



Dwarf Giraffe News



Volume 1, Issue 6

January 2014

Some Important Dates To Remember

- ◆ Super Bowl Party Sunday February 2
- ◆ President's Dinner Saturday March 8
- ◆ Whitestone VFW Memorial Day Parade Dinner Dance Fund Raiser - TBD
- ◆ Gene Brennan Memorial Golf Outing - TBD
- ◆ DG Annual Family Picnic Saturday June 28

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



Dwarf Giraffe

Athletic League

Whitestone, New York

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DG Named Best of the Boro

Who's the best??? DG of course,! That's right, **Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League** was voted *Number 1, Best of the Boro* by the Queens Courier. Last year we came in a close second, but thanks to all our parents, players and supporters who voted in this years contest, DG took home the prize as the BEST Little League in Queens! But that doesn't really say it all because DG is not just a little league, we are the top sports organization in Queens offering the best Baseball and Basketball programs in the Boro!! Thank you all for voting!!



DG Has Record Number of Registrations

What an explosion in registration we had in 2013. By far our best year ever. We have record number of children registered in both our Basketball program and our Baseball program. This year our Baseball program had a total of 625 players in various age groups hit the ball, run the bases and bring home multiple travel Championships making DG a force to be reckoned with in the future. And talk about future.. Our Basketball program had 623 players registered this season!! Our Saturday morning Co-Ed instructional program currently has 120 kids ages 4-6 learning the game! Even our girls basketball program went from 51 players last season to 94 this season. A great job by all our commissioners managing the explosion of kids this year, Ben Tockarszewsky our Basketball Commissioner, Frank Mezzanote our Baseball Commissioner and George Mirtsopoulos our Girls Athletics Commissioner!! Now you know why we won Best of the Boro!!

Party Time At DG!

Each year DG holds its annual Family Halloween Party and Santa comes to visit our young basketball players at our Saturday morning developmental program. Once again, both events were a great success and the parents and kids all had a great time.



We had over 100 kids and parents join us at our Halloween party this past year and our Santa had 120 children get to meet him and tell him what they wanted for Christmas!! This year, look for our special Dinner/Dance fund raiser to help our local Veterans keep the Whitestone Memorial Day Parade going for years to come!!



A Letter From The President - Jay Vigorito

To All Parents and Players,

Wow ! What a great year here at DG. As most of you know we were voted Best in the Boro by the Queens Courier. We are very proud of this accomplishment and I personally am very proud of our board members here at DG, this shows that all their hard work is worth it. I must also thank all of you because without your support DG would not be what it is today. Thanks to our two sport commissioners Ben Tockarszewsky and Frank Mezzanotte Dwarf Giraffe sports are expanding yearly with both programs having over 600 players each. Again we would not be able to do what we do without all our coaches. Coaching youth sports can be challenging at times but the positives far out weight the negatives.

I have been around Dwarf giraffe for over 45 years and I know the founders of this league. Their mission was the give every child a place to play no matter of their talent level and for that reason DG has given thousands of children the opportunity that they might not have gotten elsewhere. To me that is the biggest reason to be proud of what we do and that should never change. Our mission here is to build character and self-confidence in these children thru sports and I feel that we are doing just that.

As we start the New Year I will be taking a step back in my duties here at DG. I am Proud to announce that Dwarf Giraffe's new President will be Jose Rodriguez who I feel will do great things for this league. Jose has my full support and I will help him any way I

can. I might not be around as much but I will stop by to watch some games and to have a laugh with some of you. I feel blessed to have been around DG as long as I have and to have met so many wonderful people (yes parents that means you). Just in case some of you don't realize it, this league is a special place with great people and your children will leave here with memories that will last a life time.

I want to thank our board of directors for all your support during my time as President. These men are very special and do everything possible to give your children the best league around. I can only hope that DG stays strong and last another 60 years. Lastly I have to thank my family, my wife Carol and children Valerie & Nick for supporting me and understanding what DG has meant to me and allowing me the time away from family to be involved in this great organization. Happy and Healthy New Year to all !!

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,

What a way to start Girls Basketball this season. We had a increase in registration and now have 3 divisions in Girl's basketball at DG this year! That is great news, we went from 51 girls last year to 91 this year!! We now have 4 teams in the High School ages 13-17, 4 teams in the Majors ages 11,12 and 4 teams in the Minors, ages 9,10 a new division this season !! The season just started and the games seem to be going well.

I am so thrilled that we had the additional registrations this year and expanded the program, 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 and grow our girl's sports program. **I will say this again, without your help, our Girl's program would not have been successful this season! Remember, this is your community, and your league, we are all here for the children of our community!**

So what are we doing for our spring programs?? Based on the last two years poor showing for softball, I have decided to expand the girl's basketball program into a spring league. Hopefully we will build on the success of our current players and add some more to the program.

Registration for our spring season begins on Thursday January 16 and continues every Thursday and Saturday through Saturday March 15. 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. So once again, please register early!!!

