them.)

Business Manager – Pete Jones

As has already been said, Valentines is rapidly approaching. The organized q'tets that have not verified with me that you are singing and when you are available, need to do so. If we get requests for something other than the 14th, I need to know which q,tets or individuals might be available to do those. If a q'tet is being organized, go to "Strick" first , then let me know if you are on board to sing and when. If you are planning on being a driver or fifth wheel for a q'tet, I need to know which q'tet you will be with and if at all possible two cell phone contact numbers for that q'tet. It is crucial that we have this info prior to the event so that it can be documented for use by me or whomever is handling the phone calls.

Those on the chorus email list should have received a copy of the Val. ad flyer. You can print this out or there are some at the practice room. There will be new order forms next Monday night. If you have already used an old form, that's ok, I'll take it. If someone has a request for something other than a standard delivery, please contact me for pricing. (423)762-8936 As usual, try to get as big a time window as possible, for delivery. DO NOT agree to a specific time for delivery unless, the person ordering is agreeable to pay more money. As i said check, check with me first. I may be asking some individuals for help with taking phone orders and getting product ready. Help if you can!

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in February

12th Brooks Gist
17th Connie Bradwell
18th Clyde Rogers
19th Sally Wall

28nd Wally Edmondson

Anniversaries in February

10th Tom and Barbara
Keegan

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
February 11, 2008



President – Beau Christain

Paul handed us a handful of sheet music and a learning CD last Monday in preparation for the Annual Show May 17. I would encourage everyone to give Paul's learning method a try (published in an earlier newsletter). As one who always has a difficult time with new music, and the time needed to learn it, I tried diligently to follow that method with SGFG and found that it speeded up my learning time.

Also, a reminder to everyone that the regular Board meeting is set for 5 pm Monday, Feb 11 at Wally's as usual. All Chorus members are always welcome at all Board meetings.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Although, I won't be able to attend, what is the feeling of having a Valentine's Day party on Friday or Saturday the 15th or 16th? We know it won't be at the Mount Vernon (remember our Christmas party fiasco of a couple of years ago?). I can probably find someplace for y'all to attend but you need to let me know as soon as possible.

Don't forget Wallies on McCallie every 3rd, 4th and 5th Monday nights at 5:30 for dinner before rehearsal.

Publicity VP – Lamar Owens

Bill Slack has sold 21 valentines.

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
February 18, 2008



President – Beau Christain

Due to large attendance at the Chorus Board meeting last Monday, and in the hope that high attendance will continue, I have moved the March meeting to the 'larger' room at Wally's. If you were there last Monday, you know a larger room is needed. Some members couldn't even sit in the meeting room! What impressed me even more, however, was the whole-hearted participation. Virtually every VP had business for the Board to deal with and report on. Chorus members could and should be proud of the efforts of their Board and, as always, all members are invited to all Board meetings.

Director – Paul Blazek

Great work last Monday - let's stay on track to contest and show! Sentimental Gentleman was very good for first time "off the paper, on the risers". Georgia On My Mind keeps getting better and better.

Songs to work on - California Here I Come and Carolina In The Morning – the two I handed out We'll be introducing more show music next week, so try to be as prompt as possible. Every week between now and the show we'll have plenty to do.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

As Social/Program VP, I welcome all ideas for possible outings that we might have this summer and fall. I would still like to see us do a retreat. My Clifftops home is still available. See me with any good ideas.

Need Help VP – Steve Wixson

The new room that is in half of our old storage area is complete, at least as far as we are concerned. The new wall is painted and we can move our storage shelves against the wall to open up space for us to use. We need some help at the close of Monday's meeting to empty the shelves so they can be moved. Your help would be appreciated. It should only take a few minutes.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

"Now i lay me down to sleep, i pray the phone not to squeak!" Ahhh! Rest, sleep, peace and quite! Well, at least until the next telemarketer calls but then i don't have to be nice to them. I can hang up on them. Well another Singing Valentine's project come and gone. Tired voices, tired feet, tired brains, basically from head to toe. That's ok though! After those involved get rested they can think back and enjoy the memories and so can the satisfied recipients and senders. Even with a few minor glitches (which is inevitable) i believe that we can label this years' project a success. We made approximately 80 deliveries and this year i received more call backs to thank us for a job well done, than ever before. Some of those calls told of all the jealous onlookers that got to see the delivery and wish they had known about it sooner. The trick for us is to find out how to get to them next time. We definitely had publicity working; it just takes more than we can get out there at one time. I can't say at this time exactly how we'll do financially. Once i finish collecting monies and subtract expenses, we'll see. It's looking pretty good so far. I'm sure we'll hear some good stories at the next meeting, especially from some of the new guys that sang for the first time. Right now my head is spinning with names and numbers but they will fade with a good nights' rest. Thanks for everybodies cooperation and efforts to make it a success.

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28nd Wally Edmondson

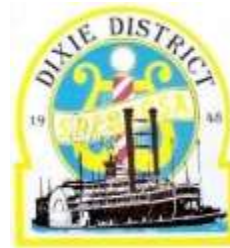
Anniversaries in February

10th Tom and Barbara
Keegan

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
February 25, 2008



President – Beau Christain

If there's anything better than a bunch of guys singing 4-part harmony, and getting it essentially right, I don't know what it would be (that is here open for comment). That's how we finished last Monday evening. Even Paul, who is seldom satisfied, was openly pleased.

Steve Wixson continues heading the clean-up/fix-up group, working to make our digs a bit pleasanter. I am pretty sure the Board is going to be asked to 'spend money' on the project." I can't, of course, speak for the Board, but I would suppose the needed cash for continuing the project(s) will be given.

Which brings me to the Singing Valentine's program. If you have monies to turn in, or receipts for payment, please get them in to Pete Jones so that we can get a final number from the project. Anybody interested in looking into a Singing Mother's Day?? Pete already brought it up - some other Choruses do pretty well with that, as well.

Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland

We have lots of songs to learn before the show and using Pauls learning instructions will help eliminate the "teaching" of the songs to the whole chorus when some of the guys have learned the songs or at least have gone over them several times using the learning CDs. Some of the songs are ones that the members who have been in the chorus for several years should know or at least remember bits and pieces of the songs but these same songs are brand new to the newer folks so we need to be a little more patient and understanding with them.

Have you tried the new learning technique with Caroline? Maybe we can be off that sheet music by next Monday .

Director – Paul Blazek

Start listening to Darktown Strutters Ball - We'll continue to work on California, Carolina, Georgia, Sentimental, Caroline.

Membership Involvement VP – Lebron Brock

Contest is near and it is time to start doing assessments. The chorus leadership has only asked members to prove through assessment that they know the words and notes in order to participate in contest. We all know it takes much more than that to produce a good performance.

Because none of us hear ourselves the way others hear us we could all benefit from evaluation of performance characteristics beyond words and notes. I would like to suggest that each singer ask for his assessment to include coaching on performance characteristics.

What characteristics am I talking about? Whatever is deficient? We brought back a vocal evaluation form from the Ashville seminar that could be used. Maintaining the sound from one word to the next to eliminate choppiness is one thing we have struggled with in the past. Paul's teaching on singing and performance is excellent but with no testing an Individual is never sure if he is putting this teaching into practice properly.

It would take a lot of courage for some of us to volunteer for this but once we did it we would probably be glad we did. Newer members would possibly feel less threatened if they see our best singers subject themselves to this kind of assessment and show that we all have room for improvement.

Even the best quartets get individual coaching on a regular basis. Why not take a chance and see if we can improve ourselves and the chorus through assessments rather than view it as a pass to compete in contest.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Sorry that Pete and Lamar weren't there Monday night to receive their joint Gandy Dancer Award for their terrific work on Valentine's Day. These gentlemen of song are truly behind the success of our quartet sing-outs. Lamar's work on publicity had people still calling the day after and Pete's work from early morning to late that night was indeed very worthy of Gandy Dancer.

It was good to see a newcomer just walk in off the street to join us. Tom Lloyd seemed to enjoy himself and Tom Keegan was by his side giving him pointers. Sort of a Tom-Tom duet.

Don't forget that a number of us meet at Wallies on McCallie for a pre-rehearsal dinner together. It's a good group and we never lack for things to talk about. If you aren't there, it gives us license to talk about you.

Need Help VP – Steve Wixson

Last Monday after the meeting, 12 members help unload our storage shelves and move them into position against the new wall. During the week we will paint the shelves and get them ready to reload. We need a few members to come early this Monday to move stuff, mostly now on our risers, onto the painted storage shelves. We also need a few Board Members and oldtimers to help us decide what to keep and what to throw out. When the room is complete and we can store the big items on top of the new room, this is going to be a great room for quartet practicing, meetings and building things.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

.The new Amicalola singout is tentative. More details later.

Upcoming Special Events

<i>March 14-15, 2008</i>	<i>Dixie Spring Convention</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>
<i>May 17, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Show with Loose Change</i>	<i>UTC Roland Hays Auditorium</i>
<i>June 3, 3008</i>	<i>Amicalola Elderhostall</i>	<i>Amicalola Falls State Park, GA</i>
<i>June 29 – July 6, 2008</i>	<i>International Barbershop Convention</i>	<i>Nashville, TN</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in February

12th Brooks Gist
17th Connie Bradwell
18th Clyde Rogers
19th Sally Wall

28nd Wally Edmondson

Anniversaries in February

10th Tom and Barbara
Keegan

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** **March 3, 2008**



Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland

Gentlemen, it is very important for all of the Section Leads be at the MLT meetings. This is where the plans are made for the future music to be learned, shows to be performed, etc. and how it is to be done. The chorus is doing several new songs for the upcoming show in May and after the contest we will hit the ground running on the show, selling tickets, ads, quartets picking the songs that they are to sing, Steve will come up with a great set (as always) and we have a great quartet coming from Birmingham (Loose Change) to not only entertain the crowd but to entertain us as well. I am looking forward to this show since it is the first show that has been done in the Spring in several years. This gives us a break between the Spring show and the Fall contest then the Christmas show. So all of you Section Leads plan on being at this Monday meeting at Wally's on McCallie Avenue at 5 o'clock so you can put your two cents worth in the planning. See you Monday evening. Don't stop singing.

Director – Paul Blazek

.We will work on Carolina in the Morning the first part of the practice. We've got a lot of music yet to learn for the show.

BOTY Committee – Fred Jesse

"We need to have a meeting of the BOTY committee to select the BOTY for 2007. I need to meet with the committee members - W. Strickland, L. Owens, P. Blazek, B. Owens, D. Collins, and me - after the meeting Monday the 3rd. I will have work sheets with most of the scoring in place. We will determine if additional points should be awarded to various members according to their major involvement with Chorus activities. P. Blazek and I are both ineligible for the award this year as we have received it in the past three years, 2004 - 2006. (No award was given in 2004.) Committee members should be thinking of member involvement for which points can be awarded."

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Kudos to Steve and Pete for the work they've put into the storage room. People in the know about such things need to start going through the stuff back there and toss what needs to be tossed and keep what needs to be kept.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Both Sam and Pat Jones are slowly improving, but still in serious condition. The family has asked for no visits or calls to the hospital (Hutcheson) right now. As i mentioned before Sams' niece "Faith" is communicating for them. She has forwarded Sams' phone to her number and is leaving updated information on the voice mail. You can call his number and see if there is any change other than what i might send out by email. His number is (706)375-5431.

.The new Amicalola singout is tentative. More details later.

Upcoming Special Events

March 14-15, 2008	Dixie Spring Convention	Greenville, SC
May 17, 2008	Annual Show with Loose Change	UTC Roland Hays Auditorium
June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostail	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
June 29 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

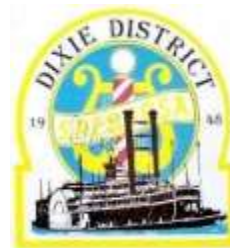
Birthdays in March

17th Pat Crowe
18th Johnny Jackson
18nd Oliver Jenkins
23rd Lonnie Satterfield

23rd Ron Satterfield
24th Glenda Erwin
25th Beau Christain
29rd Cynthia Johnston
30th Richard Poole



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
March 10, 2008



President – Beau Christian

Just a little reminder, this week, that we have several brand new attenders and/or members with us, and several more who are still pretty new to this operation. Kindly think of these people, mentor them, allow them some extra time, and, as always, make them feel welcome.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Here is a summary of some of the moves for Sentimental Gentlemen that Tanya, Dave Fleury's wife, introduced on Monday. :

"The sweetest man in Dixieland..." - Place your hands over your heart and kind of lean one way or the other.

"Hot...YEAH!" - Flick your hands at the wrist as if shaking off water.

On the second "Georgia...GEORGIA!" - Look baffled and kind of make it a question as if your puzzled that anybody from Georgia could actually be the sweetest man in Dixieland.

"As he struts and swings his cane..." - Hold your hands on your lapels and do a little strutting on your own.

"Professor..." - On this line, tip your glasses (if you're wearing any) in a studious pose, professorial like.

"Georgia peaches hanging from a tree..." - Using your right hand, point from left to right as if a Georgia peach is walking along in front of you.

Need Help VP – Steve Wixson

Last Monday, we started moving stuff onto our storage space on top of the new room. My original goal was to get the storage room finished, and I wasn't interested in what we saved and what we throw away. On Monday, we found out that no one who stayed to help knew anything about our stuff, and we put stuff up that should be thrown away. Next Monday, we are going to throw away most everything unless someone knows of a reason why it should be saved. Please help us out with that and we need help lifting some heavy extra chair risers.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

The new Amicalola singout is tentative. More details later.

Upcoming Special Events

March 14-15, 2008	Dixie Spring Convention	Greenville, SC
May 17, 2008	Annual Show with Loose Change	UTC Roland Hays Auditorium
June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostell	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
June 29 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in March

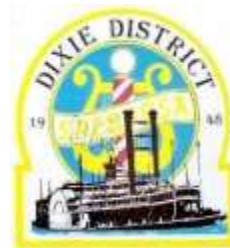
17th Pat Crowe
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25th Beau Christain
29rd Cynthia Johnston
30th Richard Poole

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



March 17, 2008

President – Beau Christian

I will be soon requesting a 'called' Board meeting to discuss and agree on two items: (1) budget for the refurbishing of the rehearsal rooms, (2) a system by which to keep track of our music. We just can't seem to find time to deliberate and act, it seems, within our allotted time at the ongoing Board meetings. Too many other things need attention as well. All Chorus members, as usual, are invited to all Board meetings. But for now: On to Greenville!

Director – Paul Blazek

Working ahead of time is always difficult - I'm assuming we will have done well at contest, so it's time to push towards our May show - be working on God Bless America and God Bless The USA. See you Thursday night, in Greenville this weekend, or Monday night!

Publicity – Lamar Owens

We will again have quartets appearing at Riverbend. The quartets will appear at the end of Walnut Street Bridge on the Northshore, and in front of the Aquarium, one avenue of entrance to Riverbend. We will also entertain the VIP's underneath the Coca Cola Stage. I have an appointment with Dixie Fuller, the talent coordinator and will again try to get the chorus a stage appearance.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

.The Amicalola sing out is on, but the time is still unknown. More details later.

Miscellaneous

You are invited to join Wilbur and Mary Strickland in celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, March 29, 2008, 2 to 4 p.m., at Fairview United Methodist Church, 2112 McFarland Ave., Rossville, GA 30741 - No Gifts Please

Upcoming Special Events

March 14-15, 2008	Dixie Spring Convention	Greenville, SC
May 17, 2008	Annual Show with Loose Change	UTC Roland Hays Auditorium
June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostell	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in March

17th Pat Crowe
18th Johnny Jackson
18nd Oliver Jenkins
23rd Lonnie Satterfield

23rd Ron Satterfield
24th Glenda Erwin
25th Beau Christain
29rd Cynthia Johnston
30th Richard Poole

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



March 24, 2008

President – Beau Christian

First, my thanks and a big well done to all who helped bring home a 'B' level score as well as the 'Most Improved' trophy from the competition. It is indeed gratifying to see that we are making headway in the competitions for our efforts.

Secondly, a reminder of the called Board meeting set for Monday, March 24, 5 pm, Wally's. We need to agree on and budget for two items: reburishing of the rehearsal hall, and dealing with our music library and any copyright concerns.

And thirdly, it's time to turn our attention to the Annual Show May 17. We've begun the music, CD's have been made available, and less than 8 weeks to go. But in addition, it is vital that everyone work on selling ads and tickets. Frank has very kindly offered to spearhead the ad campaign and has made materials available by which to make contacts in the business community. Loose Change is now contracted to us, as is the UTC auditorium. We're going to need everyone for this effort to be successful.

Director – Paul Blazek

Congratulations once again to all of you members of a "B" level chorus! I was extremely proud to be out in front of you guys. Unfortunately, we cannot rest on our, umm, laurels. Our Annual Show is approaching and we've lots of music to learn. It is time to start listening to all the remaining songs (except Darktown) on the learning CD using the new fast learning technique. I took a poll of the basses last Monday and only two said they had listened to the CD for Carolina in the Morning - I think we all need to do a better job of learning music AWAY from the chapter meetings. We'll need our Monday nights for polishing more than for learning.

Membership Involvement VP – Lebron Brock

I propose we ask the membership to either sell 10 tickets to the upcoming show or get the names of ten people who have turned them down. If they have done either of these they will have done their part in promoting the show. The purpose? It will remove the "begging" stigma from asking the same friends year after year to buy tickets. It will allow all the members to feel they have contributed to the effort even if they are terrible salesmen and cannot sell even one ticket. Another chorus did this with a membership drive with great success. What happens is that some of the people who no one thought would buy tickets – does buy, when approached with this "no pressure" technique.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Due to a lack of business and announcements Monday night I am putting this in the newsletter.

Update on Sam and Pat Jones: Sam is about the same. Still on the ventilator tube. Pat is still progressing. They have been getting her up and down as much as possible to increase her strength. More information when i get it.

I have received a contract from the National Cornbread Festival that needs to be signed and returned if we are going to commit to do the performance. The date is Saturday, April 26th at 9:30 am in South Pittsburgh, Tn. Paul is good to go, so next Monday night we need to take a head count to see if we have enough voice parts for the chorus.

The BHS headquarters has signed up with national blood centers to promote donating blood thru blood drives. Our local Blood Assurance has contacted me about the possibility of our doing a blood drive on Saturday, May 10th. This would be a combination of any of our members giving blood and / or getting other people to come in and give. This also would be a time to promote the chapter by entertaining the donors when they come in. I have some other ideas that we might incorporate if the chapter decides to do this. Think about this and let the board know how you feel so we can make a decision.

Tuesday, June 3rd for Amicalola Falls is on. Car pooling from Chattanooga to leave about 5:30 pm. ETA would be about 7:30 pm.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tue	June 3	5:30pm	Amicalola Falls Elderhostal	Amicalola Falls State Park	TBD

Miscellaneous

You are invited to join Wilbur and Mary Strickland in celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, March 29, 2008, 2 to 4 p.m., at Fairview United Methodist Church, 2112 McFarland Ave., Rossville, GA 30741 - No Gifts Please

Upcoming Special Events

May 17, 2008	Annual Show with Loose Change	UTC Roland Hays Auditorium
June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostall	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
June 29 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in March

17 th	Pat Crowe	23 rd	Ron Satterfield
18 th	Johnny Jackson	24 th	Glenda Erwin
18 nd	Oliver Jenkins	25 th	Beau Christain
23 rd	Lonnie Satterfield	29 rd	Cynthia Johnston
		30 th	Richard Poole

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



March 31, 2008

President – Beau Christian

As I mentioned at the last rehearsal, the way is now cleared and the money provided to do some serious refurbishing of our rehearsal rooms. The ceiling will be completed and the floors of all (3) rooms will be re-finished. We have lots of further plans and ideas, but this is the most immediate step in improving our rooms. We think we might be able to go ahead with the window treatment as well, if we can get some donations and some help. Steve Wixson will be spearheading the effort - help where you can.

And - let's all keep a good thought for Chuck and Melissa as she undergoes treatment.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 26	9:30am	National Cornbread Festival	So. Pittsburg, TN	TBD
Tue	June 3	5:30pm	Amicalola Falls Elderhostal	Amicalola Falls State Park	TBD

Miscellaneous

You are invited to join Wilbur and Mary Strickland in celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, March 29, 2008, 2 to 4 p.m., at Fairview United Methodist Church, 2112 McFarland Ave., Rossville, GA 30741 - No Gifts Please

Upcoming Special Events

May 17, 2008	Annual Show with Loose Change	UTC Roland Hays Auditorium
June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostall	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
June 29 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in March

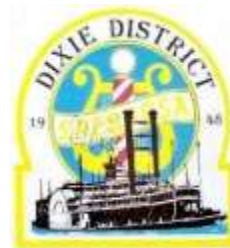
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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 7, 2008

President – Beau Christian

The time is now upon us to begin the push for the Annual show. Last Monday we were asked to indicate how many tickets we would be responsible for, and Frank suggested that perhaps, in addition to selling ads, members might like to purchase a patron ad on their own. Simply put: this will be the most expensive show we have put on in some time. For it to be financially successful we will all have to make an effort to help out - with ads and tickets.

And of course the second component for a successful show is successful singing. No doubt Paul will be 'pouring it on' at rehearsals, but these rehearsals can be a lot more fun, more rewarding, more successful if we all come in with some reparation in advance. The less time Paul spends 'teaching the song', the more productive the rehearsal time will be. Six weeks to go.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 26	9:30am	National Cornbread Festival	So. Pittsburg, TN	TBD
Tue	June 3	5:30pm	Amicalola Falls Elderhostal	Amicalola Falls State Park	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

May 17, 2008	Annual Show with Loose Change	UTC Roland Hays Auditorium
June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostall	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
June 29 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
September 28-30, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

16th Pete Jones

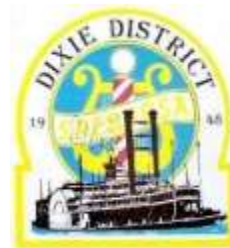
Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margret Crowe

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 14, 2008

President – Beau Christian

In case you weren't in attendance last Monday, be aware that under Lamar's efforts, we have built two new Yahoo Groups in order to (hopefully) clean up previous problems with everyone getting the various dispatches. If you are a Board member, you need to join both groups - one being for items for the entire Chorus membership and the other for Board items. The way you do this is advise me that you have not joined, or were not invited. Then I will see to it that you are invited and you will get email notifying you of that, and from there just 'join', following the directions in the invite.

As we approach the Annual Show, hosting an after-glow just seems like the natural thing to do - offers another chance to enjoy our guest quartet - Loose Change, and do some serious woodshedding, as well. We are checking on the availability of the All Saints gym and stage. We are thinking of serving a catered breakfast buffet. There would almost surely be an additional charge for this, and it would be open to the public, and tickets sold. Give the Board your thinking on this, and please, volunteer to help with it.

Director – Paul Blazek

Here is the music we are singing for the annual show.

Already Off Sheet Music

Caroline
California Here I Come
Carolina in the Morning
Georgia on My Mind
Sentimental Gentlemen
Hello, Mary Lou
National Anthem

Still On Sheet Music

Chattanooga Choo Choo
LuLu's Back in Town
God Bless America
God Bless the USA

Associate Director – Chuck Wilson

In order to be legal on the music we sing, I will be keeping records on who has what music, and on who gets new music. I will be sending out lists of music, and I need to get back from you whether you have a legal copy or not. We will start with show and upcoming sing out repertoried music. Legally, if you sing, you must have a legal copy. If you know that you have an illegal copy, please destroy it and get a legal copy from me.

Ticket Manager – Steve Wixson

First thankw to everyone who helped move stuff on top of our new storage area. Our storage room is now also a meeting room with tables and chairs. It has a blackboard, and a music system for playing learning CDs. It is also a place for sectional and FOTF rehearsing.

I will order show tickets this week and they should be available next Monday. Members have signed up for 273 tickets and we expect to sell tickets at the door. The UTC auditorium holds around 425, so we need to sell more tickets for what will be a really good show and what will help us meet our budgetary needs. I assume I can order more tickets, but let me know by Thursday if you want more now.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 26	9:30am	National Cornbread Festival	So. Pittsburg, TN	Red Outfit
Sat	May 30	6:30pm	Lookouts Baseball Game	AT&T Ballpark	Casual Khaki
Tue	June 3	5:30pm	Amicalola Falls Elderhostal	Amicalola Falls State Park	TBD

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks
Casual Khaki is white chorus shirt with logo, Khaki pants.

Upcoming Special Events

May 17, 2008	Annual Show with Loose Change	UTC Roland Hays Auditorium
June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostall	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
June 29 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
September 28-30, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

16th Pete Jones

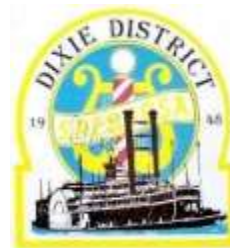
Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margret Crowe

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 21, 2008

President – Beau Christian

Our next scheduled event is the sing-out at South Pittsburg Saturday morning, April 26. This will be our second paid gig there. If we can turn out enmasse and do a good job, it bodes well for future gigs in the Marion county area. The Cornbread Festival is usually well attended - we could be seen by lots of people. So - we need everyone to be at the next rehearsal as we get set ready to go. Remember - the more people available, the wider the choice for song selection.

Director – Paul Blazek

Here is an updated list of music for the annual show. Note that SGB was left off of last week's list.

Already Off Sheet Music

Caroline
California Here I Come
Carolina in the Morning
Georgia on My Mind
Sentlemental Gentlemen
Hello, Mary Lou
National Anthem
Sweet Georgia Brown

Still On Sheet Music

Chattanooga Choo Choo
LuLu's Back in Town
God Bless America
God Bless the USA

Associate Director – Chuck Wilson

The first sheet music that the chapter is documenting as legal is the show music shown above. Please bring your sheet music for any of the above songs to Monday's meeting and we will stamp and number them. This will save the chapter a lot of money because by show time we have to order copies for everyone who does not have a legal documented copy. The more sheet music we document, the less we have to buy.

Ticket Manager – Steve Wixson

Show tickets will be printed on April 23rd and distributed on Monday, April 28th.. At last Monday's meeting several members said they have already presold tickets.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 26	9:30am	National Cornbread Festival	So. Pittsburg, TN	Red Outfit
Sat	May 30	6:30pm	Lookouts Baseball Game	AT&T Ballpark	Casual Khaki
Tue	June 3	5:30pm	Amicalola Falls Elderhostal	Amicalola Falls State Park	TBD

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks

Casual Khaki is white chorus shirt with logo, Khaki pants.

Upcoming Special Events

May 17, 2008	Annual Show with Loose Change	UTC Roland Hays Auditorium
May 17, 2008	Afterglow with Loose Change	First Christain Church
June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostall	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
June 30 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

16th Pete Jones

Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margret Crowe

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 28, 2008

President – Beau Christian

Welcome to the Cornbread Festival in South Pittsburg. Far as I know, this will be our first gig for the Festival. If one is to believe the hype, 65 - 70 thousand people will supposedly attend across the two days. It bodes well for us to be seen and enjoyed by the crowd, and, of course, fun for us as well. This makes just twice I haven't had to travel to join the Chorus for a gig. I'm hoping for many happy returns.

The Annual Show is coming together. We now have a site for the after-glow, but we could sure use some help getting the food lined up. I understand that if we would supply the food, the folks at the First Christian Church (site of the after-glow) could be hired to prepare it for us at not much expense. Also, tickets need to be decided upon and printed, and posters to put up at the show advertising the after-glow. Things like that. If you can help, get with Paul or Strick. We need you.

Associate Director – Chuck Wilson

I need you to let me know if you have legal copies of the show music. Please e-mail me directly (do not go to Yahoo groups) at chukmisa@comcast.net and let me know which pieces you have and which you don't. Bring the ones you have to me Monday night the 5th (I will not be there the 28th) and I will catalog your music to my database and will stamp your music in red to make it completely legal. We need to get the show music catalogued quickly, and I will catalog the rest later

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Join us every Monday at 5:30 at Wally's for camaraderie, vittles, and fellowship.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Reminder for the performance this Saturday the 26th at the Cornbread Festival in South Pittsburgh. We will be car pooling from All Saints parking lot at about 8:00 am unless you are going on your own. We need to be at the festival site together and warming up by 9:30 am (our time). Uniform is the Red Outfit as described in the newsletter. We will have the entertainer passes at the parking area when you get there.

Here are the directions. From Chattanooga go I-24 towards Nashville. Take exit 152 to S.Pittsburgh. Stay to your right going into town. As you enter S.Pittsburgh, take a right at First Street (Favorite Market). Take your first left onto Elm Avenue. Go to the 4th block. Turn left onto Fourth Street. Entertainment Parking is on the right. The entertainment tent will be located next to Citizens' Park Stage. Any questions, email or call me-(423)762-8936

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 26	9:30am	National Cornbread Festival	So. Pittsburg, TN	Red Outfit
Fri	May 30	6:30pm	Lookouts Baseball Game	AT&T Ballpark	Casual Khaki
Tue	June 3	5:30pm	Amicalola Falls Elderhostal	Amicalola Falls State Park	TBD

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks

Casual Khaki is white chorus shirt with logo, Khaki pants.

Upcoming Special Events

May 17, 2008	Annual Show with Loose Change	UTC Roland Hays Auditorium
May 17, 2008	Afterglow with Loose Change	First Christain Church
June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostall	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
June 30 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



May 4, 2008

President – Beau Christian

Looks like things are coming together really well for our Annual Show on May 17. Thanks to David, the after-glow is pretty much put together, other than getting out the tickets to it and some advertising. The program, thanks to Frank, is ready to go to print. We received our tickets last Monday and they were distributed to members.

We need you to sell those tickets and then get more and then sell them. Also, we need everyone in attendance. There are just two regularly scheduled rehearsals left between now and the show. It's crunch time.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	May 30	6:30pm	Lookouts Baseball Game	AT&T Ballpark	Casual Khaki
Tue	June 3	5:30pm	Amicalola Falls Elderhostal	Amicalola Falls State Park	TBD

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Patent Leather shoes, Black Socks

Casual Khaki is white chorus shirt with logo, Khaki pants.

Upcoming Special Events

May 17, 2008	Annual Show with Loose Change	UTC Roland Hays Auditorium
May 17, 2008	Afterglow with Loose Change	First Christain Church
June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostall	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
June 30 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in May

3rd Margeret Crowe
20th Chuck Wilson
22rd Nancy Owens
28th Sandy White

Anniversaries in May

3rd Dave & Sandy Whit
25^t Paul & Lindy Blazek

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



May 11, 2008

President – Beau Christian

As usual, a big thanks and well done on what is shaping up to be a really fine Annual Show. Lamar and Strick, David, and Steve W, Paul and Chuck deserve special thanks, but it takes us all to make it work. Last chance: sell those tickets!

And don't forget about the afterglow - food, fun, harmony and an extra set from Loose Change. Doesn't get any better than that, but there are only 75 tickets so don't wait around too long.

Next gig is at Lookouts game May 30. Is there any interest in making it a social outing with the significant others?

Director – Paul Blazek

There will be an extra show rehearsal on Thurs, May 15th at 7pm. We will run thru the show at UTC/Roland Hays on Friday, May 17th, at 7pm. On Saturday, we met at 3pm at UTC for a final run thru. A sack lunch will be provided. The show uniform is Purple tux.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	May 30	6:30pm	Lookouts Baseball Game	AT&T Ballpark	Casual Khaki
Tue	June 3	5:30pm	Amicalola Falls Elderhostal	Amicalola Falls State Park	TBD

Casual Khaki is white chorus shirt with logo, Khaki pants.

Upcoming Special Events

May 17, 2008	Annual Show with Loose Change	UTC Roland Hays Auditorium
May 17, 2008	Afterglow with Loose Change	First Christain Church
June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostall	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
June 30 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in May

3rd Margeret Crowe
20th Chuck Wilson
22rd Nancy Owens
28th Sandy White

Anniversaries in May

3rd Dave & Sandy Whit
25^t Paul & Lindy Blazek

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**

May 19, 2008



President – Beau Christian

Thanks to all the members and wives who worked so hard to make a success of our Annual Show. In the midst of adversity with Loose Change unable to join us, a bit thanks also to the Ridgeland Show Chorus. I heard a lot of compliments on these youngsters. Also a big thanks to the ladies who prepared a great Afterglow breakfast at the First Chirstain Church. And finally a big thanks to Sum-R-Fun for being with us and adding a lot of fun to the show and Afterglow.

A reminder that MLT and Board meetings are combined on June 2 at the usual time and place.

Below are four photographs from the Annual Show and Afterglow. The first was taken by Janet Wixson and Steve Wixson took the rest.





Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	May 24	7:30am	Scout Flag Placement	National Cemetary	Casual Khaki
Mon	May 26	10:30am	Veteran's Memorial	National Cemetary	TBD
Fri	May 30	6:30pm	Lookouts Baseball Game	AT&T Ballpark	Casual Khaki
Tue	June 3	5:30pm	Amicalola Falls Elderhostal	Amicalola Falls State Park	TBD

Casual Khaki is white chorus shirt with logo, Khaki pants.

Upcoming Special Events

June 3, 2008	Amicalola Elderhostall	Amicalola Falls State Park, GA
June 30 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
July 18-20, 2008	Lakeside Harmony Weekend	Clemson University
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in May

3rd Margeret Crowe
20th Chuck Wilson
22rd Nancy Owens
28th Sandy White

Anniversaries in May

3rd Dave & Sandy White
25^t Paul & Lindy Blazek

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



May 26, 2008

President – Beau Christian

First a reminder of our singout at AT&T field on May 30. Assemble at 6:30. Dress is khaki with white chorus polo shirt. Secondly, a reminder that the June 2 MLT meeting will combine both MLT and Board. Good time to tell us what's on your mind.

There is no meeting this Monday, Memorial Day, May 26th.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Reminder #1-- Singout -Saturday, May 24, 7:30 AM--National Cemetery ,Chattanooga. Dress-- White Polo Chorus Shirt, Khaki pants, dark shoes. Sing--Star Spangled Banner, God Bless America.

