

Grissom Band Parents Association Meeting
January 22, 2007, 7:07 pm called to order by Jay Simcox, President

Board Members Present:

Bill Connell, Director
Theo Vernon, Director
Jay Simcox, President
Jim Gatherer, 1st Vice President

Becky Lash, 2nd Vice President
Julie Ashcraft, Treasurer
Tonya Hayes, Treasurer
Mary Setzer, Secretary

Jay Simcox:

Asks 8th grade families to stand, thanks to them – and all – for being here and welcome to the band family! Participation and involvement are important

Acknowledgement of fruit sale workers... another GREAT sale, all sold out by Saturday afternoon!

Mr. Connell

Please pass on the information to parents you may know who are not here; we want everyone to be aware of what's happening and their opportunity to participate in fund raisers, etc...

The Directors will be in and out of the Middle Schools over the coming weeks and months.

Hollywood Trip

Jim Schuller of Florida Festival Tours

In his business, has seen many thousand bands, not many as good as the GHS band

We are still in the beginning step, while the band isn't officially invited yet, it is just a matter of time, will be invited officially soon... The company running the parade is owned by a couple, the wife has cancer... so things are moving more slowly. They have listened to the DVD and say, "WOW!" should have the official word this week.

There is LOTS to do in Southern California. Many bands doing this parade go on the Wednesday just before on right on Thanksgiving Thursday (the *cheapest* day to fly). Flights may be to/from Atlanta or Birmingham

This is the Hollywood Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, has a 2 ½ miles route (the other Southern Cal/L.A parade is the Tournament of Roses which is 5 ½ miles)

This parade is very band/student friendly, the television area is "red carpet zone", the students enter here during staging, and there are stars in the area for pictures with students.

In addition to the parade, out-of-state bands do a performance at the Hollywood Bowl "Bands at the Bowl" The parade and Hollywood Bowl performances are the only requirements... all other activities are optional

Some possible activities may include the following:

- Santa Monica Pier – many restaurants, and 4 blocks away is an upscale (star-studded) shopping district similar to Rodeo Drive
- Homes of the Stars tour
- Hollywood
- Hard Rock Café
- Television Show taping (tickets are only available day-of show, so pre-planning is not possible)
- San Diego is 1:20 hours to the South
 - San Diego Zoo
 - Sea World
- Local "step-on guides" are available for 4 hour bus tours
- Hollywood Walk of Fame/Mann's Chinese Theater
- Bel-Air
- Farmers' Market in Beverly Hills 90210
- Universal Studios
- Remember Weather around LA isn't "beach weather", water is cold all year
- The original Disneyland and California Adventure Park

Pricing will be available after activities are selected and set-up

The tour company will provide 2-3 itineraries, from the "bare bones" to the extravagant

The amount of money for students to take is of course variable according to family, most meals will be included in package; typically lunches are "on your own"

Q When will the departure and return schedule be set?

A This will depend on the itinerary and airfare pricing, may not get final air prices until ~ 4 months prior to trip. There is a "red-eye" flight, so departure can even be 10:30 pm the day of the parade

Q When is the parade?

A 5 pm on the Sunday after Thanksgiving

Q What about parents going?

A Directors: anybody is OK! If you can pay you can go!

Q When is the Hollywood Bowl performance?

A Friday (could be moved to Saturday?)

Q Will it be the same price for parents?

A Yes with the consideration of how many people per room – parents may not want to share with as many roommates

Rooms are being held at two potential locations:

- o Marriott Suites Anaheim – can have 6 in a room
- o Westin LAX
- o Both have easy access from interstates

Q How long will the trip be?

A 4-7 days... Will send a synopsis of possibilities for various activities to pick and choose which will help determine the length of the trip and the costs.

Q Are the suites better than the Westin?

A Both locations are functional and meet the needs of the large group, both have agreeable management. Of the two, the suites property is the more functional hotel, not as “pretty” Westin is super fancy throughout, however there is a limit of 4 to a room there

Q What is the schedule of available times for activities?

A Thursday, Friday night, Saturday, Sunday before the parade (starts at 5, arrive at about 2)

The area has good bus companies available... one provides drivers that stay at hotel with group, so drivers are there the whole time – may not get that company (of course you pay extra that kind of service)

Q Will land package be available?

A The tour company usually prices land, bus, air packages – keep in mind that airlines miles cannot be used for the package flights.

Q Will all of the group be on the same plane?

A No, with a group this size that’s impossible, typically we can only get ~75 seats per flight. Typically airlines will quote a fare that will be good for only 30 days, so the first deposit/payment may need to be enough to purchase the plane seats

Q How will payment schedules be arranged?

A We will set payments as needed, but keep in mind that certain deposits must be made at certain times... see airfare as above

Q How do the buses to the hotel work with different flights?

A It will depend on the flight schedules, someone will meet the flights and buses will be there waiting, It will also depend on hotel (location, drive time from airport, etc)

Q Is there any chance of flying out of Huntsville?

A No, it’s not likely, there are simply not that many seats going out of HSV, this may even be so with Birmingham

Q Will there be a bus from Huntsville to Atlanta Airport?

