



Ancient Times

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The
Headquarters
is the building,
but *The
Company*
is the People.
We need You
...NOW!



Emergency Edition

The Company
of
Fifers
&
Drummers
HEADQUARTERS
MUSEUM

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The publication (ISSN0091-7176) seeks to keep individual,
 institutional, and drum corps members throughout the world
 informed primarily on the activities of traditional American fife
 and drum corps known as Ancients. The Company maintains
 a museum and headquarters on two-plus acres. It seeks to
 perpetuate the historical significance and folk traditions of
 American field music and to foster the spirit of fellowship
 among all fifers and drummers. Founded in 1965, *The
 Company of Fifers & Drummers, Inc.* is a tax-exempt,
 tax-deductible, non-profit corporation.

1 "At this pace, we run out

These were the words that greeted the Executive Committee at its February 16, 2008 meeting. This wasn't a surprise - it's been the tone of financial forecast we've been hearing for the last half dozen years. If you haven't heard these words before, it's because you haven't been at the Meetings at *The Company Hall* to hear them. **THAT'S THE PART THAT NEEDS TO CHANGE!**

Do you want there to be a Company of Fifers & Drummers?

This is THE CLARION CALL! It's not really a call for money (although donations continue to be very welcome). It's a call for YOU, as a member of a Member Corps, or as an Individual Member, to begin to be present, **PHYSICALLY PRESENT**, at *The Company Headquarters* in Ivoryton.

The Company needs its people!

We need you at *The Company* meetings. We need you at *The Company* activities. We need you at *The Company* events. We need the people who are members of *The Company* to be there and participate if *The Company* is to survive. That was the way it used to be, and when people stopped coming, *The Company's* economic health began to fail. The financial reserves that accrued for *The Company's* first thirty years or so have been slowly depleted over the last decade. In so many ways, we can now see the direct correlation between people showing up and *The Company's* financial well-being.

But it's not just a matter of money!

Money alone will not cure what's gone wrong (although all donations continue to be very gratefully received). It's having all the people at *The Company Hall* who come to participate, who come to help out, who come to be involved. All of the human activity ultimately translates into a vibrant, healthy and **SOLVENT** *Company of Fifers & Drummers*.

It's your Company!

The Officers, Executives and Committee Chairs are there now, and have been there all

along, doing their jobs to keep things going. But it's reached the point where, literally, they're only doing it for themselves, and the results of that have become clear in the slow, steady worsening of *The Company's* financial condition. If YOU, our people, don't start turning out, and don't start turning out NOW, the job of *The Company* leadership in the coming 12 months will be to wind up the organization, disburse all of its property in accordance with its charter as a charitable organization, and **CLOSE THE DOORS FOR GOOD!**

We, the Executive Committee, are loathe to see that happen. But we cannot make the choice alone. *The Company* was designed to be an organization that would thrive on the camaraderie, fellowship and participation of its many Members in all its functions. As *The Company* is designed - and this is what is upon us - if the people don't show up, it will wither away and die. The choice is in the hands of the Members. Come to The Hall in April. Come and revitalize this unique organization that exists only for the purpose of fostering and promoting its Members' interest in this peculiar pursuit of fifing and drumming, this love we share for ancient martial music. Don't let us ever hear these words uttered: "Remember back when there was a *Company of Fifers & Drummers*?"

Read this testimonial:

"I can't exactly put my finger on why it is that more people showing up will help *The Company* be more solvent. It is certainly not that I expect people will just show up and leave bundles of cash on the table. In part, it's that I recall the days when The Hall was packed whenever there was a meeting or an event, and back in those days the coffers were far more full than they are now. Indeed, we've been surviving for nearly ten years on the excesses that built up in *The Company's* accounts up until about the mid-'90s. I guess the other part is that intuitively, I think the actual presence of people on the premises - people making an effort, people doing the stuff that needs to be done, and people taking part in the things that go on that are the reasons for *The Company's* existence - is what ultimately translates into financial well-being, keeping *The Company* alive for us all."

of money in about 12 months."

Is The Company of any real value?

This question only brings to mind my first thoughts on learning that there WAS a company -- "How wonderful that such an organization exists, dedicated to perpetuating the art of fifing and drumming!" I joined on the spot, and have always been proud of belonging.

As you have read on the preceding page, our problems are severe, and their consequences grave, yet The Company has continued to do good work and provide valuable services to the members. Just consider:

The Junior Camp:

For years, the cry was, "Why can't we do more for the Juniors?" We did do workshops, and a few other things, but not a lot. Then Robin Niemitz of CVFM, as chair of the Juniors Committee, conceived the idea of a Juniors Camp, a week long marathon of instruction, fun, and music, culminating in a performance by its members at the Deep River Muster.

