



20145 Ashbrook Place Suite 170
Ashburn, VA 20147



Search: Special Olympics Virginia Loudoun



About Us

Editor

Michele Copp

Special Olympics Virginia

Caitlin Marcotte, Loudoun Area Coordinator
Eamonn Garvey, Potomac Regional Director


Council Members

- Jeff Erikson, Chair
- William Brichoux, Uniforms & Equipment
- Michele Kasen, Secretary
- Marcus Gill, Webmaster
- Teresa Hatch, Fundraising
- Michele Copp, Communications Coordinator
- Jim Mahood, Member At Large
- Eric Pearson, Member At Large
- Michele Steinbach, 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.

Contact Information

Caitlin Marcotte, Coordinator
Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun
20145 Ashbrook Place
Suite 170
Ashburn, VA 20147
(703) 777-0438

Caitlin.Marcotte@loudoun.gov

www.loudounspecialolympics.org

©2012 Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun



Winter 2014

Calendar

- Feb 22: Polar Plunge
- April 26-27: Flower & Garden Festival
- July 21: Golf Tournament

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

Inside this issue:

- Brambleton Kids Triathlon 2
- Equestrian Fun Day 2
- Dulles Plane Pull 2
- Soccer Medals 2
- Letter from Loudoun Area Coordinator 3
- Volleyball Medals 3
- Bowling Gold Medals 3
- Volunteers needed 3

GLOBAL MESSANGER

Congratulations to Anna Marie Yanc for being selected for the Class of 2015 Global Messengers.

GAME On!

Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun

Congratulations Joy & Wallace

Congratulations go out to coach **Joy Cavagnaro** and athlete **Wallace Chua** for being selected to participate in the Special Olympics USA Games in 2014 in swimming.

Coach Joy has been involved with Special Olympics since 2001. She was chauffeuring her high school daughter Jackie to various events with the "Partners Club" working with students with disabilities and this ultimately inspired her to volunteer and to be a coach.

Initially she coached basketball, but for the past ten years she's has coached volleyball and swimming.

Volunteering has become a family affair with all three of Joy's daughters and her husband, Richard Lewis getting involved.

Volunteering is a rewarding experience, but there are those special moments that really make it all so memorable and emotional. Some of the highlight moments in Joy's coaching tenure are listed on the right.

And now Joy is anticipating the increased SOVA pride, excitement and personal bests to be achieved at the USA Games. We wish her and Wallace the best of luck. We are lucky and proud to have Joy on our team!



Joe Downs, Coach Joy, Russell Turner



USA Games Team VA Aquatics



Area 14 Loudoun Dolphins



Area 14 Loudoun Bumping Bearcats



Wallace Chua

Joy's Memorable Moments

Mentoring Global Messenger DJ Cashman and watching him give the athlete oath at Summer Games (No. 1 moment!).

Receiving a typed thank you letter from Tracey Caynor.

LVHS Basketball games with Russell, Lance, Amy and Danny(Jackie's biggest fans)

Taking Russell to Dulles airport for his first plane ride to watch Amy compete at Nationals.

Watching Lauren and Jonathan swim their first 25M.

Running on the field with Area 14 athletes at Dallas Cowboy Stadium (National Volleyball Tournament).

Receiving Area 14 Farm Bureau Helping You Is What We Do Best Area Volunteer Award.

Starting and ending each volleyball game with our Bumping Bearcats cheer!

Learn more about the Special Olympics USA Games happening in June 2014 here:

www.2014specialolympics.org



BRAMBLETON KIDS TRIATHLON

On a sunny Saturday in September, five Special Olympics Loudoun athletes represented SOVAL in the 2nd Annual Brambleton Kids Triathlon. The turnout for this event was fabulous and it was amazing to see so many children, some as young as 4, swimming, biking and running like pros. Our team participated relay style with each athlete doing either swimming, biking or running. Our team excelled and should be proud.



EQUESTRIAN FUN DAY



When you think of Special Olympics, the first things that usually come to mind are the team sports such as basketball and softball, but our programs include a wide variety of sports to meet all our athletes' desires including horseback riding which has the added benefit of combining both health and in some cases therapeutic benefits.

The fall Equestrian season ended October 19th with demonstration Fun Day that allowed all the participating athletes to showcase the skills they have mastered to date. The morning was brisk and the sun a little shy, but the athletes were proud and decked out in their western gear and ready to show off their accomplishments. When all of the 10 athletes had finished their routines, it was trophy time! The event was a wonderful chance for families and friends to visit the facilities and be amazed at this wonderful program that provides so much to Special Olympics.

The Ride-on-Ranch Equine Assisted Therapies is a non-profit organization run by Executive Director, Autumn O'Hara. Autumn is a licensed Occupational therapist and certified therapeutic riding instructor through Path Intl. with a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy from Shenandoah University. She is bubbly and enthusiastic and it is obvious from the generous hugs and smiles from the athletes, she is loved by them all. Despite being non-profit, the ranch gives back to the community by participating in Special Olympics providing our athletes the wonderful opportunity to experience the many therapeutic benefits of horseback riding.

Located in Lovettsville, Ride-on-Ranch is an idyllic and relaxing setting, but as the athletes and Autumn will confirm, the feel of the horse and the unique movement and sway as it ambles around the paddock is therapeutic, calming and fun.

DULLES PLANE PULL

The Area 14 Supersonics did it again! Last September our team of 28 athletes, parents, and friends flexed their muscles and pulled a 164,000+ pound plane 12 feet at the annual Dulles Day Family Festival & Plane Pull!

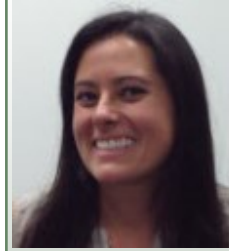


It was a beautiful day with great weather, loads of laughs and excitement and real sense of accomplishment too. Not only did we have fun, but the money our team raised through fundraising (over \$2,200) directly benefits SOVAL and the proceeds from the rest of the event supports SO Virginia. If you haven't participated in this wonderful event in the past, it is a truly great event filled with lots of free and fun activities and demonstrations. We'd love to have you join us next year, so mark your calendars as the date has already been set—September 20, 2014!

SOCCER MEDALS:

The Wildcats finished with a silver medal, second in their group. Joseph Aylward got gold and Matthew Aylward got bronze in their respective skills competition brackets.

Council Corner: Letter from Loudoun Area Coordinator



Hope everyone had a happy holiday season! I am Caitlin Marcotte, the Area Coordinator for Special Olympics Virginia- Loudoun (SOVAL) and wanted to wish you a happy and healthy 2014. We had an exciting year in 2013 with increased numbers in sports participation across the board and added bocce and young athletes to our program! Thank you to all the volunteers, athletes and families who make this possible.

As you may or may not know, I am also an Adaptive Recreation Specialist for Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS). Through the partnership between PRCS and SOVAL, I assist SOVAL by providing area coordination, gym and field use, facility supervisors, vehicle use and completion of administrative tasks. This support allows our Special Olympics area to focus its funding on other operations for the program.

I am looking forward to a great year with you and hope you take time to also check out some of our Adaptive Recreation Programs through the county which provides an array of leisure opportunities and community outings! Feel free to contact me anytime for more information 703-777-0438 or Caitlin.marcotte@loudoun.gov

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!



Volleyball Medals Coach Report



The Bearcats had a super fun weekend at the Fall States Game. Two Loudoun teams (13 athletes) made the trek down to Virginia Beach in November. The two teams (Blue and Yellow) played games filled with intense setups, spikes and periods of excellence and everyone brought their A game to the volleyball court. In the end, the Blue Team ended up with a Bronze Medal but all were rightly proud of the way they came back and fought. The Yellow Team earned a Silver Medal and more importantly lots of respect from officials, coaches and bystanders. We were definitely the talk of the tournament--"everybody wants to be the 'cats'".

BOWLING GOLD MEDALS! COACH REPORT



The Area 14 Bowling Team--the GOLD MEDAL winners for their division--consisted of Warren Carter, Alonzo Sullivan, Sally Marshall, and Chris Bloch, coached by Frank Wilde.

Alonso was first to strike, then he doubled, and ended up with the team's high score on game one. Then Warren came back to lead off game 2 with a double of his own. By Sunday morning's round, Warren was in the groove, pacing the team and entertaining the crowd with lots of strikes and a 507 series. Sally and Alonzo each contributed strikes of their own and picked up some nice spares. You could tell Chris was really enjoying himself every time he threw the ball. Chris also won the

raffle for a PBA jersey with Virginia Beach pro Cliff Stanley's signature on the back.