

Ole!



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

Volume 6, Issue 1

January/February 2025

Sorry For The Delay!

By Chris Sortino

This is the first newsletter since early last year, quite unfair to the members of the Alumni Corps and our fans to be sure.

As editor of this publication, I would like to apologize for this situation. After taking on the position of director in 2023, I obviously had more responsibilities than just playing in the drumline. That first year wasn't too bad thanks to the help I received from many of our members. I thank you all for that.

Last season was totally different. In addition to the previous year's difficulties, enter DCI.

I couldn't possibly have predicted how much work

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Familiar Faces Filling Leadership Positions!

By Chris Sortino

Last Fall, I informed the Executive Committee of the Corps that I would be resigning the directorship at the end of the year. The Executive Committee and Charter Members met according to the Charter and voted **Greg McNeff** as Director. **Dave Chadwick** was then appointed Assistant Director by the new Director.

Greg is a former member of the Caballeros competing corps and a Charter Member of the Caballeros Alumni Corps as well as a drill instructor for the Corps.

Dave has been with the Alumni Corps for 10 years as a mellophone soloist with an extensive understanding of DCI.



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.....delay!

was involved belonging to DCI. We had to send in the registration fee. Then they sent us the DCI schedule where we have to choose which shows we would like to participate in exhibition. After that, a few weeks go by and they tell us which shows we are able to go to based on the show's all clear by the show sponsor. At this point we have to choose which shows we want to commit to. In another couple of weeks DCI gives us the OK. Last year, we chose 7 shows knowing we were never going to get all 7. We were ok'd for 5 and we committed to 4. The 5th one was Landisville, PA (Buccaneers Show) which was the same day as the Milton, PA show.

In addition to all of this, DCI required us to run background checks on all the officers and instructors of the corps, require us all to take video safety courses online, as you all well know, register all of our music, submit a roster of the entire corps membership, alert DCI of our mode of trans-

portation to each show including the expected number of cars that our members would be driving to the show. Once at the show, we had to collect the armbands for all of our members who enter the show when not wearing uniforms.

All these things plus the regular duties for which a director is responsible, made it impossible to create time for the "Ole!"

So again, I am sorry for a nearly one year delay in resuming the newsletter. I'm looking forward to better times in the Corps and the newsletter.

Thanks to the committee for all their help these past two years. I couldn't have gotten half of what was expected of me done without them.

Thank to all the members of the committee and all of the members of this great Corps. As new Assistant Director **Dave Chadwick** says, "We are the GOAT of Alumni Drum Corps."



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.....faces!

The following notice was sent to us by our Publicity Director, **Marianne Kerr Green**.

The Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps are proud to announce that **Leslie Higinson** will join the Corps as Assistant Drum Major in 2025. She will join Drum Major Tyrone Laval and Assistant Drum Major Rose Cataneo on the field.

Since 2019, Leslie has been a member of the Caballeros Alumni in the Color Guard and most recently was a field drill instructor. She was the Drum Major for the Bushwackers (1981 & 1982), marched in the

Hawthorne Muchachos Color Guard (1976 - 1978) and was the drum major for the Oradell Dynamics (1974 & 1975). Leslie has been involved in drum corps since High School, where she also served as the Drum Major for River Dell Regional High school.

Please join us in congratulating Leslie in her new role as Assistant Drum Major.

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.....faces!

The Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps is happy to announce that **Laura Van Pamel Bongiovi** has been appointed Color Guard Designer and Instructor. Laura has a wonderful resume of indoor and marching band color guard experience and marched in the Color Guard with the Caballeros competing corps from 1988 through 1995.

Laura is excited to return to Hawthorne as part of the alumni corps and said "I grew up in Hawthorne so I listened to and watched the Caballeros all through my childhood. I met my husband Bobby while marching in the Caballeros competing corps, and made lifelong friends as a result of my time with the corps. Since then, I taught both indoor and marching band color guard for over 20 years transforming some programs from novice to award winners. I plan to focus on the high standards and traditions set by Jim Costello with a splash of contemporary flair to bring the audience the kind of show Hawthorne is known for."

Please join us in welcoming Laura to the staff of the Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps.



OFFICERS

Alumni Assn. President

Larry Mastroberardino

Alumni Corps Director

Greg McNeff

Alumni Corps Asst. Dir.

