

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

January 10, 2020

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

Welcome to 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 jabel@somd.org to have them included in future distributions. While Danielle is on Maternity Leave, Jeff will be responsible for distributing the Area Memo, so please contact him directly if you have any questions.

(NEW) [A note from Jim Schmutz on the passing of Anne Arundel County Area Director, Gregg Meade](#)

Dear Members of the SOMD Community:

We lost a friend and valued member of the Special Olympics Maryland family member. For the last 19 months Gregg Meade who served as the Anne Arundel County Area Director for many years, fought an incredible fight against cancer but the clock ran out this morning, so tonight Gregg rests more peacefully and free of pain having tried to beat the crap out of the cancer. During that time Gregg was steadfast in his determination to continue efforts to lead the Anne Arundel County Program which he did in many ways including at events like the Anne Arundel County Spring Games at the Naval Academy and Duckpin Bowling to name a few...

[Continue Reading Here](#)

(NEW) [Principles of Coaching Live Course – March 7, 2020 & June 20, 2020](#)

We are very pleased to be one of the first few SO USA programs to offer the updated “live” version of the Principles of Coaching course. This exceptional, highly participative full day course is designed for coaches with at least two years of experience and covers such topics as:

- Developing a Coaching Perspective
- Team Management & Training
- Athlete-Centered Coaching
- Fitness & Nutrition
- Safety and Risk Management

As noted in the new Coach Education & Development Model, completion of Principles of Coaching is a requirement for a coach to earn Advanced Coach status and will also renew, upgrade and extend all current coach sport certifications for three years from the date of course completion. As a reminder, *Advanced Coach status is a requirement in order for a coach to take a team or athletes to any competition above the state level* (including USA Games, World Games, and National Invitational Tournaments or their equivalents). Coaches must attend and participate in the entirety of the course to receive credit for course completion.

We currently have 2 sessions of this course scheduled in the first half of 2020 and will look to potentially add another session in the fall if interest warrants it. Our intent is to offer this live session at least twice per year going forward.

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., SOMD HQ (Baltimore area)

Saturday, June 20, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., SOMD HQ (Baltimore area)

There is no registration fee for these sessions. Lunch and refreshments throughout the day will be provided and registration for each session will be limited to a maximum of 25 coaches.

(Note: Please do not register for a session if you are not certain you will attend – it may mean another coach who actually could attend will be unable to register).

To register for one of these sessions, please use the following link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/POC_2020_reg

(NEW) Coach Education and Development - Overview, Updates and GMS Webinars – January 22, 2020

Given the previously announced enforcement of the Coach Sport Certifications for individuals to be recognized as coaches and that all teams and groups of athletes must have a fully certified Head Coach to attend any SOMD competition (beginning with Summer Games 2020), we will be hosting two webinars to review the requirements (with a few updates) and to remind GMS users of how to access the records for their coaches in our database. This enforcement change to occur with the 2020 Summer Games has been announced and discussed for at least 18 months so no one should be surprised, but we also know some folks tend to start to pay attention only when the consequences become real.

As always, these session will be recorded and the slides and a link to the recording will be provided following the session for those unable to attend, however coaches and leaders are encouraged to attend the “live” session so they can ask questions and get clarification for anything they may find confusing. A notice of these sessions (as well as the Principles of Coaching sessions noted above) will be sent to all individuals listed as coaches for 2019 (in “2019 Sports Training – Combined”) for whom we have valid email addresses.

