



Dwarf Giraffe News



Volume 1, Issue 5

August 2013

Some Important Dates To Remember

- ◆ **Fall Registration is now open - See Back Page for Details.**
- ◆ Zumba - Party in Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Saturday October 5
- ◆ **Coaches Appreciation Night Friday October 18**
- ◆ Annual Halloween Party Saturday October 26

Visit our Web Site For Information On All Events www.dwarfgiraffe.com



Dwarf Giraffe

Athletic League

Whitestone, New York

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Another Busy Year at DGAL

As we approach the dog days of summer and are preparing to gear up for another great fall season, the 2013 year has been a tremendous success for DG. As we continue to provide the best sports program for the children and families of our community, DG also stays focused and involved in supporting our community by helping when called on.



This year, DG and our family and friends once again came out to help our veterans by donating \$1175 to the **Whitestone Memorial Day Parade**. With that current donation, DGAL has raised a total of **\$5275** since last year help support the Parade.



Again, our relationship with the Parks Department has reached new heights. With their help and Community Board 7, DG received the approval to build a Tee Ball field at Harvey park. Volunteers came out and as the saying goes, "if you build it, they will come". Our youngsters had a great time playing on their new field. On Saturday April 6, it was "Pitch in for Parks Day" so our families gathered their rakes, leaf blowers and garbage bags and came out on a beautiful day to help clean up Harvey Park. Parents, kids and Board members pitched in and filled over 350 bags of debris to help get the park ready for the spring and summer activities.



Our annual family picnic also set a new record, last year we had 393 parents and children attend...this year we had a **total of 434 attend!!** There were fun and games for all including the trophy awards for our little leaguers.

Let's not forget our annual Gene Brennan memorial golf outing which raised **\$7200** for our scholarship fund and our family visit to see the Brooklyn Cyclones play at MCU filed in Coney Island. Finally, we would like to congratulate our two travel baseball teams for outstanding seasons. First our 10U team finished as State Finalists in the **Cal Ripken tournament** with a record of 4-1. Secondly our 14U team also finished as State Finalists in the **Babe Ruth tournament** with a record of 3-1.



So get ready, registration starts in September - see the back of the newsletter for dates and times. Register early and get ready for another great year at DGAL. Thanks to our families, sponsors, and volunteers that make our organization great. After all, **"It's all for the kids"**.



A Letter From The President - Jay Vigorito

Greetings to all players, coaches and parents,

Well another baseball season has come and gone and here at DG things are just getting better each year. Our younger programs; T Ball, Mini Mites and Mites have had the best year I can remember. DG along with the parks department added our new T Ball field down at Harvey Park to rave reviews. Fields 19 and 20 have not looked this good in years. As most of you know, I have been around DG for a long time and I have to admit our commissioners are the most committed I have seen. I personally want to thank Frank Mezzanote and Steve Wilson for everything they do here at DG. Both of you are truly here for the children of our community.

As always our basketball program is the best in all of Queens. We have close to 600 players and our gym is in use 7 days a week all winter. Commissioner Ben Tockarshewsky and Assistant Jay Ehrlich work very hard to give the kids the best possible program and it shows by the amount of new kids we get each year. Thanks you both for all your hard work.

Once again DG would not be possible without all the hard work by your Board of Directors. I am proud to say I work alongside these guys and I can truly say they are all here for the right reasons. Some of us have been here a long time and seeing new board members step up and continue what was started back in 1955 gives me personally peace of mind knowing that when my time comes to move on from DG, the organization is left in good hands.

This year DG has done a lot to improve our programs and the up keep of our building. We installed the new driveway and parking lot, purchased a tractor to maintain the ball fields, installed 2 new scoreboards and added fans in the building. We are now looking into upgrading our whole electrical system. As a board it is our responsibility to make sure our building is maintained and is in good condition, this is not an easy task or inexpensive, but necessary. So during the year when fund raisers are held all the profit goes right back to all our programs and to support the cost of the building maintenance. Please take part in our fund raisers as they are very important to the welfare of the organization.

