

Carolinas District

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

All the latest news and information about the Barbershop Society's newest District • December, 2010

Carolina District Inaugural Convention

Let's Do It Right the First Time

It was all we had hoped for, and more. Much more. All Harmony Lanes led to Myrtle Beach as 475 Carolinas Barbershoppers drew October to a close by providing the world with a crystal clear view of how to hold a Barbershop Convention. 22 of the District's 26 chapters were represented.

The venue was the 14 story Landmark Resort Hotel located smack dab on the Atlantic Ocean. Talk about an embarrassment of riches, the expected attendance of roughly 700 was exceeded by exactly 200 additional registrants. The greater than expected turnout required use of an overflow room to provide seating during the quartet and chorus contests. This worked out fine thanks to the closed circuit TV, excellent sound system, and a very large screen provided by our audio visual contractor.

But one of the key points regarding the facility was the ability to hold all events under one roof. All of this at obscenely low off-season rates in a venue surrounded by great dining and recreational opportunities. Even the weather was perfect! What more could you ask for?



It was a full ballroom and an enthusiastic audience for the quartet and chorus contests. (photo: Charles Maury)



Let's Sing!, newly crowned District Quartet Champions, accepting trophy on the Saturday night Show of Champions (photo: Joe Simpson)

The favorable rates and diverse entertainment possibilities (including a golf tournament) attracted roughly a quarter of the attendees on Thursday- unprecedented for a District convention. All that much more time for tag singing, woodshedding and just getting to know your buddies better.

The convention featured many activities that are summarized here and covered in more detail in later sections. At the Friday night prelims, 21 quartets mounted the stage to determine which of the quartets would enter the ring of ten finalists for the Saturday night singout that would crown the Carolinas Quartet champion.

The Saturday chorus contest saw over 386 men cross the stage as 14 choruses competed for District honors. The first Carolinas District chorus Championship was taken by the "General Assembly" chorus from Research Triangle Park.

Saturday night kicked-off with a faceoff between the ten quartet finalists selected the previous night. "Let's Sing!" racked up the highest point total, climaxing the weekend's formal quarteting activities.

The evening was capped off by The Show of Champions with performances from all groups who had competed and scored a championship in their category. (cont.)

Convention (cont.)

The convention included something for everyone, including...

The convention was much more than just contests. There were many other activities to make for an enjoyable experience including fun events like a tag singing forum, golf tournament, AHSOW room, and the hospitality suites. Special events were also held like the President's Council Reception, Chapter President's Reception, and a Groupanizer forum.

Finally, a big Hooray is due to Events VP Mike Doheny, his Convention Committee and Host Chapters Myrtle Beach and Wilmington for all their hard work in making the Fall convention an unqualified success.

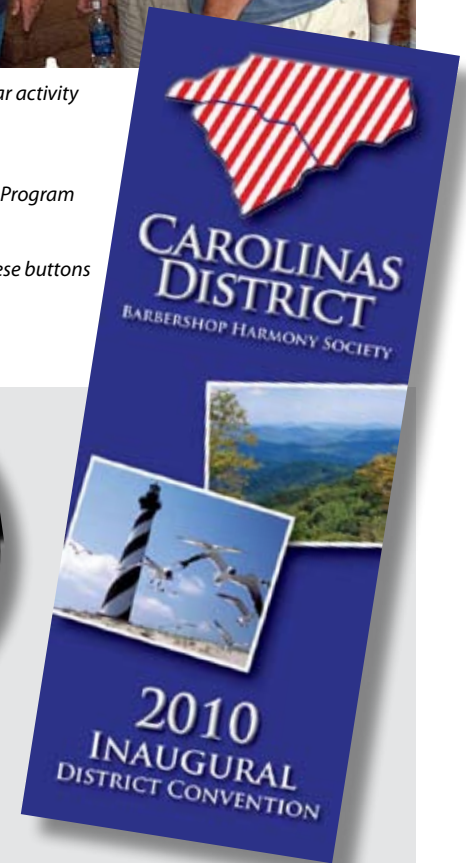
Mark your calendar!! Charlotte will be the venue on March 25-27, 2011, for a uniquely structured Spring convention. Everything will again be under one roof and look for a combination of craft and chapter management workshops, big chorus singing and quartet competitions. We also are planning to offer events that will be attractive for wives, SO's and children. ❖



Above: Singing tags was a popular activity throughout the convention. (photo: Ken Thomas)

Right: Our Inaugural Convention Program cover (design: Chris Mueller)

Below: Randy Miller produced these buttons to commemorate attendance at the convention.



