

BLUE DEVILS

“DEVIL’S PRIDE”

Booster Club Newsletter

January 2010

FIRST 2010 CAMP – JANUARY

Did we ever luck out weather wise. Remembering how wet we got last year, the predictions of rain – no rain – rain had us a bit on the scared side. However, most of the weekend was extremely cold and the kids were out on the field for about 20 minutes with a little drizzle, but we did not have to experience another camp with everyone being totally soaked.

We watched the horn line during some of the group auditions and, again, were amazed at the talent. We were trying to convince the instructors we needed the 14 tubas trying out for the 12 positions since we are after Championship #14. We were unable to actually get a count on the number of people auditioning for the horn line, but the room was filled. For the new year we are scheduled to have 76 members in the horn line: 24 trumpets, 16 mellophones, 24 euphoniums, and 12 tubas. Right now we are not sure if we will have any alternates for any of the sections.

As we entered the multi-use room, we were greeted with the sight of all brand new, shiny King horns. We weren’t sure if it was the horns or the talent of the people using them, but when Wayne had the group play on Saturday evening, we were amazed at the sound we were hearing. Wayne Downey explained that the music was a very difficult piece and while he really didn’t expect the group would be able to accomplish a great deal for the first camp, he was pleasantly surprised at the fact they did so well. They sounded extremely good for the very first time playing together.

We were able to listen to the drum line at various times. Again, Scott Johnson and his group will have another talented group to work with. 31 percussion members: 9 snares, 4 tenors, 5 bass, and 13 pit.

After we add the 40 guard members and 3 drum majors, we will have our 150 members for the 2010 season.

The next camp is scheduled for February 12-14, most likely in Pleasant Hill, but check the BD site for details. The Devil’s Food crew always welcomes any additional help in providing meals during camps. We provide breakfast and dinner on Saturdays and breakfast on Sunday. The kids pack a sack lunch both days.

If you are local, we would certainly appreciate any help in housing or providing transportation for some of these kids for the camp weekends. We noticed several getting out of taxis coming to breakfast or rehearsals, and we know this is an extra expense many cannot afford. We appreciated the parents and Booster Club members who were at the camp offering rides from the BD Hall after breakfast to the rehearsal site. Rehearsals on Friday and Saturday go to 11:00 p.m. and several needed rides to the Holiday Inn where a lot of kids stay. Sundays always have kids who need early rides to the train or immediately after rehearsals. If you might be able to house one or two kids for the weekend(s), please get in touch with the Housing Coordinator Rachel Silva at (925) 580-7052 (zsilvaware@aol.com).

DCI Show Schedule for 2010

If you are interested in seeing who will be competing at the various shows in 2010, go to the DCI site and you can pull up any shows of interest to find out which corps will be in competition. Also available is the Blue Devil calendar for the competition season on the Blue Devil site. This calendar gives the rehearsal schedule and show information. Remember, however, to never put anything down in ink as changes are a normal part of the drum corps activity!

Blue Devil Winter Guard performances

Our BD color guards have been very busy getting prepared for their new competition season. If you get the chance, try to get to a show or two. Guard competitions are very interesting and certainly different than the field shows. Here are some of the upcoming color guard circuit shows; future shows will be listed in later newsletters. With the exception of the regional shows, performances are held in the evenings.

February 6 - Amador Valley High in Pleasanton
February 13 - Fresno Regional (all-day show) in Fresno
February 20 - Leigh High in San Jose

2010 Booster Club Officers

Sonja Williams	President
Yvonne Moss	Vice President
Tom Wills	Secretary
Kaffy Cecil	Treasurer
Katie Wills	Membership
Norma Merrill	Sunshine
Karen Skinner	Member at Large

Our former President and Treasurer have decided it was time to take a little break and to spend some time as regular members of the Booster Club. Thank you does not even come close to our appreciation for all Mary Cloyd has done for the Booster Club and the organization as a whole. Mary has served as President of the Booster Club for several years and her dedication to the Blue Devils has been instrumental in our fund raising success at the baseball and football games. We can't think of even one Booster Club event when Mary wasn't there giving her all. Many thanks also go to Pat Worley who did a great job serving as Treasurer for the past couple of years. The members of the Booster Club are very appreciative of the time and effort given by Mary and Pat.

Taking over the fund raising responsibility is Yvonne Moss. If you are local, you may be getting a call from Yvonne when we get started with the ball games again. As we have mentioned before, these events are our major source of income - and this income is spent on a multitude of items for the members of the "A" Corps and upon occasion helping out when the Association needs financial assistance with an item. The more people we have working these events, the more money we receive. We need and appreciate your help.

