



Dwarf Giraffe News



Volume 1, Issue 3

January 2012

Some Important Dates To Remember

- ◆ **Fall Registration Begins Saturday September 8 See Back Page for Details**
- ◆ Zumbathon For Susan G Komen Cancer Research will be on Saturday October 13 from 12noon to 2PM
- ◆ **Coaches Appreciation Night will be held on Saturday October 20th at DG details to follow.**
- ◆ Annual Halloween Party Saturday October 27



Dwarf Giraffe
Athletic League
Whitestone, New York

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Girl's Athletics</i>	3
<i>Baseball</i>	4
<i>Basketball</i>	5
<i>The Kids</i>	6/7
<i>Zumba</i>	8
<i>Boardroom</i>	9
<i>Registration</i>	10

2012 Gene Brennan Memorial Golf Outing Raises Record \$6800 For DGAL Scholarship Program



June 8, 2012 proved to be a great day for Golf, and the DGAL Scholarship fund. With over 100 golfers and supporters in attendance, the newly named **Gene Brennan Memorial Golf Outing** was by far a huge success raising a record \$6800 for the scholarship program. Gene was one of the founding members of the scholarship fund. Each year the Board of Directors reviews the playing membership to determine if there are any

children that have gone above and beyond at DG by volunteering to help at events, coach younger players and assist in the Saturday morning kids basketball program. If there are any qualifying members, based on strict guidelines set forth in the Charter, the Board then determines the amount of the scholarship and how many are eligible. The scholarships are earmarked to help the kids on there way to High School and College with books, registration fees and supplies such as lap tops, IPads that are as part of their educational needs. So keep an eye out for next years outing and be a part of this great tradition at DGAL.



The Brennan Family with Jay and Jose.

What's Happening

This has been a busy year for everyone at DGAL. So here's what's been happening.

We heard that the Whitestone Veterans were on the verge of cancelling the Whitestone Memorial Day Parade because they were not being funded any longer. DG decided to help out and held a Dinner dance (**raised \$2900**) and a Zumbathon (**raised \$1200**) to help the local veterans keep the parade tradition going. Well the people of Whitestone came out and supported both events to the tune of **\$4100** that was raised and donated to our local veterans which include the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Jewish War Veterans.

Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League also Donated **\$1000** to Whitestone Community Volunteer Ambulance. Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League would like to challenge the local businesses in our community to help out the Whitestone Community Volunteer Ambulance which has been a fixture in Whitestone for 65 years. The ambulance has helped hundreds of our residents over the years. Funding is desperately needed for new ambulances, equipment and facility repairs, so please donate anything you can because without the Volunteer Ambulance, Whitestone would not be the same.

Dwarf Giraffe is also adding to its registration forms a **\$5.00 donation box** for both the Whitestone Memorial Day Parade Fund and The Whitestone Volunteer Ambulance. These funds will go directly to each organization to help and support them. Every little bit helps!



Finally, Dwarf Giraffe was selected as one of the top two little leagues in **All of Queens**. We received the honor of **"BEST OF THE BORO"** by the Queens Courier while competing against

a total of 17 other little league organizations in Queens. What a great honor that can only be attributed by the support we get from our DG families. Thank you all for making this possible.

And once again, our Spring season ended with our annual family picnic on June 23 - with over 400 members in attendance. The day started with 2 minor Baseball championship games, followed by the Girls Senior Softball championship game. DG had games, food, and entertainment for all ages. Senator Avella and Councilman Halloran helped hand out trophies to the players, the kids did Zumba, it was non stop fun for all.



A Letter From The President - Jay Vigorito

Parents, Coaches, Sponsors & Kids,

As most of you know by now I am back for a second term as President. I want to thank Dave Legaz for his 2 years as President and staying on as second Vice President. In my first 6 months back Dave has really stepped up our relationship with the Parks department and going after grant money. I also want to thank Joe Alessandro who has recently resigned as baseball commissioner due to other commitments. Joe you will always be part of the DG family thank you for all your hard work. Moving on, our board members here at DG work hard to make sure your children get the best opportunities possible when it comes to our sport programs. Please remember this is all volunteer so when you see a board member or even one of our coaches thank them for being here for your children, a thank you goes a long way. This year our first annual Gene Brennan Memorial Golf Outing raised \$6800.00 to go to the DG scholarship fund. Try to make it next year it's a great day.