Many individuals and chapters contributed to the success of the convention.

Convention Committee:

Chairman Mike Doheny (New Bern),
Bill Clegg (Wilmington), Dennis Evans (New Bern),
Randy Miller (Lexington), Bart Franey (Charleston),
Richard Millard (Wilmington), Jack Cox (Grand Strand),
Steve Tremper (RTP)

Grand Strand Lowcountry Chorus (Rod Saunders and Ken Hall plus all the members and wives that helped with the logistics)

Cape Fear Chordsmen (Andre Bruillard for the golf, and all the members that aided with the logistics)

Tom Deas (Wilmington) for his contribution for all the supplies and the printer/copier

Charlie Rose (Rocky Mount) with the risers and those men that helped set them up and take them down

Southern Gentlemen Chorus for lending their risers

Grand Strand Lowcountry Chorus for lending their risers

Larry Triplett for producing the convention's program

Everyone else not named for helping to make our first convention a great success!



What a Contest! What a Convention!

By Steve Tremper, NSC VP for Contest & Judging

WOW! If you missed the inaugural Carolinas District Fall Convention in Myrtle Beach, you missed a barbershop event that will be talked about for a long time. A lot of people worked behind the scenes to make this convention a reality, and it turned out far more successfully than any of us could have imagined.

With attendance breaking all records and expectations, we packed 900 folks into the Landmark Resort for a weekend of great singing and fellowship. What a turnout! We were concerned about the Grand Strand Ballroom holding everyone, but the decision to create an overflow room next door with a big screen display turned out to be a real hit, offering an option to folks who wanted to watch the contests in a more relaxed environment.

I was delighted with the number of quartets and choruses who participated in our first ever contest sessions. We had 23 quartets originally signed up to compete, and ended up with 21 on stage in the contest, an excellent turnout, considering we have a total of 42 registered quartets in the District. Since the District was formed, we've already had 4-5 new quartets form and register with the Society, and we'd love to see many more get involved with quartet singing in all our chapters.

We had 14 choruses plus a mic tester chorus in the Chorus contest on Saturday, again an outstanding rate of participation, with only 25 choruses active in the District at present. This included several choruses who we haven't been seen at competition in recent years, including Jacksonville, Myrtle Beach, Pinehurst, and Central Carolina. Even choruses who have been part of Dixie District contests in the past turned out, but this time with more members attending because it was closer, more affordable, and easier to participate. It was so great to see these choruses, totaling some 400 singers, come across the stage and join the fun! I can only hope we get even better turnout in years to come.

Traditional contest participation has hovered around 30% for many years, but we enjoyed greater than 50% participation from our members! That is truly amazing. Let's keep it up, and be sure to support future District events by getting involved with your chorus and quartets. (cont.)



District Champs, Let's Sing (photo: Joe Simpson)



Second Place, 17 Below (photo: John Zweighaft)



Third Place, One Accord (photo: Charles Maury)

"I had more fun at this convention than at any previous one- it was like the early 90's, when I first joined. Thank you so much to everyone who made it possible."

Jim Wingard, Lexington County, SC

"It was a tremendous turnout. Our chorus only had 6 of our members present, but I'll guarantee you that we'll have more (plus some wives) in Charlotte. The committee did an excellent job with the arrangements, even with the overflow crowd, and we have no complaints."

Bob Paciocco, President of Greenville, NC

What a Contest! (cont.)

Congratulations to the General Assembly from Research Triangle Park, NC for qualifying to represent the Carolinas District at the International Chorus Contest in Kansas City next July. If you haven't heard, they are looking for more singers from across the District to join them on the International stage! If you've never been part of that awesome experience, this is your chance! Look for an invitation to come to your chapter soon, or contact anyone in the RTP chapter for more information on how you can participate. Can you imagine a 120-man chorus truly representing the entire District in our debut appearance at International? What a hoot!