Reminder #2-- Singout-- Monday, May 26, 10:30 AM--National Cemetery, Chattanooga. Dress--Red Jacket, REGULAR white shirt (not Tux), Long blue tie (chorus issue), dark navy pants, black belt, black shoes. Sing--Star Spangled Banner, God Bless America

The cemetery is located on the corner of Bailey and Holtsclaw Ave's. The entrance is on Holtsclaw between Bailey and Main St.. When you enter turn to your left. Look for other members to meet at small pavilion to warm-up before going to main pavilion to sing. If you know of anyone else interested in seeing the flag placement, tell them to come on down it is amazing how fast they do it. Any questions, let me know? (423)762-8936

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	May 24	7:30am	Scout Flag Placement	National Cemetery	Casual Khaki
Mon	May 26	10:30am	Veteran's Memorial	National Cemetery	See above
Fri	May 30	6:30pm	Lookouts Baseball Game	AT&T Ballpark	Casual Khaki
Tue	June 3	5:30pm	Amicalola Falls Elderhostal	Amicalola Falls State Park	TBD

Casual Khaki is white chorus shirt with logo, Khaki pants.

Upcoming Special Events

June 30 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
July 18-20, 2008	Lakeside Harmony Weekend	Clemson University
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in May

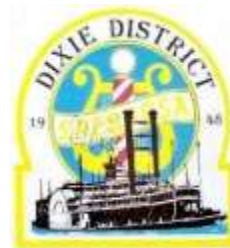
3rd Margeret Crowe
20th Chuck Wilson
22rd Nancy Owens
28th Sandy White

Anniversaries in May

3rd Dave & Sandy White
25^t Paul & Lindy Blazek



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



June 2, 2008

President – Beau Christian

Please, everybody, bring any money or tickets you may be holding to the Chorus meeting on June 2. Also, if anyone has bills to be paid, bring them also. We would like to get the financial end of the Annual Show complete as soon as possible.

A reminder that the June 2 MLT meeting is combined with the Board meeting - 5:30 at Wally's and, as usual, everyone is invited. No Board nor MLT meeting in July.

Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland

The next show we have is the Christmas Show which we need to start thinking about real soon. We need a Show Chairman, a venue, a date, a theme, etc. We have to start practicing on the Christmas Show very soon after the Contest, which is in Chattanooga. The '09 Spring Show needs to have a date set along with a venue. We can start practicing for the Spring Show now along with the Contest numbers. We have a very busy next few months ahead but we can do it.

Be aware that you will be asked to work in the Contest, it looks as though we really need to money since the Spring Show wasn't a great success, money wise. Great job was done by Frank in selling ads and Steve did a great job with the tickets only to have not enough interest for the guys to sell more tickets.

We can never have a great showing of attendance as long as the chorus has the attitude of "we're not good enough" to go out and sell tickets.

Director – Paul Blazek

Summer doldrums are starting - our show is over, the next big item is fall contest - what are we going to do? PERFORM! Monday nights will still be important all summer as we have various performances and prepare for contest, Christmas, and NEXT YEAR'S SHOW! That's right - we'll have the show date approved at the July board meeting and start working on the music probably the week after International. \

Speaking of International - it's a great opportunity to interact with barbershoppers from all over the world, sing until you can't speak, and watch our finest choruses and quartets. The Nashville chapter is begging for help and we won't have a chapter meeting that week, so consider taking a trip to Nashville and volunteering.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Chattanooga Lookouts sing out this Friday, May 30th. I will have some Choo Choo Brochures that we can pass out to the men in the crowd.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	May 30	6:30pm	Lookouts Baseball Game	AT&T Ballpark	Casual Khaki
Tue	June 3	5:30pm	Amicalola Falls Elderhostel	Amicalola Falls State Park	TBD

Casual Khaki is white chorus shirt with logo, Khaki pants.

Upcoming Special Events

June 30 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
July 18-20, 2008	Lakeside Harmony Weekend	Clemson University
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in June

2nd Gary Fisher
18th Erby Erwin
21st Pat Dawson
21st Pat Keegan

Anniversaries in June

4th Johnny & Sally Jackson
5th Steve & Janet Wixson
18th Fred & Judy Jesse
24th Lebron & Margie Brock

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



June 16, 2008

President – Beau Christian

If any member is still holding money or tickets, please be sure to get them in this Monday if at all possible. A preliminary tally of finances for the Annual Show suggests that, so far, we are just about even on income and outgo. Any profit we would have would be based on monies not yet turned in. We hope to complete the tally on or before the July Board meeting.

As Steve Wixson mentioned last week, due to our uncertain financial picture at this point, we will forego the planned refinishing of the floor and save, for now, the some \$1200 planned for that. We do plan to complete the ceiling painting and to do the window treatment. Watch for Steve's request for a date and help in moving risers and chairs and plan to help with the work to improve the looks of our rehearsal hall.

About 20 of us made the trip to Amnicola Falls and sang to an enthusiastic audience at the Elderhostel there. Thanks to all who made the arduous trip. As usual, it was yet another chance to share some of our famous fellowship.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	July 24		Creekside	Shallowford Road	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

June 30 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
July 18-20, 2008	Lakeside Harmony Weekend	Clemson University
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in June

2nd Gary Fisher
18th Erby Erwin
21st Pat Dawson
21st Barbara Keegan

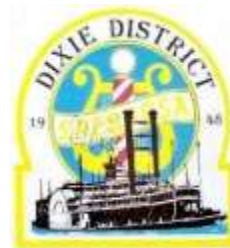
Anniversaries in June

4th Johnny & Sally Jackson
5th Steve & Janet Wixson
18th Fred & Judy Jesse
24th Lebron & Margie Brock

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



June 23, 2008

President – Beau Christian

Jerry Bradwell has volunteered to Chair the Christmas Show on December 13. We hope (for once?) to get moving in a timely fashion toward that date. Jerry may be contacting members to help out - please do so, if you possibly can.

And, along that line, we are beginning to think about the Annual Show for next spring: theme, location, timelines, and putting together music and CD's so that we can begin to work on songs in perhaps a more leisurely manner. That does, however, mean that we would begin working this summer on music. We all take vacations and time off, but keep our Chorus rehearsals as a priority, especially as we begin new music.

Last Monday both Chuck and Paul brought in their copy of the Harmonizer that included the tag, 'I Love to Sing 'Em'. And we did. So engaging was that tag that quite a few of us hung around after rehearsal just to sing it again.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	July 24		Creekside	Shallowford Road	TBD
Sat	Dec 6		Christmas Program	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

June 30 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
July 18-20, 2008	Lakeside Harmony Weekend	Clemson University
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	Notre Dame

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in June

2nd Gary Fisher
18th Erby Erwin
21st Pat Dawson
21st Barbara Keegan

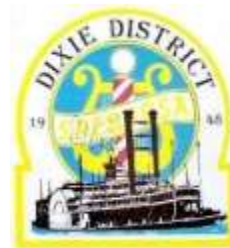
Anniversaries in June

4th Johnny & Sally Jackson
5th Steve & Janet Wixson
18th Fred & Judy Jesse
24th Lebron & Margie Brock

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



June 30, 2008

President – Beau Christian

Jerry Bradwell has volunteered to Chair the Christmas Show on December 13. We hope (for once?) to get moving in a timely fashion toward that date. Jerry may be contacting members to help out - please do so, if you possibly can.

And, along that line, we are beginning to think about the Annual Show for next spring: theme, location, timelines, and putting together music and CD's so that we can begin to work on songs in perhaps a more leisurely manner. That does, however, mean that we would begin working this summer on music. We all take vacations and time off, but keep our Chorus rehearsals as a priority, especially as we begin new music.

Last Monday both Chuck and Paul brought in their copy of the Harmonizer that included the tag, 'I Love to Sing 'Em'. And we did. So engaging was that tag that quite a few of us hung around after rehearsal just to sing it again.

Member Involvement President – Lebron Brock

I would like to point out to the membership that the last 3 meetings have been a lot of fun. We have learned new tags and new songs instead of pounding on the same ones we worked on so long. Those that are missing meetings are missing a lot of good stuff.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	July 24		Creekside	Shallowford Road	TBD
Sat	Dec 6		Christmas Program	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

June 30 – July 6, 2008	International Barbershop Convention	Nashville, TN
July 18-20, 2008	Lakeside Harmony Weekend	Clemson University
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	Notre Dame

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in June

2nd Gary Fisher
18th Erby Erwin
21st Pat Dawson
21st Barbara Keegan

Anniversaries in June

4th Johnny & Sally Jackson
5th Steve & Janet Wixson
18th Fred & Judy Jesse
24th Lebron & Margie Brock

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



July 14, 2008

President – Beau Christian

The MLT and Board (which meets this Monday at Wally's at 5pm) continue to plan and set up future events - up thru, and including, next year's annual show. And, to that end, we are underway with songs for that show, 'A Salute to America', last performed in 2000. For the majority of current members, these are new numbers and, as usual, we need everybody to come sing and help the newer folks.

MLT is looking at a Guest night in September. We hope to have the rehearsal rooms painted and straightened around by then and that event would be a great time to invite a guest to sing with us for the Christmas season.

We have several gigs booked for the summer so far. Be sure to add these to your calendar. As usual, we can use all the voices we can muster, at all of these events. Good fun, good harmony, good fellowship. It just doesn't get any better than that.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	July 24		Creekside	Shallowford Road	TBD
Thu	Aug 28	6:30	Lookouts Baseball Game	AT&T Ballpark	Polo + Khaki pants
Sat	Nov 22		?	Acca, Alabama	TBD
Sat	Dec 6		Christmas Program	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

July 11 th (Friday) at 7pm	Webcam of International Choruses	Paul Blazek's Home, 4016 Cherryton
July 18-20, 2008	Lakeside Harmony Weekend	Clemson University
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	Notre Dame

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in July

3rd Tom Keegan
4th Janet Wixson
8th Art Southerlin
16th Pat Slack
23rd Margie Brook
29th J.N. Howard
31st Edgar Dawson

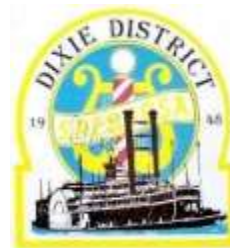
Anniversaries in July

21st Gist & Audry Brooks
25th Erby & Glenda Erwin

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



August 18, 2008

President – Beau Christian

Gentlemen Songsters - We have the OK to hold Guest Night Sept. 15, and the CCCC Kick off on Oct. 13 in the AUDITORIUM across the hall from the rehearsal area. Furthermore, we have OK to use the kitchen in the AUDITORIUM, as well.

Director – Paul Blazek

Songs for Next Monday:

What A Country
Early American Medley
Georgia On My Mind
Sentimental Gentleman
Caroline
God Bless America

Business Manager – Pete Jones

The next scheduled singout is Thursday Aug. 28 at the Lookouts ballgame--6:30 pm. I will be trying to schedule some more between that and the November singouts. With competition, guest night and Christmas coming up things will be fairly busy. Keep your eyes and ears open.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	Aug 28	6:30	Lookouts Baseball Game	AT&T Ballpark	Polo + Khaki pants
Sat	Nov 22		Family Reunion	Acca, Alabama	TBD
Sat	Dec 6		Christmas Program	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	Notre Dame

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in August

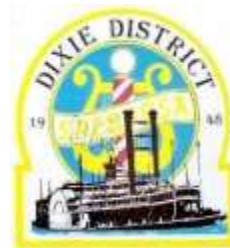
10th Audry Brooks
15th Sherry Fowler
20th Lindy Blazek & Clarence Wall
25th Lebron Brock
28th JW Kirk

Anniversaries in August

8th Dave & Carol Collins
10th JW & Joy Kirk
13th Gary & Marilyn Fisher
20th Jerry & Conny Bradwell



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



August 25, 2008

President – Beau Christian

By the time you read this, we will have said our farewells to Bernard Wheeler, long-time member and officer of the Chorus. Let's just lift him and his family up, keep them close in our hearts, and rejoice in the fellowship we treasure.

A great big thank you is in order for Lamar Owens. In case you didn't see his note, our Chorus web page has been redone, brought up to date, and is back up and running. Take a look at www.choochoochorus.org and pass the word, every chance you get.

Also, many thanks to Steve Wixson, Gary, Steve Irvine, and Karl for their work on the rehearsal room. As I write this, we are trying to see whether we can get the floors done as long as we're at it. This may take multiple moves in and out of the rehearsal area, and we are getting close to Guest Night September 15, but thanks to these guys, serious progress is being made, as you will soon see.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

The next scheduled singout is Thursday Aug. 28 at the Lookouts ballgame--6:30 pm. I will be trying to schedule some more between that and the November singouts. With competition, guest night and Christmas coming up things will be fairly busy. Keep your eyes and ears open.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	Aug 28	6:30pm	Lookouts Baseball Game	AT&T Ballpark	Polo + Khaki pants
Fri	Nov 21		North River Civic Center	Hixson, TN	TBD
Sat	Nov 22	1:00pm	Family Reunion	Acca, Alabama	TBD
Sat	Dec 6		Christmas Program	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

September 15, 2008	Guest Night	All Saints Academy
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	Notre Dame

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in August

10th Audry Brooks
15th Sherry Fowler
20th Lindy Blazek & Clarence Wall
25th Lebron Brock
28th JW Kirk

Anniversaries in August

8th Dave & Carol Collins
10th JW & Joy Kirk
13th Gary & Marilyn Fisher
20th Jerry & Conny Bradwell



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



September 8, 2008

President – Beau Christian

By the time you read this, I hope and trust that we will be ready to move back in - our rooms. To that end, everyone who can should arrive as early as you can to clean what needs to be cleaned, and start getting our stuff back in the rooms.

We had a great crew show up last Monday, Labor Day, to move stuff out, clean, spackle, paint, etc. We would have been in real trouble had we not had such a large group to get it done. My thanks to all who helped.

A reminder that September 15 is Guest Night - be asking guys you know to come give us a try. One idea is to invite them to the Guest Night, then propose that they sing with us through Christmas - no cost, no pressure, just fun and fellowship.

The MLT and Board will again be meeting jointly September 8. We will dispose of business as soon as we can and head for All Saints to help with 'stuff'. As always, all Board meetings are open to all Chorus members - 5:30 at Wally's on McCallie.

Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland

Ladies who intend to work the Convention do not have to register (at \$33 or \$38 on that Friday) but they can't just show up and expect to get in free. We have to let the folks know early enough so we can get the free registration recorded. This also includes the ones who are not singing and guest who wish to see part of the competition and show.

I have not heard from Chuck but I am sure that he needs help with the ushering at the Tivoli, Friday, Saturday morning and evening. Pete is going to need some help with the risers, Lamar still has a couple of slots at the registration, and have not heard from the gals in Rotation at the Choo-Choo. Having said all of that, it looks as though we still need some volunteers and as you know there is real money for the chorus hosting this convention with very little actual work for anyone, if we have enough folks > willing to put their shoulder to the wheel for a few hours that weekend.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Many thanks to those of you who helped us move things out of the rehearsal rooms and painting on Monday night. With that many hands it was a big help. I have a school function Monday night for my daughter and might not make it until after seven, but I'll get there as soon as possible.

We need some guys to step up to the plate in the next month or two. Both Beau and I are stepping down from our board positions. We have several good men in our group that can take our jobs and do well with them. Please consider running for a position.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Nov 21		North River Civic Center	Hixson, TN	TBD
Sat	Nov 22	1:00pm	Family Reunion	Acca, Alabama	TBD
Sat	Dec 6		Christmas Program	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

September 15, 2008	Guest Night	All Saints Academy
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	Notre Dame

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in September

5th Benny Malone
9th Gelda Malone
16th Carol Collins
26th Sally Jackson

30th Barry Owens

Anniversaries in September

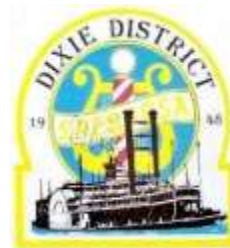
5th Barry & Nancy Owens
16th Bill & Pat Slack

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**

September 15, 2008



President – Beau Christian

I know you all are as proud of the refinished rehearsal rooms as I am. We need a few of you to pitch in to help finish the decorating and rehangng of stuff, as Steve Wixson noted last week. And again, thanks to all for the help in getting it done.

After Guest Night, the next big item is the Fall Competition. A reminder that the MLT has decided that any of you who did NOT sing contest last Spring, but intend to sing competition this fall will need to be assessed. As I write this, there is only about two weeks in which to get it done, so if this is your situation, proceed with haste.

And lastly - a reminder that Strick is in charge of coming up with a slate of officers for 2009. This is supposed to be done by the end of October. So - if you are interested in being an officer in the Chorus, let Strick know. I have asked him to have a proposed slate ready for consideration at the October Board meeting.

Director – Paul Blazek

Be sure to invite guests (including your families) to help us celebrate our re-decorated meeting rooms at our Guest Night! We'll be working on show music for next year (What A Country, Early American Medley), contest music (Georgia On My Mind, Sentimental Gentleman From Georgia) and some surprises that you can learn along with our guests!

Free food, good singing - how can it get any better than this?

Marketing & Public Relations – Lamar Owens

Before Guest Night, P. S. A.'s will be announced on WDNT-FM, WDEF-FM, US101-FM Country radio and on WDEF TV 12, Luther's community calendar. An announcement will also appear in the "WeekEnd" section of the Times Free Press.

Friday, September 26 there will be an article about the history of our chapter published in the "WeekEnd" section of the Times Free Press. This article will explain who we are and what we do in the community, charities we support, etc. The following week, Oct. 3, an article will appear in "WeekEnd" outlining the history of the Dixie District, the 60 years anniversary, and about the number of times the district Contest and Convention has been held here since our chapter was established in 1962. Also discussed will be the economic impact this convention has on our local economy.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

The floor looks GREAT! I want to personally thank Steve Wixson for all the hard work he put into making this happen.

Don't forget to call the singers from your section that were missing Monday and remind them of Guest Night.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

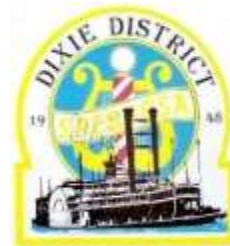
Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Nov 21		North River Civic Center	Hixson, TN	TBD
Sat	Nov 22	1:00pm	Family Reunion	Ader, Alabama	TBD
Sat	Dec 6		Christmas Program	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

September 15, 2008	Guest Night	All Saints Academy
October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	Notre Dame



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



September 22, 2008

President – Beau Christian

A big congratulations and well done to all who worked, helped, or brought guests to our Guest Night. The number I heard was 60 people present. My absence was due to a trip to Great Falls, VA, to meet my brand new 3-year-old granddaughter. I apologize for missing the Guest Night, but she was certainly worth the trip!

The next scheduled item is the Fall competition Oct 3 - 5. If you haven't already volunteered to help in some fashion with the hosting chores, please do so, or talk to Strick to see where you could help. In addition, we surely need everyone who plans to compete to be at all rehearsals between now and the competition.

And finally, with the voice of the entire Chorus, we express our heartfelt sympathy to Paul, Lindy and the Blazek family following the death of Paul's Mother.

Member Involvement VP – Lebron Brock

Congratulations are in order. This turned out to be a very successful guest night. 18 visitors, 40 singers on the risers, 4 quartets, good barbeque, fun for everybody. Thanks are deserved for all who worked to make this happen.

Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland

I need to know who is going to work in the convention and needs to be registered. I have some of the volunteers but not all of their names. We also need to have more volunteers from the chorus just in case someone doesn't show at the post they have been assigned. I will remind folks again that this is a good money maker for the chorus and we all need to help.

As of right now, we are supposed to host the 2011 and 2013 Fall convention in Chattanooga so this year is the last one for a couple of years, maybe, so we can't depend on the extra money for the next two years.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Nov 21		North River Civic Center	Hixson, TN	TBD
Sat	Nov 22	1:00pm	Family Reunion	Ader, Alabama	TBD
Sat	Dec 6		Christmas Program	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	Notre Dame

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in September

5th Benny Malone
9th Guelda Malone
16th Carol Collins
26th Sally Jackson

30th Barry Owens

Anniversaries in September

5th Barry & Nancy Owens
16th Bill & Pat Slack

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in September

5th Benny Malone
9th Gelda Malone
16th Carol Collins
26th Sally Jackson

30th Barry Owens

Anniversaries in September

5th Barry & Nancy Owens
16th Bill & Pat Slack

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



September 29, 2008

President – Beau Christian

As Paul noted last Monday, we need everybody in attendance and everybody to work on notes, music, and choreography in preparation for our rehearsal the 29th, and on into competition Oct. 4.

If there is anybody who didn't perform last spring at Greenville, and who intends to compete this fall, you will need to be assessed - I guess, now, no later than the 29th. Put an eye to your black/purple uniform - make sure it is presentable.

We should all just want to be able say 'I performed our contest songs the best I have ever done' when we come off stage at the Tivoli.

Member Involvement VP – Lebron Brock

Guest night was a big success. We were able to put 40 singers on the risers. This included some former members who we had not seen in a long time, some current members who have been inactive, some members of the Cleveland chorus, and some guests who had never heard a barbershop chorus before. The guests were taught "My Wild Irish Rose" and a tag, "Annie". They were able to sing these with the chorus and sounded good doing it.

The barbecue and "fixins" were a big hit. The bells were wonderful in serving and cleaning up and deserve more thanks than we will probably give them. The barbecue was so good we had trouble getting some of the chorus members to quit eating and perform. When barbershoppers prefer anything to singing you know something unusual is going on.

Our 18 guests included 12 men, 8 of who were first time visitors. Some of the guests said they would be back next week. The society says to get one new member a chapter has to have 10 visitors and to have 10 visitors you have to invite 100 men. Either we were very efficient in getting guests to come or we invited 180+ people. Either way the chorus deserves a hearty well done for what was accomplished.

After the eating, the chorus and quartets performed several songs for the guests who were enthusiastic and appreciative. Among the guests who came to listen but not sing were two people from Stuttgart, Germany, a lady and her young adult son. They tasted barbecue and heard barbershop for the first time ever and enjoyed both immensely. An elderly couple who didn't sing and could not stay for the whole thing said they enjoyed the music and would definitely be at our next show. Two ladies came who were interested in "Sweet Adelines" and just wanted to hear us sing.

Probably the best indicator of success is that everyone seemed to have a very good time. Guests and chorus members alike had smiles on their faces all night and the conversation only stopped for the singing. The guests left with many expressions of thanks for such a good time and praise for the singing. I am reasonably sure we will gain new members from this but we have also gained support and appreciation for our chapter and barbershop singing in general from the guests who did not sing. These people may tell others about us and give us valuable publicity. We may have even helped barbershop singing in Germany. For those of us who believe the preservation of this style of music is important beyond our own participation, this too is a worthy accomplishment.

I close with thanks to the many members and wives who worked hard in many areas and those who invited visitors. For whatever you did, THANKS!!!

Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland

It would be good if everyone wore a chorus shirt of some sort for the videographer on Monday

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Remember that if you did not sing at Greenville at the last contest, you will need to be evaluated to sing on October 4th here. See Paul, Chuck, Johnny, Strick or Fred to be evaluated.

Marketing & Publicity – Lamar Owens

Monday night, Christian Bruce, a videographer with the newspaper will be at our practice to shoot footage of us and maybe interview someone. "Be sure to look your best for the camera". He said this would be a pre Weekend piece on the internet.

Be sure to watch for the article about the Fall Contest in "WeekEnd" in the Chattanooga Times Free Press on Friday, Oct. 3. You should have already seen the article on our chapter in the Sept. 26 issue of the Times Free Press, "WeekEnd". There will also be an announcement and appeal for the CCCC in the same section of the paper in the Oct. 10 issue. We will begin to prime the pump for coverage of our Christmas and CCCC show, radio, television and newspaper after we recover from the contest efforts and let the media alone for a while.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Nov 1	?	Fall Color Cruise	Hales Bar Marina, Guild, TN	TBD
Tue	Nov 11	10:30am	Veterans Ceremony	National Cemetery	TBD
Fri	Nov 21	6:30pm	North River Civic Center	Hixson, TN	TBD
Sat	Nov 22	1:00pm	Family Reunion	Ider, Alabama	TBD
Sat	Dec 6	?	Christmas Market	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD
Tue	Dec 9	6:30 pm	Martin Boyd Retirement	Standifer Gap Road	TBD
Thu	Dec 11	6:30pm	Senior Center	South Pittsburg, TN	TBD
Thu	Dec 18	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	<i>CSTCC</i>

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in September

5th Benny Malone
9th Guelda Malone
16th Carol Collins
26th Sally Jackson

30th Barry Owens

Anniversaries in September

5th Barry & Nancy Owens
16th Bill & Pat Slack

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



October 6, 2008

President – Beau Christian

Tis the Season! We had a great Guest Night and now it's time to remind those guests that our combined Christmas Chorus is about to get underway. Also, we need to remember to invite last year's singers that we're ready for them again. And, of course, everyone needs to make an effort to invite friends to join us who have never enjoyed the CCCC experience.

October 13 is the official start of our season. Let's all welcome, mentor, and enjoy our 'new' guys. We already have many gigs booked and probably more to come. The approaching Christmas season is joyous for many reasons, among them the wonderful sound of four-part harmony sung by men who do so enjoy the sound, the season, the fellowship.

Director – Paul Blazek

I'm writing this on Thursday before the contest. I'm excited about our prospects - rehearsals have been going well and you guys are seeming to "get" the concept of performance from the heart. Remember that all I want is 100% for six minutes.

My room will open for makeup at 11:45am. Check around lobby for a sign with my room number. Meet in the Choo Choo lobby ready to enter the matrix at 12:45pm (note this is a change from what I said at Monday's meeting). Dress is Tux with purple accessories, small tab collar tux shirt and rhinestone Choo Choo pin.

On another front, we still have a week to invite friends and acquaintances to join us for the Christmas Chorus. What a great way to get free singing lessons, learn exciting and fun music, enjoy performing for the community, and generally have a great time. Don't be selfish - share the wealth and opportunity with anybody you can find. The more, the merrier!

Program VP – Gary Fisher

I will need at least one more person to help me Friday night from 5:00 - 10:00 pm in working the quartets back stage. I now have Dave Rack and Clyde Rogers, but need one more.

Be sure you invite at least one person to the Christmas rehearsal that begin Monday, October 13th. It would be great to have at least 75 singing bros on stage.

Marketing & Publicity – Lamar Owens

Be sure to look at the Friday "WeekEnd" in the Times Free Press for the article on the Convention/Contest. Also look at the Saturday paper for the article on the Chorus centering around a story about our longest term member, Tom Keegan. This will be a human interest story with information about the chorus. Also log onto www.timesfreepress.com to read and watch the online story about the chorus and convention. There will also be link from this article that viewers/readers can use that will take them to our web site for further information about the chorus.

"If you will log on to www.choochoochorus.org and click on "Events" you will find an up to date listing of events and performances." Our web site will always be up to date and is the location you can send your friends, family and other acquaintances to in order for them to learn about Barbershop music, history and our chorus.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Nov 1	?	Fall Color Cruise	Hales Bar Marina, Guild, TN	TBD
Tue	Nov 11	10:30am	Veterans Ceremony	National Cemetery	TBD

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Sat	Nov 22	1:00pm	Family Reunion	Ider, Alabama	TBD
Sat	Dec 6	?	Christmas Market	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD
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Thu	Dec 11	6:30pm	Senior Center	South Pittsburg, TN	TBD
Thu	Dec 18	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

October 3-5, 2008	Dixie Distric Fall Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 18, 2008	Hayride	Same as last year
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	CSTCC

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in October

8th Melissa Wilson
 8th Dave White
 11th Paul Blazek
 12th Ellen Claiborne
 24th Jerry Bradwell

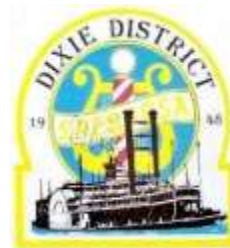
Anniversaries in October

21st Benny & Gelda Malone
 21st Chuck & Melissa Wilson

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



October 27, 2008

President – Beau Christian

Last Monday's turnout for CCCC was the best one so far with lots of new faces to meet and greet. As Paul noted, the number of songs to prepare "may be daunting" for the new folks. With that in mind, I would suggest that we carefully mentor the CCCC guys, encourage, gently correct as needed, and bring them along, as usual.

I trust everyone has noted the upcoming gigs. There are quite a few of them and, as usual, we need everyone on stage who can possibly make it. Let the season begin!

Membership Involvement VP –Lebron Brock

45 in attendance last monday, 13 of these were visitors. The sound is already awesome. It's an exciting time to come to practice. Invite more visitors.

Director – Paul Blazek

Below is a list of CCCC songs for the Christmas show. The last two may not be sung by the CCCC if we don't have time to learn them.

Jingle Bells
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Mary Had a Baby
O Holy Night
Most Wonderful Time of the Year
White Christmas
Jingle Bell Rock

Audience Sing Along
Silent Night

Associate Director – Chuck Wilson

As you know from reading the Harmonizer, there are changes to the rules on copyrighted sheet music. Working copies are no longer permitted and each member singing on stage must have a legal copy of the sheet music. We started a stamp and numbering procedure for our sheet music and last Monday everyone who attended got legal on Christmas sheet music passed out to date. Over the next few weeks we will try and get our music legal for the Christmas Show, Annual Show and our Repertory (which will be determined at our next sing out.)

Sheet music now costs us about \$2 a copy whether original or printed on our copier. To save us money, please go through your sheet music and this coming Monday bring in sheet music on the list above plus Sentimental Gentlemen and Georgia on my Mind.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Frank is recovering at East Ridge Nursing Home, room 125. Telephone number is 499-3989.

Be and sure and join us for dinner at Wallies on McCallie at 5:30 every Monday evening before rehearsal.

Chapter Historian – Fred Jesse

I don't ordinarily write for the newsletter, but here is my take on the Fall Dixie Chorus Contest. We have now had two consecutive contest scores above a 60 average. Funny thing is - we have done better in the not too recent past. Last Spring in Greenville, we did the same two songs we did this time, with better scores - 61.2 vs. this time at 60.6. Going further back, we had three consecutive contests at or above 62, 3/17/01 at 62.9, 10/7/00 at 62.0, and 3/18/00 at 62.3. And the interesting thing about those three contests, we sang the same two songs - "I Love A Jolson Song", and "When You And I Were Young, Maggie". "I Love A Jolson Song" has been our highest scorer, next is "Sentimental Gentleman", followed by "The Last Time I saw Henry", then, "Georgia On My Mind", and then, "Ride The Railroad Tonight". I have other statistics if anyone is interested.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Nov 1	3:00pmEST	Fall Color Cruise	Hales Bar Marina, Guild, TN	Patriotic
Tue	Nov 11	10:30am	Veterans Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
Fri	Nov 21	6:30pm	North River Civic Center	Hixson, TN	TBD
Sat	Nov 22	1:00pm	Family Reunion	Ider, Alabama	TBD
Sat	Dec 6	?	Christmas Market	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD
Tue	Dec 9	6:30 pm	Martin Boyd Retirement	Standifer Gap Road	TBD
Thu	Dec 11	6:30pm	Senior Center	South Pittsburg, TN	TBD
Thu	Dec 18	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	TBD

Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Upcoming Special Events

December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	CSTCC
May ?, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC????

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in October

8th Melissa Wilson
8th Dave White
11th Paul Blazek
12th Ellen Claiborne
24th Jerry Bradwell

Anniversaries in October

21st Benny & Guelda Malone
21st Chuck & Melissa Wilson

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



November 3, 2008

President – Beau Christian

We had another great turnout for rehearsal last Monday and I was glad to see some guys from Cleveland join us as well as a few first-timers. Keep up the good work! Did you notice how big the sound is when we have a large number of singers?

A reminder that MLT is this Monday, November 3 - 5:30, Wally's on McCallie as usual. The following Monday is the regular Board meeting, same time and place. As always, all members are welcome. The Board slate for 2009 was elected by acclamation at last Monday's rehearsal. I'm confident that there will be more detail on the incoming members in the near future.

And - let's continue to keep Frank Delaney in our thoughts and prayers. Art advised me that Frank continues to make good progress in his recovery.

Director – Paul Blazek

Below is a list of CCCC songs for the Christmas show. * means we've started working on them.

- *Jingle Bells
- *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
- *Mary Had a Baby
- O Holy Night
- *Most Wonderful Time of the Year
- White Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock

Audience Sing Along
Silent Night

Business Manager – Pete Jones

I would propose that we also wear the patriotic outfit for the Nov. 21 and 22 gigs. After that point we need to discuss what would work for the Christmas gigs in December. Open for comments on that ?

Directions to Hales Bar Marina ---From Chattanooga ,Take Interstate 24 towards Nashville. Go to exit 161. Get off there and turn right. Travel approx. one mile to stop sign. Turn right onto 41 south and 64/72 east. Travel approx. one more mile. You will see a big sign that says "Hales Bar". Turn left and follow that road into the recreation area. Look for the shelter where the entertainment is or check with the hospitality office for directions.

For those interested in car pooling, there will be some meeting in the parking lot at All Saints at 2:00 pm Sat.

Any questions or problems call Pete ---(423)762-8936

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Nov 1	3:00pmEST	Fall Color Cruise	Hales Bar Marina, Guild, TN	Patriotic
Tue	Nov 11	10:30am	Veterans Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
Fri	Nov 21	6:30pm	North River Civic Center	Hixson, TN	TBD
Sat	Nov 22	1:00pm	Family Reunion	Ider, Alabama	TBD

Sat	Dec 6	?	Christmas Market	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD
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Thu	Dec 18	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	TBD

Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black shoes, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Upcoming Special Events

December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	CSTCC
December 15, 2008	Chirstmas Party	Steve & Janet Wixson home
May ?, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC????

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in November

2nd Joy Kirk
 6th Lamar Owens
 10th Dave Rack
 10th Hobby Thomas
 13th Janice Owens
 14th Ed Thornton
 15th Betty Rogers
 19th Wilbur Strickland
 22nd Mary Strickland

23rd Fred Jesse
 23rd John Johnson
 22th Karl Dommert
 29th Frank Delaney

Anniversaries in November

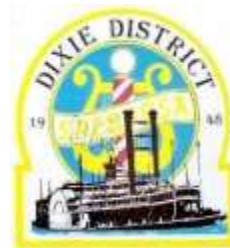
None

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**

November 10, 2008



President – Beau Christian

LeBron Brock told me that we had 45 people on the risers last Monday night - and the big sound was great. We have now scheduled three joint rehearsals with Cleveland which, of course, will swell our sound even more. We are building toward what may be the best, the finest Christmas concert we have put on in recent history.

