

2016 Survey Results

The Company of Fifers and Drummers



Background

- Originally developed in 2008 by a committee consisting of:
 - Marty Sampson
 - Charlie Terzi
 - Don Heminitz
 - Jim Florance
 - Gary Reynolds
- Goal: The intent of the survey is to find out what members expect of the Company of Fifers and Drummers, and to assess how well the Company is meeting their needs. It is also an opportunity for members to make suggestions. The same document could also be used in future years to gauge progress.
- The survey was never approved for distribution to the membership in 2008
- The survey was resurrected in 2016 after it was observed that we may not have consensus of direction
- The original paper-based survey was adapted for online distribution by Scott Mitchell, Marty Sampson, and Shannon McClure

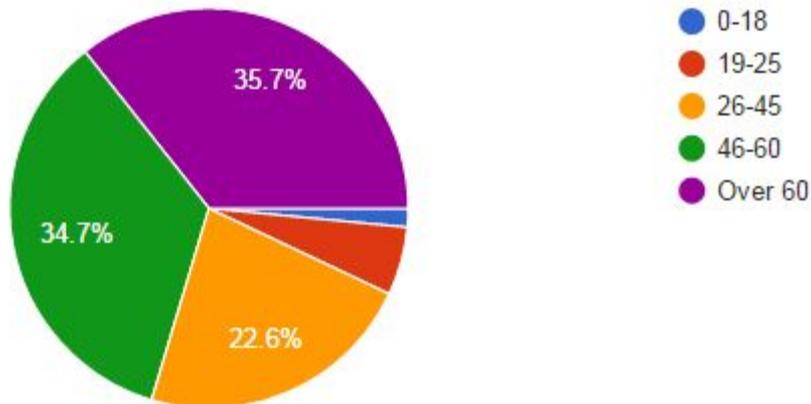
2016 Survey Details

- Four main sections ([link](#))
 - **Profile/demographics** - about the respondent and their relationship to fife and drum and The Company
 - **Areas of Focus** - Respondent provides feedback on the importance of specific activities/attributes of The Company
 - **Performance** - Respondent provides feedback on how The Company has performed on the same specific activities/attributes of The Company rated above
 - **Needs and Direction** - Open-ended feedback on The Company, vision, etc.
- Open to all members of the fife and drum community
- Format was a Google Form, supplemented with a paper form (2 received)
- Posted link on The Company Facebook page on March 12
- Shared via social media and via email
- Closed on March 27

Demographics

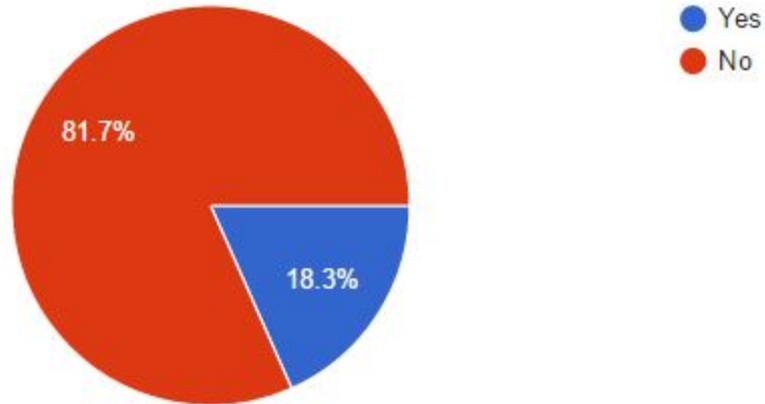
- 200 responses, 71 different corps represented
- 32 respondents not currently a member of a Corps
- 70% of the respondents are over 45

Age (199 responses)



Delegates

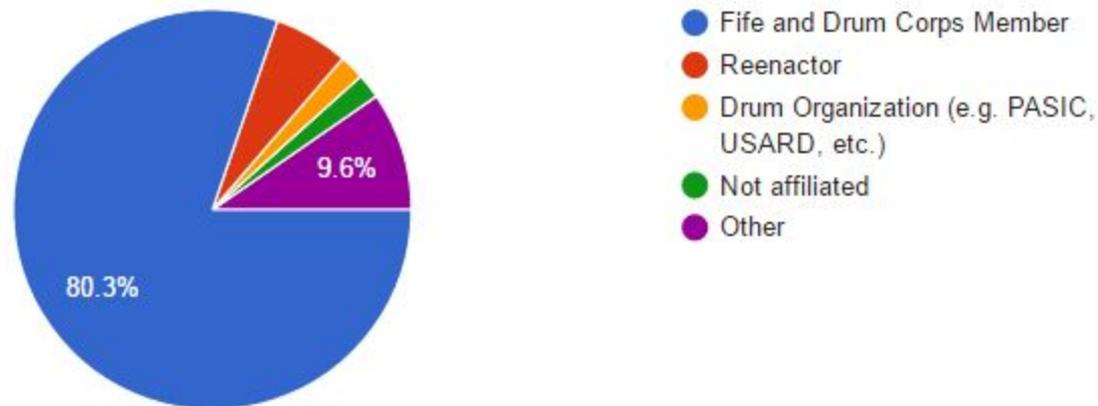
Corps Delegate (191 responses)



The majority of respondents are not corps delegates, many were unaware of the Corps Delegate role or responsibilities

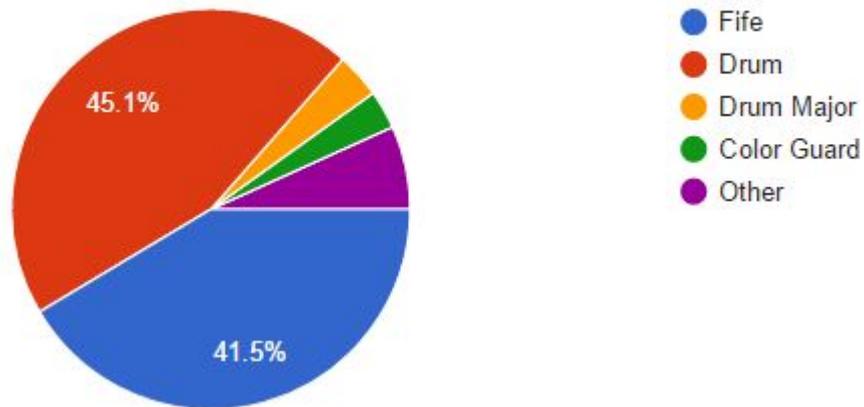
Primary Involvement

What best describes your primary involvement in fife and drum? (198 responses)



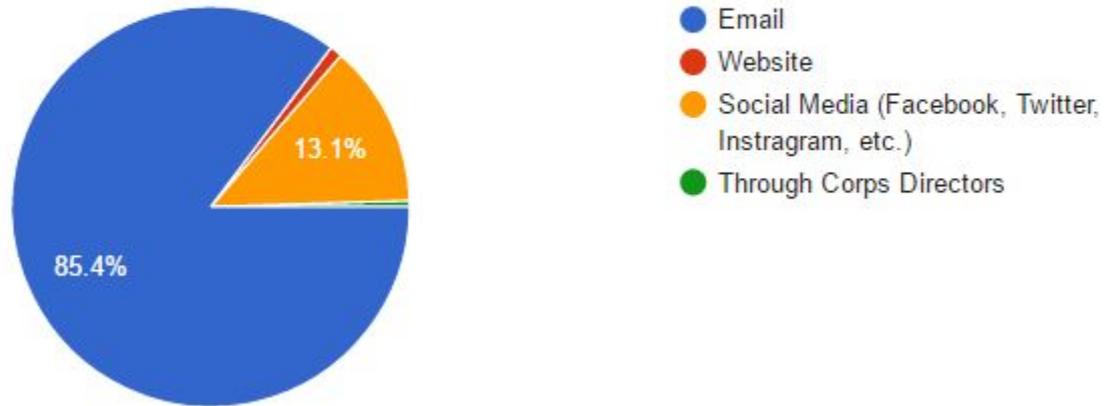
Primary Instrument

What is your primary area of participation in fife and drum? (193 responses)



Communication

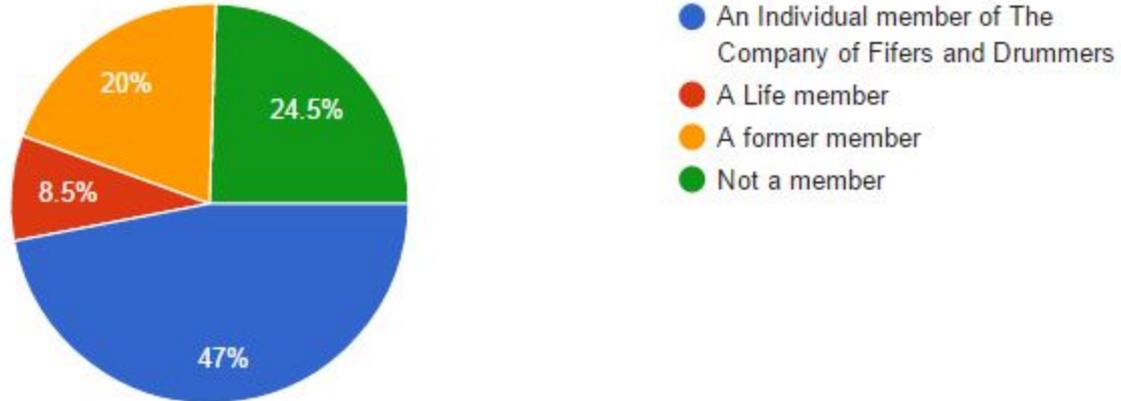
Preferred Method of Communication (198 responses)



Preferred method of communication is by email, followed by social media. This indicates that Company communications must be proactive and reach out to the community directly

Membership Status

Membership Status (200 responses)



Slightly over half the respondents responded as being members of The Company
Perhaps the more interesting tidbits can be gleaned from the follow up question

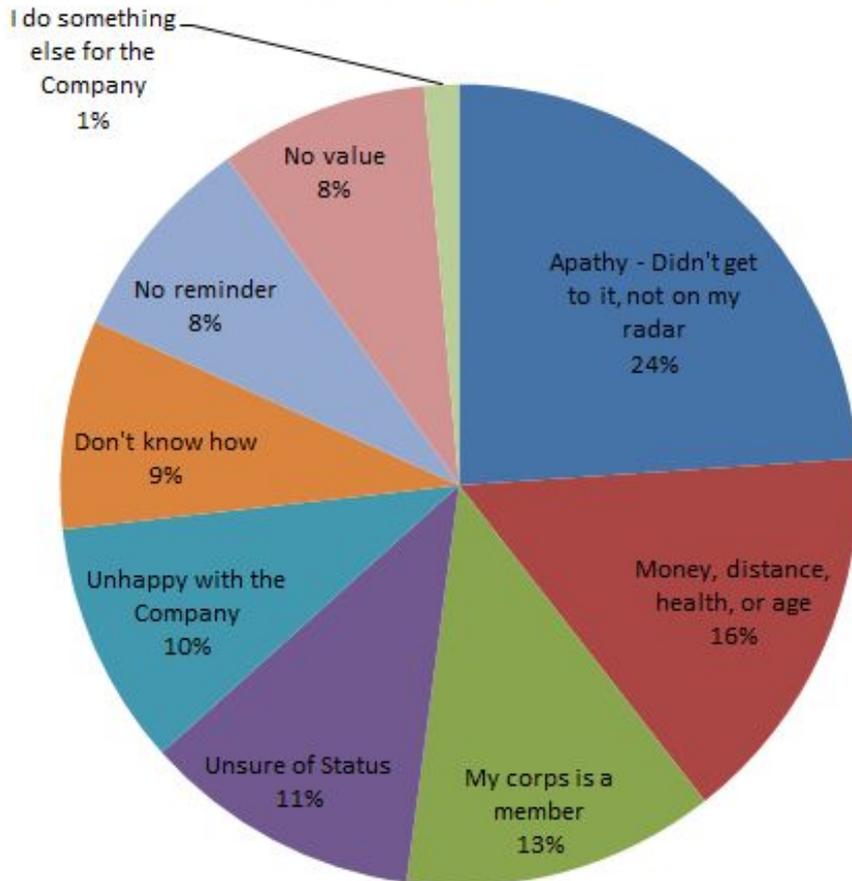
Membership Status Follow Up

Please feel free to elaborate on why this is your current membership status

- Confusion over life status, several who answered were not Life Members but rather “Members their whole life”
- Highest category was apathy
- When you consider that being unsure, not knowing how, no value are all forms of Apathy, this become more like 50%
- Confusion over Corps vs. individual Memberships

Reason	Count
Apathy - Didn't get to it, not on my radar	17
Money, distance, health, or age	11
My corps is a member	9
Unsure of Status	8
Unhappy with the Company	7
Don't know how	6
No reminder	6
No value	6
I do something else for the Company	1

Why not a member?



