

Ole!



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

Volume 3, Issue 5

Septober/October 2022

1973: Give Us Your Best Shot

By Chris Sortino

The night after the 1972 DCA Championship, we had an exhibition at a junior contest in Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. I saw many of my friends there and most of them were offering congratulations for our historic win. Being the recruiter that I am, I started to talk it up with guys that I knew were either looking to change corps or were aging out of junior corps. The interest seemed high. I'm sure a lot of it stemmed from the fact we won the Championship the night before. I didn't care what their reason was, I just wanted talented people to come to the corps.

Well, after that, many of our Tuesday and Friday night rehearsals were standing room only. People who were at the Championship and those who were not, wanted to see what kind of corps we were that could knock off the defending champion Skyliners that

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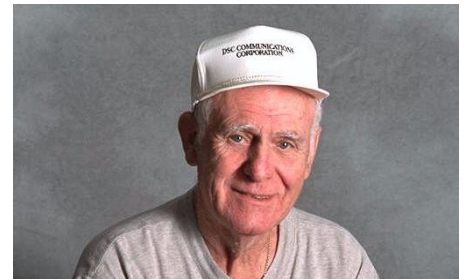
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James J. Costello Jr.The Man Part Two

By Mike DelVecchio



Jimmy had a habit of collecting all the score sheets from each show and filed them in his office. Some of us often wondered what he planned to do with them. Well, some of us found out, and once again saw a way to think ahead of the judges. Now in the early 50's we had judging sheets that had some strange captions on them and then there are the sheets for the National Championship

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.....1973:

Best Shot.....

seemed to be unbeatable. *(Please refer to the March/April 2021 issue of the Ole! and read the fantastic article written by Jim Mallen about the 1972 season.)*

We accumulated quite a collection of talented people into our ranks over the 1972/1973 Winter. We filled all sections with many enthusiastic people.

The 1972 season was the first season we ever put 72 horns on the field. The story goes, Jimmy Costello wanted to field 80 horns for the 1973 season. The problem was Jimmy's announcement about this idea made to the corps at one of our rehearsals, got out to the public and that prompted the DCA to establish a new rule to limit the size of a corps to 128.

We were very fortunate during the 70's to have the West Point Field House at our disposal to learn our drill and clean up our show. Because of this, we would be close to mid-season form before the first contest in May.

Moving ahead to the contest season, we won the first of the year in Hamden, CT with a score of 83.1. We were all pleased but surprised with our score. Normally, a corps would kick off the season with a score in the 70s. This just proved to

the corps and the judges that this was a very special version of the Caballeros.

The second contest was in Hempstead, NY. It was raining all day long but Jimmy Costello had us out there on the concrete runway of the old Floyd Bennett airfield enduring the elements. The rain from above and the puddles under our feet. Of course, Jimmy was making changes and making adjustments, always looking for the perfect show.

One small diversion from our rehearsal this day. One of the members of our snare section was not in line after a break. It was the very talented Jim Mallen of Golden Knights fame who was sitting on the bus out of the rain. I approached him and told him to join the rest of the drummers outside. He said he had a cold and the rain would only make it worse. Being the jerk that I was at this point in my young life, I told him to get outside. As he did, I grabbed the hat he was wearing, filled it with water from one of the puddles and placed it back on his head. We all had a good laugh. Jim then said "If it takes me all season, I'll get you back for this." More on this story later on in this article.

The rain finally cleared out but the fog rolled in. Before we took the field, Coz told us we had to be as perfect as we could, because the smallest little thing could make us lose. He said if a light bulb blows out, if a dog runs across the field or a hat falls off, we could lose the show.

Well, that night our drum major Jim Russo saluted the crowd at the beginning of our performance and his hat fell off. We all remembered what Mr. Costello told us and then went on to do one of the best jobs the corps had ever done. Our score was an 87.6. We and the audience were stunned. This is a score a corps would achieve at the end of the year not the second show of the season. At that point we knew how special this corps was.

We continued to be very successful for several weeks winning every contest we entered. All of us were thinking "Undefeated" but no one wanted to utter those words for fear it would jinx us for the rest of the year. We all became very superstitious. I found myself wearing the same T-shirt week after week no matter how many holes it had in it. My wife was getting tired of repairing it. I also developed another superstition. Before the show, I

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.....1973: Best Shot.....

wouldn't shake anyone else's hand more than once.