Please keep in mind that, for a lot of the CCCC takers, most if not all of the music is new and they are under considerable pressure to keep up. To that end, remember to help them all, monitor them, encourage them, and bring them along. We have a lot to do, a lot to learn. Is it too early to say, "Christmas is coming!"?

Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland

The following is information from Cleveland Chapter President, Jim Larkin.

Tentative dates for joint rehearsals (with Cleveland):

Monday, November 10th, 7pm, at All Saints Academy, 310 E. 8th St. in Chattanooga.

Tuesday, November 18th, 7pm, at Bradley High School's choral room in Cleveland.

Monday, November 24th, 7pm, at All Saints Academy in Chattanooga.

Thursday, December 4th, 7PM - Lee University Dixon Center. This is a joint performance with the Cleveland chapter.

Christmas Community Chorus combined songs:

1. Mary Had A Baby
2. Jingle Bells (Yuletide Favorites)
3. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
4. It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year (Matt Swan arrangement)
5. Winter Wonderland
6. Veni, Veni, Emmanuel (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)
7. O Holy Night (Yuletide Favorites)

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Because we are having a Christmas party just two days after our Christmas show, there will be no After Glow following our program on Saturday. And speaking of the Christmas party at the fabulous Wixson home on Signal Mountain, Monday, December 15th at 7, be sure you sign up so I can get an accurate number and how much food must be prepared. The cost is just \$10 per person. You are invited, your wife/girlfriend is invited, your children are invited, your grandmother is invited and your half cousin twice removed on your great aunt's side is invited. I will need your reply by Monday night, December 8th. I would also like your \$10/person by then also. Cash/checks are accepted. Make checks payable to "Chattanooga ChooChoo Chorus".

Good food, good fellowship, good singing...AND we will install our officers for 2009.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tue	Nov 11	10:30am	Veterans Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
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Upcoming Special Events

December 4, 2008	Joint Cleveland/Choo Choo Show	Lee University, Cleveland, TN
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	CSTCC
December 15, 2008	Chirstmas Party	Steve & Janet Wixson home
May ?, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC????

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in November

2nd Joy Kirk
6th Lamar Owens
10th Dave Rack
10th Hobby Thomas
13th Janice Owens
14th Ed Thornton
15th Betty Rogers
19th Wilbur Strickland
22nd Mary Strickland

23rd Fred Jesse
23rd John Johnson
22th Karl Dommert
29th Frank Delaney

Anniversaries in November

None

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



A small, but enthusiastic chorus sings Lulu at Hales Bar Festival. Photo by Betty Rogers



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



November 17, 2008

President – Beau Christian

With the inclusion of the Cleveland chapter, and still a few more 'new' guys - Lebron advised me that we had 54 people on the risers last Monday night and several regulars were missing. Between Chad's and Paul's efforts, we had a very satisfying rehearsal and a HUGE sound.

Let's remember to be sure to invite the CCC guys and members of the Cleveland chapter to our famous Christmas party and the installation of the 2009 officers. Paul suggested that perhaps our combined rehearsals with Cleveland along with our joint participation in both Chorus' Christmas shows might be the beginning of on-going combined efforts. Something to consider for the new year.

Tickets for the Christmas show are now available from Wally. We need everyone to take and sell as many as possible. This is our largest charitable activity for the year and the Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center is certainly a worthy objective for our efforts.

Music Leadership VP – Wilbur Strickland

An update from Jim Larkin, President of the Cleveland Chorus; "Our original date for the Basket Fund Charity performance was December 4th, which has now been pre-empted by a University function.

"Therefore, the show has been moved to Monday, December 8th, with a 7:30pm time, which has been guaranteed by the University. This is, however, the last day of finals, so that means that we cannot get into the Dixon Center for sound checks and decorations until 5:30pm. So, that becomes our call time for the performance, leaving an hour and a half before the doors open at 7pm to get everything ready! Dress for the Community Chorus part of the show is black pants, black shoes, white dress shirt, and a suitable Christmas tie."

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Because we are having a Christmas party just two days after our Christmas show, there will be no After Glow following our program on Saturday. And speaking of the Christmas party at the fabulous Wixson home on Signal Mountain, Monday, December 15th at 7, be sure you sign up so I can get an accurate number and how much food must be prepared. The cost is just \$10 per person. You are invited, your wife/girlfriend is invited, your children are invited, your grandmother is invited and your half cousin twice removed on your great aunt's side is invited. I will need your reply by Monday night, December 8th. I would also like your \$10/person by then also. Cash/checks are accepted. Make checks payable to "Chattanooga ChooChoo Chorus".

Good food, good fellowship, good singing...AND we will install our officers for 2009.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Nov 21	6:30pm	North River Civic Center	Hixson, TN	TBD
Sat	Nov 22	1:00pm	Family Reunion	Idler, Alabama	TBD
Sat	Dec 6	?	Christmas Market	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD
Tue	Dec 9	6:30 pm	Martin Boyd Retirement	Standifer Gap Road	TBD
Thu	Dec 11	6:30pm	Senior Center	South Pittsburg, TN	TBD
Tue	Dec 16	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	TBD
Thu	Dec 18	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	TBD

Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2008	Joint Cleveland/Choo Choo Show	Lee University, Cleveland, TN
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	CSTCC
December 15, 2008	Christmas Party	Steve & Janet Wixson's home
May ?, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC????

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in November

2nd Joy Kirk
6th Lamar Owens
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13th Janice Owens
14th Ed Thornton
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19th Wilbur Strickland
22nd Mary Strickland

23rd Fred Jesse
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22th Karl Dommert
29th Frank Delaney

Anniversaries in November

None

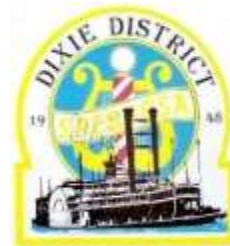
Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



The members shown above sang the National Anthem and God Bless America (you can see the storm clouds gathering) as community service to honor our Veterans. We rehearsed a few yards away from the large monument at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. Not shown are Pete Jones and photographer Steve Wixson. Veterans, including some of our members, stood or stepped forward as their service anthem was played. See the November 12th newspaper, Page B1, for a photograph with the caption "John Scott salutes while the Choo Choo Chorus sings "God Bless America."



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



November 24, 2008

President – Beau Christian

A little help financially is in order, Gentlemen. First, we paid \$230 to get ownership of a digital copy of our latest competition picture, based on 23 of us on the risers for the picture. If you haven't seen it - it's great, maybe the best one we've had for a long time. Anyway, we need to be reimbursed by at least the 23 who were pictured, at \$10 each. Please pay Johnny, get your copy, enjoy.

Secondly, please take and sell all the tickets you possibly can for the Christmas show. Consider buying a few extra, just to help out in our charitable effort this season. Some wise person said, "The only things you ever keep are what you give away." Think about it, especially during this blessed season.

Membership Involvement VP – Lebron Brock

Once again the CCCC singers are a wonderful addition to our sound. Practice sessions for those of us who love that barbershop sound are intoxicating during this time of show prep. The sound is so good it is tempting to stop singing and just listen. It makes me drool to think of having these guys all the time but I know that won't happen and don't want to put any pressure on them or make them uncomfortable. We are happy to have them for the Christmas show and don't want to do any thing to mess that up. I hope they enjoy this as much as the regular membership does.

I have 70 men listed who have attended at least one of the previous three practice sessions. I think there were some at the Cleveland practice who are not on this list. The most we have had for any one practice session was 54. There were 34 at the Cleveland practice. We need to call those who have missed practice recently and encourage them to be at the next practice and the Clev. show on Dec. 8.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Party time at the Wixsons. Make sure you sign up on the sheet in rehearsal hall and pony up ten buckeroos per person. I take cash or check (made out to Chattanooga ChooChoo Chorus)

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Nov 21	6:30pm	North River Civic Center	Hixson, TN	Patriotic
Sat	Nov 22	1:00pm	Family Reunion	Ider, Alabama	Patriotic
Sat	Dec 6	?	Christmas Market	First Tennessee Pavillion	TBD
Thu	Dec 11	6:30pm	Senior Center	South Pittsburg, TN	TBD
Tue	Dec 16	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	TBD
Thu	Dec 18	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	TBD
Sun	Dec 21	2:00pm	Red Bank Life Center	Red Bank, TN	TBD

Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2008	Joint Cleveland/Choo Choo Show	Lee University, Cleveland, TN
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	CSTCC
December 15, 2008	Chirstmas Party	Steve & Janet Wixson's home
May ?, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC????

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in November

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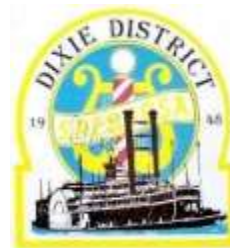
Anniversaries in November

None

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



December 1, 2008

President – Beau Christian

First, a reminder to all that there will be no MLT or Board meeting in December. Goodness knows we are busy from here thru Christmas with our various outings and shows.

Secondly, be sure you have 'made your reservation' for the Christmas party at the home of Steve and Janet Wixson. CCCC members are, of course, invited and encouraged. The Christmas party has become an almost overnight tradition of the Chorus - great food, fellowship, fun, singing and a view from their back deck that is beyond description.

And lastly, one more time, we need all of you at all of our gigs. The old saying, 'There is strength in numbers' seems all too apparent and true at our various outings. Think about the sound we enjoy at rehearsal when 55 guys, more or less, are into a chord.

Membership Involvement VP – Lebron Brock

Email addresses are exposed to spammers when we send or forward email that has the address list in the To: box or CC: box. Using the BCC (blind copy) box will prevent this.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Sorry I missed Monday night but a medical procedure took precedence. Don't forget you're all invited to our Christmas Party at the Wixsons on Monday, December 15th at 7:00 pm. If you haven't signed up, please do so on the bulletin board and slip me a sawbuck for each person in your group coming.

Christmas Show Set Guy – Steve Wixson

I need help making the set for the Christmas Show. There are letters to cut out, paint and mount for the show title "Christmas in Dixie," eight 3'x4' posters to assemble by attaching paper sheets that I've printed out on my computer to cardboard, two colorful cutouts to paint and hang with the posters behind the chorus and two artificial Christmas trees now in storage to assemble and decorate. Email me when you are available and I will organize work crews. Thanks.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Dec 6	2:00pm	Christmas Market	First Tennessee Pavillion	Christmas
Thu	Dec 11	6:30pm	Senior Center	South Pittsburg, TN	Christmas
Tue	Dec 16	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas
Thu	Dec 18	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	Christmas
Sun	Dec 21	2:00pm	Life Care Center	Red Bank, TN	Christmas

Christmas Outfit is black pants, long sleeve white dress shirt, black shoes, and colorful Christmas tie

Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2008	Joint Cleveland/Choo Choo Show	Lee University, Cleveland, TN
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	CSTCC
December 15, 2008	Chirstmas Party	Steve & Janet Wixson's home
May ?, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC????

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

6th Judy Jesse
9th Roger Coffman
19th Steve Grubb
30th Lucien Claiborne
31st Matt Blazek

Anniversaries in December

6th Clyde and Betty Rogers
23rd Lamar and Janice Owens
29th Dave and Tanya Fleury
29th Landon & Sherry Sawyer

Photographs by Marilyn Fisher from the Ider, Alabama Sing Out



Perfectly synchronized? choreography on Sentimental Gentlemen from Georgia



The quickly assembled Three Grand and Change quartet

Photographs by Steve Wixson



Art presents Mary Strickland with a signed birthday card from the Chorus



Almost everyone stopped at Larry's Restaurant for a really good buffet lunch

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



December 8, 2008

President – Beau Christian

Mark Twain, after he found a miraculous cure for the lumbago (waaay to lengthy to detail here), noted that he had given thanks and resumed his old habits. Something of that nature seems to have short-circuited my rampant croup, I have given thanks and, damn it, resumed my old habits.

I feel like I've said everything I can think of re the Christmas gigs, the Christmas show, and the Christmas rehearsals. I guess I could note, one more time, that the party on Dec. 15 at the Wixsons is not to be missed. If you haven't already done so, indicate your intention to be there. If you have attended previously, you know what I mean. Also, be sure to encourage all CCCC members to join us as they are cordially invited. Neat way to recruit, as well, just by example, I mean, not by rushing them at the party.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

Directions to the Wixson's House. Drive Hwy 27 North or South as appropriate and take the Signal Mtn/Hwy 127 Exit. Head up towards Signal Mtn on Signal Mtn Blvd. Take the second right after the Space Ship House onto Sunset and the first left onto Lower Brow Road. Drive up the hill to the Yellow house. Address is 1060 and telephone is 886-1744.

Christmas Show Set Guy – Steve Wixson

We still need someone to help take two artificial Christmas trees down from storage and assemble them.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Scratch the sing out to South Pittsburg that was scheduled for December 11. The uniform for all performances is the Christmas outfit (see below.) However, bring your Red Blazer to this Saturday's sing out at the Chattanooga Market. We might use it.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Dec 6	2:00pm	Christmas Market	First Tennessee Pavillion	Christmas
Tue	Dec 16	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas
Thu	Dec 18	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	Christmas
Sun	Dec 21	2:00pm	Life Care Center	Red Bank, TN	Christmas

Christmas Outfit is black pants, long sleeve white dress shirt, black shoes, and colorful Christmas tie

Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2008	Joint Cleveland/Choo Choo Show	Lee University, Cleveland, TN
December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	CSTCC
December 15, 2008	Chirstmas Party	Steve & Janet Wixson's home
May ?, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC????

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

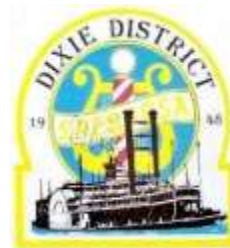
6th Judy Jesse
9th Roger Coffman
19th Steve Grubb
30th Lucien Claiborne
31st Matt Blazek

Anniversaries in December

6th Clyde and Betty Rogers
23rd Lamar and Janice Owens
29th Dave and Tanya Fleury
29th Landon & Sherry Sawyer



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



December 15, 2008

President – Beau Christian

Permit me to take this opportunity to say thank you to the membership and Board for their help and support over the last three years. I hope and trust that some positive things have occurred during my tenure. Also I want to wish Lebron and the entire Board Elect all the best as they take office December 15.

Music Leadership Team VP – Wilbur Strickland

We started the year on a positive note with Paul leading us in lots of different songs, both old and new, during each of the practices. Starting to sing songs for the 2009 Spring Show in the Spring of '08, going after a better score in the Fall Contest, making a great showing of dedication of the ChooChoo Chorus by doing a super job with the Fall Convention, and looks as though we are going to have an outstanding Christmas Show. We haven't done as much as I would have liked to do this past year, but it has been a great year anyway. Best of luck to Art Sutherlin in taking on the Music and Performance VP, and to the rest of the new Officers for the upcoming year. Thanks for working with me this year.

Program VP – Gary Fisher

As your outgoing VP for Programming, I just want to say that I've enjoyed my tenure as your "Master of Ceremonies" every week for the past couple of years. Planning parties, arranging for places to go and adding value to the social part of our little family has been great. But I leave you in good hands. Bill Slack and I have discussed his new duties as your new VP and I think he has some great ideas for the coming year. He will add some fun to the meetings as well as plans for our social gatherings. Plus you get the added bonus of his sparkling personality. Don't tell him I said that...his head is big enough already. Please give him the same support you've given me. I look forward to a brand new year of harmony with my fellow singing bros.

Christmas Party Host – Steve Wixson

Here are directions to our House. Drive Hwy 27 North or South as appropriate and take the Signal Mtn/Hwy 127 Exit. Head up towards Signal Mtn on Signal Mtn Blvd. Take the second right after the Space Ship House onto Sunset and the first left onto Lower Brow Road. Drive up the hill to the Yellow house. Address is 1060 and telephone is 886-1744.

The Christmas party format is a bit different this year. The food is more of a buffet (shall I say large buffet) than a sit down dinner. With more freedom to move around, Janet and I are hoping to hear lots more small group singing and woodshedding.

Business Manager – Pete Jones

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tue	Dec 16	6:30pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas
Thu	Dec 18	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	Christmas
Sun	Dec 21	2:00pm	Life Care Center	Red Bank, TN	Christmas

Christmas Outfit is black pants, long sleeve white dress shirt, black shoes, and colorful Christmas tie

Upcoming Special Events

December 13, 2008	Christmas Show	CSTCC
December 15, 2008	Chirstmas Party	Steve & Janet Wixson's home
May ?, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC????

The Chattanooga Christmas Market Sing Out



Paul leads the warm up in a kitchen and look who shows up—Frank Delaney. Photograph by Steve Wixson



The Sing Out as seen by some of our wives. Photograph by Melissa Wilson

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

6th Judy Jesse
9th Roger Coffman
19th Steve Grubb
30th Lucien Claiborne
31st Matt Blazek

Anniversaries in December

6th Clyde and Betty Rogers
23rd Lamar and Janice Owens
29th Dave and Tanya Fleury
29th Landon & Sherry Sawyer



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



December 22, 2008

There is no meeting on Monday, December 22nd

Secretary –Fred Jesse

I have sent to the District nine names of attendees to COTS. After the chapter officer installation ceremony at the Wixson home, which by the way was an excellent evening, I asked the installing officer Ev Nau for his script. He gave it to me, so now we know to what we have as officers committed ourselves. I hope as he suggested, that the officers bring the remembrance of their office to the next board meeting. If anyone would like to read the installation message, see me.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	Dec 18	6:30pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	Christmas
Sun	Dec 21	2:00pm	Life Care Center	Red Bank, TN	Christmas

Christmas Outfit is black pants, long sleeve white dress shirt, black shoes, and colorful Christmas tie

Upcoming Special Events

May ?, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC????
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Christmas Show Photographs



Christmas Party Photographs by Tanya and Wixson



Ev Nau install officers





Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

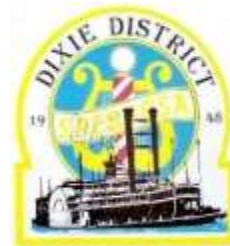
6th Judy Jesse
 9th Roger Coffman
 19th Steve Grubb
 30th Lucien Claiborne
 31st Matt Blazek

Anniversaries in December

6th Clyde and Betty Rogers
 23rd Lamar and Janice Owens
 29th Dave and Tanya Fleury
 29th Landon & Sherry Sawyer



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
December 29, 2008



There is no meeting on Monday, December 29th

Secretary –Fred Jesse

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform

Christmas Outfit is black pants, long sleeve white dress shirt, black shoes, and colorful Christmas tie

Upcoming Special Events

February 14, 2009	Valentines Day	Chattanooga area
May ?, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC????

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

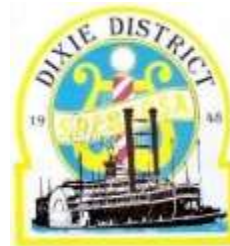
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Anniversaries in December

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23rd Lamar and Janice Owens
29th Dave and Tanya Fleury
29th Landon & Sherry Sawyer



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



January 5, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

I want to say thanks again to the retiring board members. Beau will be a hard act to follow. Under his leadership (with the help of many other people including other retiring board members, our directors, the newsletter editor, all who have worked on stage sets, sold tickets and ads, and all who have lugged risers around) our chorus has improved dramatically in at least 4 areas.

1. Number: 45 current members and 5 former members showing interest in returning and several prospective members attending meetings. 60 men on stage for the Christmas show may be the most the chorus has ever had.
2. Quality of singing and performance: Most improved chorus award in one contest followed by 2nd most improved chorus in the following contest. Scores placing us solidly in the "B" category for the first time in many years.
3. Meeting facility face lift: Repair of ceiling tile, painting of ceiling tile and walls, remodeling of the storage room and most of all resurfacing of the floor. Not to mention the new heating and air system Clyde installed.
4. Camaraderie of the troops: I think it has never been better in my 6 years in the chorus. We work hard but we have a good time too.

I can only hope the good things that have been happening in the chorus will continue this year. One thing is for sure, if the success we have experienced is to continue, it will take the efforts of a lot of people and not just one. I hope we can continue to work as well as a team as we have under Beau's leadership.

Christmas Show Chairman –Jerry Bradwell

I would like very much to express my appreciation to everyone who worked on the Christmas Show. A near full house WOW!!!! I couldn't ask for anything better. A special thanks to Steve for the stage set. It looked great.

Outgoing Business Manager –Pete Jones

Even as a lame duck, I didn't feel like my job was done until we had finished all of our gigs that we had scheduled for the year. I have enjoyed doing the job and talking to the prospective clients is always interesting to say the least. As an outgoing officer I wanted to thank everyone for your commitment and participation in our singouts and other chapter events this past year. I feel like we had a pretty good year over all. Although, there is always room for more if you work at it. Please support your new Business Manager(s), this coming year, in their efforts to get the chorus into the public eyes and ears.

As most of you know I have always been one to be very active in the chorus and help in any way that I can. As of lately, it has become increasingly hard for me to be as active as I like to be. With personal and business matters piling up on me, I find it necessary to take a break from the chorus. I will probably miss the Monday night routine, but, I have more than enough to keep my mind and body occupied. There is old saying "in it for a penny or a pound ". Kinda like "all or nothing". If I can't be there all of the time, I don't enjoy doing the hit and miss thing. We'll see how things go down the road and when I'll have the time again. Good luck to the chorus and everyone this coming year. I'll probably check in from time to time to see how things are going. Y'all don't pick on Clyde too much. You can pick on Slack all you want though! I'll see you when I see you!

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform

Upcoming Special Events

February 14, 2009	Valentines Day	Chattanooga area
March 20-21	Spring Dixie District Convention	Winston-Salem, NC
May 9, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC

Fellowship Item

Erby reported that Richard Poole's brother passed away.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries**Birthdays in January**

1st Niles Fowler
22nd Steve Wixson
23rd Bill Slack

Anniversaries in January

19th Lucien & Ellen Claiborne
20th Karl & Barbara Dommert
24th Clarence & Sally Wall



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
January 12, 2009



President –Lebron Brock

There are some things in the human experience that are worth preserving for future generations. Great works of art, stories of heroism, and great literature are some of these. I believe Barbershop Harmony music to be one of these things. It has been said that a person who plants a tree does a noble thing because he is not likely to live long enough to enjoy seeing it in its full glory. It seems that year by year we are a people who get more and more self-centered and increasingly ask of every activity, "what's in it for me". This seems to be fueled by the examples we see by entertainers and sports figures. Our lives are cheapened and future generations are cheated when we live with this attitude. We are told the number of barbershoppers is declining every year. I fear this can only be reversed if some are willing to be noble in serving this cause. I hope there are enough men still interested in barbershop music to turn this around before it is too late.

I hope there are some of us who will work to preserve this form of art like the person who plants a tree, who tries to preserve something that they may never personally benefit from. If I could ask the chorus to do one thing this year it would be to think about, and work for, our goals beyond your personal benefit. Do it for people who have still not heard this music, do it for future generations, and do it because it is something that should be done.

Director –Paul Blazek

Songs for next week:
What A Country (off paper)
Early American Medley
American Revolution Medley

Repertoire review:
Star-Spangled Banner
God Bless America
Lulu's Back In Town

Program VP –Bill Slack

As the new program director I want to inform you of anticipated changes and ask for your cooperation and participation in making our chapter meetings more productive and more fun. The first change you will probably notice is more time devoted to sectionals, so that we can learn our notes and words more efficiently, and take some of the burden off Paul. We should all have learning c.d.'s or tapes to aide us in preparing for these sectionals. This will place a lot of responsibility on the section leaders and us as individuals.

Second, I hope that we can have more fun during the Chapter meetings. Examples of new and different things we can do is allowing one member per night to select a song from our repertoire that he just likes to sing. We are calling this activity "clyding" for obvious reasons. Another possible change is having a joke period where members of each section, age bracket, or some other division stand up and tell a joke which is then evaluated and judged by the chorus.

Third, more quarteting, whether volunteers, registered or impromptu.

Fourth, Barbershop Olympics (name that pitch, identify that song, name the quartet), with prizes being awarded.

Fifth. Woodshedding.

Sixth. Song writing competition.

Seventh, learning and performing novelty songs (parodies, funny songs, doo wap, etc.).

I will need the cooperation of all members to make this a fun year for all of us. I would like to have your suggestion about fun activities or activities which you do not find to be fun. You can tell me this by email or in person.

Keep the whole world singing.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform

Upcoming Special Events

February 14, 2009	Valentines Day	Chattanooga area
March 20-21	Spring Dixie District Convention	Winston-Salem, NC
May 9, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries**Birthdays in January**

1st Niles Fowler
22nd Steve Wixson
23rd Bill Slack

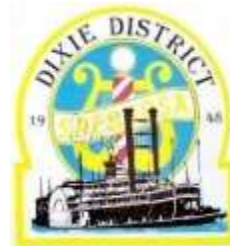
Anniversaries in January

19th Lucien & Ellen Claiborne
20th Karl & Barbara Dommert
24th Clarence & Sally Wall



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**

January 19, 2009



President –Lebron Brock

We found out recently that the Choo Choo Chorus is one of only 9 chapters of the 53 in the Dixie District to increase membership in 2008. That is something we should all be proud of. It is a compliment to the 2008 officers, our directors, and all the membership. On Jan. 10 we took another step toward making our chapter the best in the district. We had 8 officers and members attend the District Leadership Training Academy. The chorus should appreciate the fact that this many were willing to spend their time learning how we can improve our chapter. I really doubt any other chapter in district had this many attend. I do know that out of the 53 chapters only 11 presidents chose to attend.

We came back with a lot of information and ideas about how to make our chapter better. Central to this is trying to make our meetings more enjoyable for everyone. Improving organization and communication will be high on our list of priorities. We are especially interested in making the meetings attractive enough to lure back members who have lost interest and dropped out over the last few years. One of the keys to this will be a renewed effort to resolve problems in sections and thereby make our chorus practice time more productive. Over the next few weeks those who went to this academy and other interested members will be working to define our goals for the year and formulating a plan to implement them. We hope to involve more members in leadership and related activities than ever before. Get ready for a great year of barbershopping.

Program VP –Bill Slack

In order to get an idea of what activities and what programs you would like for the next years, your Program Vice President will be sending out an informal, one page survey which shouldn't take a minutes or two to complete and return. It will be very helpful in making the yearly plans.

Your Program Vice President is also seeking volunteers for performing short skits, comedy or parody songs by a quartet, and volunteer or part time directors for a given song, or short period of time. I will also notify you that I expect to hold competitions for barbershop Olympics; joke nights; and an ugly clothes (hat/sports coat/shoes). So get your ugly clothes, your best jokes, and bone up on your barbershop knowledge, as prizes will be awarded.

Finally, if the membership does not respond to the surveys, or volunteer to compete or participate in these short but "fun" activities, then they will not occur.

Director –Paul Blazek

Songs for next week:
What A Country (off paper)
Early American Medley
American Revolution Medley

Repertoire review:
Star-Spangled Banner
God Bless America
Lulu's Back In Town

Marketing & PR VP –Lamar Owens

Today I talked with the Talent Coordinator for RiverBend about quartet appearances and asked about getting the chorus on one of the stages. He said money was a problem this year and I told him the chorus would appear for free if he would put us on a good stage. His interest perked up when I said "free". The possibility exists for us to appear on the Unum/Provident stage, next to the Hunter Art Museum. This is a great stage for us, the noise of other performances will not interfere up there. We made arrangements to talk Feb. 6 to firm up possible a chorus appearance but don't get your hopes up too high, he has said he would get us on a stage before and it has never worked out. This time he did sound serious.

We are now signed up on the national Singing Valentines registry and we are signed up for Mother's Day singing. Quartets need to keep this in mind and prepare accordingly.

Our Singing Valentine program will be promoted in the following places:

Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau

Chattanooga Times Free Press

WRCB Channel Three Jed Mescon

WTVC Channel 9 (Don Welch owes us! A quartet to sing on air)

WDEF FM Luther in the Morning

WDYN FM Earl Fruedenberg

WDOD AM Community Calendar

WUTC FM Richard Winham (A quartet to sing on air)

US101 FM

If anyone has other connections with TV, radio or print outlets please let me know. I will make the point in talking with all these folks that we were the first to provide this service in this area. Rock City Four started doing it years ago.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
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Thu	Apr 16	6:30 pm	Alexian Village	Signal Mtn, TN	Tux
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Sat	July 11	8:00	Lionel Train Society	Choo Choo Hotel	Tux
Sat	Aug 15	9:30 am	Grove Level Baptist Chur	Dalton	

Upcoming Special Events

February 14, 2009	Valentines Day	Chattanooga area
March 20-21	Spring Dixie District Convention	Winston-Salem, NC
May 9, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC
July 5-9, 2009	Quartets appear at Riverbend	Chattanooga Riverfront
October 2-4, 2009	Fall Dixie District Convention	?
October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 12	Christmas Show	?

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

1st Niles Fowler
 22nd Steve Wixson
 23rd Bill Slack

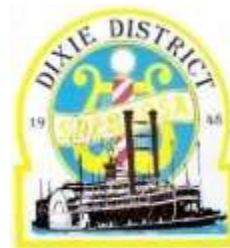
Anniversaries in January

19th Lucien & Ellen Claiborne
 20th Karl & Barbara Dommert
 24th Clarence & Sally Wall



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**

January 26, 200



President –Lebron Brock

Jim Larkin sent me info on a meeting between Paul and Chad last Tuesday evening. They want to plan more joint activities for our chapters. Here are 3 items of interest.

1. In order to be able to perform together whenever the occasion arises, both directors will select a group of songs (5 or 6) that will become (if not already) part of the repertoire for both choruses.

2. For the Spring contest in Winston Salem, both choruses are looking into the possibility of traveling by bus together over and back. To determine the feasibility of that adventure, we need to know how many of you are planning to attend the Spring contest, and would your wife or significant other travel with you? The date for the Spring Chorus contest is Saturday, March 21st. Please respond to me with your answer as soon as possible.

3. We've talked about performing the National Anthem at an Atlanta Braves game before, but this year it's really going to happen! Once again, both directors will decide which version of the National Anthem we will perform, but the plan is for both choruses to make the trek to Atlanta. I'm sure we'll do the Lookouts as well.

Our chapter, district and the Society all have web sites. The District webpage is improved and everyone should check it out. Also the Society webpage has a lot of interesting stuff worth visiting. An easy way to find it is to search on google or yahoo for "Dixie District Barbershop". There you will find links to our chapter website and the Society website.

Program VP –Bill Slack

Serious sectionals should start soon. These half hour sessions will not be for learning the music for which you have already been furnished a learning cd. These sessions will be devoted to learning brand new music; emphasizing fundamentals (dynamics, uniform vowels sounds, uniform timing for all parts of the song) with the goal being to have each part produce a uniform sound. In order to benefit, we each must attend and work together. From our recent rehearsals, it is obvious some of us are not listening to the learning tapes outside of Monday nights, and there is a certain "deer in the headlights" look about these show melodies.

On another topic, I have had no responses to my request for fun ideas or volunteers for program nights. Come on guys, if we are going to have some fun, we all must participate.

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Tux is Black Tux Coat, Black Tux Pants, White Suspenders (if needed), and Pleated White Tux Shirt (tab collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks, Black accessories (Bowtie & Cumberbund).

Red Outfit is Red Coat, Black Tux Pants, Black Tux Bowtie, Black Cumberbund, White Suspenders, and Conventional Pleated White Shirt (laydown collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black Socks.

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

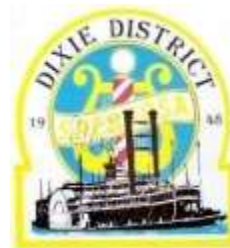
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Anniversaries in January

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



February 9, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

There is a great source of information and music available to us by visiting the Chapter, District and Society webpages. You will find interesting history, facts, and news about barbershop singing, also links to other sites of interest to singers. I have followed links to Youtube clips from all over the world. You can watch video clips of quartets and choruses, download free audio files of great barbershop music and print free sheetmusic. Art and I once found a song we wanted to sing. We printed the music, recruited two other guys and sang it for the chorus.

You can find out what is happening around the country that is of interest to barbershoppers and visit an online store for gifts that have a connection with barbershopping. Currently you can view a trailer about the new movie about the history of barbershop music called "American Harmony". In this you will hear chords ringing by quartets such as international champion, Max-Q.

Another source of info you may want to access is the District Newsletter. It is called Livewire. If you need help getting on their mailing list let me know and I will see that you get it. Also don't forget about Wally putting us on Facebook. Join and become a fan of our chorus. Don't know what it is? Ask Wally. Please take "note" of all that is available to you.

Member Involvement VP –Wally Edmondson

I'm sure everyone has heard the buzzwords "Web 2.0" and "social networking" in recent years. Web sites like Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn make up a good chunk of how today's youth (and a growing number of adults) interact with those around them. Facebook alone has over 100 million users. I use Facebook all the time to keep up with old classmates, my extended family, and to find out about social gatherings and invite friends to mine.

I created a page for the Choo Choo Chorus on Facebook as an experiment. Those of you already on Facebook can become a "fan" of the Choo Choo Chorus by entering "Choo Choo Chorus" in the search box in the upper right of the Facebook user interface. We are the first result. Invite your friends to become fans using the "Share+" button. We have 10 fans as I am writing this and I'm hoping to see that number exceed 100. Be sure to add me as a friend when you sign on. I know that Art, Gary, Wixson, Pete Snyder, and Charlie Brown are already on there, too. If you don't have a Facebook account and think you might give it a try, it is free to sign up at Facebook.com and you can set pretty tight security settings so that only your friends can see your page and stuff like that. It's really very flexible.

Program VP –Bill Slack

I was glad to learn the new contest number for spring contest in five weeks from now in Winston Salem. It is an up tune and has lots of good barbershop sounds to it.

We will start sectional rehearsals next Monday, February 9th. If you want to sit down during this part of rehearsal, be sure to bring your chair if you are not a lead.

Lastly I am still soliciting donations of potential prizes and gifts for rehearsal night participation. These can be re-gifting of presents, gift cards, or free meals at neighborhood restaurants.

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Sat	Aug 15	9:30 am	Grove Level Baptist Chur	Dalton	TBA

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Upcoming Special Events

February 13-14, 2009	Valentines Day Fund Raiser	Chattanooga area
March 20-21	Spring Dixie District Convention	Winston-Salem, NC
May 9, 2009	Annual Show	CSTCC
June 28-July 5, 2009	Internationals	Anaheim, CA
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October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 12	Christmas Show	?

