



About Us

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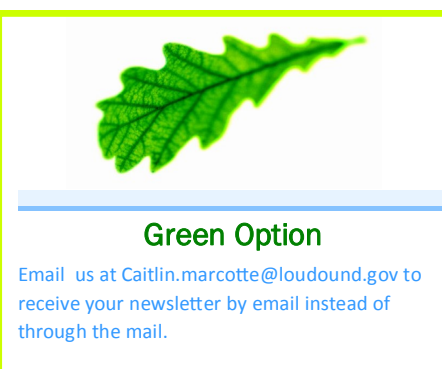
Council Members

Jeff Erikson, Chair
Lori Benish Uniforms & Equipment
Michele Kasen, Secretary
Marcus Gill, Webmaster
Karin Aaron, Fundraising
Michele Copp, Communications Coordinator
Jim Mahood, Member At Large
Eric Pearson, Member At Large
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.



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Calendar

July 21: Golf Tournament
Sept 20: Dulles Plane Pull

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

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SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars. The Dulles Plane Pull is September 20, 2014
See Page 2 for how to join in.

GAME On!

Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun

Hello Goodbye

Hello and Welcome

We'd like to welcome some new faces to our SOVAL team. With recent council elections in May, we have elected three new council members.

- ◆ Outreach Chair: Maureen Buckley
- ◆ Equipment Manager: Lori Benish
- ◆ Fundraising Chair: Karin Aaron

In addition, for the spring season we welcomed some new faces in the coaching lineup as well.

- ◆ Softball—Cardinals: Coach Emily Nalls
- ◆ Tennis: Coach Andy Stromberg
- ◆ Track & Field Coach: Mark Coleman

Welcome to all and we look forward to having you as part of our Special Olympics Community.



Volleyball Gold

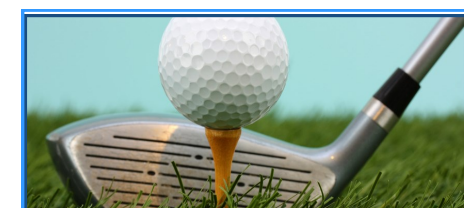
Three cheers for our Bearcats who clawed their way to the top to win the gold at the USA Volleyball Open Nationals Championship in Phoenix Arizona. They played against teams from all over the USA and some from around the world too. Months of dedicated to practice, strategizing and planning, followed by days of nail biting matches during the tournament came to a climatic end when this amazing team finished by winning the Nationals Gold Medal. Way to go Bearcats! Roar!

Goodbye and Thanks

Sadly, we also have to say goodbye to several members of our SOVAL family for various reasons including several relocations. We wish to give our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the following who dedicated many hours to Special Olympics.

- ◆ Council member / coach Bill Brichoux
- ◆ Council member Michele Steinbach
- ◆ Council member Teresa Hatch
- ◆ Coach Paula Culvyhouse
- ◆ Coach Charlie Vines

You will be missed. Thank you for all your time and effort.



SIGN UP TODAY

Annual Golf Tournament—July 21

Please visit our website or Facebook page to sign up for the annual golf tournament. Great prizes, great course, great fun and it is all for a great cause—Special Olympics Loudoun.

SUPER FUNDRAISING AWARD GOES TO JOY CAVAGNARO !

Fundraising is a vital part of keeping Special Olympics Loudoun thriving and able to offer sporting opportunities to as many in our community as possible. Throughout the year we do fundraising events such as the plane pull and the upcoming golf tournament, but one coach and volunteer has astounded us. **Joy Cavagnaro** has surpassed \$30,000 which she raised through donations on her First Giving Page for Special Olympics Virginia and donations are still coming in. Thank you Joy for your tremendous efforts and dedication!

SILVER & GOLD: BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Loudoun County had a smashing time at the Basketball State Championships in March.

The Rebels, proud to be selected to play during the opening ceremonies, pushed through to victory against the Geico All Stars by a score of 42-38. Congratulations Joey Barnett, Scott Brawley, David knight, Bob Heslin, Matt Sixma, Tim Potts, Ryan Savage, Ian Pham, Steven Bagot and Warren Carter. The next day as was the case at the opening ceremonies the Rebels showed great skill and teamwork and came away with the GOLD medal for their division! Way to go Rebels

The Gentle Giants got their chance at the half court games. In the first game the competition was stiff (the Virginia Beach team eventually won Gold in the division) but Adam Bell, Danny Tabler and Greg Hicks, plus the ladies of the Top Guns Katrina Ciambuschini and Becky Whitney did their best and had fun all the same. In their second match, they really came together and it was Silver medals for the Gentle Giants!!!

Meanwhile at Gayle Middle School 10 miles away Frankie Preece was warming up for the individual skills competition. This was the first year we had brought an athlete for this competition and Frankie did Loudoun proud bringing home the Gold Medal for her division. She made shots, raced through the dribbling time trial and performed very well in the wall pass. She was not intimidated in the least by the many older and larger competitors. What a trooper!



POLAR PLUNGE THRILLS & CHILLS

A handful of brave souls, led by council president Jeff Erikson, braved the chilly March waters of the Potomac river to raise money for SOVAL programs. Unlike last year when it snowed, this year they had a rather warm day but it didn't make the water any warmer! We hope you had some warm clothes and hot drinks waiting for you when you finally emerged.

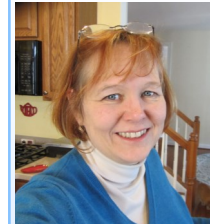


PLANE PULL

SOVAL SUPERSONICS NEED YOU!

SOVA Loudoun has taken up the gauntlet again this year. Our team of pullers, SOVAL SUPERSONICS are registered and we need both pullers and donations. We need to raise \$2000 to compete and we need 25 team members. Find out more here: <https://www.firstgiving.com/team/269129>

Council Corner: Letter from Communications Chair



I am Michele Copp, the Communications Coordinator for Special Olympics Virginia- Loudoun (SOVAL) and I hope you are having a great summer. I'm happy to report that I've recently been reelected for my second term. In my role, I am responsible for producing this newsletter, maintaining our Facebook page and producing any ad hoc communications that are needed.

I love writing the newsletter and sharing all the fantastic events our athletes participate in, awards they win and keeping everyone informed about fundraising and volunteering opportunities. The challenge is that I can't be everywhere. I need you! Please don't be shy. If you are a coach or parent, please email me with photos and write ups of any meets or championships we competed in. If you are an athlete I'd love to hear from you too. Write me and tell me what you love about Special Olympics and I promise, you will see your name in the next issue!

The newsletter is only as good as the content so add a step to your post game routine to "tell Michele what happened and include photos if possible." Send everything to: sol-carea14@gmail.com

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 volunteered at the Wine Country Half Marathon. We raised approximately \$6,000 just by volunteering and had fun at the same time. Why not join us next year!

Track & Field *Coach Coleman Reports*



I am very happy to report that ever since the Rappahannock Meet in Woodbridge that I have felt soooooo **BLUE** because each of my incredible athletes who participated (Jamie, Meagan, Matt and Austin) won at least one blue ribbon and every single athlete achieved personal record in at least one of their events— yeah!!!

Everyone's sweat, determination and hard work at practice paid dividends in the meet and, even more importantly, there were so many acts of kindness and sportsmanship showed by all four athletes that were able to participate.

SWIMMING *COACH ERIKSON REPORTS*

The swim team continues to grow. Almost every athlete improved their times over the season. This year we have athletes swimming longer distances which can be challenging in a race. The athletes had a blast improving their dives. Some of them mastered diving off the blocks. It doesn't look high but you feel it when you hit the water. Flip turns too were a challenge with everyone trying at least one. We hope to build on these skills next year and continue to see new faces.

Thank you Anna Yanc Kudos to Anna Yanc, Global Messenger. Anna was requested to speak to a local Cub Scout troop and she bowled them over. Cub Master, Preston Lough, said "Her message was perfectly on point. We learned how important inclusion was for Anna and how she persevered even when teachers were not as supporting as they should have been ." Well done Anna. Thank you for carrying the SOVAL message to the community.

