

# “BLUE DEVILS BOOSTER CLUB

## “Devil’s Pride”

2020 – #4 – May

**SYSTEM BLUE ANNOUNCEMENT** - The Blue Devils Performing Arts (BDPA) recently announced the Blue Devils, RCC Indoor Percussion and all other BDPA programs will be performing exclusively on marching instruments manufactured and distributed by Conn-Selmer. BD CEO Shaun Gallant stated, “We are thrilled to be joining forces to help support the advancement of excellence in performing arts through educational events and new product development under the Conn-Selmer portfolio of brands.” Conn-Selmer is the largest manufacturer of band and orchestral instruments and accessories in the U.S. Brands included are King, Ludwig, Musser and Bach marching instruments.

There was also an announcement from Azulo. The company was formed to provide world-class musical instruments to the world. However, due to the current crisis and economic downturn, Azulo decided to cease the manufacture of instruments and will be closing their doors. “BD Performing Arts provided Azulo with a licensing agreement to use System Blue’s trademark and access to their patents to these innovative products. Even though Azulo is ceasing operations, BDPA will continue developing premium products through its existing and extensive licensing agreements with partners for products, services and education.” Azulo thanked BDPA for their partnership over the past five years. They also stated they are dedicated and committed to providing a positive solution for warranties and service for all their current products.

**PRIVATE LESSONS OFFERED** – Via Zoom – Check out the BD site. Instructors listed are: Chip Crotts (Brass) Brian Dinkel (Mallet percussion) Scott Johnson (Battery Percussion) and John Meehan (Wind arranging)

**ZOOM MEETINGS** – Many corps are keeping in touch with their members via the Internet. Not the same as an actual camp, but it keeps the members and staff in touch. Our Blue Devil staff encourage members to reach out to them. Corps Director, Pat Seidling, and the staff are extremely diligent in keeping in touch with members of the Blue Devils.

### **Another great group – “Bettys Giving Back”**

In 1988 the BD guard spun a flag that had the silhouette of a girl painted on the show flag and the guard named her “Betty.” From then on, they were known as “Betty Blue Devils.” The “Bettys Giving Back” group took it a step further and are using the gender-neutral acronym BETTY to stand for “Blue Excellence Through The Years.” The purpose of the group is to help out in any way they can. The group is open to anyone who has been a member of the Blue Devil color guard.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bettysgiving>

Since we don't have much Corps activity going on at the present time to report, how about a little Blue Devil history.

### **How did Concord become the drum capital of the world?**

In the very beginning (1949), Bill Martin (the man who started it all) had some kids ask him if they could form a drum corps and a drill team. This group (known as the Martinettes) grew and grew and kept growing. The Martinettes consisted of a band, drill team, majorette corps and just about anything else possible. When marching in the parades, the group would cover what seemed like blocks; the group was huge and good. The Martinettes were the California state champions in 1953-54-55 and 56. After the 1956 championships, Bill and Martha Martin decided to disband the group. In 1957 Tony and Ann Odello had three kids in the Martinettes and they talked to Tony and Ann about possibly keeping the group going. Being one of the most dedicated men Bill Martin had known, Tony convinced the Concord VFW to purchase the Martinette's equipment and he and Ann founded the Blue Devils. The "Blue" was for the VFW color and "Devils" was after Concord's local landmark, Mt. Diablo. The group began as an all-boy "Drum Corps" unit with less than 50 members with only percussion instruments and a separate all-girl marching team. In 1958 glockenspiels were added, becoming the Drum and Bell Corps. The majorettes were spun off as an independent unit of the organization. With Bill's training, both units achieved early success in competitive field show events and parades. In 1961 the Color Guard (flag section) was added and they competed in the State Junior division going undefeated in the California State Championships from 1957-1970. In 1968, a third unit was added when the original Junior Drum and Bell Corps elected to compete as a Senior unit and a new Junior Corps was established. In 1970, Jerry Seawright took over the group and the transition was made to a full drum and bugle corps—now known as the Concord Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps. On February 14, 1971 they attended their first "standstill" competition. By spring 1972 the 70-member group went on their first summer tour. Their status was changed from "B" to "A" that year. After overcoming a bus breakdown before even leaving Concord, the first national tour was in 1973 (23<sup>rd</sup> place). In 1974 they earned full DCI membership by placing 9<sup>th</sup> – 1975 (3<sup>rd</sup>) and then 1975 (DCI Champs – sweeping all categories). The rest became an unbelievable history with the Blue Devils becoming the 19-time World Champions in 2019 – "19 in 19" was what the Corps was aiming for (do we get to keep the title for 2020 as well???)

Our leaders and founders: #1 Ann and Tony Odello #2 Jerry Seawright #3 Michael Moxley  
#4 David Gibbs #5 Justin Heimbecker #6 Shaun Gallant (Current)  
Corps Managers: Pete Emmons - Pat Seidling (Current)

During 1973, the Junior Drum and Bell Corps was converted to a "B" Bugle Corps and our "C" Corps was established. For several years the Blue Devils had a world-champion majorette group that was instructed by Annette Odello (one of the original members of the Martinettes). More to come on these units.

## Things to use for trivia questions regarding the Blue Devils:

### # Championships 1973-2019

Anaheim Kingsmen (1)	Santa Clara Vanguard (7)*	*Ties: 1996 BD/Phantom
Bluecoats (1)	The Cavaliers (7)*	1999 BD/SCV
Carolina Crown (1)	The Cadets (10)*	2000 Cadets/Cavaliers
Star of Indiana (1)	The Blue Devils (19)*	
Madison Scouts (2)		
Phantom Regiment (2)		

### DCI Caption winners 2010 to 2019:

BRASS - JIM OTT AWARD – 4 Corps: BD-2010, 14 (2) Carolina Crown (6) Cadets (1) SCV (1)

GENERAL EFFECT – DON ANGELICA – 5 Corps: BD-2010, 12, 14, 17 (4) Bluecoats (2)  
Carolina Crown (2) Cadets (1) SCV (1)

VISUAL – JOHN BRAZEL – 4 Corps: BD-2010, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 (6) Carolina Crown (3)  
The Cadets (1) SCV (1) ( 2012 - tie BD/Crown)

PERCUSSION – FRED SANFORD – 5 Corps: BD-2012, 15 (2) SCV (5) Cadets (1) Cavaliers (1)  
Phantom Regiment (1)

COLOR GUARD – GEORGE ZINGALI – 4 CORPS: BD-2010, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (6)  
Boston Crusaders (2) Carolina Crown (1) SCV (1)

(Hopefully, all this is correct. Should you see an error, please let me know so I can update my information.  
Thanks! More to come in the next newsletter - Sonja)

### Booster Club Officers

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

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Although people are finding all sorts of things to do while staying home so much, we found this little saying kinda fun to think about in case you run out of ideas:

***“It is very difficult to do nothing for long because you can’t stop and rest occasionally”***

***Stay happy, stay healthy and stay safe***