Dave Chadwick

Post Commander

Mike DeVecchio

Ole! Newsletter Editor

Chris Sortino

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2025

Alumni

Association News

The Alumni Association is a separate organization from the Alumni Corps. It was incorporated in January 1977 and exists for the benefit of the competing corps and, as of 2008, the Alumni corps as well. Membership is open to anyone who ever belonged to the Hawthorne Caballeros or the Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Corps just by paying the annual dues. With thanks to all who paid the \$10.00 annual dues for the 2023 and 2024 years, we were able to award one deserving member of the competing corps, who was struggling to pay their 2024 tuition, a \$500 check toward their tuition.

Dues for 2025 are now due so please see Larry Mastroberardino or Greg McNeff with your \$10 so we can continue to support both corps. Out of town? You can mail your \$10.00 to Greg at 143 Mohawk Ave, Hawthorne, NJ 07506.

Caballeros Alumni Launches 2025 Season

By Rick Gathern

Caballeros Alumni Launches 2025 Season: Join the Legacy, Experience the Thrill

By Rick Gathern

The Caballeros Alumni are gearing up for an unforgettable 2025 season, and the excitement is building as we prepare for our January 5th kickoff rehearsal. Known as a world-class alumni drum corps, we're proud to offer unparalleled opportunities for performers, 21 years or older, to reignite their passion for the field while creating lasting memories.

A New Era of Leadership

The Caballeros Alumni are thrilled to welcome **Greg McNeff** as their new Director and **David Chadwick** as Assistant Director. Both bring a wealth of experience, energy, and vision to

the Corps. Under their guidance, the Alumni aim to honor their proud traditions while embracing bold, innovative ideas to elevate the 2025 season. "Greg and David are not just leaders; they are visionaries," said a member of the Corps. "Their passion for the Caballeros' legacy and their drive to push boundaries are exactly what we need to take this group to new heights."

Experience the Caballeros Difference

The Caballeros Alumni are proud to offer the most DCI show opportunities of any alumni corps. If you're looking for unique, thrilling performances that combine tradition with innovation, there's no better place to be. Here's what sets us apart:

World-Class Alumni Program: Our legacy is built on excellence, and we deliver a performance and social experience that rivals any in the drum corps world.

Low-Cost Tuition: Participate in a top-tier program without financial stress, making it accessible to all.

Flexible Schedule: Our schedule is tailored for adult performers, allowing you to balance your passion with your busy life.

Iconic Caballeros Uniform: Wear the legendary Caballeros uniform with pride and be part of an alumni corps recognized worldwide for its excellence and impact.

Unique Performances: From DCI shows to exclusive concert performances, you'll experience the thrill of showcasing your talent on prestigious stages.

Incredible Social Calendar: Beyond the field, we prioritize fun with a robust social calendar that fosters camaraderie and lasting friendships.

A Unique Opportunity for Coed Color Guard Performers

In addition to welcoming **n e w h o r n l i n e** and **percussion** performers, this year, the Caballeros Alumni are excited to announce a special opportunity for **coed color guard performers** to join our team! Whether you're an experienced performer or

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just starting your journey in color guard, this is your chance to shine in a supportive, inclusive, and high-energy environment. Here's what makes this opportunity truly special:

Low-Impact Movements:

Graceful and easy-to-execute routines designed for performers of all skill levels.

Old-School Pageantry:

Celebrate tradition with colorful flags and performances infused with timeless elegance.

Latin-Flavored Uniforms:

Take pride in our iconic, visually striking attire that captures the essence of the Caballeros.

Fun, Encouraging Instructors: Join a supportive and enthusiastic team of instructors dedicated to making every rehearsal enjoyable.

Starting January 5th: Your Chance to Be Part of the Magic

The 2025 season (See Schedule on Page 6) begins with an unforgettable rehearsal on January 5th, offering an exciting

glimpse into what's to come. Whether you're a seasoned alumnus, considering rejoining, or completely new to the Caballeros Alumni, this is your chance to see what makes our 2025 program truly special.

What to Expect:

- 1) A supportive and welcoming community passionate about performance.
- 2) Innovative and visually exciting-but with a lowered physically demanding field show infused with old-school pageantry.
- 3) Music from the iconic Caballeros library, crafted to captivate audiences.
- 4) Opportunities to meet new friends and reconnect with alumni.