Web Session	Date/Time	Registration Link
Review & Update for <u>Coaches & Leaders</u>	Wed Jan 22 7:00 p.m.	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7168302745226274317

Review & Update for <u>GMS users</u>	Wed, Jan 22 8:00 p.m.	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/765019704028019724
<i>We will do a "live repeat" of the session for coaches/leaders in early February</i>		
Review & Update for <u>Coaches & Leaders</u>	Thu, Feb 6 7:00 p.m.	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6950107961315008268

(NEW) GMS – Name Change For Training Registration “Games”

Based on feedback from users and others, we will be changing the name of where Area GMS users register Athletes, Unified Partners, Coaches and Volunteers as participating in their local training programs from “2020 – Sports Training Combined” to:

2020 Community Training Program Participant Registration

This will occur on Saturday, January 11, 2020, and will give that training registration function a more appropriate name. In addition to making more “sense” it will also provide a more meaningful header on reports that GMS users generate and share with coaches and other folks.

The name change is the only change being made. Everything else with the process (including deadlines) will remain the same as it has been for the past many years.

Welcome to SOMD, Joanne Engler!

We are pleased to announce that Joanne Engler has accepted our offer of employment for the role of Vice President, Finance, succeeding our soon-to-be-retired CFO, George Hergenbahn.

Joanne is a CPA and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration/Economics from McDaniel College. A 20+ year veteran of the nonprofit sector, Joanne most recently as the CFO of Saint Vincent de Paul of Baltimore (SVDP) where she managed an operating budget of over \$20 million. Prior to SVDP Joanne spent more than a decade working in various financial roles for the United Way of Central Maryland where her varied duties included directing the disbursement of \$35 million in campaign fund payments.

Joanne will join our team on January 6, 2020 and will report to Jim Schmutz. She will lead the Finance Department which include Maureen Hartnett (Senior Director, Finance) and Darlene Taylor (Senior Director, Accounts Payable). Joanne’s email address will be jengler@somd.org and she will assume the telephone extension 116 once George transitions out of his role.

Welcome to SOMD, Donghyun “Peter” Kim!

2 years ago, Special Olympics Maryland started a partnership with the CulturalVistas Organization and their KoreaWest program. This program places high-performing college graduates from South Korea in the United States for 1-year internship and language immersion programs fully-funded by the South Korean Government. Some of you may remember our first KoreaWest Team Member, Taewoo Yu!

Please join us in welcoming Donghyun “Peter” Kim to Special Olympics Maryland! Peter recently graduated from the University of Seoul with a degree in Physical Education. He has experience teaching Physical Education in Elementary, Middle, and High School settings, and served as a member of the Student Council on the Korea University Department of Sport.

Peter began his time with Special Olympics Maryland on Monday 12/16 and will be working primarily with Mike Myers, Ron Freeman, and Melissa Kelly on our school-based programs including the BCPS Adapted PE

Sports Program and our Interscholastic Unified Sports program, but he will also be attending many state competitions during his time with us through July, 2020, please welcome him to the SOMD Family when you see him!

Similarly, Peter has moved to Baltimore by himself—and though he has some friends in Washington, DC, the SOMD staff is working to help him feel at home in Charm City! If you, or any SOMD families you know, would be interested in sharing a meal, coffee, or other experience with Peter, please contact Jeff (Jabel@somd.org).

IUS Leaders Recognized

Special Olympics Maryland Lower Shore Area Director, Jen Hill, won the Society for Health & Physical Educators (SHAPE) America 2020 Eastern District Teachers of the Year for adapted physical education. Jen is one of three teachers in the country earning this honor. She will be honored during the 2020 SHAPE America National Convention & Expo in Salt Lake City at the Hall of Fame Celebration and Give Back Event. In addition to serving as the Lower Shore Area Director, Jen teaches at Pinehurst Elementary in Salisbury and serves as the Young Athletes Program and Interscholastic Unified Sports Coordinator for Wicomico County Public Schools.



SHAPE Maryland recognizes two of Special Olympics Maryland Interscholastic Unified Sports leaders as 2019 Teachers of the Year:

Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year - Michelle Ignaszewski, Charles County Public Schools. Michelle is a graduate of the State University of New York, College at Brockport. She has been employed by Charles County Public Schools since 2009 and currently serves a certified Adapted Physical Education Resource Teacher for the school system, as well as the Unified Sports Co-District Representative and Young Athletes Program Coordinator. Michelle has been tremendously instrumental in the development and success of Special Olympics programming in Charles County Public Schools.



