

Ole!



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

Volume 3, Issue 3

May/June 2022

1970: Transitioning Into The Next Decade

By Chris Sortino

The Caballeros obviously were the corps of the 1960's. Winning National Championships in 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964 and 1966, including an undefeated season in 1962. The corps was excellent in 1967, coming in second in both the Nationals and DCA Championship to the Connecticut Hurricanes. The Cabs beat every other corps that year except the Hurricanes.

We had a large turnover after the '67 season. There were many new faces in all sections going into the 1968 season. We changed every song but the color-pre. Things just didn't seem to click the entire year. After coming in 8th at the DCA Championship, we decided not to go to the Nationals in New Orleans. 1968 was a year we wanted to forget.

Ah! 1969, this had to be better. It was. It was a rebuilding year for sure. We trusted new

IN THIS ISSUE

**1970: Transitioning
Into The Next Decade**
**Meet The Caballero
You March With**
Alumni Corps
Rehearsal
Schedule
Birthdays
Half Notes
Trivia
Answer To Trivia
Remember When
Letter From The
Editor
Pics From The Past
Groaners From North
Of The Border
Alumni Corps
Event Schedule

Meet The Caballero You March With

OK! We are going to try something new in the Ole! Newsletter.

Some of you in the Alumni Corps have been marching next to one or more people in the drill only knowing their name and not much else. Our trusty reporter and superior snare drummer Vince Marchese passed out questionnaires to a few of you and we are going to post the results of one or two of them and see what kind of feedback we get. If positive, we will continue our efforts. If not, we'll dump the idea like a broken pair of drum sticks.

Our first candidate is **Norman Dykstra**. Norm's drum corps experience started as a quartermaster for the Caballeros in 1975. From

(Continued On Page 2)

(Continued On Page 3)

(Continued From Page 1)

.....1970:

The Next Decade

music arranger (Larry Kerchner), new head drum instructor (George Tuthill) and some new and different music to put us over the hump. This alone wasn't enough to get us out of our winless record, but it was enough to give the corps hope going into the 70's.

Two things happened that had a profound effect on the success of the corps in 1970. First and I think the most important, my old Junior Corps St. Lucy's Cadets disbanded after the 1969 season. Twenty two members of that corps joined the Caballeros. The second thing was the change in percussion instruments. We replaced the single tenor drums with double congas. This second change may not seem like much, but it changed the whole sound of our drum section and totally impressed most of the percussion judges for the entire season.

We changed all of our music from the previous year. A huge task to tackle. Our repertoire included, "Captain From Castile", "Ted Meets Johnny", "Sabre Dance", "1812 Overture" and "Samba de Orphio." Not an easy task, but we were up for the challenge.

We took our lumps while trying to solidify our new identity.

We improved each week until finally on July 11th the Caballeros won the first contest since 1966.

Before I forget, an interesting sideline, the week before our first win of the season, we competed in the Barnum Festival in Bridgeport, CT. As we are waiting on the starting line, there is thunder and lightning all around us. I know the last thing I would have wanted to do is carry a metal flagpole as a member of our color guard. The rain started to come down, slow at first then the sky opened up. As this was happening, I was waiting to be called back to shelter from the starting line. I really wasn't paying much attention to what was going on with drum major Jim Russo talking to the chief judge. Then Jim yells to the corps "do you want to go on"?, and what seemed like the entire corps, screamed "Yes!" I was stunned. Russo gives the command of "mark-time-march" and away we go. The rain collected on our drum heads before we hit the first note. So when we hit that first double stop, "Splash." Water everywhere, right in the drum judges face. By the way, none of the judges were

happy about our decision to go on.

The amazing part of all this is that the fans stayed in the stands, some with plastic sheets over them, umbrellas, anything they could get their hands on. They roared at every move we made. They were cheering our fortitude rather than the quality of our performance.

We finally get to the finish line and the rain stopped. I believe it. We marched off to a street beat while the crowd was still cheering for us. An incredible night for sure. After the show we realized we slung the sombreros and the black dye stained all of our shirts. What a mess. We had wooden tambourines which were now mush and another thing happened. Somehow there were some caption sheets that were the same color with corps' names crossed out. More on that later.

The end result is that this contest gave us the push to go forward the rest of the season.

