

### Volume 4, Issue 3

### We Did It Again! By Chris Sortino

The Alumni Corps was challenged by our wonderful brothers and sisters at the Lake Hopatcong Elk's Lodge to win the parade at the NJ State Convention parade. If the lodge won the third in a row, they get to keep the Governor's Trophy.

Last year the lodge won the trophy by accumulating enough points in other areas of the lodge's performance, such as their float design and the precision of their marching membership. We, unfortunately, fell short according to the parade judges. The rumor is that we didn't have a large enough color guard.

So, the wheels were set in motion to beef up our guard with more members. In lieu of a more permanent solution, we arranged to enlist the help of the competing corps' guard to fill our ranks.

And fill out the ranks we did.

We had approximately 28 of the Caballeros guard members join us for the parade. IN THIS ISSUE

We Did It Again Successful Camp Alumni Corps Schedule Birthdays Half Notes Trivia Answer To Trivia Remember When Semi-Funny Jokes Pics From The Past Lore Of The Legion A Very Unique Day Yet Another Loss



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

May/June 2023

## Hard Work Makes For A Successful Camp

**By Chris Sortino** 

This year has been very hard to find fields to rehearse drill. The hours and manpower dedicated searching for them has been almost overwhelming.

When we finally secured the location, we were thrilled. Thanks to Kurt Zimmermann, Alumni Corps mellophone, band director and vice principal of Lake Hopatcong High School, we were able to use the school's football field for our two day weekend camp.

The only problem that we had was the intermittent rain on Saturday. We had to cut that day's practice short.

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.....we did it

They were interspersed with our guard in the front of our corps. They had a marching routine all worked out. To see that many flags and rifles in front of the corps was an incredible sight.

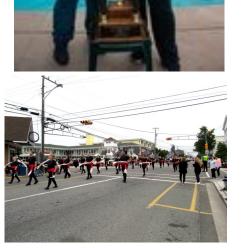
We played the usual line up of parade songs for the one mile plus parade until we got to the judging area. We then, switched into a different mode and played "Cha Cha Cha Flamenco" twice with only a street beat and a roll off in between. The second time we played the upbeat, powerful song, we played it right in front of the reviewing stand. Evidently, we did the right thing by the judges.

Later in the day, it was announced that we and the Elk's Lodge won best in the parade. We won best musical unit and the lodge won the Governor's Trophy.

The Caballeros once again took home a first place award. Adding to our legacy. "We did it again."









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### .....Hard Work

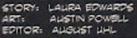
Thanks to the generosity of Rick and Linda Gathen of the Lake Hopatcong Elk's Lodge, we were invited to the lodge for drinks for a spread fit for a Caballero. A lot of us pitched in with different goodies to make it truly a family affair, which is just what this corps is, a family.

The next day we completed the drill. We ran through the drill several times with the help of Greg McNeff, Kent Pennel, Pete Salati, Jim Nargiso, Ty Laval, Shea Costello and Frankie Salati.

The reason we accomplished so much is because of the hard work and cooperation of our members. We all wanted the same thing at the end of camp and that was success. I think we accomplished our goal.







HISTORICALLY, MUSIC HAS HAD MANY WARTIME PURPOSES. TO THE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I, IT MEANS CAMARADERIE.

NEWLY DISCHARGED VETERANS IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISH DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS AT THEIR AMERICAN LEGION POSTS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

> AT THE 3RD NATIONAL CONVENTION IN KANSAS CITY IN 1921, THE ORGANIZATION CONDUCTS ITS FIRST DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS CHAMPIONSHIP. BATTLE CREEK, MICH., TAKES FIRST PLACE.

UNT FIGURE

PARTICIPATION SOARS OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

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BY 1933, THE 15TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CHICAGO FEATURES 284 CORPS AND A STAGGERING 400,000 MEMBERS WHO PARADE BEFORE MORE THAN 1-5 MILLION SPECTATORS!

CORPS ARE ESTABLISHED FOR SONS, AUXILIARY MEMBERS AND MORE.

AFTER WORLD WAR II, MANY NEW CORPS FORM ACROSS THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING ONE IN MINNESOTA MADE UP OF FEMALE HORMEL EMPLOYEE'S - THE SPAM GIRLS!

IN TIME, YOUNGER PARTICIPANTS WANT TO INTROPLICE MORE ARTISTRY IN THEIR PERFORMANCES.

