



DRAGON TALES

Monthly Newsletter of the Dragon Dream Team

DECEMBER 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE:

- Fri., Nov. 30 DDT Christmas Party - The Colonnade Room, Canton – 6:00 pm
 - Sat., Dec. 8 Holiday Field Trip - Hower House Tour - 12:00 pm *
 - Tues., Jan. 8 Board Meeting – yet to be determined
 - Wed., Jan. 9, 16... Team Workouts at PLX Fit Club (Wednesday evenings) – 6:00 pm
- * further details provided in this newsletter

DRAGON DELIGHTS: Interesting news to share about a member, or about yourself.

Sandie Fugitt was nominated by her doctor, who is in the Pioneer Physicians Network, to be one of twelve Ambassadors for Akron 60 Strong and be part of their 2018 calendar.

The Ambassadors were chosen by a panel of judges because they achieved remarkable levels of fitness, beat or sustained a chronic illness, donate time to their community or help others in need. They also exemplify how life after 60 can be a positive vibrant and active time. Congratulations, Sandie!



Pam Massoli has become a grandmother once again! Rye Michael Massoli arrived on October 26. He weighed in at 8 lb 8 oz. Pam states that he is “my perfect boy.” Congratulations!

DECEMBER / JANUARY BIRTHDAYS: Members: If we have omitted your birthday, please let us know.

DECEMBER

- 6 – Mary Hnath
- 8 – Betsy Lambright
- 28 – Trish Chapman

JANUARY

- 7 – Barb Fox
- 8 – Patti Russo
- 27 – Tara Reynolds

PRAYERS: *If a DDT member is in need of prayers and/or support, please contact **Deb Merrow**, Sunshine Chair.*

 News from the Sunshine Committee:

We have been praying for Coach Allen, Monica Siko, Dorothy Farkas, Melissa Samulak, Madie Griffith, and as always, Mary Hlavac, Tara Reynolds, and Debbie Pittak. Thanks for all that you have all been doing to help teammates.

~ submitted by Deb M

DRAGON MESSAGES:

Message from Team Ops:

Thanks again for a great season and Happy Holidays! Special shout-out to Allen and Sara for your dedication to the team, it is much appreciated! And one last item, keep on exercising for an easy transition to weekly workouts! *Juanita and Barb*

Treasurer's Note\$:

2019 Team Dues: Dues for 2019 are \$75, payable to Dragon Dream Team (team name must be written out, do not write DDT per bank rules). The deadline for payment is our Winter Retreat on February 16. Dues can be brought to the Retreat, or mailed prior to the Winter Retreat to our new treasurer Kristen Evans, 1126 E. University, Wooster, OH 44691.

~ submitted by Dawn

Message from the Garden Committee:

On November 6, our decaying pink chair left its spot for the last time. The Building Dept. of Portage Lakes Career Center (PLCC) has agreed to replace it at no cost to our team. Dale Dunlevy of PLCC and a few helpers moved the chair to the PLCC, where it will be used as a pattern for the new chair. It will be constructed of red cedar, to better withstand the weather for years to come. Students will work on it over the winter and it will be returned to its spot



next spring when the Horticulture Dept. returns for the yearly workday at the boathouse grounds. Both departments are funding these projects with money raised from items they sold at the school. Please remember to support them next spring when the Horticulture Dept. is selling plants and the Building Dept. is selling wood creations.

Our team is very blessed to have this ongoing supportive relationship with Dale and the PLCC. I recently delivered a special paddle to Dale at the school in recognition of their ongoing support over the years. He was quite excited and honored.

~ submitted by Dorothy



GENERAL MEETING ELECTION RECAP – November 10:

Congratulations to the following members who were elected to 2019 DDT leadership positions:

Board Positions:

- > President: Erica Whitmer *
- > President Elect: Pam Spencer
- > Team Operations: Juanita Chapman
- > Treasurer: Kristen Evans
- > Recording Secretary: Kathleen Messner

Committee Chairs:

- > Gala: Gina Fortunato
- > Outreach: Judy Akins
- > Boathouse: Deann Viebranz
- > Newsletter: Monica Siko
- > Non-Paddler: Dawn Wagner
- > Sunshine: Deb Merrow
- > Social Media: Jen May

* Moves to President from President-Elect Position in 2019

Thank you to all the members that volunteered to fill the open positions, as well as the outgoing board and committee chairs for your time and commitment! We couldn't do all that we do without you! ~ *submitted by Carolyn*

NEW QUILTED TEAM BANNERS:

A huge thank you to Mary for creating quilted team banners using our DDT Festival T-shirts that were designed by Tara. Mary also made another banner using T-shirts from the IBCPC festivals (international festivals held every 4 years). We have such talented members!

~ *submitted by Carolyn*



Tara and Mary holding banner: DDT Festival years 2013-2018



International festivals: 2010, 2014, 2018

AMAZON SMILE: (repeated from last month)

Reminder: If you do any holiday shopping using Amazon, please remember that The Dragon Dream Team is registered with AmazonSmile.com as a charitable organization. Amazon will donate to DDT 0.5% of your total eligible purchases. Spread the word to all of your family, friends and co-workers. This is an ongoing program and the team continues to receive donations every time you shop. Be sure to begin your shopping at smile.amazon.com, and choose the Dragon Dream Team as your charitable organization if you are not yet registered. Thanks!