Toward the end of the season, we were at a show in Johnstown, NY. We achieved another milestone. We broke the 90s barrier scoring a 91.5.

The last regular season contest was in Amherst, MA.

Remember the story about Hempstead and the rainy rehearsal. Well, the corps was on a break during the pre-contest rehearsal and all the drummers went over to one of the water buckets for a drink with the ladle. That's the way we refreshed ourselves back in the day. I had my wide brimmed straw hat on, so when I looked down toward the bucket all I saw was everybody's shoes. I noticed the shoes were backing away one by one. The next thing I knew was somebody took my hat off and poured an entire bucket over my head. Stunned, I looked over at Jim Mallen with the bucket in his hand. He said "I told you I'd get you back before the season ended." All I could say was "Touché."

The DCA Championships were in two weeks so we had the following weekend off after Amherst. I guess the corps needed a break after winning every show week after week.

The corps traveled up to Rochester, NY and did what the corps was built to do this very special year. We won the Prelims in the afternoon and won the Finals at night.

We could finally say "We are undefeated World Champions." We were the first corps to go undefeated in the DCA era.

1973, a truly special year!

DCA Championship

Rochester, NY

September 2, 1973

1	Caballeros	89.85
2	Buccaneers	85.80
3	Hurricanes	85.30
4	Les Diplomates	84.20
5	Skyliners	81.55
6	Crusaders	79.80
7	Yankee Rebels	76.95
8	Kingsmen	67.20
9	Sunrisers	66.80
10	Matadors	61.45
11	Thunderbirds	59.90
12	Royalaire	57.00



Remember When

Sixty Years Ago

September 8, 1962

AL States

Wildwood, NJ

1	Caballeros	80.34
2	Amboy Dukes	78.00
3	Jersey Devils	73.73
4	Gay Blades	72.02
5	Volunteers	67.77

Remember When

Forty Six Years Ago

May 30, 1976

New Brunswick, NJ

1	Caballeros	76.50
2	Yankee Rebels	70.80
3	Hurricanes	70.00
4	Buccaneers	68.55
5	Skyliners	68.50

Meet The Caballero You March With

Our next person of interest is **Brad DeWaal**. Brad has been in the Alumni Corps since 2009. Since then he has been a featured soloist, playing in duets and trios as well as being part of the backbone of our soprano line.

Brad's initial drum corps experience was the result of getting recruited by members of his high school band. Brad's drum corps experience started with the Greece Cadets Junior Corps from Rochester, NY from 1974 to 1978, winning the DCI Class A Championship in 1975. The Commandants Own US Marine D&B Corps in Washington, DC. from 1979 to 1982, Albion Night Watch and Hamlin Brassmen upstate NY from

1983 to 1991, Mighty St. Joe's Alumni and Ghost Riders Mini Corps from 1991 to 2010, participating in parades with the Empire Statesmen in 2001 and Avant Guard Alumni this year.

Some of his experiences

during his tour with the Marine Corps included performing for many dignitaries from around the world, funerals in Arlington National Cemetery as well as Taps at other Military Honor Funerals and President Reagan's Inauguration in 1980. Brad also played at President Bush's Inauguration in 2001 with the Empire Statesmen.

Brad's hobbies include hunting and motorcycles.

Brad's career as a Monroe County Sheriff Deputy, Rochester, NY spanned 25 years from 1983 to 2008.

Thank you Brad for your service.

As always, I'll be looking forward to reading the next story of an alumni corps member in the next issue of the Ole!

Bye for now!



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:

143 Mohawk Ave.

Hawthorne, NJ 07506

Or give to:

Greg McNeff

Or

Larry Mastroberadino



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.....The Man

that had other captions that were not quite the same. For example, on the bugle sheet there was one that stated "Horns Not Up and Down Together." Some judges thought that was a good caption to have, as some corps were a little lax on that, however certain judges liked using this caption to a greater degree than others. Jim worked us on that before every show as a few judges used this just to have a place to make a tick mark. Oh, did I mention every contest had an inspection judge which was the last thing before you kicked off the line, hence Jimmy gave us a little reminder at each show, "right over left, right over left," a reminder as to how our shoes must be laced. No need to bother you with other questionable things from the early years.