Lastly I want to thank all the coaches, many new ones this year and of cause our old reliable ones for all you do for the children. Remember DG is not owned by me or the Board, it is your league so please treat it that way and get involved whenever possible. Thank you all for the opportunity help give your children the best sport program we can offer.

Jay Vigorito,

President, DGAL



Visit us online at:
WWW.DwarfGiraffe.Com



Girl's Athletics

Letter from the Girls' Athletic Commissioner - George Mirtsopoulos

To our Parents, Coaches, Players and Sponsors,

Another great season for Girls Basketball. There were some really great games played and excitement in both the High School and Major Division games this season. Congratulations to the girls of Tasty Grill in the High School division on winning the championship and The Mattone Group girls who won the Major division championship.

Registration for our fall season begins on Thursday September 12 and continues every Thursday and Saturday through Saturday October 19. Thursdays from 7pm to 8:30pm and Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon. You can also register on-line by visiting our web-site at www.dwarfgiraffe.com. We will once again have at least 2 divisions, the Majors, girls ages 9-12, and High School for girls ages 13-17. So once again, please register early!!!

But that's not where the story ends, unfortunately we have had a tough time getting our girls program going the last two seasons in both basketball and this year, we had to cancel our girls softball season because we didn't have enough girls register to play. And now as registration is gearing up for the fall basketball season, I strongly ask you all to get the word out... DG is a great place to play for the kids, sign up early this year, tell your friends and neighbors about us, bring the young ladies back to DG this fall for a great basketball season. **Girls deserve the opportunity to play. Encourage your daughters, nieces, their friends to come out and play at the best sports organization in town. Help keep the Girls Athletics program going strong..**

We cannot continue to rebuild our Girl's program, both in Basketball and Softball, and we cannot succeed if you, the DG family does not take part in helping this program grow. So spread the word, help us to continue with our efforts to rebuild and grow our girl's sports program. **I will say this again, without your help, our Girl's program may fold and go away so don't let that happen! Remember, this is your community, and your league, we are all here for the children of our community!**

Finally, I just want to thank Frank Ecker for his help this year acting as the assistant basketball commissioner. I am looking forward to his return to our program this coming season!

George Mirtsopoulos

Girl's Athletic Commissioner



"I am where I am because I believe in all possibilities."

~ Whoopi Goldberg



Baseball

Letter from the Baseball Commissioners Frank Mezzanotte and Steve Wilson

Greeting players, parents, coaches and sponsors,

It is hard to believe that the spring baseball season has come to a close. It started with tryouts, scrambling to get players and making sure we have coaches, assistant coaches and team managers in place. Once all that is complete the task of coordinating all the practices and games begins, but as always it gets done, not without some hiccups and glitches. No matter how many years someone been doing it, the beginning of a season is very hectic.

Thank you to all players, parents, the NYC Parks Department, elected officials, Community Board 7 members and sponsors that helped make this baseball season special. Thank you to the dedicated coaching staff who share their time and enthusiasm for teaching baseball and coaching our young players. The standard of excellence for Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League is at a new height.

I am especially proud of the achievements of the young athletes this season. While the teams in the baseball program had great win-loss records and they enjoyed their share of big victories and emotional defeats, the games of this past spring will eventually fade into fragmented memories. In the end, the measures of success are not the statistics or wins, rather, they are the friendships, lessons and maturing that are the result of effort, selfless commitment to the team and dedication to personal betterment. The kids of the 2013 DG baseball program were truly successful. As baseball commissioners and coaches, we are fortunate to have been a part of it. I can't help but to look forward to the summer and fall baseball season to start. This season definitely raised the expectations for other seasons to follow. We had a record number of games played at DG's home field; Harvey Park. The purchase of the new tractor last year has proven to be a wise investment. No, it didn't make us extra money but it made sure we played baseball games after a heavy rain storm. Because having kids play baseball is priceless.

With over 100 children, 4-5 year olds playing T-Ball, our new T-Ball field at Harvey Park has been a big hit with all young T-Ballers and parents. Overall, 346 kids registered for this past spring baseball season and it is expected to grow even more by next spring. We had 10 T-Ball teams, 6 Mini Mite teams, 5 Mite teams, 4 Minor teams, 3 Major teams 2 Pony teams, and 1 Senior team. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Coaches Anthony Marotta, Mike Zampino and the DG 9-10 year old team, sponsored by Axon Electric for going undefeated and winning the Northeast Alliance Minor Division Championship. A job well done!



