

Mark Chambers

At the end of the 2006 season, members of the Crossmen knew they were facing uncertainty heading into the following year. There had been rumors about shutting down the Corps, or being "sold" to a buyer in Virginia .. and many other disconcerting stories that led them and the Alumni to believe the Crossmen might not continue to operate in 2007 and beyond. Moving to Texas was not on anyone's radar.

As negotiations with YEA began to solidify, Mark Chambers made the difficult decision to leave his position as a successful band director at Ronald Reagan High School, in order to lead Crossmen into an uncertain re-location and future in Texas. Up until that point, there had been no successful Texas drum corps, so Mark and his family took a huge leap of faith to make it happen. To fund the Corps, Mark Chambers and Fred and Maureen Morrison made a significant financial investment - including Mark cashing out a large portion of his personal retirement to purchase instruments for the Corps the first and second year. During the fall of 2006, Mark traveled to New Jersey to meet with potential returning veterans, and worked extremely hard to convince many of them to travel to Texas. He made it a priority that "the vets felt valued", and stressed how important the Alumni were in maintaining the Corps' heritage throughout the move. Had it not been for Mark's persistence, many of the vets may not have continued. Without Mark Chambers, the Crossmen would not exist.

Although Mark's tenure at Crossmen ended sooner than many would have liked, during the four years he served as director, the Corps enjoyed financial stability and steady growth of its membership base. Mark led the Corps back into the night shows during the 2008 season for the first time since 2004. He was awarded DCI Director of the Year in 2008 for his success leading the re-location and transition of the Crossmen out of YEA and into the independent organization it is today.