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

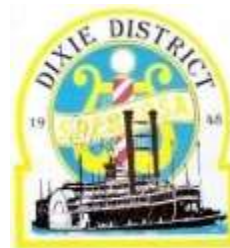
1st Niles Fowler
22nd Steve Wixson
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Anniversaries in January

19th Lucien & Ellen Claiborne
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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



February 16, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

If you are going to contest in Winston-Salem I have some info you may be interested in. I have the names and locations of some restaurants near the convention center. I also have info about other hotels that are probably cheaper. Some of these are too far away to walk but if you are driving anyway the parking is probably free.

David Flury and Clyde have volunteered to join Frank in organizing our effort to sell program ads. Anyone else interested should contact Dave Flury. All those who plan to lead discussions at the upcoming annual chapter planning meeting should send me at least an outline so an agenda can be formulated.

Member Involvement VP –Wally Edmondson

Don't forget the membership-wide planning meeting on Feb. 19th at All Saints, 7pm. It would be good to hear what everyone thinks of where the chorus is heading and what specific goals we might set to ensure that our chapter will thrive for years to come. Also, the Facebook experiment has been a great success so far. Our chorus already has 16 fans and I have heard from a couple of new Facebook users how much fun they are having. I'm sure some of you have good pictures of some of our events. Let's get those on there and drive more traffic to the page. We can also post videos if anyone has any they would like to share.

Music & Performance VP –Art Southerlin

Key Concepts in Choral Singing: As we all know, our chorus can also be called an ensemble. Singing in an ensemble is all about doing a few basics not only correctly but CONSISTENTLY. A high degree of consistency equals a higher score at contest, a better sound at sing outs and, more importantly, a more satisfying experience for all of us both individually and as a chorus. For the next several weeks I will be passing on some tips I have found on how each of us can contribute to improving our ensemble sound. I got this information from some highly respected Barbershop sources but there is nothing here that Paul has not already tried to teach us. Tip #1:

BLEND:

- Make a sound that blends in with the guys around you.
- Add to the sound around you.
- Don't sing PAST the sound around you.
- ALWAYS sing in tune; tune to the high side of where you need to be.

Next week – ENERGY!!!!!!

Director –Paul Blazek

Review:

Early American Medley
American Revolution Medley
Minstrel Montage
How's Every Little Thing in Dixie

Perform:

Georgia On My Mind
Caroline
What A Country
Hello Mary Lou

We will be stamping and numbering music on Monday. Please bring any sheet music for the above songs.

Program VP –Bill Slack

Thank you to everyone who completed the written survey of what the chapter wants. The results will be calculated and reported back to the membership.

A reminder that joke night will be Monday, February 16th. There will be judges and prizes awarded. Please be sure that all jokes are clean, politically correct, and not offensive to any dumb pollocks.

Be sure to bring music for *How's Every Little Thing in Dixie* so you can participate in your sectional every week until contest.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

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Upcoming Special Events

February 13-14, 2009	Valentines Day Fund Raiser	Chattanooga area
February 19, 2009	Membership Planning Meeting	All Saints Building (7:00pm)
March 20-21	Spring Dixie District Convention	Winston-Salem, NC
May 9, 2009	Salute to America Show	CSTCC
June 28-July 5, 2009	Internationals	Anaheim, CA
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in February

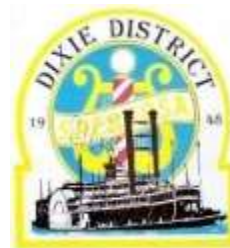
10th Shannon Edmondson
 13th Steve Erwin
 18th Clyde Rogers
 18th Joyce Delaney
 28th Wally Edmondson

Anniversaries in February

10th Tom & Barbara Keegan



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



February 23, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

With contest rapidly approaching we need to learn the new song in a hurry. For lack of a better idea I suggest finding a buddy or small group to practice with sometime before next monday. If you need help with your part let me know and I will try to find someone to help you. If you need a map to help you get to the convention site or want to know what restaurants are nearby let me know.

Member Involvement VP –Wally Edmondson

We decided after last Monday's rehearsal to postpone the planning meeting until a date TBA. I will put up signs in case anyone shows up Thursday evening.

Music & Performance VP –Art Southerlin

Key Concepts in Choral Singing: Remember that last week we learned that singing in an ensemble is all about doing a few basics, not only correctly, but also CONSISTENTLY. A high degree of consistency equals a higher score at contest, a better sound at sing outs and, more importantly, a more satisfying experience for all of us both individually and as a chorus. This week we continue with **Tip# 2:**

ENERGY

- ALWAYS sing with vocal and visual energy
- Weight on your toes
- Face activated
- Use your WHOLE BODY to sing
- Keep energy in every sound

Next week - **PRODUCTION**

Director –Paul Blazek

Review:

Early American Medley
American Revolution Medley
Minstrel Montage
How's Every Little Thing in Dixie

Perform:

Georgia On My Mind
What A Country
Lulu's Back In Town
God Bless America

We will again be stamping and numbering music on Monday. Please bring any sheet music for the above songs.

Program VP –Bill Slack

Wasn't joke night fun! Or at least interesting. I don't think I'd ever heard so many long, draw out stories in my life. If we wish to share future jokes with the chapter, we should remember that brevity is a blessing. But I do appreciate everyone's participation.

Several people have reported that sectional rehearsals are going well, and it has sped up the learning process for How's Every Little Thing in Dixie. We've only got four more Mondays before we have to perform the song on stage in Winston Salem. So listen to your learning CDs, get out the music, and review your notes, and learn the words. We still have to add the choreography and special effects.

I also think sectionals are helping each of us to learn that it is not necessary to over sing in order to be heard. By working back stage at Dixie contests and International, I have observed that the choruses that score higher sing softer. Each man

attempts to focus his sound directly on to the director, and by not getting overly excited, increase the probability that they will sing the notes and words correctly and with good sound. Sometimes all of us over sing and make our sound "splat" for all to hear, and it is not really that pretty. When Paul calls for us to sing with a nine or a ten, that does not mean to sing as loud as you possibly can, but to sing with good quality with increased volume. But singing softer means any mistakes individual members make in entrances, cut offs, or notes, will stand off even more. So please get off the paper as soon as possible with How's Every Thing in Dixie and lets have a good score in Winston Salem.

From –Gary Fisher

To the ChooChoo Chorus:

With sincere appreciation, I thank you for your benevolence and gratefully acknowledge your gift of \$2,045.36 for Proceeds from Christmas Program on 12/31/2008.

Your generosity will help ensure that the programs of the Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center may continue to move forward and enhance the lives of many. We genuinely value your support of our efforts.

On behalf of the faculty and patients of the Boehm Center, please accept our heartfelt appreciation.

Sincerely, Sharree Stoker, Executive Director, Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center

P.S.: I thoroughly enjoyed your lovely harmony & joyful singing once again! I feel so blessed knowing you all.

Lindy Blazek's photo of East Ridge Care Center Singout



Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

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Upcoming Special Events

February 19, 2009	Membership Planning Meeting	Cancelled -XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
March 20-21	Spring Dixie District Convention	Winston-Salem, NC
May 9, 2009	Salute to America Show	CSTCC
June 28-July 5, 2009	Internationals	Anaheim, CA
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in Febuary

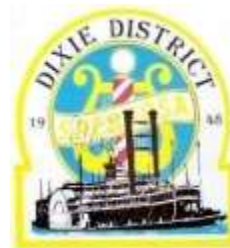
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Anniversaries in Febuary

10th Tom & Barbara Keegan



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



March 2, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

The spring show patriotic theme will give us an opportunity to get people to come who might not otherwise. Be thinking of people who might attend if we pitch the patriotic angle.

Here are some ideas: Former and current members of the military (encourage to wear uniform). Police and fire departments. If some of these come as a group we could recognize them during the show. Politicians, fellow church members, and people who you know to be patriotic. You can probably think of others. If groups such as this want to buy blocks of tickets we could probably give some discount. Maybe even seat them together. Keep the wheels rolling and the music humming as we prepare for the spring show.

Music & Performance VP –Art Southerlin

Key Concepts in Choral Singing: We are continuing our 5-part series with some tips on PRODUCTION. We need to employ these techniques correctly AND consistently. Remember that a high degree of consistency equals a higher score at contest, a better sound at sing outs and a more satisfying experience for all of us. Here is **Tip# 3:**

PRODUCTION:

- Every sound should be TALL and FORWARD (Sound familiar?). ALWAYS do both of these. Other ways to express this: 1) every sound has width and brilliance; 2) every sound has depth and ping.
- If a sound is “too dark”, it’s because it doesn’t have enough ping, brilliance, forward feel.
- If a sound is “too bright”, it’s because it doesn’t have enough height, chest tone, tallness, warmth.
- NEVER take away resonance, always add. (Where have I heard that before?)
- The smoothness, fullness and drive in the sound happens from the back of your mouth all the way down to your toes
- The diction and clarity in the sound happens from your tongue and lips – diction DOESN’T happen anywhere behind this. SO...keep your jaw dropped ALWAYS; make the diction happen with your tongue and by keeping the sounds on your lips.

MLT MEETING: Our monthly Music Leadership Team meeting will be held this coming Monday night, March 2, as usual, at 5 PM at Wally’s Restaurant on McCallie Avenue. MLT members should plan to attend. All chorus members are welcome to attend as well.

Director –Paul Blazek

Review:

Early American Medley
American Revolution Medley
How's Every Little Thing In Dixie

Perform:

Georgia On My Mind
What A Country

Sectional: HELTID

Tenors find all roots/fifths
Leads concentrate on middle section
melody accuracy
Baris concentrate on intro –
descending sevenths
Basses concentrate on re-do interval
(first two notes of song, and other places) and
always keeping do where it belongs

Marketing and Public Relations VP –Lamar Owens

Paul Blazek and a quartet will be singing the National Anthem on March 8, 12:00 noon to start the finals of the Southern Conference ladies tournament. Scenic City Sound will perform a couple of songs at half time of the ladies finals, around 3:45. Hopefully the Lady Mocs will be in the finals. There will probably be a good crowd and plenty of exposure for

Barbershop music. I will begin to work on advertising for the May show in late March and I know that we will be on at least one radio station, hopefully TV and other radio stations. Any help or suggestions will be appreciated.

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in February

12th Sondra Rack
 17th Pat Crowe
 18th Johnny Jackson
 23th Ronnie Satterfield
 24th Glenda Erwin
 25th Beau Christain

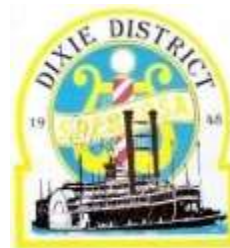
25th David Fleury
 29th Cynthia Johnson

Anniversaries in February

7th Dave and Sondra Rack



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
March 9, 2009



Music & Performance VP –Art Southerlin

Key Concepts in Choral Singing: Tip number 4 in our 5-part series is concerned with vowels. Paul stresses these vowel sounds at nearly every rehearsal. If you don't have a copy of the vowel chart then let me know. I will make copies for you. As I have stated in each of these articles, we need to employ these techniques correctly AND consistently. That high degree of consistency yields a higher score at contest, a better sound at sing outs and a more satisfying experience for all of us. Please read Tip# 4:

VOWELS:

- There are 12 and ONLY 12 vowel sounds.
- They all involve a vertical mouth shape, trumpeted lips.
- Most involve tucking the sides of your mouth in.
- DON'T let any sound get spread horizontally.
- Breathe through the vowel you are about to sing.
- The target vowel ALWAYS happens at the note value. Anything before the target vowel happens BEFORE this note, and the stuff after the target happens at the end of the note.

Director –Paul Blazek

Review:

Both contest songs

Sectionals(25 min):

Each part determines and concentrates on problem areas in both songs

Perform:

What A Country
Lulu's Back In Town (I promise!)
Both contest songs

Marketing and Public Relations VP –Lamar Owens

Previously I said that a quartet Paul put together would be singing the National Anthem at the beginning of the Southern Conference tournament at noon Sunday, March 8. Instead, Classic Harmony would be singing at that time. Scenic City Sound will be singing at half time of the ladies' finals about 3:45 on Monday, March 9.

We have a couple of singing requests that we will be discussing at our Monday meeting.

Program VP –Bill Slack

I and the rest of the chorus appreciate the follicly challenged people I designated to be in a quartet on March 2nd stepping forward and doing a superb job. It is important to have an interesting and varied meeting that everyone participate when called upon.

With that in mind, I will be seeking "volunteers" to demonstrate some of the old polecats with which we should be familiar, but often are not. They are fun to sing, easy to learn, and musically permitted. So get out your just plain barbershop and look at the following: You Tell Me Your Dream; After Dark; Bill Grogan's Goat; Down Mobile; Sidewalks of New York; and Meet Me Tonight In Dreamland.

If you learn these polecats, or other numbers as a quartet you will be eligible to win prizes on the quartet contest night set for June 15th. This is a fun night without any rehearsing of any contest or show tunes, and all four quartet members can win some serious prizes for participating. Judging will not be based on the same standards as the real BHS judge's use, but on such criteria as Most Entertaining, Funniest, and Bribery to the Judges. Of course, we expect our registered quartets to show up and show off what they can do, but they will not be eligible for the competition.

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Upcoming Special Events

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May 9, 2009	Salute to America Show	CSTCC
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June 5-9, 2009	Quartets appear at Riverbend	Chattanooga Riverfront
October 2-4, 2009	Fall Dixie District Convention	?
October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 12	Christmas Show	?

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in Febuary

12th Sondra Rack
 17th Pat Crowe
 18th Johnny Jackson
 23rd Ronnie Satterfield
 23rd Lonnie Satterfield
 24th Glenda Erwin

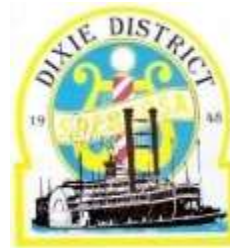
25th Beau Christain
 25th David Fleury
 29th Cynthia Johnson

Anniversaries in Febuary

7th Dave and Sondra Rack



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



March 16, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

When our new contest song was introduced only a few weeks (5?) before the contest date, some of us, (at least me) thought it was lunacy to think we could learn it in time. That opinion changed on March 2 however, when we had a break out practice session and found we could sing the song with authority and enthusiasm and consistently hold pitch. With a little more polish we may be able to wow the folks at Winston-Salem.

Like sing-outs? Of course we do. How about with 100+ singers? It could happen. Chad Guyton is talking to Clay Hines about combining the AVP, Stone Mtn., Cleveland and Chattanooga chapters to sing the national anthem for an Atlanta Braves baseball game. Stay tuned for developments.

Music & Performance VP –Art Southerlin

Key Concepts in Choral Singing: This last tip in our 5-part series is concerned with the concept of Musicality. The other concepts we've reviewed are about the basics. Musicality is about style and feeling. It is the "icing on the cake." Like the difference between a framing carpenter and a finish carpenter, Musicality reveals the "art" in our performance. In striving to be musical artists, we need to employ these and all of the other techniques we've learned about correctly AND consistently. By employing these concepts with a high degree of consistency, we should earn a higher score at contest and achieve a better and more satisfying sound at sing outs and rehearsals. Once again, there's nothing here that Paul has not stressed over and over at rehearsals. **Tip# 5:**

MUSICALITY:

- Make this happen on your own.
- Everything should have artistry to it.
- Every line and held note has direction.
- Important words should sound important; unimportant words (usually "the", "of", "an") should be de-stressed.
- Lines that flow should flow and not have sounds that jump out. Everything should flow "in-line" as opposed to side-to-side.

Director –Paul Blazek

We will work on the contest set with a Singing judge to coach us.

Program VP –Bill Slack

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the young ladies who prepared the birthday cake and brought the ice cream and cokes for the March 9th meeting (see the photograph by Sherry Fowler below). And we should be very proud of three of our regular members who all attained the age of 80 this month. God willing, we will all reach that exalted age at some point.

Next week the entire rehearsal will be devoted to contest preparations. There will be no quarteting (except see my last paragraph) and few, if any, announcements. After the contest, we begin the big push for preparations for our May show. The show will need quartet participation, and our registered quartets can't and shouldn't do every song, as it becomes boring to the audience to see and hear the same guys. So be talking with other members and let's put together several show quartets.

The quartet contest set for June 15th is approaching. Each quartet member who participates will receive a memento, and the winning quartet members will each receive prizes from Harmony Marketplace. These prizes for quarteting have been funded by our registered quartets to show their appreciation for the society and the support of chapter membership.

The results of the survey which were completed among the rehearsal attendees in January were as follows: Approximately 75% of the members felt that we needed more sectional rehearsals. 25% thought we needed no sectionals or did not answer that question. Over 50% of the members who responded stated that they would come early to practice in a sectional; come early to practice choreography; come early for a voice lesson; or come early to learn pole cat numbers. Almost unanimously the responders felt that the chapter had improved over the last twelve months. Other

comments on the survey, in no particular order, were that we need more quarteting; less warmup time; and more exposure and sing outs.

A college quartet from Cleveland will be at our meeting on Monday to do a 2 song set they will be performing at Winston/Salem. They need alot of applause, so go crazy over them as they haven't ever done this before. They think we're old and good and want our input.

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October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 12?	Christmas Show	?

Fellowship

Wally Edmondson substituted for Barry Owens when Classic Harmony sang the National Anthem to open a session of the Southern Conference Basketball Tournament at the Roundhouse last week. They also sang two songs during halftime.



80th Birthday party celebration during last Monday's meeting for Pat, Niles and Brooks. 85 year old Frank joined in. The party was hosted by the Choo Choo Belles and Margeret Crowe baked the fancy and great tasting cake.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in March

12th Sondra Rack
12th Brooks Gist
17th Pat Crowe
18th Johnny Jackson
23rd Ronnie Satterfield
23rd Lonnie Satterfield
24th Glenda Erwin

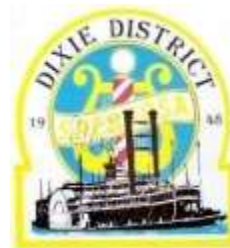
25th Beau Christain
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29th Cynthia Johnson

Anniversaries in March

7th Dave and Sondra Rack



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



March 16, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

Ken Hansen is trying to organize a "super-show" in Knoxville and maybe some other cities in which four choruses would be combined. Chattanooga and Cleveland would be two of the four. It is only an idea at present but the possibility is intriguing. He will be talking to us over the weekend in WS. The only thing better than singing in a Barbershop Chorus is singing in a bigger Barbershop Chorus.

At the last board meeting it was pointed out that we sometimes waste valuable singing time during our practice sessions by cracking jokes and throwing out random comments that serve no useful purpose. While a little of this might be enjoyable to some, too much of it can hamper our progress in our quest to improve our singing. I would hate to see all of our "chuckles" removed from our meetings but those of us who like to inject "funnies" need to exercise some self control and be considerate of the members of our group who see it as a distraction. I admit that I have been one of the guilty at times but I will try to exercise restraint in the future. I hope my fellow "comedians" will also.

Director –Paul Blazek

We enter the chorus competition matrix (see copy below) at 12:25 pm – Hearn Foyer, 2nd floor Marriott, near ballrooms, elevators. Uniform is Tux with purple accessories and tab collar tux shirt. It's hard to prognosticate how we will do in Winston-Salem, but I'm proud of all the work we've done to get there. I'll have more comments after the contest.

In the meantime, we need to gear up for the show in May - get out your learning tracks because we're going to push hard on the medleys (Early American, American Revolution, Civil War, and Minstrel Montage). What A Country was in good shape the last time we worked on it - please review so we can pick up where we left off. More to come - stay tuned!

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

There are currently two other performance request in the works, courtesy of Bill Slack and Lucien Claiborne; Georgia Bee Keepers Assn., Rock Springs on Sept 25 and Praters Mill Country Fair, Dalton, on Oct. 10 & Oct. 11. Prater's Mill is probably for quartets but I am checking the possibility of using the Chorus. Other performance requests are also being looked into. You want more performances and you are going to get them!

Chad Guyton, director of Cleveland chorus announced that he has been talking with Clay Hines (director of Atlanta Vocal Project) about doing the National Anthem at an Atlanta Braves ballgame. This would be a combined chorus consisting of AVP, Stone Mountain, Cleveland, Chattanooga, and perhaps others in the Atlanta area. It shouldn't be hard to get 100 guys to show up for this event. Final plans and times are still to be finalized. More information on this possibility will follow.

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	DIXIE DISTRICT					
	SPRING 2009					
	CHORUS MATRIX				as of 3/9	
		MEET	WARM	READY	ON	PHOTO
OOA	CHORUS	HOST	UP	AREA	STAGE	ROOM
MT	Rocky Mt	9:15	9:20	10:20	10:30	10:40
1	NE Tenn	9:25	9:30	10:30	10:40	10:50
2	Asheville	9:35	9:40	10:40	10:50	11:00
3	Spartanburg	9:45	9:50	10:50	11:00	11:10
4	Cleveland	9:55	10:00	11:00	11:10	11:20
5	Charlotte	10:05	10:10	11:10	11:20	11:30
6	Marietta	10:15	10:20	11:20	11:30	11:40
7	Tuscaloosa	10:25	10:30	11:30	11:40	11:50
8	Greensboro	10:35	10:40	11:40	11:50	12:00
9	Augusta	10:45	10:50	11:50	12:00	12:10
10	Macon	10:55	11:00	12:00	12:10	12:20
		INTERMISSION - 30 MINUTES				
11	New Bern	11:35	11:40	12:40	12:50	1:00
12	Wilmington	11:45	11:50	12:50	1:00	1:10
13	Hickory	11:55	12:00	1:00	1:10	1:20
14	Lexington Cty	12:05	12:10	1:10	1:20	1:30
15	RTP	12:15	12:20	1:20	1:30	1:40
16	Chattanooga	12:25	12:30	1:30	1:40	1:50
17	Stone Mountain	12:35	12:40	1:40	1:50	2:00
18	Grtr Knoxville	12:45	12:50	1:50	2:00	2:10
19	Nashville	12:55	1:00	2:00	2:10	2:20
20	Winston-Salem	1:05	1:10	2:10	2:20	2:30
21	NCHB	1:15	1:20	2:20	2:30	2:40
	MEET HOST					
	Hearn Foyer, 2nd floor Marriott, near ballrooms, elevators					

Fellowship

Scenic City Sound also sang at half time of the Ladies' Southern Conference finals to a rousing reception. They thought they would get to watch the Lady Mocs play but sadly they lost. They did get to see the triple overtime match between College of Charleston and Western Carolina.

Dave Fleury found an article on the newly formed SPEBSQSA in a 1939 issue of the Readers Digest. It was emailed to all members.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in March

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12th Brooks Gist
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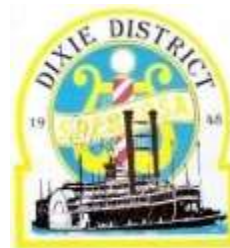
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Anniversaries in March

7th Dave and Sondra Rack



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



March 30, 2009

President -Lebron Brock

Those who missed the contest missed a great time. Stellar performances by State Line Grocery and Let's Sing, Lunch Break putting on a fantastic show in a hospitality room for 20-25 people, singing tags and woodshedding with some of the big "names" in barbershop - these are just some of the great memories I brought back from this contest. After the closing of contest with everyone singing "Keep the Whole World Singing", my wife Margie said "This must be what singing in Heaven will sound like". I also cruised the Cherohalla Skyway for some tremendous scenery, visited "Old Salem", a settlement founded before the Revolutionary War, and discovered that some of my ancestors could have been a part of that settlement. Talk about a three day vacation jam packed with fun! Wow!!

Now it's time to get ready for the spring show. The patriotic theme is exciting. We need to encourage those who have not been attending in recent weeks to join us in preparing for this show. Let's try to have 100% attendance this week.

Business Manager -Lamar Owens

At the last meeting, I announced the following requests, but there were not enough members in attendance to decide on these requests:

April 23 Thursday Hickory Valley Retirement Home
Dec. 15 Tuesday Hickory Valley Retirement Home
Dec. 17 Thursday Creekside at Shallowford
Dec. 22 Tuesday Alexian Village

Since then the following:

June 2 Tuesday Lookouts game National Anthem..

Please keep these requests in mind and come prepared to support these activities. I also have been in touch with the Chattanooga Choo Choo complex about a sponsorship for the chorus. An alliance with them where they pay us a yearly stipend and we do a couple of performances for them during the years of the agreement and place a link on our website for them. This is just the first contact so no arrangement has been made but we are trying.

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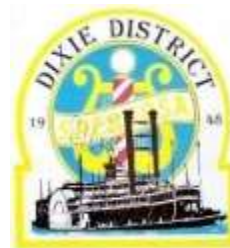
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December 12?	Christmas Show	?



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 6, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

Ken Hansen continues to explore the possibility of a group of shows in various cities as a group effort by 4- 5 chapters. We have noticed that the Knoxville chapter has 6 - 8 songs in their repertoire that are also in ours. If the other choruses know these also it would give us a big head start on developing a program. Lots of more details to iron out of course. More info as it becomes available. If any one is not getting the Society Newsletter "Livewire" and would like to, please let me know and I will try to hook you up.

The district newsletter is apparently still in the development stage. The district is sending out e-mails they are calling the Dixie District Newsletter but when you open it you find that it is the Central States Newsletter. When I questioned our district about this I was told they are doing this because Dixie does not yet have a newsletter. I hope they get their act together soon.

Music & Performance VP –Art Southerlin

Our score at contest was not where we wanted it to be. We were shooting for a 65 but came in at just over 60. The judges noted that we need to work on breath support, singing in-tune, singing as a unit (singing within the sound) and presentation (mainly facial). There were other comments but these were the main ones – and we're familiar with all of them because we talk about them all of the time. Review the 5 tips we published in this newsletter over the last couple of months. It was all covered there. That's the bad news. The good news is that it is ALL FIXABLE. We just need to get serious as a chorus and WORK ON IT!

Barbershop is "precision singing", and it's "neckid" singing too! There's no musical accompaniment to cover up our mistakes and we aren't a large enough group for our individual mistakes to get lost in the "Big Sound." Therefore we've got to become precision singers. The only way to do that is for each of us to get serious about our contribution to the sound and to each other. We OWE IT to each other to come to rehearsal each week PREPARED! What does prepared mean? It means that we have devoted an appropriate amount of time outside of our weekly meetings to practice our music, to practice breathing and breath-support, to practice our vowel sounds, to practice our "facial gestures" in the mirror at home and on and on..... You know better than I do what is required. Most everyone in the chorus has been at this far longer than I have and, yes, I am as guilty as anyone!

Are we doing this just to get a better score and make Paul look good? The answer is a resounding NO!! We are doing this so that we can give our audiences (our families and friends!!) the absolute best performances that we are capable of delivering! We owe that to them and to each other! We should be doing our best because it FEELS GOOD to sing well and it FEELS GOOD to be proud of the way we sing as a chorus – and right now we do not sing as well as we are capable of singing. This is a FUN hobby and we are a FUN group of guys! We had a great spark of enthusiasm going into contest! Let's not let this get us down! Let's rededicate ourselves to each other and to our hobby and reap the benefits of the hard work ahead!

Director –Paul Blazek

Review:

Civil War Medley
Minstrel Montage
American Revolution Medley

Perform:

What A Country
Early American Medley

Thanks for your hard work as we prepare for the show. It's shaping up to be very exciting.

Program VP –Bill Slack

If all of us will look at our President's page in the new Harmonizer, Bill Biffle proselytizes that without fun chapter meetings, our membership will not grow. He points out several ways to make the meetings more fun, so that attendance will rise, and we will become a bigger and better chorus.

With that in mind, between now and the show I intend to vary the order in which we do certain parts of the chorus meeting. The announcements may come at the beginning, at the end, or in the middle. I intend to schedule more "gang sings", such as reviewing current repertoire, going over old songs, or just doing pole cats for a twenty minute segment. This not only is fun but keeps good music in our active memory. Another activity will be former and the performance of quartets for the show. We need several new quartets to be formed to sing parts in the melodies or other places on the show. If you are unsure about knowing the part or just participating in a quartet, the members of Rock City Four have volunteered to sing with any quartet until you become comfortable. That is, we will be an octet and then Rock City will step out of the way. I believe these activities will be fun, make for a better show, boost our attendance, and make us a better sounding chorus. Lastly, I intend to set aside times for learning the new music yet to be introduced for the show, and our new fall competition music. New music is always fun and is a challenge.

I'm convinced that those choruses who have much quarteting activity are a better chorus. For instance, the top five chorus in the district are probably Atlanta, Stone Mountain, Nashville, and two North Carolina choruses. The only top ten quartets at Winston Salem not from these chapters were from Memphis. Thus, there is a strong correlation between good quarteting and good choruses.

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

3rd Ed Thornton
31st Steve Irvine

Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
18th John & Cynthia Johnston



Twentyfive members were on stage in Winston-Salem. Photograph by Steve Grubb



Coach Paul gives the pre-performance pep talk. Photograph by Steve Wixson

Fellowship

Please be in prayer for the Reverend Linda Bird Wright, Unicoi UMC, Johnson City District, in the death of her husband, Walter Wright, who was killed in a one-vehicle accident late Wednesday night in Rhea County, Tennessee. Jim Larkin

Walt was a good friend of mine and a former member of both the Chattanooga and the Cleveland choruses. He sang a very good bass and had a great positive attitude, and he was one of my "man of note awards". I am sure some of the

current members will remember him. He was known as the "brow man" as he nurtured and kept his eye brows very long! Dave Abercrombie. Walt was also a former airline pilot and a lot of fun to have around. Paul Blazek

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in March

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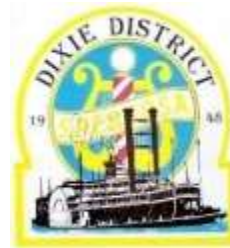
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Anniversaries in March

7th Dave and Sondra Rack



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 13, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

A few weeks ago I was contacted by Todd Wilson, marketing director for the BHS. He is also a member of the international gold medal quartet "Acoustix" He said he wanted to meet with some of our leaders and some from the Cleveland chapter over lunch. I didn't really know what to expect. I thought the meeting would be of little interest to anyone but Lamar, our marketing VP.

As it turned out I wish all our membership could have been there. He was very interesting and not only gave us a lot of valuable information but also asked questions that were thought provoking. We may schedule a follow up meeting when we can have everyone there. He left us with some materials that will be helpful to us in several ways. These resources touch on chapter management from top to bottom. They will help us with some of the specific problems we have already been working on. I can't wait to see what this will do for our chapter.

Todd had done his homework and knew a lot about our chapter. I left the meeting feeling that our chorus had a lot to be proud of and thankful for as well as ideas about how we can make it better. Reflecting on the positive comments I heard, I realize this is not the first time I have been surprised by unexpected praise for our chapter. It seems that many people outside our chorus think more highly of us than we do. We have our shortcomings and we should talk about our problems and try to improve but we should be careful not to focus so much on the negatives that we lose sight of the many good things about our chorus. As we work through our problems and struggle through difficulties let's pause every once in a while and give ourselves a cheer. Let's look around and be thankful for what we have and what we have accomplished. Let's be proud to be the Choo Choo Chorus.

Music & Performance VP –Art Southerlin

Scoring Categories – Quite a few chorus members (including yours truly) seem to be confused about how we are judged at contest. I'm going to attempt to explain in the next few issues of our newsletter (including this one) how the 3 scoring categories work. I took this information straight out of the BHS Contest Rules & Regulations. You can find that publication for free on the BHS website. Here goes #1 - MUSIC:

Each scoring judge awards a score from 1 to 100 for each song. All contestants will be judged in the three scoring categories of **Music**, Presentation and Singing.

- I. **The Music judge** evaluates the song and the arrangement, as performed. A) He adjudicates the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura (the part of the register in which most of the tones of a melody or voice part lie), tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments. B) He judges how well the musical elements of the performance establish a theme and the degree to which the performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to that theme. C) He adjudicates the degree to which the musical elements of the song and arrangement display the hallmarks of the barbershop style.

In other words the Music judge evaluates how pleasing and entertaining the music and arrangement were as the contestant performed it – NOT as it was written. He judges the PERFORMANCE.

Member Involvement VP –Wally Edmondson

I will hand out Salute To America tickets this Monday. Please bring your money and unsold tickets back by May 4. That's only three weeks to sell tickets so there is no time to waste. If you can't sell someone a ticket to the show, mention that we will be singing at the Lookouts game on June 2.

We should constantly try to associate ourselves with other respected Chattanooga organizations and hope that they take pride in having us as part of the community, as well.

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

There is nothing a Business Manager hates than to commit the chorus to perform based on the number that raise their hands and then have some of these not show for the performance. When asked if you can support the activity always make sure of your ability to comply with what you are "promising" to do. The more performances we line up the greater will be the tendency to not show up. Don't do that!

Add Special Olympics, April 25, National Cemetery May 25 and Praters' Mill October 10 to your calendar.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	Apr 16	6:30 pm	Alexian Village	Signal Mtn, TN	Tux
Thu	Apr 23	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement Home	Chattanooga, TN	TBA
Sat	Apr 25	9:45 am	Special Olympics Track & Field	McCallie School	White chorus knit shirt
Sat	Apr 25	6:45 pm	Bluebird Hollow Farm	Lafayette, GA	TBA
Thu	May 14	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	Tux
Mon	May 25	11:30 am	Memorial Day Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
Tue	June 2	6:45 pm	Chattanooga Lookouts	AT&T Stadium	TBA
Sat	May 16	10:00 am	Veterans of All Wars Museum	Rossville, GA	Patriotic
Sat	July 11	7:45 am	Lionel Train Society	Choo Choo Hotel	Tux
Sat	Aug 15	9:30 am	Grove Level Baptist Chur	Dalton, GA	TBA
Sat	Oct 10	2pm maybe	Praters' Mill Festival	Hwy 2, GA	TBA
Tue	Dec 15	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement Home	Chattanooga, TN	TBA
Thu	Dec 17	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	Tux
Tue	Dec 22	7:00 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Tux is Black Tux Coat, Black Tux Pants, White Suspenders (if needed), and Pleated White Tux Shirt (tab collar), Black Patent Leather shoes, Black socks, Black accessories (Bowtie & Cummerbund).

Upcoming Special Events

May 9, 2009	Salute to America Show	CSTCC
June 28-July 5, 2009	International Convention	Anaheim, CA
August 22, 2009	Cleveland Chorus Annual Show	Conn Center, Cleveland, TN
October 2-4, 2009	Fall Dixie District Convention	?
October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 12?	Christmas Show	?