High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year - Tim Stedman, Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Tim is a 1996 graduate of the University of Maryland, with a B.S. in Physical Education and has over 15 years of experience in such classes as Strength and Conditioning, Team Sports, Fitness for Life, Walking for Wellness, Lifetime Sports and Health, and inclusive sports. Tim has served as the AACPS Interscholastic Unified Tennis Commissioner for three seasons. Tim is a true fan and advocate for inclusivity and fair play both on and off the field.



Charles H. Flowers High School Unified Bocce represents SOMD at National Conference



Charles H. Flowers High School's Interscholastic Unified Bocce team represented Special Olympics Maryland at the 2019 National Athletic Directors Conference & Exhibit Show, which is hosted by The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). Charles H. Flowers High School student-athletes demonstrated Unified Bocce with the intent of bringing awareness about Unified Sports to more than 2,000 attendees primarily consisting of interscholastic athletic directors and administrators.

PGCPS was one of three school systems that partnered with SOMD to begin the Interscholastic Unified Sports program in 2009; Charles H. Flowers High School was one of ten high schools that competed in the first Interscholastic Unified Track and Field Championships in the country at Towson University's Johnny Unitas Stadium on Friday, June 5, 2009. Today Special Olympics Maryland partners with 20 of 24 (public) schools systems state-wide to offer five Interscholastic Unified Sports, bringing inclusivity and equality to the sports arena and school communities.

Athlete Leadership Training- Beginner Global Messenger Training Sunday, February 2, 2020

WHAT: Beginner Global Messenger Training

WHERE: SOMD HQ, 3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore (Halethorpe), MD 21227

WHEN: Sunday February 02nd, 2020 1pm-5pm

Who should attend?

All athletes who are interested in representing Special Olympics Maryland and their home county or program as a public speaker, emcee or presenter in their community and at a state level.

The Beginner Global Messenger is part of the Athlete Leadership Program (ALPs- <http://www.somd.org/learn/athlete-leadership/>) and the first step in becoming certified as a full Global Messenger which may open opportunities nationally and globally. Special Olympics Athlete Leadership Programs allow athletes to explore opportunities in roles previously considered "non-traditional." Such participation might come in the form of an athlete serving on the Board of Directors or local organizing committee; or it might find an athlete as a spokesperson, coach or official.

Global Messenger Beginner Course – to provide training and presentation skills for athletes interested in representing Special Olympics Maryland and Special Olympics athletes in formal or support settings.

Cost: FREE.

Special Olympics Maryland will not be responsible for any supervision or chaperone duties during the class. That responsibility is with the athlete and the mentor.

A parent can be a mentor.

A mentor can mentor 1 or 2 athletes but no more than that.

Register: You can register at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GM1_Feb02_2020

(UPDATED) Changes to World Winter Games

As noted in the last Area Memo, sadly the 2021 World Winter Games has been cancelled, at least as far as an event in Sweden. We've had some additional updates:

1. SOI is exploring options for scheduling/relocating the World Winter Games with a date either in 2021 or possibly 2022
2. The SO USA Team Trials scheduled for February, 2020, has been postponed until the dates/location of the World Winter Games has been resolved.
3. We've been advised that the next update on these issues will not be until later March, 2020, at the earliest.

As stated in Jim's December 20, 2019, email to Area Directors, please respect the guidance to refrain from posting on any social media platforms and please don't share the information by email either.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Mike Czarnowsky (mczarnowsky@somd.org) or Steve Bennett (sbennett@somd.org).

We look forward to having positive news in a few months.