We slowly improved week by week until the Dream Contest weekend. Saturday night in Boyerstown, PA we won. The next day at the Dream, we won again. Back to back wins. This was a miracle for us. Again improving at every show, the DCA Championship weekend was upon us.

(Continued On Page 3)

(Continued From Page 2)

.....1970: The Next Decade

On Saturday, we bused up to Toronto where we came in second. It didn't really bother us because our sights were on the Championship.

Sunday morning we drove from Toronto to Rochester, NY, the home of the DCA contests.

The corps warmed up and went over to the stadium where we put on a tight performance at the Prelims. We were definitely in a zone the entire weekend. After lunch we went over the show, confident that we could bring back the Championship to Hawthorne.

Our performance at the Finals was so clean and powerful, it took us quite a while to come down from that high.

As I promised, here's the rest of the Barnum Festival contest story.

After lodging a protest, the show was rerun on August 29th with the same corps as the Barnum Festival and called the "Instant Replay"



show. Oh yeah! The Caballeros won.

DCA Championship September 6, 1970

Preliminaries

1. Caballeros	80.975
2. Yankee Rebels	80.000
3. Hurricanes	79.575
4. Buccaneers	79.525
5. Skyliners	77.925
6. Sunrisers	75.000
7. Boys Of 76	72.050
8. Crusaders	71.600
9. Kingsmen	70.450
10. Les Diplomates	68.375
11. Bonnie Scots	66.625
12. Rockets	64.350
13. Royallaires	64.275
14. Ambassadors	62.650
15. Conn. Yankees	58.300

Finals

1. Caballeros	82.775
2. Yankee Rebels	81.200
3. Hurricanes	80.950
4. Buccaneers	80.000
5. Skyliners	77.375
6. Sunrisers	75.125
7. Crusaders	73.250
8. Kingsmen	68.900
9. Boys Of 76	66.925
10. Les Diplomates	64.900



(Continued From Page 1)

.....Meet The Caballero

1976 to 1981 he carried a flag in the Cabs color guard. Present day he plays rudimental bass with the Alumni Corps.

We asked, what got you interested in drum corps? Norm said he's a Hawthorne person, born and raised. He always knew of Muchachos and Caballeros rehearsals, parades and the Grand Prix. He said he would ride his bike to Goffle Brook Park for Cabs rehearsals. Almost joined Muchachos with his Hawthorne HS percussion pals in 1968 but didn't. Norm is a Charter Member of the Alumni Corps—1994.

Beside drum corps Norm is very interested in the U.S. Civil War, particularly "The Iron Brigade Of The West" Army of the Potomac. He is a trustee and officer with the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association and the Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table.

Public Service Announcements

Not sure how many of you know that the Alumni corps does a lottery 4 times a year. We do it in February, May, September and December. This has certainly helped us survive during the time that we have been sidelined because of Covid. The tickets are \$5 dollars a chance. Each ticket has a number on it, if that number is the same number as the NJ evening lottery you could win \$50, \$100 or \$150 each time your number comes up! The amount is listed on the tickets. We have been fortunate that we have been selling all the tickets, but we are always looking for more interested people. If you are interested, contact beth.mcgarrril@yahoo.com or my cell number is 201-674-1543.

We have a limited number of 25th Anniversary shirts available. There are some tank tops and t shirts in both ladies and mens. If you are interested please email me and I will check to see if we have the size you need. My email is beth.mcgarrril@yahoo.com.

Trivia Answer Volume 3 Issue 2

Q: What two songs did the Caballeros play for exit numbers in 1958?

A: Serenata and Frenesi

Trivia Question

The Caballeros won 25 contest in a row between 1972 and 1974. What corps ended the win streak and where?

Just A Reminder

\$10.00 Annual Dues 2022

If you haven't paid your 2022 Alumni Association dues yet, you still have time.

Mail Payment To:

P.O. Box 484

Hawthorne, NJ 07507

Or give to:

Greg McNeff

Or

Larry Mastroberardino

Remember When

Forty-Six Years Ago

June 16, 1976

Hershey, PA

1	Caballeros	81.55
2	Buccaneers	76.60
3	Skyliners	76.55
4	Yankee Rebels	76.10
5	Hurricanes	75.80
6	Phoenix	72.90
7	Matadors	66.55



OFFICERS

Alumni Assn. President

Larry Mastroberardino

Alumni Corps Director

Paul Bongiovi

Alumni Corps Asst. Dir.

