

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

October 23, 2018



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Welcome

Welcome to the October 23, 2018, edition of the SOMD Area Memo!

If there are any members of your Area's leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, please send their names and email address to dweddle@somd.org to have them included in future distributions.

(NEW) New Area Director- Frederick County

Welcome to our new Area Director for Frederick County, Justin Byram! Justin is a graduate of Mount St. Mary's University where he studied Finance and Sports Management and currently works as a Financial Advisor for Merrill Lynch. Since graduation, Justin has been a dedicated Special Olympics Maryland volunteer, and we are looking forward to his leadership in Frederick County.

Special thanks to Ruth Vickers for "holding down the fort" in the interim, and the Frederick County Interview Committee for their work in identifying an outstanding candidate to fill the role!

(NEW) Welcome to Two New Members of the SOMD Sports Department

It is our great pleasure to announce that SOMD will be welcoming two new staff members to our team, both having their official start date as Monday, November 5, 2018.

Zachary Cintron will be joining SOMD as a Sports Director, filling the role vacated by Kristen Mullins. Zachary graduated from Drexel University with a Bachelor's degree in Sports Management and comes to us with Special Olympics experience. He previously worked as a Sports Manager with SO-Southern California

where he was responsible for overseeing all sports competitions, coaches' education and games management teams in the Inland Empire area. Prior to that Zachary interned with SO-Pennsylvania for two years, learning and working under their Competition Director. Zachary has a true passion for Special Olympics and our athletes. Though he will not officially be relocating to Maryland from New York to join SOMD's staff until November 5th, Zach will be part of the team at the cycling venue during this weekend's Fall Sports Festival.

Cara Maronek will be joining SOMD as the Director of Interscholastic Unified Sports Programs. Cara has been a special education teacher for the past 14 years, has a Master's degree in Special Education and a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Northern Colorado. She is currently pursuing an Educational Doctorate in EC Special Education. Additionally, Cara also has earned her Principal's License. During her time as a teacher, Cara has had several opportunities to interact with Special Olympics activities. She participated in Special Olympics state Fall, Winter and Summer games as an assistant coordinator and head coach in Wyoming and has been a part of Unified Sports in Colorado. Cara has also been either the head or assistant coach for volleyball, basketball, and track and has experience coaching unified basketball, soccer, softball, flag football, and swimming. Cara's obvious passion for education, sports and helping individuals with special needs promises to be a great asset to SOMD in further developing our school programs. Cara will be relocating her family from Colorado and joining SOMD's staff on November 5th.

(NEW) Over the Edge



With less than a month away, we wanted to remind you that there is still time to sign up to Go Over the Edge! We are challenging you to be as courageous as the 7,782 athletes of Special Olympics Maryland and face a brand new obstacle -- rappelling down 16 stories in Bethesda, MD! Join us on Saturday, November 3rd! Sign up [here](#) today and [check out](#) the coverage of last year's event on Fox 5.

Want to win a spot to go over and still donate to Special Olympics Maryland?

Enter our raffle:

Enter the raffle, and you could be one of 6 lucky winners who will take on 16 stories of 2 Bethesda Metro Center in support of the 7,782 athletes of Special Olympics Maryland!

ENTER TO WIN!
WWW.OVERTHEEDGEMD.COM

Raffle Details:

Must be Entered by Monday, October 29, 2018

Winner will be announced on Tuesday, October 30th

Any questions? Feel free to email me or call Jessie Thompson at jthompson@somd.org or 646-573-6964.

(NEW) Young Athletes Program Fall Open House



The Young Athletes Program will be hosting two Open Houses this Fall! A Young Athletes Program Open House is a chance for new and old Young Athletes and their families to come and explore what YAP is all about! The Open House will have station activities for select motor skills and sports development! **State Soccer Championship**- YAP will be at the 2018 State Soccer Championship on Sunday, October 28th from

10:00AM-1:00PM. We will be located inside the Crown Sports Complex and will have soccer stations for beginners! It's guaranteed to be a great time!

(NEW) 5th Annual Maryland Rockfish Open

Register today for the 2018 Rockfish Open on October 27, 2018!