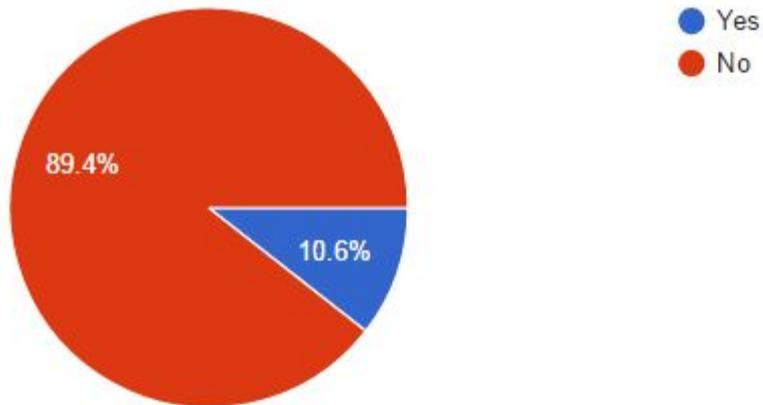
Choice Quotes on Membership Reasons

- Didn't hear from the Company for several years - Thought they disbanded
- Never understood the value of a membership
- In my youth I was a frequent attendee of meetings, I witnessed the process of purchasing the building and watched it grow into the museum (3 or 4 times a year, it was the highlight of our schedule in the off season). I went away for 6 or 7 years and came back and found none of the exhibits had changed or been updated, (even the museum of natural history puts something new up every once in awhile) What did change was that I felt less welcome, the new "guard" seemed to not care about the past and I was treated as a stranger in a place I used to be a regular, a place I helped bring into being
- Just have gotten out of the habit I guess. Not sure if you send reminders but the union does.
- Everything was for and about New England corps. We do have a couple of very fine corps in the South but we felt left out.
- I submitted a membership application on 7/22/2014 and paid the membership fee via Paypal but never received any communication from CFD

Meeting Attendance

Do you regularly attend meetings of The Company of Fifers and Drummers?

(199 responses)



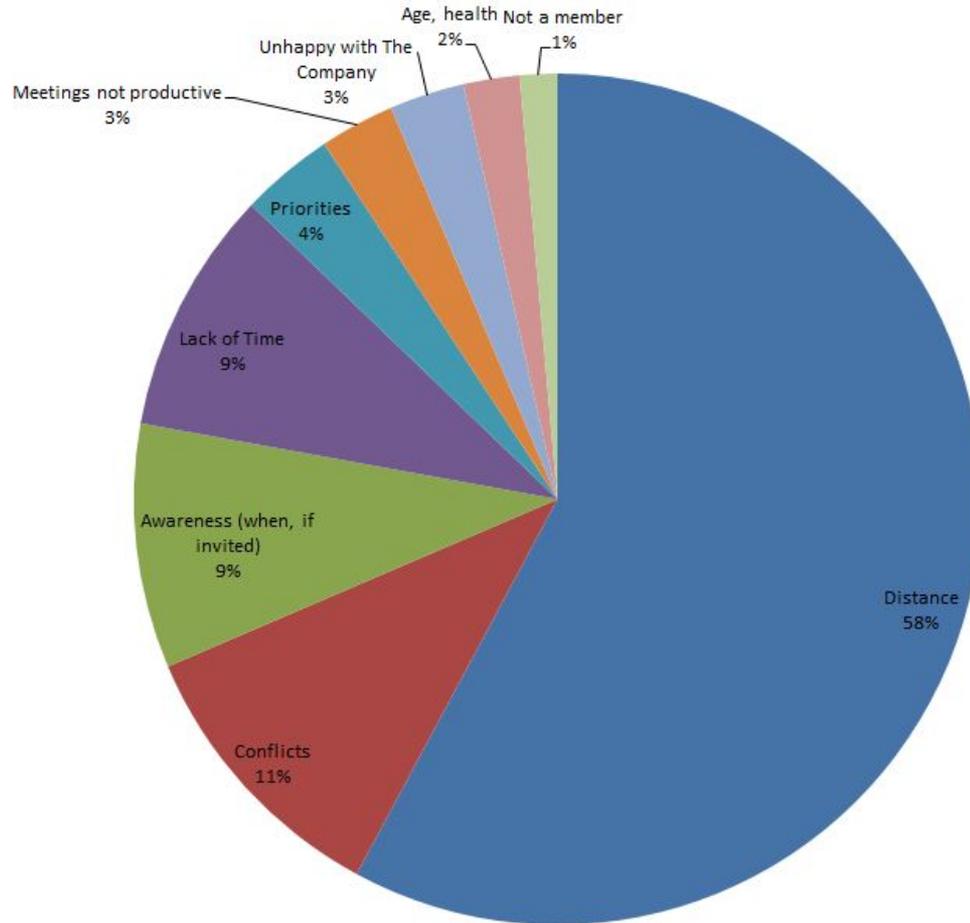
Meeting Attendance Follow Up

If you do not attend regular meetings, why?

- Distance is by far the leading factor
- Many respondents not able to justify spending the time (conflicts, lack of time, etc.)
- Awareness of when the meetings occur is improving, but still a factor

Reason	Count
Distance	81
Conflicts	15
Awareness (when, if invited)	13
Lack of Time	13
Priorities	5
Meetings not productive	4
Unhappy with The Company	4
Age, health	3
Not a member	2

Reasons for not attending meetings



Choice Quotes on Attendance Reasons

- I'm not sure. I've never really been invited? I mean I guess I know that the meetings happen, but I wasn't really sure I belonged there. Plus I am not sure if I'd be able to get there from northern CT with family and job...
- Cliquish
- I was turned off years ago because I came with ideas for the betterment of the organization and was basically dismissed before I could really discuss my ideas.
- I live in North Carolina. If meetings were accessible online I would tune in.
- went to the last one there was a woman that would not stop talking

Observations

- Membership is not clear
 - Many respondents do not know their membership status
 - Many respondents confuse individual and corps memberships
 - Many respondents don't understand Life Membership status
 - Having many options have not yielded higher enrollment
- Apathy is a powerful force in a volunteer organization
- Distance is often cited for nonparticipation - Technology can remove this barrier
- Past communication has been problematic for the membership
- Many respondents indicate a preference for a more inclusive atmosphere

Importance and Performance



Understanding Focus Areas and Performance

We presented a pair of questions for 12 topic areas and asked the respondent to score their response on a five point scale

For each focus area:

How important is each of them to you?

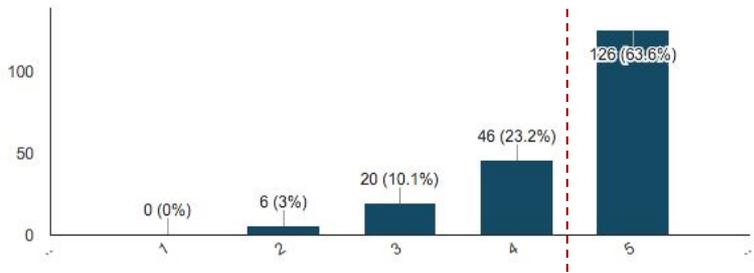
	1	2	3	4	5	
Not Important	<input type="radio"/>	Very Important				

How well is The Company performing in these areas?

	1	2	3	4	5	
Below Expectations	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Well				

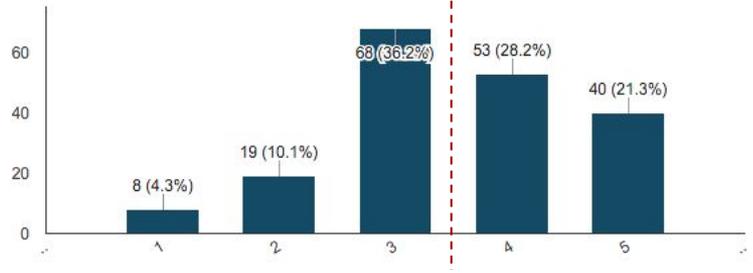
The Museum of Fife and Drum

The Museum of Fife and Drum (198 responses)



4.475

The Museum of Fife and Drum (188 responses)

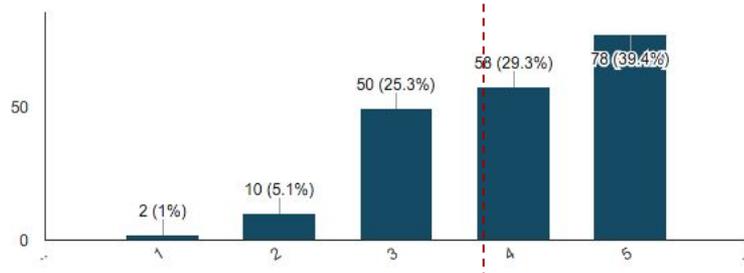


3.521

Importance vs Performance

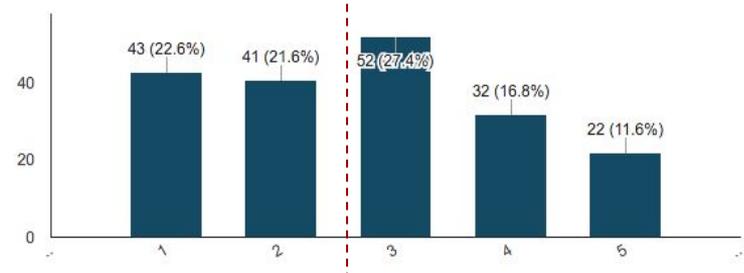
The Ancient Times

The Ancient Times (198 responses)



4.010

The Ancient Times (190 responses)

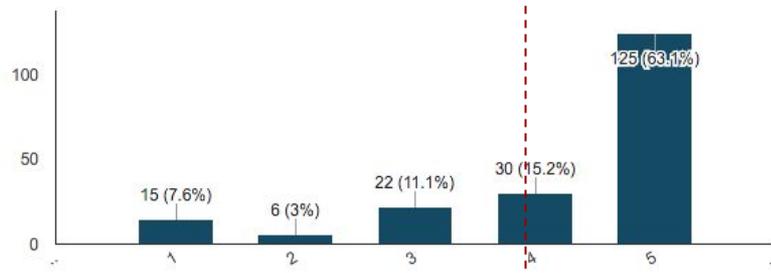


2.732

Importance vs Performance

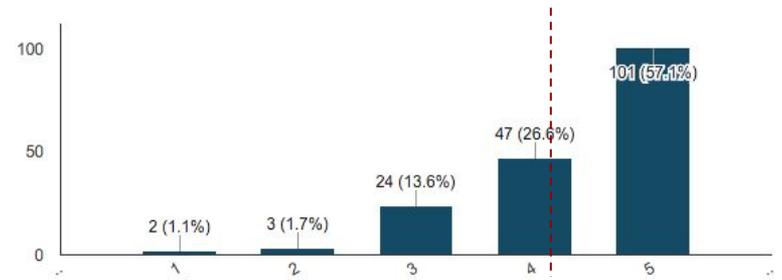
The Juniors Camp

The Juniors Camp (198 responses)



4.232

The Juniors Camp (177 responses)