Now getting back to the judge's sheet. To show you how Jimmy's mind was always thinking, he started studying the judge's sheets from all the

judges and the shows they judged the Caballeros. This was a very interesting adventure. Some judges were sort of inconsistent with their number of tick marks and where they should go. Some could not remember from week to week how or whether our performance had improved. Jimmy started to study these sheets and discussed some of them with the horn instructor and some of the members on the governing board. It became apparent that Jimmy and the board were thinking of changing their approach talking to the judges at the post-contest meetings in order to improve our future performances.

At the same time, Jimmy came up with a uniform method of how the Caballeros will march when in uniform. Whether marching in a parade or on the contest field, Jimmy had a plan to make the Caballeros more noticeable as well as looking like the championship drum corps they had set out to be. We started with the leg lift. We would lift our feet higher than any other corps. As a matter of fact, Jimmy had us

raise our legs so that the upper leg would be level with the ground or deck. This also meant bringing the feet down even on the dirt, so when we were not playing, you would hear the soles of the shoes really hitting the grass, dirt, concrete, or flooring, whichever it may be. The arm swing was made uniform also. The left arm was only slightly bent in a natural position. The left hand was slightly closed with the thumb and first finger touching. The swing was forward to the bottom of the bugle, and swung back to 50% of the forward arm swing. Let me make it easy to understand. Swinging the arm forward and up to a point 90 degrees from when it was down even with the stripes on the side of the pants. Coming down, the arm should go back 50% of what the arm had swung forward. Always keeping the hand in the same position. The left arm did not bend at the elbow. It stayed in the same position going forward and backward. Eventually the members of some of the junior corps would yell "Lift them up higher, higher." Jimmy Cos, without know-

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.....The Man

ing it had started a trend with the corps and the fans would join in when we were marching on the field and playing. The cheering and yelling you get today when approaching the field started in 1953 with guys like me ponding on the dirt and grass field. As a marching member of the Caballeros in that period of time, I can tell you these subtle changes helped to keep our moral going and made us work harder towards becoming a National Champion. Of course, we had some jokers making some suggestion to this marching business. One soprano player gave advise that when you get home, get your left glove out, put some paste on the flat of the thumb and the side of the first finger while you have the glove on. Hold them together for a few seconds and then put them in your horn case. The next time you use that glove it would fit perfectly and keep your hand in the proper position. The name of this person who came up with this crazy idea was Paul Bongiovi Sr. He had a

habit of keeping the horn line laughing.

Again, getting back to the judge's sheets, Jim studied the sheets intently from each contest. Jim did study these sheets and sometimes would make notes on the them. Remember that Jimmy Cos was not only the drum instructor but he also wrote and taught the corps drill. This stack of contest sheets eventually became very helpful when it came time for Jimmy to talk to the judges after the show at the instructor/judge's meetings. At each contest Jimmy would gather us in for a final meeting before we went onto the field. He would tell us what judges were on the field and what particular areas of scoring they might use. In short, Jimmy had some insight into what we might expect. In some cases, certain judges were really hitting us heavy. For example! Let us say our drum line was getting more ticks from a certain judge than they deserved. Jimmy would talk with the judge and perhaps before the season was over, Jim could possibly convince the judge to come

teach the Caballeros drum line. Jim would explain to the judge that instructing the drum line and writing and teaching drill to the entire corps was becoming a burden and the corps was looking for a good drum instructor. It did work from what I can remember but I never could remember drum instructor's names.

Jimmy's mind was always working; thinking of ways to get us closer to the top with better scores and other methods. An example and my first one as a new member of the Caballeros.

We were in York Pa. for a contest. Jimmy found that the Reilly Raiders would not be in the show that night. They had the best corps in 1953. All we had to do was to beat Archer Epler, who was always losing to Reilly but always beating us. Jimmy had one of his famous meetings with us before we got to the stadium. Short and simple, he told the corps that with Reilly not being in the show, Archer Epler felt sure they could beat the Ca-

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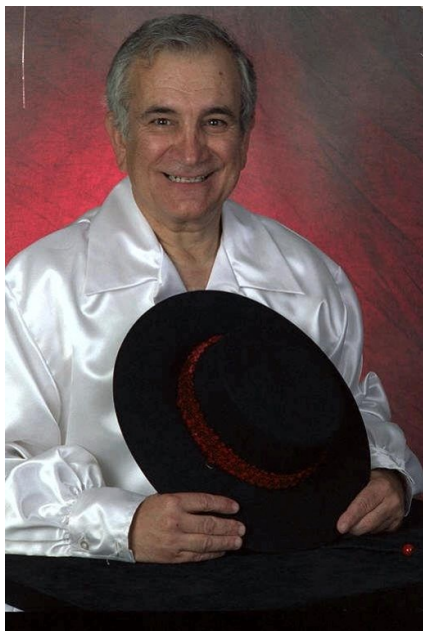
Saying Goodbye...

