

# Ole!



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

**Volume 4, Issue 3**

**May/June 2023**

## **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.

*(Continued On Page 2)*

## **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**



## **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.

*(Continued On Page 2)*

(Continued From Page 1)

## .....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."



(Continued From Page 1)

## .....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 Pernel, 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.





# LORE OF THE LEGION

STORY: LAURA EDWARDS  
ART: AUSTIN POWELL  
EDITOR: AUGUST UHL

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.

PARTICIPATION SOARS OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

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 EMPLOYEES - THE SPAM GIRLS!

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

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

1971: DRUM CORPS INTERNATIONAL (DCI) 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 DCI CHAMPIONSHIPS FEATURE 35 CORPS COMPETING FOR THE WORLD TITLE BEFORE MORE THAN 20,000 SPECTATORS.

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

**THE DRUM CORPS INTERNATIONAL  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

## Remember When

**Sixty Four Years Ago**

**July 4, 1959**

**Bridgeport, CT**

<b>1 Caballeros</b>	<b>88.96</b>
<b>2 Princemen</b>	<b>86.45</b>
<b>3 Musketeers</b>	<b>85.24</b>
<b>4 Appleknockers</b>	<b>77.15</b>
<b>5 Colonials</b>	<b>71.34</b>
<b>6 Sunrisers</b>	<b>71.04</b>

## Remember When

**Fifty Six Years Ago**

**June 10, 1967**

**Stratford, CT**

<b>1 Hurricanes</b>	<b>79.88</b>
<b>2 Caballeros</b>	<b>79.25</b>
<b>3 Sunrisers</b>	<b>73.33</b>
<b>4 Yankee Rebels</b>	<b>72.86</b>
<b>5 Marksmen</b>	<b>58.43</b>

### 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**



## Remember When

**Forty Nine Years Ago**

**September 1, 1974**

**DCA Championship**

**Rochester, NY**

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



Ole! is published every other month.

Next issue: July/August 2023



## 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



**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 Racłowski  
 Bill Duncan  
 Debbie Darcy  
 Allan Vogel  
 John Merthens  
 John Smith  
 Mike Risley



### Trivia Answer

#### Volume 4 Issue 2

**Q: How many years did the Caballeros play "Malaguena" in Competition?**

**A: 12**

### Trivia Question

**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 re-named Legion Place to Ca-balleros Way. How could everything go that right all in one day?

Truly! A very unique day!

.....Chris Sortino

## HALF NOTES...

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.