Also, congrats to Let's Sing! for winning the first ever Carolinas District Quartet Championship, and also to Village Green for winning the first Seniors Quartet award and qualifying to represent the District at the International Seniors Quartet contest in Las Vegas in January. They won't be alone, though, because BLackJack has also qualified for a wild card invitation to the Mid-Winter contest as well! So we'll have two District reps in the Seniors contest! Outstanding! And finally, congrats also go to Easy Livin' for winning the first ever District Novice Quartet contest. We hope to see a lot more from these guys in the future!

Many thanks are due to NSC Events VP Mike Doheny for overseeing all the logistics and arrangements for the convention weekend, and to the co-host chapters from Myrtle Beach, SC and Wilmington, NC with additional assistance from the New Bern, NC chapter, for providing all the behind the scenes manpower that helped everything run smoothly all weekend. You guys really made us proud to be part of this new District! Now we look ahead to the Spring 2011 convention in Charlotte, NC, which will be a totally different experience! You just gotta be there! What a hobby! ❖



Seniors Champs and Int'l Rep, Village Green (photo: Ken Thomas)



Seniors Int'l Rep, BlackJack (photo: Ken Thomas)



Novice Champs, Easy Livin' (photo: Ken Thomas)



Back In Business!

By Steve Tremper, Tenor, Let's Sing!

I'm still in a daze recalling the events of the past year, having been so very proud to have won the Dixie District Quartet Championship in October 2009, then representing Dixie for the second time at the International Contest in Philadelphia this past summer and finally to win the Carolinas District Quartet Championship this past October. To go from handing in the Dixie trophy to hoisting the new Carolinas trophy in the span of a month was quite a rush! But it's sure good to be "back in business" for another year as your Quartet Champs! I know I speak for Mark, Greg and Joe in saying we are truly grateful for all the wonderful support and encouragement you have given us as we continue our singing journey. You all have been amazing, and we're so happy to share this great hobby with each of you.

This win is historic, as it makes us only the second quartet in Society history to win the District Quartet Championship in two different districts (Classic Collection won Central States District in 1975, and after the Rocky Mountain District was created by carving it out of several surrounding Districts, this Denver-based quartet won that District's contest in 1977. They went on to become International Champions in 1982), and the first to win twice in consecutive years.

It was such a pleasure to take to the stage in Myrtle Beach in front of a packed house and share our music with you all. I'm sure all the quartets enjoyed that feeling, to get up there for a standing room only crowd and singing their hearts out. On behalf of all the competitors, THANK YOU for your enthusiastic support and constant cheering and encouragement. Believe me, we all need that to keep going! Please be sure to continue to encourage your chapter quartets as they pursue their singing efforts, get them on your shows and other public performances, and encourage them to compete and get some great stage time and valuable feedback from our excellent judging program. And if YOU haven't gotten into a quartet yet, well, what are you waiting for? It's great fun!

Let's Sing! has been busy performing on various chapter shows the last year or two, and having such a blast every time. We've shared the stage with Greensboro, Winston-Salem, New Bern, Asheville, Charlotte, Edenton, and Spartanburg, and look forward to future shows with RTP, Central Carolina, Wilmington, and others outside the District. We'd love to sing for every chapter if we could! Let's Sing! is so honored and humbled to be your District Champs, and will continue to support quarteting in the Carolinas wherever possible. Next time you see us around, just grab us and say, "Let's Sing!" ❖

Competing Quartets

17 Below: Frank Thorne

Acappella Fellows: West Jefferson, Hickory, NC

Bar None: Charlotte, Mooresville, Winston-Salem, NC

BlacKJack: Wilmington, NC

Collage: Spartanburg, SC

Carolina Moonshine: Charlotte, NC

Chapter Two: New Bern, NC

Chord of Appeal: Research Triangle Park, Central Carolina, NC

Easy Livin': Winston-Salem, NC

Four-in-Exchange: Research Triangle Park, NC

Grandstand: Lexington County, SC, Augusta, GA

Hazardous Moving Parts: Wilmington, Rocky Mount, NC

InVoice: Charlotte, Mooresville, NC

Let's Sing!: Research Triangle Park, Greensboro, NC

One Accord: Spartanburg, SC

Mountain Vocal Project: Asheville, NC

Plantation: Wilmington, NC

Tucker Street: Research Triangle Park, NC

Tune Shiners: Asheville, NC

Village Green: Charlotte, Winston-Salem, RTP, Rocky Mount, NC

Vintage Four: Wilmington, NC, Hilton Head, SC

Quartet Contest Scoresheet can be found at
www.carolinasdistrict.org/node/1641



District Champs, Plateau AAA Champs, Int'l Rep – RTP, The General Assembly Chorus (photo: John Zweighaft)