~ *submitted by Carolyn*



MARKETPLACE: - October 20:

Thanks to everyone for your hard work at our MarketPlace!



Entryway



Main MarketPlace hall



Doing some shopping



The lunch crew is ready

TEAM RECOGNITION AT THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS GAME – October 24:

In case you missed it, below is what was said about us while we were being recognized on the floor of the “Q” during the pre-game of a Cleveland Cavaliers game. Thank you, Amy, for arranging this!



Representing strength, grace and hope in the face of cancer, we recognize the Dragon Dream Team, Northeast Ohio’s only ALL breast cancer survivor dragon boat team. Dragon boating is an internationally sanctioned sport with over 160 Breast Cancer Survivor Teams on five continents. This past July, the Dragon Dream Team finished third in the world and first in the USA at the International Breast Cancer Dragon Boat Festival in Florence, Italy. For these women it is not about their race time on the water that matters but what they do with their time after a breast cancer diagnosis. To learn more about this team go to dragondreamteam.org or their Facebook page.

~ submitted by Carolyn

TEAM RECOGNITION AT THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS GAME – October 24: (continued)

Photos from the Cavs pre-game on October 24:



Italy team recognition



Preparing to hold the flag



Holding the American flag during our National Anthem



Members anxiously awaiting



Fun times



Feeling the need to line up!

ACME RECEIPTS: (repeated from last month)

Continue to save Acme receipts dated August 9th – December 29th. The team can earn 5% of eligible Cash Back rewards. Bring your receipts to the Christmas Party on November 30th or mail them to Joanne Johnston or Barb Fox.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

> Hower House Tour – December 8:

Reminder: The tour of the Hower House in Akron is coming up:

Date: December 8th

Time: Noon

Address: 60 Fir Hill, Akron

Cost: \$10 (\$8 for seniors)

Parking: They have a small parking lot in the back,

street parking in front, and there are parking lots across the street for apartments that have a lot of room.



The theme for the decorations this year is “through the eyes of a child.” It will be a self-guided tour, and will cover 3 floors of rooms, and the basement for the gift shop (that has some pretty unique gifts). You can bring anyone with you that you wish, but please warn them that there is **not an elevator** or handicapped ramps – they have to be able to climb stairs.

We will meet at the front door to start the tour of the house, stop at the gift shop, and then head to Waterloo Restaurant (only 2 exits down route 8) for lunch.

Just a fun time – should take 2-3 hours.

Please let me know if you are coming and how many guests will accompany you, so we know when the whole group has arrived and we can start the tour.

To learn more about the house use this link:

<https://howerhouse.org/history%20of%20hower%20house/>

~ submitted by Erica

> Portage Lakes Polar Bear Jump – February 23:

Mark your calendars for February 23rd, 2019. This is the date for the Portage Lakes Polar Bear Jump at Portage Lakes State Park. For the past few years, members of the Dragon Dream Team have helped at the event, by guiding jumpers into the appropriate warming tents after they have jumped. In early January, we will ask for sign-ups to help with the event.

~ submitted by Toby



THANK YOU FROM TARA:

Thank you to everyone for your continued support! As I surpass the last few hurdles from radiation, I reflect on all the team has done to lift me up during this process – rides, cards, meals, social media posts, text messages and loads of hugs and encouragement. I am filled with gratitude and thankful for this team.

Blessings for a joyful holiday season,

Tara

COACHES' CORNER: Giving Thanks

I want to thank all of you for your cards and thoughts. I am a very impatient patient, and I don't tolerate doing "nothing" well. I'm sure Carolyn doesn't believe I'm doing nothing; she thinks I'm actively trying to drive her crazy.

Every dragon boat season is long and tedious. As a conservative estimate, this year we paddled more than 300 km in practices to prepare for a total of 5 km of racing. But that's what it takes to be a competitive team.

And you were *competitive!* The Dragon Dream Team achieved great things:

- First place – BCS Division – Buffalo
- Third place – Women's Division – Buffalo
- First place – BCS Division – Portage Lakes
- Third place in the world (first in the US) – IBCPC Florence, Italy
- First Place – Club Division – Wheeling

You have a lot for which to be thankful.

With the holidays approaching, please take time to thank your loved ones for all of the support they've given you over the dragon boat season. As for me, I'm thankful for the opportunity to work with you.

~ submitted by Coach Allen

Have information and photos to share? Send to Carolyn Bernstorf (cwbernstorf@hotmail.com) by the 20th of the month and it will be included in the following month's *Dragon Tales*, issued by the end of each month.

The Dragon Dream Team is Ohio's first group of breast cancer survivors participating in the team sport of dragon boating. Inspired by the courage of the dragon and the power of the paddle, our mission is to support and care for each other, increase self-esteem, physical and emotional wellness through paddling. The Dragon Dream Team demonstrates that life after breast cancer can be full, active and beyond all expectations. Our "Boatloads of Hope" community outreach program offers encouragement and support to breast cancer survivors and their families during the treatment phase of their cancer journey by the delivery of pashminas in area hospitals and cancer facilities, along with a powerful message of hope. The Dragon Dream Team is a 501(c)(3) organization.