

The LionBacker Ledger

September 2016, Fall Edition

Wow, what an amazing start we've had to the fall sports season!! Our stadium looks *awesome!* Our sports teams are all starting off strong, and our athletes are having fun!!! On behalf of the Liberty Athletic Boosters and all 560+ athletes we support, **welcome to the official start of our 2016-2017 campaign!** Don't forget to bookmark our website, www.libertyathletics.com, and visit often, as it's a great resource for everything Liberty sports related including sports schedules/updates, team rosters/coaches, along with other useful information. Also, on the Athletic Boosters website, you can sign up and become a member, order Bull Roast Tickets, make a donation, uncover new and special offers from our sponsors, purchase a Forever Wall Brick, purchase Spirit wear, check when the next booster meeting is scheduled, and much more from this one resource.

Also, 'Like' us on Facebook, Liberty Athletic Boosters, for quick access to sport news and updates. 

We've been busy, as always, at the Boosters. We had a very productive summer and are off to an exceptionally strong start to the new school year.

I'm sure you've heard the saying "it takes a village" and that couldn't be truer. We are blessed with a wonderful community here in Eldersburg and have been working hard to create lots of exciting new partnerships to benefit our student athletes. For example...

When you walk in our stadium this year you will be greeted by **over 50 banners** from our very generous community sponsors. Please thank them, wherever possible, with your patronage, because *every dollar we raise through corporate sponsorships goes back to our kids* through scholarships, new uniforms/equipment, upgraded sports fields, and more. We always have a long list of "to-do's and upgrades" here at the Boosters and we couldn't do it without community business support. Not enough room here to list all 50+ sponsors but a BIG THANK YOU to all!

When you are out and about at various local area businesses, you'll see this year's **Varsity Calendar** proudly displayed; thanks again to a generous donation. Pick one up today for your fridge as a resource and to show your Lion's Pride.

Have you seen the "**cool Liberty L**" painted at mid-field or the awesome new **Lion Mural** under development by the basketball courts? The Athletic Boosters, Liberty's very talented Art Boosters (and students), and our Varsity Football Team have partnered together to create a prideful legacy. If you think it looks good now, just wait and see the final results. Cool stuff!

Our stadium, like everyone's lawn, is a *weed magnet* each summer. Well, the Boosters and our student athletes (**especially our football team**) *kicked some major weed butt*, just before school began, to **clean up our fields** and get them ready to host. How's that for Lion's Pride?

We have a lot more exciting initiatives planned this year, however, we **NEED YOUR HELP!** If you've already joined us, or renewed your membership, *thanks!* If you haven't yet, please consider joining the Boosters. Annual memberships start at just \$25 (bronze) level. Every membership comes with a Liberty Athletic Boosters bag, filled with coupons and information from our sponsors, and most importantly, **we rely strongly on membership revenue to fund all of the good work that we do.** Are you aware that the \$105 per season athletic fee doesn't come directly to Liberty High School? It goes to the county and helps to cover transportation and officiating fees, and therefore unfortunately cannot be used for new sod, field maintenance, new equipment, and other things that each of our sport teams need. Liberty spends over \$90,000 per year on transportation alone so the money we earn at the Boosters through **membership fees**, sponsors ads, snack bar concessions, and our Bull Roast helps to fund the difference. ***Join us today!***

Need more proof what it actually costs to support our student athletes? Check out our overview below of what we earned and invested in last year, and what's next on our to-do list for the 2016-2017 season. Every dollar counts!

Fundraising Ledger:

Money Earned	Money Invested	Upcoming Investments
2015-2016 \$65,007.00	2015-2016 \$58,590.17	2016-2017 \$6,095.00
Stadium Banners Bull Roast Membership Sales Snack Shack Donations	Scholarships Field Maintenance Coaches Clinics Snack Shack Maintenance Sport-Specific Purchases	Scholarships Field Maintenance Ice machine for Training Room Lacrosse game goals Soccer practice goals
2015-2016 Major Investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased student scholarships from four to <i>six</i> per year! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$9,000 for field maintenance (new field hockey field) • \$8,300 for new warm ups for Track & Field Team (Boys and Girls) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5,000 for varsity football uniforms • \$4,300 for cement pads on softball field and outside locker rooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2,500 for new volleyball nets and standard • \$1,000 for new baseball equipment • \$1,000 new benches outside locker rooms 		

Monthly Meetings. We meet formally the first Wednesday of every month and always have more requests than we have money, but our goal is to maximize every hard earned dollar in order to benefit the *most kids (and sports teams)* possible here at Liberty. In order to meet this goal, we need help from our parents, members, and sports teams. Feel free to attend our next meeting; we would love to have you there.

Upcoming Events. We are already hard at work (a) planning next year's Bull Roast, it's February 11th 2017. The theme is *College Night*, with the same great 80's music as last year and (b) wrapping up banner ads in our stadium for this school year. However, here are some upcoming events to circle on your calendar, and potentially help out with.

1. **New Member Drive**—We have over 560+ student athletes in the Liberty family, ended last year with 150 memberships, but only have 68 athletic booster club members so far this year. In order to meet as many requests as possible (*and there are many requests*) we need your help spreading the word about all of the good work we do. WE NEED MORE MEMBERS. Please help us promote!
2. **Snack Shack Duty**—Most of you, by now, have probably seen multiple emails from Team Parents asking for you to please sign up for snack shack duty. If you've already signed up, *great* but, if not, please consider volunteering for at least one slot each season. Our Snack Shack raises over \$10,000 each season to support our student athletes and is run entirely by volunteers. That nice lady who you've seen for many years painstakingly preparing for every snack shack season? Her child graduated from Liberty, but she's still here and giving her time (*lots of it*) to keep our sports programs going strong. Please consider helping us *help her* to ensure our best snack shack season yet.

Thanks for listening and again, for your ongoing support!

Go Lions!!!

The Liberty Athletic Booster's Board

- Lisa Lance (President)
- Terri Parris (Vice President)
- Sheila Burrows (Treasurer)
- Angie Houck (Secretary)