\$400 for 4 Anglers

\$100 for each additional Angler

Includes a T-shirt and entrance to weigh –in party for each angler

Largest Fish by Weight:

First Place \$5,000

Second Place \$2,500

Third Place \$ 1,000

Location: Mike's Crab house Riva, MD

REGISTER TODAY: Area Leaders Webinar & Meeting

It's almost time for our Q4 Area Leaders Webinar and Meeting! Our webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 7:00pm (please note the date change from the last area memo) and the Area Leaders meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Ramada Plaza in Hagerstown, MD.

To register for the webinar, visit: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1983891000162945537>

To register for the Meeting, visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018NovAd>

Howard County Athletes and Volunteers Recognized

Congratulations to the following Special Olympics Maryland Howard County Athletes and Volunteers who will be recognized at the Celebration of Sports Dinner on October 16th:

Youth Athlete: **Justin Richter**

Adult Athlete: **Sean Taneyhill**

Coach: **Cara Gregg**

Sports Administration: **Michelle Jordan**

Official: **Jim Chinn**

A photograph taken by **Marie McGing** was selected as a winner of the Good Sports photo contest.

Young Athletes Upcoming Fall Schedule

The Young Athlete Program 'YAP' Fall Season is underway! This year we have 6 local area programs running YAP across the State. YAP provides an opportunity for our youngest athletes and their families to experience the joys of sport and play. To get involved in a program near you, please see attachment for the YAP Fall schedule!

Howard County Adds Young Athletes Program to Sports Programs

Last year a school based Young Athletes Program (YAP) was started in Howard County. This fall, Special Olympics Howard County will hold its first community based Young Athletes Program (YAP) from September 29th – November 17th. The program will be held at Rockburn Elementary School on Saturday mornings for eight weeks. A second session is planned for the spring. Spearheading the program are new YAP Coordinators Ashley and Mike Murphy and Katie Boggs. In addition, students from Howard County's Leadership U program have decided to "adopt" YAP for their project and will be actively involved in volunteering, fundraising and documenting the program.

New Athlete Leadership Registration System

The Athlete Leadership Program will be using VolunteerHub to have athletes sign up for ALPortunities that happen all the time including talking to the media, speeches, advocacy, state championships, special events, and local program events in their area! Just to name a few. It will also allow athletes to build a personal schedule of events and offers immediate confirmations when you sign up.

Because it is a new system, new users will be asked to build a volunteer/Athlete Leader profile. It only takes a minute or two to fill out so even if you do not see an event for you now feel free to get ahead of the game and build your VolunteerHub account.

To sign up go to <http://alps.somd.volunteerhub.com>

Join us now on VolunteerHub and take advantage of all the great ALP-ortunities ahead of you.

You DO NOT have to be certified in any athlete leadership classes to join this new system. Just interested in sharing your story and leading Special Olympics Maryland into the future.

Important Note: Please *do not direct any of your Area volunteers to renew or submit their volunteer forms or other certifications via VolunteerHub*. While that option will be available at some point in the future it is not available now and their volunteer certifications will not be updated in GMS. You will receive formal written notification once this option is available for Area volunteers.

Athlete Leader Opportunity Reporting

Have you hosted an event that used an athlete leader as a speaker, EMCEE, photographer, or other role? So that we can keep an accurate account of ALP-ortunities across the state, please submit those to Jason Schriml (jschriml@somd.org) to be counted! Please include the name of the athlete(s), event name, and how many hours (approx.) the athlete spent in the leadership role.

Cruise with us – May 2019 Carnival Cruise

We're excited to announce the first ever 7-day cruise to the Eastern Caribbean aboard the **Carnival Pride to benefit Special Olympics Maryland!** Our partners at Carnival Cruise will be donating a portion of the proceeds from each cabin sold for the May 12th, 2019 cruise stopping in in Grand Turk, Half Moon Cay, and Freeport.

[Booking information here](#) – contact Janice Colbert directly at janice_colbert@yahoo.com or 410-446-7465. Or, [contact us](#) to learn more!

Carroll County Designer Bag Bingo

The Annual Fall Designer Bag Bingo is on November 10, 2018 at the Shipley Arena at the Carroll County Ag Center in Westminster. Lots of Coach, Michael Kors, Vera Bradley and so many more. We have some great new vendors and some of our returning vendors. The doors open at 4:00 for shopping (If you choose not to play bingo, you can still shop our vendors and we just ask for \$5.00 donation) Bingo starts promptly at 7:00 (doors close at 6:45) Get there early and enjoy the shopping and all the good food available. For tickets call Donna at (443)507-6010 to reserve them, Don't Wait they go really fast. The cost is \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door.