(UPDATED) Winter Games HOD Webinars

WINTER GAMES HOD Pre-Season Webinar

January 7, 2020 / 7-8:00pm

Link to Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KhBbe9pgS4&feature=youtu.be>

Link to slides: <https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/coach-winter-games/>

(slides can be downloaded from the Winter Games section of the Coach Resource Page)

WINTER GAMES HOD Pre-Competition Webinar

February 13, 2020 / at 8:00 – 9:00 pm *(note updated time)*

Link to Webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8132893300584732172>

Please contact Steve Bennett (sbennett@somd.org) with any questions or concerns.

Brave in the Attempt

The First Lady of Maryland, Maryland Department of Disabilities, and the Developmental Disabilities Administration and Special Olympics Maryland Athlete Leadership program are proud to present the 4th Annual Brave in the Attempt Talks on Tuesday June 2nd, 2020.

Are you a Marylander with an intellectual disability? Do you know a Marylander with an intellectual disability? We're seeking speakers to share their experiences and perspectives surrounding this year's theme of "VISION"

You will present a short 5 minute speech to an audience about what "VISION" means to you.

Is it your VISION of the future? Is looking back in order to move forward? Is it wishing you were able to see something clearer in your past?

Tell us what VISION means to you.

There will be 5 practices to help you develop your idea and write your speech. These practices will start in January 2020.

If you are interested please go to www.BITAtalks.com for more details or email me at jschriml@somd.org

Athlete LeaderSHIP Carnival Cruise October 2020

ALL ABOARD!!

In partnership with Carnival Cruise Lines we have created an exciting opportunity for athlete leaders.

- WHAT:** Special Olympics Maryland Carnival Cruise and Athlete LeaderSHIP Training.
WHEN: Sunday October 25th-Sunday October 31st, 2020
WHERE: Leave from Baltimore Cruise Harbor
Ports of Call include Grand Turk, Princess Cays, and Freeport
HOW: Please check attached brochure for more information on how to sign up.
When you sign up please indicate "Athlete LeaderSHIP" on your form or email so you will be eligible for a discount on the cruise price listed on the brochure.
COST: All costs for the cruise and shore excursions are the responsibility of the athlete, family and chaperone.
All training costs and materials will be responsibility of SOMD.
CHAPERONES: Athletes must be accompanied by a chaperone. Additional family members may attend but are not eligible for the discount.

Tentative Schedule

October 25th, 2020	5pm	Leave Baltimore
October 26th, 2020	9a-noon Class 2pm-5pm Class	Fun Day at Sea
October 27th, 2020	9a-noon Class 2pm-5pm Class	Fun Day at Sea
October 28th, 2020	7am-2pm	Grand Turk
October 29th, 2020	9:30am-3pm	Princess Cays
October 30th, 2020	7am-1:30p	Freeport
October 31 st , 2020	8am	Arrive Baltimore

Courses offered: (Very Tentative and subject to change)

Photography-Conducted by Carnival Staff
Videography-Conducted by Carnival Staff
Leadership-Conducted by Carnival Staff
Social Media-Conducted by Carnival Staff
Media Training-Conducted by SOMD Staff

*Beginner Global Messenger only if athletes have not already taken this course.

We will also be offering an opportunity for 6 athletes to present TED style talks during the cruise. This event will be open to the public.

Other Events on the cruise:

Tour of boat by Captain or his/her designee.

Polar Bear Plunge during cruise.

Ice Cream Social.

All activities normally offered by cruise including entertainment shows, group activities, etc.

Other.

Discounted Medicals at MinuteClinic

Thanks to a new partnership between SOI and Minute Clinic, Special Olympics athletes are now entitled to sports physicals at a reduced rate of \$49.00. Any US Special Olympics Athlete, or prospective athlete who needs to complete a physical can present the attached voucher at any of the 1,100+ MinuteClinics in CVS or Target stores between now and July 31, 2020.

[See list of participating locations here](#) or on the [CVS MinuteClinic](#) and [Target MinuteClinic](#) websites. **No insurance or appointment is needed but [please bring the SOMD Athlete Medical Form with you.](#)**

Please note this is not an endorsement for MinuteClinic or their services from SOMD nor SOI; it is simply one more way for our athletes to have access to a relatively affordable Sports Physical.

