



SILVER HAWKS BOOSTER CLUB

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER 2020

Greetings Silver Hawk Booster Club Members!

It is hard to believe that we are close to the middle of the school year! As with every family in the Lincoln Southwest community, it has been a unique time for our family as well. Our oldest daughter is a new teacher with the LPS system who has learned how to teach simultaneously in the classroom and to her learners at home (entertaining moments with second graders), our middle guy started college at UNL but sees the campus rarely, and finally; our youngest is a Sophomore at LSW, who has accepted his crazy schedule with humor and appreciation for getting 30 more minutes of sleep on “at home” days.

We are one family navigating the last few months with humor and grace as I am sure, each of you are doing the same in your homes. A couple months ago, I read online a small narrative entitled, “We are all in the same boat but not in the same storm”. The author was referring to the different circumstances each of us are going through in life. One family may have not seen many changes in their daily income while another family, working in the service industry, may be very devastated by the current economic environment. Those words have stayed with me, as we, as a booster club, continue to move forward with the goal to assist Southwest families and students during this unusual school year.

The Silver Hawks Booster Club Coordinating Board is truly humbled by the generosity of our Lincoln Southwest Community by your generous donations of time, talent and funds to support the students, school and staff at Lincoln Southwest High School. Thank you for changing the storms into rainbows!

Happy Holidays!
Debbie

Website

Have you had the chance to visit the new website for the Silver Hawks Booster Club? On the website you will find information regarding the Booster Club with links to Athletic groups, Performing Arts groups, the Booster Store and more! Please visit: www.SilverHawkBooster.com.

The website was created and designed by Deborah Bjorman, our Coordinating Board President and Jill Rink, our Athletics Booster President, at the beginning of the school year and continues to be a work in progress. Periodically check back for updates as we’re anxious to see the various ways we can use the website to communicate and streamline information with our Silver Hawk community in the future.

Membership

Thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership or joined the Silver Hawks Booster Club for the first time! We continue to see our numbers increase and want to Welcome everyone to the Booster Club. If you know someone who would like to join, please send them to:

<https://www.silverhawkbooster.com/join-booster-club>

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Coordinating Board

Want to be part of a fun and dynamic group of people? Consider becoming a member of the Silver Hawks Booster Club Coordinating Board! Want more information? Simply contact any member of the Coordinating Board. Each one of our board members are more than willing to answer your questions and assist you in obtaining a position on the board. Please visit the Silver Hawks Booster Club website for current open positions.

Booster Bash

Thanks to the creativity and hard work of Tara Meyer, our fundraising chair, and her committee; instead of the annual Silver Platter Fundraiser, the Booster Club held the Booster Bash on October 3rd. It was a fantastic event and very successful!! The event raised approximately \$38,000! Thank you to everyone who made this event a huge success!! Please see the attachment for breakdown of expenses/income from the Booster Bash.

Internal Revenue Service

At our Coordinating Board July meeting we learned our 2018 Taxes had not been filed and at the time we had incurred approximately \$4000.00 in fines that included interest. In November, we learned that with the assistance of a CPA, this fine had been waived by the IRS.

In August of this year, the Coordinating Board learned we were not in compliance with the IRS in regard to the distribution of Scholarships. As a designated 501(c)(3) organization, we are not to benefit individuals per IRS standards. A 501(c)(3) organization must obtain permission from the IRS to distribute scholarships. Working with Mr. Gillotti, the LPS foundation will be the avenue used in the future if funds from the Booster Club are requested to properly support scholarships. For more information, I would encourage you to watch the brief video from Parent Booster USA.

<https://parentbooster.org/videos/scholarship-requirements-booster-clubs>

Performing Arts Board and Reorganization of Procedures

There is no easy way to say it - the past few months on the Performing Arts side of the house of the Booster Club have been a bumpy road and at times the road just disappeared. Upon each of the various board members taking their new positions in July, we learned of some internal procedural issues that were being done incorrectly within the Performing Arts Booster Board. We do want to repeat, these were Performing Arts Booster Board issues, not issues with the Performing Arts Sponsors or Programs.

As a non-profit and a booster club our main purpose is to fundraise and to utilize those funds to support the students and the school at Lincoln Southwest. The second function of the board or boards is to ensure those funds are being utilized as designated in the Silver Hawk Booster By-Laws and for the purposes that the boards have voted on and approved. The boards provide financial oversight and fiscal responsibility by ensuring standards set forth by the Nebraska Non Profit Corporation Act and by the Internal Revenue Service guidelines for non-profit groups. The boards must also coordinate with the administration of LSW to ensure fundraisers and purchases are approved as per Lincoln Public School District guidelines for outside organizations. https://www.lps.org/uploads/documents/recommended_practices_pta_pto_2015-10.pdf

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Upon taking our new positions in July, the Coordinating Board learned proper procedures regarding financial oversight and fiscal responsibility were not in place. Simply, no budgets were in place, no expenditures were discussed or voted upon and the board was not functioning as per Nebraska Non-Profit Corporation Act Standards. At no time did we or do we now believe our predecessors did this nefariously or maliciously, as the vast majority of funds were spent for the students and the school as per our mission. We are very appreciative of those that came before us and understand our positions are those of volunteer parents who are giving their time for the betterment of the students and the school.

As a board, we needed guidance beyond our level of expertise and did consult an attorney for clarification on how to move forward and ensure we were operating in a manner that was in line with the Nebraska Non-Profit Corporation Act. The board initially contacted an attorney in Lincoln briefly, but then turned to Parent Booster USA as our resource. Parent Booster USA (<https://parentbooster.org>) has been an invaluable resource and a wonderful partner to the Silver Hawks Booster Club.

As of the typing of this newsletter, the Silver Hawks Booster Club has NOT spent one penny on attorney's fees. We are very thankful for the time and assistance that has been donated to us.

As of today, we have reorganized our procedures within the Performing Arts Booster Board and although we still are smoothing out those bumps in the road, we believe we have created a smooth path going forward. Thank you to our current Performing Arts board for all the hard work you have put into the continued success of the Booster Club! Jen Fraser - President, Heather Thoming - Vice-President, Lisa Warwick - Treasurer and Dusti Shelby - Secretary.

Athletics & Activities

As many of our athletes and coaches can tell you, the DHMs and often-changing Covid restrictions always provided a new adventure for our teams this fall. I continuously heard numerous comments praising how well the Athletes cooperated and responded though, and despite our Covid world, we ended the fall season on a high note with all of our teams. We're anxiously awaiting to get our Winter teams in action, and fingers crossed we can make that happen soon.

I want to thank all the sport parents that have graciously donated to our programs so far this year – over \$15,000 has been received through our website to support our fall sports teams this season, and over \$19,000 was received at the Booster Bash! Your generous support through our Giving Tree fundraiser has allowed us to purchase practice jerseys (boys basketball), swim jackets (swim/dive team), golf bag (boys & girls golf), a tent (cross country & track) and jerseys/pass & snap trainer (football). Future donations for any of our programs (both directly or to the Giving Tree) can be completed through our website, www.silverhawkbooster.com.

Performing Arts

The students and teachers of the Performing Arts are living the motto, "The show must go on!". Activity abounds and although not the same as in recent years, the excitement of final preparations, making music, and performing their best is raising spirits of students, staff, and families in our community.

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Global pandemics and DHM's are obstacles, but sponsors and kids have found safe ways to work within the guidelines and make magic happen.

The long-awaited Newsies Musical is finally hitting the stage the first two weekends in December. Please see the bottom of this newsletter for information on how to stream this event and celebrate the 11 months of work that has gone into making this production possible.

The Fearless Forensics team has been very successful as their season is underway and they continue to make LSW proud.

The vocal and instrumental music departments are gearing up for the 2020 version of December concerts – planning to bring these showcases to families virtually to brighten up living rooms and spread the beautiful music that the students have been working so hard to produce. Congratulations to all of the students who made the All-State Choir, Band, and Orchestra this year! Great job to everyone who tried out and entered a submission.

Booster Store

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the online Booster Store, I would encourage you to check it out and see if there are any items you or your student may enjoy for Christmas!

<https://www.silverhawkbooster.com/booster-store>

In November the Coordinating Board voted to upgrade the sales system. The new system will allow for accurate store inventory, sales receipts and activity reports. The new system will create an online store that coordinates with the physical store and will also be able to “talk” with the new financial system of the booster club. Since the system is mobile, it can be utilized outside the physical store in the same manner.

