



About Us

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Maureen Buckley, Public Relations & Outreach
Russell Turner, Athlete Representative
Audrey Wollett, Treasurer

Our Mission

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Game On! is published three times each year by Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun.



Green Option

Email us at Caitlin.marcotte@loudoun.gov to receive your newsletter by email instead of through the mail.

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Spring 2015

Calendar

May 30: Wine Country Half Marathon
June 22: Annual Golf Tournament
July 4: Town of Leesburg Parade
Sept 19: Dulles Plane Pull

"The best way to
find yourself is to
lose yourself in the
service of others."

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SIGN UP!

May 30 we are participating again with the Wine Country Half Marathon. Every SOVAL volunteer generates \$50 for our fundraising and it is fun!

Tell your friends and sign up together and have a fun day supporting a great cause.

GAME On!

Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun

Volunteer of the Year

Council treasurer Audrey Wollett was honored as Area 14 Volunteer of the Year at our first annual Casino Night. She was recognized for her long term dedication and support of Special Olympics.



In addition to her commitment to her fiduciary duties, Audrey is present at every fundraising event, attends practices with her son, and puts in countless hours organizing events. No matter how busy she is, she never says no and is always a key member of everything we do.

Interested in coaching? See the back page for how to contact us.

Athlete of the Year

Russell Turner, a 20-year participant in Loudoun County Special Olympics, was recently selected as the 2014 Special Olympics Athlete of the Year for the State of Virginia.

Russell is not only a dedicated athlete, participating in numerous sports throughout the year, but is also a strong leader. He is the Athlete Representative on the Loudoun Special Olympics Council, and a great mentor, often acting as a player-coach for his teams. Congratulations Russell!



Just a Boy

The council recently received a really lovely write up about how one of our athletes, Jamie Spiering, made a huge impact on both his day and his life.

The story is moving and uplifting but too long to print in the newsletter, but you can read the full story on our website at the following link:

<http://www.sovaloudoun.org/just-a-boy/>



NEW! Redskins to help us launch Youth Flag Football—Learn more on our website!

POLAR PLUNGE



We had a frigid day complete with snow and ice for this year's polar plunge but that didn't stop our hardy and determined plunge team led by Coach Jeff Erikson.

Kudos to this brave team who threw themselves valiantly into the ice-clogged river to raise a whopping \$3268 for the our SOVAL programs. Unfortunately, they were so cold and shivering that no good photos were taken, but they had such a good time, they are already talking about next year!

Bowling



POWERLIFTING

We have been lucky enough to start back up Powerlifting as a sport in Loudoun County. Thanks to our Loudoun County Sheriff's office for letting us train in the Ashburn facility.

So far we have about 12 Iron-Pumpers, and hoping to grow even more! Coach Matt and Coach Erik are fantastic and we look forward to being ready for completions in the near future.



BASKETBALL



JOIN US IN JULY FOR THE ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

GO TO WWW.SOVALOUDOUN.ORG TO SIGN UP

Council Corner: Letter from Lori Benish, Equipment



Hi! I am Lori Ann Benish, the new Uniform and Equipment Chair for Special Olympics Virginia-Loudoun (SOVAL). I would like to introduce myself to everyone, since I just stepped into this position last year. A little about me, I am a mother of a Special Olympian, Jake Benish, who plays in several of the sports we offer (powerlifting, swimming, basketball, golf, and bocce). I work here in Loudoun County for a residential glass company, Enclosures Unlimited, as the General Manager. I am also highly involved with the Northern Virginia Corvette Club, as their web-master. Becoming a part of the council has been a great experience for me, especially because I am so grateful for all that Special Olympics does for it's athletes.

I have been the Equipment manager for the swim team going onto 3 years now, so the position was already familiar to me. Being the Uniform and Equipment Chair means I get to work with all the sports teams and their coaches to obtain and store any equipment and uniforms they need throughout the year. I help design uniforms when needed and manage our storage unit located in Leesburg, VA. If a sport needs new balls, goggles, nets, clubs, you name it- they call me! It has been a great way to get to know even more of our Special Olympics community.

I encourage everyone to setup and participate in the council and in other events we organize throughout the year, it is a really rewarding and fun process. Being able to help out and get to know all the athletes has been a great joy and I look forward to another season of sports action! If you have questions, please email me at equipment@specialolympicsloudoun.org.

VOLUNTEER

Special Olympics is on the fast track and we need your help. If you are unable to make a long-term commitment, but can manage to volunteer for an hour or two, or make a financial donation of any amount, let us know by contacting Caitlin Marcotte, Area Coordinator, at (703) 777-0438.

Did you know?

All donations enable our athletes to compete free of charge and fund our sports so fundraising is critical to the ongoing success of our programs. Please [donate](#) and show your support at our fundraising events. Every dollar counts!

Thank you to everyone who came out to Casino night. We raised more than **\$6000** and had fun at the same time. It was a fabulous new event that will be repeated!

Anna Yanc: Global Messenger



Global Messenger, Anna Yanc, gave a fantastic speech at our first annual Casino Night. She spoke eloquently about how much Special Olympics has changed her life helping her to achieve her goals including graduating from high school with her own age group, competing in sports and even getting a job at Giant Food. She stressed that she still has further goals including getting her dream job of becoming a teacher's assistant for young children. Way to go Anna!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Our first annual Casino Night fundraising event was a huge success thanks in part to the generous support of the following sponsors.



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