Second Place, Plateau AA Champs – Central Carolina, Heart of Carolina Chorus



Third Place – Charlotte, Gold Standard Chorus

Competing Choruses

- Land of the Sky - Asheville, NC
- Heart of Carolina Chorus - Central Carolina, NC
- Charleston Barbershop Chorus - Charleston, SC
- Gold Standard Chorus - Charlotte, NC
- Tarheel Chorus - Greensboro, NC
- Carolina Moonlighters - Hickory, NC
- New River Harmony - Jacksonville, NC
- Main Street Harmonizers - Lexington County, SC
- The Southern Gentlemen - New Bern, NC
- Golf Capital Chorus - Pinehurst, NC
- The General Assembly Chorus - Research Triangle Park, NC
- Palmetto Statesmen - Spartanburg, SC
- Cape Fear Chordsmen - Wilmington, NC
- Triad Harmony Express - Winston-Salem, NC

Chorus Contest score sheet can be found at www.carolinasdistrict.org/node/1640

Wayward Trophy Arrives!

If you were at the Show of Champions in Myrtle Beach, you may remember General Assembly President Warren Fuson struggling with the weight of an invisible trophy that was being “presented” to the first Carolinas District champions. It seems that this special custom piece somehow was misrouted, and ended up in California on that climactic night. The trophy had been commissioned and donated by past and present members of the Research Triangle Park chapter, as a memorial to the late Rudy Partin, who led the chorus in 6 appearances in International competition in the 1980’s,

culminating in a 5th place medal in 1986.

The perpetual award will be a traveling trophy, with room for the winners over the next 16 years, through 2025. It is made of solid crystal on a walnut base, and Warren wasn’t actually exaggerating much about the weight! ❖



Here's The General Assembly's director Bill Rashleigh holding his first championship trophy.



Plateau A champs – Hickory, Carolina Moonlighters (photo: Joe Simpson)





The True Meaning of a Trophy

By Jon Vickers

With the exciting establishment of the new district, we of the Carolinas District had the opportunity to initiate a traveling trophy for the Senior Quartet Champs, a token not seen in the old Dixie award profile. Village Green had won the Senior Quartet Championship back in the fall of 2007 along with the privilege to go to San Antonio, TX in January of 2008 and we knew from that experience what a special privilege it would be to be able to receive and to then later pass on a meaningful permanent trophy within the Senior ranks.

Now our lead, Charles (we all know it is really "Charlie") Rose, has been an especially unique and giving quartetter for decades. Many know the rolling joke that passed along for years, "honk if you have never sung in a competing quartet with Charlie Rose!" Those who have sung with Charlie in a competing quartet are legion. Put together in only the last few weeks before a competition, Charlie's many quartets have made it to Saturday night a number of times (5-6-...) but never higher than as "mic testers".... not really "in the 10"! But then, Charlie never appeared in a real, working quartet before Village Green who made "the 10" each time we competed (at least by score) though a couple of those we registered for only the seniors competition so we did not actually sing on Saturday. As with Jim Kline of 139th St. Quartet and Gotcha! fame and his gazillion international appearances, Charlie may well hold the record for appearances in district quartet competitions. He has been known to sing in up to five different quartets in one contest! When it comes to enthusiasm for quartetting, he's got it really bad!

Back in the early 1990's, Charlie, prompted by his zeal for quartetting and for encouraging and empowering his fellow barbershoppers to sing, and grow as quartetters ever in the quest to be the best they could be, conceived and gave birth to what we now know as the eXtreme Quartetting Harmony Brigade. The North Carolina Harmony Brigade, celebrating its

19th rally in January, has proved to be the seed for other, very similar brigades which will number at least eight in the 2011 season! By the end of 2012, we'll likely see twelve brigades all over the US, and in Canada..... and, probably in Europe, all under the banner of the Association of eXtreme Quartetting Harmony Brigades! Each of these brigades draws upwards of 130-150 men who work very hard to master 10-12 very challenging songs in preparation to compete with and among "strangers", just for the love of the challenge. Every brigader learns and grows from this experience and then carries that growth back to his chapter to "raise all harmony boats" and thus to encourage and incentivize his chorusmates to also learn and grow. Now THAT is one heck of a contribution to quartetting and to barbershopping overall.

