

DOWN SYNDROME
ORGANIZATION OF
SOUTHERN NEVADA

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- 2006 Festival of Trees and Lights
- Christmas Party Held
- 2007 Membership Events
- Available Programs

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

2007 Festival of Trees and Lights	2
Membership Christmas Party Held	2
2007 Membership Events Planned	2
Important Membership Meeting Scheduled	3
Available Member Programs	3
2007 Festival of Trees and Lights Meeting Scheduled	3
To Our Volunteers:	4
THANK YOU!	

Down Syndrome Organization



of Southern Nevada

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Festival of Trees and Lights

The Festival of Trees and Lights was held on Saturday, December 2, 2006, at the South Point Hotel and Casino. Chris Burke was there for the "Meet and Greet" from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Pictures were taken of our members with Chris, and hot chocolate and cookies were served to the members in attendance. Our members in attendance were able to see all of the trees, wreaths and baskets that had been designed for auction that evening at the gala. It was so nice to see so many members in attendance for the "Meet and Greet."

The gala started at 6:00 PM. There were approximately 250 guests in attendance. The silent auction started at 6:00 PM, and the guests were served champagne and hor d'oeuvres while deciding on which items to place bids. At 7:45 PM an announcement was made that the silent auction would be closed for bidding at 8:00 PM. Miss Nevada was there to help emcee the different announcements made during the silent auction and to help with the tree, basket and wreath judging. Mark Pfister from, KTNV Television 13, was there to emcee the gala.

Dinner was served at approximately 8:15 PM. After dinner and dessert, a live auction featuring two gala



trees, and various other items, were then placed up for auction.

Every item at the gala was auctioned off. This was a very successful event for the DSOSN! Deann and I want to thank everyone who helped make this event so successful. We particularly want to thank all of the volunteers who helped set up before the event, assisted with anything and everything during the event, and for those who rolled up their sleeves and assisted with packing the trees for delivery.

A very special thank you to the Truline Corporation for donating their trucks and workers for tree delivery. Without their help and support, delivery of the trees would have been very difficult. They not only donated

their trucks and drivers, but helped box trees and helped transport the trees to the loading dock and to their trucks. We would also like to thank ARC Paper for donating all of the paper for the invitations and the Festival program.

The gorgeous centerpieces for all of the tables were donated by the English Garden Florist. They were perfect for this occasion!

A great big thank you goes out to Joe Craddock, treasurer of the DSOSN. Joe worked tirelessly before, during and after the Festival. Every year Joe picks up the trees from the designers and makes sure they are boxed and secure for the trip to the Festival. Without his support this year, picking up the trees could not have been accomplished.

Deann and I want to thank all the designers for designing the most gorgeous trees, wreaths and baskets for this event. Without our designers, we would not be able to have a Festival of Trees and Lights. We are truly in awe of all of your talents!

THANK YOU! THANK



FOTL Pictures Fea-
tured on the DSOSN
website!

*A very special
guest, Santa Claus,
was at the DSOSN
Christmas Party!*



Festival of Trees & Lights Pictures Featured on DSOSN Website

Many pictures were taken on the evening of the Festival of Trees and Lights. We have posted all of the pictures that were taken on our website. The pictures posted include the “Meet and Greet” with Chris Burke as well as pictures of all of the trees, wreaths and

baskets. Please go to www.dsosn.org to view all of the pictures.

This year’s Festival was held at the South Point Hotel and Casino. The hotel has a beautiful venue for all different types of events. They were very helpful providing

everything we asked. We appreciate their efforts in helping us to have a very successful event.

Christmas Party Held for DSOSN Membership

On Saturday, December 16, 2006, a very special Christmas party was held for the DSOSN membership. The turnout was wonderful. The members were treated to some wonderful refreshments and a special sherbet punch. There were many children present to enjoy in the festivities. A very special guest, Santa Claus, was also there talking

to the children and listening to their wishes for Christmas. I am sure that he made a special list just for our special children. The DSOSN building was decorated with a magical Christmas tree, balloons and other holiday decorations. Thanks to Barbara Craddock for hosting and planning this special event, and thanks to

Johannah Back for assisting. A special thanks to Santa and everyone else who helped with the party. They did a fantastic job of creating a wonderful atmosphere for our families. The pictures from this party are posted on the website for you to see. It looks like everyone had a very good time.