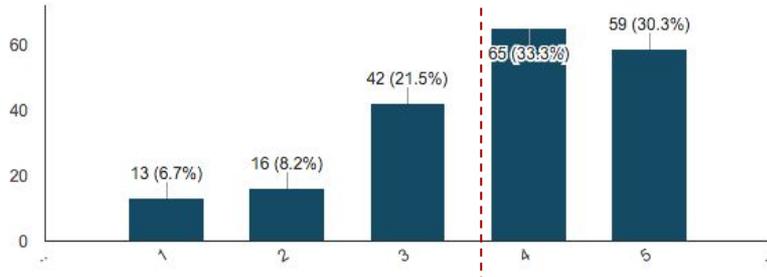


4.367

Importance vs Performance

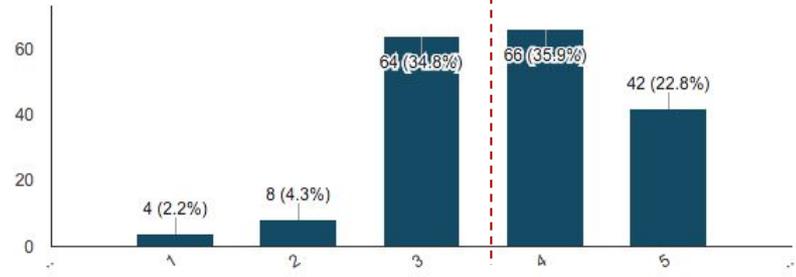
The National Muster

The National Muster (195 responses)



3.723

The National Muster (184 responses)

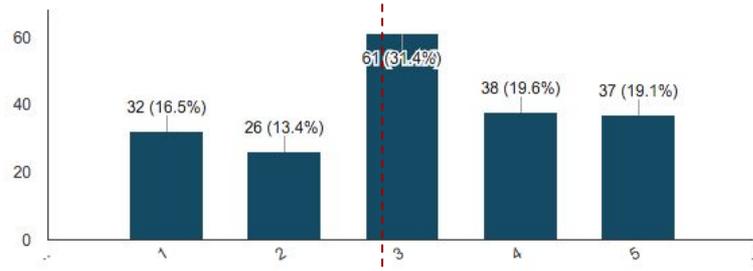


3.728

Importance vs Performance

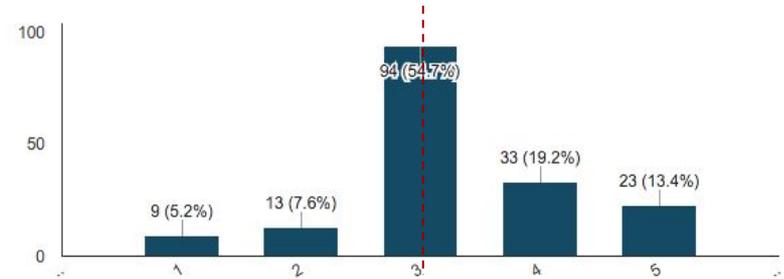
Quarterly Meetings

Quarterly Meetings in Ivoryton (194 responses)



3.113

Quarterly Meetings in Ivoryton (172 responses)

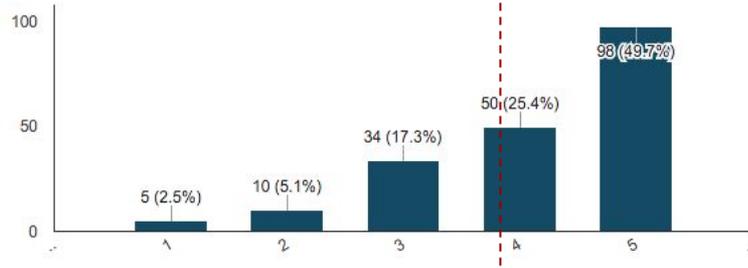


3.279

Importance vs Performance

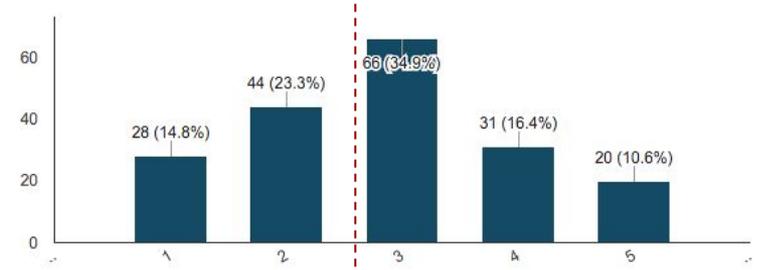
Overall Communication

The Company's Overall Communication (197 responses)



4.147

The Company's Overall Communication (189 responses)

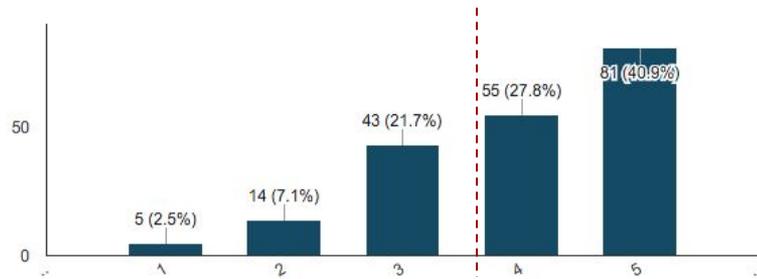


2.847

Importance vs Performance

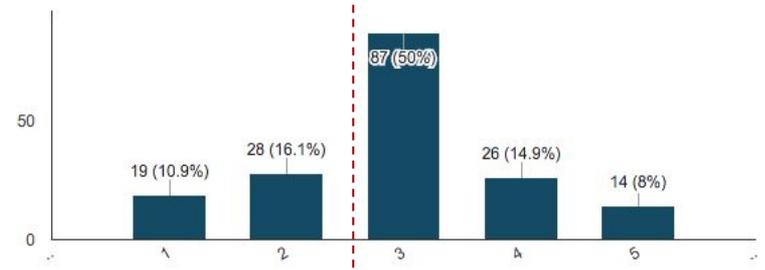
The Company's Finances

The Company's Finances (198 responses)



3.975

The Company's Finances (174 responses)

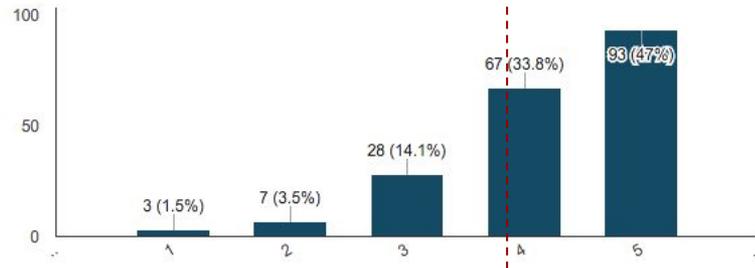


2.931

Importance vs Performance

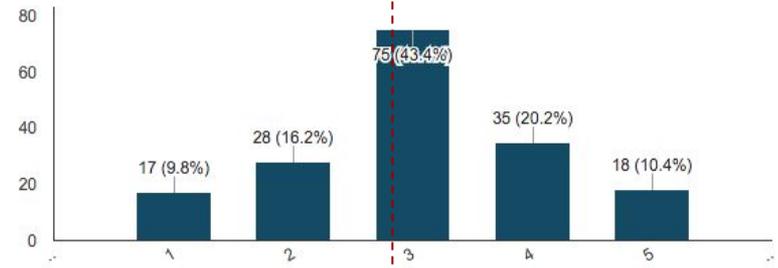
Educational Outreach

Educational Outreach (198 responses)



4.212

Educational Outreach (173 responses)

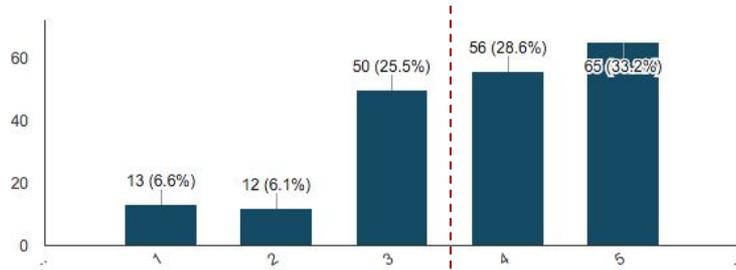


3.052

Importance vs Performance

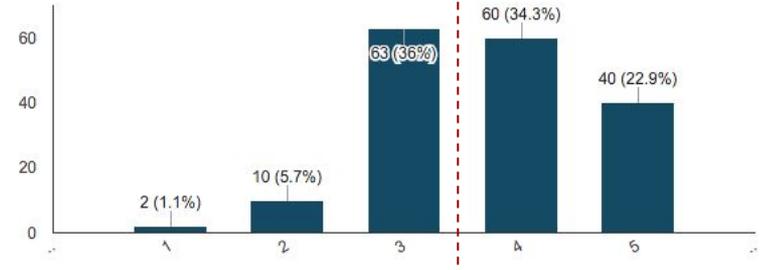
The Summer Concert Series

The Summer Concert Series (196 responses)



3.755

The Summer Concert Series (175 responses)

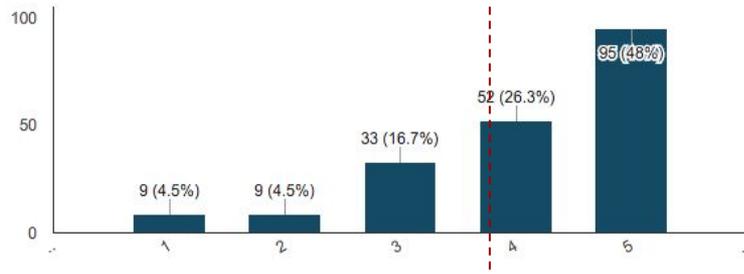


3.720

Importance vs Performance

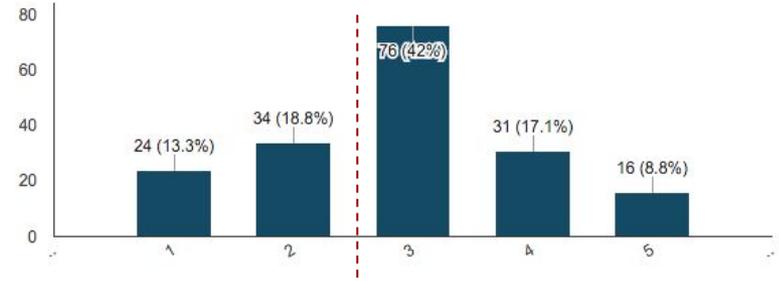
The Company Website

The Company Website (198 responses)



4.086

The Company Website (181 responses)

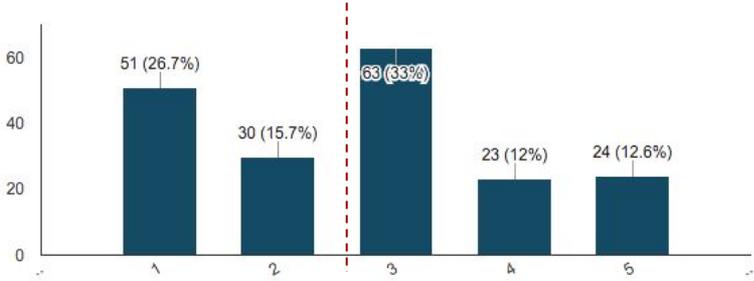


2.895

Importance vs Performance

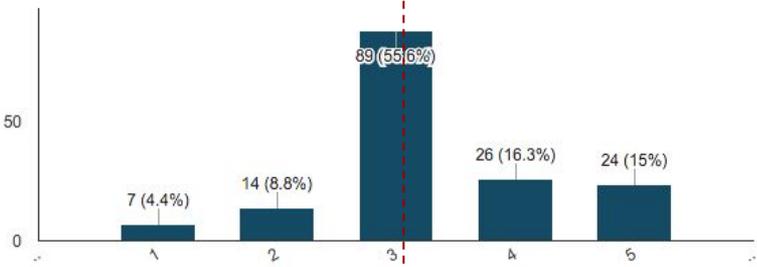
The Big E

The Big E (191 responses)