By Chris Sortino

Well, here we go again! I'd love to use this space for something else, but with full respect, I regret to announce the passing of three former members of the Alumni Corps.

We lost legendary Caballeros soloist **Jim D'Amico** on August 24th.

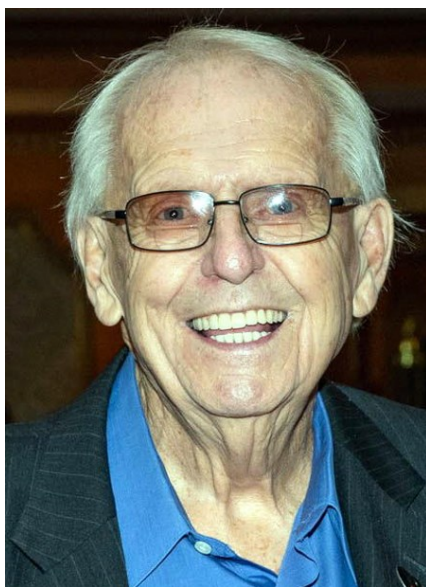
Jim was first to play the solos in "Cha Cha Cha Flamenco" along with countless other songs in which he was featured. His first year in drum corps was in 1949 with junior corps **Mighty St. Joe's** of Newark, NJ and the **Holy Name Cadets** from Garfield, NJ.



Jim was with the Cabs from 1956 through 1961 and spent many years teaching and judging. He was a Charter Member of the **Caballeros Alumni Corps**.

Among his many accomplishments was membership in the Bugler's Hall of Fame, the New Jersey Drum Corps Hall of Fame and the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame. Jim was 85.

Longtime Caballeros Legend, **Lou Storck** passed away September 2nd.



Louie, as we knew him, was with the Corps for a hundred years . . . or at least it seemed that way! He took over as Color Guard Captain after Frank Latella in the 1960s

and was a fixture on the field for the next 4 decades. Always a smile; always a story, but more importantly, always a friend. I don't have a memory of the Corps that doesn't have Louie in it. Rest in Peace old friend. Say hi to Cos.

Hank Grilk passed away on September 3rd.

From 1991 through 1995, Hank and his two sons, Andy and Brian, played baritone with the competing Corps winning an **Undeclared World Championship** together in 1995. They also marched with the Alumni and Latin Express on numerous occasions. We lost Hank at age 79 after a valiant battle with cancer.



HAWTHORNE CABALLEROS ALUMNI

O N O E N O T I R A B U R E S
 B J R J M N V Y Z D W L O N C
 V V E H U O A O Y E Z K J O U
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 U S O P R A N O S L F O U V T

BARITONE

GLOVES

HAWTHORNE

MARCHING

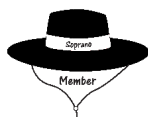
MELLOPHONE

RED SOLOCUP

SASH

SOMBRERO

SOPRANOS



FORMATION

BUGLE

BULL CALL

CABALLEROS

CONTRA

CORPS

DRUM

DRUM MAJOR

ECHELON

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balleros and win the contest. Jimmy told us that chances are the Musketeers would not work as hard because they were beating the Caballeros all year. Jimmy said if we give our best, we could beat them and walk away with first place. Once again Jimmy was right. We won the show just as James J Costello Jr. had predicted.

In short 1953 was the year of a big turnaround for the Caballeros. We now knew that we could beat both Reilly and Archer Epler but we had to work harder to do it. The corps moral took a huge leap with this event in York Pa.



Alumni 2022 Event Schedule

Saturday, Sept. 3 *

**DCA Standstill 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**

Alumni 2022 Rehearsal Schedule

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
Post 199

Sunday, November 13 *

Music Rehearsal 12-5
Post 199

Saturday, December 3 *

Music Rehearsal
Post 199



Ole! is published every other
month.