As usual, I strongly ask you all to get the word out... DG is a great place to play for the kids, sign up early and tell your friends and neighbors about us, bring the young ladies back to DG for another 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..**

I want to take a moment to thank a few people for their help and support both this year and during my tenure at DG. First Ben Tockarszewsky who has supported and encouraged me and who I get my basketball lessons from (even though he doesn't know it), Frank Ecker who has helped me with the program the last two seasons, Steve Frankel who back in 1998 said to me, you should get involved at DG... and here I am 15 years later. Also, a few coaches who play the game right, Ron Yudin, Angel Valle and our new coach Noah Angeles - they are role models for our coaches at DG! Thank you gentlemen. Also the entire board and parents that I have had the pleasure of working with through out my time at DG. And I don't want to forget all the young children, both boys and girls that I have coached over the years. And my son Stephen who also coaches along with all the other young players who have stepped up to coach at DG...thank you all for giving back to the league and the community.

Finally, I just want to thank Jay Vigorito for his past leadership as President (and continued participation at DG) and for allowing me to do all I could to keep the girls program alive at DG.

George Mirtsopoulos

Girl's Athletic Commissioner



**"Do your best, one shot at a time, and then move on."
~ Nancy Lopez**



Baseball

Letter from the Baseball Commissioner - Frank Mezzanotte

To All Parents, Players and Coaches

Dwarf Giraffe Baseball has had a very successful year. I would like to thank everyone's support for the past three seasons we had to offer in 2013. It was the first time DG offered an intramural program for spring, summer, and fall, as well as travel teams. We had a total of 625 children, between the ages of 4 through 16. I would personally like to thank all of the DG board members for all of their hard work and dedication. This league would not have been such a success if it wasn't for the dedicated families and coaches. Because of this, DG was awarded Best of The Boro by Queens Courier.

Our fields were always kept in playable conditions, thanks to the help of Steve Wilson. We made sure that the children were able to play day in and day out, and that rainouts would not prevent them from playing. Another reason why 2013 was such a big success. Games were scheduled, and games were played. The passion that I have for the sport of baseball reflects the amount of games these children played all year long. I eat, breathe, and sleep baseball. My goal is to see baseball come back to Northeast Queens like it was when I played in the early 90's with great intensity, energy, and many kids playing.

The spring season consisted of a twelve week schedule. The t-ball and mini-mite divisions played an astonishing twenty game season. The older kids played a minimum of twelve games, along with teams that made up the Northeast Queens Alliance. The summer season was seven weeks, and baseball was played regardless of the hot summer evenings. Multiple championships were won by our DG teams in the spring and in the summer travel leagues.

The fall season was also a huge success. It was eight weeks long, and had over 174 children participating. All teams played a minimum of ten games, and finished their long 2013 baseball season well after the major leagues had finished their season. It was good to see these children playing come November, like the pros.

I am eager and excited to continue my duties as Commissioner for this great league in the upcoming 2014 season.

Frank Mezzanotte, Baseball Commissioner



"Just to hit the ball, and touch 'em all .. A moment in the sun"
 ~ Centerfield by John Fogerty



Basketball

Letter from the Basketball Commissioner - Ben Tockarszewsky

DG BOYS BASKETBALL REPORT - MY FINAL ONE!

I am writing you my last report as Basketball Commissioner. I have been the commissioner since 2007, although I did take a one year sabbatical 4 years ago. I found the uniform order from the 2008 season. I wanted to take a minute to compare it to this year's order.

2008 Season

Instructional = 20 t-shirts
 NO MITES DIVISION
 Bantam Division = 5 teams
 Minor Division = 6 teams
 Major Division = 6 teams
 NO HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION
 No Spring Basketball League

2014 Season

Instructional = 120 t-shirts
 Mites division = 10 teams
 Bantam Division = 8 teams
 Minors Division = 10 teams
 Major Division = 14 teams
 High School Division = 6 teams
 Full Spring League now offered

I have enjoyed my time as Commissioner, albeit at times it was challenging. One of the goals of the Basketball Committee when we started was to leave the program a little better off than what it was. By the looks of the registration numbers, it seems like we have accomplished that goal. Most importantly, I have tried to make the program about kids having a positive experience, playing basketball and having fun. My biggest fulfillment is not the number of DG players who made their high school or college teams, or the number of travel teams we had (P.S. we don't have any) but the number of kids who had a positive experience at DG. I take great pride in the former players who are now giving something back as coaches in the league.

There are so many people to thank individually and I am sorry if I forget anyone. However, I would like to mention several of my friends (George Mirtsopolous, Joe Alessandro, Bob Bedell, Greg Recuperero, Pete Panagakos, Tom Tinghitella, Jason Pallen, Jay Strassberg, Ron Yudin, John Hempel and Tom Gorey) whose kids grew up with mine in

the program and would coach an extra team if we were short, make suggestions on rule changes, cover the gym nightly and give the support that I needed.

I would like to thank the Board for all of their support. The program and the facilities have made great strides under past Presidents Jay Vigorito and Dave Legaz. It is gratifying to hear from a board member that they are in full support of you as Basketball Commissioner. It makes the job a lot easier. A special thanks as well to Jay Ehrlich for all of his work behind the scenes and good luck to Jose Rodriguez in his new role as DG President.

I am very lucky. I got to watch all 3 of my boys grow up in the DG Program. I am proud that two of my sons, Ben and Thomas now coach in the league. I am sure my youngest son, Max will join them as well someday.

Most importantly, a thank you to the parents who signed their children up to play in our league. DG is more than just a basketball or baseball league. It is a family. I thank you for making me part of that family for the past 13 years.

P.S. Maryellen, it looks like I will be home on time for dinner a little more.

Thanks again and See you at the gym,

Ben Tockarszewsky

Basketball Commissioner



“What you do in life, echoes in eternity” - Gladiator



The Kids



*“You're just a kid now but soon you'll be a king of hearts”
~ The Beach Boys*



The Kids



*"I'm gonna try with a little help from my friends."
~ The Beatles*



Zumba at DG

DG ZUMBA 2014 by Mary Lou Rodriguez



Dear DG Members,

It is once again my pleasure to bring you up to date on all things ZUMBA here at DG. Currently, DG ZUMBA classes are being offered according to our Winter Schedule. Our usual Saturday morning class is being held on Sunday morning at 10:00 AM and the Thursday 7:00 PM class is being held at the American Legion Post at 10-20 Clintonville Street. We would like to again thank the Legion for giving us a home under the disco lights and remind our DG members, that proceeds from this class go to the Whitestone Memorial Day Parade Fund. Please come on over on Thursdays and sweat for a VET!

But what else has ZUMBA been up to??? We celebrated our 2nd Anniversary with a ZUMBATHON and pot-luck buffet! Did I mention that this was a free class, thanks to our generous and wonderful instructors? As for the buffet...no worries... first we burned a lot of calories with a two hour class! Can it be that we have been dancing together for over two years now? WEPA! In October, we hosted our Annual Party In Pink to raise funds and awareness for breast research and Susan G. Komen Org. This year we were joined by Carmen Mirtsopoulos and **Silpada Designs** with a percent of sales also going to Susan G! Thank you Carmen!

Looking ahead....more music, more laughter and more DG members taking advantage of affordable classes (after two years still only \$5!), wonderful Instructors – Marsha, Lanita, Sammantha, Jennifer and Josset, and it all goes down for a great cause – DG....where we do it all for the Kids! Health & Happiness to All!

Mary Lou

For more information contact DGZumba@gmail.com



“Let's dance to the song they're playin' on the radio”
- David Bowie



BOARDROOM



President	<i>Jose Rodriguez</i>	Political Action and Grant Coordinator	<i>Dave Legaz</i>
Vice President	<i>George Mirtopoulos</i>	Baseball Commissioner	<i>Frank Mezzanotte</i>
Treasurer	<i>Robert Downward</i>	Basketball Commissioner	<i>Ben Tockarshewsky</i>
Corresponding Secretary	<i>Steve Wilson</i>	Commissioner of Girls' Athletics	<i>George Mirtopoulos</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Ben Tockarshewsky</i>	Purchasing Coordinator	<i>Jay Ehrlich</i>
Second Vice President	<i>Jay Vigorito</i>	Equipment Coordinator Storeroom/Data Coordinator	<i>John Nicoletti Nick Gagliano</i>

2014 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.

AD Trophy Manufacturing Corp	Friends of Edward Braunstein	Ranshaw Fuel Oil, Plumbing and Heating
American Legion - Edward McKee Post 131	Gus Pools	Re-Action Auto Service Center
Anchor Astoria Lodge # 729	Harpell Chemists	Remix Fitness & Wellness
Arthur DiBiase Mason Contracting	Investors Bank	Ridgewood Savings
Astoria Federal	JD Opticians Inc	Salerno Bakery
Axon Electrical Contracting Corp	Joe Lercara's Boars Head Donations	Sergimmo Salumeria
B&M Auto Repair Inc.	Keller Williams - Legaz Team Realty	Sergio Salumeria
Baschnagel Bros Inc.	Larry's Auto Collision	Speedwrench
Benateris Italian Deli	Lees Jewel Box	Steve 3000 Barbershop
C. Johann & Sons Funeral Home	Mama Carmela's	Stitches
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CKC Maintenance	Nu-Way Heating and Cooling Inc	Verdi's of Whitestone
Corona Equipment Corp	Palazzo Home Center	Whitestone Contracting
Dent Doctor	Paul Vallone	Whitestone Hardware
Francis Lewis Lodge No. 273	Pizza Chef	Zuccarello & Zerilo & Co Inc
Freddy's Pizza		Zwicker Electric

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.



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ATHLETIC LEAGUE
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Fax (718) 746-0363



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 City Councilman Paul Vallone

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.*

**2014 SPRING REGISTRATION
Baseball and Girl's 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 January 16, 2014 and continue

through Saturday March 15, 2014

*hurry and Register
Don't be Shut Out!*

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