2.681

The Big E (160 responses)

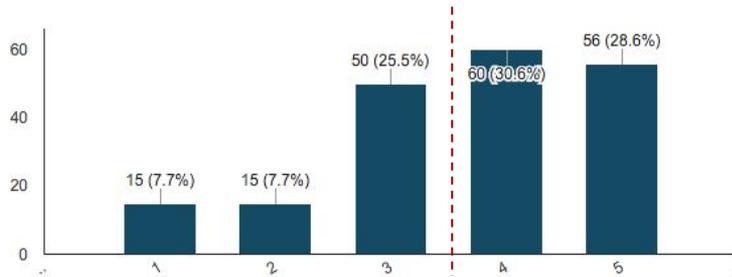


3.288

Importance vs Performance

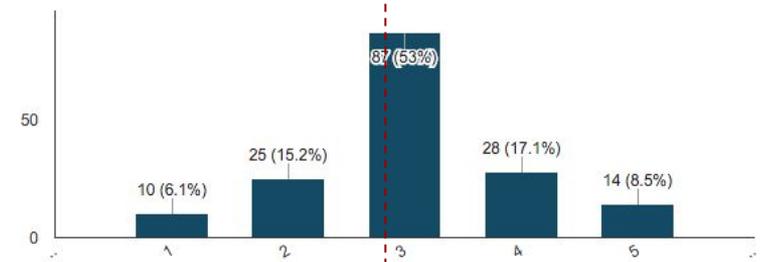
Assistance to Member Corps

Assistance to Member Corps (196 responses)



3.648

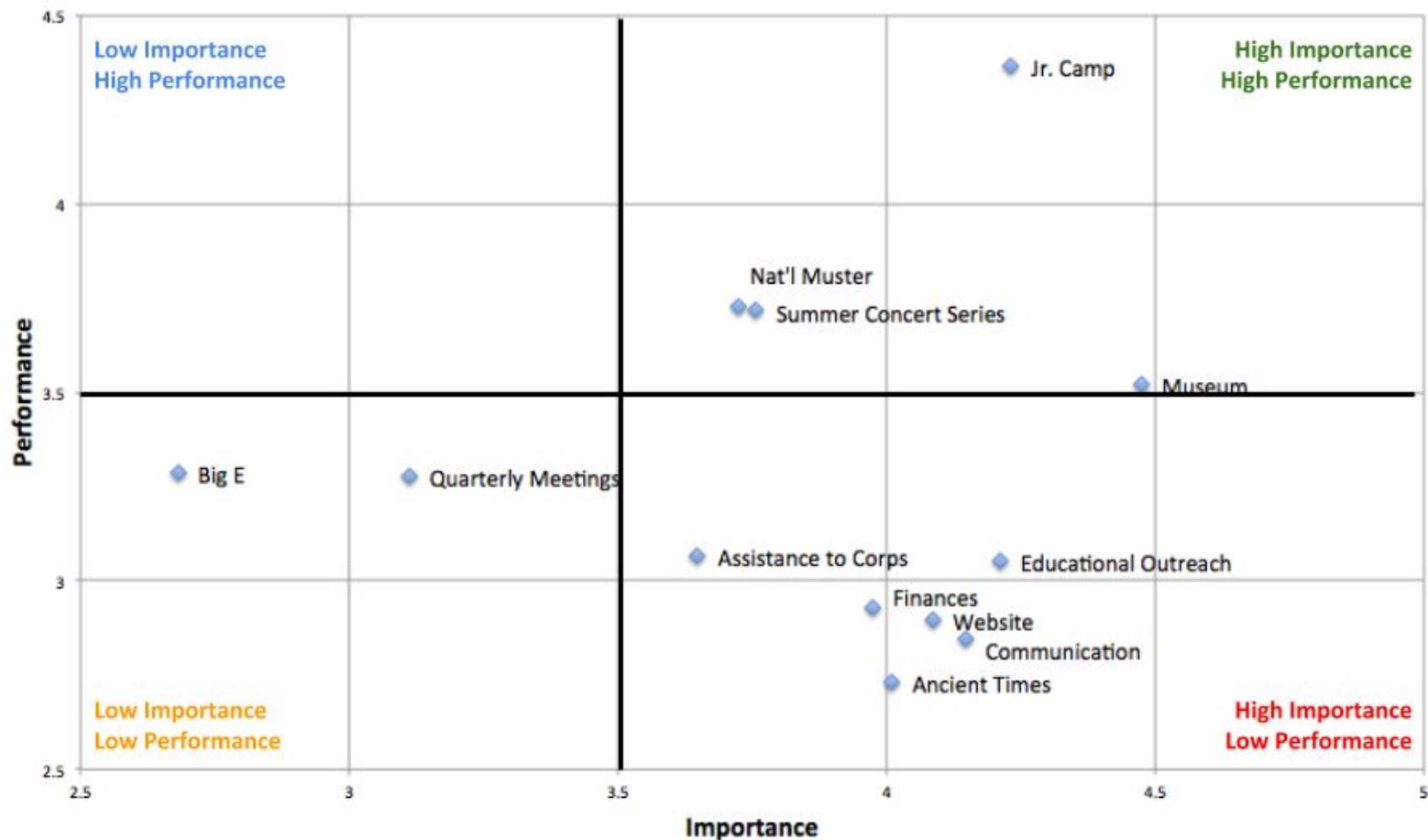
Assistance to Member Corps (164 responses)



3.067

Importance vs Performance

Importance vs Performance



What should the Company Promote?



What other items would you like The Company to promote?

- What other items would you like The Company to promote?
- 1,5,10 year plans
- Access to the archives on a scheduled basis for Directors and members. I would love to see what is there for Yalesville Jrs. and Seniors. I'm sure other Corps would like to see their information too.
- Promote jam sessions after the summer concerts. I have brought my drum to a few but typically there is no announcement about a jam session and everyone just leaves.
- Activities that bring people to the museum.
- All musters and membership in fife & drum corps
- ancient times more regularly
- Assisting corps with membership and recruitment techniques might be nice.
- Availability of archives to researchers but the contents must be safeguarded.
- Better and more effective interaction and communication with the international fife and drum community. Work to end the alienation of some ancient F & D corps and individuals toward The Company.
- Better communication between corps and individual members.
- Better communication between corps and individual members.
- Better communication to members. Opening up the archives on line to members.
- Increased membership /membership initiatives. Golden Jay Bird awards (before we lose the folks.) Voting for individual members. Opening membership roster for members.
- Better communications regarding the value of the Company to the members
- Better promote drum corps outside of Northeast USA for possible exchange programs and visits with corps within CT, NY, MA etc.
- books
- Cheap newsletter, may be emailed, mailed to few with no email for extra \$
- Comeraderie among corps
- communication and a modern and relevant presence in the modern world, not just the CT river valley,
- Contests
- continued history and instruction to members
- education
- Education
- Education and research regarding five and drum/martial field music and all things associated
- Education, resources for playing
- Educational outreach west of the Mississippi
- Encouragement for new corps.
- Events more effectively, although my guess is that the new website will take care of this. I would love to be able to more effectively contact the various corps. I have had to collect this information myself. An online corps directory would be great and would be wonderful incentive for people to join the Company.
- Expand your influence beyond New England.
- Feature each corps in order. One or two each issue.
- Fund raising
- Have more seminars and events that all can attend - juniors and adults alike. I would like to see more opportunities to learn from community members.
- Historical research and dissemination
- History of f and d
- History, Friendship
- I am not sure what the Company should promote. I know we need to promote the growth of our future (Children). But how can we compete against iPhones, Tablets, and all the other new fangled electronics. Our future have their noses buried in iPhones from the time they get up until they go to bed...
- I am very happy to see the Company reaching out to members for feedback. I just learned about the Company website from this survey. I look forward to future communications.

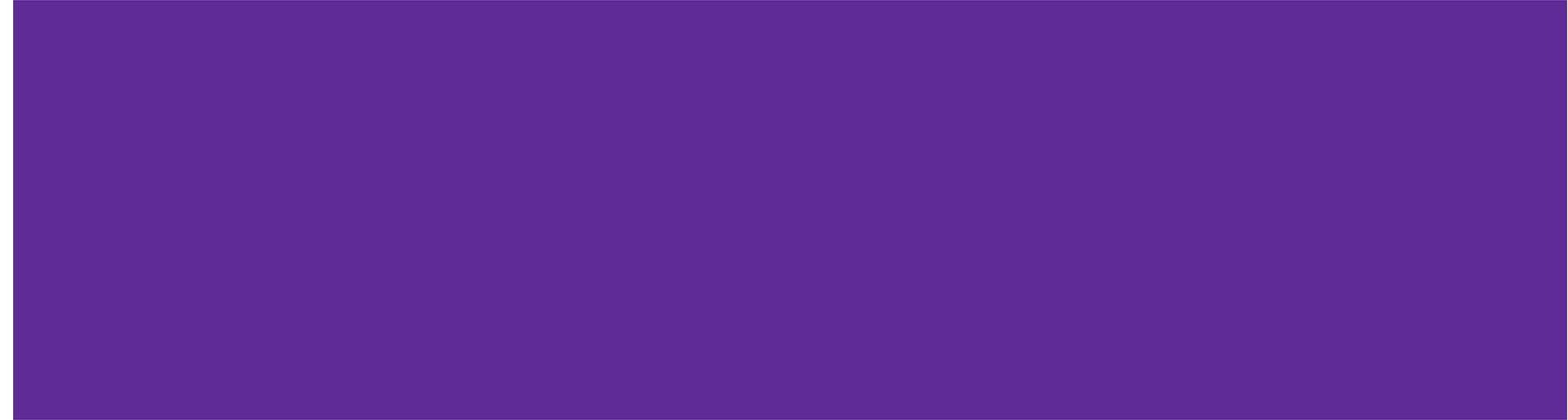
What other items would you like The Company to promote?

- I do not know.
- I have no suggestions, I use the Company as a musical resource.
- I would like to see the Company become proficient at what it already does rather than to take on other roles
- I'd like to read about and get to know other Corps that are about the same size as Crooked River - that's 10-12 members.
- if possible better promotion as a "tourist attraction" to get more outside people to understand drum corps.
- I'm long past being a junior member, but the Junior Camp as well as any workshops geared towards junior performers will be crucial to the future of fife and drum and the company, so I hope that will continue and increase.
- I'm not sure how to put this, but our corps had a meeting about joining the currently there's no real benefit for a corps to join. Items such as corps solvency, resources for new corps, outreach and education, research, company promoted competitions for junior corps, networking, there's lots of things we could be promoting. Why should a corps join the company other than for reasons such as "in the spirit?" - That is a question we need to answer.
- In earlier days (longtime ago) we had something like international correspondents. For some time I served as a National Correspondent for Switzerland. I don't know if this makes sense for you to have some international/national correspondents to get their local information. If this would be a function you would like to re-implement, I would be willing and happy to fulfill this job for Switzerland.
- inclusion, vs exclusion
- individual Corps, regional musters, schools for fifers & drummers
- Individual membership
- Instructional/Educational workshops
- Itself! Let members (and non-members) know of all of the services The Company provides. For example, I think people would be interested to know more about the music library. The Company is a really important organization and resource, and those of you who work so hard at running it and maintaining it are just great.
- Jollifications, fun concerts like Christmas , Chanteyblast perhaps a Swiss Faschnaght night. Oktoberfest .etc.
- Just do what you are already doing much better
- Learning more music
- Live streaming of summer concerts for those living abroad :-)
- Maintain Jaybird- great place to see old timers, develop Junior equivalent, as the Jr's are the future of this Musical Hobby
- Making the offerings more publicize or known
- Maybe a meeting should be called just to address these items in Survey?
- Maybe concerts on the town greens of many towns to promote local interest?
- member corps events - jams, fundraisers, concerts
- More access to the Archives
- More Community involvement as a company.
- More education
- More Educational Activities for Corps
- More junior corps summer concerts.
- More on what they have in the museum and archives.
- More outreach or activities to/at locations outside of CT. Maybe something like satellite events hosted by Company ambassadors (similar to Alumni events held by colleges in major cities where graduates accumulate).
- Move Jaybird day to earlier weekend. Perhaps 2nd weekend in Sept. October weather unpredictable. Has forced cancellations which decrease participation in the event.
- Perhaps and early spring social event like a dinner or buffet.
- Music availability online
- Music writing

What other items would you like The Company to promote?