Facebook Pages

For periodic updates and announcements, join us on Facebook!

LSW Silver Hawks Booster Club (@LSWSilverhawksBoosterClub)

LSW Athletics Booster Club (@LSWAthleticsBoosterClub)

Silver Hawks Bylaws and Parent Handbooks

Our Silver Hawks Bylaws are currently being reviewed by Parent Booster USA and we plan to receive recommendations from Parent Booster USA going forward. As the Coordinating Board has turned to the By-Laws for guidance, we have recognized there a few areas that need to be consistent in the language and one of the main areas that needs clarification, is the means and methods to placing members on the Coordinating Board once the annual members meeting in April occurs and a position remains vacant.

The Coordinating Board plans to have the By-Laws available by the February 2021 Coordinating Board Meeting for review by all members with an open forum for discussion, suggestions and questions at the

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March 2021 Coordinating Board Meeting. A full membership vote on the By-Laws will then take place at the All members meeting/Coordinating Board Meeting in April 2021.

Parent Handbooks are currently being reviewed by the Vice-Presidents of the three boards. If you have been a parent representative or are a current parent representative, we would encourage you to contact Lori Underwood, Vice-President Coordinating Board, at newlori@live.com. Your input into the parent handbook would be greatly appreciated!

Expenditures

As our main purpose is to fund the students and programs at Lincoln Southwest, we wanted to share with you some of the expenditures that have been completed so far this year!

Activity Funding

Band Instrument Covers \$2500.00

Distribution of Funds to the Athletic and Performing Arts Boards \$4000.00 each

Funding towards Adopt-A-Hawk \$4000.00

Giving Tree Wish Year Books Fulfilled \$1200.00

Midwest Bank Thanksgiving Meals Fundraiser \$600.00

Administrative Costs

- Website: \$282.00 for two years. Reoccurring cost that falls every 2-3 years to maintain the Silver Hawks Booster Club in an online capacity.
- Domain: \$33.75 for two years. Reoccurring cost pending length of time renewed previously.
- Zoom Accounts for all 3 boards: \$359.76 for one year. A one-time cost and only needed because of our current restrictions in regard to in person meetings.
- Copies/Envelopes/Stamps: \$103.80
- Booster Store: \$15,008.67 (Income \$13,925.25 ~ Budget for 20-21 is \$20,000 in expenses)
- Online Quick Books for all three boards: \$35/mo x 1 year. Using this online bookkeeping system will allow for a more efficient and streamed lined accounting system. Our bank accounts will automatically update with the system, the booster store sales will automatically update with the system and our treasurer's and other board members will be able to access the accounting information online anywhere and anytime. Our booster club, in a normal year, has a yearly income between \$400k and \$500k a year. The majority of these funds are in and out expenses, however, there are a lot of in and out expenses to manage.

At the November meeting, as mentioned previously, we discussed upgrading the store and also replacing the current iPads. Since we use the iPads to run credit cards and we plan to use them more for other Booster Club activities and the Booster Store, it is important the iPads are able to function efficiently and with updated operating systems. The detailed expense sheet for these items is attached to this newsletter.

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Please note: All expenses of the Coordinating Board are discussed and completed by board vote with a quorum present and only passed with majority vote. No single person controls the expenditures or non-expenditures of the board.

The Coordinating Board currently has approximately \$40k in the bank account. As a board, we discussed what the future at Lincoln Southwest will bring in the coming months. As you can imagine, it is very difficult to even project expenses or future needs at the school. The board's plan is to re-evaluate the needs of the students and the school at our first meeting after the holidays.

As a board, we want to ensure all students are able to participate in every activity they choose and not to be limited by personal lack of funding. If you know a student or family needing some Silver Hawk support, please direct them to the counselor's office at LSW and the counselor will work with our Coordinating Board Treasurer keeping the name of the family and student anonymous.

Our entire purpose is to support and provide funding to Lincoln Southwest Students and the school. We encourage our Parent Representatives to bring their activities wants and needs to their respective monthly committee meetings thus allowing our Athletics and Performing Arts Boards the opportunity to bring forward those expenses forward, that they are unable to fund, to the Coordinating Board.