With such a man in our ranks, tenor: Ted Leinback, bari: Jim Nappier, and bass: Jon Vickers saw a compelling opportunity to recognize and to celebrate the profound contributions Charlie had made to our craft for decades, particularly in the quartetting arena. We had no hesitation committing to the opportunity and privilege to sponsor and to gift to the proud new Carolinas District a handsome traveling trophy to be awarded to the Senior Quartet Champion each year. We were very gratified when the District saw fit to name that trophy for the man who has inspired, empowered, and selflessly celebrated hundreds of fine quartet singers for many years, Mr. Charles F. Rose.

It was a very special (if a little awkward) privilege for Village Green to then be the initial recipient of the new traveling trophy at Myrtle Beach in October. Most certainly, we are grateful products of the great contribution Charlie has made and continues to make to encourage each of us to grow and to be all that we can be as barbershop quartet singers.

Thanks, Charlie!!! ❖

Memories of Randy Miller

On Sunday October 17th came the unexpected and sad news of the passing of our dear friend Randy Miller, a legend among Barbershoppers. Randy was really looking forward to the Carolinas District Inaugural Convention and had poured his heart & soul into the event; even commissioning the I WAS THERE button that many of us purchased in Myrtle Beach in his honor. There is no doubt that Randy was there!

Randy joined the Society in 1960 and over the last 50 years was an active member to say the least. At the time of his death he was heavily involved in the Inaugural Convention of the Carolinas District as a member of the Convention Team and was entered in the Quartet Competition. He was a Past President of the Dixie District, a member of the DIX District Hall of Fame, Past President of the Lexington Main Street Harmonizers, a dual member with the Augusta Chapter, and had also served both chapters as a board member and Music Director.

His memorial service on October 19th was attended by over 150 Barbershoppers who sang requests from the family, and his son Tim provided the following words about his father.

"It is no surprise that my father made a huge impact on everyone he came in contact with. I have to say that in doing the research for this service I found so many examples of how my father had helped, mentored, and nurtured that it would take most of the evening to even begin to give a true representation of him.

My father had several passions in his life, his wife Judi, his family, his work and Barbershop. Sometimes we thought that his job was Barbershop and therefore occasionally he had to bring his work home with him in the form of quartets at the house and at times whole choruses.

I remember when I was very young being brought in to the living room to post some ridiculously high note for the quartet so they could sing a tag. Later he let me join the Society that he had been a member of for almost 20 years. I was thrilled to join him on stage and to have a chance to learn something else about my father - that he was the consummate showman and with him it was always the show must go on.

Over his 50 years with the Society, my father sang with over 80 different quartets and competed with over 35 on the district stage. Although my father's dream of singing on the International stage in competition never came to be, he still brought his talent in coaching several top 10 quartets to the big show.

I have heard the stories from many of the chapter members that knew my father around the time of my birth. My father was a member of the Dundalk chapter. It became clear that I was destined to sing when it turns out that I was born on the chapters meeting night. My father led a group of Barbershoppers who had left the afterglow to come to the hospital singing the song "Wait 'Til You See Him". The gentlemen were kindly asked to leave the hospital halls and to stop singing.

Over the past few years I have taken the time to learn my father's heart. I know where my father is now and he is in a much better place. We have lost so many very special Barbershoppers over the past few years including Freddy King & Bob Royce to name a few. I can only imagine the chorus that is performing in heaven. I can see the image of Freddy directing a song he had arranged then my father stepping in to have the chorus sing his arrangement. I almost can't wait to join them!

Just think of the push out quartet! ❖



Convention Activities and Special Events

Convention attendees had several opportunities to participate in informal singing, fun activities, and special events.