Though the idea is simple, carrying it to fruition has required an unbelievable amount of thought, planning, and plain hard work. It has been an unqualified success, with each class of campers enthusiastically praising the experience. Though the baton has passed to our new Juniors Chair, Cap Corduan, the program remains one of the stellar accomplishments of *The Company*. That the future of fifing & drumming lies with the juniors of today, remains an obvious truth.

Our Museum:

The Museum of Fife & Drum is unique in all the world -- one of a kind. There is no place else with such a collection of fife & drum instruments, uniforms, pictures, music, and artifacts. Last year we

were open every weekend throughout the summer to amaze visitors from all over the world with our intriguing collection.

The Ancient Times:

This unique publication is aimed at providing you, our members, with current news of the fife & drum world, as well as articles of interest. Receiving the *Ancient Times* is one of the determining factors in the decisions of many to join *The Company*. It keeps our members in touch with happenings in our community, showcases music of interest, old and new, delves into history, and endeavors to broaden our appreciation of the many facets of fifing & drumming.

The Web Site:

Companyoffifeanddrum.org provides a most useful service in telling the world who we are and what we are about, as well as keeping our members apprised of scheduled events and items of immediate import. It houses a wealth of useful information, including provision for joining *The Company* on-line, thumbnail descriptions and links to our member corps and allied organizations, order forms for *The Company Store*, and a listing of music contained in the Archives.

The Summer Concerts:

Every Tuesday throughout the summer, *The Company* stages a concert on the grounds of *The Company Hall*, with one or two member corps providing a program of music for the education and entertainment of the general public. This is community outreach, which generates good will for fifing & drumming.

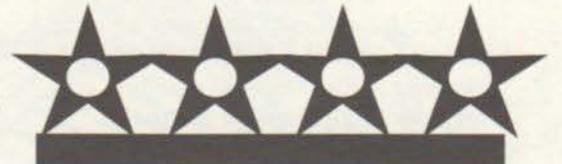
The National Muster:

Every year, *The Company* designates one summer muster as the "National Muster". By definition, this then becomes an "open muster" (all member corps are free to come

and perform on stand). This is a special honor and ensures larger than average attendance. The screening of applications is an important task of the Muster Aid Committee, and such musters are always a pleasure to attend.

Educational Outreach:

This year, *The Company*, provided a program on Colonial America for about 50 grade school kids, and *(continued on back page)*



FIFERS AWAKE!

THE CALL TO THE HALL

APRIL 26, 2008
ANNUAL MEETING
1:30 PM

DRUMMERS ARISE!



with the help of two of our member corps, gave the children a generous sample of the military music of our forefathers. We plan to continue programs of this nature.

The Workers:

These programs are all carried out by a relatively small number of dedicated volunteers. Some of these volunteers are now in their 80s, and the numbers are dwindling. This is one of the main reasons we need to see all of you at *The Company HQ*—to lend a hand and show your support for *The Company* and the valuable programs we sponsor. Indeed, we'd like to see some of the juniors get involved as well.

Our Stellar Corps

We have found that one of the best ways to make folk aware of *The Company* is for corps to provide *Company* memberships for their members at the reduced price of \$20 per year. We currently have thirteen corps who do this:

- Adamsville Ancients
- Civil War Troopers
- Fusilleers
- Hanaford's Volunteers
- Milford Volunteers
- Mt. Kisco
- NJ Colonial Militia
- Stony Creek
- Sudbury Ancients
- First Michigan
- Tittabawassee Valley
- Totoket
- William Diamond Juniors

We have designated these as "Stellar Corps", and thank them for their support of *The Company*. We encourage as many other corps as are able to afford it to consider a similar program. It should be noted, that if a corps is financially unable to make the payment from corps funds, they might consider collecting the reduced (\$20 rather than \$25) dues from ten or more of their members, and sending the total into our Membership Chair, Bob Castillo, at *The Company Headquarters*.

THE ESSENTIAL CALENDAR

The Next *Company* Meeting

All meetings are held in *The Company Headquarters* in Ivoryton, CT and are open to **ALL** *Company* members. Executive Committee meetings require the attendance of all Executive Committee members. Committee Chairs are invited and **strongly encouraged** to attend.

The Annual Meeting of *The Company* will be held:

April 26, 2008

It's after Patriots Day!

Exec Committee: 11:00 AM

It's important!

General Meeting: 1:30 PM

Let's ALL be there!!

The Company of Fifers & Drummers

AncientTimes

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