

BLUE DEVILS

“DEVIL’S PRIDE”

Booster Club

January 2008

Dear Booster Members:

The January 2008 Booster meeting is in the past with few changes. However, the first Full Camp was exciting...seeing many young people in attendance. We were happy to see the returnees and those who were involved for the tryouts for the first time. Thanks to Booster members who helped in Devil’s Food.

The first fundraiser for this year was the Supercross, held on January 26 at AT&T Park. It was the beginning of what we hope to be an exciting, fun-filled, and productive year for the Booster Club. The Giants’ baseball schedule should be available in the near future. Please participate in some of these activities if at all possible.

Thanks to new members of the Booster Club and to those who continue to renew your membership yearly. Your interest makes a difference in what we are able to do. There is nothing better than a team with positive attitudes and a willingness to work together to make things happen. Thank you for caring!

The next Booster meeting shall be Tuesday, February 5 at I-HOP in Martinez. Please attend and give your input.

Mary L. Cloyd, President
Blue Devils “A” Corps Booster Club

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FIRST CAMP – JANUARY 2008

There were quite a number of “call-backs” attending the January camp in addition to our vets. It was estimated that we had at least 165 people in attendance. We know there were approximately 106 horns and the rest in the drum line and front ensemble. It was mentioned that there were 35 people trying out for 3 trumpet spots; there were 16 tubas vying for 12 spots; 6 people auditioning for 2 drum major spots (with 150 members this year, it was determined that we would have 3 drum majors rather than 2).

The talent level was unbelievable so everyone knew the competition for any vacant spots was going to be difficult. We kept thinking of how a few would be so happy and the others so disappointed. However, as in the past, when we talked to some of the kids not accepted, they said the experience, time and even the cost were worth it as they received some excellent instruction. Those who would not have been “rook outs” said they now know what they need to work on, will try to march with another corps for the year, and will be back at Blue Devil auditions next year. We were so pleased with the caliber of kids we had the opportunity to meet and wish we could have kept them all. We were also pleased with the number of parents who accompanied their sons and daughters to check out the Blue Devils and to lend support to their children.

With the talent level so fantastic, listening to 106 horns playing “I Will Wait For You” brought out those famous “Jerry Seawright Ducky Bumps” to just about everyone in the room. What a sound – and for the first camp! When the drum line came in, everything just sort of went together beautifully. This year we most likely will be having 9 snares, 5 quads (back to our “Q5”) 5 bass and we are not sure of the exact number in the front ensemble at this time.

Many thanks to the Booster Club members who came out to help with Devil’s Food chores. As is our tradition, the Saturday breakfast was sponsored by your Booster Club. The new kids were a bit surprised at the variety of food provided and the fact they could take as much as they felt they could eat. Quite a variety of items were made available for the sack lunches both days. We are proud of the fact that the Blue Devils are known for making sure

Corps members are well fed at camps and on tour. Since Bill Seeley, Terry Maurer and Toby Bush are still working on the refrigeration unit, we were grateful to Blue Devil Café for letting us use part of their refrigerators during the weekend.

Can't say thank you enough to the people who showed up not only to help with Devil's Food but to help transport kids from the BD Hall to the rehearsal site, back to the hall, back to rehearsal and to and from the BART station all weekend. With so many kids needing rides, these wonderful people were certainly a welcomed sight. If you are in the area at our next camp (February 15-17) and have some spare time, transportation after breakfast to the rehearsal site (usually across or at DVC), back to the BD Hall for dinner and then back to the rehearsal site afterwards would be most helpful. We don't always know how many (if any) kids need rides, but there is often someone in need. If nothing else, come join us for breakfast or dinner. On Sundays we usually have some kids needing rides to BART before practice is over or immediately after practice. Any help would be most appreciated. You can pull up the camp schedule on the web site or call the hall for times and places. *If you are able to provide some transportation or possibly house any members, please call the Member Housing Coordinator Kris Wills at (925) 586-7270.*

We're not too sure about anything regarding the 2008 show as yet. We do know the Corps was read a poem entitled "Constantly Risking Absurdity" by Lawrence Ferlinghetti. We aren't sure just exactly what the connection is, but we're sure we will find out in due time. If you are interested in reading the poem, it can be pulled up on Google.com. Hopefully we will get some insight at the next Booster meeting in February.