Woodshedding

Wood shedding was alive and well during the inaugural convention of the Carolinas District convention during the Halloween weekend in Myrtle Beach. As a result of unexpected convention registrations, well in excess of what was planned, the AHSOW team of John Fisher and Don Dobson hosted another successful Hospitality Room south of the border. As a result of the unexpected convention crowd (nearly twice the number for which the District had planned), it was necessary to adjust accordingly. These two wood shedders were required to change their plans and hosted a goodly number of AHSOW members both Friday and Saturday following the quartet semi finals and again following the finals. Competing with nine chapter hospitality rooms in the Landmark Resort, these two wood shedders extraordinaire were still going strong at 2:30 Sunday morning in the ballroom next to the contest venue. History will record Nathan Daniel as the first successful member of the BHS to qualify for membership in the Ancient and Harmonious Society of Wood shedders at the first Carolinas District convention on Halloween, 2010. AHSOW has a proud historical heritage "south of the border" with Fisher and Dobson hosting these harmony events. They are already planning for the spring event when the Spring Prelim Competition is scheduled in the city of Charlotte. Congratulations to Nathan who was among the thirty plus, dedicated wood shedders.



One hundred and twenty invitations went out to individuals and quartets who donated \$250.00 or more to the capital campaign. A large and enthusiastic group gathered to celebrate the new district and receive a warm welcome from President Bob Tilton and encouraging words from Skip Kropp, BHS Board Representative. The highlight of the reception was the passionate talk given by Charles Rose who left no doubt about his love of barbershop and his keen desire to see it passed on to future generations; if you were there you could just feel it. A shorter version of his remarks is below.



Charlie Rose addressing the President's Council Reception.

The Carolinas District was off to a wonderful start in March 2010 with the Capital Funds Campaign. The groundwork was so well planned by our district leaders over the past two years as they moved forward with the founding and incorporation of the newly formed Carolinas District (17th District) of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Contributions were to come from all areas of the new district which included President's Council Members, Founders Club Members, Carolinas District Chapters and Quartets. An original goal of \$80,000 was established during the past two years and with a down turn in the economy, a more realistic goal of \$70,000 was budgeted. I am so very pleased to report that the Capital Funds Campaign (Seed Fund) has reached the \$80,000 level with generous contributions from so many individuals, chapters and quartets and from the in kind contribution of risers from the North Carolina Harmony Brigade.

The initial Capital Campaign Fund (Seed Fund) will continue through December 31, 2010 and it is not too late to honor your chorus director, chapter barbershopper of the year, or any chapter member that has made a tremendous sacrifice over the years toward making your chapter so successful. There are about 10 matching grants available that will expire December 31, 2010 and a contribution of \$250 will be matched to make this person(s) members of the President's Council. Please send your check payable to the Carolinas District to:

Charles F. Rose, P O Box 7885, Rocky Mount, NC 27804
Phone: 252 443 6057

I applaud all of you individually and collectively who have stepped up to the plate with your financial contributions and who have given so freely of your musical and administrative talents to make our very first 2010 Carolinas District Fall Convention such a success!

Yours in Harmony,
Charles F. Rose, Chair
Capital Funds Campaign, Board Member

Presidents Council Reception

"On behalf of the Carolinas District of the Barbershop Harmony Society you are invited to attend a gathering of the Presidents Council on Friday, October 29th, at 4PM in the SEA VIEW ROOM of the Landmark Hotel. This informal social event is in honor of donors and spouses who have generously supported our district's capital campaign."

Sincerely **Bob Tilton**, District President and **Charles Rose** Capital Campaign Chairman

All Presidents Council members wore a badge like this in recognition of their contribution and we plan to do this at every convention.



Golf Tournament

Celebrating The Carolinas District first district convention & competition was exciting enough, BUT if you are a golfer and a barbershopper then imagine singing and golfing at the same time? NERVANA!! Forty of the participants at our first convention did just that. They played golf and sang!

The day started out VERY rainy at Wicked Stick Golf Course with the conditions being marginal but all forty of the group played and finished. The winning group shot an amazing 8 under par and were awarded the first Carolinas District golf trophy during the quartet competition on Friday night. Dave Brown, Bill Gronning, & Jan Muddle (all from Charlotte) and Bob Johns (Hickory) were roundly applauded by an audience that had no idea what "hardships" they braved to earn this honor.

One foursome was setup so that they had all four parts and they sang Polecats (or sang like polecats?) on many of the Tees. Bob Clark, Rusty Brewer, Dave McQueeny and Andre Brillaud of the Cape Fear Chordsmen didn't win but they sang loudly and often. What a great time!

Thanks to Andre Brillaud for organizing the event and to the Cape Fear members who handled logistics.