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

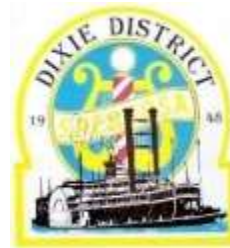
3rd Ed Thornton
31st Steve Irvine

Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 20, 2009

Music & Performance VP –Art Southerlin

Scoring Categories – In the last issue of the newsletter we discussed how the Music category is judged. This time we're tackling Presentation. This is where we find out that Barbershop is not just singing – it's ENTERTAINMENT – and at contest we are scored on how well we entertained – not just on how well we sang the words and notes. Let's hear it for #2 – **Presentation!**

*Each scoring judge awards a score from 1 to 100 for each song. All contestants will be judged in the three scoring categories of Music, **Presentation** and Singing.*

*II. The **Presentation judge** evaluates how effectively a performer brings the song to life; that is, the believability of the theme in its musical and visual setting. He responds to both the vocal and visual aspects of the presentation, but he principally evaluates the interaction of those aspects as they work together to create the image of the song. He adjudicates the quality and appropriateness of the overall effect. The Presentation judge evaluates everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact upon the audience.*

This sounds like a job for that "Sensitive Man" we keep hearing about from the women in our lives. Wow! We can't get away with just words and notes! Now we have to get in touch with our feelings and paint a picture for our audience that shows those feelings in a genuine and believable fashion! Are you the stoic, "Marlboro Man" or the Indian Chief with the tear in his eye? (Remember that one?) Hey, didn't somebody call this an "art form" last Monday night??

Director –Paul Blazek

Please make every effort to attend all remaining rehearsals before the show - we've made a lot of progress, and I'm really impressed with how we seem to remain on pitch all evening, but we still have a way to go before we're ready for the show, not to mention the other performances we have coming up. Thanks for your commitment to the Chorus!

Member Involvement VP –Wally Edmondson

We only have two weeks left to sell tickets. Most of you have picked up five or ten tickets and I appreciate it. It's far easier to sell tickets if you have them with you at all times. I still have quite a stack left so let me know if you need more. Let's sell it out like we did at Christmas! We need to average more than 10 audience members per member to do that. It's quite a challenge so don't let anyone slip by without a request. Remember to turn in your unsold tickets and money at the May 4 rehearsal. Thanks.

Program VP –Bill Slack

We are two months away from the occasional quartet contest, which is set for June 15th at All Saints. At present, the rules are as follows:

1. Registered quartets are not eligible to compete or prizes.
2. Non-Members (ringers) may participate in a quartet.
3. There will be three judges who will not be barbershoppers, and their criteria for evaluating quartets is unknown.
4. Judges may be and may even expect to be bribed, flattered or lied to.
5. Members of registered quartets can participate, but with no more than one other member of a registered quartet. That is, a quartet can have two members of registered quartets but two non-members.
6. Each quartet will be expected to do at least one song.
7. These rules may be added to, amended, or even changed at the program vice presidents sole discretion.

This is a purely fun night. The registered quartets are expected to attend and to entertain between contestants. All members should plan to attend, listen, watch, and participate. Every contestant will be recognized, and each participant in a quartet which wins will receive a very nice "prize". Since all of us know our contest songs, our show songs, and even

pole cats, we all can participate. So when we are sitting around at break, or waiting for the show to begin, or between rehearsals, talk amongst yourself and lets have as many participating quartets as we can.

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

The Bluebird Hollow Farm sing out on April 25 has been postponed and will take place later this Spring/Summer. The date will be announced later.

Requests for Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

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Upcoming Special Events

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

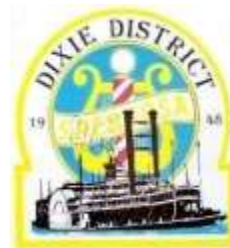
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Anniversaries in April

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 27, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

With the quartet contest coming up it has occurred to me that it is a great opportunity to improve the quality of our singing as individuals. Most of the singers in our group have been around long enough to know the technical things we should do. We just don't always remember to do it or recognize when we are not doing it. As we practice in quartets we can focus on these things, especially if we ask someone to coach us. Matching vowels and extending sound are two of the things we could definitely improve on. I would like to encourage some of the registered quartet members to take the initiative to recruit, coach and mentor some of the less accomplished singers in our group. If individuals improve the whole chorus improves.

Music & Performance VP –Art Southerlin

Scoring Categories – Singing. Good singing should **LOOK** natural and effortless but, as you know, it takes a lot of work to sing well. The Singing judge evaluates the level of the performer's singing skills. Here's what the BHS Contest & Judging Handbook has to say about it:

*Each scoring judge awards a score from 1 to 100 for each song. All contestants will be judged in the three scoring categories, Music, Presentation and **Singing**.*

C. Singing

The Singing judge evaluates the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style. This is accomplished through precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Mastering these elements also creates a feeling of fullness, ring, or expansion of sound throughout the performance. When artistry is present, these elements will be natural, not manufactured, and free from apparent effort, allowing the performer to fully communicate the theme of the song.

I hope these 3 articles helped clarify the 3 judging categories. It's all about producing a quality product and the judges exist to help us measure our improvement.

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

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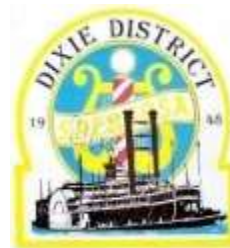
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5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margaret Crowe



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



May 4, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

The goal of any performance should be to touch the emotions of the audience. This is much more important than delivering a perfect rendition of a song. If that were all the audience wanted they would just stay home and listen to a recording by some famous artist. What a live performance can do that a recording cannot is interact with the audience. We do this with our eyes, facial expressions, body language and responding to the audience. That is what keeps the public paying to attend musical performances. Who can think of famous rock stars like Elvis or Michael Jackson without a mental image of the way they looked on stage and the things they did to involve their audiences. Elvis would kneel at the edge of the stage and throw sweaty scarves to the audience. Jackson danced in every way a human body can contort itself. Of course ours is a different style and our music has a different message but the principle is the same. We must sell our songs to the audience not just perform them. We must make them believe we believe the message in our songs. The patriotic theme for this show gives us a big head-start on this. It should be easy to touch the hearts of our audience with this message. They will come in wanting to be emotionally moved. Let's don't disappoint them.

Membership Involvement VP –Wally Edmondson

Don't forget to turn in your tickets or your money this Monday. If you have any potential guests, be sure to tell them about our June 15 quartet contest. I think that would be a great time to bring them. Also, I found a great 30 minute weekly barbershop show on iTunes called American A capella. Those of you who have an iPod can get it by opening iTunes, clicking iTunes Store, then doing a search for "judson group, inc.". A new show comes out nearly every Saturday. You can listen to it on the web at this address: <http://www.podbean.com/podcast-detail?pid=38430>

Music & Performance VP –Art Southerlin

Scoring Categories – Singing. Good singing should **LOOK** natural and effortless but, as you know, it takes a lot of work to sing well. The Singing judge evaluates the level of the performer's singing skills. Here's what the BHS Contest & Judging Handbook has to say about it:

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I hope these 3 articles helped clarify the 3 judging categories. It's all about producing a quality product and the judges exist to help us measure our improvement.

Program VP –Bill Slack

Only one Monday away from a show, and many of us are still using paper music at our rehearsals. This just isn't right or necessary, as we have had a learning CD for months. Please, please, please, find that CD and while at home plug it in with the paper music in front of you and practice. It will be hugely embarrassing to sell ads and tickets to a show and then we can't pull it off because we haven't bothered to learn our music.

Additional rules for the quartet contest on June 15th.

1. Quartet participants may hold and use sheet music during their performance.

2. Members of registered quartets will not be qualified for singing with more than two other registered quartet members if they are singing a part other than their normal part. For example, if Fred sings bass instead of tenor, or Strick sings lead instead of bass, they will not be counted as members of registered quartets for the purpose of that participation.

We have already had one quartet entered, and thus they are in the lead.

Marketing & Publicity –Lamar Owens

Advertising for the show to appear and be announced by the following:

Chattanooga Times Free Press Weekend 5/8
 WUUQ FM 97.3
 WDOE-AM 1310
 WDEF FM 92.3 Luther radio and hopefully his Community Calendar
 on TV12
 US101 FM Dex's show
 WRCBTV Jed Mescon
 WTVN TV 9
 WDYN FM Earl Fruedenberg show
 WGOW FM
 CCVB Community Calendar
 WUTC FM 88.1

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

Be sure to mark your calendar for:

May 14 Creekside
 May 16 Veterans of All Wars Museum
 May 25 National Cemetery Memorial Day

If you raised your hand supporting these activities please make sure to be there.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

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Thu	May 14	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	Tux
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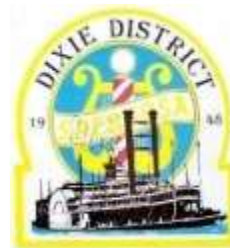
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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



May 11, 2009

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

Remember the performance at Creekside at Shallowford on May 14. We will decide on dress Monday, May 11. We have a request to sing the National Anthem and God Bless America for the May 23rd flag placement ceremony at the National Cemetery for the Boy Scouts. We sing to start the ceremony at 8:00 A. M. We will discuss this Monday, May 11.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

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Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips or Black shoes, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Upcoming Special Events

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in May

20th Chuck Wilson
22nd Nancy Owens
28th Sandy White

Anniversaries in May

3rd Dave and Sandy White
26th Ed and Linda Thornton

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

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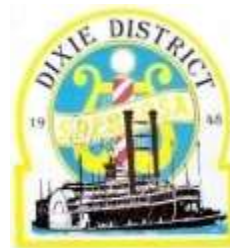
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Anniversaries in May

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



May 18, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

We have some dissappointing news from the society. Todd Wilson, the society Director of Marketing, who met with us recently and gave us suggestions about how to improve our chapter, has been included in those the society has fired to help them stay within their budget. We will continue to use his suggestions and benefit from them, but will suffer from not having him available for followup help. On a positive note - Some of our leaders have already started working on a show theme for 2010. We want to do better than we have in the past in regard to waiting til the last minute to get things done. Some of the ideas being tossed around are very exciting. You will be hearing more about this soon.

Music Leadership VP –Art Southerlin

Many, many thanks to Mary Strickland and the Belles for all of their hard work and support with the show. They sold tickets, fed us and more! We are all unbelievably lucky and truly blest to have such a devoted group of ladies behind us, enabling us to pursue our passion for music! We can't thank you enough!

Make sure you show up on time Monday nights so that you won't miss out on warm-ups! This time at the beginning of each night of rehearsal is extremely important. It sets the tone for YOUR whole night of singing! All great athletes and musicians warm up before they practice or play. Why? To prepare themselves to deliver the very best performance they can muster! Athletes and musicians alike stretch the muscles that they will use during their respective performances. It makes them more limber and agile. They get their hearts and blood moving faster for maximum delivery of oxygen to their bodies. You've heard this all before - and it's still true! We will be making a special effort to teach important fundamentals during the warm-ups each week. Fundamentals that will help us strengthen the areas where we are weak, namely, breath support, unit sound and in-tune singing. Your chorus teammates need you to deliver your best! Make sure you don't let them down!

Program VP –Bill Slack

This is a reminder that we will have a new quartet to hear this Monday. I promise that you will be entertained and surprised. This time of year (after a show, before contest push) is normally a "dead" time in meetings, and it's hard to make meetings fun w/o new music or "fun" activities at meetings. So I will be trying to have more activities during summer. Also this Monday, let's see who wants to compete in quartet contest, and I'll help to get any 4 guys on the same page.

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Tux-Purple is Black Tux Coat, Black Tux Pants, White Suspenders (if needed), and Pleated White Tux Shirt (tab collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks, Purple accessories (Bowtie, handkerchief & Cummerbund).

Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips or Black shoes, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Upcoming Special Events

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in May

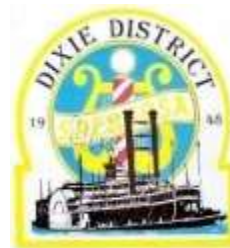
20th Chuck Wilson
 22nd Nancy Owens
 28th Sandy White

Anniversaries in May

3rd Dave and Sandy White
 26th Ed and Linda Thornton



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



May 25, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

It was great to see the turn-out Monday evening. The chorus sounds so much better when we have a good number. I counted 31 including two visitors from the District office who are our Chapter Service Representatives. They complimented our chorus and gave some suggestions for improvement.

Director –Paul Blazek

I want to keep the following songs for performance purposes: What A Country, Minstrel Montage, Civil War Medley, Give Me Your Tired Your Poor, and God Bless America, and learn two additional songs: This Is My Country (which we left off of the show due to time constraints) and a new version of the Star-Spangled Banner. This means we'll need quartet members and subs for both medleys and solos and subs for the Civil War Medley. We also need narrators and subs for WAC, MM, and CWM. If you wish to do any of these parts please let me know and I'll compile a list so we can have people available for every performance.

I'm looking for a novelty/comedy song to add some laughter to our performances. Let me know if you have any suggestions. We should also have Are You from Dixie ready to hand out Monday night.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	May 23	7:30 am	Boy Scout Flag Placement	National Cemetery	Patriotic
Mon	May 25	11:30 am	Memorial Day Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
Tue	June 2	6:45 pm	Chattanooga Lookouts	AT&T Stadium	White Chorus shirt, khaki pants
Sat	July 11	7:45 am	Lionel Train Society	Choo Choo Hotel	Tux
Sat	Aug 15	9:30 am	Grove Level Baptist Chur	Dalton, GA	TBA
Sat	Oct 10	2pm maybe	Praters' Mill Festival	Hwy 2, GA	TBA
Tue	Dec 15	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement Home	Chattanooga, TN	Christmas Outfit
Thu	Dec 17	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	Christmas Outfit
Tue	Dec 22	7:00 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

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Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips or Black shoes, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Upcoming Special Events

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August 22, 2009	Cleveland Chorus Annual Show	Conn Center, Cleveland, TN
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October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 12?	Christmas Show	?

Fellowship

As some of you may already know, my son Scott passed away this morning at 8:20 of kidney failure. I had been expecting this for some time, but it is still a shock nonetheless. Funeral services are pending but will most likely be on Tuesday afternoon. Thank you for your prayers for my family and myself during the next couple of difficult days.

Gary Fisher

Guys, I want to thank those of you who took your time and made the effort to sing at the re-enactment Saturday. I got a lot of nice comments on how we sounded. The songs we sang were very appropriate and Mr. Honeycutt really appreciated it. We (the staff) thought it turned out very well for our first time. Everytime the chorus goes to sing somewhere; it seems it's always appropriate and well received. Thanks again. Niles Fowler



Salute to America Show



Creekside Sing Out with Chuck Wilson directing. Photograph by Roy Newton



Veteran's of All Wars Museum Sing Out. The above is a reenactment of the 800 mile WWII forced march.

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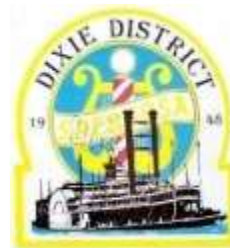
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3rd Dave and Sandy White
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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



June 8, 2009

President -Lebron Brock

Quartet contest is coming up on the 15th. We would like to see everyone participate. Contact Slack if you need help getting paired with other parts. At MLT we reviewed the bylaws about qualifying to sing with the chorus and Art is proposing evaluations that will certify singers as "riser ready". The goal is to identify problems and help singers overcome their problems. More money has come in from program ads. Attendance was down for the last two meetings. We had trouble getting enough basses for the singouts at the National Cemetery and the Lookouts game. Dave Rack and I were the only basses present at the Memorial Day gig. Wally E. switched to bass to help us out. In spite of this it turned out pretty well. Slack is still trying to make the meetings fun. He has also contacted other choruses and procured some script and song ideas for the Riverboat theme show.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

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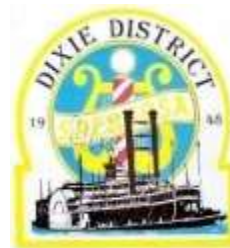
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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



June 15, 2009

President -Lebron Brock

Summer seems like a slow time for us sometimes but the board and others are busy working quietly behind the scenes on several projects. You will be hearing more about these later as things develop but here are a few things worth mentioning: Lamar continues to locate interesting venues for us to perform. Art is working on a method to improve our quality of singing, Wally is using suggestions from Todd Wilson to attract new member prospects, Slack is coming up with ideas to make our meetings fun. Fred is doing his usual good job of documenting everything and keeping up with details that escape a lot of us, Johnny is trying to get a reduction in price on some of our recent expenses, Paul is working to establish a working repertoire for the chorus and finish the learning CD for Are You From Dixie, Chuck continues to look for new ways to teach us craft basics, Dave White is talking to school music directors about getting youth involved in barbershop, Gary is working on getting ready for the Christmas show, Steve, along with several others are already working on the spring show for 2010. Strick, Clyde and Frank have been making some good suggestions about chapter activities, one of which is an awards dinner which is being planned as I write this. Throw in the work of the section leaders and administrators and those who have worked on special projects like selling program ads and you have a very busy bunch of people. If this sounds like a lot of work you are absolutely right. It is more work than one or two can do. We are very fortunate to have so many talented people willing to put time and effort into this. The success our chapter has enjoyed, and there has been a lot of success, has been because a lot of people have put a lot of work into it. If anyone is feeling left out they should let us know. There is plenty of work for everyone.

Program VP -Bill Slack

Be sure to attend the meeting on Monday, June 15th. It will start at the regular time, 7:00 p.m. We participate in learning Are You From Dixie, or in gang singing other fun tunes. At 8:00 the semi occasional quartet contest will begin. At present, there are five awards for the judges to make, and only five quartets have indicated their willingness to participate. So come early, sing often, and form a quartet with your friends that night.

The choruses registered quartets should be there, as well as several surprise guest and old friends. Please come and enjoy a fun night, singing together.

Business/Marketing -Lamar Owens

Business Manager

Thanks to all those guys who showed up for the Memorial Day, National Cemetery performance and for the National Anthem at the Lookouts game. You really showed up in force for the Lookouts game and that warms the "cockles of the heart" of your business manager. Keep up the good work.

Marketing and Public Relations VP.

In late August I will start to work on recruiting for the CCCCC. Hopefully an appearance with Don Welch, WTVG 9, and an appearance on WUTC 88.1 radio with Richard Winham. There will also be an article in the Times Free Press promoting this activity. If you have contacts in any kind of media please get in touch with them and help support the chorus. Let me know what you are doing or have done.

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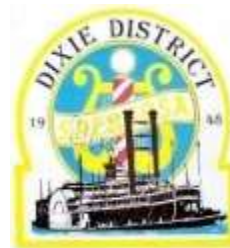
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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



June 29, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

The meeting Monday night was great. We had 30 singers present, 6 of them guests. 3 of the guests were former members off a high school quartet. They added Paul for the bass part and sang for us. It was very good. A quartet composed of Tom, Erby Brooks, and Wally did a parody that was very funny. I am sorry for those who missed it.

Friday, July 10th. That is the day most of the chorus says they would be able to attend an awards dinner. We will let you know the location a bit later. Start making plans to attend.

[From last week's newsletter that was not sent.] The quartet contest turned out to be great fun. I had my doubts about how it would turn out but I am glad to say I was proved wrong. In the future I will listen to Slack's ideas more - wait - what did I just say? That's going too far, Maybe I just won't be as quick to judge. Jokes aside, I must give him credit - it was a good idea. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and as Steve Grubb pointed out, quarteting is one of the most effective ways to improve a chorus. [See the photographs below.]

Director –Paul Blazek

Songs we need to review for upcoming singouts (in no particular order) –

What A Country
Minstrel Montage
Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor
God Bless America
Star-Spangled Banner
How's Every Little Thing In Dixie
Georgia On My Mind
Caroline
Hello Mary Lou
This Is My Country
Chattanooga Choo Choo

For Your Information –Dave White

Lakeside Harmony Weekend will be held on July 17-19 this year at Clemson University. They have a lot of good classes. If you've never been, it is a very fun weekend of barbershopping, fellowship, and just learning more about our craft. You can register for it through the Dixie District Website.

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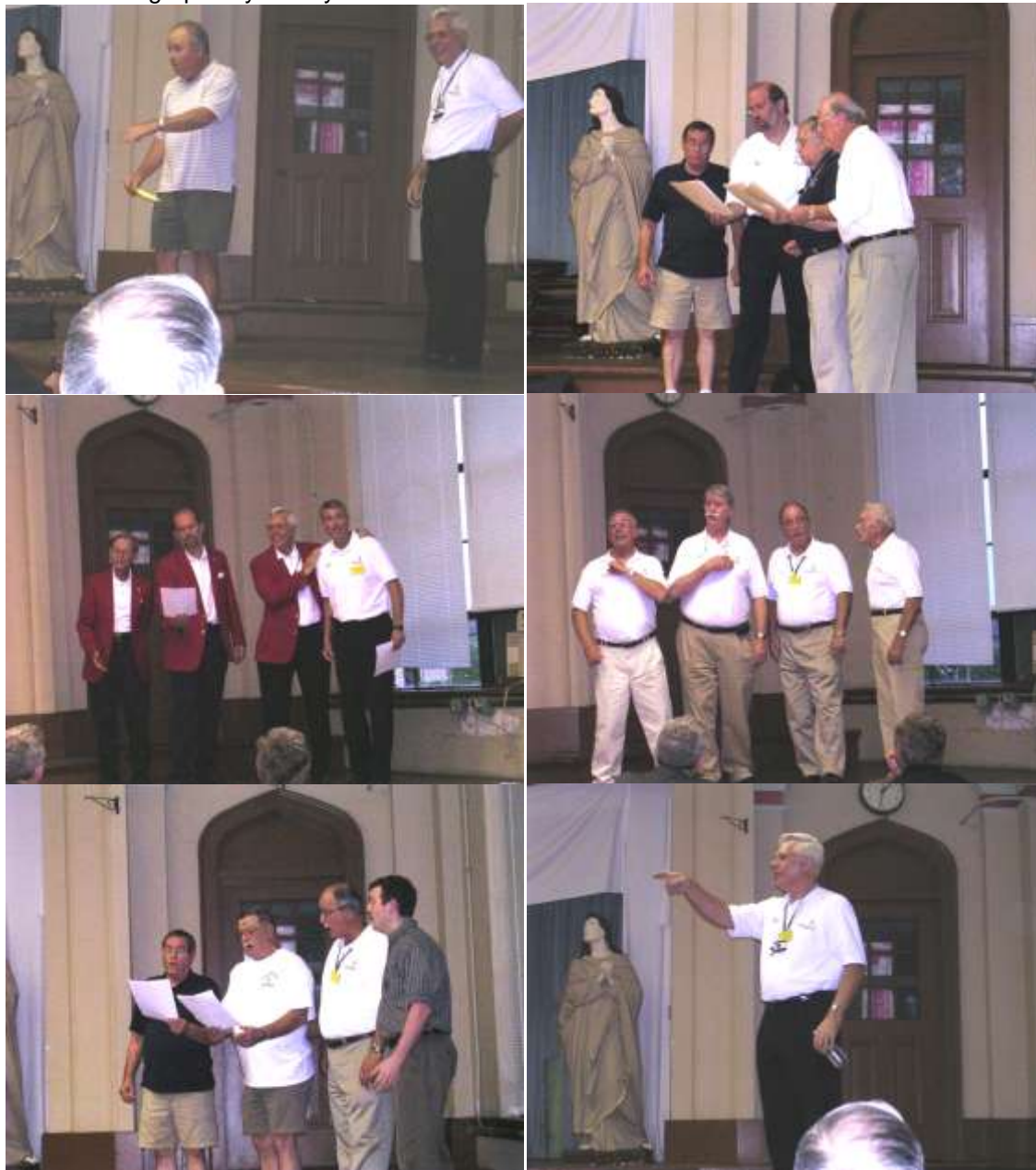
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Photographs by Sherry Fowler from Bill Slack's Quartet Contest on June 15th



Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in June

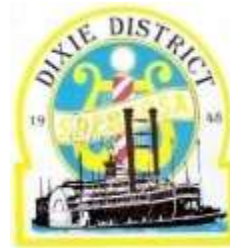
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Anniversaries in June

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24 th	Lebron & Margie Brock



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



July 6, 2009

Music Leadership VP –Art Southerlin

There will NOT be a MLT meeting this Monday. There will be a joint MLT/Board meeting on the 13th.

RISER READY": On January 29, 2007, the members of our chapter voted almost unanimously (one abstention if I'm not mistaken) in favor of amending the chapter's Code of Regulations to require all chapter members who participate in our public and/or competitive performances to meet certain standards. One of those standards requires all performers to have the "ability to sing the words and music with 95% accuracy as determined by the Chorus Director or his agent." To my knowledge no program was implemented at that time to ensure that this standard is met. That's where "Riser Ready" comes into play.

Under the Riser Ready program each member of the chapter who wishes to sing as part of the Choo-Choo Chorus at any public and/or private performances must demonstrate his ability to sing the words and notes to our repertoire songs with 95% accuracy as called for in our Code of Regulations. The Section Leaders will act as the agents of the Chorus Director and will be working with each member of their respective sections to help EVERYONE meet the standard. The cutoff date for qualifying on the whole repertoire has not been determined as yet, nor has the list of songs in our repertoire been chosen (other than the two songs for contest). I expect that it will take quite some time (probably into springtime) to get everyone fully qualified. The purpose of this program is to improve EVERY member's capability and to work with EVERY member until they are able to meet this performance standard. In the meantime EVERYONE is eligible to sing at ALL of our performances until a cutoff time is chosen. After the cutoff we will continue to work with anyone who is struggling but only "Riser Ready" singers will be allowed to sing at our performances.

The goal for qualification for the two (2) Fall Contest songs is a different story. We will begin assessing members who want to sing at contest on Monday, August 3. We hope to get everyone qualified by August 31 in order to give us 3 to 4 weeks of serious rehearsal time before the convention.

This is intended to be a FLEXIBLE program. It will change as the needs of the chapter/chorus change. We are moving into uncharted waters with this and we ask that you be patient with us as we will make some mistakes along the way. Rest assured, though, that we want ALL of our members to complete the journey TOGETHER!

Please feel free to ask me any questions or express any concerns that you might have. I understand that this is a major change for our chapter and that it will cause some of our members to feel uneasy. Don't fret about it – let's talk about it!

Director –Paul Blazek

Everyone is welcome to watch the International Chorus Contest webcast(s) on Friday, July 3rd (starting at 1pm EDT - first session and/or 9pm EDT - second session) or any of the sessions on Saturday, July 4th: the College Quartet Contest (starting at 11am EDT), the Harmony Foundation Show (starting at 5pm EDT), or the Quartet Finals (starting at 10:15pm EDT) at my house - I have a 42" plasma TV with surround sound so it should be pretty good.

All I ask is that you let me know you are coming (so I can find chairs for everybody) and perhaps bring some finger foods/bottle of soda/other beverage to share or something to throw on the grill if you wish - I will have a supply of burgers and dogs but will leave beans/chips/etc to someone else. My cell # is 423-503-4935 and my service is unlimited, so feel free to call. The house will be open from 1 hour before contest sessions until the last diehard goes home (or decides to sleep over - some bed space available...). Come enjoy some of the finest barbershop you'll ever see with some of the best barbershoppers in the Chattanooga/Cleveland area! We can even make fun of Chad - he's running the controls for the webcast!

Songs we need to review for upcoming singouts (in no particular order) –

What A Country
Minstrel Montage
Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor

God Bless America
 Star-Spangled Banner
 How's Every Little Thing In Dixie
 Georgia On My Mind
 Caroline
 Hello Mary Lou
 This Is My Country
 Chattanooga Choo Choo

Membership VP –Wally Edmondson

American Acappella is a radio program that airs once a week in New England. They make all of their shows available on the web for free and they archive all of their shows so you can listen to them anytime. You can download any show in mp3 format so it is compatible with any music player. It's a great way to hear a ton of barbershop without spending a fortune trying to keep up with all of the new CDs. I subscribe to the show in iTunes so it shows up on my iPod automatically once a week. If you have an iPod or even if you just have iTunes installed on your computer, you might do the same. I have included some links below to get you started listening to this great program. The second and third links are to the BHS International Quartet Competition preview shows that I mentioned at rehearsal Monday night.

The main site: <http://americanacappella.podbean.com/>

Top ten preview 10th through 5th: <http://tinyurl.com/mwmg3f>

Top ten preview 4th through 1st, including State Line Grocery: <http://tinyurl.com/nd6c3l>

Some of my favorite shows from the archive:

Acoustix: <http://tinyurl.com/mok7ra>

OC Times: <http://tinyurl.com/lz3b4l>

Gospel: <http://tinyurl.com/lebm64>

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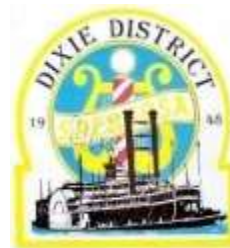
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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



July 13, 2009

President -Lebron Brock

Don't forget the award dinner Friday evening, July 10, 7pm, at Wally's in East Ridge (NOT on McCallie Ave.)

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Sat	Aug 15	9:30 am	Grove Level Baptist Chur	Dalton, GA	Casual
Sat	Oct 10	2pm maybe	Praters' Mill Festival	Hwy 2, GA	TBA
Fri	Sep 18	?	Bluebird Hollow Farm	GA	TBA
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3nd Debbie Southerlin
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21st Gist & Audrey Brooks
 25th Erby & Glenda Erwin



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



July 20, 2009

Director –Paul Blazek

Our coaching session with Ev Nau was a big success from my viewpoint. Note that I say "our" coaching session - I was being coached at the same time as you guys and it was a big help. Sometimes it takes an outside set of eyes and ears to make us understand the things we see in front of us - something about the forest and the trees, I think. Unfortunately, I will not be in town on the 20th so we will not be able to immediately work on the items Ev was coaching. Steve has done an excellent job of making notes on these points elsewhere in this issue - please review them so we can have a good start on them when I get back on the 27th.

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December 12?	Christmas Show	?

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in July

3rd Debbie Southerlin
4th Janet Wixson
8th Art Southerlin
16th Pat Slack
28th Sherry Landon

Anniversaries in July

21st Gist & Audrey Brooks
25th Erby & Glenda Erwin

Coaching Notes –Steve Wixson

Summary of Ev's coaching (as best as I can read my notes with help from Lebron.) He is a Presentation judge.

Tuning. He stopped us in the middle of the first phrase. The contrast between tuning and our first sound was too great. He had us tune using 'ng' instead of 'oo.'

Choppiness. He stopped us after our first phrase. He had one member say "there's no place on earth." He had two others say it one at a time, and each of them sounded natural by themselves. He then had all three say it together and it became choppy. He worked with the three until they could say it naturally together. Then did the same with the whole chorus. We then worked on singing it that way until it gelled. He told us we should not hold the word "There's" but sing the whole phrase as one word with several syllables with the accent on "no." Several members said "wow" when we heard what we could do.

Timing/singing on the beat. Ev noted that we are late on lots of beats and most entrances. He led an exercise where we put our arms on the shoulders of the guys next to us as in Lulu and beat time with our fingers. What was happening could be felt. That exercise really helped.

Vowel production. He had lots to say, but I don't know how to put it in words except to say we need to work harder.

Breathing. We are lazy breathers. Our singing quality disintegrates at the end of phrases. We need to breathe much faster. We neeeeed to push the end of each phrase!

Living our lyrics and the importance of Body Language. He gave an example of how we naturally tell children the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. He/we put our whole body into it. He noted how we all have a range of emotions that we've experienced in our lifetime and we need to use them as we sing each song. Singing comes from the heart. The body language must precede the words, as when we smile and put out our hand before greeting someone.

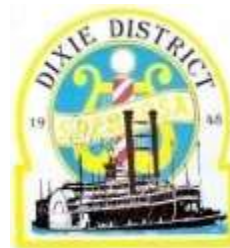
He worked on many little things. Like emphasizing words like 'my birthday' to make it more personal and believable. The word "How" is one of the words that needs to be treated this way. The Bass section needs to sound more natural and forward, not swallowing the sound and the tenors needed to make a taller sound when they stand out near the end of HELTiD.

He noted that we need to sing the first line so it sounds like magic. That first impression on the judges is muy importante.

Confidence. Sing with it. Don't fidget or act nervous. This is not the first time you've sung, and you know how it feels to perform. Our first tuning on the evening was not confident. You can do that well. So stand tall and sing out.



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



July 27, 2009

President -Lebron Brock

Poor attendance at our most recent Saturday sing outs have our Business Manager questioning if he should accept similar booking opportunities. None of us can make all the sing outs, but if we like these activities, and I think we do, we need to find some way to know ahead of time who will be there. One way might be to change the way we start the decision making. Instead of asking for a show of hands we could actually take down the names of those who would commit to being there. The only problem with this is that we sometimes have personal emergencies come up that make it impossible to keep our commitment. How often this happens I don't know. When it comes right down to it we must accept that it takes little to make some of our members miss a sing out and there is nothing we can do to change that. If we put too much pressure on these people they will drop out of the chorus completely.

If we could know, say, 24 hours ahead of time who would be at a gig it would help. Earlier notice would be better. With enough advance notice that few would show up we might could reschedule, or in extreme situations we could call on a registered quartet to sub for the chorus.

I think it would be wonderful if the section administrators always knew who in their section was going to be there so he could make the director aware of a potential problem. These administrators however, need the help and cooperation of everyone in his section to do this. It would be asking too much of the administrators to call everyone in his section. When would he call? Two weeks before the gig? One week? Two days? One day? Every day? What about those he could not reach? The membership would soon get tired of getting all those calls anyway.

The thing that would help is for all of us to understand that each of us is being counted on and we should call our section administrator as soon as we find out that we can't make a gig. Those who have the attitude, "I will go if I feel like it, but I won't let anybody know if I am not going and it won't matter if I am not there", are letting the rest of the group down, letting down the people who booked us, and harming the preservation of barbershop music and the opportunity for barbershop groups now and in the future to perform.

Let me urge you to take responsibility for your actions and let your administrator know when you are not able to make a performance. It is not that hard to do to make a phone call or send an e-mail.

