



Group shot at the end of ONEDAY auditions.
Credit: Richard Melendez

IYAO UPDATE

February 2026

Bob Briggs, IYAO President
Peter Connell, Corps Director
Michael Patton, Winterguard Dir

Impulse Drum and Bugle Corps Featured on DCI.org:

Corps Director Peter Connell recently sat down with the DCI media team to discuss the direction of Impulse, the corps' remarkable growth over the past five years, and the vision behind the 2026 program, "Around the Table."

Take a look to get a deeper glimpse into everything happening with this exciting and rapidly growing corps.

<https://www.dci.org/news/from-family-game-night-to-the-field-impulse-unveils-2026-show-around-the-table/>

What began as a small, rebuilding organization has quickly grown into one of the most energized and fastest-rising corps in DCI. That momentum was on full display at our recent one-day audition event, which welcomed more than 250 prospective members — a powerful sign of the excitement and belief surrounding Impulse's future. In the interview,

Peter shares insights into the culture that has fueled this growth, the commitment to accessibility and community, and how those values shape this season's program theme of connection, competition, and belonging.



- In this newsletter you can expect:
-
- Impulse DBC featured on DCI.org

 - Remembering our dear friend

 - IYAO Instrument Purchase

 - Telling Impulse's Story

 - IYAO Member Spotlight

 - Impulse Winterguard



Remembering Lester

It is with sadness and a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of a beloved member of the Impulse Drum and Bugle Corps family, **Lester Moore**. Lester was a close friend to so many throughout Impulse. His warmth and kindness were felt by those he marched with, and later by generations of members he supported as a dedicated volunteer and longtime board member. One of his most meaningful roles was serving as Impulse's truck driver, where his presence became a constant source of comfort and encouragement.

Members could count on being greeted by Lester's welcoming smile. He truly loved Impulse and deeply believed in the positive impact it had on the lives of its members. Lester, you will be dearly missed by all whose lives you touched. Always remember, "I'll Be There."

A service has been planned for Friday, Feb 27th viewing at 10am followed by a memorial service. Paradise Baptist Church
5100 S Broadway, Suite B
Los Angeles, CA 90037



IYAO Brass Purchase

In December, IYAO was able to purchase eight Yamaha contras and four Yamaha euphoniums from the Seattle Cascades. These instruments were desperately needed as the hornline continues to experience tremendous growth.

Thank you for your financial support—every dollar helps put another instrument into the hands of an Impulse member!



Telling Impulse's Story

Impulse's forward momentum can be attributed to the work of many different facets of the organization's collaborating in harmony. One of those is our tremendous media team led by **Justin Mitnik** (Board Secretary) and **Richard Melendez** (Content Creator). They have tirelessly worked to elevate the reach of Impulse's online storytelling with the mission of driving up broader participation.

According to Mitnik, "Our goal is to bring our members' personalities, hard work, and ENERGY to life in a way that feels real. We believe that Impulse's stories will be a joy for others to connect with."

IYAO Board Member Spotlight

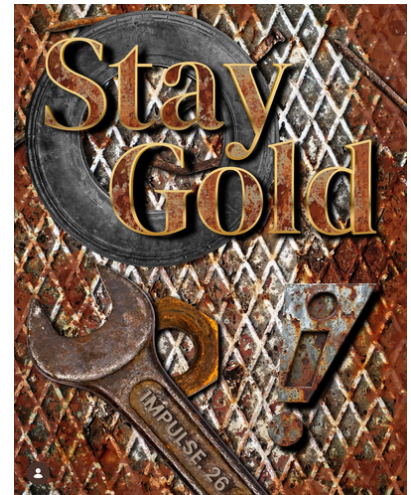


This month we bring into focus our IYAO Board President, **Bob Briggs**.

Robert “Bob” Briggs brings more than 35 years of experience in the marching arts, with a career defined by leadership in education and organizational development. After early involvement with the Velvet Knights, he went on

to serve in key instructional and coordination roles, including brass instructor and staff coordinator for City Sound Drum & Bugle Corps. Briggs has also held prominent educational leadership positions, including directing the UC Irvine Anteater Band and serving as an assistant band director within a top CSBC program, while simultaneously running his own business ventures.

His longest and most impactful service has been with the Impulse Youth Arts Organization, where he has progressed from assistant corps director and program coordinator to board leadership roles, ultimately becoming president in October 2022.



Impulse Winterguard

Impulse Winterguard has announced its 2026 program, “**Stay Gold**.” The production is inspired by the music and themes of the hit Broadway musical adaptation of *The Outsiders*, drawing on its powerful story of identity, belonging, and resilience.

Through dynamic choreography, expressive design, and a cinematic musical score, the show aims to capture the emotional journey at the heart of the beloved classic.

Impulse Winterguard will kick off its competitive season at WGI San Diego Regional on February 21–22. The organization is excited to debut this highly anticipated production and looks forward to seeing this talented ensemble bring “Stay Gold” to life on the floor.

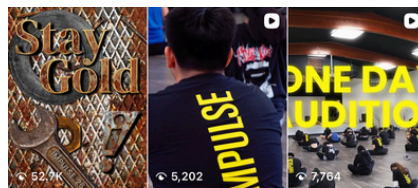
Follow the guard on IG:

 IG: [@impulsetwinterguard](https://www.instagram.com/impulsetwinterguard)

2026 Fundraising

Impulse members are kicking off their 2026 fundraising season with a **Vertical Raise** campaign! Vertical Raise is one of the highest-rated online donation platforms, using email, text messaging, and social media to dramatically expand the reach of each fundraiser.

Every contribution will go directly toward supporting member tuition costs and helping our performers achieve their goals this season. Please keep an eye out for this impactful campaign, launching February 22.



Like and Follow





In 2026, we’re working to *expand* our social-media reach so more people can follow the Impulse story from start to finish. That means more posts, more Reels, and more opportunities to include alumni and families in the journey.

If you want to be part of that growing audience, **follow us** on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok and give us a **like** on each post!

If you’d like to get email updates with stories, photos, and key news, you can sign up for Impulse updates on our website: <https://www.impulseyoutharts.org/email.html>

Impulse Alumni

Alumni! We want to hear from you! Register at: <https://www.impulseyoutharts.org/alumni.html>

-  Follow the Drum Corps!
-  IG: [@official_impulsedbc](https://www.instagram.com/official_impulsedbc)
-  FB: [Impulse Drum & Bugle Corps](https://www.facebook.com/ImpulseDrumBugleCorps)
-  TikTok: [@impulsedbc_official](https://www.tiktok.com/@impulsedbc_official)