

# ***VIP Games Summer of 2023 Newsletter***



Welcome Sacramento area VIP Games supporters, volunteers, and athletes to our first newsletter update. Our plan is to send this out to you 2 or 3 times a year.

We would like to keep you briefly informed of all our VIP events. We have had a busy spring and summer, including some major changes to the VIP organization.

First and foremost, we would like to give a huge “thank you” to Donna and Frank Adams. They are founding board members and have guided this organization through 21 years of competitions. Happy retirement to both of you! They promise to still stay active and continue to help with our competitions in the future!

In May, we elected John Drenth as our new Board President. John has big ideas and is passionate about serving the board. Even though John has been a board member for many years, we look forward to working with him in this new role!



In June, along with Donna and Frank’s retirement, our Treasurer Joy also decided to retire from the board but will serve as a mentor/support for new Treasurer, Frances Harms.

We are thrilled to announce the election of four new board members: Angie Williams, of Access Leisure; Dave Mecham, of Team El Dorado; Faith Coyne of the Sac County Chargers; and Regina Jones of Orange Grove! We are excited to collaborate with our new board members and implement some exciting changes to operations!

After 21 years of relying on unstructured and generous donations, we decided that it was time to explore more controlled fundraisers to keep VIP strong. May 2023 marked the first time participating in Sacramento’s Big Day of Giving. This is a 24-hour giving period designed for non-profits in Sacramento, Placer, and Yolo Counties. We are pleased to announce that VIP was able to raise over \$4000 in our inaugural year! As part of Big Day of Giving, VIP partnered with another area non-profit, Pathways to Recreation, Inc., to host a fun Bocce Ball and Food for All event, which raised an additional almost \$600!

We are so honored for the support and generosity of our community! With your contributions, we can continue to provide the wonderful competitions VIP Games is known for sponsoring for our beloved athletes.

We hosted three successful competitions this spring for Track and Field, Bocce, and Swimming. Our next competition will be a Soccer tournament on September 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Floor Hockey tournament on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Track and Field - April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The track meet was held at Capital Christian Center, which was graciously donated to us for the day! A delicious pancake breakfast was prepared and sponsored by the Embarcadero Lions Club, and lunch was donated and served by Carmichael Kiwanis. Both amazing groups have supported this event for the last 21 years! We have also been very fortunate to have C.E.R.T. volunteer to provide first aid at this, and many other competitions, for many years. There were also group volunteers from Rosemont High School and Capital Christian high schools. Those kids worked hard all day! It is great to see the next generation giving their time to our competitions!

A huge shout out to Jenn Wilson-Marchino and her staff from Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) of the Sacramento County, Regional Parks Dept., who planned, coordinated, and implemented the competition. The City of Sacramento, Access Leisure, was also a sponsor, providing staff and equipment which made the day possible!

Overall, we had 12 individual events, including running and walking various distances, Turbo Jav, Shot Put, and others, including a Slalom Wheelchair Race! Approximately 112 athletes participated from the Sac County Chargers, Team El Dorado, Team Motherlode, Orange Grove, Sutter Miners, and West Placer. We gave out 264 Medals! All in all, it was a great day!

## **Bocce - May 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Bocce tournament was held at East Portal Park's Bocce Courts. The Embarcadero Lions Club cooked a delicious hamburger lunch for the athletes, coaches and volunteers. Big Jim Hall and Kevin Johns from Channel 10 sports gave out medals, and members of the East Portal Bocce club were among the many volunteers that helped make the day a success. We also enjoyed support from Access Leisure with the City of Sacramento, and Karen George who coordinated the kitchen and lunch. Thank you to all!

We had 9 divisions with a total of 34 teams from the Sac County Chargers, Galt, Orange Grove, the Sutter Miners, Team Motherlode, and West Placer, as well as one independent team; with a total of 133 athletes. We gave out 129 Medals that day!



## **Swimming - June 4<sup>th</sup>**

The VIP Super Swim meet was held at the North Natomas Aquatic Center for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, thanks to a lovely partnership with the City of Sacramento and Access Leisure. The swim meet was coordinated by Jenn Wilson-Marchino from TRS along with her staff and volunteers. Once again, they did a wonderful job of making the event run smoothly! Volunteers from Rosemont High School, as well as staff from Access Leisure, served as timers and athlete escorts, contributing to the day's success!

The meet included 21 events, including a developmental portion, and various distances of swimmers doing freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and even Individual Medleys! Teams from Sac County Chargers, Team El Dorado, Laurel Ruff, Team Motherlode, Sac City Seals, and West Placer were in attendance totaling 143 athletes! 417 medals were given out that day!



Feel free to contact us at any time if you would like to volunteer at any of our events or have questions for us. We can be reached at our new email address [sacramentoareavipgames@gmail.com](mailto:sacramentoareavipgames@gmail.com) or by contacting us on our website [www.vipinfo.org](http://www.vipinfo.org). Thank you for being part of our VIP community!

Frances Harms  
Board member

Donations can be made at any time throughout the year using the QR code below which will take you to the Giving Edge site and our profile

