



## Oregon Special Olympics Newsletter

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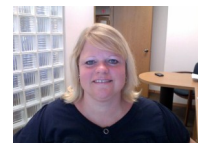
It's hard to believe we've turned a new year over once again. I'm not sure where 2011 went, but it sure came and went faster than I could keep track of! In review of the year, we've had some exciting new additions to our Agency with new families and athletes, wonderful practices and competitions for our athletes once again and friendships that continue to grow. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of for being a part of Oregon Special Olympics. Our athletes had another great year with participation in basketball, track and field, swimming, golf, bocce ball, and bowling again, and we've continued to have wonderful support from families, friends and support people. We simply would not have as large of an agency as we do without all of this. I think we are all blessed in having each other, and I know I feel very blessed for knowing each of you. It continues to amaze me when I watch our athletes and see their excitement and joy when they participate in the various sports. It's fun to have been a part of this Agency long enough that most of the athletes recognize me and my family as friends, and I take no greater joy than to high five them, congratulate and encourage them as they enjoy

the activities our Agency provides. I encourage everyone to enjoy the social activities we provide, as it's a great opportunity to form new friendships, nurture existing friendships, and have fun in a no-stress environment!

I cannot wait for another great year! We have new committees that are forming this year to include Young Athletes, a finance committee and an Athlete committee. Those of you who indicated interest at last year's family picnic have been contacted to get these committees started. If you are interested, and did not sign up yet, please contact me and you are more than welcome to be a part of our great group of volunteers!

Thank you all for being a part of Oregon Special Olympics! Happy New Year and...as always...be well...

Amy Verheyden  
Agency Manager  
608-692-1428



### Special Olympics Bill

Just an update to the last Newsletter...the bill passed to allow for Special Olympics Wisconsin to have a tax check-off for donations! We're so excited! We were able to witness the signing of the Bill in the Governor's office, and are off to Washington D.C. in February with Dennis Alldridge

(Special Olympics Wisconsin President/CEO) to do more advocacy work with him, getting in early with 2012 budgets. We cannot wait to join Denny in his efforts, and Special Olympics, Inc., as we take part in Capital Hill Day 2012. Wish David luck!





## Polar Plunge 2012

2012 Polar Plunge is just around the corner! Save the date...Saturday, February 18th! Oregon Special Olympics, as many of you know, get the proceeds for the concessions at the Polar Plunge. Gary Haffele will again manage the concessions (thanks, Gary!), and he could use some help. If you're interested in volunteering in concessions, please contact Gary at 219-9432. There are

also other areas to volunteer besides the concessions. You could help with pre-registration on Thursday and Friday evenings prior to the event, or just be a gopher the day of the plunge to do whatever is needed. If this interests you, call Lori Casper at 235-4931.

### ALL PLUNGERS PLEASE NOTE!

If you are interested in plunging at Olin Park on the 18th, please make sure you put our Agency

number on your registration ([www.specialolympicswisconsin.org](http://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org)). Our Agency number is 6-05 and we will receive 25% of all monies raised by any plunger or plunge team if our number is listed! You do not have to belong to our Agency to use our number, so recruit those you know! We received over \$800 last year by doing this!

## Athletes and Uniforms

All athletes should have in your possession your orange T-shirts and your warm-ups. All other uniform items should be turned in to the Coach or Lori Casper. If you do not have them turned in by the time that sport begins, you will not be able to participate until you do so. If you participate in track and field, and have a pair of black shorts,

## Committees

For those of you who were at last summer's family picnic, you know that we had sign-up sheets for committees that I wanted to see formed this year. Those of you who signed up were contacted earlier tonight (with the exception of Young Athletes who will be contact soon by Cliff Claus, who has agreed to lead this group). The committees include:

### Social Committee

This committee plans activities to have our athletes socialize with each other outside of the sports field. We have planned dances, dinner and a movie, sledding, and picnics.

### Finance Committee

This is the first time we have had a finance committee. Scotty Sheets has so graciously volunteered to be our Agency's treasurer for quite a while now, and he'd like to step down as Treasurer. Instead of replacing him to have one individual Treasurer, we are forming a finance committee to make the financial decisions, pay the bills, requisition for various financial expenditures, and oversee the general financial well-being of the Agency.

### Young Athletes Committee

This committee will explore and implement ideas on recruiting families for the Young Athletes Program I'd love to see Oregon have. Once enough interest is generated, a schedule will be established to have regular activities for our Young Athletes (ages 2-7).

### Athlete Committee

This will be a group of our athletes who will meet and discover new ways in which athletes can get involved, share ideas for the Agency from the athlete's point of view, and allow an opportunity for our Athletes to have a voice!

### Concessions Committee

This committee is involved in planning and helping at the Polar Plunge and Spring Track Meet (held at Oregon High School) concession stands.

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

## **Becoming a Certified Coach**

If you come to all your athlete's practices and like to help out, but do not want to be the head coach, why not get certified and be an assistant coach? You need to be a Class A certified volunteer (forms are available online at [www.specialolympicswisconsin.org](http://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org), or through Amy). This process does involve a criminal background check by Special Olympics Wisconsin. Just check out the Special Olympics web site for training school schedules and sign up! You'll be glad you did!

## **Oregon's New Special Olympics T-Shirts**

Remember that we have the new T-Shirts which most of you have already received. If you still need yours, please contact Lori Casper at 235-4391 to get your shirts. Each athlete get two shirts with the new design, and these are to be worn only at competitions. Also, if you are new to our Agency, and do not have a warm-up suit yet, contact Lori Casper for that as well. She can give you the details.

*Just a reminder that athletes can wear the old t-shirts for practices, out in the community, school or whenever you want. These are no longer limited to competitions.*

## **Bowling**

We had an exciting year with bowling! Gary Haffele was our head coach again (thank you, Gary!!!), and we had a large group, with some new athletes which was fun! Everyone did a great job! Congratulations on another great season bowlers, and thanks to our assistant coaches who helped Gary with the athletes. As has been the case for quite some time, bowling was held at Viking Lanes in Stoughton. Please give them business in-between seasons to thank them for hosting us each year.

## **Walking Group**

Robin Hunter lead our walking group all the way through last Fall! Thanks to those who participated in walking, and thanks to Robin for leading the group! If there's enough interest, we will do this again next year!

## **Basketball**

Elisa Alexander is, once again, coaching Team Basketball this year!!! Thank you, Elisa! Kristine Guderyon-Goetz is coaching the Skills group once again (thank you, Kristine)! We started practices last Sunday, and practices will be held the following dates from 2:00 pm—3:30 pm. All dates are on a Sunday and are held at Hillcrest Bible Church:

1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19 and 2/26.

More practices to be held based upon results of local and/or regional competitions.

Scrimmages will be announced as they are scheduled.

March 4th is the Area Tournament in Verona, Wisconsin.

Interested but couldn't join us for the first practice, or didn't catch our emails? Call Elisa Alexander at 931-3697! Come join the fun!

## **Oregon Special Olympics**

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



**Oregon Panthers**

I am always looking for things to add to the newsletter. Feel free to contact me if you have anything you'd like to share in the newsletters! Always send pictures if you have any as well. I don't get pictures of everything unfortunately, so love them when I can get them from others!

Check us out on Facebook under Oregon Special Olympics! Come "Like" us to join us at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oregon-Special-Olympics/112337815501839>

See our web site at:

[www.oregonspecialolympics.yolasite.com](http://www.oregonspecialolympics.yolasite.com)

### **Upcoming Dates/Events**

Valentine's Dance, Date to be determined.

Basketball Area Tournament on March 4th.