Business Manager -Lamar Owens

The support for the last two Saturday performances was sadly lacking. We had 18 for LOTS, a \$400 dollar gig and 18 for Alexian, at least you are consistent in your lack of support. We have another Saturday performance at Grove Level Baptist Church on August 15 and I really hope you will support this request. I am really beginning to wonder if you guys want to do "anything" on Saturday. The Saturday performance for the Boy Scouts at the National Cemetery was done with only 17 guys. These are very poor showings that make this Business Manager very unhappy. Come on guys you wanted more performances and you are not supporting them. Let's get with the program.

Marketing & Publicity

Unless you live in the area you did not see the Times News Free Press article announcing our performance for Alexian. The article appeared in the Regional insert for that area.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Aug 15	9:30 am	Grove Level Baptist Chur	Dalton, GA	Casual
Sat	Oct 10	2pm maybe	Praters' Mill Festival	Hwy 2, GA	TBA
Fri	Sep 18	?	Bluebird Hollow Farm	GA	TBA
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Tue	Dec 22	7:00 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit
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Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in July

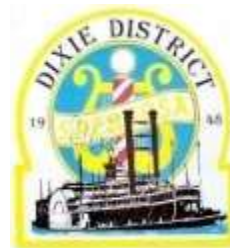
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8 th	Art Southerlin
16 th	Pat Slack
28 th	Sherry Landon

Anniversaries in July

21 st	Gist & Audrey Brooks
25 th	Erby & Glenda Erwin



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



August 3, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

In case you haven't noticed we are rapidly approaching fall contest time. Based on the progress we have made the last 3 weeks on HELTID, we have a chance to score that 65 we have talked about. You don't want to miss out on being a part of this record setting, knock-em-dead assault on the judges miserly point squeezing evaluation system. I suggest we go on stage this time with a chip on our shoulders and take points from the judges instead of waiting for them to give us points. I am predicting this will be a performance we will be extremely proud of and one we will want to tell our grandchildren about. We need everyone at every practice from here til contest and we can make this happen.

Music Leadership Vice-President –Art Southerlin

I'm excited about how well we are coming together as a team! I sense that those of you who have attended rehearsals and sing-outs faithfully this summer are excited and full of enthusiasm as well! I've never seen this kind of focus in our group in my short career with the chorus! I think Strick said it best, "Singing well is a lot of work!" and this group has definitely WORKED these past weeks! I can smell that contest score of "65" every time I think about the progress we are making! Contest is right around the corner. I'm looking forward to strutting around as a member of a PROVEN, SOLID "B" chorus!

As promised the article below (at the end of this newsletter) explores more aspects of breath control and brings in comments on expression and "selling" the song. If we only sing the words and notes then we are but mechanics. If we sing the words and notes with poor breath support/control then we are "shade tree" mechanics. To become artists we need to attend to the more technical details such as expression and intonation; connecting with our audience to deliver an entertainment experience (Oh, yeah – and sing the words and notes correctly too!)

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

In order to bolster attendance for the upcoming performances we are instituting a new procedure. From now on the section administrators:

Baritone-Beau Christian
Bass-Karl Dommert
Lead-Dave Fleury
Tenor-Wally Edmonson

will start calling to remind you and confirm your attendance at these events. Hopefully this additional reminder will help to ensure more member support for our performances. By the way this calling plan will be your fourth reminder of the sing out. The Monday meeting before the event Business Manager reminder, two Yahoo Groups emails and the calling procedure. When asked if they would support Saturday performance request thirteen of the seventeen in attendance said they would. Of course most of those responding were those that have been there on previous Saturdays. How about you?

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Vocal Education Series

Part 4 -- Vocal Technic: Fine Tuning

By René Torres

In this article we look at some mental and physical processes that affect a singer's ability to maintain pitch and produce sounds of good tonal quality. It takes discipline and control of mind and body to become a "smart" singer.

Mind's eye notes.

There are three ways of "seeing" any note. First, you must physically see the note, as on the sheet of music. Then, you must "see" it in your mind's eye. In other words, you must visualize the note (hear it) in your mind before you even think of opening your mouth to sing it. Singing it is actually the third step of the process. Only when what you see, what your mind interprets, and what you sing are the same will you get truly correct music. Don't make the mistake of singing a note as you see it on paper. This skips the most important step: developing a "mind's eye" view of the music. Without that the interpretation, style, and placing of the music in its proper context are not possible. The mechanical reflex from eye to throat is merely the interpretation of a sound, not making music.

Answer: The altitude above you and the runway behind you.

The question is: "As a pilot, what are the two things you can never use?" As a singer, however, the answer to this question is "the breath you never take." Don't make the mistake of taking a smaller breath on a short phrase because you don't think you need it. Breathing a full tank of air every time should be a natural and subconscious objective of every singer.

The main reason most singers flat a note--and usually at the end of a phrase--is directly attributable to the amount of usable air left in the lungs. Therefore, the more air you have left, the easier it is to hold the pitch or sing a decrease in volume. You will be a more confident singer when you control your breathing. The confidence will show in your facial expression and you will increase your ability to "sell" the song.

Straight notes climb stairs.

Any time you are singing a sustained note, you must make a conscious effort to imagine that it is straight up a flight of stairs, not a level playing field. As you use up air, the muscles have less resistance to push against, and the normal tendency is to relax the pressure. The result is a gradual drop in pitch. If you visualize yourself climbing stairs, it will be easier to maintain the pitch.

It is much harder to sing softly than loudly.

You may have found this out early on. The wrong way to sing softly is to relax the muscles. Sure, it will sound softer, but you will have lost the control of the voice that you had when you were singing louder. The note will sound listless and without color. Perform the following test to see why it is harder to sing softly than loudly. Sing one note loudly, then gradually decrease the volume until you can barely hear it, and then increase the volume again to its louder level. Repeat this on one breath. You will see that it is very difficult to do. In fact, it is probably one of the hardest things to master. Until you get it right, you will experience breaks in the sound, inconsistent pitch, wobbles, and even muscle spasms. All this is to show that, if you maintain constant tension on the air-supplying muscles (near the throat), it is easier to change volume without breaks or wobbles.

Rainbows and strings of pearls.

Singing masters in the era of *bel canto* used to have very descriptive terms for their craft. Two of the expressions used to describe a phrase of music seem appropriate. They would describe a musical phrase as a rainbow, where the notes were formed one after the other, in all their glory, color and splendor. Others described the musical phrase as a string of pearls coming out of the singer's mouth—separate, yet joined in making a beautiful object. The metaphors are not wasted if you consider that a musical phrase should be an integrated whole. Think of rainbows and pearls next time you find yourself singing choppy phrases.

Unkink your pipes.

Next time you stand on the risers, look at the posture of some of the men around you. It's a miracle they don't finish the evening feeling more tired than when they started. It's not because they have been on their feet for several hours but, rather, they have wasted the opportunity for invigorating exercise during rehearsal. And, what's more, the music suffers. Why? Because poor posture has inhibited efficient breathing while singing in a standing position. Those pearls mentioned earlier are going to have to a very tough time coming out of a pipe that has twists, turns, slumps, and bumps in it. So stand up straight! Make sure your airflow passages are open, relaxed, uninterrupted, and free. When you sing beautiful music, take a full breath every time and stand properly, you can actually feel a mental and physical "high" come over you, much like what a jogger feels during and after a good workout. If you finish a song more tired than when you started, you are doing something wrong.

Vowels versus consonants.

In singing, vowels carry the notes, but the consonants give it meaning. Following the string-of-pearls analogy, consider the pearls to be the vowels and the string to be the consonants. You can't have one without the other, and everything works together. Vowels should be open and expressive with the consonant transitions placed in such a way as to connect the vowel sounds in whatever way the song is to be interpreted. Of course, interpretation depends on both music and lyrics, especially lyrics. We will explore words and their meaning in Part 5.



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



August 10, 2009

Director –Paul Blazek

Here is my first list with our repertory. There are songs that I want to add at a later date. Break out your sheet music and start practicing.

Are You From Dixie
Caroline
Chattanooga Choo Choo
Dixie
Georgia on my Mind
God Bless America
Hello, Mary Lou

How's Every Little Thing in Dixie
Lulu's Back in Town
Mistrel Montage
My Wild Irish Rose
Star-Spangled Banner
This is My Country
What a Country

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

Remember the upcoming performance for Grove Level Baptist Church, 9:00 A. M., August 15. Dress is the white logo chorus shirt and khaki pants with brown belt and shoes. They will feed us but I do not know what our meal will be, lunch or late breakfast. See you there.

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Fellowship Item

JW Kirk lost his brother, Kelsey, this past Tuesday. Wilbur Strickland

Fellow Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in July

3 nd	Debbie Southerlin
4 th	Janet Wixson
8 th	Art Southerlin
16 th	Pat Slack
28 th	Sherry Landon

Anniversaries in July

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25 th	Erby & Glenda Erwin

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



August 17, 2009

Director –Paul Blazek

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

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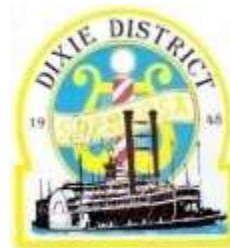
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25th Erby & Glenda Erwin

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



August 24, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

With 26 at the last singout and 29 at the last practice, I would like to think we are past our usual "summer slump" and are ready to plunge full speed ahead toward the fall contest and Christmas show. This could be some of our best performances ever and I would like to encourage everyone to start talking it up.

It is not too early to recruit for the Christmas show or take orders for tickets. Gary has secured a huge auditorium for us to fill. Promoting it as a benefit for the birth defects center should make ticket sales easy. GPS plans to help us promote it by having their students sell tickets. If anyone has connections with other schools we might be able to enlist their help too as a way for them to help support the birth defects center. Business owners and politicians are people we should approach about helping with this benefit performance. Put on your thinking cap and see what you can think of to promote it.

Director –Paul Blazek

We will have 20 minutes of sectionals on Are You from Dixie using the new learning CD that I passed out last Monday.

Secretary –Fred Jesse

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting, July 13, 2009. The Board meeting was held at the McCallie Wally's restaurant. Attendees were L. Brock, A. Southerlin, W. Strickland, P. Blazek, S. Wixson, D. White, W. Edmundson, K. Dommert, D. Fleury, and F. Jesse. Secretary.

The June 8 Board meeting minutes were distributed and accepted without change or formal reading. Treasurer -No report.

Music VP -A. Southerlin stated the Chorus repertoire would be sent to him by Blazek in the morning. We will start on August 3 with assessments for the two chorus contest songs, with section leaders as "agent" to determine acceptability. We will do well to get both songs with 95% of both words and music, and will follow that with the rest of the repertoire. There was 19 plus the director at the sing-out at the Choo Choo last Saturday night. The question becomes: How do we get members to commit and show up for singouts and the practices before it? There is no date yet for next year's show having a riverboat theme. A song list is needed for it.

Member Involvement VP -W. Edmundson indicated he would like to work with both the chapter website and the face book page, and that he could update it weekly. There seems to be confusion as to the costume for the singout this weekend since our information sites differ. He suggested a "technology" person be selected.

Youth In Harmony -D. White noted that Youth in Harmony will meet in Birmingham this weekend. Local chapters of the Society need to support this activity. Also, there is a need to contact local high school music educators, and that teachers would welcome our involvement.

Program VP -No report.

Marketing VP / Business Mgr. -No report.

Newsletter -A new quarterly newsletter is going out.

Old Business -No date for Christmas show.

New Business -There is a need for an updated attendance list for the Membership VP. Secretary can provide.

Good of Chapter -Will review possible use of handrails on risers. We need a better method of scheduling attendance at singouts than by show of hands well before the date of the performance.

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

We were very encouraged by the great attendance for Grove Level Baptist Church. I counted 25, not included. Let's have that effort carry forward to our next performance for Life Care of Collegedale. I do not have a firm time to report to you but will call my contact to confirm the performance and time. More information to follow.

Marketing and Publicity

We will start contacting the media we work with to get the word out about our annual CCCC effort and hopefully will have an appearance on Don Welches' "This and That" program and other radio appearances. I will keep you informed about these efforts.

We have decided to put a new page on our web site accessible from our home page where men can learn about the CCCC. This will give us another shot of publicity for the event. This is a work in progress so check out our web site in the next few days to find out what we came up with.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Aug 27	6:30 pm	Life Care Center	Collegedale, TN	TBA
Fri	Sep 18	7:00 pm	Bluebird Hollow Farm	GA	TBA
Sat	Oct 10	2:00 pm	Praters' Mill Festival	Hwy 2 passed Varnell, GA	TBA
Tue	Dec 15	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement Home	Chattanooga, TN	Christmas Outfit
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Grove Baptist Church singout. Photograph by Roy Oliver.



Upcoming Special Events

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October 2-4, 2009	Fall Dixie District Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 10, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	GPS Auditorium

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in August

10 th	Audry Brooks
10 th	Landon Sawyer
15 th	Sherry Fowler
20 th	Lindy Blazek
20 th	Clarence Wall
28 th	JW Kirk
29 th	Lebron Brock

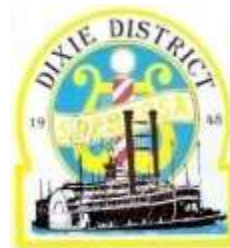
Anniversaries in August

8 th	Dave & Carol Collins
10 th	JW & Joy Kirk
15 th	Beau & Cindy Christian
13 th	Gary & Marilyn Fisher
20 th	Jerry & Conny Bradwell

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



August 31, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

We will have no meeting on Labor day, 9-7. We will have two meetings next week. The usual one on Monday 8-31 and another on Thursday 9-3. The Thursday meeting will make up for not having one on Labor Day.

Program VP –Bill Slack

After the twenty minute sectional rehearsal on August 24th, Paul has announced he intends to do one next week as well. The purpose of the sectional is not only to learn your words and notes, but by rehearsing them together, as a section, to achieve a "unit sound" so that all members of the section will be singing each note, each word, and each part of the song with the same vowel sound, dynamics and interpretation. This is only achieved by knowing your words and notes, and then going forward to learn how the section will be performing that particular song.

Remember, that assessments for each competition song are ongoing. Either your section leader or Paul can complete your assessment on each song. If you have not been evaluated and passed on both competition songs, then you will not be competing in October. Likewise, if you have not been assessed on the chorus repertoire songs, then you will be asked to step off the risers for any sing out. These are the steps necessary to have the chorus get "riser ready".

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

We cancelled last Thursday night's Life Care sing out as the circumstances under which we would have been singing were not good. They start eating at 6:00 in the dining area where we also would sing and probably not be through with dinner when we start. Dave and crew would have to take the risers in and set up during their meal time. There will no one there from the staff to coordinate or introduce us. I am sure they will put out a schedule saying we will be there but that is the only introduction we would receive. Sara, the Activities Director told me the reason they wanted to do it earlier, even earlier than 6:00, is that after dinner the residents are ready for bed and would go to sleep on us. We would be singing to a comatose audience. We will reschedule at a later date under better conditions.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Sep 18	7:00 pm	Bluebird Hollow Farm	GA	TBA
Sat	Oct 10	2:00 pm	Praters' Mill Festival	Hwy 2 passed Varnell, GA	TBA
Tue	Dec 15	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement Home	Chattanooga, TN	Christmas Outfit
Thu	Dec 17	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	Christmas Outfit
Tue	Dec 22	7:00 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Tux is Black Tux Coat, Black Tux Pants, White Suspenders (if needed), and Pleated White Tux Shirt (tab collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks, Black accessories (Bowtie & Cummerbund).

Upcoming Special Events

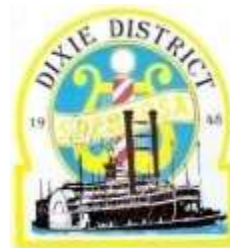
August 22, 2009	Cleveland Chorus Annual Show	Conn Center, Cleveland, TN
October 2-4, 2009	Fall Dixie District Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 10, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	GPS Auditorium

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**

September 7, 2009



President –Lebron Brock

We will have no meeting on Labor day, 9-7. We will have two meetings next week. The usual one on Monday 8-31 and another on Thursday 9-3. The Thursday meeting will make up for not having one on Labor Day.

Membership VP –Wally Edmondson

Ever wanted to know what your vocal folds look like while you sing? Here's a YouTube video of a stroboscopy so you can see the folds opening and closing during different activities. <http://tinyurl.com/2xdq4q> Falsetto is when only portions of the folds vibrate. It's pretty cool lookin'. <http://www.voiceinfo.org> has tons of info on how we mangle and protect our voice.

Director –Paul Blazek

I'm greatly impressed by the progress we've been making - keep up the hard work! For those of you that missed last Monday, please come to the extra rehearsal Thursday, 9/3, which will start at 7 PM and end 90 minutes after the last person shows up (if you come in at 8:30, you'll make a lot of people mad - try to be on time!). We'll continue to work on Are You From Dixie, How's Every Little Thing In Dixie, and Georgia On My Mind, with the idea that we will perform the two best songs when we go to contest. We also have some performances coming up, so brush up on our repertoire songs when you're not at rehearsal so we don't have to spend too much time on them.

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

We instituted a policy of the admin. section leaders polling their sections in order to determine who will be attending our performances. So far Beau is the only one officially reporting to me on this. Please, after determining who in your section will be attending, send me an email so we will have knowledge about how heavy/light we will be on parts. The next performance is Bluebird Hollow Farm, Lafayette on Friday the 18th. Dress will be White chorus shirt, khaki pants and brown/cordovan shoes. We hope to see you there.

Marketing and Public Relations

We will kick off our campaign to recruit for the Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus on Don Welches "This & That" show on September 15. There will be video shown of a past CCCC show as well as an on air interview with Paul Blazek. One other person from the chorus might also appear. That will be followed up with several PSA's on television and radio and if I can work it out a larger article in the FYI section of the paper the week prior to the beginning of practice.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Sep 18	7:00 pm	Bluebird Hollow Farm	GA	TBA
Sat	Oct 10	2:00 pm	Praters' Mill Festival	Hwy 2 past Varnell, GA	TBA
Tue	Dec 15	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement Home	Chattanooga, TN	Christmas Outfit
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TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Tux is Black Tux Coat, Black Tux Pants, White Suspenders (if needed), and Pleated White Tux Shirt (tab collar), Black Paten Leather shoes, Black socks, Black accessories (Bowtie & Cummerbund).

Upcoming Special Events

August 22, 2009	Cleveland Chorus Annual Show	Conn Center, Cleveland, TN
October 2-4, 2009	Fall Dixie District Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 10, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	GPS Auditorium

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter

Birthdays in August

10 th	Audry Brooks
10 th	Landon Sawyer
15 th	Sherry Fowler
20 th	Lindy Blazek
20 th	Clarence Wall
28 th	JW Kirk
29 th	Lebron Brock

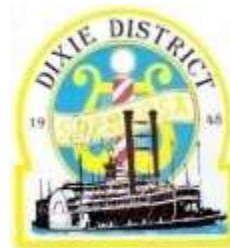
Anniversaries in August

8 th	Dave & Carol Collins
10 th	JW & Joy Kirk
15 th	Beau & Cindy Christian
13 th	Gary & Marilyn Fisher
20 th	Jerry & Conny Bradwell

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



September 21, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

Can contest really be this close? Yes it can. If last night's practice is any indication, we will give our best performance ever at this contest. Be sure you don't miss any practices between now and then.

Just got some exciting news about the contest. In addition to all the other great singing we will hear at the contest there will be another show put on after the usual Saturday night events by the District Association of Quartet Champions at the Marriott ballroom. Details are in an e-mail I am sending out to all members.

Music Leadership VP –Art Southerlin

Riser Ready Contest Assessments. We have 2 Monday night rehearsals left before contest. If you want to sing in the contest but haven't been successfully assessed yet please see your Section Leader ASAP! You MUST demonstrate that you are capable of singing the words and notes of both our contest songs at a 95% accuracy level before you can be allowed to compete with the rest of the chorus. The board discussed the possibility of letting this requirement slide again this year but the overwhelming decision was to stay the course and keep the Riser Ready requirement in place. The longer you wait, the less time we will have to coach you to success. If your Section Leader is unavailable then see me, see Paul, see Chuck! We will see to it that you have the opportunity to be assessed and will do our best to get you coached if you need it!

We want to have everyone on the contest stage that wants to be there, but you've got to be Riser Ready!!

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Fri	Sep 18	6:30 pm	Bluebird Hollow Farm	GA	Casual
Sat	Oct 10	2:00 pm	Praters' Mill Festival	Hwy 2 past Varnell, GA	TBA
Tue	Dec 15	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement Home	Chattanooga, TN	Christmas Outfit
Thu	Dec 17	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	Christmas Outfit
Tue	Dec 22	7:00 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Casual – White knit chorus shirt, khaki pants, brown belt and socks, brown or cordovan shoes.

Upcoming Special Events

October 2-4, 2009	Fall Dixie District Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 10, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	GPS Auditorium

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in September

5th Benny Malone
9th Guelda Malone
16th Dave Collins
19th Cindy Christian
21st Michael Prentice
26th Sally Jackson

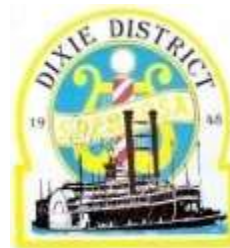
30th Barry Owens

Anniversaries in September

5th Barry & Nancy Owens
16th Bill & Pat Slack



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



September 28, 2009

President -Lebron Brock

Don't miss this!!!! The Dixie Assoc. of Quartet Champions are planning a one hour show after the Saturday night contest (and show of champions) is over. Around 60 current and former quartet champions are expected to perform. Featured quartets include "Stacked Deck", (1976); "The Bowery Boys", (1984); FRED, (1991); "Nashville Singers", and "Lunch Break", among others.

It will be held at the Marriott. Admission will be \$5. Tickets will be on sale at the registration desk during registration and at the door of the Marriott main ballroom just before the show. I plan to buy tickets as early as possible in case they sell out. This may be better than the contest. "Lunch Break" is worth hearing anytime. "FRED" is one of the most entertaining quartets ever. Sleep all day Friday if you have to, but be ready to stay up late Saturday night to attend this. It will be great. Hospitality rooms will be open after this show. Contact me if you have questions

Music Leadership VP -Art Southerlin

This coming Monday night is the last chance for assessments on our two contest songs, "HELTID?" and "GA On My Mind." Please contact your section leader, Paul, Chuck, Somebody! and get it done! The board says that you've got to pass the assessments to sing at the competition. We've all worked very hard – and it shows! Don't let this opportunity pass you by! Be a part of it!

Art Southerlin

Director -Paul Blazek

Below is the chorus contest matrix. Dress is Tux with purple accessories

	DIXIE DISTRICT						
	FALL 2009			10/3/09			
	CHORUS MATRIX			as of 9/15			
		ARRIVE	PHOTO	WARMUP	LOAD	READY	ON
OOA	CHORUS	CONV CTR	ROOM	ROOM	BUS	AREA	STAGE
1	Athens, AL	9:35	9:40	9:50	10:35	10:50	11:00
2	Central AL	9:45	9:50	10:00	10:45	11:00	11:10
3	Chattanooga	9:55	10:00	10:10	10:55	11:10	11:20
4	Augusta, GA	10:05	10:10	10:20	11:05	11:20	11:30
5	Stone Mountain	10:15	10:20	10:30	11:15	11:30	11:40
6	Marietta	10:25	10:30	10:40	11:25	11:40	11:50
7	Grtr Knoxville	10:35	10:40	10:50	11:35	11:50	12:00
		INTERMISSION - 30 MINUTES					
8	Memphis	11:15	11:20	11:30	12:15	12:30	12:40
9	Cleveland	11:25	11:30	11:40	12:25	12:40	12:50
10	Winston-Salem	11:35	11:40	11:50	12:35	12:50	1:00
11	Lexington Cty	11:45	11:50	12:00	12:45	1:00	1:10
12	Tuscaloosa	11:55	12:00	12:10	12:55	1:10	1:20
13	RTP	12:05	12:10	12:20	1:05	1:20	1:30
14	Nashville	12:15	12:20	12:30	1:15	1:30	1:40

Membership VP –Wally Edmondson

Don't forget to invite everyone you think would enjoy singing with us to our October 5th rehearsal. I want all of us to be there with smiles and good energy, not an easy feat on the Monday following a Chattanooga convention weekend. By the time the new guys leave that night, they should have had such a great time singing that they can't wait to tell their friends. Wixson and I have been working on a list of former CCCers and prospects. Please send me the names of anyone that you have invited or plan on inviting this year whether it is their first time or not. I will add a note on their entry so they aren't called twice. It would be best if only I called my neighbor, for instance. No one likes getting phone calls from strangers. Oh, and go ahead and put your name badges in your cars so you will have them on the 5th. If you don't have a name badge, please wear your chorus polo or write your name on one of the disposable badges on the guest podium. I want us to appear organized and approachable, with a seemingly limitless love for our hobby even though we just worked our butts off two days prior. There will be plenty of time to complain about the weekend after the guests have left :) Thanks.

We have some new Facebook friends that I have never heard of, possibly due to our advertising campaigns on TV and radio that Lamar has been running or the Facebook ads that I have been running. If you use Facebook, don't forget to invite your friends and wives to become fans of our page (Choo Choo Chorus). It is free advertising for us every time they do because all of their friends will see that they have become a fan. 423.413.8681

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Oct 10	2:00 pm	Praters' Mill Festival	Hwy 2 past Varnell, GA	TBA
Thu	Oct 15	9:45	<i>Special Olympic Bowling</i>	<i>Holiday Lanes</i>	<i>Casual</i>
Thu	Dec 3	TBA	First Baptist Church	?	TBA
Tue	Dec 15	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement Home	Chattanooga, TN	Christmas Outfit
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TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Casual – White knit chorus shirt, khaki pants, brown belt and socks, brown or cordovan shoes.

Upcoming Special Events

October 2-4, 2009	Fall Dixie District Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 10, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	GPS Auditorium

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in September

5th Benny Malone
9th Guelda Malone
16th Dave Collins
19th Cindy Christian
21st Michael Prentice
26th Sally Jackson

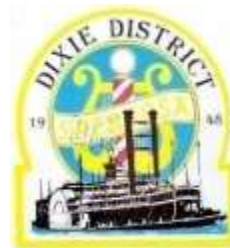
30th Barry Owens

Anniversaries in September

5th Barry & Nancy Owens
16th Bill & Pat Slack



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



October 5, 2009

President -Lebron Brock

In the excitement of approaching contest, don't forget that Monday will be the first practice session for the CCCC. Be sure to invite singers to join us in preparation for the Christmas show.

Director -Paul Blazek

Below is the chorus contest matrix. Dress is Tux with purple accessories

	DIXIE DISTRICT						
	FALL 2009			10/3/09			
	CHORUS MATRIX			as of 9/15			
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13	RTP	12:05	12:10	12:20	1:05	1:20	1:30
14	Nashville	12:15	12:20	12:30	1:15	1:30	1:40

Program VP -Bill Slack

I think all the leads know their words and notes. It's when we try to sing too loud, or be a 'hero', or go for a high note we know we don't hit exactly that we strain and go flat. So the word for leads is sing softer and within our capabilities. There is nothing wrong w/faking a high or low note. It happens very often in big choruses.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
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Casual - White knit chorus shirt, khaki pants, brown belt and socks, brown or cordovan shoes.

Upcoming Special Events

October 2-4, 2009	Fall Dixie District Convention	Chattanooga, TN
October 5, 2009	CCCCC Practice Begins	All Saints
December 8, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	GPS Auditorium

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



October 19, 2009

President -Lebron Brock

I heard the number attending last Monday was 51. There were at least 10 members missing, and CCCCC members like Pete Snyder were also missing. This means we are closing in on the 65 mark in Chattanooga and with the Cleveland group are approaching 80 on stage. Not bad! 100 is still possible with a bit more work.

It is time for our chapter officer elections. If anyone has comments or suggestions please see the nomination committee composed of Beau, Steve G. and Strick. Also be sure to attend the Oct. 26th meeting to vote on new officers.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Thu	Oct 15	9:45	Special Olympic Bowling	Holiday Lanes	Casual
Thu	Dec 3	TBA	First Baptist Church	?	TBA
Tue	Dec 15	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement Home	Chattanooga, TN	Christmas Outfit
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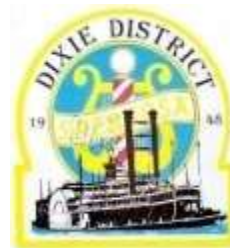
Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	GPS Auditorium

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



November 23, 2009

President –Lebron Brock

I hope our guest singers are having a good time preparing for the upcoming concerts. I know the membership has enjoyed having them. In order for the guests to understand the schedule of performances I would like to point out that there are two main performances that we would hope no one misses, The one at Lee Univ. in Cleveland on Dec. 8, and the one at GPS in Chattanooga on the 11th. The other performances have been "added-on". While we would like to have everyone participate in these too, if any guest feels two performances are all they wish to do, we will completely understand. We want this to be nothing but a great experience for our guests, not a hardship. On behalf of the chorus I want to thank our guests for joining us in this charitable endeavor.

Below are our recently elected officers for 2010:

President - LeBron Brock
Music Leadership VP - Art Southerlin
Treasurer – Gary Fisher
Secretary/Historian - Fred Jesse
Member Involvement VP - Wally Edmondson
Program VP - Wilbur Strickland
Marketing/Publicity VP - Lamar Owens
Business Manager - Dave Rack
Member at Large - David White, Clyde Rogers, Johnny Jackson
Newsletter Editor - Steve Wixson

Director –Paul Blazek

Below is the complete Chattanooga Christmas program for 2009 (Arrive at GPS at 5:30 pm to rehearse):

CCCCC songs:

1. Jingle Bells
2. White Christmas
3. Veni Veni, Emmanuel
4. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
5. I Saw Three Ships
6. Mary Had A Baby
7. Christmas Song (Chestnuts)
8. Most Wonderful Time Of The Year

Also, the CCCCC will participate
in audience sing-along, finish
with second verse of Silent Night.
Finally, Merry Christmas tag!

Choo Choo Chorus songs:

Angels We Have Heard On High
Coventry Carol
Let It Snow
Winter Wonderland

Quartet songs:

Two Front Teeth (RC4)
I'll Be Home For Christmas(RC4)
Home For The Holidays (FG)
Christmas Time - Chipmunk song (FG)
Christmas Chopsticks (CH)
Silver Bells (CH)
Diddley-Squat (SCS)
It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas (SCS)

RC4 - Rock City 4
FG - Four Grand
CH - Classic Harmony
SCS - Scenic City Sound

Audience sing-along:

Joy To The World
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Silent Night (first verse)

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

The performance for Creekside is back on for December 15 at 7:30. The later time is so we can set up in the dining room rather than the vestibule where they have been putting us. Since we were renegotiating I requested the dining room and they want to make sure the residents are finished eating and the tables cleared. We were scheduled to do Hickory Valley

on this date so you should still have it open. "All things come to he who sitteth and waiteth as long as he worketh like XXXX while he waiteth"

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week are in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Arrival Time	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tue	Dec 1	<i>6:15 pm</i>	Chattanooga Choo Choo	Downtown Hotel	Christmas Outfit
Thu	Dec 3	6:45 pm	First Baptist Church	Ft. Oglethorpe, GA	Christmas Outfit
<i>Tue</i>	<i>Dec 15</i>	<i>6:45 pm</i>	<i>Creekside at Shallowford</i>	<i>7511 Shallowford Rd</i>	<i>Christmas Outfit</i>
Tue	Dec 22	6:30 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

Christmas Outfit – Black pants, belt, socks and shoes, white dress shirt, Christmas tie

Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2009	Cleveland's Christmas Show at 7 pm	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show at 7:30 pm	GPS Auditorium
December 14, 2009	Christmas Party at 6:00pm until ...	Steve Wixson's House

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in November

2nd Joy Kirk
 6th Lamar Owens
 10th Dave Rack
 10th Hobby Thomas
 13th Janice Owens
 14th Ed Thornton
 15th Betty Rogers
 19th Wilbur Strickland
 22nd Mary Strickland

23rd Fred Jesse
 23rd John Johnson
 22th Karl Dommert
 29th Frank Delaney

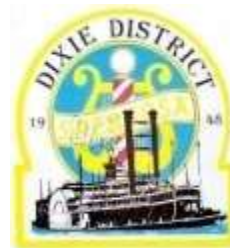
Anniversaries in November

None

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



October 26, 2009

Business Manager/Public Relations –Lamar Owens

Check the calendars below. All times are to be there. Hopefully we will come with at least a couple of performances for November. If you have any possibilities please let me know.

The following are helping us recruit for the CCCC:

Times Free Press
WUTC 88.1 Richard Winham
102.3 Village Idiots
106.5 WSKZ
WRCB TV 3 Jed Mescon
US101 Country Dex
WTVC News Channel 9
WDYN 89.7 Earl Freudenberg
WDEF TV 12 Luther
WDOD 96.5 and AM 1310
99.3 WUUQ
Clear Channel, 103.7, 107.9, 98.1
Walter C. Boehm Birth Defects Center will also advertise the show.

All of these should help us through Nov. 2. I will start working on advertising for the Christmas show now. There will be appearances by a quartet, on radio, and a representative of the chorus on a Television program, WTVC Channel 9, This "n" That, Don Welch in addition to the usual news print article and other radio/tv stations that will help us with our efforts.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tue	Dec 1	6:30 pm	Chattanooga Choo Choo	Downtown Hotel	Christmas Outfit
Thu	Dec 3	6:45 pm	First Baptist Church	Ft. Oglethorpe, GA	Christmas Outfit
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TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Casual – White knit chorus shirt, khaki pants, brown belt and socks, brown or cordovan shoes.

Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2009	Cleveland's Christmas Show	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	GPS Auditorium
December 14, 2009	Christmas Party at 6:00pm	Steve Wixson's House

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in October

8th Melissa Wilson
8th Dave White
11th Paul Blazek
12th Ellen Claiborne
24th Jerry Bradwell

Anniversaries in October

21st Benny & Gelda Malone
21st Chuck & Melissa Wilson

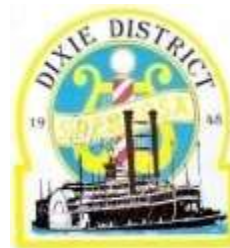


Special Olympics Bowling Tournament Sing out with 17 chorus members. Photograph by Mike Powers?