Over my many years here at DG I have met so many wonderful people who try to help out in many different ways. You don't need to coach a team there are a lot of other ways to help out. We are always looking for help in the kitchen during basketball season or go out and get a sponsor or two to help the league. You can volunteer to

keep score at a basketball game. I know everyone is busy but if no one stepped up there would be no Dwarf Giraffe.

Our basketball program has grown to more than 500 players and baseball & softball this year had over 260. We must be doing something right. We are planning a coach & sponsor appreciation night some time in late September or early October details to follow this will be an adult only cocktail party at no cost to you. Please be kind enough to stop by and say thank you to our coaches & sponsors.

I am very happy to be back and know that we will always work to improve on what we do here at Dwarf Giraffe. If any one has any comments or questions go to Ask Jay on our website. Lastly I would like to personally thank all our board members and coaches your selfishness keeps DG going strong keep up the good work.

Jay Vigorito,

President DGAL



Your Board working hard for DGAL and the kids. At Harvey Park with Queens Parks Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski and NY1 getting the fields ready for baseball. Receiving the BEST OF THE BORO award at the Golf Outing. Jay and Jose present Whitestone Ambulance with a check for \$1000. Mary Lou and Jay present the Whitestone Veterans a check for \$4100 for the Whitestone parade fund.

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,

Our 2011-2012 Girls Basketball season finished with a great playoff run in both divisions. In the Girl's High School division, LockDoctor Security & Solutions had a great comeback season and went to the championship game where they played Whitestone Hardware. LockDoctor played a great game, but could not stop Whitestone Hardware who won the High School Championship. The Girl's Major division saw C. Johan and Sons play a tough game but could not stop Holy Trinity as they won the Girl's Major division championship. I would like to take a moment and again thank all the coaches and volunteers for their time that helped to make this a great league to play in.

Our Softball season saw the Garden City Athletic Association girl's softball team join DGAL this season. There were some great games played and our girls had the pleasure of playing at the Adelphi University woman's softball field and at Garden City's softball field under the lights!! What a great season for the girl's this year.

And as a fitting end, the Championship game was played at our annual picnic against Garden City who ended up taking first place playing DG's own Ringside Bar and Grill. In a game that provided some great defensive plays and key hits by the DG girls, DG outlasted Garden City by a score of 5-2 and took home the girl's High School Championship trophy.

I would like to thank Paul Stremel who stepped up this year as a first time softball coach and did a great job with his team. Also, Joe Scibilia who once again coached and did a great job with his girls. And finally, Brian Sutton who helped me as they Assistant Girl's Athletic Commissioner.

We continue to look 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 re build and grow our girl's sports program.



2012 DG Champs Ringside Bar and Grill (left) with the Garden City Girls Softball Team.

Registration for girl's basketball starts in September - spread the word and get the girls signed up early! So please spread the word about our Girl's programs to your friends and family. Come on down and register, we have no hidden fees and our prices can't be beat. 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 here for the children of our community!

George Mirtsopoulos

Girl's Athletic Commissioner



If you want it bad enough, and you're willing to make the sacrifices, you can do it. But first you have to believe in yourself. - Jennie Finch , USA National Softball Team



Baseball

Letter from the Baseball Commissioner - Joseph Alessandro

To Our Players, Coaches and Parents,

Now that the Spring Season of Baseball has ended and the Summer Travel Season is in full swing, I would like to thank all my coaches and volunteers for your help this season. Your tireless efforts do not go un-noticed and are appreciated wholly by the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League. It's a great feeling when you coach a team and years later the boys and girls are grown and they see you in the street and yell out "What's up, Coach?". Without you, our program would not be able to run and I thank you for all the time and effort you put into our program. This Spring, DG had 14 teams in our program from Tee-ball (4 to 5 year olds) to Senior Baseball (15 -16 year olds). DG also has 4 Summer Travel teams, 1 each in the Mites, Minor, Major and Senior Divisions.

I would like to thank Frank Mezzanotte and Steve Wilson as my Assistant Commissioners for all their help and support during the Spring season. Steve was in charge of the T-Ball Division and Frank was in charge of the Mites and Mini-Mites Divisions. They were also a major part of the grounds crew, if not for their work on the fields day in and day out, most of the games would have been cancelled due to rain.

I am pleased to report that registration is now open online for our 2012 Spring Baseball season until December 31, 2012. Registration is open to all boys ages 4 to 18. DG will be closing registration early this year in an effort to player evaluations completed and teams formed by late January 2013.

As one season closes and new season begins. And that new season begins with you, the parents, who support the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League as volunteers and coaches. DG needs all your efforts for our plan to work. Please register your child early, so that we can get a jump start on the new season and make the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League better than the great year we had this season.