Next issue: November/
December

September Birthdays

Mike Marando
Nicole Mondou
Rita Bongiovi
Carol Farren
Ray Rodriguez-
Calvino
Don Gardner
Bob Steinhilber
Chuck Bishop
Dan McConnell
Diana McNeff
Malvin Clayburn
Dennis Magarro
Charlene Gardner
Terry Hass
Jim Bounds
Rose Cataneo
Ralph DiBuono
Ray Schmerin
Tom Ashby
Chris Sortino
Jimmy McDyer III



Trivia Answer

Volume 3 Issue 4

Q: When was the last time the Caballeros won back to back National Championships and where?

**A: 1974 Miami, FL
And
1975 Minneapolis, MN**

Trivia Question

When and where did the Caballeros first introduce the Timbales on the field?

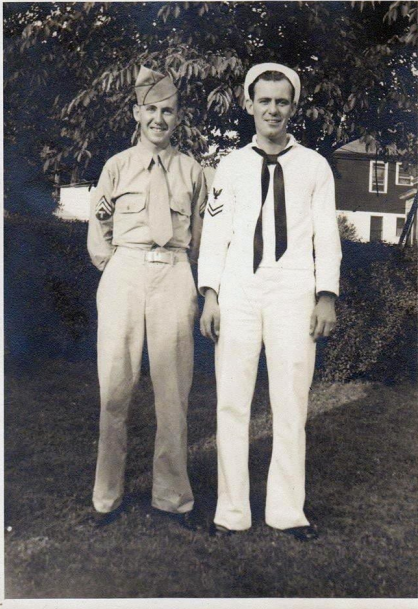
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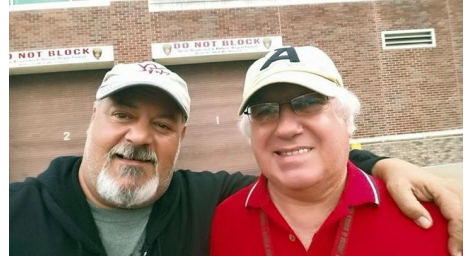
October Birthdays

Norman Dykstra
Lauren Jessop
Barbara Charpentier
Roy Butchie Falone
Bob Fitzpatrick
Ray Williamson
Bob Castor
Bill Sullivan
Jesse Castaneda
Madison Yaniga
Francine La Pierre
Lorraine Cardozo
Sheryl Lauber
Linda Smith





