

BLUE DEVILS BOOSTER CLUB

“Devil’s Pride”

2020 – #2 February/March

With the way things are happening in our world these days, it got hard to report several things that we had in mind. This newsletter has changed daily. It’s hard to figure out what is happening and what has been (or will be) canceled. SO – we are combining February and March and hope we come up with something that is interesting.

Camps – Friday-Sunday, February 28-March 1- Los Medanos College in Pittsburg. This camp consisted of the Brass and Percussion sections only. We had approximately 80 members in attendance. Thankfully we had no problems with our new Devil’s Food – all went well and everyone was well fed. It was fun interacting with the members; we wish we could do this more. A big thank you to the people who came to help with the cooking and clean-up duties. You are so appreciated. We always worry about rain at this time of year, but the weather was on the cool side but was just fine. Working in Devil’s Food, we don’t get to hear a lot of the horns or drums or watch the drill. However, what we heard and saw was pretty exciting and we were looking forward to the April camp.

The in-town April camp scheduled for April 24-26 has been cancelled. Members of the Blue Devils will be doing a video-type camp and were asked to please keep up with their music and try to stay in shape during this time away from the Corps.

After several meetings with corps directors, DCI has issued a statement regarding what has been transpiring. Everyone is working extremely hard trying to work on plans for the future of our drum corps season for 2020. Of course, nothing can really be definite at this time. We send our appreciation to everyone involved. We cannot imagine the stress level. DCI will be issuing updates on their site periodically. For current updates, please check the DCI site - dci.org.

As of now, the Memorial Day camp this year is scheduled for May 22-26 at the Rodriguez High School (5000 Red Top Road – Fairfield, CA). The Corps will be housed at the school. Fingers crossed. At the present time it looks like several of our Devil’s Food crew have other commitments during the Memorial Day camp and we are could be very short handed. We will need help! If there is time you might be available to help cook, chop, dice, slice or wash dishes, please get in touch with Sandy, Teresa or Lainey for details and time(s) you might be able to help – sandygist@gmail.com - teresa@bluedevils.org - lainey@bluedevils.org.

“B” and “C” Corps Crab Feed – Saturday, February 29. This year’s dinner was at the Centre Concord instead of in Antioch. What a beautiful place to hold an event. As always, this event was very well attended with people associated with the Blue Devils from way back when to the present. The food was tasty and plentiful. Members of both corps were the servers, each taking care of a table of ten. We could not believe the number of items for the silent auction – WOW. Lots of items to choose from. The items for the raffle took up several tables. This year there was also a live auction of some fantastic items and a time for people to agree to donations in various amounts. After all that, it was time for the band and lots of people dancing. Yep, a good time was had by all. Kudos to everyone involved in putting on the dinner!! Well done.

BD Entertainment and BTS – Members of BD Entertainment joined K-pop superstars BTS (a seven-member group from South Korea) in their newest music video “ON” from their new album which has generated over 90 million views to date. The group, consisting of BTS, a large number of talented dancers and 12 of our BDE members, traveled to New York and shut down the Grand Central Terminal to do a reprise which was shown on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. “The two performances with BTS were historic moments for BDE and BDPA as a whole. The ensemble was comprised of Blue Devils performers playing on System Blue instruments with one of the hottest bands in the world right now.” This is only one of the many creations from BDE over the past decade. What we think is fantastic is that BTS contacted BDE as they felt what BDE and the BDPA were striving for was very much in line with their thinking. There was a very long article on why they wanted our group that was highly complementary to our organization. Catch the performances on YouTube.

BD International -We are sorry to report the fantastic scheduled BD International tour has been cancelled due to the current COVID-19 situation. The welfare of our members has been and always will be our primary concern. Hopefully it will be possible to have this tour rescheduled.

System Blue in Africa – Several BDPA educators were recently in Sandton City, Johannesburg, South Africa conducting workshops with Soweto Field Band Tutors and members. We have had several times BD has gone to various countries conducting workshops and working with local groups to help promote music education in their areas. So proud!!

Want to connect to other drum corps families? – We found out about this group last year and felt it is one way for drum corps parents and guardians to connect with other people from all the different corps. It’s called, “Drum Corps Mamas.”

Parents of drum corps members have found a new place to gather and support each other on Facebook. Founded in 2019, this private Facebook group is open to all parents and guardians of current marching members of DCI and DCA corps. Despite the name, Dads are definitely welcome and once you’re in, you’re in. The group quickly grew to 800 members from every active corps from all over the world. The motto, “Because No One Else Gets It” really says it all. You have to be in the activity to really understand it. We love the saying, “If you are not into

drum corps, no explanation is possible. If you are into drum corps, no explanation is necessary.” Since not all corps have parent groups but all corps members are involved in the same activity and have similar issues regardless of what corps they are in, the parents have a place to connect with each other, often providing emotional and sometimes physical support, helping kids and others as they navigate through their time in corps. Examples: Bringing supplies, baked goods, cold medicines and sometimes just a hug when kids are feeling far from home and a time or place to talk. The group is limited to parents of active marching members because the founder did not want the group to become another forum for people not currently involved in the activity to gather to complain – even staff members do not have readily access. It has a strict policy to ensure it remains a supportive forum, such as no griping and never any discussions of scores – just positive support, fun and informative items. Many members wear pink wristbands and t-shirts with the group’s logo at the drum corps events so they can recognize other members. Over 70 met up during finals weekend in Indianapolis at the stadium to meet people they had been talking to on line or in Facebook. There was a great picture on Facebook earlier!

From what I have heard, if you have a child currently in any corps, this group would be a lot of fun to participate in. If you are interested, please contact the founder, Jennifer Elgin, on the Facebook site for details.

PLEASE NOTE: This group is not part of the Blue Devils organization; it is totally separate and there is no connection. We just thought it would be great to let you know this exists. Sadly, yours truly does not qualify as my child aged out way before this group was established.

Personal note – Thank you to those who have renewed their memberships and to all our new friends. Your support is very appreciated. I have thoroughly enjoyed the bit of time I been able to interact with the kids. I think the Blue Devils have been blessed with another fabulous group of young people. They are not only talented, but courteous, respectful and appreciative (guess that’s why we all keep sticking around year after year). There is a lot we would like to be able to do for our BD members this year. I wish I could say those return envelopes were pouring in daily, but, it’s early and we are patient! Our year is starting out so very confusing and frustrating not knowing exactly what to expect; however, we are trying to keep positive that all will work out and all the corps will be able to complete their shows and drum corps will be able to get back on schedule. Daily prayers for our drum corps family and our world.

In view of everything, our usual Booster Club meeting at the I-HOP Restaurant in Martinez, CA in April will not be cancelled but we are going to try either a conference call or an electronic meeting (that should be interesting).

Wishes for good health and safety from your Booster Club officers:

Kaffy Cecil – Yvonne Moss – Charlotte Hollenbeck – Maryanne Lynn – Sonja Williams