

BLUE DEVILS

“Devil’s Pride”

Booster Club Newsletter

September 2009

Dear Booster Members:

The 2009 Drum Corps year was indeed an honor to the Blue Devils Organization, with both the “A” Corps and the “B” Corps being DCI Champions. It was amazing! It all happened because of the fantastic programs and the wonderful staff members, etc. daring to challenge the Corps members to do their best.

Thank you Booster members for the many ways in which you supported the Corps during the year: camps, activities in between, and on tour. Your deeds did not go unnoticed.

Many members attended the Finals Brunch in Indianapolis. The attendance was the best ever. Thanks to Sonja Williams, on behalf of the Booster Club, for working with the Adam’s Mark Hotel’s personnel to make this event a success.

There are those of you who continue to renew your membership in the Booster Club year after year, make donations, and volunteer your time whenever and wherever possible. Your actions imply that you understand and care about the needs of the young people involved in the Corps. Thank you for caring.

The 49ers football home games ... one of the Booster Club’s major fundraisers ... have begun. Many volunteers are necessary to meet the needs of each game. If you can help, please call (925) 846-0802 for further information. We NEED you!

We hope to see some of you at the “A” Corps banquet in November.

Again, thank you for making positive differences in the lives of our young people.

Sincerely,

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

YEP, WE'RE STILL FLOATING ON CLOUD #13

Love the new math? $2009 + 1930 = 13$

A few things left over since we ran out of space in last month's newsletter:

Our heartiest congratulations to Stephanie Lee from our neighbor the Santa Clara Vanguard. Not only was Stephanie awarded the Jim Jones Leadership Award as the World Class Outstanding Drum Major (the first female drum major in the 42-year history of the corps), she was also awarded the Friends of DCI Scholarship to aid in the return to the classroom after the DCI tour. Also awarded scholarships were Benjamin Owens (Citations) and Mark Ziegler (Glassmen).

Other awards: Open Class Jim Jones award: Kelly Koch (Legends). George Zinglai Scholarship for World Color Guard Captains: Katie Hopkins (Holy Name Cadets) and Lance Powell (Bluecoats). Jim Ott Scholarship for the member continuing education in the music field and superior leadership qualities: Rebecca Wiggins (Bluecoats). Richardson's Educational Scholarships: Taylor Clements (Phantom Regiment) and Brian Beck (Oregon Crusaders). And, last but certainly not least, our own Nicholas Arce was awarded the Multi-Tenor Scholarship. This award is given to the top-scoring multi-tenor drummer at the World Championship Individual & Ensemble competition.

Congratulations to all these talented young people.

LUCAS OIL STADIUM

The most common issues expressed after the 2009 championships included the quality of the sound in the stadium, the configuration of seating locations and the indoor placement of the marketplace. We are happy to report it appears DCI has been listening to the fans about these and other issues and will be conducting meetings to see what can be done to alleviate the problems. At the first level, the audience can be blown away by the corps, but at the upper levels – such is not the case as we experienced first hand. We also found the marketplace and the placement of the souvenir booths to be not too user friendly. There is quite a good article on the DCI web site. We wish them good luck in resolving the issues as the Championships are slated to be in Indianapolis for several years to come and we certainly don't want to see attendance dropping because of these issues. Drum corps gets expensive, and no one likes to spend that kind of money and not get the quality sound, etc. that could be possible.

2009 AWARDS BANQUET HONORING THE 13-TIME WORLD CHAMPIONS

The Awards Banquet will be at the Walnut Creek Marriott Hotel on Saturday, November 28. In working with the hotel, we will be able to keep the cost the same as it was last year: \$40/person. Paid reservations are requested by Friday, November 20 as we are required to give the hotel a guaranteed number a few days prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. If you have any questions, please check with Sonja Williams at williamssonjab@hotmail.com (Be sure to indicate Blue Devils in the subject line so the message is not automatically deleted), 925/683-1598 (cell) 925/934-9500 (work) or P. O. Box 4184 – Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

As this is a championship year, we are expecting a great turn-out for the dinner and hope to see family members, friends and fans alike. Our goal is to have the championship rings, yearbooks and DVD's available at the dinner. We are very happy to report that once again your Booster Club was able to donate \$3,000 towards the publication of the yearbook for the marching members and \$12,000 to help subsidize the cost of the rings for the marching members.

Donating this amount of money has greatly reduced the size of our checkbook! How do we anticipate having enough money available to finance all the things we do for the Corps members throughout the coming year? Our dedicated group will be working those baseball and football games and any other events that come our way. Of course, having additional workers is always a plus – the more helpers, the more income generated.