Be Part of a Legendary Legacy

The Caballeros Alumni are more than just a drum corps—they're a family united by a shared passion for excellence and tradition. Joining this Corps means becoming part of a legendary group that continues to inspire and entertain.

Take pride in wearing the Caballeros uniform, creating lifelong memories, and performing with a group that stands apart as the ultimate alumni corps experience.

For more information, contact:

raclowski@outlook.com.

This is your chance to join a world-class program, enjoy a dynamic social experience, and be part of history. Let the 2025 journey begin!



Trivia Question

What was the only year that the Caballeros won the Nationals and the DCA Championships?

Sunday, January 5 *

Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Post 199

Sunday, January 19 *

Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Post 199

Sunday, February 2 *

Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Post 199

Sunday, February 16 *

Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Post 199

Sunday, March 2 *

Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Post 199

Sunday, March 16 *

Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Post 199

Sunday, March 30 *

Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Post 199

Alumni 2025 Partial Schedule

Saturday, April 5 *

Lancers Indoor Show

York, PA

Saturday, April 26 *

Camp Weekend

Wildwood, NJ

9:00AM-5:00PM

Sunday, April 27 *

Camp Weekend

Wildwood, NJ

9:00PM-3:00PM

Saturday, May 10 *Buccaneers Alumni
Show

Robesonia, PA

Sunday, May 18 *

Drill Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

T.B.D.

Monday, May 26 *

Memorial Day Parade

Hawthorne, NJ

Saturday, June 7 *

Elk's Parade

Wildwood, NJ

Saturday, June 14 *

Flag Day Parade

Lake Hopatcong, NJ

Sunday, June, 22 *

Drill Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

T.B.D.

Saturday, June 28 *

DCI Field Show

Requested

Bridgeport, CT

Saturday, July 12 *

Grand Prix

Clifton, NJ

Saturday, July 19 *

Alumni Field Show

Milton, PA

Saturday, July 26 *

DCI Field Show

Requested

Mt. Olive, NJ

Friday, August 1 *

DCI Alumni & I&E Show

Williamsport, PA

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Alumni 2025 Partial Schedule

Saturday, August 2 *

DCI Field Show

Requested

Williamsport, PA

Aug 3—Nov 8

T.B.D.

Sunday, November 9

Veterans Day Parade

Clifton, NJ

November 22 *

Parade & Stage Show

Plymouth, MA



HELP WANTED!!!

We Need Your Help.

**The Alumni Corps
could use Bass Drum-
mers.**

**We have openings in
all Horn sections.**

**We need people to fill
out our Color Guard-
most of all.**

**You'll meet great and
talented people, great
instructors and make
lifetime friends and
march with the
Greatest Alumni Corps
on the planet.**

**What ever section you
choose, you'll be glad
you did.**

Please pass the word.

Trivia Answer

"1974"

HELP WANTED!

We are looking for help operating our truck.

Drivers: Looking for up to two additional qualified drivers. These people will need to show capability to drive our truck in city streets , such as Hawthorne, and park our truck next to the competing corps' trucks and trailers. This requirement is to assure our insurance company we certify our new drivers.

We can always use help with water bags and lightweight equipment when required. Applicants don't need to be members but associated with members.

Anyone interested in helping us can contact Bob or Kenny at any rehearsal.

January Birthdays

Mike Palmquist
 Bob Menear
 Steve Barney
 Javier Morales
 Guy Aucoin
 Jim Nargiso
 Tracey Doherty
 Vince Marchese
 Bill George
 Karen Londino
 Robin
 Mastroberardino
 Mary Sinisi
 Ann Leib



2024 In Review

By Chris Sortino

It all started on the stage in York, PA. This show is the only show that sells out year after year. We did one heck of a job. One standing ovation after another. The job was so good that Yankee Rebels former director Phil Gentile gave a rousing speech to the corps after our performance, declaring that this was one of the best performances he had ever witnessed.



The following month we played at the Buccaneers Alumni stage show in Robeson, PA. Again we did an outstanding job.

The Memorial Day Parade in Hawthorne was cancelled due to rain.

We participated in the Elk's parade again representing Lake Hopatcong Elks Lodge. This was a tough parade. The heat

February Birthdays

John Gerdes
 Larry
 Mastroberardino
 Cortez Howard
 James J. Costello jr.
 (COS)
 Kathy Lawson
 Bob Durborow
 Steve Andreazza



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was a contributing factor plus the continuous non-stop rule took it's toll on the Corps. We had people drop out along the way which was our death-nell as far as winning the best musical unit award.