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



November 2, 2009

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tue	Dec 1	6:30 pm	Chattanooga Choo Choo	Downtown Hotel	Christmas Outfit
Thu	Dec 3	6:45 pm	First Baptist Church	Ft. Oglethorpe, GA	Christmas Outfit
Tue	Dec 15	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement Home	Chattanooga, TN	Christmas Outfit
Thu	Dec 17	6:30 pm	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	Christmas Outfit
Tue	Dec 22	6:30 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Casual – White knit chorus shirt, khaki pants, brown belt and socks, brown or cordovan shoes.

Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2009	Cleveland's Christmas Show	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	GPS Auditorium
December 14, 2009	Christmas Party at 6:00pm	Steve Wixson's House



Special Olympics Bowling Tournament Sing out with 17 chorus members. Photograph by Mike Powers?

Fellowship item –Fred Jesse

I sent out a message last week about the Sweet Adelines International Convention in Nashville. It was estimated that 7000 attended. My sister was competing with the Gem City Chorus of Dayton Ohio. I watched a portion of both the quartet and chorus competitions. It is a bit different to hear some of the same songs we sing, but in a much higher key. What struck me the most was the intensity of the participants. All the ladies were intent on presenting the music. Faces and gestures were far and away better than those of our chorus. Perhaps women are better at the emotional side of presentations, however, they don't just stand there and sing. You Tube may have some of the competition, but some of last year's contest is on the Sweet Adelines website. Watch the Melodeers, (last year's winners), for a barbershop singing lesson as part of their showmanship package. Also, this year the audience set a Guinness World Record as the largest group in attendance ever to participate in a singing lesson. Ain't barbershop great?

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in November

2 nd	Joy Kirk
6 th	Lamar Owens
10 th	Dave Rack
10 th	Hobby Thomas
13 th	Janice Owens
14 th	Ed Thornton
15 th	Betty Rogers
19 th	Wilbur Strickland
22 nd	Mary Strickland

23 rd	Fred Jesse
23 rd	John Johnson
22 th	Karl Dommert
29 th	Frank Delaney

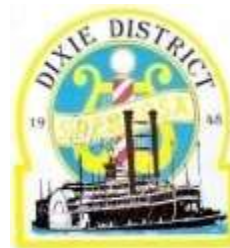
Anniversaries in November

None

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



November 9, 2009

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

The Dec. 17 Creekside performance will be moved from Dec. 17 to **Nov. 14**. Performance times and dress will be announced and decided at our meeting November 9. This move is at the request of the new Activities Director and the new resident manager of the facility. We will be going up to \$250 for this and future performances. Since the contacts have changed it is a good time to change the price.

Marketing & Public Relations

The week of Dec. 7 I will appear with Richard Winham, WUTC-88.1 FM for a call in to talk about give away four tickets to the Dec. 11 show WUTC was voted the 2nd best station in the Chattanooga area and Richard the 5th best DJ. On December 7 Paul and I will appear on Don Welches show, This "n" That. The show is on WTVC Channel 9 from 12:30 to 1:00 P. M.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	Nov 14	TBA	Creekside Retirement	Shallowford Road	TBA
Tue	Dec 1	6:30 pm	Chattanooga Choo Choo	Downtown Hotel	Christmas Outfit
Thu	Dec 3	6:45 pm	First Baptist Church	Ft. Oglethorpe, GA	Christmas Outfit
Tue	Dec 15	6:30 pm	Hickory Valley Retirement Home	Chattanooga, TN	Christmas Outfit
Tue	Dec 22	6:30 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Christmas Outfit -

Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2009	Cleveland's Christmas Show	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show	GPS Auditorium
December 14, 2009	Christmas Party at 6:00pm	Steve Wixson's House

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in November

2nd Joy Kirk
6th Lamar Owens
10th Dave Rack
10th Hobby Thomas
13th Janice Owens
14th Ed Thornton
15th Betty Rogers
19th Wilbur Strickland
22nd Mary Strickland

23rd Fred Jesse
23rd John Johnson
22th Karl Dommert
29th Frank Delaney

Anniversaries in November

None

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
November 23, 2009



President –Lebron Brock

I hope our guest singers are having a good time preparing for the upcoming concerts. I know the membership has enjoyed having them. In order for the guests to understand the schedule of performances I would like to point out that there are two main performances that we would hope no one misses, The one at Lee Univ. in Cleveland on Dec. 8, and the one at GPS in Chattanooga on the 11th. The other performances have been "added-on". While we would like to have everyone participate in these too, if any guest feels two performances are all they wish to do, we will completely understand. We want this to be nothing but a great experience for our guests, not a hardship. On behalf of the chorus I want to thank our guests for joining us in this charitable endeavor.

Below are our recently elected officers for 2010:

President - LeBron Brock
Music Leadership VP - Art Southerlin
Treasurer – Gary Fisher
Secretary/Historian - Fred Jesse
Member Involvement VP - Wally Edmondson
Program VP - Wilbur Strickland
Marketing/Publicity VP - Lamar Owens
Business Manager - Dave Rack
Member at Large - David White, Clyde Rogers, Johnny Jackson
Newsletter Editor - Steve Wixson

Director –Paul Blazek

Below is the complete Chattanooga Christmas program for 2009 (Arrive at GPS at 5:30 pm to rehearse):

CCCCC songs:

1. Jingle Bells
2. White Christmas
3. Veni Veni, Emmanuel
4. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
5. I Saw Three Ships
6. Mary Had A Baby
7. Christmas Song (Chestnuts)
8. Most Wonderful Time Of The Year

Also, the CCCCC will participate
in audience sing-along, finish
with second verse of Silent Night.
Finally, Merry Christmas tag!

Choo Choo Chorus songs:

Angels We Have Heard On High
Coventry Carol
Let It Snow
Winter Wonderland

Quartet songs:

Two Front Teeth (RC4)
I'll Be Home For Christmas(RC4)
Home For The Holidays (FG)
Christmas Time - Chipmunk song (FG)
Christmas Chopsticks (CH)
Silver Bells (CH)
Diddley-Squat (SCS)
It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas (SCS)

RC4 - Rock City 4
FG - Four Grand
CH - Classic Harmony
SCS - Scenic City Sound

Audience sing-along:

Joy To The World
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Silent Night (first verse)

Business Manager –Lamar Owens

The performance for Creekside is back on for December 15 at 7:30. The later time is so we can set up in the dining room rather than the vestibule where they have been putting us. Since we were renegotiating I requested the dining room and they want to make sure the residents are finished eating and the tables cleared. We were scheduled to do Hickory Valley

on this date so you should still have it open. "All things come to he who sitteth and waiteth as long as he worketh like XXXX while he waiteth"

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week are in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Arrival Time	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tue	Dec 1	<i>6:15 pm</i>	Chattanooga Choo Choo	Downtown Hotel	Christmas Outfit
Thu	Dec 3	6:45 pm	First Baptist Church	Ft. Oglethorpe, GA	Christmas Outfit
<i>Tue</i>	<i>Dec 15</i>	<i>6:45 pm</i>	<i>Creekside at Shallowford</i>	<i>7511 Shallowford Rd</i>	<i>Christmas Outfit</i>
Tue	Dec 22	6:30 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

Christmas Outfit – Black pants, belt, socks and shoes, white dress shirt, Christmas tie

Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2009	Cleveland's Christmas Show at 7 pm	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show at 7:30 pm	GPS Auditorium
December 14, 2009	Christmas Party at 6:00pm until ...	Steve Wixson's House

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in November

2nd Joy Kirk
 6th Lamar Owens
 10th Dave Rack
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 23rd John Johnson
 22th Karl Dommert
 29th Frank Delaney

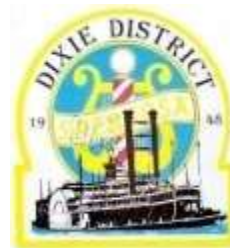
Anniversaries in November

None

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



November 30, 2009

Director –Paul Blazek

I'm "directing" my remarks this week to both the members of the Choo Choo Chorus and the Community Christmas Chorus, since we're sending the newsletter to everybody. I'm extremely proud to have such a fine bunch of guys this year. You have worked hard and long to prepare yourselves for what looks to be a great performance season. I'm really looking forward to our first performance at the Choo Choo Hotel. I hope everyone can make it - it will be a great run-through for our shows. Also, if we could get everybody to our "final" rehearsal on the 30th it would be great so we can get riser positions set. Thanks again for your dedication to sharing "The gifts of Christmas" with the greater Chattanooga and Cleveland communities.

Below is the complete Chattanooga Christmas program for 2009 (Arrive at GPS at 6:30 pm to rehearse):

CCCCC songs:

1. Jingle Bells
2. White Christmas
3. Veni Veni, Emmanuel
4. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
5. I Saw Three Ships
6. Mary Had A Baby
7. Christmas Song (Chestnuts)
8. Most Wonderful Time Of The Year

Also, the CCCCC will participate in audience sing-along, finish with second verse of Silent Night. Finally, Merry Christmas tag!

Choo Choo Chorus songs:

Angels We Have Heard On High
Coventry Carol
Let It Snow
Winter Wonderland

Quartet songs:

Two Front Teeth (RC4)
I'll Be Home For Christmas(RC4)
Home For The Holidays (FG)
Christmas Time - Chipmunk song (FG)
Christmas Chopsticks (CH)
Silver Bells (CH)
Diddley-Squat (SCS)
It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas (SCS)

RC4 - Rock City 4
FG - Four Grand
CH - Classic Harmony
SCS - Scenic City Sound

Audience sing-along:

Joy To The World
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Silent Night (first verse)

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week are in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Arrival Time	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tue	Dec 1	6:15 pm	Chattanooga Choo Choo	Downtown Hotel	Christmas Outfit
Thu	Dec 3	6:45 pm	First Baptist Church	Ft. Oglethorpe, GA	Christmas Outfit
Tue	Dec 15	6:45 pm	Creekside at Shallowford	7511 Shallowford Rd	Christmas Outfit
Tue	Dec 22	6:15 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

Christmas Outfit – Black pants, belt, socks and shoes, white dress shirt, Christmas tie

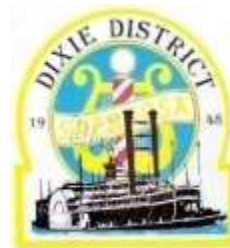
Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2009	Cleveland's Christmas Show at 7 pm	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show at 7:30 pm	GPS Auditorium
December 14, 2009	Christmas Party at 6:00pm until ...	Steve Wixson's House

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



December 7, 2009



Choo Choo Hotel Sing Out. Photograph by Linda Moore

Program VP –Bill Slack

I am collecting \$10 per person for our Christmas party at the home of Janet and Steve Wixson, and they need a head count by Monday.

For our guests, note that this is a non-alcohol party. There will be singing and lots of fun, and a time for us to thank you for a great Christmas season of song.

Directions to Wixson's house. Highway 27 North from town or South as appropriate. Take the Signal Mtn/Highway 127 exit and head toward Signal Mtn. After starting uphill, take the second right (it's after the Space Ship house) onto Sunset Drive. Take the first left onto Lower Brow. Go up the hill to the yellow house. Park anywhere on the street—the neighbors are expecting it. There is a turn around at the end of the street. Telephone number is 886-1744.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week are in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Arrival Time	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tue	Dec 15	6:45 pm	Creekside at Shallowford	7511 Shallowford Rd	Christmas Outfit
Tue	Dec 22	6:15 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

6th Judy Jesse
9th Roger Coffman
19th Steve Grubb
30th Lucien Claiborne
31st Matt Blazek

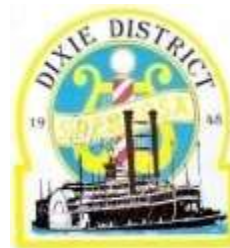
Anniversaries in December

6th Clyde and Betty Rogers
23rd Lamar and Janice Owens
29th Dave and Tanya Fleury
29th Landon & Sherry Sawyer

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



December 14, 2009



The 2009 Chattanooga and Cleveland Community Christmas Chorus (62 on stage.) Photo by Tanya Fleury

Director –Paul Blazek

As I write this (Tuesday), we have two performances under our belt and one coming up tonight, one Friday night, and two more to complete the season. Thanks again for all your hard work to make this year's Community Christmas Chorus the best I've directed. It's a pleasure to stand in front of you and help you share the spirit of the season. Please remember that it's not just words and notes - it's also feelings and energy. See you at the next performance!

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week are in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Arrival Time	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tue	Dec 15	6:45 pm	Creekside at Shallowford	7511 Shallowford Rd	Christmas Outfit
Tue	Dec 22	6:15 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

Christmas Outfit – Black pants, belt, socks and shoes, white dress shirt, Christmas tie

Upcoming Special Events

December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show at 7:30 pm – arrive 6:00pm	GPS Auditorium
December 14, 2009	Christmas Party from 6:00pm until ...	Steve Wixson's House

Directions to Wixson's House. Highway 27 North from town or South as appropriate. Take the Signal Mtn/Highway 127 exit and head toward Signal Mtn. After starting uphill, take the second right (it's after the Space Ship house) onto Sunset Drive. Take the first left onto Lower Brow. Go up the hill to the yellow house. Park anywhere on the street—the neighbors are expecting it. There is a turn around at the end of the street. Telephone number is 886-1744.

Christmas Outfit – Black pants, belt, socks and shoes, white dress shirt, Christmas tie

Upcoming Special Events

December 8, 2009	Cleveland's Christmas Show at 7 pm	Dixon Center, Lee University
December 11, 2009	Gifts of Christmas Show at 7:30 pm – arrive 6:30	GPS Auditorium
December 14, 2009	Christmas Party from 6:00pm until ...	Steve Wixson's House

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

6th Judy Jesse
9th Roger Coffman
19th Steve Grubb
30th Lucien Claiborne
31st Matt Blazek

Anniversaries in December

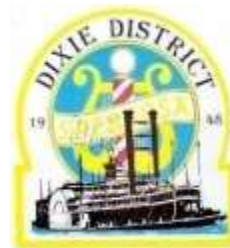
6th Clyde and Betty Rogers
23rd Lamar and Janice Owens
29th Dave and Tanya Fleury
29th Landon & Sherry Sawyer

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**

December 21, 2009



Scenic City Sound quartet singing with chorus at Creekside Retirement Center with wives in the right foreground. Photo by Bill Allen

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week are in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Arrival Time	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Tue	Dec 22	6:15 pm	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	Christmas Outfit

Christmas Outfit – Black pants, belt, socks and shoes, white dress shirt, Christmas tie

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December

6th Judy Jesse
9th Roger Coffman
19th Steve Grubb
30th Lucien Claiborne
31st Matt Blazek

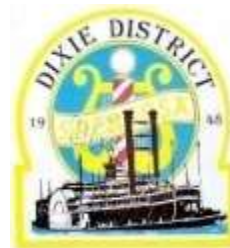
Anniversaries in December

6th Clyde and Betty Rogers
23rd Lamar and Janice Owens
29th Dave and Tanya Fleury
29th Landon & Sherry Sawyer

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



January 11, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

The year of 2009 will be remembered as a great one for our chorus, but I want to challenge everyone to make 2010 even better. Your leadership has already hit the ground running. As you read this your music leadership team has already held the first meeting of the new year and several of our leaders will have already attended leadership training classes in Woodstock, GA. The leadership will soon be presenting ideas, goals, and plans to improve the chorus and will need lots of help and cooperation from all the membership in order to make them successful. My slogan for the year is "Plan for Progress." I believe the Board of Directors is planning for progress and it is my hope that every individual in the chorus will set personal goals for themselves and plan for progress for the coming year.

Director –Paul Blazek

The MLT approved the occasional use of the fourth verse of the Star Spangled Banner. Here are those great words. Please learn them.

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Archivist and Historian –Fred Jesse

I am the archivist and historian for the Choo Choo Chorus, perhaps for life I am told. However, I have amassed a lot of papers and files of the chorus since its inception. I have sorted out much duplication for disposal. I intend to put much of it into storage at All Saints. But prior to doing so, I make one last request for any stuff - files, music, reports, minutes, Harmonizers, score sheets, photos, programs, scripts, newsletters, Blenders, audio tapes, video tapes, CD's, records - 33's, 45's, or 78's of society choruses or quartets, or even old barbershop or quartet music in general. Clean out your closet for the new year so I can clean out mine. Thanks, and let me know what you have to contribute.

Publicity –Lamar Owens

Our web site is now set up to receive orders for Singing Valentines and accept payment via Pay Pal. Instructions for sending checks is also on the site. All thanks to Arleen Lee. Sell, sell, sell.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

1st Niles Fowler
6th Barbara Dommert
19th Marilyn Fisher
22nd Steve Wixson
23rd Bill Slack

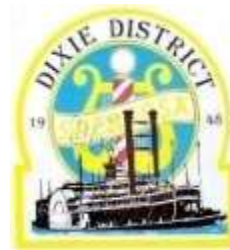
23rd Carol Collins

Anniversaries in January

19th Lucien and Ellen Claiborne
20th Karl and Barbara Dommert
24rd Clarence and Sally Wall



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



January 18, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

Don't let the cold weather get you down. We have very few weeks to get ready for contest. The two songs are "How's Every Little Thing in Dixie" and "Are You From Dixie?" It was evident that we were pretty rusty on these last Monday. I am told we will have some sectional practice this Monday night. Your regular attendance is needed at this crucial time.

Director –Paul Blazek

We will work on HELTID and AYFD in sectionals and on the risers adding moves to AYFD. Please review Hello Mary Lou and Caroline.

Treasurer –Gary Fisher

Gary Fisher announces that Dave Fleury has been appointed Assistant Treasurer for the Choo Choo Chorus. His duties will be to assist the Show Chairman of all programs throughout the year in ticket sales, keeping track of the money and turning it in to the Treasurer. He also is authorized to write and sign checks should the need arise. Johnny Jackson also has check writing privileges and continues to assist me in learning my new duties as Treasurer.

Marketing & Public Relations –Lamar Owens

We will have exposure for the Singing Valentines program live on the following stations and programs:

WRCB-TV Channel 3 Trends (Latrice Curry)-9:30 Saturday Mornings. Our appearance will air on February 6.

WTVC-TV 9 This "n" That with Don Welch-Wednesday February 3.

WUTC-FM 88.1 The Richard Winham program the week of 2/8. Specific date TBA.

Announcements on (maybe recorded PSAs):

WDYN 89.7 Recorded PSA

US101 with Ken Hicks

US101 with Dex

WDOD AM

WUUQ 97.3

WUUQ 99.3

WDEF 92.3 Luther and James Howard

WDEF Channel 12 Luther Community Calendar

103.7 The River

98.1 The Legend

Rock 105.5

KZ106

GT107.9

WGOW AM 1150

WGOW 102.3 FM Talk radio Jeff Styles, The Village Idiot

There will be an article in FYI Weekend, Time Press, Feb. 5. If have other contacts that could help us out let me know.

Fellowship –Niles Fowler

I'm doing pretty well, but I'm not getting out much due to the cold. Also, I'm hoarse for some reason...have been since I got out of the hospital Dec. 13th. I'll be back as soon as I can sing. I miss you guys. If you go to WDEF.com and click on the "Upload & Share Your Weather "which is in the upper left, you can see where our frog statue was sending a stream of water right through where the ice had formed up to his mouth making a tunnel. Cool huh! (no pun intended)

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

1st Niles Fowler
6th Barbara Dommert
19th Marilyn Fisher
22nd Steve Wixson
23rd Bill Slack

23rd Carol Collins

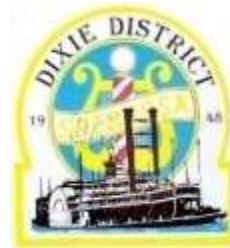
Anniversaries in January

19th Lucien and Ellen Claiborne
20th Karl and Barbara Dommert
24rd Clarence and Sally Wall

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



January 25, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

The new slate of officers is considering plans for the new year. We would welcome input from any or all letting us know what you like or dislike about our chapter activities and practice sessions.

Music and Performance VP –Art Southerlin

As I mentioned at our last rehearsal we have a VERY busy musical year ahead of us – our Valentine Program, Spring Contest in March, our Riverboat Show with the CHB in September, Fall Contest October 1-2 and, finally, our 2010 Christmas Show in December. All of these musical performances will require intense preparations by each of us as individuals (at home) and as a team as well! Throw in some sing-outs and we have a full plate for 2010!! No one should be bored this year!

To accomplish all of this we need to be ORGANIZED and COMMITTED!! The Riser Etiquette plan is intended to help keep us organized and to enable us to get as much out of our rehearsal times as possible by making our rehearsals run smoother – without a lot of wasted time and confusion. Please take some time to review the attachment and by all means ask questions if you find something that you don't understand or you aren't comfortable with. It is a dynamic document and will be changed as needed to fit our requirements as a team and chorus.

Oh yea! The COMMITMENT – it, of course, has to come from you. We should strive to be off of the sheet music by the 3rd meeting on all new songs – and there will be an abundance of those! To accomplish that we'll all need to put in some extra time rehearsing – at home. I thought I left homework behind!?!?!

Director –Paul Blazek

Continue to work on Are You From Dixie and How's Every Little Thing In Dixie. We'll review Star-Spangled Banner and Georgia On My Mind. Also, see if you can find an old copy of Darkness On The Delta.

Historian –Fred Jesse

My January 11 appeal for chorus items for the archives has resulted in several things. David fleury gave me an interesting one, a Readers Digest magazine dated September 1939. On page 15 is a small article noting the formation of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc. a little over a year previously. The article has info on Society beginning with O.C. Cash in Tulsa OK, and closes with the words to our theme song "The Old Songs".

Barry Owens, a former editor and publisher of the chapter newsletter, "The Blender", gave me a pile of old Blenders dating from 1994 - 1998. I have sorted out one of each date for the archives. The remaining pile will be placed in the rehearsal room for you to take, read, keep, etc. I will still take other stuff too.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

1st Niles Fowler
6th Barbara Dommert
19th Marilyn Fisher
22nd Steve Wixson
23rd Bill Slack

23rd Carol Collins

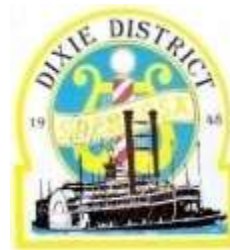
Anniversaries in January

19th Lucien and Ellen Claiborne
20th Karl and Barbara Dommert
24rd Clarence and Sally Wall

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



February 1, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

We had an enjoyable meeting Monday night. We had a good number in spite of having some notable singers (pun intended) missing. We had another sectional and continued to make progress on AYFD. We also broke out Darkness on the Delta from the archives and taught it to newer chorus members with an eye toward using it in our River Boat theme show. The song was demonstrated by a quartet composed of Tom Keegan, Fred Jesse, Paul Blazek and Chuck Wilson and the chorus went over it several times. A quartet made up of Ed Thornton, Brooks Gist, Pat Crowe and Niles Fowler entertained us with a polecat.

Order forms for singing valentines were passed out and everyone was urged to get busy selling. Some asked for fliers. Steve Wixson will be asked to send fliers to everyone by e-mail this week. If anyone wants hard copies they should contact Steve. Quartets that plan to sing valentines need to be preparing and make sure Richard Poole has your contact info. We need volunteers to take turns taking phone orders. Anyone that can help with this should contact Richard Poole or J.W. Kirk. Please volunteer before you are drafted. As always, if you need anything from me (Lebron Brock) just let me know.

Program VP –Wilbur Strickland

The Valentines party is to be at Parkway Baptist Temple on Monday, 2-15-10, gather at 6:30 and eat at 7 PM. I am hoping to have some of the chorus members to form quartets and compete for some "prizes". The Registered Quartets aren't allowed to compete but they can if they sing another part. The menu is to be, I think, peppercorn chicken casserole or roast pork tenderloin, Green beans, potatoes, salad, desert and drink for \$10. Dave Fluery is taking up the money.

Public Relations –Lamar Owens

A Valentines article will appear the FYI Weekend, Times Free Press Feb. 5. Hopefully with a picture.

WTVC-TV9 This N That with Don Welch Wed., Feb. 3 between 12:30 and 1:00 P. M. Paul Blazek

WRCB-TV Channel 3 Trends show with Latrice Currie Feb. 6, Saturday A. M. between 9:30 and 10:00 A. M.
Scenic City Sound

WUTC-FM 88.1 Richard Winham show 3:45 P. M. Feb. 10 Scenic City Sound

WDYN-FM 89.7 Recorded PSA

WDEF 92.3 FM Luther and James Howard

WDEF Channel 12 News Luther Community Calendar. Do not know date. Between 12:00 and 12:30 P. M.

WDOD A.M. AM 1310

WGOW A.M. AM 1150

WGOW-FM 102.3

WUUQ-FM 97.3 FM

WUUQ-FM 99.3 FM

98.1 FM The Legend

GT107.9 FM

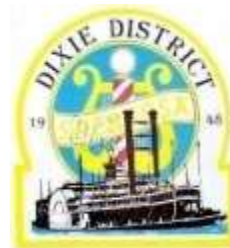
KZ106 FM

Rock 105 FM

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



February 8, 2010

Treasurer –Gary Fisher

The Valentine party on Monday, February 15th, will include a check presentation to the Walter Boehm Birth Defects Center representing the net take of our Christmas show. The check will be for \$3,693.12. Our members can be especially proud of their giving in 2009 as I just sent a check for \$876 to the Barbershop Harmony Society Foundation fund. This money came from that one dollar you give each week when we pass the basket. Our little non-profit hobby of singing will have given \$4,769.12 to charity in 2009. Thanks, guys

Director –Paul Blazek

We will work on our two contest songs plus Geo On My Mind, 4th verse of SSB, and God Bless America.

Program VP –Wilbur Strickland

The Valentines party is to be at Parkway Baptist Temple on Monday, 2-15-10, gather at 6:30 and eat at 7 PM. I am hoping to have some of the chorus members to form quartets and compete for some "prizes". The Registered Quartets aren't allowed to compete but they can if they sing another part. The menu is peppercorn chicken casserole or roast pork tenderloin, green beans, potatoes, salad, desert and drink for \$10. Dave Fluery is taking up the money.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in Febuary

10th Shannon Edmondson
13th Steve Erwin
18th Clyde Rogers
18th Joyce Delaney
28th Wally Edmondson

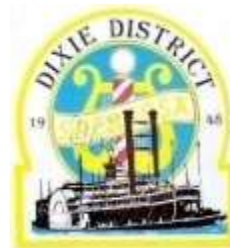
Anniversaries in Febuary

10th Tom & Barbara Keegan

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



February 15, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

We only have 3 weeks to practice for the contest and we are far from where we need to be on AYFD. In the past we have been able to make tremendous improvement in a short period of time when our backs were against the wall. It is time to do that again. Need I to say more?

Program VP –Wilbur Strickland

The Valentines party is at Parkway Baptist Temple this Monday. We gather at 6:30 and eat at 7 PM. I am hoping to have some of the chorus members to form quartets and compete for some "prizes". The Registered Quartets aren't allowed to compete but they can if they sing another part. The menu is poppy seed chicken casserole or roast pork tenderloin, green beans, potatoes, salad, desert and drink for \$10. Dave Fluery is taking up the money. Contact him if you are coming and have NOT yet paid.

Singing Valentine Sign Guy –Steve Wixson

Just a reminder to pick up the Singing Valentines yard signs so we can use them again next year.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in Febuary

10 th	Shannon Edmondson
12 th	Brooks Gist
13 th	Steve Erwin
17 th	Connie Bradwell
18 th	Clyde Rogers
18 th	Joyce Delaney
19 th	Sally Wall
28 th	Wally Edmondson

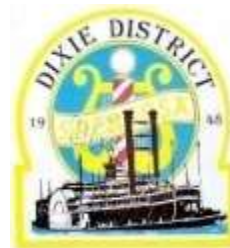
Anniversaries in Febuary

10 th	Tom & Barbara Keegan
26 th	Richard and Ann Poole

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



February 22, 2010

Director –Paul Blazek

This Monday we will work on the following that includes two new Riverboat Show songs:

How's Every Little Thing In Dixie
Are You From Dixie
Georgia On My Mind
Darkness On The Delta
Shenandoah (new)
Cruising Down The River (new)

President's Award Recipient –Gary Fisher

I want to thank Lebron Brock and the voting members of the Academy for the President's Award. I feel that it is to be shared by several people that busted their tails in making the Christmas program a success. I particularly wish to thank Lamar Owens, Steve Wixson, Dave Rack, Wally Edmonson, Frank Delaney, Paul Blazek and our great emcee, Jed Mescon, for their tireless efforts to make it a profitable enterprise. There are several others that also contributed and I thank them also, especially the Belles for the work they have done.



Gary presenting our Christmas Show net proceeds check to Susan ?, Board member of the Walter Boehm Center.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in February

10th Shannon Edmondson
12th Brooks Gist
13th Steve Erwin
17th Connie Bradwell
18th Clyde Rogers
18th Joyce Delaney
19th Sally Wall
28th Wally Edmondson

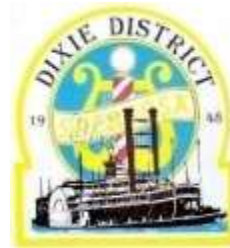
Anniversaries in February

10th Tom & Barbara Keegan
26th Richard and Ann Poole



Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus

March 8, 2010



Membership Vice-President –Wally Edmonson

I recently learned about <http://barbershoptags.com> and thought you guys might like it as well. They have 1151 freely-downloadable barbershop tags. Most of them have sheet music and learning tracks, and some even have videos of people singing them. I especially like the classic tags page at <http://tinyurl.com/n4m64o>. From there, you can download the Classic Tags book in pdf form and you can also download a package of learning tracks with just your part for all 125 classic tags.

Treasurer –Gary Fisher

I want to close the books on the Valentine's quartetting. If you have any money to turn in, please do so as soon as possible.

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



March 15, 2010

Director –Paul Blazek

Contest uniform is Tux with purple accessories and Choo Choo rhinestone pin. Chorus schedule is below. I will have a room in the Westin for dressing. The Crimson Tide Chorus had a meteoric rise in the last contest. Check out this YouTube link to see how they present themselves. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9n3XqYZWkUo>

DIXIE DISTRICT SPRING 2010 CHORUS SCHEDULE MATRIX

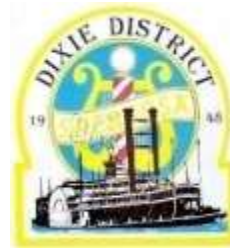
3/13/2010
as of 2/28

			ARR.	LEAVE	ARR.		ARR.
		ARR.	WARMUP	WARMUP	PEACE	ON	PHOTO
OOA	CHORUS	WESTIN	ROOM	ROOM	CENTER	STAGE	AREA
1	Spartanburg, SC	9:20	9:30	10:10	10:20	10:30	10:45
2	Wilmington, NC	9:30	9:40	10:20	10:30	10:40	10:55
3	Macon, GA	9:40	9:50	10:30	10:40	10:50	11:05
4	Augusta, GA	9:50	10:00	10:40	10:50	11:00	11:15
5	NE Tennessee	10:00	10:10	10:50	11:00	11:10	11:25
6	Charleston, SC	10:10	10:20	11:00	11:10	11:20	11:35
7	Athens, AL	10:20	10:30	11:10	11:20	11:30	11:45
8	Chattanooga, TN	10:30	10:40	11:20	11:30	11:40	11:55
9	Asheville, NC	10:40	10:50	11:30	11:40	11:50	12:05
10	Marietta, GA	10:50	11:00	11:40	11:50	12:00	12:15
30 MINUTE INTERMISSION							
11	Tuscaloosa, AL	11:30	11:40	12:20	12:30	12:40	12:55
12	Winston-Salem	11:40	11:50	12:30	12:40	12:50	1:05
13	Cleveland, TN	11:50	12:00	12:40	12:50	1:00	1:15
14	Central AL	12:00	12:10	12:50	1:00	1:10	1:25
15	Hickory, NC	12:10	12:20	1:00	1:10	1:20	1:35
16	Memphis, TN	12:20	12:30	1:10	1:20	1:30	1:45
17	Lexington County	12:30	12:40	1:20	1:30	1:40	1:55
18	Greensboro, NC	12:40	12:50	1:30	1:40	1:50	2:05
19	RTP, NC	12:50	1:00	1:40	1:50	2:00	2:15
20	Stone Mt, GA	1:00	1:10	1:50	2:00	2:10	2:25
21	Charlotte, NC	1:10	1:20	2:00	2:10	2:20	2:35

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



March 22, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

It is time for some serious thoughts. An impromptu discussion broke out at last Monday's meeting. The scores we received at the Greenville contest were the highest we have received in at least 10 years and yet we did not feel all that good about it because we know we could have done better. A lot of people spoke up. The feeling of the group seemed to be - we want to get better and will be willing to do what it takes to accomplish this. This was especially interesting since it came from a cross section of the membership and was not something drummed up by leaders. If that is indeed what the members want then it becomes the responsibility of the leadership to put in motion a plan to make it happen. I think the leadership is ready and willing to do this but membership should understand there will be a price to pay, it won't come easy, and the leadership will need the support and cooperation of the members or we will succeed only in creating discontent. This would be a good time for each of us to do some soul searching and ask ourselves - are we willing to pay the price to reach another level? When you have your answer, talk to one of the officers about it. If it turns out that we have enough members willing to commit to this idea, we will chart a new course for the chorus. If the membership is not willing to make a commitment there will be no point in starting along this path. It is in your hands. What will our future be?

Treasurer –Gary Fisher

We received a very nice thank you letter from Sharee Stoker for the \$4,103.12 check we presented to the Walter Boehm Birth Defects Center. It is posted on the bulletin board in rehearsal hall. We will continue our relationship with Walter Boehm BDC next Christmas.

Music & Performance VP –Art Southerlin

I am pleased, and hope you are too, that we showed some improvement in our scoring at contest. It was a small improvement, but improvement nonetheless and should be celebrated.

I'm also pleased with what I perceived as a consensus among all of us to commit to an effort to produce DRAMATIC improvement for the Fall Contest. Did I hear a 65??

That kind of improvement will take quite a commitment from each of us personally (including me!).

1. Your/my commitment to learn the words and notes outside of rehearsals. (Paul's job is to guide the chorus in POLISHING the performance - NOT to teach us the songs).
2. Your/my commitment to spend time each week (at home) trying to improve your/my own vocal technique.
3. Your/my commitment to practice Stage Presence (Face and Choreography) outside of rehearsals.
4. Your/my commitment to learn to become an actor/entertainer who can express emotion and connect with the audience using song, facial expression and body movement.
5. Your/my commitment to overcome your/my fear of personal failure (Stage Fright). The judges said that we seemed timid, afraid to "turn it loose!"