- National Connections
- Nationwide promotion of F&D
- No other initiatives - I believe the Company has enough on it's plate.
- No suggestions
- online access to music library
- Online music resources
- Programs to keep attracting young people
- Promote fellow Fife and Drum Corps events,such as milestones like Corps anniversaries. Also, local parades that are happening that Fife and Drum Corps performing in.
- Promote fife and drum in the local schools to get new members
- Promote the summer series and Jr. Fife and Drum Camp more as a way to draw attention to the Company and Fife/Drum as something historically important to our local community
- Promote when you need help! I live 5 minutes away and would DEFINITELY be willing to devote my time and energy to whatever is needed, but I just don't know! I don't necessarily want to commit to a committee, but I'd like to be informed of ALL opportunities to come down and volunteer.
- Provide better support for new corps, or corp that seek support
- Public awareness, outreach
- pursuing a relationship with philanthropic organizations, and Smithsonian (etc) programs that preserve American history. Also linking to more of the historic side of fife and drum. There are many re-enactors, and history buffs that have no affiliation or even knowledge of the Company. This is a pool of potential contributors that is relatively untapped.
- Store. Individual memberships
- The archives are an important asset . I personally have not tried to access anything from there so I can not critique on how well information is distrusted from there.
- The company shop
- This is the first time I have ever heard of the C of F&D
- To be more involved in publicizing outside organization's events which are connected to Fife and Drum. Example: PASIC, USARD
- Truly valuing volunteer efforts, not merely lip service then telling someone they didn't do something correctly, etc. Too many valuable people have been turned off by their treatment from The Company.
- Updating the Company Museum.
- Using technology to promote The Company better, and to get more members involved in meetings and other activities of The Company. It can't be just about the CT corps any more. The current museum building is a financial drain on The Company. Having said that, I applaud the efforts of corps to get involved in fixing the problems with the building. Whatever the future of this building is, it needs to be fixed now. I'll be bringing this effort to Adamsville to see if there is something we can do to help.
- Very hard to interest kids growing up with electronics. Might try connecting the music to the history better. The drumming techniques of fife and drum are superior in Olympic approach to what exists now in DCI, BOA and WGI. The Company needs to promote the superior instruction of its members as a vacuum seems to be forming with kids that do not know basic technique and do not know history. F & D technique is still relevant today. The F&D drummers figured most of it out. We came along later and figured out speed based on their physics. It works. Exploit that knowledge and difference.
- We need to work on what we are already committed to, avoid over -extending.
- What the daily going on in the museum is like and what projects are currently being worked on.
- Workshops for adults, fife and drum master classes, something along the lines of the workshops held at Freezer Jam
- Workshops for adults? Bringing the museum to the visitor's attention
- Write ups on longtime members and corps

Ten Year Vision



What goals should be part of The Company's vision for the next ten years?

- What goals should be part of The Company's vision for the next ten years?
- 1. I think the Company should compile a list of Best Practices from successful corps to serve as a resource for member corps which are struggling, especially with attracting new members.
 2. All of the sheet music should be accessible in an on-line library.
 3. All of the sheet music should be assigned to and performed by member corps and placed on-line (possibly YouTube with a standard naming convention)
 4. More historical research should be done (or tracked down because much of the work is already completed) to place music pieces into a historical period, to include the evolution of certain tunes as performed in different eras.
 5. I think the Company should do a lot more to publicize events beyond the F&D community, and should be pro-active in seeking out events from member corps to create a more comprehensive events calendar.
 6. I think the Company should pro-actively recruit more European corps from England, Ireland, Switzerland, etc to attend musters.
 7. More efforts at publicity should be made. Certainly the junior camp and the national muster can be better publicized. Maybe retain a PR expert on a short-term contract?
- 1. Support fifing and drumming in all areas of the United States.
 2. Help corps maintain and grow their membership
 3. Continue to support the junior camp
 4. Communicate events more effectively (events, workshops, jam sessions)
 5. Online corps directory
- 1. Survival
 2. Improve the museum; bringing it into the 21st century, opening on a regular basis throughout the year,
 3. Bring in new ideas, new programs and new ways of administration w/in the Company, encouraging young people to participate in a meaningful way with meaningful input (this requires a major restructuring of the current constitution/by-laws).
 4. in line w #3, make an ongoing assessment of what the company can do to promote, encourage, and support existing and new corps, based on REAL needs not the ego of leadership.
- A new roof, stable financing and income, educational outreach that is accessible to more than just area schools/agencies.
- Assistance with Recruiting for Member Corps
- Be representative of all corps and members
- Become more of a national group, country wide, not just new England
- Being at all muster, visiting corps at rehearsals and meetings, being visible at all musters and reaching out to meet corps and directors
- Better active communications/linking into the conversations. I joined last year, or the year before, and didn't get any emails, newsletters, or any form of communication from the Company.
- Better communication to members. Opening up the archives on line to members.
- Increased membership /membership initiatives. Golden Jay Bird awards (before we lose the folks.) Voting for individual members. Opening membership roster for members.
- Expand your perspective and address member needs who are Not living in the CT area (act like National Organization representing all F&D).
- Please keep in sight that The Company is not the building , it is the membership. They are the customers. Organizational patterns/activities like PAS or USARD are awarded by members and membership retention and growth. Why not have a convention like those groups have, outside CT (Not a Muster). USARD moved their convention to Danbury to capture members and market. Heck many of our F&D are giving presentations at PAS and USARD. Why not for the Company? The resources are there.
- Seek grants to support the Company beyond the membership dues.
- Bringing the fife & drum community back to it's roots. Teach the kids to stay with tradition instead of racing Head to build a new one.

What goals should be part of The Company's vision for the next ten years?

- Building repairs completed and maintenance up to date, financial stability, a museum director in charge of building, collections, and operation, all collections in catalogs, more online availability, timely communication, an organization and facility that wins awards!
- Building the membership.
- Communication , building restoration , more junior activities enhanced displays of drums.
- Comprehensive list of member corps WITH contact info (if legally possible); Comprehensive and up-to-date listing of events, REGARDLESS of member corps or not; functioning, in-stock online store; getting the Museum open on weekends and at least ONE weekday; functional benefits for Individual Membership
- Continue to support the growth and development of fifing and drumming by focusing on instruction and the jr camp
- Continue what you are doing
- Continuing to support the f&d community and bringing in young members
- DCI will probably go out of business. They are trying to market visual design on a football field and as a professional artist, they don't have a clue what they are doing. The Company needs to be a another choice for the young to learn how to compete in percussion.
- develop Junior involvement- the future
- Digitizing more of the music and other archive items. A digital AT?
- Do not know enough about the organization to suggest.
- Educate the youngsters. And improve the building so that the drums are protected.
- Education and outreach; Preservation of the music and historical artifacts; Junior corps support and development
- Education, training and recruiting of the newest generation(s)
- Encourage additional participation for younger members to keep the corps strong.
- Encouraging start-up units
- Endowment to cover Museum maintenance and operation costs
- Engaging young players. Advertising and promotion: after all these years, how many Americans know there is a Company, or even what a fife is? Anticipating the 250th anniversary of Independence.
- Financial stability
- Financial stability of the Company, Regular scheduled operating hours for the museum
- Financial stability that does not rely on the members (esp. corps) to carry the burden. We (Adamsville) are very happy and proud to support The Company through our corps membership and Individual memberships for all of our member families (still waiting to hear the 2016 rates so I can send this in, hint hint.... lol), plus other ad-hoc donations, which usually amounts to around \$400 - 500 a year. But with an annual income of under \$5000 a year, there is not much more we can do. The Company has struggled mightily over the years to find other sustainable revenue streams. Kevin's email communication sent yesterday is encouraging news on this front.
- Better use of technology so that corps/individual members in California receive the same resources and benefits of membership as members in Connecticut.
- World class museum of fife and drum should be a focal point of the organization. I question whether that is achievable in the current location. While the 'manifesto' was poorly written and horribly delivered (I could go on about this and it gets me incredibly riled up, but that's a discussion best saved for night at the local pub over a couple pints lol), there are some good ideas in there that should not be dismissed just because of the source. I'm not suggesting a re-location to New Haven, but I do question whether the current building/location is the long-term solution to The Company's needs as both a headquarters and museum. This is not a new idea - it was raised in the mid-90's when I was a member of the Executive Committee and it was quickly and roundly dismissed at the time by the 'old guard' (Pace, Olsen, etc...) who wouldn't hear of it. The current building has served us well, but it may be time to reconsider whether it has a place in the future of the organization.

What goals should be part of The Company's vision for the next ten years?

- Continue to focus on youth programs to help promote fife and drum with junior members and as an educational resource to the educators of children. The junior camp is the crown jewel of The Company and it's success is evident every July at DRAM. Continue to support and grow the junior camp as needed so that all kids who want to attend are able to. Continue to have additional junior activities throughout the year - I know a successful workshop was held recently.
- Financial stability. More interaction with schools. Helping Junior Corps with recruiting through advertisement and educational programs. Having a more public presence at musters, various public events, flea markets, etc. Reigniting the F&D community camaraderie and volunteerism. Museum building repairs and energy upgrades for lighting, roof, heating and AC. A fire suppression system to protect the vast artifacts.
- Financial Strength. Building in good repair.
- Find more funding, hire professional grant writers to assist. Change membership policies, i.e voting rights
- Finding money. Grants. increase focus on fundraising, not just member dues. you can't maintain the building and it's contents on dues alone. I know there's been a lot of work in this area and I think communication will help.
- Fire suppression system in the hall is I think one of the most important things that need to happen. Community outreach.
- Fiscal stability
- Fully digital archives with online access, preserving our heritage and documenting future activities
- Fundraising, building maintenance, doing a better job of promoting fife and drum to the general public, preserving the museum and all its pieces. And especially programs and initiatives designed to promote young members joining the fife and drum community.
- Future of museum
- Get into the schools and the retired "Market" for members
- Get more involvement of young players.
- Get the younger generation involved. Support new corps. And do a better job of including everybody. Not just the popular people.
- Getting more people involved
- Grow the company into the greater community of ct
- Growing the junior corps.
- Growing the number of fifers
- Having a stable building that won't leak on artifacts ANY time it rains.
- I have no suggestions other than to keep the Ancient Times going strong.
- I think the company needs to become an organization that promotes information, communication and education for the entire fife and drum community at large, Ancient, Modern, Juniors, Swiss, Reenactors, etc. Attaining fiscal solvency, re-evaluating its mission, vision, values, focusing on inclusivity amongst all possible member corps.
- I would like to see the Company promote the cider mill building. I think it would leave a legacy for the Inn and perhaps hopes of using it for storage and a practice area.
- I would love to see competition come back, although I'm not sure it's feasible. Also, contributing to the growth of fife and drum by trying to be more open and inclusive.
- Improve community outreach and PR
- Improved outreach and communication
- In my mind it is about both the preservation and evolution if F & D. Some general things that should be part of what the company supports: Teaching public about f&d. International outreach. Music education
- Including members that are no longer assoc with a corps.
- Inclusion, opening the Company to more members and corps, encouraging membership.
- Increase attendance at Company functions like Jaybird
- Increase communication with company members and transparency of how the company is run and what its goals and plans are.