BUT THE AMERICAN LEGION PREFERS TO KEEP THE FOCUS ON MILITARY PRECISION.

1971: PRUM CORPS INTERNATIONAL (PCI) IS FORMED BY A GROUP THAT INCLUDES SEVERAL LEGION JUDGES.

1980: THE LEGION CONDUCTS ITS FINAL DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS COMPETITION, AND IN 1982, SEPARATE AMERICAN LEGION COLOR GUARD AND CONCERT BAND COMPETITIONS ARE REINTRODUCED AND CONTINUE TODAY.

2022; THE PCI CHAMPIONSHIPS FEATURE 35 CORPS COMPSTING FOR THE WORLP TITLE BEFORE MORE THAN 20,000 SPECTATORS.

ONE TRADITION TRACED TO LEGION ROOTS: TODAY'S DCI TEAMS CARRY THE LLS. FLAG AND COLORS IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND.



THE DRUM CORPS INTERNATION WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS INDIANA POLIS, INDIANA

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## Remember When

Sixty Four Years Ago		
July 4, 1959		
	Bridgeport, CT	
1	Caballeros	88.96
2	Princemen	86.45
3	Musketeers	85.24
4	Appleknockers	77.15
5	Colonials	71.34
6	Sunrisers	71.04

## Remember When

#### Stratford, CT

- 1 Hurricanes 79.88
- 2 Caballeros 79.25
- 3 Sunrisers 73.33
- 4 Yankee Rebels 72.86
- 5 Marksmen 58.43

Ole! is published every other month. Next issue: July/August 2023

## Remember When

Forty Nine Years Ago September 1, 1974 DCA Championship

#### **Rochester**, NY

- 1 Caballeros 83.50
- 2 Buccaneers 82.15
- 3 Skyliners 77.35
- 4 Matadors 70.35
- 5 Crusaders 67.95
- 6 Hurricanes 66.70
- 7 Yankee Rebels 65.95
- 8 Sunrisers 59.70
- 9 Royalaires 56.55
- 10 Thunderbirds 54.64
- 11 Lancers 45.10
- 12 Sentinels 43.05





OFFICERS Alumni Assn. President Larry Mastroberardino

Alumni Corps Director Chris Sortino Alumni Corps Asst. Dir.

> Tyrone Laval Post Commander

Mike DelVecchio Ole! Newsletter Editor

**Chris Sortino** 

## May Birthdays

Mary Lou Bonn Bill Hoyt Tyrone Laval Lisa Menear Tony D'Andrea Bob Hendershot Dave Saccente Bob Bonn Richard Jessop Bill Sapienza Lizann Lander Steve Tanner Denny O'Connell

**Trivia Answer** 

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Q: How many years did the

Caballeros play "Malaguena" in Competition?

**A: 12** 



John H. Mehrtens, 86, of the Whiting section of Manchester passed away on April 29, 2023 at Mountainside Hospital, Glen Ridge. Born in Hackensack, he grew up in Dumont and lived in Fair Lawn for many years before settling in Whiting in 2000.

A National Guard Veteran, Mr. Mehrtens was a trainer for Mercedes Benz in Montvale for 13 years until retiring in 1999. He enjoyed NASCAR and Formula 1, and raced MG cars in his younger days. He was a longtime member of the Hawthorne Caballeros and American Legion Post 199, Hawthorne. In addition, he was a major fan of the NY Giants and all things Disney.

He was predeceased by his son, Thomas Mehrtens; his parents. John and Elsa Mehrtens; and his brother Eugene Mehrtens. He is survived by his wife Maureen; his daughter Rosemary Sinclair and her wife Jac of Northampton MA; his daughter Ellen Kreil and her husband Douglas of West Caldwell; his grandchildren. John Kreil and his fiancé Marie, Alaina Greco and her husband Mike, Katherine Kreil, Eva Mehrtens, and Robin Sinclair Weissman: and his great grandchildren, Easton and Gabriella.

# June Birthdays

Amanda Jeon "Happy Bear Bear" **Patrice Schwab Nancy Mingle** Lou Blancato **Carol Terreri** Marianne Kerr Andre Thibault **Barry Wagner Steve Raclowski Bill Duncan Debbie Darcy Allan Vogel** John Merthens John Smith **Mike Risley** 





What song did the Caballeros play for a color presentation in 1972?