Steve Racowski

Post Commander

Doug Tenis

Ole! Newsletter Editor

Chris Sortino

Alumni 2022 Rehearsal Schedule

Sunday, May 1 *

Drill Rehearsal 12-5

Rutgers Field

Saturday, May 14 *

Sunday, May 15 *

Camp Weekend

J.P. Stevens H.S.

Edison

Sunday, May 22 *

Drill Rehearsal 12-5

Rutgers Bubble

Sunday, June 12 *

Drill Rehearsal 12-5

Rowland Park

South Brunswick

Saturday, August 27 *

If no show, rehearsal

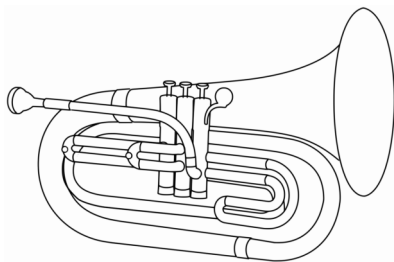
Next day.

If show, no rehearsal

Next day.

Sunday, August 28 *

T.B.D.



Sunday, September 25 *

Music Rehearsal 12-5

Elks Lodge Mt. Arlington

Sunday, October 9 *

Music Rehearsal 12-5

Elks Lodge Mt. Arlington

Sunday, October 23 *

Music Rehearsal 12-5

T.B.D.

Sunday, November 13 *

Music Rehearsal 12-5

Post 199

Saturday, December 3 *

Music Rehearsal

Post 199



Letter From The Editor

By Chris Sortino

Sometimes the news takes a somber tone. This is one of those times. We roll merrily along enjoying ourselves and then we get smacked in the face with a reality check.

We lost two former Alumni Corps members within the last few weeks.

Charter member Rich Runsky was born 5/5/1935 and marched in the competing corps 1964 and 1965. Rich also marched in the Morristown Colonials and the Dover Redskins. He marched in the Alumni Corps for many years as a solo soprano. He was 87. RIP

We also lost charter member tenor drummer Tommy Sands, a 23 year veteran of the Alumni Corps. He was a member of the Holy Name Cadets from 1956 to 1958 and Garfield Cadets from 1958 to 1961. He marched with the Ca-balleros from 1961 to 1965. RIP.

God Bless!

Ole! is published every other month.

Next issue: July/August

Alumni 2022 Event Schedule

Monday, May 30 *

Parade

Hawthorne

Saturday, June 4 *

Elk's Parade

Wildwood

Saturday, June 25 *

Parade

Lewisburg, PA

Saturday, July 9 *

Grand Prix-Field Show

Clifton

Saturday, July 16 *

Buccaneers-Field Show

Landisville, PA

Saturday, July 30 *

AL Nationals-Field Show

Williamsport, PA

Saturday, August 6 *

Field Show

Kingston, NY

Saturday, August 20 *

White Sabres

Stage Show

Turbotville, PA

Saturday, August 27 *

If no show, rehearsal

Next day.

If show, no rehearsal

Next day.

Sunday, August 28 *

T.B.D.

Friday, Sept. 2 *

DCA (I&E) Stage Show

Rochester, NY

Sunday, Sept. 4 *

Alumni Spectacular

Field Show

Rochester, NY

Sunday, Sept. 4 *

DCA Finals

Field Show

Rochester, NY

Sunday, November 6 *

Parade

Clifton

Saturday, Nov. 19 *

Parade

Stage Show

Plymouth, MA

Saturday, December 3 *

Parade

Hawthorne

Pics From The Past



May Birthdays

Mary Lou Bonn
Bill Hoyt
Tyrone Laval
Guy LaFlamme
Lisa Menear
Tony D'Andrea
Bob Hendershot
Bob Bonn
Lizann Lander
Richard Jessop
Larry Di Renzo
Steve Tanner
Denny O'Connell