A Yes

Q Sounds like we may even be flying on different airlines... won’t the prices be different for the different airlines?

A Yes, but we’ll average cost so all pay same ticket price.

Q Is it cheaper to fly from one airport vs. another?

A Maybe, prices can sometimes be negotiated, it is much easier to do at a BIG airport like Atlanta

Q How soon after we get the sample itineraries will a decision be required?

A Whenever you're ready, except the consideration of the airline seats this will be time-dependent!

Q So there is no way to know the final package price until trip is worked up?

A No, we first need to know what's going to happen... a rough range will be \$1050 on the low end to \$1200 on the higher end—but this is a wild guess.

Mr. Connell: if you have questions later, email the directors! Jim will also stay and take questions after the meeting

Jay Simcox: Don't forget VBC workers earn \$5 per hour band credits, (VBC pays the band \$6 per hour, so \$1 goes to the band). Students' *fees must be up to date* for fundraiser money to go toward trip. All parents welcome to work, students must be 16 or over, usually 4-5 hours per shift. Also Scrip is a great way to earn money toward the trip:

Karen Parker/Scrip:

Scrip is basically gift certificates, you spend money that you would have spent anyway, but your band account and the band get some money. Handouts are available with an outline of how it works and what is available. 40% of Scrip money goes to student account, 60% to band instrument fund. Kroger rechargeable cards are a great option (5% of your purchase comes back to the band and 2% is added to student account). The big sellers or higher percentages are kept in-stock other things can be ordered. Email or call with questions!

Nelson Parker adds the comment that \$,7600 has come into the band so far this year! \$4,600 has gone to instrument fund and \$3,000 to student fees!

Jay Simcox: Add your name to the email list to get information, notifications on VBC events and other opportunities as they come up!

-----Completion of Hollywood Trip information portion of meeting... on to regular GBPA business -----

Becky Lash: Reminder First Pancake breakfast Feb 10, tickets available tonight

Jim Gatherer: Don't forget the first of February starts Winter Band Camp, followed closely by District Assessments; we need to push to get everything organized!

Becky Proaps, hospitality for upcoming events:

Catered dinner for band camp, need volunteers to setup, serve, and cleanup

Potluck dinner need help with setup & cleanup

We'll need to send in food for clinicians, etc.

Help me! ☺

Margaret Haack, Winter Guard:

This is now a full program under the band

Three groups performing Saturday – Vivace Scholastic B and Independent A units, also Grissom Indoor Percussion Theater, Sat percussion 10:30 Vivace B 2:30, Vivace A 8:00, Sunday Vivace B noon, Vivace A 2:30 in Franklin, TN.

Exciting, both units have 10 students participating who have never been in guard, the B unit has several 8th graders!

Patti Preston, Uniforms:

Thanks to all for the help with uniform fitting!

If you can help with alterations contact Patti, there is a lot to do in order to prepare for District

Fruit Sales:

Sign up to work!

The upcoming dates are February 16-17 sale with Thursday the 15th for startup

If there's anything left we'll sell that on Sunday from GHS

Julie Ashcraft adds that \$14,195 deposit was made from fruit sale! (Not *all* is profit; of course the fruit has to be paid for etc.)

(Laura Hardy Sign ups for district assessment lobby help 2 hour shifts)

Becky Lash – pillows are coming in March!

Vanessa Poole – needs help getting pillow distributed, they are coming from China, still available for purchase, so if you didn't pre-order you can still get one.

1500 pillows coming (90+ boxes) brown with orange print – they look GREAT!

Mr. Connell

Q What are the dates of the upcoming events?

A Feb 1-3 Winter Camp,

A District Assessment February 14-16

A District/All-state Senior High auditions Friday, January 26 after school, registration 4-5 pm at Sparkman HS, Junior High auditions Saturday, January 27 in the morning. Handout will be available with directions, etc.

A Friday, January 26 4-6 pm, Master Class for horn players at UAH Roberts Recital Hall

Winter band camp:

Begins after school Thursday with rehearsals

Thursday night will include catered dinner

Friday in & out of can go take tests, etc. if they need to, this can be flexible

Friday night is the Potluck dinner for families, followed by faculty/student recital (attendance required for students)

Friday afternoon and Saturday morning master classes

Saturday master classes, rehearsals, lunch on own, concert at 2:00, clear the stage after and students can expect to be finished by 3:30-4:00 pm

Commissioned piece in memory of Apollo program from the fire to moon landing, solo with sax and accompaniment, start work at camp and will perform portions of the piece, it will premier at the spring concert

District assessment band from Madison, Morgan, Limestone counties will be here at GHS and at Austin HS, starts ~1 going to ~7 pm, Concert Band performs on Wednesday, Sym I and II on Friday. Come hear our bands as well as those from the surrounding schools

Pre-district concerts, Monday & Tuesday after camp, these also include the GHS feeder middle schools and Huntsville High & Huntsville Middle, a “dry run” for district assessment playing 2 of 3 pieces

All dates are available on the GHS band website, Charms, and in the Newsletter

Jay Simcox:

Senior Trip: Since some participants have backed out, this changes prices, the final balance will come out shortly

One more parent needed for Senior trip

Thanks for being here!

Adjourned 8:20