Hospitality Suites

Finally, the hospitality suites on Saturday provided a fitting ending to a fun convention. If you've never been in a cabaret environment with a Top Ten Quartet and some "fun beverages" then don't miss the HOSPITALITY SUITES at our next convention. These rooms were ringing from 10-2 with contest songs and many others sung by the registered quartets and everyone else.

Kudos to Spartanburg, Grand Strand, Charleston, RTP, Lexington, Wilmington, Pinehurst, New Bern, & Hickory/Charlotte for providing the food & beverages and the warm welcome to all. A big Thank You to all of the quartets who visited every one and gave us memories we will never forget. This is a great tradition that has been revived and is alive & well in the Carolinas! ❖



What a great time! The Carolinas District Inaugural Golf Tournament participants.



At the Hospitality Suites - 17 Below doing what they do best... entertaining the crowds!



One of the greatest attributes of the Hospitality Suites... meeting friends old and new and singing all the songs and tags you know and love!

Groupanizer and the Carolinas District



Our Vision for the new Carolinas District is to be as chapter driven as possible, and to achieve that goal we need a “push-pull” district wide communications network that links all members, chapters, and district leadership. We feel Groupanizer, in conjunction with our new district website, is the engine for achieving that goal and it also offers so many other beneficial chapter management tools tailored specifically for our hobby.

- **Tools for Members** who have their own account with a personalized dashboard they can check easily & quickly. Email notifications that automatically keep members informed so they don't miss anything from their chapter or their district leaders, and a two way communications pipeline.
- **Tools for Music Directors** including easy access to music and learning tracks, rehearsal planning and performance tracking, and even a riser placement tool.
- **Tools for Chapter Leaders** that facilitate communications through customized Email Lists, task management, recruiting, calendars & scheduling, and keeping your fans & friends informed about your next performance so they can buy tickets and other items that are good for your treasury.
- **Tools for Chapter Webmasters** who are not “gear heads” and for chapters that don't even have a webmaster or chapters who don't even have a website. Now you can get a chapter website as part of your Groupanizer account and they're both built on the same Drupal software platform and hosted on the same server site for ease of maintenance & service.
- **Tools for District Leaders** that link us all together in a network built on a common platform.
- **WHAT DOES IT COST? IT'S FREE TO ALL CHAPTERS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2011.**

How are we doing?

About 70% of you have heard about or use Groupanizer to some degree. We have 20 chapters enrolled and 605 users on board, but we still have about 250 members in 10 chapters not enrolled and that means they are not in the network where they will reap the most benefits. It means the Groupanizer Tool

Kit is not open to them. It means extra work for the leaders of those chapters who have to keep passing through emails and other information to their members who need to know details on district conventions for example. It means the chapter member is not getting the best bang for the buck the district has invested as part of our Chapter Driven Vision.

What are we doing?

On October 29th in Myrtle Beach during the convention Groupanizer Admins for Grand Strand, Pinehurst, Charleston, New Bern, Asheville, Hickory, Winston-Salem, Wilmington, Spartanburg, RTP, Greenville, Jacksonville, West Jefferson, and Lexington chapters gathered for an on line Workshop. The “faculty” included Brian Pokrant of Charleston, District Groupanizer Support, brianpokrant@comcast.net, Bob Burns of Asheville, and John Zweighaft of RTP; Bart Franey served as moderator for the workshop. A general overview of the Groupanizer website at www.groupanizer.com was first taken followed by a tour of the basics from a Member's view, then a demonstration of tools for chapter leaders, followed by a discussion of the Email & Communications system that demonstrated its superiority over Yahoo Groups & Google, and a Q&A session. The workshop concluded with the enrollment of the Pinehurst Chapter as a live example of bringing up a new Groupanizer chapter and now Pinehurst has all of its members enrolled thanks to Dave Millson.

The immediate next steps include enrolling all of the members in the Winston Salem, Lexington, Charlotte, and Greensboro chapters; this will bring us up to 92% of the district members and then only a few of the smaller chapters will need to be brought into the system to reach as close to full enrollment as is possible. We will convene another workshop during the convention in Charlotte, NC next March.

The Groupanizer Model

If you want to manage your barbershop singing life and your chapter more effectively online, you have come to the right place. Custom software is too expensive and risky, and free software just doesn't give you what you need.

