

# Ole!



**The Newsletter of the  
Hawthorne Caballeros  
Alumni Association/  
Drum & Bugle Corps**

**Volume 2, Issue 4**

**July/August 2021**

## **Caballeros..... In The Beginning Part Eleven**

### **Caballeros History 1962**

By Mike DelVecchio

Well we had a great season and kept the crowd hopping with the timbales with no bottom heads. Hard to believe that some corps tried to file protests because this set of drums did not have any bottom heads. We had our minds on these drums helping us go undefeated, however it was not to be. Now we have a new year and guess what, 3 new Latin drums with no drum heads on the bottom. They are bongos, tenor conga and bass conga. Of course, the crowd took notice and did not care if these drums had or hadn't heads on the bottom. They just loved the sounds we were introducing with the addition of these new drums.

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**"We Won"**

March 8th 2020 was the last rehearsal that the Alumni Corps had. Go forward 13 months to April 18th 2021. That's the next rehearsal that the Alumni Corps had. Covid19 smacked the Alumni Corps just like everyone else.

The vaccine came along and there seemed to be a glimmer of light at the end of this long and strange tunnel that anyone that is now alive, has never experienced.

April 18th was the first of 4 rehearsals that the Alumni Corps would have before having the nerve to participate in a judged parade. The amazing part is "WE WON."



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## ....The Beginning 1962

Now, due to our music and uniforms, this type of percussion addition just happened to fit in with our Spanish style. We were adding instruments to the drum corps world that very few knew how to compete with. It was difficult for other corps with non-Spanish uniforms and music to mimic the Caballero brand successfully. Once again, we were making advances to the drum corps world that would eventually force all drum corps to get in step with the Caballeros and go with the flow of new ideas and instruments for the future of drum and bugle corps.

Well, we were on a roll as far as winning shows. The crowds really liked what we were doing and there was always huge crowd support with applause and cheers when our name was announced as the next corps on the starting line.

We went to the Legion Nationals by a chartered plane.

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## .....We Won

These 4 rehearsals over 2 months was enough to put together a winning performance after being off all that time.



“How was this possible” you ask? The reason is the talent, the dedication and the loyalty of the members, instructors and support staff of the greatest alumni corps in the country.

Sure, the lips, hands and knees were out of shape but in that short time the corps put together a fine first class corps, both musically and marching wise to win “Best Musical Unit” in the annual NJ State Elks Convention parade in Wildwood on June 5th of this year.

The other fine units competing in the parade were Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights, Skyliners Alumni Corps, several very good high school bands and Mummers type marching units.

We were not only proud to win this for ourselves, The Caballeros Alumni but for the Lake Hopatcong Elks Lodge, who without them making their lodge available for rehearsals, we would have never been ready. Thank You Elks!!!

- Chris Sortino



## Trivia Question

**The Caballeros' first year as a member of DCA was 1966. They won 1 DCA sponsored contest in 1966. What year did they win their 2nd DCA contest?**

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## .....The Beginning 1962

It was in Viva Las Vegas. We all were looking to win at the games. Of course, few did. Justin Aldo won \$1,400 on the slots and immediately sent it home, which made him the biggest winner in the corps.

With a perfect season under our belts, we were at the nationals to complete our first undefeated season. What a thrill this was and all thanks to the hard work and time put in by the members of the corps and especially to James J. Costello who drove us to this first great undefeated season.

### OUR SHOW FOR 1962

Rumps with Espana Cani  
El Cid (color presentation)  
Cachita

Siboney for concert

Theme from I Love Lucy into  
Cuban Pete

Cha Cha Cha Flamenco

See you in September



## Remember When

### Fifty-Nine Years Ago 1962 AL Nationals Las Vegas, NV

1	Caballeros	89.01
2	Boys of '76	80.21
3	Hamms Indians	75.36
4	Toreadors	69.13
5	Goldenaires	61.41
6	Golden Kernels	56.83
7	Dukes	56.50
8	Gouvernaires	55.08
9	Douglas Az Post	54.00

### Fifty-Four Years Ago 1967 Dream Contest Jersey City, NJ

1	Hurricanes	82.58
2	Buccaneers	82.56
3	Caballeros	81.80
4	Skyliners	79.61
5	Sunrisers	77.55

## Trivia Answer

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**Q: What place did the Caballeros come in at the 1968 AL Nationals in New Orleans, LA?**

**A: The Caballeros did not go to the Nationals that year.**



### OFFICERS

Alumni Assn. President  
**Larry Mastroberardino**  
Alumni Corps Director  
**Paul Bongiovi**  
Alumni Corps Asst. Dir.  
**Steve Raclowski**  
Post Commander  
**Doug Tennis**  
Ole! Newsletter Editor  
**Chris Sortino**

## August Birthdays

John Accardi  
 Don Faircloth  
 Rich Andretta  
 Rick Gathen  
 Jay Hogan  
 Bob Wagner  
 Rich Green  
 Leslie Higinson  
 Greg Daye  
 Michel Joyal  
 Donna Redcross  
 Anna Buffenmyer  
 Bob Sanna  
 Roger Day  
 Francois Roy  
 Joe Swertinski  
 Kevin Broderick  
 Judy DuHaime  
 Mike Castaldo  
 Corey Mark  
 Buddy Glover  
 Staff Evans

## Alumni Schedule 2021

Saturday, July 10 \*  
 Virtual Performance  
 P.C.T.I.  
 Saturday, July 24 \*  
 Music Rehearsal  
 Lake Hopatcong Elks  
 12:00-5:00  
 Saturday, August 14  
 Music Rehearsal  
 Kohler Distributing  
 Hawthorne  
 12:00-5:00  
 Saturday, August 21 \*  
 Virtual Performance  
 P.C.T.I.  
 Saturday, August 28 \*  
 Virtual Performance  
 P.C.T.I.  
 Sunday, September 12 \*  
 T.B.D.  
 Saturday, September 18 \*  
 Parade  
 Milton, PA  
 Sunday, September 26 \*  
 T.B.D.  
 Sunday, October 10 \*  
 T.B.D.  
 Sunday, October 24 \*  
 T.B.D.  
 Sunday, November 7 \*  
 Parade (Tentative)  
 Clifton  
 Sunday, November 14 \*  
 T.B.D.  
 Saturday, December 20 \*  
 Parade & Stage Show  
 Plymouth, MA  
 Saturday, December 4 \*  
 Parade & Rehearsal  
 Hawthorne

## July Birthdays

Heidi Stites  
 Edie Duncan  
 Andy Grilk  
 Peter Ciaccio  
 Gloria Pennell  
 Wayne Kubacki  
 Bill Kennedy  
 Dennis Pavone  
 Nancy Durborow  
 Tom Harris  
 John Garno  
 Bob Messineo  
 Annette Solow  
 Andrew Buffenmyer  
 Ron Lawson  
 Kathy Natoli  
 Ellen Rinaldo-Stout

Happy Birthday



## Letter From The Editor

By Chris Sortino

Well, the Alumni Corps was actively ensconced into this season's DCA version of drum corps.

On July 10th we went to P.C.T.I. in Wayne, NJ, along with the Caballeros competing corps to have our performances taped in front of a small but very enthusiastic audience made up of family and close friends starved for drum corps.

After rehearsing music for the better part of the day, we went onto the field in a concert formation and played our 2021 repertoires for the video and sound people to make sure everything was OK for the early evening performance.

We took to the field first, in full uniform. Even though it was a standstill, it was a thrill to wear the uniform again after such a long layoff in front of friendly fans. We did a pretty decent job with almost a full corps.

Next was the Caballeros competing corps performing their first rendition of a full drill in their 75th Anniversary uniforms. It was a spirited job with a very strong horn line and drum line. I was most impressed by their pit. Very professional look and sound.

I've been having a hard time understanding what the DCA is trying to do using a virtual concept this season. I have emotions about the whole idea.

On one side I say how can a judge look at a corps performance on a video screen and assign a number that will be fair to that corps and the other corps competing against each other? On the other side I think I see what the DCA is really trying to do here. They are trying to keep the interest in drum corps this season. First, to give the corps themselves the interest to keep it together and a reason to put a corps on the field and keep the fans involved also. I admire the DCA for coming up with this idea to keep it going, bridging this year until next year's season. Stay well, stay safe and God bless!

Ole! is published every other month.

Next issue: September/  
October

Someone sent me a picture of the Caballeros accepting all the first place trophies on retreat at the 1974 AL Nationals in Miami.

Why is this noteworthy? I marched in 8 Nationals, both AL and VFW, 4 with St. Lucy's Cadets and 4 with the Caballeros. I lost all 8 of those. Finally in my 9th National contest, I won. Hooray for me.

The other thing is, I've never read any articles about the 1974 Nations or have I ever seen any pictures. It's like the contest never existed. Well, here it is. Enjoy!

— Chris Sortino

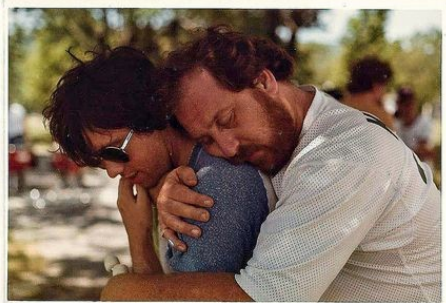




## Pics From The Past



HAWTHORNE CABALLEROS Drum Major Ralph Silverbrand, left and Color Guard Sgt. Bob Sands salute at retreat ceremonies. Cabs regained their Legion Senior Championship.



## HALF NOTES...

Condolences to the family of **Tim Campbell** on his passing. Tim was one of the power soloists for the Caballeros in the 90's. playing along side fellow soloist **Frank Ponzo**. Rest in Peace Tim.....saw some former Caballeros at the video taping performances at P.C.T.I. for DCA's virtual contest. Two of the more notable personalities were soloist **Gene Marotta** and percussionist **Jim Costello Jr.** Good to see you guys.....had a ball marching in the Elks Convention parade in Wildwood. Our old friend, former mayor **Ernie Troiano**, rode his bike next to the corps the entire parade. Talk about a loyal fan, Wow!...saw a lot of old friends marching with Sky and BS. **Danny Raymond Jr.** was lending his talents to the Golden Knights drum line while everybody's favorite **Bob (Jomba) O'Conner** was with Sky's Alumni Corps .....the that's all for now!

### A "Bit of Wit" from the Quill of Charlie Bratton...



The trouble with being punctual is no one is there to appreciate it.

George Washington never told a lie, but then he never had to file a form 1040.

You want to hear a joke on construction, I am still working on it.

What's the leading cause of dry skin ? Towels.

The first five days after the weekend are the hardest.

Our computers went down at work so we had to do everything manually. It took me 20 minutes to scuffle the cards for solitaire.

Did you hear about the ship that ran aground carrying a cargo of red and black paint? The whole crew was marooned.

You know you're getting old when you get that one candle on the cake. It's like "see if you can blow this out."

## HELP WANTED!

The Alumni Corps has openings in ALL SECTIONS, especially Contra in the Horn line, Color Guard and openings for Bass, Cymbal and Double Tenor in the Drum Line.