Sunday, May 7 \* **Drill Rehearsal** 12:00-5:00 North Brunswick. High School Saturday, May 20 \* **Camp Weekend** 9:00-5:00 Hopatcong, H.S. Sunday, May 21 \* Camp Weekend 9:00-3:30 Hopatcong, H.S. Monday, May 29 \* **Memorial Day Parade** Hawthorne Saturday, June 3 \* Elk's Parade Wildwood Saturday, June 10 \* Hawthorne 125th Anniv **Field Exhibition** Sunday, June 25 \* Drill Rehearsal 12:00-5:00 North Brunswick **High School** 

## Alumni 2023 Schedule

Saturday, July 8 \* **Grand Prix Field Exhibition** Clifton Saturday, July 15 \* Field Exhibition Landisville, PA Saturday, July 22 \* Field Exhibition Milton, PA Saturday, July 29 \* Field Exhibition Williamsport, PA Saturday, August 19 \* T.B.D. **T.B.D**. Friday, September 1 \* **Mangione Tribute** Stage Show Rochester, NY Saturday, September 2 \* Music Rehearsal **Rochester**. NY

## Sunday, September 3 \* Alumni Spectacular **Field Exhibition Rochester**, NY Sunday, September 3 \* **DCA Finals Field Exhibition** Rochester, NY Sunday, September 24 \* **Music Rehearsal** 12:00-5:00 Lake Hopatcong Elk's Sunday, October 15 \* Music Rehearsal 12:00-5:00 Lake Hopatcong Elk's Sunday, October 29 \* Music Rehearsal 12:30-5:00 **Post 199** Sunday, November 5 \* **Veterans Day Parade** Clifton Sunday, November 12 \* Music Rehearsal 12:30-5:00 **Post 199**

Alumni 2023

Schedule

Continued

#### Friday, November 17 \*

**Bus Leaves For Plymouth From Hawthorne Pool** Saturday, November 18 \* Parade Plymouth, MA Saturday, November 18 \* **Stage Show** Plymouth, MA Sunday, November 19 \* **Bus Returns From** Plymouth, MA To Hawthorne Saturday, December 2 \* **Final Rehearsal** 11:00-3:30 **Post 199** 



Pics From The Past









## A Very Unique Day

The 125th Anniversary of Hawthorne, NJ. We all wondered what that meant when we first saw it on the schedule.

Well, many things happened that day. We had a drill rehearsal at the high school field for as long as we wanted. We had pizza and water at no charge in the school cafeteria. We could park right on the school grounds. There were food venders all around the stadium. I was tracked down by the sponsor of an earlier event and he gave me a check for that show. We were scheduled to go on after the competing corps. We did a great job considering it was our first M&M show. The crowd loved us. I saw friends that I haven't seen in years. There was a free fireworks display.

And to top it all off, the Hawthorne powers that be renamed Legion Place to Caballeros Way. How could everything go that right all in one day?

Truly! A very unique day!

.....Chris Sortino

## 

Condolences to the family of Alumni Corps Charter Member and former Color Guard Captain and former member of the competing corps John Mehrtens. A true gentleman and one of the good guys. May he rest in peace......speaking of one of the good guys. Saw timbale extraordinaire Mike Hull and his beautiful Annie at the Hawthorne Day Celebration. Great to see you both......welcome back Jack Zampella.....did you all see the Alumni Corps in the Wildwood Elk's Parade? We had the fabulous color guard from the competing corps joining our ranks just for the parade. WOW! 28 more people added to our guard really made a difference. Hey! Let's talk it up out there to fill our ranks with more flags. Are girls are GREAT but we can always use more members......that's all for now!

### 

### Semi-Funny Jokes...

Why did the doughnut make retire?

He was tired of the hole business.

When I see a line on an employment application asking who to contact in an emergency, I write, "A very good doctor."

I'm going to stop putting things off, starting tomorrow.

For eight years my co-workers have voted me "most secretive guy" in the office. Can't tell you how much this award means to me.

A teacher said to a student, "It's clear you haven't studied your geography. Why not?" "Well," the student replied, "my dad says the world is changing every day. So I decided to wait until it settles down."

My dating APP Bio says I have a corner office with a view of the entire city, drive a \$500,000 vehicle and get paid to travel. You should see my dates' faces when I tell them I'm a bus driver.

Achilles' Mother: "Stop imagining things! There's nothing wrong with your heel!"

I get all kinds of weird looks at the gym. Can't they bring their own pizza?



## **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.