I've attached a link (click [here](#)) of FAQ's from the Masters of Harmony website (why not steal from the best??) Take some time and read through these. They generally set the tone for what I think each of us committed to last Monday evening. If we're really serious (really committed on a personal basis) we can accomplish that dramatic improvement - but it takes a surprising amount of personal time and effort (and that's difficult to sustain). Oh yeah, don't forget that that we want ALL of our chorus members to take part in that Fall Contest performance and ALL of us to celebrate TOGETHER when we accomplish our goal. Did I hear a 65??

Director –Paul Blazek

Guys, I was very impressed by the discussion last Monday night. It looks like we have a majority of you who want to score 65 or better this fall so I'll be stepping up our level of activities to meet that goal. I was particularly heartened by question from those who didn't go to Greenville and yet still want to improve. It makes it easier to go forward knowing that we won't be doing the same old things and expecting different results. Stay tuned to this space for exciting news about coaching, helpful tips about singing better, and presentation hints and methods. We also have the fall show the Saturday

after Labor Day which will include the Confederate Harmony Brigade chorus and special guest quartets - I'll have more details as the year progresses. Get excited about the Choo Choo Chorus – the train's going to start rolling a little faster!



Dinner Celebration at Smoke on the River in Greenville Dixie District Convention. Photograph by Beau Christian

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in Febuary

12th Sondra Rack
17th Pat Crowe
18th Johnny Jackson
20th Cynthia Johnston
24th Glenda Erwin
25th Beau Christian

25th Dave Fleury
30th Richard Poole

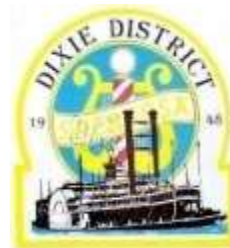
Anniversaries in March

7th Dave and Sondra Rack

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



March 29, 2010

Director –Paul Blazek

The Gold and Silver awards that were passed out at the recent Dixie Convention are shown below.

Business Manager –Dave Rack

We have several new sing outs scheduled. See below.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 24	9:30 AM	<i>Special Olympics Track & Field</i>	<i>McCallie School</i>	<i>Khaki + knit shirt</i>
Sat	May 8	2:00 PM	<i>NHC nursing home</i>	<i>Rossville, GA</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Thu	June 10	TBD	<i>Alexian Village</i>	<i>Signal Mtn, TN</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Thu	Sep 2	TBD	<i>Alexian Villiage</i>	<i>Signal Mtn, TN</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Thu	Dec 16	TBD	<i>Alexian Villiage</i>	<i>Signal Mtn, TN</i>	<i>TBA</i>

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Upcoming Special Events

April 6, 2010	Cleveland Chorus Open House	Cleveland, TN
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in March

12th Sondra Rack
17th Pat Crowe
18th Johnny Jackson
20th Cynthia Johnston
24th Glenda Erwin

25th Beau Christian
25th Dave Fleury
30th Richard Poole

Anniversaries in March

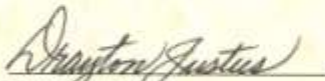
7th Dave and Sondra Rack

*The Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc.
recognizes the exemplary achievement of the*

Chattanooga, TN Chapter

*of the Barbershop Harmony Society for contributing \$ 99.18 per member to
local community organizations and programs during 2009 and, in recognition
thereof, gratefully presents this*

Gold Award


Drayton Justus
Dixie District President



March 12, 2010
Date

Harmony Foundation International, Inc.

recognizes the exemplary achievement of the

Chattanooga Chapter

*of the Barbershop Harmony Society
for contributing \$44.49 per member to Harmony Foundation programs during 2009
and, in recognition thereof, gratefully presents this*

Silver Award

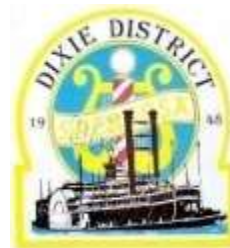

Clarke A. Caldwell, President and CEO
Harmony Foundation International, Inc.




Drayton Justus, President
Dixie District



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 5, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

We may be turning a corner in our chapter. There is unprecedented enthusiasm about the future of the chorus. Monday night we had 35 members for the first session and 30 stayed for the second session. The sound we were able to generate put our director into a frenzy of ecstasy. We have seen him in a frenzy before but it has usually been the opposite of ecstasy. The songs we are learning for our September show are very popular with the membership. How can anyone not love Shenandoah?

I want to encourage everyone to remember the starting time for our practices is 7:00. We can accomplish more if we all arrive on time. Can't wait for next week!

Director –Paul Blazek

For this Monday

National Anthem and God Bless America
Shenandoah and Cruising Down The River
Random repertoire

I like the idea of "Strive for 65" as a motto for this year - a Contest goal and also a CCCC goal because if we get 65 guys from the community we'll have over 100 on the risers - what a joy that would be! The music team will be fleshing out the details - stay tuned for fun and excitement...

Business Manager –Dave Rack

We have several new sing outs scheduled. See below.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 24	9:30 AM	Special Olympics Track & Field	McCallie School	Khaki + knit shirt
Sat	May 8	2:00 PM	NHC nursing home	Rossville, GA	TBA
Mon	May 24	6:00 PM	Creeside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	Khaki + knit shirt
Thu	June 10	7:00 PM	Alexian Village	Signal Mtn, TN	TBA
Sat	May 29	8:00 AM	Scout Flag Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
Mon	May 31	11:00 AM	Memorial Day Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
Thu	Sep 2	7:00 PM	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	TBA
Thu	Nov 11??	TBD	Veteran's Day Ceremony???	National Cemetery`	Patriotic
Thu	Dec 16	7:00 PM	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

Patriotic Outfit is Red Coat, Blue Chorus Pants, Blue Tie, Black wingtips, Black socks, and Regular White Dress Shirt.

Summer Casual is white chorus shirt with logo, blue chorus pants, black wingtips, black socks, and black belt.

Upcoming Special Events

April 6, 2010	Cleveland Chorus Open House	Cleveland, TN
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

3rd Linda Thornton
16th Joyce Delaney

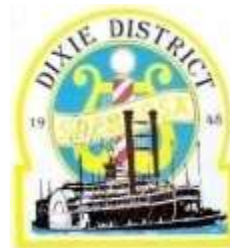
Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margaret Crowe

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 12, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

If you have been leaving the meeting at break time, you are missing the best part of the practice session. That is when we are putting polish on the songs we know and ringing a lot of chords.

We are making great progress on our new show songs. Most of us are off the music on Shenandoah. I won't be surprised if we are off the music on Cruising this week and The Banana Boat song next week. If you have had to miss practice lately and are not up to speed, please try to put in some extra work so you won't be holding the chorus back. If anyone needs help with the music outside of Monday nights, let me know and I will try to arrange something.

Director –Paul Blazek

Thanks for your help in improving our sound. Every time we remember that a certain vowel is shaped a certain way or that we need to turn diphthongs at the same time, we build habits that will help us become better singers and better entertainers. The songs to review for next Monday are:

God Bless America
Star-Spangled Banner
Shenandoah
Cruising Down The River
Banana Boat Song
Caroline
Georgia On My Mind

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 24	9:30 AM	Special Olympics Track & Field	McCallie School	Khaki + knit shirt
Sat	May 8	2:00 PM	NHC nursing home	Rossville, GA	TBA
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Thu	Sep 2	7:00 PM	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	TBA
Thu	Nov 11??	TBD	Veteran's Day Ceremony???	National Cemetery`	Patriotic
Thu	Dec 16	7:00 PM	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	TBA

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Summer Casual is white chorus shirt with logo, blue chorus pants, black wingtips, black socks, and black belt.

Upcoming Special Events

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

3rd Linda Thornton
16th Joyce Delaney

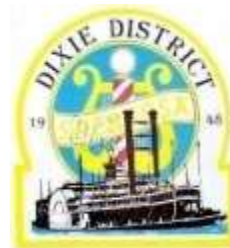
Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margaret Crowe

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 19, 2010

Director –Paul Blazek

I had some fun at Nashville's meeting last Tuesday night. Mark Hale, quartet champion and champion chorus director, coached the Nashville chorus and taught some things I'd never heard before. Some are only applicable to big (50+) choruses, but some also apply to us and I'll be incorporating them into our "craft" sessions.

Songs to review:

Banana Boat Song
Cruising Down the River
Shenandoah
Star-Spangled Banner
God Bless America
Georgia On My Mind
Hello Mary Lou

Business Manager –Dave Rack

The June date for the Alexian sing out has been cancelled by Alexian because of a schedule conflict.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 24	9:30 AM	Special Olympics Track & Field	McCallie School	Khaki + knit shirt
Sat	May 8	2:00 PM	NHC nursing home	Rossville, GA	TBA
Mon	May 24	6:00 PM	Creeside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	Khaki + knit shirt
Sat	May 29	8:00 AM	Scout Flag Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
Mon	May 31	11:00 AM	Memorial Day Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
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Thu	Nov 11??	TBD	Veteran's Day Ceremony???	National Cemetery`	Patriotic
Thu	Dec 16	7:00 PM	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	TBA

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Summer Casual is white chorus shirt with logo, blue chorus pants, black wingtips, black socks, and black belt.

Upcoming Special Events

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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

3rd Linda Thornton
16th Joyce Delaney

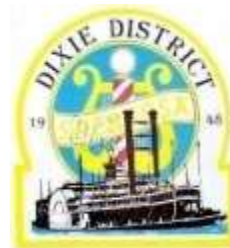
Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margaret Crowe

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



April 26, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

We had a good meeting Monday evening. We enjoyed 3 quartets entertaining us and worked on about 6 chorus songs. We were privileged to have James Estes from the Society with us for the first of 6 weekly visits. James sings with the Nashville Chorus and is part of the quartet "The Real McCoy" who qualified for international in our District contest. Our chapter is participating in a test program for the Society called TAG (Training for Aggressive Growth). We are very fortunate to be chosen for this and I would like to encourage all our members to attend every one of these sessions. If you have been missing some meetings this would be an excellent time to get back in the groove.

Director –Paul Blazek

Thanks for your hard work last Monday. James and I had a nice discussion after the meeting and we will be working on some things to improve our sound. In the meantime, start listening to Waiting For the Robert E. Lee on your CDs - we will be changing a few words from what's on the learning tracks but that shouldn't be a problem.

Songs to review:

Are You From Dixie
How's Every Little Thing In Dixie
God Bless America
Shenandoah
Banana Boat Song
Cruising Down The River

Treasurer –Gary Fisher

We are confirmed for our Retreat at St. Mary's of Sewanee on Friday and Saturday, June 18 and 19th.

We will be staying in dorm rooms that sleep six, with twin beds. There are communal bathrooms and showers. I stated there would be 18-20 men and we would need their conference set up which will allow us to take in our risers as it has a high ceiling.

We will be served dinner on Friday night, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday. We will go home Saturday night after dinner. Meals are \$9, \$10 and \$14 for breakfast, lunch and dinner respectively. Four meals will come to \$47. We will be staying in the St. Joseph's Dorm Rooms - \$38 for the first two men and \$12 per man for the other four spots, meaning rooms will be \$82 each, that cost to be shared by six men...\$13.70 each. Total cost per man for the whole shebang - \$60.70 each. I am looking at our books to see how much the treasury can supplement the costs.

As I stated before, my wife Marilyn has offered to entertain the Belles for the weekend at our home in Clifftops. The house can sleep ten comfortably, plus there is room for four more on two trundle beds and a double sleeper couch. The ladies can go out to each Friday night and prepare their breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday. I will investigate the possibility of the ladies joining us for dinner on Saturday night at \$14 each if you think that would be nice. Let me know. I need a firm count of how many ladies will be coming, first come/first served. Housing won't cost a thing, but dinner out Friday night will run \$10-\$12. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for \$10 each.

Go to <http://www.stmaryssewanee.org> for a closer look at the facilities and other information.

Marketing & Public Relations –Lamar Owens

Currently I am working on an article about the chorus, our history, activities and charitable giving in our city and this will be published sometime during the month of June. A firm date has not yet been determined. This is in addition to the normal articles about or shows, etc. Hopefully this will be a feature article in FYI Weekend.

Clothing Chairman –Lamar Owens

Two weeks ago I showed a white sweat shirt to those attending the rehearsal and asked how many would be interested in ordering one. The shirt is good quality and will be embroidered with the chorus logo and will cost \$15.50. I will bring it again to the next meeting so you can see, touch and feel it. So far only two members have indicated an interest and that is not enough to place an order. Let me know at the next meeting or by email of your interest and shirt size, large sizes are available.

Business Manager –Dave Rack

The June date for the Alexian sing out has been cancelled by Alexian because of a schedule conflict.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	April 24	9:30 AM	Special Olympics Track & Field	McCallie School	Khaki + knit shirt
Sat	May 8	2:00 PM	NHC nursing home	Rossville, GA	TBA
Mon	May 24	6:00 PM	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	Khaki + knit shirt
Sat	May 29	8:00 AM	Scout Flag Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
Mon	May 31	11:00 AM	Memorial Day Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
Thu	Sep 2	7:00 PM	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	TBA
Thu	Nov 11??	TBD	Veteran's Day Ceremony???	National Cemetery`	Patriotic
Thu	Dec 16	7:00 PM	Alexian Villiage	Signal Mtn, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

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Summer Casual is white chorus shirt with logo, blue chorus pants, black wingtips, black socks, and black belt.

Upcoming Special Events

June 18-19, 2010	Our Chapter Retreat	St Mary's at Sewanee
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Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in April

3rd Linda Thornton
16th Joyce Delaney

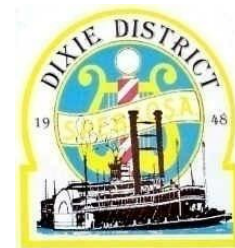
Anniversaries in April

4th Wilbur & Mary Strickland
5th Niles & Sherry Fowler
16th Frank & Joyce Delaney
18th John & Cynthia Johnston
24th Pat & Margaret Crowe

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus** May 3, 2010



President–Lebron Brock

Making a good "unit sound" in a section is the difference in making beautiful music and making a lot of noise. James Estes worked with the bass and baritone sections individually last Monday and gave us some pointers on how to achieve this unity. Coaching our singing is not the primary reason for his visit but he is certainly qualified to do so and we are privileged to have his input. Come this Monday and see if we can put his coaching into practice.

Treasurer –Gary Fisher

The Chorus Retreat at St. Mary's of Sewanee will be on Friday and Saturday, June 18th and 19th. We had 20 men raise their hands in response to who would be attending.

Although I put this on my credit card, I am NOT, repeat, NOT, going to foot the bill for y'all. **Please come to rehearsal on Monday with a check made out to the Chattanooga Choo Choo Chorus for \$61.00.** This will cover lodging and all meals. If you wish your wife to attend the Saturday night dinner, tack on another \$14 for a total of \$75.00.

I still need a count of the number of wives who will be staying at our home in Clifftops on Friday night. Let me know on Monday.

Director –Paul Blazek

It sure was nice to have James work with the basses and baritones in sectionals last Monday - both sections showed immediate improvement. The trick now is to remember the techniques he taught and make them habits. Try to remind each other (without disturbing the flow in the chairs or on the risers, of course). Next Monday - leads and tenors!

God Bless America took a lot of work but we finally nailed that pesky key change! I will have learning CDs available for anyone that needs one next Monday. We'll work on it again, along with repertoire songs Star-Spangled Banner, Shenandoah, Are You From Dixie, and How's Every Little Thing In Dixie. Songs in development will be Banana Boat Song (with sectionals) and Cruising Down The River.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	May 8	2:00 PM	NHC nursing home	Rossville, GA	TBA
Mon	May 24	6:00 PM	Creeside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	Khaki + knit shirt
Sat	May 29	8:00 AM	Scout Flag Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
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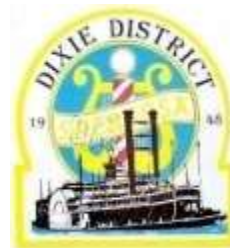
Upcoming Special Events

June 18-19, 2010	Our Chapter Retreat	St Mary's at Sewanee
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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



May 10, 2010

Treasurer –Gary Fisher

There has been a change where we'll stay when we go to St. Mary's. Instead of St. Joseph's Hall, we will be in St. Mary's Hall. Even though it is more expensive I negotiated to get the rooms at the same price as Josephs. We also be sleeping two to a room rather than six to a room which should make life a little easier. The downside is that the rooms in St. Mary's are not air-conditioned so you may want to bring a fan of some sort.

Remember...I need a check for \$61.00 if you are attending by yourself. I will need an additional \$28 if you want your wife to come to Clifftops and join us for the Friday and Saturday dinners. Bring a check or cash to the meeting on Monday. I need a head count of wives who plan on coming to Clifftops, please. The only cost for staying at Clifftops is ten bucks to cover breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Business Manager –Dave Rack

Remember the NHC sing out this Saturday, May 8th.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in *bold italics*)

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Mon	May 24	6:00 PM	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	Khaki + knit shirt
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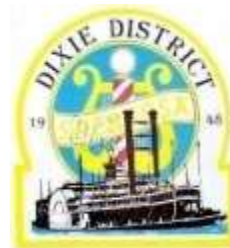
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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus



May 17, 2010

Director –Paul Blazek

Finally, I'm able to send this out.

Cruising Down The River TAG

Words by **Paul Blazek** Music by **Paul Blazek**
Arranged by **Paul Blazek**

The musical score is for a TAG (Tenor, Alto, Bass) arrangement. It features two parts: Tenor Lead and Bari Bass. The lyrics are: "With love as our guide, we'll go for a noon ride on a Sun day". The score includes musical notation with notes, rests, and lyrics. The Tenor Lead part starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The Bari Bass part starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The score includes a bridge section with the lyrics "af - - - - ter - noon - - - -".

Marketing and Public Relations –Lamar Owens

Riverbend Update. Rock City Four and Scenic City Sound will again be doing strolling entertaining at this venue. I again approached the talent coordinator for Riverbend about the chorus singing on the Unum/Provident stage at the Hunter Art Gallery, and actually he mentioned the Unum stage. He also brought up an October event for which he would consider using the chorus. I will keep in touch with him about the October thing, that is if our business manager approves.

Business Manager –Dave Rack

Note the updated meeting times for some of our upcoming sing outs.

We are singing *The National Anthem* at The U.S. District Court House in Chattanooga for the Ceremony for new citizens on Thursday, Oct 21st. There will be ceremonies at 10:30AM and 1:30PM and we will be singing at both ceremonies. The assembly times have not yet been determined. Attire will be our Patriotic Outfits.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Mon	May 24	6:00 PM	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	Khaki + knit shirt
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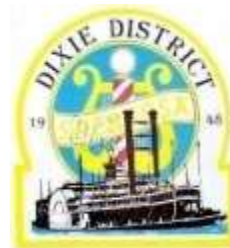
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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



May 24, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

We are beginning a very busy summer and I am excited about the opportunities we have. Along with the sing outs, the retreat in June and the Harmony college classes in July will be great fun and a real chance to improve our singing! The show with CHB in September will be a barn burner. I can't wait to take the audience "Cruising down the River" and seeing their reaction to Shenandoah and Banana Boat. Start selling tickets and ads now and watch the anticipation grow..

Treasurer –Gary Fisher

Gentlemen: It is time to pay the piper. When asked who was going to go to the retreat, twenty hands shot up. On your word, I made reservations at St. Mary's of Sewanee at \$61 per person. Not only that, but I negotiated better sleeping rooms and a better room in which to sing. I need \$61 from you twenty guys (seven have already paid). If I don't get at least ten more checks by this Monday for \$61, it will be necessary to call St. Mary's and cancel our retreat. A \$500 deposit was made to secure the date. I am unsure if we can retrieve that money.

Did I mention that I must have \$61 by this Monday? \$61. By Monday. Thank you.

Director –Paul Blazek

Our next three songs are:

By The Beautiful Sea
Row, Row, Row
The River Of No Return

With any luck, learning tracks will be available Monday night. I'm also looking for a quartet (or three guys who want the pleasure of me singing bass) to perform Please, Mr. Columbus on the show. I've been very impressed lately with the high energy and hard work in our rehearsal time. Thanks for your efforts as we get ready to put on a great show in September. Also, start planning now as to who you will invite to be part of the Christmas Chorus this year – 100 OR BUST!

Business Manager –Dave Rack

A REMINDER that next Monday's meeting will be at Creekside. Arrive at 6pm. We will sing to them and rehearse there afterwards.

Ruby Falls has been added to the schedule of performances. Saturday, July 24th with a warm-up time of 11:45AM. Attire will be the casual short sleeve chorus knit shirt and khaki pants.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Mon	May 24	6:00 PM	Creekside Retirement Home	Shallowford Road	Khaki + knit shirt
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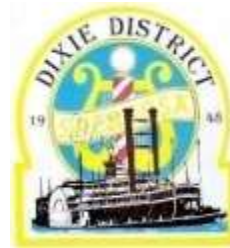
Gary Fisher sent this photograph from the Greenville convention.



Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



May 31, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

The combination sing-out/chorus practice last Monday turned out great. We had a good number of singers and our performance was one of our best. The audience was good and we left them wanting more. Some said they would come to our September show to hear more.

In the practice session after the performance we were introduced to a great new song for our upcoming show. It is called "The River of no Return". Some of you may remember it from the Marilyn Monroe movie by the same name. We were also introduced to a new song learning method. We were given 30 minutes in sections to apply the method then we came together and sang the song amazingly well. We even sang it fairly well without looking at the music. James recorded our effort to show the guys in Nashville how well it worked.

Paul made the statement that he, like most of us was tired of the way we seem to spend weeks and months working on the same songs without much progress. Using the song learning method we tried Monday could change all that. Those present were of the opinion we could possibly have the song learned well enough to be off music by the time we meet again in two weeks and for sure in three weeks.

This will put some pressure on those who were not there Monday. They will need to catch up. Those who want help to do this should contact me or their section leaders and we can arrange an easy way to accomplish this.

We have long heard complaints that we need a change in our chapter meetings. This is our chance. It is a trade. We come to the meetings better prepared and Paul and the program VP allows us to have more variety, more songs, more quartets and tags, etc. This song learning method is the key and all it takes is a little bit of effort on our part. Don't let this opportunity slip away. Get on board with this plan and do your part to make it happen as we "Plan for Progress".

Program VP –Wilbur Strickland

Due to next Monday being Memorial Day, there will be NO meeting on May 31st (though we do have a sing out that morning at the National Cemetery.)

Treasurer –Gary Fisher

We now have the financial commitment of 14 people (maybe 15 as Wixson says his check is in the mail) for the retreat at St. Mary's so it's on! But it's NOT too late to pony up \$61 to attend. I must have a final count by Monday, June 7th, so please bring your check or cash by then. Sorry, Clyde, but no, I do not take food stamps.

Director –Paul Blazek

I passed out sheet music for The River of No Return and learning CDs for the following songs at the Creekside rehearsal:

By The Beautiful Sea
Row, Row, Row
The River Of No Return

We tried the fast track method of learning songs. We broke into sectionals (each section leader has a new boom box) and did the method. After we reformed we sang thru the song a couple of times with sheet music and then once without. It wasn't perfect, but it worked. Please repeat this exercise on your own twice before the next meeting.

- 1) Listen to the learning track 3 times without singing or making a sound.
- 2) Listen to the track and sing the notes singing 'lou.' Do this 3 times.
- 3) Listen to the track and mouth the words without singing or making a sound. Do this 3 times.
- 4) Put the music down, listen to the track and sing along from memory. Do this 3 times.

Business Manager –Dave Rack

A REMINDER that we have two important sing outs this week at the National Cemetery.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	May 29	7:30 AM	Scout Flag Ceremony	National Cemetery	Patriotic
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Two interesting photographs by Sherry Niles



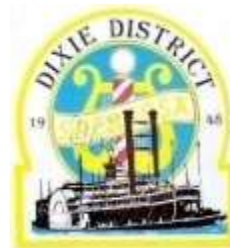
Guess who is being immersed in barbershop harmony



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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



June 7, 2010

Business Manager –Dave Rack

Here is a photograph by Steve Wixson from the Scout Flag Day Sing Out. Thanks to all of you who participated in either or both of the National Cemetery events.



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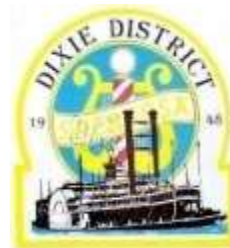
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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus



June 21, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

The board has committed, pending approval of the membership, to implementing the chapter meeting protocol recommended by the Society and demonstrated last weekend in Nashville to board members. Members present last Monday night indicated overwhelming support for the plan. We will discuss it again this coming Monday night for those not present last Monday. This promises to make our meetings more fun and exciting than they have ever been. Come Monday to get more details.

Program VP –Wilbur Strickland

A reminder that the Rush Quartet will be singing at our meeting this Monday.

Below is a photograph from our Chapter Retreat (not shown are Marcellus and Coach Larry Deters.) Amazing weekend and we learned a lot. The hills (and valley) were alive with the sound of music. And the food was outstanding.



Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

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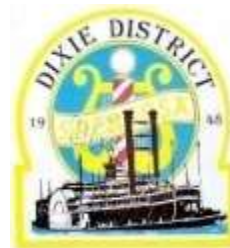
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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



June 28, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

The Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meeting Program is about to be implemented. One of the things leadership needs to know is the level of interest in participation by members. You may ask, participation in what? There are many roles that will be played by different individuals. One or more members will be involved in writing scripts for our meetings. You may ask, do you mean members will have a say in the content of our meetings? Yes. There will be opportunity for any member to be trained to be a coach, a director, an MC or any of several other roles members may decide they want to try. You may ask, do you mean I will be able to become more than a singer in the chorus? Yes. You may ask, do you mean I can be trained to teach other chorus members to be better singers? Yes. "What do you want to do?" and "What would you like the chorus to do for you?" are questions this program encourages and provides positive answers for. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Just send me an e-mail (lbrock2020@yahoo.com).

Director –Paul Blazek

Boy was I impressed with the quality of our retreat weekend! The coaching was excellent, the food was excellent, the lodging and grounds were excellent, the air conditioning was... non-existent. We had sixteen of our core singers there and I believe we ALL learned a lot. We even learned that the director is coachable, too! Plans are already in the works for next year's retreat.

I'll have CDs for America the Beautiful for everybody Monday night – it looks like this will be our show finale and should get tremendous response - it ties right in with our show date (9/11) and brings tears to my eyes just thinking about it. Start preparing your friends and neighbors now to buy tickets for the show - it's going to be great!

Let's keep working on show music and repertoire music to keep it fresh - I'll have a new repertoire list in the next newsletter (7/12). No meeting on 7/5 - enjoy the holiday!

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Upcoming Special Events

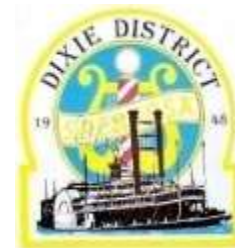
June 28-July 4, 2010	International Convention	Philadelphia, PA
July 15-18, 2010	Harmony College	Huntsville, AL
October 1-2, 2010	Dixie District Convention	Knoxville, TN

Please contact Steve Wixson--wixson@chattanooga.net--for anything about the newsletter



Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**

July 12, 2010



President –Lebron Brock

If anyone has ever wanted to do something in the chorus but has not had the opportunity, now is a good time to speak up. The new program requires more people to assume leadership roles and we need people who want to be trained to do things like coaching other singers, being MC at performances, even becoming a Director. Some Choruses who have used this program now have 4 - 5 Directors and use them on a regular basis. These would not replace Paul or Chuck but would act as assistants to them. We will also need people to play a particular role on a meeting by meeting basis. It will not be anything difficult--just someone willing to step off the risers for a short period of time to help Paul in his efforts to improve the chorus performance. Let me know if you are willing and/or have a desire to be involved.

Chorus Performances (updates/corrections since last week will be in ***bold italics***)

Day	Date	Time*	For Whom	Location	Uniform
Sat	July 24	11:15 AM	Ruby Falls	Lookout Mtn, GA	Khaki + knit shirt
Thu	Sep 2	6:30 PM	Alexian Village	Signal Mtn, TN	TBA
Thu	Oct 21	10:30/1:30	US District Court House	Chattanooga, TN	Patriotic
Thu	Nov 11	10:30 AM	Veteran's Day Ceremony	National Cemetery`	Patriotic
Thu	Dec 16	6:30 PM	Alexian Village	Signal Mtn, TN	TBA

TBA – To Be Approved (by the Music Leadership Team).

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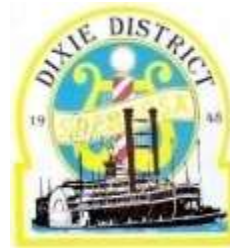
Upcoming Special Events

July 15-18, 2010	Harmony College	Huntsville, AL
October 1-2, 2010	Dixie District Convention	Knoxville, TN

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



July 19, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

The coaching on the mountain continues to pay dividends. The chorus had a great sound Monday night when we went to the risers. Most noticeable was the maintaining of energy all the way to the ending of phrases with added emphasis on the last word of a phrase. Singing under control and with good breath support helped make this possible.

Show Ad Chairman –Barry Owens

I made available ad contracts for the show at tonight's meeting. If you were not present, you can pick up some forms next Monday. I challenge each of you salesman types to out-sell Frank Delaney, our top ad sales person ever since he has joined the chorus. Perhaps Frank should do a seminar on how he does it! We need someone to step up and sell the ads that some of our members eternal use to sell. Sam Jones sold a lot of ads in the Chickamauga area.

If possible, try to have the ads pre-sized ready to be scanned. However, I will take anything and do my best with it. The ad contract is the same size as a full-page ad.

We have started early this year, so we should do well with ads. bowens44@comcast.net, 423-505-8583

Chapter Historian –Fred Jesse

The recent May/June Harmonizer notes briefly that Dr. Jim Henry's doctoral thesis was on the roots of barbershop music, and traced it to African-American origins. For those who keep these old Harmonizers, he wrote an article in the July/August 2001 Harmonizer about it. A very interesting article noting the earliest known reference to barbershop music is associated with black quartets. The sheet music pictured in the 2001 article, "Play That Barber Shop Chord", was printed in 1910. If you wish to see the entire sheet music with words, some might find offensive, go to "levysheetmusic" and type in the title. Also interesting is that the barbershop chord we sing is not really evident in the piano accompaniment to the vocal in that song. I wonder if a barbershop arrangement has ever been made of that song. It is certainly part of barbershop history.

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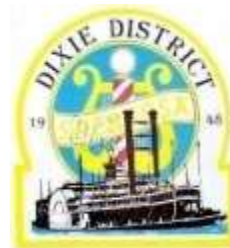
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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



July 26, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

It is becoming commonplace for the 2nd part of our chapter meetings (after break) to be the highlight of the evening. We are putting into practice some of the nuances of good vocal music that have long eluded us. I think I sense the development of an attitude we have not had before. Not a swagger but a certain confidence that we know what good singers do and that we can do it. Because of what we are hearing from each other we are beginning to believe in ourselves and that we can possibly exceed all previous expectations. These are exciting times in the Choo Choo Chorus.

Report on Harmony Explosion Camp

The Harmony Explosion Camp was a huge success. Time and print space will not allow me to share everything I would like to tell about the camp but here are some highlights. The two young men we sponsored and their families were blown away by the experience. One mother said "I will never be able to thank you enough for getting my son involved in this". Both of these plan to sing with us in our Christmas show and get more involved in Barbershop as their busy schedules permit. One expressed an interest in directing some day. One indication of how the group was sold on Barbershop was the fact that 15 - 20 of the young men bought pitch pipes on our last day of camp. I think more would have too if they had had the money. The boys learned 5 songs in 3 days and put on a fantastic performance. There were tears in the audience when the boys sang "When I was Loved". Emotion and energy flowed off the stage and into the audience like a wave when they sang "I'm a believer". You could hear a pin drop as the last beautiful notes of "This Little Light of Mine" faded away. After the show I could tell the boys had caught the "Barbershop Bug" when I saw about 15 boys circled around 4 delighted teenage girls singing "Driving Me Crazy". If this is the future of Barbershop it looks and sounds good.

Director –Paul Blazek

Great work last Monday! I'm excited about America the Beautiful - it's going to be a great finale to our show. I just finished talking with Gen. Chad Bennett about the Confederate Harmony Brigade participation at our show and the news is great - guest quartets will be Flashback from the Sunshine District and The Real McCoy from Dixie, along with the CHB Chorus. This should be the most singers we've ever put on stage in the 21st century.

Don't forget our performance 7/24 at Ruby Falls, and remember to review our repertoire at home during the week - we're going to be really busy on Monday night.

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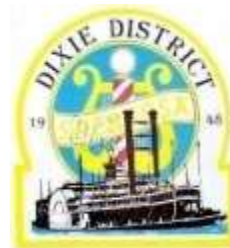
Upcoming Special Events

September	Cruising Down the River Annual Show	GPS Auditorium
October 1-2, 2010	Dixie District Convention	Knoxville, TN

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Weekly Newsletter for **Choo Choo Chorus**



August 2, 2010

President –Lebron Brock

The coaching by Larry Dieters has been a great help to us, but low attendance of meetings between now and show time will erode much of what we have gained if we are not careful. Let's encourage one another to be at every meeting if at all possible. The new meeting format will make our meetings more enjoyable for everyone but requires a lot of cooperation and member involvement. When you are asked to fill a role, please do your best and put as much excitement into it as possible. Excitement is contagious and the truth is we have a lot to be excited about.

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Weekly Newsletter for
Choo Choo Chorus
August 9, 2010



President -Lebron Brock

From Chuck

7:00-01 The Old Songs

7:01-03 Stretches - *getting the whole body ready to work*

7:03-07 Breathing demos and exercises - *without proper breath support, tone (pitch and vowel) will 'sag'*

7:07-12 Pitch matching and harmonizing - *using a constant pitch on the keyboard to hear and adjust harmonies*

7:12-16 Tone matching and harmonizing - *vocalizing the 5 chords to hear and adjust tones to sing 'within the sound'*

7:16-20 Thinking exercise - *singing 1, 1-2-1, 1-2-3-2-1, etc. to engage the brain*

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