Anne Arundel Adds Young Athletes Program Coordinator to Management Team

Special Olympics Anne Arundel County has created a new position on their Management Team. Please welcome, Janis Jank, as the Young Athletes Program Coordinator! Janis has been a lifetime Special Olympics Maryland volunteer alongside her husband Al and has been instrumental in the growth of YAP in Anne Arundel County. Welcome aboard, Janis!

Other Area programs may want to consider including a Young Athletes Program leader on their Area Management Team as well.

SONA Coach of the Year Nominations Open

DON'T WAIT!

Nominate a deserving coach today!

The Maryland Coach of the Year Selection Committee is seeking your input in selecting the Maryland nominee for the **2018 Special Olympics North America Coach of the Year**.

This award is given annually to an outstanding Special Olympics coach who has made a significant impact and demonstrated exceptional commitment to both the Special Olympics Program, his/her athletes and the Movement. He or she also has high expectations for his/her athletes and himself/herself to reach their maximum potential.

Please take time to present this opportunity to your network/Management Team, including Athletes, discuss, determine, and nominate qualified candidate(s). Please include Athletes in the process as their input is vital. **Nominations MUST be submitted on-line via - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PD28NKH>.**



NOTES/REMINDERS:

- **Nomination deadline – Monday, October 29, 2018 at 5pm.**
- A downloadable version of the survey is available at - <https://goo.gl/WzWfRq>. This document is intended to aid the person submitting the nomination as s/he prepares to complete the nomination. **Nominations MUST be submitted on-line via - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PD28NKH>.**
- Only **one nominee** may be submitted per North American Accredited Program. A Maryland selection committee will be assembled, selecting one nominee to put forth for consideration by North America.
- If you had a 2017 nominee that was not selected you can re-submit them as your 2018 nominee. You can simply ask me for a copy of the 2017 nomination, which can then be used to update their work this past year.
- The criteria for the nominee, as indicated by SONA, are as follows:
 - 1) Be an active, certified Special Olympics coach with at least 3 years of coaching experience.
 - 2) Trains athletes at least twice a week during the sport season.
 - 3) Provides at least 5 competitions for his/her athletes.
 - 4) Provides other opportunities for athlete(s) with the purpose of improving their health, fitness, well-being and integration with the community.
 - 5) Exhibits sportsmanship qualities.
 - 6) Has made a **significant impact** to his or her athletes, the Program and the Movement.

(UPDATED) Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars

The dates and time for Pre-Season and Pre-Competition webinars have been set for the upcoming seasons. Please share this info with your coaches and sports volunteers.

Pre-Season Coaches Webinars

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
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Alpine Skiing	Thu 11/29 7:00 p.m.	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2530254826095169025
Basketball	TBD	TBD
Bowling	Tue 09/11	Recording: https://youtu.be/vztw3CWB_8
Cycling	Tue 08/14	Recording: https://youtu.be/fl6Qg_sc33g
Distance Running	Thu 08/16	Recording: https://youtu.be/gQrZDm9IAuE
Flag Football	Thu 08/09	Recording: https://youtu.be/GKd1up_nekw
Powerlifting	Wed 08/15	Recording: https://youtu.be/4FN3QR0-QQ0
Snowshoeing	TBD	TBD
Soccer	Thu 08/09	Recording: https://youtu.be/Wl4lqKBseGE
Tennis	Tue 08/07	Recording: https://youtu.be/JDZyHZ5r5q8

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Alpine Skiing	TBD	TBD
Basketball	TBD	TBD
Bowling – Pre-Regional	Tue 11/06 7:00 p.m.	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7945981808521735427
Bowling – Pre-Finals	Tue 11/27 7:00 p.m.	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3026318185107792387
Cycling	Tue 10/16 7:00 p.m.	Recording: https://youtu.be/xne2v5BDgwk
Distance Running	Tue 10/09 7:00 p.m.	Recording: https://youtu.be/uwswdVMuvJQ
Flag Football	Thu 10/11 7:00 p.m.	Recording: https://youtu.be/11hoq8F9OLw
Powerlifting	Wed 10/10 7:00 p.m.	Recording: https://youtu.be/vt4IDrQTL0k
Snowshoeing	TBD	TBD
Soccer	Mon 10/15 7:00 p.m.	Recording: https://youtu.be/Gn4dsLk6hbg
Tennis	Thu 10/11 8:00 p.m.	Recording: https://youtu.be/4hjrDEVIAGE