We have mentioned before that only a small group of our Booster Club members have been doing these fund raisers and we are deeply thankful to them. It would really be great to have more local members/friends pitch in. Please, if you have a Saturday or Sunday free once in a while, give Mary Cloyd a call to volunteer a day or so: (925) 846-0802. Throughout the years, some of our members have volunteered for almost every event. Mary may have missed working at one or two games (and that two is doubtful) plus every other activity involving the Booster Club. Talk about dedication to the cause.

Since we don't actually have a Corps at this point in time, there isn't much to report regarding the "A"Corps' activities. However, we learned a combination of the Niner Noise and the BDEntertainment drummers recently took part at the annual Symphony Concert held at the Todos Santos Park in Concord. While we were not able to be at the performance, everyone we have heard from has indicated this group was, without question, the absolute hit of the day. Even the announcer made the comment, "Now we will get back to the more boring part of the program." Since the majority of BDE's performances are corporate-sponsored gigs and we are not able to watch them perform, we were especially sorry we weren't able to be there. The Niner Noise drummers perform at each of the home games of the 49ers (hence "Niner Noise") and there is always a large gathering of people obviously enjoying what they see and hear. Watching the kids perform, it is very obvious they are having a ball as well. Some people have indicated when they hear the drums start, they make a point of locating the group so they can watch. As always, the drummers were quite a hit at the season opener game held on September 20

BLUE DEVILS 2010 AUDITIONS

The "A" Corps auditions for the coming year will be held during the various System Blue clinics as follows:

- Saturday, 11-14: So. Brass Clinic – Samford University – Birmingham, AL
- Saturday, 11-21: Texas Brass Clinic – Richland HS – North Richland Hills, TX
- Saturday, 11-21: Midwest Brass Clinic – Location TBD
- Friday, 11-27 – Sunday, 11-19: Northern Calif. Clinic and Main Guard Audition
Diablo Valley College & College Park HS – Pleasant Hill, CA
- Saturday, 11-28 & Sunday, 11-29: Northern Calif. Clinic and Main Brass Audition
College Park HS – Pleasant Hill, CA
- Saturday, 12-5 & Sunday, 12-6: Northern Calif. Clinic and Main Percussion & Front Ensemble Audition - College Park HS – Pleasant Hill, CA
- Saturday, 12-12 & Sunday, 12-13: Southern Calif. Clinic – All Sections
Damien High School – La Verne, CA

If need be, audition tapes may be sent to the various caption heads. Additional information regarding the audition sites and instructions for submitting tapes are available on the Blue Devil site. The estimated fee for the coming year is between \$1,500 and \$2,200; \$100 being the annual registration fee which covers all family members participating in any of the Blue Devil units.

Applications are now being accepted for the Open and "A" Winter Guards. Auditions and rehearsals for both groups will be starting in October. The Open Guard is for high school and college age. Plans are now being made for this group to participate in the Winter Guard International (WGI) competition in April 2010. The "A" Guard ranges from 8 years old through 8th grade. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Annette Odello: 925/689-2918 Ext 3116 (vm), 925/383-0424 (cell) or by calling the rehearsal hotline at 925/689-2918 Ext 3113.

At this point in time, we have absolutely no news to report regarding the plans for the 2010 show. We are always asking about the show, music, anticipated changes in the uniforms, instruments and staff (a couple of changes here that we know of).

Dave Gibbs reported to the Booster Club recently that the issue regarding elimination of the electronic Bingo machines in the state of California by all non-profit organizations is still with us. However, it appears that the issue is at a stalemate at the present time and has been pushed to next August. If this is put into place, it would be a terrible financial blow for all non-profit groups. We certainly appreciate all the hard work that Dave has been doing in keeping up on this issue and doing everything possible to get this horrible bill defeated. Keep sending positive thoughts in the California direction!

OUR NEXT BOOSTER CLUB MEETING:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009
I-HOP RESTAURANT
Martinez, CA – 7:00 p.m.

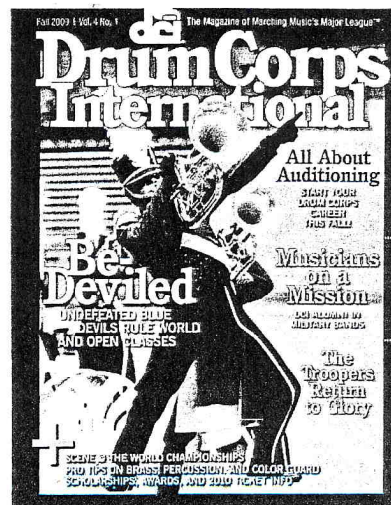
Possible discussion will be held regarding revision of our current By-Laws. Your input is important, so please attend if at all possible

2009 Officers

President	Mary Cloyd
Vice President	Yvonne Moss
Secretary	Sonja Williams
Treasurer	Pat Worley
Membership	Katie Wills
Sunshine	Penny Ross/Norma Merrill

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Cover of the latest edition of the DCI magazine
(Pretty Neat)