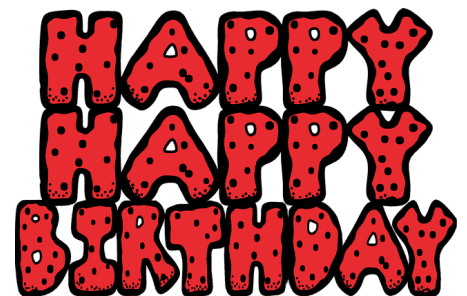


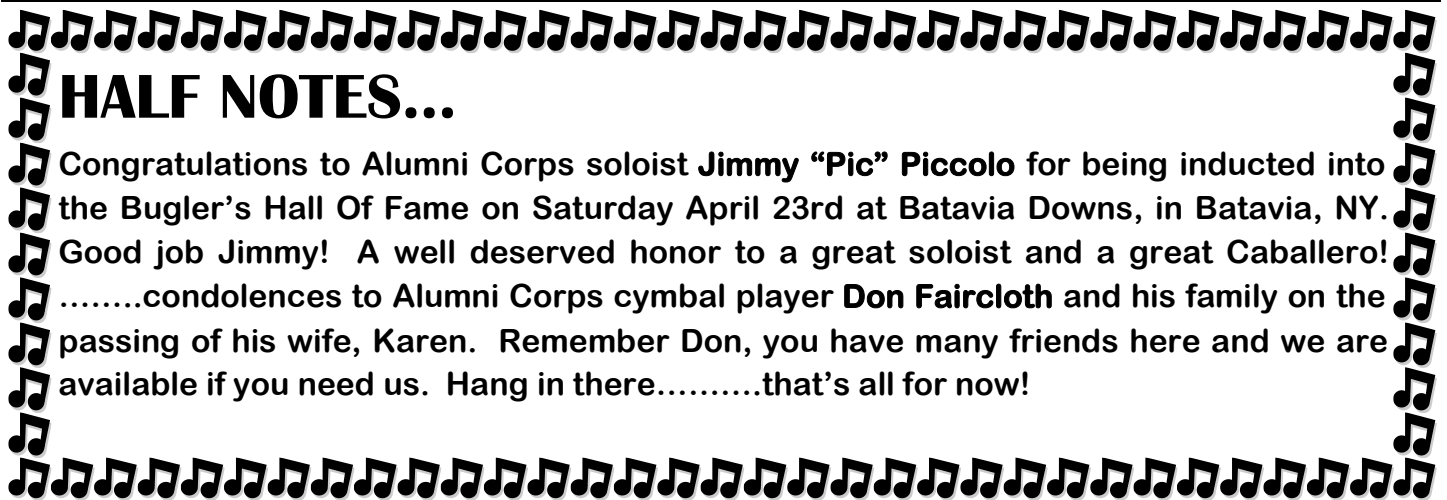
Pics From The Past



June Birthdays

Patrice Schwab
Nancy Mingle
Lou Blancato
Marianne Kerr
Andre Thibault
Barry Wagner
Steve Racłowski
Bill Duncan
Debbie Darcy
Allan Vogel
John Mehrstens
Robert Doyle
John Smith
Mike Risley





HALF NOTES...

Congratulations to Alumni Corps soloist Jimmy "Pic" Piccolo for being inducted into the Bugler's Hall Of Fame on Saturday April 23rd at Batavia Downs, in Batavia, NY.

Good job Jimmy! A well deserved honor to a great soloist and a great Caballero!

.....condolences to Alumni Corps cymbal player Don Faircloth and his family on the passing of his wife, Karen. Remember Don, you have many friends here and we are available if you need us. Hang in there.....that's all for now!



Groaners From North Of The Border..... By Ed Jacko

I was at an A.T.M. yesterday. A little old lady asked if I could check her balance, so I pushed her over.

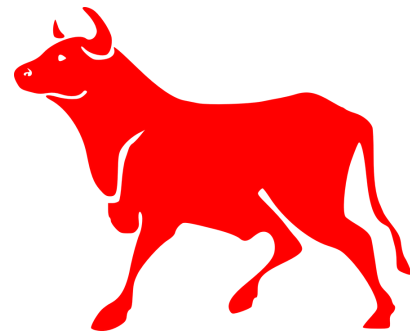
My girlfriend thinks I'm a stalker. Well, she's not exactly my girlfriend yet.

The wife was counting all the nickels and dimes out on the kitchen table when she suddenly got very angry and started shouting and crying for no reason. I thought to myself, "She's going through the change."

Statistically, six out of seven dwarfs are not happy.

My neighbor knocked on my door at 2:30 a.m. Can you believe that, 2:30 a.m? Luckily for him I was still up playing my bagpipes.

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were \$70. Forget it, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.



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.



Articles for the OLE!

The OLE! welcomes all impressions/expressions. Send your input/articles to Cabalumno1@aol.com