Pics From The Past



Caballeros

2022

Contest Results

Bridgeport, CT

June 25, 2022

1	Caballeros	74.95
2	Bushwackers	70.85

Clifton, NJ

July 9, 2022

1	Buccaneers	75.55
2	Caballeros	74.95
3	Bushwackers	70.75

Landisville, PA

July 16, 2022

1	Buccaneers	78.40
2	Caballeros	76.70
3	Bushwackers	73.35
4	White Sabers	72.45

Williamsport, PA

July 30, 2022

1	Caballeros	84.15
2	Buccaneers	83.45
3	White Sabers	77.65

Kingston, NY

August 6, 2022

1	Caballeros	86.60
2	Bushwackers	81.60
3	White Sabers	77.50

Mount Olive, NJ

August 20, 2022

1	Caballeros	91.60
2	Buccaneers	90.65
3	Bushwackers	84.60
4	White Sabers	81.80

Seymour, CT

August 27, 2022

1	Caballeros	93.55
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Rochester, NY

DCA Championship Prelims

September 3, 2022

1	Buccaneers	96.875
2	Caballeros	96.325
3	Bushwackers	92.525
4	White Sabers	90.325

Rochester, NY

DCA Championship Finals

September 4, 2022

1	Buccaneers	97.600
2	Caballeros	96.725
3	Bushwackers	94.600
4	White Sabers	90.800



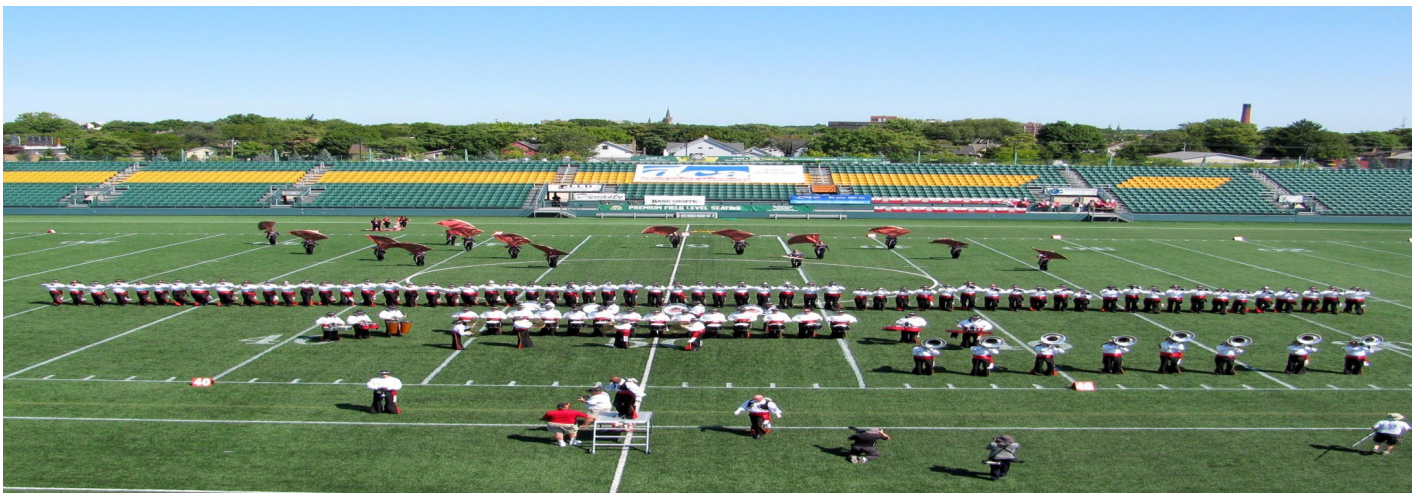
Public Service Announcement

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm not sure how many of you know that the Alumni Corps runs a Lottery based fundraiser 4 times a year in February, May, September and December. This has certainly helped us survive financially during the time that we have been sidelined because of COVID. The tickets are \$5.00 dollars each and are good for every day in the given month. Each ticket has a 3-digit number on it. If that number is the same number as the New Jersey evening Lottery drawing, you would win between \$50.00 and \$150 each day. The amount per day is listed on the tickets. We have been fortunate that we have been selling all the tickets, but we are always looking for people who want to participate. If you are interested, you can contact me via email at beth.mcgarraill@yahoo.com or on my cell 201-674-1543.

Thank you for your support!

Beth



HALF NOTES...

Condolences to the family of **Jim D'Amico**, famed soloist with the Caballeros competing corps and Charter Member of the Alumni Corps and to the families of **Hank Grilk**, Baritone with the competing corps and alumni corps and **Lou Storck**, the oh so familiar face of the Caballeros since 1966.....also to **Jim & Kathy Bounds** on the passing of their daughter **Lorena**.....thoughts and prayers to the alumni corps' newest bass drummer **Enrico Madragonna** on the passing of his mother **Josephine**.....may they all rest in peace.....what's this I hear about the alumni corps assistant horn instructor, soloist extraordinaire and all around good guy **Duke Terreri** being under the weather? Get well soon my friend.....check out the Word Scramble on page 8.....a thank you to **Jaimee Hawkins**.....that's all for now!

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



I ate a doughnut without sprinkles. Diets are hard.

Hear the one about the cooking school's valedictorian? She passed her final exam with flying crullers.

If you think your computer and cell phone spying on you is bad, know that your vacuum cleaner has been gathering dirt on you for years.

On the eve of an election, a candidate asked a reporter "Did you hear my last speech?" The reporter replied "I certainly hope so."

I said to the fitness coach "Can you teach me to do the splits?" He said "How flexible are you? I said "I can't make Tuesdays."

Cosmetic surgery used to be such a taboo subject. Now you can talk about Botox and nobody raises an eyebrow.

I wake up early on Black Friday, so I can get online and watch videos of shoppers brawling.

I tried to organize a professional hide-and-seek tournament, but it was a complete failure.



HELP WANTED!

The Alumni Corps has openings in ALL SECTIONS, especially Contra and sopranos in the Horn line, Color Guard and openings for Bass 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