Again, Frank and I would like to thank everyone for making DG the place for your kids to play baseball. And I said it before; there is no better place for a family to watch a baseball game. Your children will always remember DG, and they will refer to it as one of the greatest experiences in their lives.

Frank Mezzanotte, Baseball Commissioner

Stephen Wilson, Assistant Baseball Commissioner



"Never let the fear of striking out get in your way."
~ Babe Ruth



Basketball

Letter from the Basketball Commissioner - Ben Tockarszewsky

DG Boys Basketball... IT'S NOT THE HYPE, IT'S THE HOOP!

We have just ended our busiest basketball season at DG with the wrap up of our Spring League on June 25th. We had 200 players in the Spring Season, which included our new 9th Grade League. Our program continues to be very healthy. DG Basketball's overall enrollment was up by 15% this year. We had over 500 boys in the Winter and over 200 players in the Spring League.

This year we continued to make many improvements to the program.

- We had new lights fixtures installed at the building. They are energy efficient and really brighten the gym.
- Two new digital scoreboards were installed.
- Eight foot rims were installed to allow proper shooting fundamentals to be taught to our younger players
- We rented PS 79 to handle the overflow of games and offer additional practice time
- Mike Panella, Assistant Coach at Manhattanville College and Director of Higher Ground Basketball, ran individual and group clinics for players wanting to take their game to the next level.
- Many of our former players are giving back. They are now coaches in our league.

We strive to have a well-rounded program at DG. While we offer a place to play for the recreational player ages 4-18, I was happy to see so many former DG players now playing at the High School level. Next year we will have another DG player playing college basketball as well!

Our program would not be as successful without the help of so many parents and friends. I would like thank them for their support through the year. Thanks to the coaches for making a difference in a young person's life. Also, if you see a DG sponsor plaque at a local business, please thank them for their financial support of DG.

Special thanks to the Basketball Committee this year, I relied on them tremendously. They included:

John Hempel, Assistant Basketball Commissioner Major Division Coordinator

Jay Strassberg, Assistant Basketball Commissioner High School Division Coordinator

Jayson Pallen, High School Spring League Assistant Commissioner

Jay Gorga, Saturday Morning Instructional Coordinator

Jay Ehrlich, Purchasing Coordinator

I would also like to thank the support of the DG Board and President Jay Vigorito for all of his efforts.

Registration for the Winter League will begin in August online. Please look for updates during the summer.

See you at the gym,

Ben Tockarszewsky

Basketball Commissioner



You need a teaching coach who understands the game of basketball, not just some guy coming on the court talking about Xs and Os. ~ Oscar Robertson



The Kids



**“In the eyes of a child there is joy, there is laughter
There is hope, there is trust, a chance to shape the future” ~ Air Supply**



The Kids



“And I don't want to hold you back, I just want to watch you grow , sweet darling child of mine” ~ Carole King



Zumba at DG

Letter from Zumba by Mary Lou Rodriguez

ZUMBA NEWS

Two years down and a third year beginning! There was some doubt about whether or not an adult fitness program would fit in at DG. Well, after two successful years, it seems the answer is a resounding YES! What started as a demonstration at the Annual DG Picnic two years ago is now a wonderful community outreach not only to the parents of our player/participants but to the community as a whole. DGZUMBA has even weathered the seasonal switch to Sundays and relocation once a year to the American Legion to accommodate our fabulous Basketball Program!

The ladies (and gentlemen) of DG ZUMBA come for many reasons; the affordability of only \$5.00 per class when others charge up to \$15.00 for walk ins, the size of our gym which makes us a super comfortable venue, and of course our great instructors, Lanita, Sammantha, Josset & our leader ZUMBA Marsha! But there is still one more thing that makes us special....our supporters who come each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday/Sunday! Their support each week, like everything else we do here at DG is all about the kids! So if you haven't been to one of our classes yet, come on out and ***DITCH THE WORKOUT AND JOIN THE PARTY!*** Bring the DG newsletter with you and try a class for free!

