

Calendar of Events

- September 16th **Kick-Off Meeting & Board Elections**
Medaille College, Room M102
7PM
- September 26th **Step Up for Down Syndrome**
Coca Cola Field, Buffalo, NY
11AM
- October 24th **Halloween Party**
St. Mary's High School, Lancaster
1PM
- October 24th **Fall Dance**
MaGruders
4995 Broadway, Depew
5:30PM
- November 4th **Diploma Options Meeting**
Medaille College, Room M102
7PM

The DSPG News is published quarterly in
February, May, August, and November



DSPG of WNY, Inc.
547 Englewood Avenue
Kenmore, New York 14223



DSPG News

August 2015



REMINDER: Save those Pop Tops! If you are interested in a collection house please contact michgiambra@gmail.com Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo benefits for the donation of collected Pop Tops.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kick-Off Meeting & Elections September 16th

We will have our Annual Meeting and Board Elections at Medaille College, Room M102 at 7PM. We will share an annual report of the DSPG's activities and a Treasurer's Report. We will hold elections for 5 positions on our Board of Directors. See the Board news on page 2 for more information. Additionally, we are fortunate to have two guest presenters. A representative from 2-11 of WNY to share information about their family support services. Also, a coach from Special Olympics will be sharing information and answering any questions members may have regarding their program.

Step Up For Down Syndrome September 26th

Our annual awareness walk is coming up on Saturday, September 26th from 11am-2pm at Coca-Cola field. We will walk one mile to the Naval Park and back as we celebrate National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. This year we are excited to have music from Strictly Hip added to our entertainment list as well as games and activities for children. We are excited to offer online registration this year. Register at dspgwny.org! Advance registration is open until September 9th and includes a FREE t-shirt for \$7. Walk-ins are welcome the day of the event for \$10. Also check out our Facebook page or contact Gretchen White at 465-0128 or gretchen.w@dspgwny.org for more information.

Fall Dance - October 24th

The Fall dance is Saturday October 24, 2015 from 5:30 to 9:00, at MaGruders and take a spin on the dance floor. MaGruders is located at 4995 Broadway in Depew. Please RSVP by Monday, October 19, so that we can ensure adequate food and seating. The DSPG will provide pizza, salad and drinks. Families with the last names A-M are to bring an appetizers, and families N-Z will bring a dessert. Since the dances are becoming well attended we are requiring an RSVP in advance so that we can prepare the space and ensure that we are within capacity limits of the venue. Please RSVP to Lynette at lph@roadrunner.com

Halloween Party - October 24th

For our younger trick-or-treaters....ages 10 and under...come join us at St. Mary's High School in Lancaster from 1:00-3:00PM in the cafeteria. We'll celebrate an early Halloween parading around in our costumes. Lots of great activities are planned. Families are asked to bring a snack/treat for the party. Lunch will not be served. For more information contact either Amy Monson at 677-0604 or amonson23@gmail.com or Michelle Giambra at 517-7961 or michgiambra@gmail.com

Diploma Options - November 4th

On Wednesday, November 4th at 7 pm, in M102 at Medaille College we will have a presentation on high school diploma options. The new CDOS credential will be discussed as well as other traditional diploma options.

Looking For a Reason to Golf?!

The 6th Annual Wende New York State Correction Officers & Police Benevolent Association Charity Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday Sept 16th, 2015 at Chestnut Hill Country Club 1330 Broadway Darien Center, N.Y. 14040. All proceeds benefit the Down Syndrome Parents Group of WNY. \$100 per player includes: Unlimited Range, 18 holes, Cart, Lunch at Turn, Open Bar before Dinner, Prizes, 50/50, Raffles, and Dinner. If you enjoy golfing and would like to support the DSPG contact Mike Gaca at (716) 861-6228. Volunteers are also needed during the event and can contact Mike for more information.

New Board Positions

At our Annual Meeting on September 16, we will elect five Board Members for a term of three years. The positions are 1 Treasurer, 1 Secretary and 3 Members at Large. If you are interested in running for a position on the Board, please e-mail dspgwny@gmail.com by September 1st. If you would like more information about being a Board Member, e-mail us or call any board member listed on Page 3. We would love to see some fresh faces getting more involved in our organization. We will e-mail the slate of candidates and have them available in print at the annual meeting on September 16th where we will hold elections.

New Families

Welcome to the following new families:

The Mondschein Family
The Moore Family

In Memory of Ethan Ciesiulka

The DSPG of WNY has received several donations in memory of Ethan Ciesiulka. Ethan was a "Happy" 6 year old who could light up a room, by those who knew him. Unfortunately Ethan experienced several medical complications over the last year. We want to thank those who have made donations to the DSPG in his honor. Ethans' father Michael wants his legacy to be "that he is an inspiration, that he showed being different doesn't mean its a negative thing. That its something you can embrace, spread to others" We hope that through these donations that we are able to spread that legacy and honor his memory. Thank you to the following donors:

- The Fenn Family
- The Hartmann Family
- The Jerge Family
- The Guarasci Family
- The Ulbrich Family
- Robert and Amy Gogel on behalf of Heritage Christian Services
- Robert and Beverly Michalski
- Thomas Castellani and Supermarket Liquors & Wines
- Linda Wilk
- John A. Sciole School
- Ilene and Larry Garrison
- Patrick and Cheryl Massett
- Kenneth and Angela Zollitsch

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Mark your calendars for March 6th, 2016 for the next Spaghetti Dinner. If you are interested in volunteering or assisting in the event please contact Trish Winnicki at 445-2177.

Thank You To Our Donors

- Erie County Hospital Retirees Association- Members donated from their June Luncheon

DSPG Buffalo Bisons Game

The Annual DSPG at the Bisons was a great success! The weather could not have been better, a warm sunny day with a slight breeze to keep everyone cool. All who attended had a great time. The Bison's however did not win-but that really didn't matter. Everyone enjoyed talking to friends, some good ballpark food and a good time. Looking forward to next year.

National Down Syndrome Convention

Where in the world is the next NDSC Convention?

Orlando, Florida: July 21-24, 2016

Keep an eye on their website for more details:

<http://www.ndsccenter.org/the-convention/>



<https://www.facebook.com/DSPGWNYPARENTSGROUP>



DSPG Scholarships

We would like to remind our members that the DSPG offers 4 conference scholarships per year (\$250.00 per scholarship). Scholarships will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. A proof of conference registration must accompany the request in order to be awarded. Individuals who have been awarded a DSPG Scholarship will be requested to present information received from the conference either in writing which will be featured in a future publication of our newsletter or presented at a DSPG meeting. There is a limit of one scholarship awarded per family per 5 year period. For more information please contact the DSPG at dspgwny@gmail.com

DSPG BOARD MEMBERS

Presidents:

Amy Monson
677-0604

Barbara Wakefield
983-2140

Vice Presidents:

Gretchen White
834-0853

Trish Winnicki
445-2177

Treasurer:

Janet Poreda
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Communications Coordinator:

Michelle Giambra
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Secretary:

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Tracey Flick
228-5002

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