It's been awhile since we marched in the Lewisburg, PA parade. We started out fine but again the inclines in the parade were tough on some of our members. Afterwards we played a few of our songs in a gazebo after being delayed over an hour while other units performed. A long day to be sure.

July meant the long awaited 30th Anniversary Banquet. It was a well attended night of fun for all of the attendees!

The next day we were thrust into reality waking up to rain, and a muddy practice field in Clifton before the Grand Prix that evening. After the rain stopped, the heat was intense. Practice was cut short and we all went to the contest stadium to relax before the show. Sadly we did not finish the last move in the drill.

We were all excited about our first field show. We suffered a mishap at the beginning of our show but we recovered quickly

and finished the rest of our show in good fashion.

The following week we went to Milton, PA for an all Alumni show. A unique thing about this show, the sponsors gave out awards to the participants. We won the "Best In Show" and "Best Honor Guard" awards and The Hanover Lancers captures the "Best Percussion" award.

The next week we practiced at the Boys & Girls Club field in Hawthorne before the show in Mt. Olive. The heat again was an uncomfortable factor. Once we finished the drive we got something to eat relaxed and stayed out of the sun. We did a great job this night and the crowd really responded.

The next week's schedule presented a challenging experience.

We were to put on an exhibition in Egg Harbor Twp. on a Wednesday evening. It started to rain about an hour before we were supposed to go on, and we were scheduled to go on first. The rain stopped but the threat of lightning continued. We all performed our shows in a semicircle exhibition.

The following Sunday we traveled to Downingtown, PA for our final field show of the year.

Another incredibly hot day. Once we finished rehearsal, we had a warmup, then on our way to the stadium. We were on first again. We did a great job and the crowd seemed to really be into it.

We didn't have another performance until a rain soaked standstill for Hawthorne Day in September.

The Corps marched in Clifton's Veterans Day Parade in early November. Later on that month we ventured up to Plymouth for our annual performance in another rain soaked Thanksgiving parade and stage show in the evening.



The Summer was the hottest I can ever remember. We were threatened with rain almost every weekend. We had to cancel some rehearsals due to rain or heat. We also had to navigate our first year in DCI.

Through all this, we ended up being the only alumni corps that did multiple exhibitions in DCI shows.

We performed with the class that has always been the trademark of the Ca-balleros. We should all be very proud!

CABALLEROS 1973 WORLD CHAMPS



Pics From The Past



CABALLEROS 1974 WORLD CHAMPS (WE DID IT AGAIN)



HALF NOTES...

Best of luck to all the folks that are filling new positions in the Alumni Corps.....looking forward to putting together this season's show. There's so much good music to choose from. How could we go wrong?..... did everyone see Rick Gathen's article on this year's season? It sure got me pumped up about the corps' future. Please get the word out there to friends, former members and anyone else about the corps. If we fill the spots we need to, we will be something to see and hear..... heard a rumor that our former snare drummer Dr. Javier Morales may be joining our ranks again. Fingers crossed!!..... Larry's beautiful arrangement of Pagliacci sounds soooo beautiful. This number played by the competition corps in '77 and '78 was a huge crowd pleaser. I'm sure we can do the same thing with this wonderful piece of music.....that's all for now!

Semi-Funny Jokes...

AN ACHING BACK sent me stumbling to the drugstore for relief. After searching, I found a selection of heating pads specifically for people with back pain—all on the bottom shelf.

A PATIENT was in the hospital recovering from surgery when a nurse asked how he was feeling. "I'm OK, but I didn't like the four -letter word the doctor used in surgery," he replied. "What did he say?" the nurse asked. "Oops!"

I WENT to visit a psychic. When I knocked on her door, she yelled, "Who is it?" So I left.

HOW DOES a cucumber become a pickle? Well, it's a jarring experience.

I MET a microbiologist the other day. He was much bigger than I expected.

"IF I HAD a bookstore, I would make all the mystery novels hard to find."

I BOUGHT a thesaurus, but when I got home and opened it, all the pages were blank. I have no words to describe how angry I am.

BREAD is a lot like the sun. It rises in the yeast and sets in the waist.



Articles for the OLE!

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