(cont.)

At the Marketplace...

These items are available for purchase at the Marketplace section of the website, www.carolinasdistrict.org; pay via PayPal with your credit card. There will be an additional charge for shipping & handling.

Carolinas District Pin

\$25.00/ea

Carolinas District Badge Lanyard

\$6.00/ea; 2 for \$5.00/ea

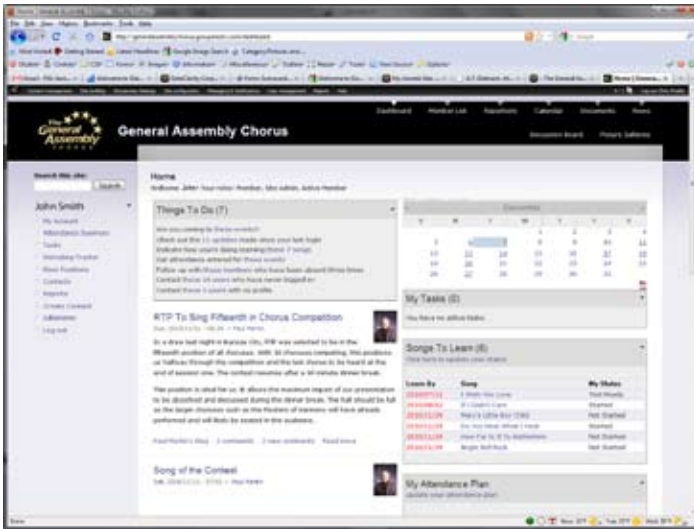
Carolinas District Cap (khaki)

\$10.00/ea

Carolinas District Shirt (white, yellow, light blue)

- Small, Medium, Large, X Large
\$25.00/ea

- 2 XL and 3 XL
\$30.00/ea



Groupanizer sample screen customized for The General Assembly Chorus.

Groupanizer (cont.)

Groupanizer is a good solution - inexpensive software that does exactly what you need for your chorus, hosted online, and built on the popular Drupal platform so it's tested and reliable. Groupanizer is designed, sold, and serviced by Tom Metzger, Bass of REALTIME, the 2005 BHS International Champion Quartet.

Those of you who have not yet got your site rolling can do so now by clicking on this link and filling out the form: <http://www.groupanizer.com/configuring-your-new-groupanizer>

The NSC Communications Team is available to help any chapter get started or provide support to existing users; contact Bart Franey at bartfraney@homesc.com or call 615-828-5205.

We have seen the future for leading, managing, and growing volunteer organizations like ours and a big part of our success depends on tools like Groupanizer. TRY IT YOU'LL LIKE IT!

The Groupanizer Mission

To empower singing groups with great tools so they can achieve their goals and make better music. ❖

Mark your Calendars!

Carolinas District Spring Convention
March 25-27, 2011 in Charlotte, NC

Photo Links

Additional photographs can be found at these links:

From Ken Thomas (Wilmington):

<http://picasaweb.google.com/bsa787?authkey=Gv1sRgCMLYqt7U8YWq0AE>

From John Zweighaft (RTP):

<http://picasaweb.google.com/jzweighaft/MyrtleBeachFirstCarolinasDistrictConventionOctober29302010?authkey=Gv1sRgCO781-XKpuHYQQ&feat=email#>

From Joe Simpson (Central Carolina):

<http://picasaweb.google.com/112108989378518581581>

From Charles Maury

http://picasaweb.google.com/CDMaury/CarolinasDistrictInauguralConventionA?authkey=Gv1sRgCJGD7_CTvpaJKQ&feat=email#

<http://picasaweb.google.com/CDMaury/CarolinasDistrictInauguralConventionB?authkey=Gv1sRgCIDS3PqS8bPIOW&feat=email#>

http://picasaweb.google.com/CDMinSC/CarolinasDistrictInauguralConventionA?authkey=Gv1sRgCKO_8vHn5Pi2vQE&feat=email#

Newsletter Credits

Newsletter Credits – the District Communications Team: Bart Franey (Charleston), Gary Smith (Asheville), Paul Parker (Wilmington), Chris Mueller (RTP), Bob Burns (Asheville), & Brian Pokrant (Charleston).

Newsletter comments and content contributions are welcome at bartfraney@homesc.com.