2007 DSOSN Membership Events

We are planning on having the following events in the upcoming year:

- February—Valentine’s Party
- April—Spring Fling
- July—Membership Barbeque
- October—Halloween Party
- December—Christmas Party

We would like to form a social committee that can help plan these events for our members. If you would be interested in being the chairman of this committee or serving on this committee, please call the DSOSN office at 648-1990 and speak with Bonnie or Deann, or email Bonnie at bhall@dsosn.org. This will be a great commit-

tee to be a part of. New ideas for member events are always welcomed. It is important that several times a year we can join together as a family and celebrate all of the accomplishments we have made as families and as an organization!

Membership Meeting Scheduled For Thursday, January 18, 2007

There will be a Membership Meeting at the DSOSN building on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 6:30 PM. The revised bylaws will be put forth to the DSOSN membership for approval. During the summer months, one board member, and two members from the membership served on a committee to revise and update the current bylaws for the organi-

zation. After the revisions were made, the bylaws were submitted to the Board of the DSOSN for approval. The bylaws were approved by the Board, but at the November membership meeting the bylaws were not approved. Some new verbiage and some changes were made. Those suggestions and changes were again submitted to the bylaw committee for

revision. The new, revised bylaws will once again be presented to the membership on Thursday, January 18, 2007. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 PM.

Programs Available at DSOSN

Available programs to our members are dance, music and Yoga. Currently, we are not accepting applications for our speech voucher program. We have applied for a new speech grant, and I will be notifying all members if and when we receive it. We realize how important the speech voucher program has been to our members, and we will be work-

ing diligently to provide that service again.

The dance class we provide is held every other Monday at the DSOSN building. The next dance class will be held on Monday, January 8, 2007 at 4:30 PM. If you would like to find out more about the dance classes, please call Kendra Frey at 236-1795.

The Yoga class is held every Wednesday at the DSOSN building. If you are interested in attending the Yoga classes, please call Linda Vandruff at 524-4956.

Music classes are held at an alternate site. If you are interested in more information regarding music, please call Judith Pinkerton at 363-8166.

Festival of Trees and Lights 2007 Meeting Scheduled

I know it seems early to start planning for next year's Festival of Trees and Lights; however, it is a year-long planning process to provide a well organized and enjoyable gala. The first meeting will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at 10:00 AM. We will be brainstorming and forming committees for this year's event.

Some of the positions to be discussed will be a festival chairman, tree chairman, wreath chairman and basket chairman. It is lots of work, but so worthwhile when you see everything come together. It is a beautiful holiday gala that has a rich and long history. The event is the main fundraiser for the DSOSN. It

is our intent to have it grow bigger and bigger each year. The programs we provide for our members are paid for from this event. Won't you consider becoming involved in this fantastic gala? We hope to see you at the first meeting.



Join us for the Festival of Trees and Lights 2007 Meeting!

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To Our Volunteers—Thank You!

Non-profit organizations depend heavily on their volunteers. In fact, their life's blood is their volunteers. The staff and Board of Directors for the Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada, love our volunteers. We have several different groups that are always ready, willing and able to come to our aid. The Clipped Wings, Las Vegas Chapter 29, have always been dedicated to our mission. This group of ladies are retired airline stewardesses. They have helped from the Gift Sale to the Buddy Walk, to the FOTL, to last year's Easter party. What would we do without them?

Another group of volunteers come to us from Starbucks. They worked tirelessly at the

Buddy Walk helping to set up the Gift Sale, providing Starbucks coffee to all walkers and guests, to making two beautiful baskets and a wreath for last year's Festival of Trees and Lights. They even gave us a very generous donation! We also have many volunteers who have either found us via our website, word of mouth, or from other websites on the web.

Our deepest gratitude goes out to all of our precious volunteers. This organization could not continue without them. We hope that all of our volunteers will

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
VOLUNTEERS!**

continue their work with us. We have made some great friends over the past year by meeting new volunteers and renewing friendships with past volunteers. We thank all of you for generously donating your time and talents so this organization can continue to grow and prosper.

Again, a sincere, heartfelt thank you, to all of you, for all you have done in the past and will continue to do in the future to allow us to help those individuals and their families affected by Down syndrome!