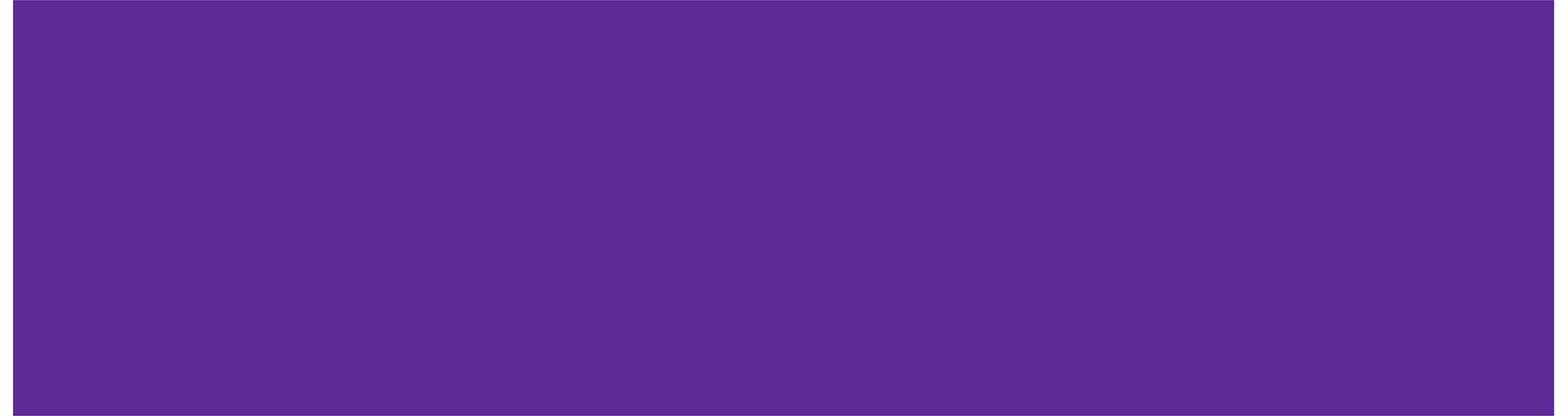
What goals should be part of The Company's vision for the next ten years?

- Make better use of the Company Hall for events outside of social events.
- Improve relationship with fife and drum community. Membership has declined and people in the F&D community don't have a lot of positive things to say about the company. Remedying this needs to be a priority.
- Increase membership
- Increase membership, get financially secure, resume Ancient Times, advertise.
- Increased library, increase corps (past and present) database, and access to both.
- Increased participation
- Increasing youth involvement
- International cooperation and youth membership
- Keep junior Corps alive.
- Keep promoting junior corps and camp program and workshops.
- keep the tradition ... move on with the young ... safe the written music and video in the archives
- Keeping the spirit if fife and drum alive!
- keeping the young ones interested, promote platforms for musical development
- linking with national organizations. linking with philanthropic organizations of the arts.
- Look into grants, possibly?
- Lowering any debt so financialy the company can continue to operate
- Lower debt more can be done with funds you raise
- Making the museum a destination point for educators, researchers, the five and drum community, schools and the general public. Promoting the museum collection on a world wide stage
- More educational outreach and junior activities because the juniors are the future of fife and drum.
- More involvement of mid-western and western corps. The individuals from there who are involved have been great, but the corps themselves should be encouraged to be more involved.
- More junior corps summer concerts.
- More outreach/activities to areas out side the river valley
- More PR work to make the public award of our fife and drum heritage. Make public aware of the museum as a resource
- More professional efforts in grant writing, protecting the archives and instrument collections. (at risk from mold and fire) Major fundraising to place the museum in a new fireproof building.
- Museum, outreach, resources for corps and individuals
- Music training and lessons
- Need to continue to work, talk, expose Fife & Drum to youth. In order to promote and continue the lineage of Fife & Drum for the Long Term.
- outreach to non members to broaden awareness of what we do
- Outreach to youth to keep the tradition alive.
- Participant growth particularly in the rest of the country. Get more youth involved
- Preservation and Expansion of the museum. Digitizing and making the archives available to members.
- Preservation of the historical artifacts and history of fife and drum. Also, increased communication about opportunities for people to come down and volunteer!
- preserve the museum building and solvency
- Promote more interest in the Old Timers. Their loss is yours.
- Promoting the history of fife and drum. Also promoting junior corps because they are the future.
- Promoting the museum to a much higher level with daily or regular hours to the public, stepping up the AT, being more active in fife and drum
- public assistance grants to improve the financial situation and building improvements
- Rebuild the building. It is falling apart.
- Replacing older players/members

What goals should be part of The Company's vision for the next ten years?

- Separate the "clubhouse" from the "museum" (if need be physically), and run them as businesses.
- should make music for a common repertoire available online
- Sponsor additional parades as a combined group like the Big E, or for Corps to donate their services, to support the budget.
- Someone knowledgeable should give a detailed tour of the museum before or after the summer concerts.
- Sponsor an individual Fife, Snare & Bass competition as a fund raiser for the company and to promote more interest in fife & drumming to musicians in other types of drum corps and bands. Perhaps copying some aspects of the Swiss drumming competition held every 4 years.
- stable finance and leadership, repair the museum
- stop being provincial, be world wide and make folks outside of rte 9 corridor feel welcome. Times have change, shift the paradigm to fit the changes. Stop being just a social club for local corps. Be something those of use more than an hour away will see as worthwhile
- Strengthen international ties and help with development of new corps
- Support Any/All fife & drum events throughout the US
- Survival of all current activities
- taking care of their museum, making their museum an important landmark, having a better digital presence
- The biggest concern is in getting young, new players. Junior corps and junior camps are critical. Recruiting outside like Brendan is doing at St Mary's is huge.
- The museum building and grounds
- There are many fewer corps than there once were. Many of the current corps are very small and struggling. The health of the member corps and the successful creation of new corps is essential if there will be a fife and drum community in the future
- To become a self sustaining organization that adapts with the changing times and stays current with lines of communication and active membership. The company is a vital part of the fife and drum community but offers its members minimal benefits and its general vision and direction is blurry at best with out of touch leadership.
- To become financially stable.
- To continue and expand the spirit of the fife and drum community to the next generation
- To establish itself with schools and organizations as a tourist and educational destination. Creating a bigger presence at Fife and Drum events. Continously try to evolve the exposure of fife and drum history to as many audiences as possible.
- To help form new Drum Corps and help those having difficulty continuing.
- To obtain more money in grants available museums and use that money to fix the necessities, aka not the bar. (unless that money came directly for the bar fixing, then I understand)
- To publish additional books / online educational videos
- To try to stay open for members and visitors.
- Transforming The Company into the 21th century. What has worked and/or has been successful in the past may not be the correct course to improve the organization in the present day and future.
- Try to maintain and increase membership.
- Updating web presence. Have a virtual tour for those who can't make it to the museum.
- Work with ct tourism comm
- youthful participation

Meet Individual Needs



How could The Company better meet the needs of its Individual Members?

- A more robust web site and presence on social media with better fife and drum resources and information. I know this is getting worked on. But currently I go to individual corps sites to get event dates, information and sheet music. I'm of the opinion that the Company web site should be a definitive source...especially for event dates and information.
- Active website for STORE: often been told impossible to purchase online, experienced first hand, wind up sending check/order form
- Allow them more say. I often hear the argument that why be a member because you don't have a vote. Maybe there can be a way to get people more involved in decision making.
- As an individual member, trying to organize regular volunteer opportunities to improve the museum and building. Mystic Seaport has a great volunteer organization that help in all aspects of the museum. That way Executive Officers in Fife & Drum Corps would not have to do all the work.
- As the standard bearers for fife and drum, I think you do a great job, with the museum and supporting youth. I'm not really sure that I need anything from the Company. I really like Company hall and would hate to lose it... I suppose moving it would be ok as long as it has "historical charm".
- Be less political. Feature each corps.
- Be more available, better resources.
- Become financially stable. It appears to me that the Company is always looking for money. I honestly don't understand what the company provides for its members aside from a place to store some great artifacts. But even that seems to be in question now with the buildings physical problems.
- Better communication
- Better communication
- Better communication with Corps and individuals.
- Better communication.
- Better communication.
- Better more interactive website
- Better networking between corps that are outside of new england
- Better website
- By providing more information about the museum and creating a bigger presence at musters.
- Communication needs to improve. Not everyone uses social media.
- Communication to members outside of CT is horrible. The website needs to be updated regularly. The list of musters, both on the website and in the AT, needs to be updated regularly and well in advance. Company sponsored events (concerts, jam sessions, etc.) need to be promoted much further in advance so people outside of CT can make travel plans. I know there is usually a concert by a corps on the Sunday after DRAM, but I should be able to look at the website 2 months in advance and see who is playing, when the concert begins, and when the museum opens since that is one of the few times I am guaranteed to be in CT. The Company should have a similar concert on the Sunday after the Westbrook Muster. Charge a few buck for admission and make some money.
- Communication. regular issues of the ancients times that include current news and updates
- Communications (facebook, websites, emails)
- continue to search for funding and continue to offer instructional material
- Develop programs that reach out to elementary schools throughout the US. Improve the system of assessing dues and install automatic renewal of dues via credit card or electronic payment. Make a concerted effort to raise funds and become financially strong. Grant a stipend to officers and directors to encourage participation. Publish financial reports.
- Difficult to say as we are no longer "active" as we were when our corps was in existence and now that we are in FL.
- Don't know.
- Electronic version of Ancient Times / newsletter
- Email company quarterly minutes to all individual members having Email. Get up to date and complete info on your website. Publish the Ancient Times as promised

How could The Company better meet the needs of its Individual Members?

- Extend resources to other members/corps for members/corps in need of info, technical support, fife/drum clinics
- Get the Ancient Times back on reliable track.
- Getting the new website running, the Ancient Times going and to steam line the membership. Which I think all will be happening once the site gets going.
- give the individual member a voice, read the writing on the wall, corps come and go, they start they break up, but individuals stay if they feel invested
- Go back to a very basic format for the Ancient Times or perhaps simply publish an online version - but do publish it! Provide a means of meaningful input in Company matters. Much beyond that my feeling it is a somewhat moral obligation of individual members to help the Company in it's efforts to promote ancient fife and drum, however as I've said previously, the members need to feel truly appreciated - in meaningful ways.
- Greater participation in social media
- Have 1 meeting a year in a different geographic location
- Have an agenda sent ahead of time to the individual members so if they know what topics are being considered they might have more interest in attending quarterly meetings.
- Having a hard time finding out about the juniors camp for my son this summer
- I do not know.
- I had a difficult time trying to do research with the Company. Ed Olsen was not cooperative and others (Sue Cifaldi) were destructive. Direct interviews at Jaybird and other events allowed me to get the info I needed. Shouldn't have to get testy with people trying to get your message out. F&D has a superior drumming history that dwarfs D&B corps.
- I have always viewed Individual Membership as a donation to support the organization. But I do think there are ways The Company can benefit individuals beyond the current perks. I know a new website is coming and this is great and long overdue. I'm hoping with its release there will be an area for members to access information - meeting minutes and other communications. Over time, it would be great to digitize museum and archives content and make it available on the website for members. Increase the use of social media - Facebook, Twitter, etc... to communicate and post real-time updates from Company events. I see this happening as well, so keep up the good work there. :)
- Some 'member appreciation' events at the Hall and other regional locations might work to help promote the organization, gain volunteers, as well as 'give back' to members for their support. Member outreach (that you are clearly starting to do with this survey :)) to get the thoughts of members and non-members alike, i.e. why aren't you a member?
- I have been inactive for a long time I think listening to ideas and giving support for events would be a start.
- I have no suggestions other than the Ancient times and the website.
- I may be old fashioned but I miss the ancient times.
- I see this as mostly a giving thing, rather than receiving.
- I'm uncertain, I'm too new to say.
- Improve Ancient Times and its delivery schedule. More corps news.
- improve communications (see below)
- Increased communication and transparency in financial and what you are planning. On line meetings for members outside of CT. Set up and publicize annual goals and objectives. I would look closely at this survey and see if there are initiatives that haven't been addressed. For instance, if you have initiatives that rank high in importance, but low in how they are rated (how well you are doing), then there is an opportunity. Same with low importance items that you are doing well at. If few care about an item, it doesn't matter how well you perform it.

