CHS, PHS Boosters Make a Difference

By Jeff Stuart

Lisabeth Belman is the 2010-2011 president of the Clarksburg High School Athletic Boosters Club. She is joined by current officers: Vice President Stephanie deCelis - events, Vice President Fred Levy - sales, Treasurer Donna Sheehan, and Secretary Laurie Lane. Boosters are hard-working volunteers who spend many hours helping at the school, and their main focus is to provide additional equipment, uniforms, and supplies to the athletic department that are not provided by MCPS, says Belman. “In this economic climate, with the schools coping with budget cuts, it is so important. Each year, we are given a wish list by the athletic director,” she continues, which they try to meet. Along with the new athletic director, Jeff Sullivan, who has created a new slogan—41 Teams, One Pack—there is also a new spirit team called the Blue Brigade. “The Booster Club has been very successful in meeting the yearly goals put before us.”

Various events are planned to help raise funds. “We typically hold a golf tournament fundraiser in the fall,” adds Belman. This year that tournament was at Little Bennett Golf Course. A round-robin style student Dodge Ball Tournament is being planned for late winter. A staff basketball game with CHS and Damascus High School has also been a traditional fundraiser. These events, combined with the banner sponsorships, booster memberships, spirit wear sales, and the concessions, make up most of the fundraising efforts.

In 2010-2011, the CHS Boosters provided championship patches for athletes, field blankets, lacrosse helmets, senior nights, and new uniforms for basketball, soccer, track, and wrestling, as well as the stadium lights. In addition, the Boosters will award two $500 Athletic Scholarships to senior student athletes (one male and one female) who have demonstrated superior athletic and academic performance. All nominated student athletes who meet the pre-determined requirements will have an equal chance of winning. The scholarship award will be applied toward an educational institution for post high school education. Information for the scholarship and other events can be found on the Boosters’ link on the CHS athletics site.

The Poolesville High School Athletic Booster Club has recently helped PHS make improvements to both the baseball and softball fields with more to come next spring, purchase a variety of new audio-visual equipment to be used by coaches to film and evaluate their own teams as well as scout upcoming opponents, and to install a new Bermuda turf field at the stadium. Coaches, PHS Boosters staff, and Athletic Director Ed Ross seeded the field last spring. The club also awards scholarships to deserving male and female athletes who meet pre-established criteria. Without the assistance of the Boosters, much of the team equipment and stadium improvements could not be done. Fundraisers include the sale of food and spirit wear at the concessions stands, the sale of stadium banners, a spring mulch sale, the Jake Perkins Memorial Golf Tournament, held in May, the sale of spirit wear at Poolesville Day, and a free-throw shooting contest held at half time of all varsity basketball games. The PHS Boosters will also be active at the concessions and admissions at a Girls’ Holiday Basketball Tournament at Poolesville sponsored by the Poolesville Basketball Association and the girls’ basketball team.

Jeff Oyer is the 2010-2011 president of the PHS Boosters. Laurie Oyer and Marshall Micheals are vice presidents. Kris Baker is secretary, and Pam Flick is treasurer. The PHS Booster website is also linked to the PHS athletics webpage.