Speaking of the Association

We are no longer known as the Blue Devils Parents Association. The new official name of the organization is now **BD Performing Arts**. Since the Blue Devils are more than just a drum and bugle corps, it was felt the new name was more of what we actually are. To name a few of our endeavors, the Blue Devils currently are connected with the 3 drum corps, 2 color guards, the Diablo Wind Symphony, BD Entertainment, Niner

Noise drummers at the 49er games, drummers at the Warriors games, and System Blue. Yes, we are much more than just a drum corps.

News from the Las Vegas Marching Arts

Our friend Randy Warner reports LVMA was instrumental in arranging for the Velvet Knights Drum and Bugle Corps of Pasadena, CA to perform in Las Vegas on February 22 for Former President Bill Clinton. President Clinton will be addressing the national convention of the Green Dot Corporation. VK has always been a great crowd pleaser and we, too, are looking forward to watching them perform.

Topics of HIGH interest

There were eight proposed rule changes presented to the Rules Congress held on January 22-23 in Indianapolis. *Great reporting done by Michael Boo regarding the rules on the DCI web site (dci.org).* A copy of Michael's article giving the final vote is attached. To learn more about what the original proposals consisted of, please check out dci.org – Parts I, II and III. The one proposal that had considerable interest was the one expanding the age eligibility to January 1 rather than the present June 1, thereby giving an extra 5 months before aging out. There were lots of thoughts both pro and con on this particular proposal, but in the end the proposal was voted down and the age limit will remain the same.

Welcome Teal Sound

DCI has announced that at the recent annual meeting Teal Sound was granted access to World Class membership. Corps Director Randy Blackburn said, "... We know that we have a lot of work to do to continue to prove to the DCI voting membership that we are worthy of classification as a World Class organization." Teal Board President Lipscomb added, "This is a pivotal day for the whole organization and the culmination of a three-year plan by the new management team to get the corps access to the World Class schedule. ... Now the really hard work begins!"

Membership

You most likely have received a letter from our Membership Chairman Katie Wills regarding membership for the 2010 year. Our membership dues have remained at \$20 per family and your continued support is very vital to our success. The Booster Club is dedicated to the welfare of the "A" Corps members and we try to assist them whenever possible. We have taken great pride in being able to provide for the members in so many different ways, but it takes your continued support. If your child has "aged-out," please don't feel you are no longer a very important part of the group. We have members who have been active since the beginning of the Booster Club in the 1970s and many members whose children have long ago aged out.

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010

I-HOP Restaurant

Martinez, CA

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

We hope to have BD Board Member Brian Ripley as a speaker to give some insight on the function and actions of the Board. Should be an interesting evening - Hope you will be able to join us.

2010 Officers

President	Sonja Williams
Vice President	Yvonne Moss
Secretary	Tom Wills
Treasurer	Kaffy Cecil

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Final 2010 rules proposal voting results

By Michael Boo | boomike@dc.org
Saturday, January 23, 2010 - 7:45 PM

Saturday evening, the voting membership of Drum Corps International gathered to pass final judgment on each of the 2010 rules proposals that were forwarded from the earlier instructors caucus session.

[Read more about the results of the instructors caucus.](#)

The voting membership agreed the proposal to allow a sound engineer in the press box is a procedural change and did not need to be voted upon. Placement of the additional sound engineer is the responsibility of the show coordinator and will be dependent on the logistical configurations of each stadium.

The proposal to expand age eligibility was voted down, 4 in favor (Blue Devils, Cadets, Carolina Crown, Cascades) and 18 against. Discussion centered on the mission of Drum Corps International as a youth activity and how that might be altered by allowing anyone whose 22nd birthday is within the calendar year.

[Watch a video recapping discussion on the age extension proposal.](#)

Tony DiCarlo's proposal to formalize what corps are presently doing during the set-up process immediately prior to the performance was passed by the voting membership.

The George Hopkins "pre-show" proposal received much discussion. Concern was expressed that if most corps decided to perform a pre-show, all corps would feel pressured to do the same. A number of variables were thrown out for additional discussion prior to the vote. The final proposal voted on was as written, with the exception that the proposed 18 minutes between corps was modified to 17 minutes. In short, the corps will be able to utilize that pre-show time however they may wish. Additionally, corps that do not wish to utilize the allotted pre-show time may choose to stay off the field until they are ready to begin their performance. The proposal passed, 20 for and 2 against (Boston Crusaders, Madison Scouts).

The voting membership passed a new change to the Field Visual adjudication sheet. The sub-captions on the sheet will now be listed as "Vocabulary" and "Achievement." The voting membership passed this change with 20 voting for and 2 against (Bluecoats, Pacific Crest).

There were two other procedural changes that were approved by the voting membership after all the rules were voted upon. Post-show critiques, when corps staff members used to discuss their productions with the judging community on a periodic basis, have been replaced by more informal pre-show discussion opportunities with the judges.

Another change is that corps are now encouraged to send in synopses of their productions prior to the season. They will be shared with adjudicators so they can research the show concepts and listen to source music, allowing them to become familiar with the shows prior to the competitive season.