Coordinating Board Information

Meetings are held monthly on the third Monday of each month. Currently, the meetings are being held via Zoom but hopefully we will be able to return to in person meetings in the near future. The Board encourages you to attend the meetings as an observer and then participate in our membership forum at the end of the meeting. Zoom links are provided at <https://www.silverhawkbooster.com/booster-meetings>

Coordinating Board Meeting Minutes for each meeting are available to all members after they have been reviewed and approved by the Coordinating Board and can be requested by emailing the Coordinating Board Secretary, Tamara Schmeling, tamaranpaul@gmail.com

Treasurers Report for all three boards are available at each monthly meeting or can be requested by emailing the Coordinating Board Treasurer, Suzette Moeller, suzmo46@gmail.com

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Upcoming Events

Newsies the Musical is coming to your screen! Looking for something to watch and want to support the Lincoln Southwest Theater? Grab some popcorn, get comfy and enjoy the show from your own living room!

Show Performances: December 4, 5 and 11, 12 at 7:00 pm

Tickets are only available online at: www.showtix4u.com

Live Stream Reserved Tickets on sale NOW!!

1-4 Viewers - \$15 each Family/Group Viewing - \$65

Questions? Call the Silver Hawk Theatre Box Office at 402-436-1335

Please note: with the ongoing pandemic, please watch for updates and changes to scheduling

Good Luck Cast and Crew!!

Many thanks to the LSW staff who have worked so hard to make this show happen!!

As Presidents of the three boards of the Silver Hawks Booster Club we encourage you to contact us with any questions or concerns (admin@silverhawkbooster.com). We wish you many blessings this holiday season and hope you enjoy the time with your family and friends!

Debbie

Deborah Bjorman
President Coordinating Board

Jill

Jill Rink
President Athletics & Activities Board

Jen

Jen Fraser
President Performing Arts Board

"Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children" ~ Walt Disney

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2020 BOOSTER BASH

REVENUE

Sponsorships/Giving Tree	\$ 28,257.74
Auction	\$ 6,925.00
Boubon Pull	\$ 1,000.00
Raffle	\$ 6,750.64

Total Revenue \$ **42,933.38**

EXPENSES

Facility - Rental/Liquor License	\$ 620.00
Facility - Bar Payroll & Linens	\$ 342.15
Facility - Security	\$ 464.20
Food	\$ 724.75
Supplies	\$ 405.69
Auction Item	\$ 599.00
Raffle Ticket Printing	\$ 289.65
Raffle Winner	\$ 1,000.00
Raffle Ticket Taxes	\$ 519.53

Total Expenses \$ **4,964.97**

NET INCOME \$ **37,968.41**

As you can see this was a very successful event! Again, a huge Thank You to Tara Meyer and her amazing committee!!

The Giving Tree was a new item this year. Tara asked each of the different Athletic Groups and Performing Arts Groups what their group currently needs or what are their wishes. Some wishes have been fulfilled and some currently remain open. If you would like to contribute to any of these wishes, please visit the Giving Tree on the Silver Hawks Booster website at www.silverhawkbooster.com/giving-tree

Also, many thanks to all who donated items for our Live Auction! This was a very fun event at the Booster Bash and we appreciate all of you who contributed to the fun by bidding on the items!

Another new item this year was the Raffle/Lottery. First prize was \$1000. Congratulations to our winner, Rusty Lewis!! Raffle Licenses for the State of Nebraska and the City of Lincoln are available for inspection by members. Our Nebraska State Gaming License is good until September 30, 2021, so if you have a Raffle idea...come talk to us!!

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Cost for new iPads and Square Register

Booster Store:

iPad 10.2" 128 GB	\$429
Apple Care Plan/2 yr	\$69
iPad Cover	\$49
Square Stand	\$169
Credit Card Reader	\$0
Bar Code Scanner	\$119
Receipt Printer	\$200

TOTAL: \$1035

Replace current iPads

iPad 10.2" 32 GB	\$329
Apple Care Plan/2 yr	\$69
iPad Cover	\$49

SUB-TOTAL: \$447 X 3 = \$1341

Cash in value on each iPad (\$70) -\$280

Total cost for square register and iPads: \$2096