

# The Senior Drum Corps of Windsor Locks

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Senior Drum Corps are limited to adult members. Windsor Locks had four of these in its history:

1. the Windsor Locks Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps (1916 - 1924)
2. the "Old Timers Drum and Bugle Corps" (1919) which was mentioned in the Springfield Republican of Nov. 12, 1919. No other mention of the group was found.
3. the Windsor Locks Volunteer Fire Department Fife and Drum Corps (1965 - 1991)
4. the Old Engine No. 2 Fife and Drum Corps (1984 - 1991), which was an offshoot of the Fire Department's Fife and Drum Corps.

Windsor Locks' first drum corps was called the Windsor Locks Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps. The August 20, 1916 issue of the Springfield Republican states: "The Windsor Locks Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps, which has recently sprung into existence, is in Rockville, attending the state Drum Corps convention." There were a number of mentions of this drum corps in the newspapers in 1916, and they kept appearing until 1922. So we can assume that this group was in existence from about 1916 until about 1922. The following photograph of the Windsor Locks Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps, is the only known photograph of the group.



**Windsor Locks Fife, Drum & Bugle Corps, 1916**

Windsor Locks had a second Drum Corps - the "Windsor Locks Volunteer Fire Department Fife and Drum Corps". It was organized in 1965, and its first appearance was at a celebration of the Windsor Locks Little League World Championship in that year.

This drum corps used fifes, snare drums and base drums, but no bugles. They practiced at the Union School. They used the “ancient” style of play which was based on a slow cadence of about 100 beats per minute. They marched in town parades, and participated in contests. They won many trophies which are now at the Fire Station.

Whenever the Fire Department’s Drum Corps marched in a Fire Department Parade, they wore their Class A uniforms. Below is a rare photo of the one time that this Fife and Drum Corps did not dress in their Class A uniforms. It was taken in 1991 in Deep River, CT on a day that was very hot, so they wore a lighter, more informal uniform. The Fire Department’s Fife and Drum Corps was formed in 1965 and was active until about 1991. They did get together a few more times after that. One of those times was the 150th Anniversary of Windsor Locks in 2004.



**Windsor Locks Firemans' Fife & Drum Corps, 1991**

Members of the Fire Department’s formed another Fife and Drum core in 1984. It was called the Old Engine No. 2 Fife and Drum Corps. It was formed to march in parades that the Fire Department didn't or couldn't make. The most important of those was the 1985 parade in New Haven for Connecticut’s 350th Anniversary. They loaded the old fire truck on a flat bed truck, and marched in that parade. They also played at Little League parades in town and other non-fire department parades.

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