ON SALE NOW

DG Fitness Tee Shirts:

Adult—\$10

Children—\$8



**COMING OCTOBER 5, OUR ANNUAL PARTY IN PINK
FOR BREAST CANCER!**



For more information contact DGZumba@gmail.com

**“Little child, little child, Little child, won't you dance with me?”
~ Lennon/McCartney**



BOARDROOM

President	<i>Jay Vigorito</i>	Baseball Commissioner	<i>Frank Mezzanotte</i> <i>Steve Wilson</i>
Vice President	<i>Jose Rodriguez</i>	Basketball Commissioner	<i>Ben Tockarshewsky</i>
Treasurer	<i>Robert Downward</i>	Commissioner of Girls' Athletics	<i>George Mirtsopoulos</i>
Corresponding Secretary	<i>George Mirtsopoulos</i>	Assistant Commissioner of Girls' Athletics	<i>Frank Ecker</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>John Hempel</i>	Purchasing Coordinator	<i>Jay Ehrlich</i>
Second Vice President	<i>Dave Legaz</i>	Equipment Coordinator	<i>John Nicoletti</i>

2013 Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League Sponsors

IT IS THEIR GENEROSITY THAT HELPS DEFRAY THE COSTS FOR ALL OUR DG FAMILIES. THEY ARE A KEY ELEMENT OF DG AND DESERVE OUR THANKS AND PATRONAGE.

American Legion - Edward McKee Post 131

Arthur DiBiase Mason Contracting

Astoria Federal Savings

Axon Electrical Contracting Corp

B&M Auto Repair, Inc.

Baschnagel Bros Inc.

Benateris Italian Deli

C. Johann & Sons

Caldwell Connection Music

Casscarino's Pizza

Cherry Valley

CitiBank

Corona Equipment Corp

Dent Doctor

Freddy's Pizza

Friends of Edward Braunstein

Gus Pools

Investors Bank

J D Opticians Inc.

Keller Williams Realty - Legaz Team

Larry's Auto Collision

Lee's Jewel Box

Minichris Corp

Modells Inc.

My Best for U, LLC

North Shore Orthodontics

Nubreed Martial Arts

Nu-Way Heating and Cooling Inc

Paul Vallone

Pizza Chef

Ridgewood Savings Bank

Salerno Bakery

Sergimmo Salumeria

Steve 3000 Barbershop

Stitches

Tasty Grill

Teeter Totter Daycare

Tri-Star Lighting

Vallone & Vallone

Whitestone Hardware

We invite you to become part of the process. If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions please feel free to contact us at Info@DwarfGiraffe.com or attend one of our weekly Thursday night meetings.



DWARF-GIRAFFE
ATHLETIC LEAGUE

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Whitestone,

NY 11357

Building Address

149-50 15th Road

Tel (718) 746-1539



ONLINE REGISTRATIONS

Please feel free to avail yourself to this convenient option. Credit Card processing is done by highly secure VeriSign company and will accept MasterCard and Visa. The sport registration prices are posted on the site. The multiple child same sport discounts still apply.

You can also register in person at the DG Building located at 149-50 15th Road.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS

Dwarf Giraffe would not be the successful league we are today without having the continued support of our local politicians.

NY State Senator Tony Avella

NY State Senator Toby Stavisky

Assemblyman Edward Braunstein

Queens Borough President Helen Marshall

District Manager Community Board 7 Marilyn Bitterman

*Register On-Line By Visiting us
on the Web at:
www.dwarfgiraffe.com*

BUILDING RENTALS

*Need a place to hold your event?
Please Call 718 746-1539 for info
on renting our DG Building.*

2013 FALL REGISTRATION

Boys and Girls Basketball

REGISTRATION TIMES

EVERY THURSDAY from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

and **EVERY SATURDAY from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon**

Registration will begin

Thursday September 12, 2013 and continue

through Saturday October 19, 2013

*Early and Register
Don't be Left Out*

DGAL Your Community League...It's All For The Kids