We are excited about this opportunity and hope that you will share with your families and athletes.

Polar Bear Plunge Website is now live! Fundraise for your areas starting today!

The Polar Bear Plunge website is now live: www.plungemd.com

Any teams registered with an area will be entitled to a 70%/30% split after expenses. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to fundraise for your local program. Last year our teams raised over \$20,000 for their counties, and we'd like to continue that success in 2020.

Reach out to Jessie Hayes with any questions: jhayes@somd.org

(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>
Alpine Skiing	Tue 11/26	Recording: https://youtu.be/GFBtpPzv-tQ
Snowshoeing	Tue 11/21	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvEiWDdyOf8&t=5s
WG HOD #1	Tue 01/07	Recording: https://youtu.be/8KhBbe9pgS4
Basketball	Wed 12/04	Recording: https://youtu.be/3z4aQpfM1-k

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Alpine Skiing	Mon 02/17 7:00 p.m.	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1466357488678712845
Snowshoeing	Thu 02/13 7:00 p.m.	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/dcfe4428d9436dea4ac87b605f06faf5
Winter Games HOD #2	Thu 02/13 8:00 p.m.	https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8132893300584732172
Basketball	Tue 03/24 7:00 p.m.	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/285561165198905611

Community Sports Registration Deadlines For Most of 2020

Registration Deadlines for community sports through most of 2020 have been set and are incorporated into the Sports Calendar included with this email. They are summarized below for your convenience as well.

Event	Competition Date(s)	Training Registration Deadline (in GMS)**	Last Date To Submit Missing Forms**	Competition Registration Deadline (in GMS)**
Winter Games	2/23-25/2020	1/9/2020	1/20/2020	2/6/2020
Basketball Tournament	3/28 – 29/2020 (Tentative)	1/23/2020	2/3/2020	2/13/2020
2020 Summer Games	6/5-7/2020	4/23/2020	5/4/2020	5/18/2020
Kayaking Time Trials (Required)	08/08/2020 (Tentative)	7/9/2020	7/16/2020	7/30/2020
Kayaking Championships	08/22/2020 (Tentative)			
2020 Golf State Championship	9/27/2020 OR 10/4/2020 (Tentative)	8/13/2020	8/20/2020	9/3/2020
2020 Fall Sports Festival	10/17/2020 (Tentative)	8/27/2020	9/10/2020	10/1/2020
2020 State Soccer Championships	10/25/2020 OR 11/1/2020 (Tentative)	8/27/2020	9/10/2020	10/1/2020

Sports Directors – Assigned Sports

If you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

- **Melissa Anger, Sports Director**
 - manger@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x122
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Tennis
 - Locally Popular Sports: Cross Country Skiing, Duckpin Bowling
- **Zach Cintron, Sports Director**
 - zcintron@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x161
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Cycling
 - Kayaking
 - Snowshoeing
 - Swimming
 - Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Volleyball
- **Ryan Kelchner Sports Director**
 - rkelchner@somd.org, 410-242-1515 x171
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Athletics
 - Bocce
 - Distance Running
 - Golf
 - Powerlifting

- Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey

Questions?

If You Have Any Questions on Any Other Non-Sports-Related Issues, please contact a member of the Local Program Team

- ***Jeff Abel, Vice President. Local Program Development***
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- ***Claire Huston, Development Services Manager***
 - chuston@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 145
 - All Local Program Fundraising
- ***Pat Cullinan, Northern Chesapeake Region Director***
 - pcullinan@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Harford, Cecil, and Kent Counties
- ***Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director***
 - mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City
- ***Ron Freeman, Baltimore City Coordinator***
 - rfreeman@somd.org, 410.598.1027
 - Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore City Rec and Parks
- ***Tyler Martin, Western Region Coordinator***
 - tmartin@somd.org, 717-321-3642
 - Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties