

BLUE DEVILS BOOSTER CLUB

“Devil’s Pride”

2020 – #1 January

First 2020 Camp – Friday-Sunday, January 24-26 - Los Medanos College in Pittsburg. This camp consisted of the Brass and Percussion sections. Of course, being drum corps, one of the first things that happened Saturday morning was to have the electricity to Devil’s Food go off....oh, oh – there were about 175 kids to feed!! Luckily, there were some hash browns and a large pot of oatmeal that made it in time. There were actually enough other items to get everyone through a hearty breakfast. Welcome to the Blue Devils. It wasn’t too long before a generator was brought in and we proceeded as though nothing ever happened. A big thank you to the people who came to help with the cooking and clean-up duties .. SO appreciated. We always worry about rain at this time of year, but the weather was on the cool side but was just fine.

We did not attend individual section rehearsals but did hear a couple of combined brass rehearsals. These included returning members and all the call-back people. The sound was pretty powerful. We do not know the titles of the music and we are never sure this is actually the music that will be in the 2020 performance. The drum line sounded great.

The January and February camps are always good and bad: Good because we get to say hello to returning members and meet all the new kids. Bad because there are so many call-backs that we had to say goodbye to. We get sort of attached even during the short time. We know there will be changes here and there up to the time the Corps leaves on tour and some may be returning. Our next camp will be February 28 through March 1 at Los Medanos College in Antioch. If you have some space: **Housing** –Nick Lucero – housing@bluedevils.org

Don’t forget the “B” and “C” Corps Crab Feed – Saturday, February 29. For tickets and details contact Debbie Odello (dodello@bluedevils.org). This event sells out each year; tickets will not be sold at the door. Again, this is the same night as the “A” Corps camp. If you aren’t going to the crab feed but may have some time on Saturday, Devil’s Food could probably use some help for dinner as some of the usual workers will be at the crab feed.

Membership – Thank you to everyone renewing their membership for 2020 and for the wonderful donations. Letters to new families will be sent soon telling them all about us. I am very hopeful we will get a very favorable response. Other than the “Property of Blue Devils” T-shirts and PB&J during all days, everything else basically depends on how we are financially. There are a few things we would love to do for the members this year in addition to the ones we have been able to do in the past. If you have not sent in your renewal and it is more convenient, PayPal is an option using my email address (williamssonjab@hotmail.com). We look forward to seeing those envelopes! If you happen to have an employer who might

consider a matching donation, that would be fantastic! **Please note:** For Booster Club donations, checks may be made out to Blue Devils but “Blue Devils Booster Club” needs to be designated as the recipient.

We definitely don't want to lose you but if you have decided not to renew your membership, please let me know so I can keep our records up to date.

Congratulations

Rosa Lee – Our own Blue Devils Board President, Rosa Lee Hardin, was recently elected to serve a one-year term on the DCI Board of Directors at the recent Rules Congress meeting held in Indy. Check out the article on the BD site.

Niner Noise – We understand our Niner Noise drum line was a hit everywhere they performed while in Florida with the 49er football team. We got to see a little bit on television and also on YouTube. The line performs at all the 49er home games and always has a large audience.

Drum Major Meeting in Indy – Over 60 drum majors met at the DCI DM Leadership Summit in Indy in January for three day sessions regarding leadership philosophies, situational leadership approaches and educational and interactive team-building activities. The drum majors had the chance to build a community with one another ahead of the upcoming season.

Rules Congress – Over 350 members of the drum corps activity in attendance (corps directors, instructors, designers, judge administration, SoundSport managers and corps board members)

- Proposal to allow the use of any instrument in performance (including windwinds) starting in 2021 failed as well as an amendment to allow the use of any instrument for up to eight solo/soli performances at a time
- Proposal changing color guard evaluation criteria passed unanimously (shift judging criteria on the adjudication sheets away from “exclusive skills” to a mix of “skills and big picture”
- Proposal to allow rhythmic effects such as delay and live looping created in real time passed unanimously
- Proposal requiring two separate 11-judge panels to work the Prelims and Semifinals events, drawing the Finals night panel from those 22 judges failed
- Proposal to increase interval time between corps to 18 minutes (now 17) failed
- Proposal recommending the repositioning of judges customarily located in the press box to vantage points closer to the field and audience was passed to a committee for further evaluation

There were several other items suggested; the above is what was reported on the DCI site.

Remembering Dave Gist

We are so sorry to report that one of our most active and vital Booster Club members, Dave Gist, passed away recently. Dave started with the Blue Devils in the late 1980s as one of our elite drivers; I was fortunate enough to have Dave as the driver of my bus. Sought out by other corps throughout his drum corps driving career, Dave also drove for the Santa Clara Vanguard, Phantom Regiment, Pacific Crest, Madison Scouts and several other corps. He was well respected by the members. Not only was he a great driver, he was an excellent cook. There were many times he would bake some cinnamon rolls and members of other corps would pass by Devils Food with their mouths watering – what an unbelievable smell! Dave had many artistic talents and was also a professional clown going by the name “Driver Dave.” Always a driver and lover of kids (especially those needing extra help), he spent several years driving buses for the local school district as well. Dave’s wife, Sandy, has worked in Devil’s Food for many years.

A beautiful memorial was held in Dave’s honor. At one point everyone donned a red clown nose and sang a song just for him. Dave had a love for the drum corps activity and a special love for the drum corps members. We will miss his sense of humor, his smile, his willingness to jump in when anything needed to be done and definitely his friendship. We thank him for his service to our country, the drum corps activity and to the Blue Devils. RIP my dear friend.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

I-HOP Restaurant – Martinez, CA

7:00 pm

Booster Club Officers

Sonja Williams – President/Membership

Yvonne Moss – Vice President

Charlotte Hollenbeck – Secretary

Kaffy Cecil – Treasurer

Maryanne Lynn - Sunshine

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