How could The Company better meet the needs of its Individual Members?

- ABOVE ALL, USE THIS SURVEY AND TAKE ACTIONS QUICKLY. Pick the low hanging fruit. I think the membership needs to know that the organization cares about the members. Actions don't have to be perfect, they just need to be accomplished.
- I've been out of the loop for ten years and don't really have enough current knowledge of the organization to make intelligent suggestions.
- I've been very disappointed when trying to make purchases. My order went up filled. I had to make a pest of myself to get someone to ship my order.
- Just be accessible to people and help to educate our young fife and drum kids properly.
- Keep doing what you are doing
- Keeping in touch
- Keeping members better informed of their membership status.
- Let individual members vote
- Make a space for suggestions, whether in person, on the website, on facebook, the individuals need a space to be heard outside of company meetings.
- Make website and Ancient Times more active = will energize more people to contribute articles hopefully and to get involved with committees. We need more members who are active in promoting the company and it's multi-pronged efforts.
- Membership by a Drum Corps should include making each of their members individual members for a small fee with some perks that could be decided.
- Membership revolving instead of by calendar year (that's kind of a rip off) renewal reminders, sign up on line.
- MORE & BETTER COMMUNICATIONS
- More communication and the ancient times.
- More communication to nonmembers and benefits on being a member.
- More communication, better funding
- More communication, have an active role in fife and drum even to non-local members, offer workshops not just to kids, build up the store's inventory to offer items (music, cds, instruments, etc) that can't be bought elsewhere,
- More communication.
- More involvement from groups.
- More musters
- Music on-line, both printed and performed (see above)
- Not sure how this happens now
- Offer support to events trying to carry on mkusters etc.
- Promote the junior workshops more widely than just in CT. I used to have a child in Massachusetts and we never heard that there were junior workshops. Of course we knew about camp, but not about the workshops. That made us feel as if we weren't welcome. A 2 hour drive from MA to CT is an easy one but not if you aren't informed!
- Provide more things for individuals, more events for members (i.e. Jams, dinners, allowing them to vote, trips)
- Publish a muster calendar of all events, not just member corps
- Put old manuals and music online for reenacts
- Redefine the privileges and benefits of being a Individual Member of The Company.
- Some form of enfranchisement for individual members, perhaps regional delegates based on membership of the region
- Support for Corps is far more important than meeting the needs of individual members.
- The company could offer more perks to its members to make being a member seem more desirable. Perhaps making its music library available on line, or other inexpensive options. I am not in a corps but have a passion for fife and drum and I am still unclear if I can become a member without a corps.
- The hall needs to be used more.

How could The Company better meet the needs of its Individual Members?

- This question is backwards
- Members need to help with the needs of the company
- Creating actives that bring members together helps the company
- The company is like a union and its job is to perpetuate the word of fifing and drumming
- Through increased and improved communication and access to information
- Training young fifers
- Use of facebook for "It's in the book". I learned so many tunes in jam sessions only to find out later I was not playing the music as written. Museums today have virtual walk thru's I can view on the web, can that be done at the Hall ?
- We miss The Ancient Times.
- You are OK with this mostly: info & music availability, common resource hub
- Your doing very well. Perhaps an online member direct

Additional comments



Additional comments, ideas, or suggestions?

- 1. Assistance to member corps? I don't know what is meant by this. Same, for CoFD assistance with a Nat'l Muster. 2. Some of the items in this survey I think are important, but I have never heard of nor seen in action. I don't know if that's because they don't happen, or because the communications is broken and I just don't hear about it. I don't live with my head in the sand, nor far away from the museum and f&d's activities. If I'm not hearing about something, it's not being communicated effectively, imo. Same goes for the meeting announcements. FB does not push everything a page posts into its fans' feeds. And even where it does, there's no reason to think it has actually been seen there. At best, it's lost in the noise. But more often, it's not even served up at all. I have never experienced any other form of notification from the CoFD. 3. I think the Company would benefit hugely from active participation in the small-museum community, especially when it comes to connecting with resources. 4. I think the genre of fife & drum would benefit from the Company participating in the local community and publicising loudly in communities that still have fife & drum in the area. There are things that are beyond the scope of a corps' reach that the Company might better be able to handle. 5. Volunteer activities - I've volunteered on a number of occasions and very rarely has my offer to help been accepted. I now work for a foundation that relies heavily on its volunteers and see how important it is to treat them with respect. I know there are some who avoid participating at the Company because of too-public feuds, old grudges, and a perception of it being an insider's club. For an organization to survive the long haul, a more professional approach is required. 6. Annual Appeal - why have I never heard of the CoFD making a formal appeal to its members. Which brings me to 7. What is a member, anyway? From what I can tell, only a few corps have voting rights or are considered full members, or something like that. What is the purpose of an individual membership? I've never been able to get a straight answer for that. Arrange schools to visit museum, educational outreach for grade schools.

Maybe the Company isn't technically a member organization? I don't know. I just don't know what the Company considers to be its customers, who it is serving or what it is serving to those customers, or how it intends to raise funds to cover its activities and expenses. Most museums and organizations are pretty clear on this sort of thing. Maybe I've just missed it, all these years. And that would bring us back to (2.) the communications piece. I've actually asked these questions several times over a period of at least a decade, and still don't know an answer. My honest assumption has been that since I wasn't born into the club, I'm never going to be treated as a 'real' member of the f&d community or the CoFD. But there are plenty of other organizations that have appreciated my participation in the mean time.

- ? Auction off some artifacts (drums/fifes) yes know they were donations but might be a good way to generate get in Black- would have to be? no Company peoples- collectors
- ? Connect with a major university graduate school in musicology or ethnomusicology or Smithsonian American Folk-life program.
- AS A LIFE MEMBER I ENJOY BEING PART OR FIFE AND DRUM, I WISH I LIVED CLOSER TO BE MORE ACTIVE WITH THE COMPANY.
- As an outlier, communication to members is most important to me. I don't hear things through the grapevine - I need updates on the website, emails, and especially the Ancient Times
- As I have not gotten involved I have no leg to stand on. I do believe that the work done on behalf of the youngsters is the most important item but the ability to reach out through the Ancient Times and the National Muster as well as the Museum helps to reach "the masses" and therefore broaden the scope or appeal of ancient fife and drum. Making the museum a destination for many enjoying CT during the year may help "spread the word" and may also help with finances. How do you make it profitable is beyond my pay grade and scope of knowledge. Thank you for all that the officers of the Company do for us.
- Be open to new ideas and don't give up the ship!

Additional comments, ideas, or suggestions?

- Beer Pong night with a jam session!!!
- Being in the Midwest, much of the company's activities don't reach us just due to geography. However we do send our juniors to camp, and enjoy our periodic trips to musters.
- I'm certain that our corps membership isn't current, though, I'm sure we would be if we got an invoice or a "your dues are due " communication.
- I'd like to get the ancient times.
- Better communication to members. Opening up the archives on line to members.
- Increased membership /membership initiatives. Golden Jay Bird awards (before we lose the folks.) Voting for individual members. Opening membership roster for members to research. Increased communication and transparency in financial and Annual objectives /planning. On line meetings for members outside of CT. Set up and publicize annual goals and objectives.
- Bring back the Ancient Times.
- Bring back the Ancient Times.
- Bring the Company Store back to what it had been several years ago.
- Cooperation and coordination with existing organizations that do the type of art-form preservation that is necessary to keep fife and drum alive!
- Does the Ancient Times still exist? What about a modernized version? Something like a fire and drum blog, with multiple "regular" authors, and "guest" authors.
- Due to severe health issues ,have been outside the loop . Miss getting info and would like the Ancient times to be more informative.
- Encourage sharing of playing technique, fife and drum compositions and arrangements, etc.
- First of all, it took me a few minutes to figure out how to type my answers... this app sux... !!
- Second, I know I am a "fringe" player, but I am, and have always been, impressed and supportive of the Company. Were I a fife and drum nut I would probably be more engaged. I think the museum is a state treasure not just for us but for general historians, and would love to keep it preserved, even knowing the work and cost is probably a concern. I'm really happy to see the support like Junior Camp... I know Cap does a lot for it... don't know if it was her idea, but brilliant.
-
- Lastly, I'm getting a sense that there is contention in the ranks... I can't change the strong feelings people have but I implore everyone to take two steps back, breathe deep, and recognize we all are working to a common goal. Let's be ok with our differences and appreciate passion for fife and drumming as a good thing!! Thank you all for all that you do!! (and yes... I suppose I should pay my dues... :{
- Gave a "3" to all because I am not up to date
- Great job Scott!
- Have an open date for a combined summer concert. Have people wear their Corps uniforms. Post a list of standard songs ahead of time. It would be like the concert at the Big E, but better!
- Haven't seen Ancient Times recently. Tried to contact the company a while back and received no response. A bit disappointing that.
- How about beeing involved with the organization of trips to the International Muster in Basel every few years? I am very sad to hear that only 2-3 Corps can make the trip this year. Maybe the company could find ways to motivate more of its member corps to make the trip by promoting it; but also communicating the member corps' needs to the Swiss organization committee. The company could act as the official contact point in this regard.
- I am a Life Member and have not received an Ancient Times in over a year! Has any been published???
- I am glad that the use of fife and drums are staying alive!

Additional comments, ideas, or suggestions?

- I am happy to once again be an paying individual member with renewed interest to follow the Company's progress and improvements. For many years I was not. Nor did the Company, in my opinion, do much to create interest from waning members like me. It's good to see passionate people working together to create programs and initiatives to take the Company forward. Thank you!
- I didn't have this idea until after the last meeting, but I did bring up, or at least echo, John O'Neill's statement that if Individual Members are not enfranchised to have a counted vote in some fashion, then there is (currently) absolutely no benefit to being a paying member, ESPECIALLY if your vote is already logged through being a member of a voting Corps. George Carteris offered the rebuttal that Individual Membership should not come with the expectation of "reward", you should give freely of your money because it's a noble thing to do. This is true. But there are many people who pay membership fees and that have been awarded memberships for good service that are not associated with F&D in any particular way, and I DO understand (and agree with) the Company's policy that these types of people should not necessarily have any voting rights. To that end, perhaps the Company can investigate the idea of creating a Friends of the Company sort of organization, where people who wish to donate money can do so without expectation of reward or benefit can do so. Many for- and non-profits benefit greatly from organizations such as this. The Company can then focus on encouraging individuals of member corps to pursue Individual Membership IN ADDITION to their membership through their corps, by offering things such as the Ancient Times, store discount, members area on the new website, etc. In summary though, if you want to continue the practice of Individual MEMBERSHIP, then those members are ENTITLED to voting privileges in some fashion, perhaps through a select number of appointed/elected At-Large representatives or something. This is ESPECIALLY necessary for folks who ARE interested in being full individual members but are too far removed geographically for any sort of corps sponsorship to be realistically feasible. Apologies for the bit of ramble, happy to talk about this further. Cheers. -K
- I answered "3" on many of the items because either they are not benefits I use or because I am out of the loop and really don't know anything about them. And I'm out of the loop not because of anything the Company has done or not done, but because I am busy running my own drum corps, associations, occupation, etc.
- I believe that the company needs accountable leaders that are active and make the best decisions for its future. Perhaps making these paid positions would make them more accountable. It is an incredible organization that has seemingly dropped off the map as of late with dwindling membership and lackluster events. It is the heart and soul of the fife and drum community and being located in the Connecticut river valley is the epicenter of this activity, but it has antiquated communication methods, seems to exclude rather than invite, and has lost the passion it once had. I hope the best for this organization and feel the time is now to make changes to shape it's future.
- I do not attend meetings. I have been in summer concerts and hope to attend more this year. Thanks for all you do to keep drum corps alive. I appreciate everyone`s assistance.
- I do not get a chance to get to CT much or take part in many events, but I think it is an art form that can not die. I would love to take up the drum, but time (and \$\$\$) is always our enemy - and finding a person local to show others how to play can be tough. Maybe a listing of players that are willing to teach others?
- I don't have a reference point to assess most of these questions as I am not active in either my original group and to a lesser extent The Company.s
- I have talked Kenny about hosting a company concert off site this idea was embraced and we're moving forward! I think in years past this would not have happened. Reaching out to corps' local communities in this manner will bring exposure to the company the more people that know about the museum the better.