(UPDATED) Community Sports Registration Deadlines Set Through Summer Games 2019

Registration Deadlines for community sports through the end of 2018 have been set and are incorporated into the Sports Calendar included with this email. They are summarized below for your convenience as well. We expect to have similar deadlines set for the remainder of 2018 in the next several weeks and will share them as soon as they are available.

Event/Sports	State Championship	Training Registration	Outstanding Forms	Competition Registration
Fall Sports Fest. (cycling, dist. running, flag football, powerlifting, tennis)	10/20/2018	9/10/2018	10/12/2018 (adjusted)	10/04/2018
Soccer	10/28/2018	9/10/2018	10/12/2018 (adjusted)	10/04/2018
Bowling	11/11/2018 (regionals) 12/02/2018 (finals)	9/24/2018	10/12/2018 (adjusted)	10/18/2018
Winter Games	2/24-26/2019 (includes time trials)	1/10/2019	1/21/2019	2/7/2019

Basketball	3/30-31/2019	1/24/2019	2/4/2019	2/14/2019
Summer Games	6/7-9/2019	4/25/2019	5/6/2019	5/16/2019

Sports Directors – Assigned Sports

As reviewed during the Area Leader webinar and in-person meeting in mid-July, SOMD HQ has undergone some staff restructuring in support of driving the developing strategic initiative of improved and increased sports programming and competitions as well as building the capacity for overall growth in the number of athletes we serve. One step in the process was the change in the role of the former “Regional Sports Directors” into positions focused strictly on sports programming. Here is their contact information and their sport assignments (some have changed)

- **Melissa Anger, Sports Director**
 - manger@somd.org, 410.979.5112
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Tennis
 - Locally Popular Sports: Cross Country Skiing, Duckpin Bowling
- **Kendall Zeswitz, Sports Director**
 - kzeswitz@somd.org, 717.341.4621
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Athletics
 - Bocce
 - Distance Running
 - Golf
 - Powerlifting
 - Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey
- **TBD, Sports Director (Steve Bennett In interim)**
 - Interim Contact: sbennett@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x102
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Cycling
 - Kayaking
 - Snowshoeing
 - Swimming
 - Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Volleyball

Staff Support for Area Leaders

Attached to this Area Memo is an **Updated Area Leader Resource Guide**. The staff members listed with corresponding responsibilities will be your best point of contact with related questions or concerns. As always, any general questions or ones you’re not sure who should be contacted, Ron, Jeff, and Ryan are here to assist!

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President of Local Program Development**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - All Areas with the exception of the Baltimore Region and Western Maryland
- **Ron Freeman, Baltimore Region Director**
 - rfreeman@somd.org, 410.598.1027

- Baltimore City and Baltimore County
- **Ryan Kelchner, AmeriCorps Western Region Coordinator**
 - rkelchner@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Western Maryland (Frederick, Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties)

Sports Calendar

As a regular feature of the bi-weekly Area Memo, an updated copy of the SOMD Sports Calendar is attached. As always, this most up-to-date edition of the Sports Calendar may be found on MySOMD under “Documents” in both the Field Services and Coaches sections.

The Sports Calendar reflects the most up-to-date information we have at the time of its publication. Please be certain to provide your Regional Sports Director with information on any upcoming competitions and any coach trainings that you will be holding so that they can be included on the sports Calendar. If you notice any errors, please contact your Regional Sports Director with the corrected information.

Questions?

If You Have Any Questions On Any Other Sports-Related Issues, please contact a member of the new Local Program Development department for assistance

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President of Local Program Development**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - All Areas with the exception of the Baltimore Region and Western Maryland
- **Ron Freeman, Baltimore Region Director**
 - rfreeman@somd.org, 410.598.1027
 - Baltimore City and Baltimore County
- **Ryan Kelchner, AmeriCorps Western Region Coordinator**
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 - Western Maryland (Frederick, Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties)