



Dwarf Giraffe News



Volume 1, Issue 4

January 2013

Some Important Dates To Remember

- ◆ **Spring Registration is now open - See Back Page for Details.**
- ◆ **Super Bowl Party Sunday February 3, 2013.**
- ◆ **Annual President's Dinner - Saturday March 9, 2013 at Vetro's.**
- ◆ **The Gene Brennan Annual Golf Outing Friday May 31, 2013**
- ◆ **DGAL Family Picnic Saturday June 29, 2013.**

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



Dwarf Giraffe

Athletic League

Whitestone, New York

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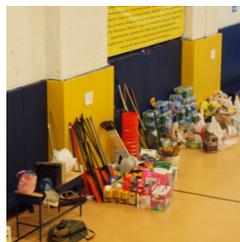
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Hurricane Sandy

Hurricane Sandy hit many residents in NYC, but none more than residents in Breezy Point, much of the Rockaways and Broad Channel. So our very own Steve Wilson, Assistant Baseball Commissioner decided to do something to help out those in need. Steve spent the earlier part of the week driving clothing collected by his son's Boy Scout troop down to the storm-ravaged neighborhoods, but after arriving, he realized people needed more than warm clothing. "There was devastation everywhere, people wandering around wondering what to do," he said. "They were looking for cleaning products, shovels, dry food, paper towels and blankets."

So Steve knew that others in the Queens area wanted to help, so he contacted our President, Jay Vigortio, and got the OK to use DG's network of families to get out the word that the league would be having a drive at our building to collect supplies that were needed including items like cleaning products, brooms, diapers and even dog and cat food for the pets.

DG sent out blast e-mails to our membership, posted on our Facebook page and the Whitestone Facebook page and the turn out was amazing. It started out slow but by mid day the word had spread and people just started pouring in, the amount of items donated was unbelievable. Thanks to Steve and his efforts, our local community helped make a difference in the lives of our neighbors who lost so much to due to Hurricane Sandy. When it comes to helping those in need, communities have no boundaries and the DG families who include residents from Whitestone, College Point, Flushing and Bayside stepped up to help.



What's Happening

This year, DGAL offered a Woman's Self Defense and Crime Prevention Seminar on at our building. The seminar covered topics from what to do if you think you are being followed to some self defense moves for woman. The seminar was given by Mr. Antonio (Tony) Meloni, Director, New York Anti-Crime Agency.



We also put aside an evening to Appreciation and acknowledge our Coaches and Sponsors. The evening was attended by Christian Lopez who caught Derek Jeter's 3000 hit.



Always looking to help the community, this fall DG included donation boxes on our registration forms to help support The Whitestone Volunteer Ambulance and Our Veterans to support the Whitestone Memorial day Parade. We collected close to \$500 for each organization. This will be an on going effort by DG.



A Letter From The President - Jay Vigorito

To all members of the DG family,

I would first like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. I am just starting the second year of my second term as President of the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League and I don't really like to brag but I must. You have the most loyal and concerned board members working for you. I have been around DG a long time and I must say I can't remember DG in better shape. Financially we were able to make much needed improvements to our gym. We have painted to inside of the gym and I'm sure most of you have seen the new driveway. Both of our programs have been growing in leaps and bounds. ***Our numbers in basketball are over 500 and baseball is around 400. We have not seen numbers like these in years so we must be doing something right.***

To continue in giving our members the best possible, we still need your support. Volunteers are always needed. This year getting coaches has been a struggle as well as help in the kitchen. There are a few of us coaching more than one team and also working the kitchen. I realize people have a lot to keep them busy, but what would Whitestone be like if DG were no longer an option? How many children would not have a place to play and meet new friends? We at DG feel that along with teaching the skills of the game we teach sportsmanship and build character. Please try getting involved, believe me you will enjoy it more than you think.



Some more news DG has just purchased two new score boards for our gym and hope to have them installed before the end of January. We also have a few events coming up, the ***Super Bowl party is on February 3rd and our Presidents Dinner is March 9th at Vetro's which is owned by Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach.*** You can check with me about either event or just Ask Jay online. Last thing is this ***year's golf outing will held on Friday May 31, 2013;*** this has turned into a great fund raiser for our scholarship fund and always a great time for all. Please try to attend, you will not be disappointed.

Below is a little poem for our parents....

As always thank you for your support,

Jay Vigorito,

HE'S JUST A BOY

He stands at the plate with his heart pounding fast;

The bases are loaded; the die has been cast.

Mom and Dad can not help him; he stands all alone.

A hit at this moment would send the team home.

The ball nears the plate; he swings and he misses.

There's a groan from the crowd, with some boos and hisses.

A thoughtless voices cries, "strike out the bum!"

Tears fill his eyes; the games no longer fun.

Remember- he's just a boy who stands all alone.

So open your heart and give him a break.

For its moments like this a man you can make.

Keep this in mind when you hear someone forget.

He's just a boy, not a man yet.

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,

Welcome back to another great season at DG. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and we welcome the New Year with our 2012-2013 Girls Basketball season is full swing. The Girl's High School division currently has 4 teams playing and all are very competitive as most games have been decided in the last few minutes on the court. Anyone of these teams can take the championship. In The Girl's Major division, we also have 4 teams competing this season. So come on down to the building on either Tuesday night to see the HS girls play, or Friday nights to see the Major girls play, I guarantee you will see some very exciting games.

I would also like to introduce Frank Ecker to all, Frank has been a long time coach in the Girl's HS division and will now serves as Girls Assistant Basketball Commissioner. Welcome aboard Frank! I would like to take a moment and again thank all the coaches and volunteers for their time and effort that helps to make this a great league to play in.

Our Softball season is right around the corner, registration is open both on line and at our building from now until late March. If you plan on playing, please register early and let your friends and family know about DG. This is a great organization for your kids to play in, we look to build confidence, teach respect, fair play and most of all equal playing time regardless of your abilities. These are basic foundations that can be utilized in both the sports arena and life. And most of all, we want the kids to have fun and a great experience. So come on down and register, we have no hidden fees and our prices can't be beat. And a special thanks to Brian Sutton will once again serve Assistant Girl's Athletic Commissioner.

I also just want to emphasize once again that 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. Our registration number are significantly down from previous year in the girls programs. So spread the word, help us to continue with our efforts to rebuild and grow our girl's sports program. **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!**



George Mirtsopoulos
 Girl's Athletic Commissioner



“The vision of a champion is bent over, drenched in sweat, at the point of exhaustion, when nobody else is looking.” Mia Hamm



Baseball

Letter from the Baseball Commissioners

This is our 2nd year being part of the board and baseball commissioners. A special thanks to DG's President, Jay Vigorito and all other board members for giving us the opportunity to make the baseball program the best program in Queens. Working alongside with such great dedicated individuals, it makes it so rewarding being part of DG. Also a thank you to Joe Alessandro, DG's previous baseball commissioner for his hard work and dedication through the years he was part of DG. Even though our first game is several months away, we're already busy planning for a successful season. Registration started in December and is going strong. DG has purchased new field equipment including a brand new tractor to help keep the baseball fields in tip top shape throughout the season. This year, we estimate that there will be close to 300 players participating on 27 teams in six divisions. We anticipate 10 teams in T-Ball (4- 5 year olds), 4 teams in Mini Mites (6 year olds), 4 teams in Mites (7-8 year olds), 2 teams in the Minors (9-10 year olds), 2 teams in the Majors (11-12 year olds), 2 teams in the Pony's (13-14 year olds), and 1 team in the Seniors (15-16 year olds). That's just for the Spring season. This year we will be offering both Summer and Fall baseball to all ages.

As you can see, the popularity of baseball at all levels is alive and well at DG. To help manage these teams successfully, we need volunteer support. DG is looking for volunteers/coaches to help in a variety of roles. If you're worried about time restrictions, please know that almost all of them can be shared, so please consider volunteering for one of these positions with a friend or neighbor. Together, we can work to provide a program for our kids that are based in education and affords them the opportunity to achieve the highest level of success in whatever athletic endeavor they desire. Most of all, DGAL is committed to making sure that everyone who ever puts on a DG uniform will reflect fondly on the time they spent with DG.

The primary objective of all our sports programs is to promote and teach good sportsmanship, respect for authority, loyalty to a team, and a heightened sense of self-worth. While teaching the proper fundamentals of the sport is very important, we recognize that for most of our children, playing sports is a recreational activity. We strive to accommodate all children, not just children who have attained or seek to attain the highest level of skill in a sport.

Little League Baseball is much more than just bats, balls, a field, dugouts, or any of the other dozens of physical items that go into baseball. It has become, over the years, a leadership program for both children and adults, with the aim of helping children to become good and decent citizens. Children learn the positive values of good sportsmanship, fair play and teamwork — values they can use throughout their lives. Adults involved as volunteers in a local league gain a sense of belonging in a community, and can convey their leadership qualities to today's children so they will grow to be tomorrow's leaders.

Finally, we want to thank all of the coaches and team assistants. You set the tone for our environment at DG and are the direct interface with the players. They learn so much from you not only through athletic instruction, but by observing how you handle yourself as a person. Thank you for taking on this awesome responsibility.

This should be another great season! 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



“Baseball was made for kids, and grown-ups only screw it up.”
Bob Lemon



Basketball

Letter from the Basketball Commissioner - Ben Tockarszewsky

“I SEE A LOT OF DG BASKETBALL SHIRTS AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD”

During our registration several months ago, a mother came into our building. She had just moved into the neighborhood with her children and was looking for a place for her kids to play. She mentioned to me that she had seen a lot of kids wearing DG basketball shirts around the neighborhood and wanted to come see for herself what we had to offer.

As I write this report we are just getting back from the Holiday Break. Our Basketball Committee was very busy during the break as the schedules were completed, new backboards and rims were installed for our Instructional Program and new scoreboards were ordered.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to last year's fundraisers which allowed us to pay for the scoreboards.

Here are the highlights of our program:

- We have over 500 boys enrolled in our fall program from ages 4-18. This is the largest enrollment we have had during my tenure as Commissioner
- The future of our league is bright, as we now have 180 kids under the age of 8 in the program.
- We formed a new division (Minors II) and now have 45 teams in 5 divisions
- We have installed 8 foot rims and backboards for the Instructional Program. This will allow us to develop proper shooting fundamentals for our younger players. .
- Many of new younger coaches were former DG Players. We are grateful that they are giving something back to the league.
- Two new state of the art scoreboards have been ordered.
- We have 10 former and current DG players playing for their High School Teams.

The goal of our program is to be a league that welcomes all talent levels and have the children enjoy a positive atmosphere, learn the game and have fun. Our commissioners and coaches continue to work to fulfill this goal.

Special thanks to the our sponsors, coaches, assistant commissioners and parents for their cooperation and support.

See you at the gym!

Ben Tockarszewsky

Basketball Commissioner



“The only difference between a good shot and a bad shot is if it goes in or not.”
Charles Barkley



The Kids



“Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass;
it’s about learning how to dance in the rain.” *Author Unknown*



The Kids



*“It is not how big you are, it’s how big you play.”
Author Unknown*



Zumba at DG

Letter from Zumba by Mary Lou Rodriguez

Happy New Year to all! It has been my pleasure to help bring something new and different to DG...ZUMBA, the cardio workout that is more party than workout. July 2012 marked our one year anniversary and it has been an eventful year filled with special events and surprises.



DG again hosted two charitable ZUMBATHONS. The first was our Second Annual Party and Pink to benefit Susan G. Komen and the fight against breast cancer. Participants and volunteers helped raise funds and awareness about a disease that touches all of our lives. Our ZUMBATHON was last November and touched very close to home for so many as DG responded to the devastation of Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath. Proceeds and donations from this event went to the American Red Cross to assist in the relief effort.

Currently, the ZUMBA schedule is:

Sunday at 10:00AM

Thursday at 7:00PM at the American Legion Hall, 1020 Clintonville St.

Once basketball season is over, classes will return to the regular schedule with Thursdays at the building and Sunday classes returning to Saturday at 10:00 AM.

Also, I need to thank and acknowledge ZUMBA Marsha for all that she brings to DG with her spirit and "flava"! Here is how great Marsha is...in her absence she has sent us two great subs, Samantha and Flore, to keep us movin' and shakin' until she is back with us. BTW...Marsha is on the mend and scheduled to return in mid-February. Also, a shout out to Nina Downward for keeping Tuesday ZUMBA going and subbing for Jose and I! Thank you, Nina!

Finally, a commercial...You can ZUMBA anywhere! You can pay \$10.00 a class. You can "fight and squirm" to find enough room on the floor to move. You can buy a pre-paid card, pay a monthly fee or hope for a Groupon to get a discount for ZUMBA classes. But, none of that is necessary here at DG! **\$5.00 every class, every week** with always enough room to boogie, and some of the nicest people to spend an hour with beginning with ZUMBA Marsha and her crew! Last bonus, being able to tell your child that you too are a player/participant at the athletic associated voted the *Best of the Borough by the Queens Courier, Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League*. WEPA!



For more information contact DGZumba@gmail.com

Mary Lou Rodriguez, Zumba Coordinator

"And the Seasons they go round and round and the painted ponies go up and down." Joni Mitchell



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 Tockarszewsky</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>Carvel Ice Cream</i>	<i>Francis Lewis Lodge No. 273</i>	<i>Paul Vallone</i>
<i>American Legion - Edward McKee Post 131</i>	<i>Freddy's Pizzeria</i>	<i>Pizza Chef</i>
<i>Anchor Astoria Lodge # 729</i>	<i>Friends of Edward Braunstein</i>	<i>Ranshaw Fuel Oil Plumbing and Heating</i>
<i>Arthur DiBiase Mason Contractor</i>	<i>Gus Pools</i>	<i>Salerno Bakery</i>
<i>Axon Electrical Corp.</i>	<i>Harpell Chemists</i>	<i>Sergimmo Salumeria</i>
<i>B&M Auto Repair Inc.</i>	<i>J D Opticians</i>	<i>Stitches</i>
<i>Baschnagel Bros. Inc.</i>	<i>Keller Williams Realty - Legaz Team</i>	<i>T.M.T. Tire</i>
<i>Benateri's Italian Deli</i>	<i>Larry's Auto Collision</i>	<i>Tasty Grill</i>
<i>Braunstein's Bridge Builders</i>	<i>Laz Parking</i>	<i>Temco Building Maintenance, Inc.</i>
<i>C Johann & Sons Funeral Home</i>	<i>Lee's Jewel Box</i>	<i>Teeter Totter Day Care</i>
<i>Cherry Valley</i>	<i>Mama Carmela's Pizza</i>	<i>The Caldwell Connection</i>
<i>CKC Maintenance</i>	<i>MCF Associates</i>	<i>The Mulholland Group</i>
<i>Corona Equipment Company</i>	<i>North Shore Orthodontics</i>	<i>The Dent Doctor</i>
<i>The Mattone Group</i>	<i>NuBreed Martial Arts</i>	<i>West Park Service Center</i>
<i>Dr. Tim Robinson General and Family Medicine</i>	<i>Nu Way Heating and Cooling</i>	<i>Whitestone Hardware</i>
	<i>Palazzo Home Center</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.



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NY 11357

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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

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

NY City Councilman Dan Halloran

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 SPRING REGISTRATION

Boys 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**

Registration Will Continue

Through Thursday March 28, 2013

**As Each Age Group Fills Up, Registration
Will Close!**

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

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