The Spring 2012 season was my last season as Baseball Commissioner at Dwarf Giraffe. I want to thank Jay Vigorito, President, Dave Legaz, Former President, as well as my Assistant Commissioner for their help and support over the last two seasons. Lastly, I thank you all the parent for your continued support of the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League and for making us one of the Best of the Boro.



Joseph Alessandro
Baseball Commissioner



"There may be people that have more talent than you,

but there's no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do." - Derek Jeter



Basketball

Letter from the Basketball Commissioner - Ben Tockarszewsky

Dedication + Motivation = SUCCESS

As I write my report this year, we are completing the 3rd week of games in our new DG College Summer League. We have 8 teams competing on Monday nights until late August. The majority of these young men came up through our league. I remember some of these players from 12 years ago when I first starting coaching. I am hoping that some of them will give something back to the league by coaching next year at DG.

What a season we had at DG! We had 496 boys/young men from ages 4-22 in our program. All divisions were full and many were expanded. We even added the gym at PS 79 for practice time.

The highlights of this year included:

- Increasing our enrollment to close to 500 players.
- Expanding our minor division to a 10 team league
- Games running every night of the week during the season at the DG building
- We had two fund raisers (a 50/50 raffle and 2 pizza nights at Mike & Maggie's). These events generated \$500 to be utilized for the purchase of a new scoreboard in 2013.
- We began to transition DG Basketball into to a year round league as we offered Bantam and Minors league in the Spring and a College League in the Summer.
- New breakaway rims installed prior to the season.
- 12 High School students volunteered their time to our league as part of our new Service Program.

Our Basketball Committee has been discussing ways we can improve your league for next year. Some of the new items include, adding more classes to our instructional program on Saturday mornings while cutting down the class sizes. This will allow for a smaller coach to player ratio. Also adding a mini-mites division to our Saturday morning program. Additionally, we are expanding some of our individual divisions to 12 teams , offering a Winter College League, the purchasing of a new scoreboard (after we raise the funds), Coaching clinics, Family Fun nights and a Recycling program.

We have a dedicated volunteer staff. I am grateful for the time they commit to DG. This includes our Assistant Commissioners, John Hempel and Jay Strassberg who joined our Board this year. Both men made significant contributions in the running of our league. Jay Gorga continued to coordinate our Saturday morning instructional program. I have to give a special thanks to Jay Ehrlich. He does much of the "behind the scenes" work that many people do not see. I also want to thank Joanne Smith for her contributions as the new Parent Coordinator and the many parents who volunteered in the kitchen.

Many thanks to the coaches who volunteered their time. I hope you realize how important your are to our DG kids and our organization.

A special thanks to President Jay Vigorito, Vice President Jose Rodriguez and 2nd Vice President Dave Legaz for their support and guidance. And as always, thanks to our sponsors and parents for their cooperation and support. See you at the gym!

Ben Tockarszewsky

Basketball Commissioner

"I'll do whatever it takes to win games, whether it's sitting on a bench waving a towel, handing a cup of water to a teammate, or hitting the game-winning shot." - Kobe Bryant



The Kids



“You can’t put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the farther you get.” - Michael Phelps



The Kids



"A trophy carries dust. Memories last forever."

Mary Lou Retton



Zumba at DG

Letter from Zumba by Mary Lou Rodriguez

Last July a new and very different sport arrived at DG...ZUMBA! For those who may not have heard of it yet, ZUMBA is, and I quote...

"Zumba Fitness® is the only Latin-inspired dance-fitness program that blends red-hot international music, created by Grammy Award-winning producers, and contagious steps to form a "fitness-party" that is downright addictive. It's an exhilarating, calorie-burning dance fitness-party™ that's moving millions of people toward joy and health."

For us here at DG it is an opportunity to expand and diversify the types of programs offered. It also helps serve as an example to our young player participants at DG that physical fitness is for everyone...even their moms and dads! And let's not forget that it is FUN! If you can move, you can ZUMBA! ZUMBA classes are offered three times a week on Tuesday and Saturday mornings at 10:00 and Thursday evenings at 7:00. All classes are \$5.00 and open to EVERYONE!



ZUMBA Marsha



Our ZUMBA program has also raised \$1,300.00 for Susan G. Komen Cancer Research at our Party In Pink ZUMBATHON. Also \$1,200.00 for the local Veteran's Organizations for the Whitestone Memorial Day Parade Fund. And had enough left over to purchase new round banquet tables for the building to make rentals a little more "elegant."

But, we are not done! Starting in the fall, ZUMBATIC begins at DG. A ZUMBA program designed just for children. ZUMBATIC will be a six week program offered Thursdays at 6:00PM and Saturdays at 11:00AM.

Finally, we need to acknowledge ZUMBA Marsha, our talented and "electric", instructor. This would not have been possible without her enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication to the

values of DG. We also want to acknowledge Nina Downward for helping bring ZUMBA to Tuesday mornings! Thank you, Nina!

Mary Lou Rodriguez

Zumba Coordinator

If you have not ZUMBAed with us yet...we hope to see you soon.

For more information contact DGZumba@gmail.com.



ZUMBATHON FUNDRAISER For Susan G Komen For The Cure Will be Held At DG

Saturday October 13 from 12PM to 2PM - Mark Your Calendars!



"My child arrived just the other day, he came to the world in the usual way, and as he grew he said you know I'm gonna be like you.." Harry Chapin



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>	Sponsor Coordinator	<i>Tom Nazario</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>John Hempel</i>	Web Site Coordinator Purchasing Coordinator	<i>Anthony Castellano</i> <i>Jay Ehrlich</i>
Second Vice President	<i>Dave Legaz</i>	Equipment Coordinator	<i>John Nicoletti</i>

2012 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.

<i>3 Nick's Auto Repair</i>	<i>Freddy's Pizzeria</i>	<i>Regency Signs</i>
<i>Carvel Ice Cream</i>	<i>Harpell Chemists</i>	<i>REMax Millennium</i>
<i>American Legion - Edward McKee Post 131</i>	<i>J.D. Opticians</i>	<i>Ridgewood Savings Bank</i>
<i>Anchor Astoria Lodge # 729</i>	<i>Keller Williams Realty - Legaz Team</i>	<i>Ringside Bar and Grill</i>
<i>Arthur DiBiase Mason Contractor</i>	<i>Larry's Auto Collision</i>	<i>Stitches</i>
<i>Axon Electrical Corp.</i>	<i>Laz Parking</i>	<i>T.M.T. Tire</i>
<i>B&M Auto Repair Inc.</i>	<i>Lee's Jewel Box</i>	<i>Tasty Grill</i>
<i>Baschnagel Bros. Inc.</i>	<i>LockDoctor Security Solutions</i>	<i>Temco Building Maintenance, Inc.</i>
<i>Benateri's Italian Deli</i>	<i>MCF Associates</i>	<i>The Caldwell Connection</i>
<i>Braunstein's Bridge Builders</i>	<i>Mike & Maggie's Pizzeria</i>	<i>The Clinton Restaurant</i>
<i>C. Johann & Sons Funeral Home</i>	<i>New York Paving</i>	<i>The Mulholland Group</i>
<i>Cherry Valley</i>	<i>North Shore Orthodontics</i>	<i>The Dent Doctor</i>
<i>CKC Maintenance</i>	<i>NuBreed Martial Arts</i>	<i>Van Brunt Construction</i>
<i>The Mattone Group</i>	<i>Palazzo Home Center</i>	<i>Verdi's Restaurant</i>
<i>Delgado Travel</i>	<i>Pizza Chef</i>	<i>Vito Clarizio, DMD</i>
<i>Dr. Tim Robinson General and Family Medicine</i>	<i>R&R Restorations</i>	<i>West Park Service Center</i>
<i>Empress Travel</i>	<i>Ral-Bar Electric</i>	<i>Whitestone Hardware</i>
<i>Francis Lewis Lodge No. 273</i>	<i>Ranshaw Fuel Oil Plumbing and Heating</i>	<i>Whitestone Pet Groom & Board</i>

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
PO BOX 570035
Whitestone, NY 11357

Building Address

149-50 15th Road
Tel (718) 746-1539
Fax (718) 746-0363

*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.*



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

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

Queens Borough President Helen Marshall

NY City Councilman Dan Halloran

District Manager Community Board 7 Marilyn Bitterman

2012 FALL REGISTRATION

Boys and Girls Basketball - Early Baseball and Girls Softball



REGISTRATION TIMES

EVERY THURSDAY from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

and EVERY SATURDAY from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon

Thursday Dates September 13, 20, 27

October 4, 11, 18

Saturday Dates September 8, 15, 22, 29

October 6, 13, 20

Hurry and Register

Don't be Shut Out!

DGAL Your Community League...It's About The Kids