TICKETS – WE'VE GOT TICKETS

The Blue Devils have the best \$50 Semi-Finals tickets available and \$75 tickets for Finals. Also available are the \$25 seats. Fantastic 5 tickets are available exclusively for Blue Devil donors. If you are a donor or are interested in donating, please contact Gail Schultz or Debbie Odello at the Blue Devil Hall. Additional information is available on the BD web site.

POSSIBLE BRUNCH AFTER FINALS

Nothing is absolute at this time, but we will be working on our "After Finals Brunch" to be held the morning after Finals in Indiana. Finances allowing, your Booster Club has sponsored this brunch as a thank you for the marching members and touring staff as a way of saying "Thank You" for their hard work throughout the year. Circumstances have prevented our having the brunch for the past couple of years, so we are hopeful we can bring it back in 2008. If and when we know for sure, we will let everyone know the details (location, time, price, etc). The brunch is open to families, friends and fans and is usually a time that is happily shared by all.

CAVALIERS GET NEW DIRECTOR

After 17 years as the director of the Cavaliers, Jeff Fiedler announced his retirement prior to the 2008 season. Not only has Jeff served as Director, he has been with the Cavaliers for 35 consecutive years. Jeff joined the Cavaliers cadet corps in 1973, was a member in the baritone section in 1975 and served as drum major for the 1979 and 1980 seasons (serving on the instructional staff of the winter guard in 1979 while a marching member). In 1981 Jeff became a member of the visual staff and named Staff Coordinator in 1982 and Director in 1990. Jeff was named to the DCI Hall of Fame in 2005. Taking the reigns as Director will be Bruno Zuccala, who joined the Cavaliers' instructional staff in 1985 and has served as the corps' Assistant Director, Guard Caption Head and Staff Coordinator. As we always do with our own Age-Outs, we wish Jeff the best of everything in his new "Life After Drum Corps."

SUPER BOWL PARTEE!!

Sorry for the extremely short notice to our local members! We do have a potluck get-together planned for Sunday, February 3, at the home of Jim Serena. If you are able to attend, please give Jim a call at (925) 689-2641 for directions and to let him know what sort of sharing dish you would like to bring.

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSALS TO THE 2008 RULES CONGRESS:

Eligible corps member must operate the soundboard (T. Kviz): No – Not sent for vote

Percussion / Brass / Visual – All no vote

Amplification limited to front ensemble percussion (T. Kviz): No – Not sent for vote

Percussion / Brass / Visual – All no vote

Amplification equipment of any kind may not be used (T. Kviz): No – Not sent for vote

Percussion / Brass / Visual – No vote

Change age requirement to allow for 22-year olds (G. Hopkins): No – Not sent for vote

Percussion split / Brass – no / Visual – yes

Adding a minute to the allowed time of performance (G. Hopkins): No – Not sent for vote

Percussion – No / Brass – Yes / Visual – No

Double GE adjudication at World Championships (R. Hardin): Passed – effective 2008

Percussion / Brass / Visual – All yes vote

Allow use of water on the field (G. Hopkins): Passed – 2009 implementation

Caucus: Passed 17-4 Percussion – yes/ Visual – yes / Brass – no Board of Directors: Passed 16-2

Prohibits use of water in the front ensemble

Amplification of brass instruments (G. Hopkins): Passed – 2009 implementation

Caucus: Passed 16-5 Board of Directors: Passed 11-7

Modified to allow only for soloists or small ensembles up to 12 members

Use of electronic instruments (G. Hopkins): Passed – 2009 implementation

Caucus: Passed 20-0-1 Board of Directors: Passed 11-7

Percussion – yes / Brass – yes / Visual – yes

We do not have a breakdown on how the various corps voted on these issues. Quite a discussion on the Blue Devil Forum, both pro and con – makes for some interesting reading.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers for the 2008 year was held at the January Booster Club meeting. We would like to welcome Pat Worley who will be serving as our new Treasurer. Pat is no newcomer to the Blue Devils as her grandson, James, has been active with the “B” Corps in the trumpet section for several years. The remainder of the slate is shown below.

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

I-HOP Restaurant in Martinez, CA

MEMBERSHIP: If you haven't done so as yet, please don't forget to send in your 2008 Membership Dues (\$20/family) to our Membership Chairman, Katie Wills. You are very important to us and we appreciate your continued support. (Remember, the Booster Club and Parents Association are two separate entities. Joining one does not constitute membership in the other.)

2008 Booster Club Officers

President – Mary Cloyd

Vice President – Yvonne Moss

Secretary – Sonja Williams

Treasurer – Pat Worley

Membership – Katie Wills

Sunshine – Norma Merrill/Penny Ross

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