

## **Drumright Band Boosters Report to Drumright Rotary**

At Friday's Drumright Rotary meeting, Rotarian, Cleta Cobble, introduced members from the Drumright Band Boosters Club. The Drumright Band Boosters Club is relatively new. Years ago, a Band Boosters group existed; but, over the years, it had become extinct – only to be recently revitalized by parents, of some, of the current band members.



Pictured L - R: Kim Bardy, Cassandra Wilson, Aaron Power, Cleta Cobble, Renee' Hart, Amanda Levis  
Picture by Greg Roberts

Band Boosters President, Renee' Hart was first to address our club. Renee' talked about being the mother of a freshman who began playing a flute in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. As Renee' watched her daughter flourish under the direction of Band Director, Aaron Power, she decided to get more and more involved. What she noticed is that Mr. Power didn't have enough help, but was working miracles with what he did have. She witnessed Mr. Power's many hats including, instructor, director, travel coordinator and repairman among many other tasks.

It was during one of the summer trips that Renee' saw the need for a Band Boosters Club. With no funds available to the traveling students, providing meals and snacks, on the road, was very difficult for Mr. Power to handle alone. One of the first gifts the Drumright Band Boosters Club provided was a tailgate party, at one of the summer competitions. The students became involved and helped grill hamburgers and everyone had a great time, according to Renee'.

The new Drumright Band Boosters Club jumped in and started organizing fund raisers and events to bring awareness and funds into the Band Program. Last Christmas season, the Drumright Band played a Christmas Concert and the Band Boosters held a silent auction as a fund raiser. The Band Boosters also participated in Clorox's texting grant for a chance to win money for new equipment. Even though this year Drumright did not win, the Band Boosters plan on going for it again next year and hopes the town supports them by texting to win the grant. The Drumright Band will also be performing Valentine's Day Serenades, by request, around Drumright, on Valentine's Day. A Marti Gras Parade and Potluck has also been scheduled for Fat Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. And the Annual Spring Concert is being vigorously rehearsed by excited Band Members.

Aaron Power also addressed our club to up-date us on some of the improvements he is working on. Since he has the Drumright Band Boosters Club helping with many of the functions he had on his to-do list, he is now able to focus more on the students and teaching; including starting a Jazz Band in the Middle School. The Drumright Band Program is growing, and he projects that within four years the Drumright Band will consist of approximately one-hundred and twenty members.

New Bongos, Tambourine and Flexatone have recently been added to the Band Room, but more equipment is necessary. Unfortunately, the equipment needed isn't cheap. Items like a Timpani, Marimba and Chimes are really

needed in order to train students so they can hold their own at the college level. Those items alone would cost over \$12,000 and that is not all the equipment needed, only a few examples.

Mr. Power appreciates how the Drumright community supports the band, "It is the community's band and it always will be" he stated.

The Drumright Band Boosters are always looking for volunteers or donations. For more information you can contact Mr. Power at Drumright High School.

Our other guests were Cassandra Wilson and Kim Bardy, Band Boosters members and Gloria Curry of Drumright.

Please join us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Phil Cove.

If you would like more information about Drumright Rotary Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club, or go to our website [www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary](http://www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary).

Written by Jena Drake, Rotarian