



April 1, 2012

Quarter 1, 2012

Special points of interest:

- New Athletes
- Bocce Ball
- Swimming
- Track & Field
- Softball
- Annual Banquet
- Basketball
- Winter Dance
- 2012 Fashion Show
- LOV-Dane
- Young Athletes
- Athlete Input Committee
- Bowling Shirts

Oregon Special Olympics Newsletter

The first newsletter of 2012. Hard to believe we've gotten through a quarter of the year already. I am SO excited though, because we've had a number of new athletes join us in the last year, and we have some fun, new and exciting things going on. SO much to cover in this newsletter, so I'll get to the point. I'd like to say what a pleasure it is to be in my second year of being Oregon's Agency Manager. Each and every athlete...each and every family...each and every case manager and caretaker, help make my job so much easier by your willingness to be involved, care, and be a part of our Agency. Thank you for all you do! We have an amazing group of athletes!!

Amy Verheyden
 Agency Manager
 692-1428
 averheydenso@charter.net

New Athletes

Speaking of new athletes, I'd like to welcome the following to Oregon Special Olympics. I'm going to cover new athletes in the last year because I've never done this type of introduction in a newsletter before, and I'd like to do that from now on. It is truly a joy to have you, and see all your smiling faces at practices and events. A huge welcome to the following:

Mac Austin, David Elsing, Katy Goldschmidt, Jon Herrman, Brett Hinesh, Ashley Jacobson, McKenzie Koch, Ethan Muehlenbruch, Shamika Newallo and Joshua Wing.

Bocce Ball

Bocce Ball is a lawn bowling game meant for athletes of all abilities. The season starts for team Bocce on Tuesday, May 8th, 5:30-6:30 pm, at JayCee Park Shelter area. Practices will be held each Tuesday thereafter, same time and place, until competition. You will get a complete schedule from the coach when you come to the first practice. Lori Casper has gra-

dually agreed to coach again. If you are interested in being on a team, call Lori at 235-4391.

Bocce Ball Certification (coaching):

For those who would like to become a coach, or maintain their coach status level and need to enroll in a refresher

course, join Lori at the Bocce Ball Certification Clinic she will be conducting on Thursday, May 10th, from 6 pm-8:30 pm, at JayCee Park in Oregon. This is open to anyone who is interested in becoming a certified bocce coach, even if they are outside of Oregon. If you know someone interested, or are interested yourself, contact Lori.



Swimming

Brad Rehrauer has graciously agreed to head coach swimming this year. Brad has coached under our former coach for the last two years, so he knows the ropes al-

ready! Thank you Brad for leading the way! Barry Holmes took the coach training as well to assistant coach this year, and Sam Phelps (a friend of Brad's and on the

High School swim team) is also assisting. Thanks guys! Wish the swimmers well as they head to their first competition on April 21 in Waunakee!





**“Let me win.
But if I cannot
win, let me be
brave in the
attempt.”**



Track and Field

Our athletes are going strong with track and field, Practices are held every Wednesday and Sunday, at the high school track, from 3:45–5:00 pm. It is too late to join for competition, but it is never too late to just join in the fun! If you have not come out to join us yet, feel free to do so, just to get out and active! Our events this year

include 4 x 1 relay, 4 x 2 relay, softball throw, shot put, anything from a 50 meter to a 400 meter run/walk, javelin, and the pole vault! All the athletes are doing great, and a big thank you goes out to head Coach Kristine, and all the assistant coaches, especially Coach David and Coach Nancy. It's so much fun to get out on

the track a couple of times a week and join in the activities, and it's great to have new faces on the team this year. First competition is May 5th at Oregon track, so come cheer them on! Opening Ceremonies starts at 9:30 am, and events start at 10:00 am!

Team Softball

I am SO excited! We will have our first softball team this year! Practices will be on Monday and Thursday nights from 6:00–7:30 pm. I am still work-

ing out the details as to which park we will practice at, but details will follow to those of you who signed up to be on the team. I will be the head coach,

with Elisa Alexander, Samantha Rodman and Dave/Sarah Goldschmidt assistant coaching. First practice will be May 21.

Annual Banquet

You should have all seen the invite for our annual family banquet by now (if you did not, please let me know). If you have not already RSVP'd please do so as soon as possible! We are hoping for a great turnout! Families can sign up for something to bring when you RSVP online. If you'd prefer, you can contact Julie Brown (contact

info is on the invite) to RSVP via phone or email. The Agency will provide most of the food, and we are just asking for help with salads and dessert. If anyone would like to make a donation towards door prizes, please contact myself (692-1428) or Lori Cas-

per (235-4391). We would be happy to have things like water bottles, wrist or head sweat bands, gift cards, stress balls, or anything else that might be fun for the athletes or families!

Date: Sunday, April 22

Doors open at 4:30, Dinner at 5:00 pm.

Basketball

Our basketball season went GREAT! Team basketball moved on to Sectionals in Stevens Point and placed 4th, and Jon Herrman is going to State for Skills this Saturday.

Thank you SO much to Coach Elisa for another great team basketball season, and Coach Kristine for a great skills season. Our assistant coaches included Lori Casper, Saman-

tha Rodman, Danny Holmes, Cliff Claus, Gerard Pehler and others that step up and help out at practices! Good job to our athletes!

Winter Dance 2012

Our annual Winter Dance was a huge success again! Many family members who attended thanked

Oregon for hosting this dance again. Thank you to Parker Haffele for the music, Darlynn Brown

for the stuffed animals, and to all who helped with set up and clean up!

Fashion Show

The 2012 Fashion Show for All Abilities is Friday evening, June 1st, at the Monona Terrace. Jake Casper, Jill Mulroney, Eileen Powers and Lynn Powers will, once again, be models in the show. If you are interested in going to watch our models, contact Lori Casper for more details. The price of the tickets and the times have not yet been announced, but we will forward info as we have it.

LOV-Dane

By Sue Haffele

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce LOV-Dane to those of you who have never heard of it and update others who are familiar with who we are. The organization started about 4 1/2 years ago. Our mission is to create a better life for people with disabilities after high school. We now have young adults who are transitioning into adulthood who have started learning and working with us. LOV-Dane has many programs in which families and their loved one(s) with a disability can participate. Some of the social things we are doing include potlucks, picnics, a women's group that meets monthly to do fun activities, and sporting events in the summer which are big(GO Mallards). We have a group that bowls on Monday nights on the East side. Some of the other opportunities that LOV has are a Community Connector project in which families buy in to have a bridge builder go in to the community and help your young adult connect to someone without a disability, who has the same interests, and build a relationship with that person. Another is our "Life Assistant" who is fantastic in helping young adults to build schedules, prioritize their life, learn to shop, learn to make calls to public transportation, connect with friends to hang with, or call their employer to let them know they will be late (for example), just to name a few. These are very helpful skills for a young adult to have when out on their own. Families can also pay for this person to come in to your home, or go to your young adult's home if they are already living away from home. Some of our newest groups are the Social group, the GOVO group and the Transition and Employment group. The social group gets together to learn how to have good social skills and appropriate friendships with others. GOVO is a voting group who is learning how to vote, and this group will help members through the process. The Transition/Employment group is working to educate families on the process of transitioning and working with the county as well, to help with ways to get your loved ones working, and help with the process of transitioning after high school. As you can see, we have a lot going on and are always welcoming new families.

If you are interested in LOV-Dane and what is going on, feel free to go to our web site at lovdane.org, or call Sue Haffele at 608-219-9861.

Young Athletes Group

We are launching the Young Athletes group! As many of you know, the Young Athletes group will include ages 2 -7, both disabled and non disabled kids. It will be held on Wednesday nights, beginning June 26th, from 6:30—7:30 pm, at Prairie View Elementary School in the gymnasium and will run for 5 weeks to start with. A huge thank you goes out to Lori Johnson for getting this rolling, and she will be contacting any of you who signed up at last year's family picnic to help. If you did not sign up, but want to help, contact Lori Johnson at 843-9133 for information and to get on her list of helpers. If you are an athlete who would like to help run activity stations, and did not sign up last year, contact Lori as well. We will be encourage existing athletes to help the smaller children get involved.

Athlete Input Committee

Jake Johnson, Jake Casper, and David Thompson have all agreed to be on the Athlete Input Committee, which started meeting earlier this year. Cliff and Carol Claus have agreed to lead the group, and help the athletes determine ways in which they can provide leadership, show direction, and give ideas for things they'd like to see implemented and/or changed. This has been a wonderful experience so far, and the committee is holding a garage sale in June to help raise funds so athletes can get their names put on the back of their Oregon T-shirts (details will follow). The garage sale will be a good experience for the athletes to help with money concepts, socialization and overall management skills. If you are an athlete that would like to be a part of this committee, please contact Cliff and Carol Claus at 291-2019. I applaud the Jakes and David for being involved and wanting to be in a leadership role.

Bowling Shirts—IMPORTANT

Attention all BOWLERS! Coach Gary still does not have all the bowling shirts. PLEASE look in your closets, drawers, laundry hamper, under your beds...and return it to Gary or Sue Haffele as soon as possible! Even if you think you turned it in...take a look in case you did not!

THANK YOU FROM COACH GARY!!

Oregon Special Olympics

c/o Amy Verheyden
525 Lexington Drive
Oregon, WI 53575

Phone: 608-692-1428
Email: averheydenso@charter.net

***"Let me win. But if I cannot win,
let me be brave in the attempt."***



Thanks to Lori Casper and Sue Haffele, who contributed to the contents of this Newsletter! If you ever have anything you want noted, please let Amy know!

Find us on Facebook under Oregon Special Olympics!
Come "Like" us to join us!

See our web site at:

www.oregonspecialolympics.yolasite.com

Upcoming Dates

Saturday, April 21st, Area Swim Meet in Waunakee.

Sunday, April 22nd, Family Banquet.

Saturday, May 5th, Area track meet in Oregon.

May 8th, Starting date for Bocce.

May 21st, Starting date for Softball.

June 1st, Fashion Show at Monona Terrace.

Reminders

For the Social Committee...we will hold a wrap-up meeting following the banquet in April. Bring ideas for summer activities!

Don't forget to save your Bill's receipts. Bill's pays Oregon Special Olympics 1% of all sales if we turn in the receipts. Please turn your receipts in to Julie Brown at 221-1872, or julesb@sbcglobal.net! Every little bit helps!

Keeping Active

Special Olympics is encouraging athletes to stay active year 'round...not just during certain sports seasons. In Oregon, we would like to continue shooting hoops during the summer, taking walks with Robin on the walking path (email to follow soon with details), and finding out how many have gym memberships. We may be able to set up workout sessions if you belong to the same gym and make it more fun to have workout partners.

If you are interested in any of the above-mentioned items, please let us know. We will have sign up sheets at the upcoming banquet.