Additional comments, ideas, or suggestions?

- I have the ORIGINAL set of Drums used by the Tunesmiths. They are Ames drums but all are hand painted by a well know commercial NYC artist with Colonial figures/scenes on them. UNIQUE and unlike many other, but not necessarily valuable by age, structure etc. Circ 1976. Would love to see them in the museum, but like many others, I am sure, want to be able to SEE THEM.
- Need to know that they will be safe, and at the least rotated into public view. Would be important to know when they are on display. This I believe would be useful to all drum corps who have donated their items to the museum.
- Miss seeing the Ancient times as often as in the past. Can't really remember when I saw the last one. It is a real, boast as it provides an opportunity to plan a trip that would include a Muster, Company Meeting etc.
- I honestly don't know much about what the company does as I am not a member. I have been to the museum a few times and have been impressed with it. It would be great for you to advertise to individuals the benefits of membership. Having family activities, concerts and other events at the museum will help to bring in new members too, as well as advertising at musters.
- I hope you're not opening a can of worms here, opening the floodgates for the masses' unrealistic whims. My suggestion is to get back to basics, the Constitution and Rules of Procedure should be put back in place. Every officer should know them and the responsibilities described. Establish the Publications Committee, as it should be...this is very important. The written word must be scrutinized before being published. The not-for-profit status must not be put in jeopardy. AND, the Ancient Times must come back (also falls under Publications Committee). Sara, as you can probably tell, I have definite and strong opinions on the Company (all positive). If you ever want to have a frank chat regarding any topic, I'd be happy to (in person, phone, however). Good luck, Joe (h-845-xxx-xxxx) (cell: 917-xxx-xxxx)
- I love the Company, but I think we can do better. It's very common for nonprofit 501c3 organizations to go through rebranding, re-evaluation of their mission, course refinement, etc. There are lots of us in the community who have experience in both small and large non-profit organizations, especially arts organizations, who would love to help. Perhaps throwing out the bat signal for a committee of members, a committee of current directors/prospective corps directors, etc. The company could go very far and blossom into a wonderful organization but it's not going to happen overnight, or even within a year. We got a lot of work to do but we can do it! You guys all rock. Especially Sara Brown. ;) I STRONGLY BELIEVE IN THIS ORGANIZATION
- I think it is great step even to begin to have these conversations
- I think the Company should re-think its mission. I think all member and non-member corps should be solicited as to what they want the company to be. Fifeing and drumming seems to be slowly waning. Attendance at junior camp is dropping for the first time. Should the company be in the forefront of rebuilding enthusiasm for fifeing and drumming in America?
- I wish I could offer more. I have been away many years after growing up in f&d. I am looking forward to moving back to CT in 2017 and getting back to f&d and hopefully volunteering.
- I would like the support of the CFD with a project I have started to organize, An Official International Fife & Drum Corps Muster. I have enlisted some support to organize a feasibility study for such a Muster. I also have support for some very interested people in Bermuda to Host such an International Muster there soon. Looking for some people to meet with me to discuss this possibility. In relation with this I have donated 12 fifes to some schoolchildren in Bermuda with hope of starting a Fife & Drum there. They are also interested in sending some children here to the F & D Camp this year. This is something I have dedicated myself to do as a way of keeping the world of Fife & Drum alive and well.

Additional comments, ideas, or suggestions?

- It has to be helped, it won't do it itself, every F & D Member should be part of this movement. Let's make this a priority of the CFD. I have contacted Marc Hermann in Basel and the International F & D Muster is only in name. No intention of a planned future for an Official one. I would like to make this my goal to establish an true International F & D Muster to spread the movement around the world. Looking for volunteers, contact me at srchiaramonte@sbcglobal.net or 860-669-5697
- I would like to see more reviews of musters in the Ancient Times
- I, personally, feel that the museum and archives are an extremely important part of The Company. There isn't anywhere else for the ongoing story of fife and drum to be preserved. Thank you for all you do.
- I'm certain that you won't like what I have to say, but a few things have been bothering me:
- The Junior's Camp teaches large groups of kids to play the same music, the same way, at the same speed. What do you possibly think the result will be 20 years from now? Has anyone had a clear thought about the result?
- Going to the Company Hall feels like going to a distant relatives house, not very friendly or inviting. Even if my assessment isn't entirely accurate, some of the people volunteering there make it feel that way. Park in the wrong place and someone will run out and yell from the door "Can't do that" and bark instructions. Start walking to the stairs to go up and someone yells out "Can't go up there right now". Stop at the bar for a beer and before you even get it, the person behind the bar picks up a bucket and waves it in your face. Just a few that I've encountered and people skills go a long way towards success.
- Each corps membership should include the members as well. What sense does it make to make each corps member buy another membership unless it's just for the cash.
- I'm afraid I just don't agree with what's being done at the Company and haven't for quite some time. High school and college marching band styles and technics are being encouraged and the kids that are supposed to be our future are embracing them.
- I'm limited by time this Easter morning or else I'm sure I could write for hours. lol If I think of any other ideas, I'll send them along to Sara.
- I very much appreciate the work and efforts of all of the officers and volunteers that spend what I know are countless hours towards The Company. Your efforts are showing and very much appreciated by me and others in fife and drum. I roundly dismiss the implication in the 'manifesto' that suggested otherwise. Bravo! Please keep up the good work!
- My time is very limited these days with long work hours, running Adamsville and other life activities. I hope to attend the April meeting and will look for areas where I might be able to help given my limited time. See you then!
- Involve more members who have area's of expertise needed by The Company.
- It seems interest in F&D peaks near centennials. 1876 1976 2076 F&D can offer superior instruction compared to the D&B DCI corps now. Sturtze was an master that was ahead of Olympic trainers. This carried on to the 1960's 70s and 80s D&B corps. His work and that of the Sons of Liberty (my personal lineage) does not have an equal in the D&B and orchestral realms. They have forgotten how. Use this fact to the advantage of the Company. Market the inherent knowledge that exists in the F&D art, not just the history. Arm drummers always beat wrist drummers who always beat finger drummers. F&D are arm drummers and few today know how to play and teach it. Offer this as an intelligent competitive alternative to DCI MBA and WGI who have technically lost their ability to perform. I would help give lessons for such events. I am a former DCI world champion. Problem is I dont live very close. 1200 miles. Ken Mazur

Additional comments, ideas, or suggestions?

- It was difficult to answer some of these questions. For example, what is the Big E? Perhaps a 'I don't know' option on the survey?
- It's an organization loved by many. I would like to see it get better and stronger
- its hard but the company has to find a way preserve the past but also nurture that art form as it evolves into the future, a publication every two years and an outdated, uninformative website ain't doing it. Make the archives/library digitally accessible
- I've stopped attending the Company Corps at the Big E because for some unknown reason the quality of the fifeing & drumming has diminished considerably since the days when Randy Stack was organizing it and it was becoming embarrassing to play with group. It didn't help that some of the participants had a few too many beers by the time the parade started at the end of the day.
- Junior fife and drum corps need to be involved in the Company
- Keep headquarters in Ivoryton
- Keep up the good work..
- keep up the great work
- Kudos to all of you who volunteer to be on the Executive Board. It is not an easy job to satisfy everyone. I am not in a position to help as much as I would like, I barely have enough time to march. So I just wanted to express my appreciation to you all.
- Let paying members vote in meetings
- Listen with an open mind to what has been said and what will be said concerning the future direction and path of The Company. The international fife and drum community and the Company of Fifers and Drummers should be one.
- make every opportunity for members/corps to get third party help.
- More visibility to general public about Drumming and Fifeing traditions. Consider getting a grant from CT Humanities to help get more publicity or for museum.
- Most of all, a huge thank you to all the dedicated people who work hard to make this org. Happen and who run the events. Can not thank you enough.
- No disrespect meant, but as a "new" fife & drum person, it would be nice to have less of an emphasis on the number of generations that your family has participated and more of an emphasis on including anyone who has joined this wonderful tradition. It can sometimes be daunting to join. We've only been involved for 9 years and can sometimes still feel like an outsider. If we want to perpetuate this tradition, and I think that we all do, we should look for ways to include the "new" people who simply love fife and drum. This can be done in a number of ways. Also, as a person who used to live in Massachusetts and now moved to NY, it would be nice to celebrate a variety of areas in which fifeing and drumming is flourishing. (Not just in Connecticut!) I recently attended Freezer Jam and it was wonderful to see the differences in the midwest vs CT styles. We should celebrate this.
- Not right now...what you already asked covers it.
- Now living at a distance from S Central CT I'm at a disadvantage to help on an active basis. But then the Company, I think, would be better served by enlisting the knowledge, ideas, manpower and energy of young people. I've always perceived the Company as a "Good Old Boys" ruled for and by those Good Old Boys. While I've come to believe that they had their hearts in the right place, there was an arrogance, perhaps not intended, and a proprietary attitude which can and has turned off and turned away a lot of good people. Words and promises will not effect a change; I think that if the Company is to survive and hopefully thrive, it must make very substantial changes in the basic governing structure.
- Perhaps apply for grant money to hire a full time museum director to open the museum Wednesday thru Sunday all year; oversee the museum (displays, environmental protection, etc.) organize volunteers, oversee the collections, archives, man the company store at the museum, write more grants for funding to improve the museum.

Additional comments, ideas, or suggestions?

- Put Ancient times online. Fix website and building.
- Remind guys like me to remember the Company in their will.
- Or to donate funds to help out and keep the Museum going and to perpetuate Fife and Drum.
- Sorry my answers or non answers are non descript. I've not been involved in years
- Thank you for all you do, to promote F&D, field music reenacting, and F&D history.
- thank you for all your efforts; you are doing a great job ... and as a former director of the Swiss Fife and Drum Association I know, what your ob means and how demanding it can be. Once more thank you for everything.
- Thank you for taking the initiative of this survey. It's great to see the Company looking forward!!
- Thanks for reaching out!
- Thanks for the survey and good luck.
- Thanks so much for continuing to push the communal needs of fife and drum!
- The Company needs to retain respect for the past while embracing new ideas and ways of communicating with its members.
- The doom and gloom attitude surrounding the company right now is tough to be around. While being realistic about what is going on is helpful, presenting it in a woe-is-us attitude doesn't encourage others to want to be part of it or help.
- The Old Guard and the Swiss Ensemble were great performances Keep it up
- There seems to be a loss of community among the company, we need to promote community and work together to improve the building. We need to not be dumb and spend our company money wisely. By allowing individual members to vote, there would get much more help in improving the overall well being of the company.
- This has reminded me to renew my membership!
- This survey is a big step in the right direction!
- Web site can use an update, there are dead links there. Feature corps with live recordings on web site. How about a Fife and drum app for the latest news.
- Wish I had more time to participate. Maybe someday when I retire.
- Work on more outside donations and grants to improve the building. New roof, smoke detectors, sprinkler systems in order to protect the Museum collections.
- Need to entice people to attend the meetings - jam session, concert or just a cookout following the meetings. It's a drive from central MA to come down just for the he meetings, others could feel the same.
- Hopefully through this survey you'll find more local people that care about the museum and sign up to docents so it can be open more often to the public and members.
- Maybe have a juniors weekend(s) at the building so the younger/future members can learn more about our history. Or make one day of the camp a visit to the museum.
- Would like to see progress on the AT and website. If there has been, could we get a report?
- Yes, the youngsters are tomorrow's old timers. But without those old timers, you have nothing to offer the young. The Company, the last few times I attended events, was geared toward bastardizing the traditional stuff. Sure, it's fun to play...until you loose sight of the roots. Double Paradiddles? Back-sticking? Fun - but many of those show-offs don't know what a firing-stroke is, much play one!
- You are doing a good job already!
- You dwell on what you feel are the elite corps and individuals