

BLUE DEVILS BOOSTER CLUB

“Devil’s Pride”

2019 - #10 – November

2019 AWARDS BANQUET -The awards banquet was held at the Walnut Creek Marriott Hotel on November 30. In spite of our “liquid sunshine,” we had a great attendance of members, family and friends well passing the 200 count. Many kudos to Teresa Saunders and Lainey Braatz for their work in putting the event together. In our estimation, the 2019 banquet had to be one of the best yet. Everyone seemed to be having a very enjoyable time talking to each other, greeting and meeting new and old friends. After spending a year seeing the Corps members in shorts, sweats, etc, it’s fun to see them all dressed up. The guys so handsome and the ladies so beautiful. We started the evening with registration, the age-outs were given a letter and pin from our Alumni Association and a bag containing a great little cookbook Yvonne Moss made up that included recipes from Devil’s Food – things to eat after Devil’s Food. Of course, Cheesy Bagels was there! As has been the tradition of the Booster Club, our ladies each received a white rose bouquet and the guys a white carnation boutonniere. Handing out the roses and pinning on the boutonnieres at the banquet is almost as emotional as pinning on the age-out flowers at Finals. It was fun watching when the kids were so excited to see “Mamma Shaw” doing the flower duty. BIG hugs and kisses! We loved the individual lighted Ghost Lights as the center table decoration. Cleverly done. There was an earlier reception for our donors and guests.

BD 360 clips were shown throughout the dinner. Afterwards members gave special thanks to the many groups who were involved throughout the year – Drivers, Devil’s Food, instructors, volunteers, PB&J (Yvonne & Boosters), uniform committee, housing families and, of course, your Booster Club. If I have left some areas out, I apologize! Members introduced the instructors of each section, who in turn announced the various awards winners. Hall of Fame members received a framed certificate. Our age-out members received the traditional plaque with the war eagle, buttons and chain, and with Blue Devils, their name and year(s) with the “A” Corps on the faceplate (tradition from the late 1970s).

A Special Merit Award was given to our Field Assistant, Heryann Reyes Ayala for her outstanding dedication and work ethics throughout the year. Well deserved award!

The Director’s Award was given to Ivan Cordova (also Brass Performer of the year) who unfortunately was not able to attend the event. The Blue Devil Member of the Year award was given to Brandon Olander (also Most Valuable Percussion along with Michael Tran). It was no surprise Ivan and Brandon received their awards. Both have been amazing members of the Blue Devils who have shown total dedication to the activity and to the Blue Devils. These two gentlemen were role models supreme and personally highly respected by yours truly.

We need to say Thank You to a few people helping with the banquet:

-First and foremost are Teresa and Lainey and their crew. Putting on the banquet (especially during a championship year) can get hard just keeping track of things and they did an outstanding job. All this at the same time working on the 2020 auditions the same weekend.

-The 54 age-out plaques were assembled by Boosters Dave and Sandy Gist, Kaffy Cecil and Charlotte Hollenbeck. Quite a chore for 4 people. Special thanks to Dave for his invaluable help in doing the prep work.

-The flower assembly is always an interesting time, and we appreciate the help of Kaffy Cecil, Charlotte Hollenbeck, Yvonne Moss, Amy Shaw and Jeannie Rice (90 boutonnieres, 30 rose bouquets and podium flowers). We appreciated the Marriott keeping the flowers refrigerated for the banquet the next day for both the "A" Corps banquet and the "B" Corps ceremony held on Sunday.

MORE THINGS TO REPORT

WAY TO GO ANNETTE- One of the local television stations award a "Jefferson Award" to people who have contributed outstandingly to the community and have made a significant difference in the lives of the people they encounter – "Jefferson Awards recipients are ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or rewards." We are so proud to report that our own Annette Odello was recently awarded this prestigious award for her work with the Blue Devils Special Needs Color Guard. Segments of the award were shown several times on the local television station.

Annette began her career with the Blue Devils as a member of the majorette corps. Later on, she was the instructor of the group which was quite well known worldwide as they had won several world championships under her guidance. Even after the majorette corps was disbanded, Annette worked tirelessly with the Blue Devils in many capacities. In 2011 Annette and her cousin, Liz Lamach, started the Special Needs Guard with just a few members and which now has grown to well over 20. The guard consists of people between the ages of 12 and up and no earlier experience is required. The guard has performed at many guard shows and at various events in the area...and always have the audiences standing on their feet. We don't know who has the biggest smiles, the performers or the audience. According to Annette, "the sight of the Special Needs Color Guard lighting up and having the audience in the palm of their ever-moving hands is a real motivator for all the requisite hard work and one-on-one attention." Annette is also well known for her fostering and volunteer duties with the Tails of Grey animal rescue mission. Annette is really a wonderful example of what the Blue Devils is all about and we are extremely proud of her.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME MARVIN – We love it when former members return in a teaching/administrative position with the organization. We are so happy to report Marvin Reed will be coming on board as the Assistant Blue Devils “B” Corps Director. Marvin was an exceptional member of the “A” Corps serving as the drum major and was an outstanding role model. He possesses several degrees in sociology, educational leadership, drum major judge, 10 years of DCI experience, K-12 and higher educator and has worked with over 1,000 students.

NEW MEMBER TO SYSTEM BLUE STAFF – We welcome Rick Valenzuela to the System Blue staff as the Vice President of Education and Special Projects. Rick has over 30 years of experience in the pageantry field, has served as Executive Director of the Phantom Regiment and very active in the leadership of DCI in various capacities. One of Rick’s goals is to build new educational programs and experiences for the marching arts in every aspect of the activity. “The addition of Rick to the System Blue family is another step in building an incredible team of professionals to service the world of pageantry.” We are always amazed at how our System Blue has grown with all the large number of groups now using System Blue instruments, the huge number of people at the various clinics and the wonderful work done in so many areas. We look forward to seeing what is next for this group.

The Booster Club will be holding the December meeting/Christmas potluck at the home of Ronni Collmer and will continue our regular meeting time in January 2020. We sincerely hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and we wish you much love and happiness during the Christmas holidays.

Booster Club Officers

Sonja Williams – President/Membership
Yvonne Moss – Vice President
Charlotte Hollenbeck – Secretary
Kaffy Cecil – Treasurer
Maryanne Lynn, Sunshine

Blue Devils Hall

4065 Nelson Avenue
Concord, CA 94520
(925) 689-2918
(925) 689-0384 fax

