

JULY 2018

SPECIAL OLYMPICS – YORK COUNTY

NEWSLETTER

ATHLETE LEADERSHIP

April and May were busy months for the members of our Athlete Leadership Team. On April 14th, members of the team used their own voices to spread the word about how awesome Special Olympics is to potential new athletes and volunteers at the York Autism Day, held at Central High School.



Damien Miele, Jenny Laudeman and Loretta Claiborne were joined by Dean Prowell, and met and chatted with lots of people who were interested in knowing more about our program. The next week, Loretta Claiborne represented the athletes at the LIU Agency fair, held at York Learning Center. We hope these efforts help to stir up interest in the program for people who are not participating, but perhaps should be.

And finally, a special thanks to all the athletes who used their voices in our opening ceremonies for Spring Games: Patrick Lee for his fine job as MC, Joe Gerzewski leading the athlete's oath, Noah Rinehart for his prayer, Tim Moran for his energetic singing, and Amy Copenhaver for leading the pledge. And thanks to everyone who participated in the torch run. It's great to see that our athletes not only do well on the field, in the pool and on the court, but step-up for other roles in our fine organization.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR ATHLETES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 38TH ANNUAL SPRING GAMES.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS/COACHES/PARENTS/FAMILIES/STAFF AND GUARDIANS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

**“LET ME WIN, BUT IF I CANNOT WIN
LET ME BE BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT”**

Manager's Corner, Jeff Witman

Connections

Special Olympics York County (SOYC) depends on connections. There are internal connections- athletes, families/caretakers, coaches. Volunteers and management team communicating and collaborating. There are external ones- SOYC communicating and collaborating with people and organizations, which offer support. The success of our SO programs and events relates directly to our ability to connect. I encourage each of you to consider how you can enhance your SO connections.



There is a powerful notion in 1 Corinthians (12:14-20, 26) which promotes the idea that connections work best when all participants are respected. Verse 26 says "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." Native Canadians created phenomenal stone structures (*see picture*) which show the power of many vs. going it alone. These structures, Inuksuk, served as guides to travelers and are seen as symbols of the human spirit. The dependence of the stones on other stones recognizes our ability to succeed with others, where alone we might fail. It reminds us of our need to belong. The Inuksuk conveys the importance of personal contribution and it reinforces our ability to commit to common goals. For SOYC to build a structure which lasts we need to continue connecting. Four

ways to do so:

Information- Get the Facts You Need!

Use the wonderful electronic and personal resources available through Special Olympics national, state and local websites. Checkout the new look and feel (kudos to Elliot Gardner) of our SOYC site. Be on the lookout for opportunities to learn from others in the organization (e.g., Jenny Laudemann and Michael Plappert's Healthy Lifestyles efforts) and to share your expertise with others.

Empathy- Give and Take Emotional Support from the SO Community!

Support and accept the support of others in SO. We can relate from the heart to others from a foundation of shared experience. An exciting example of the power of sports to build bridges and foster friendships occurred this Spring as Red Lion and York Tech high schools initiated IUS (Interscholastic Unified Sport) programs in track and field. On a competitive level they finished 1-2 in the Regional meet with Red Lion moving on to a 2d place finish in the State meet. On a cooperative level, bonds of friendship and understanding were created among diverse teammates.

Feedback- Listen to and Offer Honest Feedback!

A true friend lets you know when you're messing up. Respectfully share your praise and your criticism with others in the organization. This summer we'll be completing a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of SOYC. Let us know your thoughts.

Help- Be the Person that Shows Up When Needed!

Continue the habit so many of you have of being there when something needs to be done. Consider stepping up or spreading the word about SOYC's needs for coaches (e.g., soccer), volunteers and management team members. Be part of the effort to recruit new athletes and new connections for SOYC. Together everyone can achieve

IN MEMORIAM



Ross Raffensperger

By Guest Reporter, Karen Plappert



Ross Raffensperger who just recently turned 90 passed on Thursday, May 24th. He was the husband of Barbara Raffensperger and had recently celebrated 67 years of marriage. For many years he was the Treasurer for the York County Special Olympics Management Team. He and Barb were elected Special Olympics Family of the Year in 1997, was elected as an Honorary Life Time advisor to York County Special Olympics in 2006, and in 2007 he and Barb were inducted into the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Hall of Fame, the highest award given to a Special Olympics volunteer. Many of

our athletes will remember Ross as their Bowling Coach and as another new program began in York County as their Bocce coach. Thank you Ross for your generous service to our program – we all have benefited from knowing you. Prayers go out especially to his wife, Barbara, his children Todd and Kim, and to his many friends.

Basketball at the 2018 PA State Special Olympics

Jim Miele, Head Basketball Coach

The 2018 Basketball season has been distinctly satisfying for me personally. I have seen so much growth in every player throughout the program. Our players played their best basketball at the State Games at Penn State University from May 31st to June 2nd.



We brought 3 Skills athletes to Penn State University.

Robert Aulen and Damian Miele brought home Gold medals.

In a close call, Crystal Robinson brought home a Silver, despite a heck of a shooting display.

Our 3 on 3 team worked very hard also and is certain to make it to State Games next year after coming up just short this time.

After qualifying with a Silver medal at Sectionals, our 5 on 5 team got out to a fast start winning both games on Friday. After losing to Crawford in a tight OT game in the Saturday morning to complete pool play, they came back to play that same team in the Gold Medal game at Noon. After falling behind 6-0, they went on a 24-9 run to take the Gold in their Division!



I wish to thank all of the volunteers, coaches, and players for a wonderful season that makes me look forward to 2019. They all exhibited exemplary sportsmanship, heart, and skill.



2018 Bocce Schedule

The Bocce season will begin July 28, 2018 and practices will continue through Oct. 27, 2018. The Villanova Tournament will be November 2- 4, 2018. Participation in this tournament is not guaranteed; qualifications have to be met in order to participate.

Practices will be held at the York Twp. Park from 6pm - 8pm before Labor Day. After Labor Day, all practices will be held from 4pm- 6pm at the York Twp. Park.

Practices for 2018 are as follows:

July 28 (6pm - 8pm)

August 4 (6pm - 8pm)

August 11 (6pm - 8pm)

August 18 (6pm - 8pm)

August 25 (6pm - 8pm)

Sept. 8 (4pm - 6pm)

Sept. 15 (4pm - 6pm)

Sept. 29 (4pm - 6pm)

Oct. 6 (4pm - 6pm)

Oct 13 (4pm - 6pm)

Oct. 20 (4pm - 6pm)

Oct. 27 (4pm - 6pm)

The Sectionals Tournament held in Juniata will be Sept. 23, 2018 in Juniata.

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ATTENTION ALL COACHES!!!

Please do not accept medicals from your athlete, parents and caregivers. They are to be mailed directly to Vickie Livelsberger, 1479 KBS Rd., Spring Grove, Pa., 17362.

Also, every head coach must have a paper copy of each of their athlete's medical with them at all practices. You are also responsible for the medical of any and all athletes you take to invitational, state games, etc.

PA STATE GAMES LOST AND FOUND

(1) SLEEP BETTER PILLOW

- (1) RED AND BLACK "AND 1" JACKET - SIZE 2XL**
- (2) BLUE HOODIE "GREEN TEAL" - SIZE XL**
- (1) PAIR OF GLASSES (BLACK HARD CASE)**

CONTACT: info@specialolympicsyorkcounty.org

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE

CHECK IT OUT AT

www.specialolympicsyorkcounty.org

**THANKS TO ELLIOT GARDNER FOR TAKING THE LEAD ON
GETTING THE WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING**

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Find us on:
facebook®

SPORTS ATHLETE REGISTRATION

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

York County School of Technology Cafeteria

Athletes, please do not arrive before

6:15 p.m.

COACHES MEETING - 7:30 P.M.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS - YORK COUNTY

AT THE



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE MAIL

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SPECIAL OLYMPICS,
INCLUDING VOLUNTEERING, COACHING,
FUNDRAISING, ETC.**

CONTACT A MANAGEMENT TEAM MEMBER

**CONTACT INFORMATION IS ON WEBSITE
AND IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY SPORTS
CONTACT INDIVIDUAL COACHES**

**CONTACT INFORMATION IS ON WEBSITE AND THIS
NEWSLETTER**

SPORTS SCHEDULES



BOWLING

**Colony Park Lanes North and South
Saturday – September 15 - December 1**

**York County Invitational Tournament
Sunday, November 18th
Bowling Banquet – December 15th, 2018
Coaches – Bev and Bob Baker
Carol Seitz and Jim Miele**



FIGURE SKATING

**York Ice Arena
Vander Ave. York. PA**

November 5, 12, 19, 26

December 3, 10, 17

Holiday Show TBA

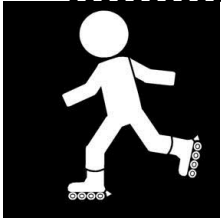
January 7, 14, 21, 28

February 4, 11, 18, 25

York County Competition – Feb 28

SOPA State Games– March 2ND & 3rd in York

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ROLLER SKATING

Roll "R" Way Family Skating Center

Vander Ave. York, PA

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Sept 6 Sept 13 Sept 20 Sept 27

Oct 4 Oct 11 Oct 18 Oct 25 Nov 8

Villanova – Nov 2 – 4

Coach Carol Seitz



VOLLEYBALL

BALLYHOO

2810 E. Prospect Rd. York, PA

Time: 6:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

August 15, 22, 29

NO PRACTICE – SEPTEMBER 5

September 12, 19, 26

Oct 3 Oct 10 Oct 17 Oct 27

September 28, 2018 – SOHO 5TH ANNUAL VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL

Maryland Junior Sport Center

Jessup, MD 20794



KAYAKING

**2018 PRACTICE/COMPETITION SCHEDULE:
Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Pinchot**

Selected Saturdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Lake Redman/Lake Williams – (Coaches will update)
Schedule (subject to change) - athletes will be contacted
individually if there are changes/cancellations in the schedule**

June 9, 13, 20, 23, 27

July 7, 11, 18, 22, 25

August 9, 15

**Do You Have A Story Idea or wish to submit an article for the
Newsletter, Website, or Facebook page?**

**Contact the Public Relations Coordinator at
publicrelation@specialolympicsyorkcounty.org**