

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

10/23/2023

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

If there are any members of your area's leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, [please fill out this form](#)

Shout out a volunteer

This memo's shout outs go to...

Shoutout to Bob Freeman, Jen Hill, Melissa Drew, Susan Murphy, and Bob Lachance for running a silent auction fundraiser at the Salisbury University football game on 10/7. Thanks to their work, the Lower Shore was able to raise over \$1,900! Not only a great event for the Lower Shore, but also great relationships being built with Salisbury University Athletics. Thanks to all of you for making this event so successful!

Coaches Greta Harrison, Bill Lowe, Kathy Axilne, Kyle Bausch, and Megan Shaffer for leading Team Maryland Teams to SONA NITs for Tennis, Golf, and Softball! We appreciate your commitment in providing athletes and Unified teammates the opportunity for advanced competition!

Katy Schieman and team for organizing a great required soccer qualifier at the Severn School!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LV88QG9>

(NEW) Welcome New SOMD Staff Members

We are excited to welcome Allison Crosscut and Brian Comiskey to the SOMD Staff--- they both start TODAY (10/23/2023)

Allison will fill the role of Director, Development.

Allison graduated from Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia with a bachelor's degree in social work. Allison was most recently the Studio Sales Manager for F45 Training McHenry Row.

As the **Director, Development, Allison** will work to increase annual revenue generated by special events and through mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations to support the financial goals and strategic growth of Special Olympics Maryland. She will be the lead on events such as the Deep Creek Dunk, the Pint Size Polar Bear Plunge, and the Mickey Steele Golf tournament. Allison will also manage relationships with community organizations such as the Knights of Columbus.

Brian graduated from Salisbury University with a bachelor's degree history. Brian has had several sales positions in the Baltimore area, most recently with Mid-Atlantic Media. Brian has had previous interaction with Special Olympics Maryland as a teacher at the Cedar Lane school.

As the **Director, Partnership Sales, Brian** will work to increase annual revenue by retaining current partnerships while securing new corporate and community partnerships using a disciplined sales process, to support the financial goals and strategic growth of Special Olympics Maryland. He will also be responsible for developing and executing a clearly defined sales plan and process with clearly defined objectives. With support and input from the Development team, the Marketing and Communications team, the Local Program team, and the Sports team he will manage the partner lifecycle which includes identification, qualification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship/fulfillment.

Allison and Brian will both report to Jessie Hayes, Vice President, Development. Please join me in welcoming them to the team!

(NEW) SOMD-Howard County Athletes and Volunteers Honored!

At Howard County's Celebration of Sports last week, SOMD-Howard County was well represented with honorees throughout the evening.

Congratulations to:

- Mike Ord- GoodSport Youth Athlete
- Charles Gains- GoodSport Adult Athlete
- Shirley Duhaney- GoodSport Sports Administrator
- Chris Warren- GoodSport Coach

Additionally, congratulations to Jack Burk, who was inducted into the Howard County Community Sports Hall of Fame! Jack's recognition write up is below:



Jack Burk joined Special Olympics as a basketball coach in 2000. Over the course of his 23 years with Special Olympics Howard County, he has built multiple innovative programs. Hundreds of basketball Special Olympians have played for Jack, and his ability to relate to athletes of all ability levels has made him an invaluable asset to the Special Olympics community. In addition to basketball, Jack served as one of the golf coaches from 2001-2007. To ensure Howard County representation at the Special Olympics Maryland level, Jack served on the golf and basketball development teams. He champions the incorporation of student volunteers into working with Special Olympics athletes. When his daughter, Jackie, died in 2004, the family decided to honor her memory by establishing a scholarship fund in her name to honor these outstanding student volunteers. Through the generous donations of family and friends, as of 2023, the Jackie Burk Memorial Scholarship has provided financial assistance totaling over \$31,000 to 22 outstanding Special Olympic student volunteers who follow in Jackie's spirit of volunteering with Special Olympics athletes.

Pictured are SOMD-Howard County's Award Winners (minus Mike Ord) with previous Hall of Fame inductees from SOMD- Howard (and current Management team members): Bob, Marilyn, and Allan. Thank you, SOMD-Howard Athlete, Christine Towne for the photo!

(NEW) Congratulations Team MD Softball, Golf and Tennis- SONA NITs

Over the past few weeks, Special Olympics Maryland has been represented by some awesome athletes, Unified Teammates, and Coaches at the SONA NITs for Softball, Golf and Tennis!

Softball Results- Lynchburg, VA

Division M01: SOMD-Montgomery County- 3rd Place

Division M1: SOMD-Frederick County- 2nd Place

Golf Results- Galloway, NJ

Level 1:

Anaelle El-Or- Division F01- 3rd Place

Mariah Blackstock- Division F03- 3rd Place

Timothy Ruhl- Division M02- 2nd Place

Zachary Hagan- Division M03- 3rd Place



Level 2:

Hyde/Matthews- Division M03- Participation Ribbon

Level 3:

Harman/Harman- Division M06- Participation Ribbon

Tennis Results- Hilton Head, SC

Level 4 Singles:

Michael Schmidt- 3rd Place

Level 4 Unified Doubles:

Schmidt/Schmidt- 4th Place

Level 3 Singles:

Adam Hays- 1st Place

Level 3 Unified Doubles

Hays/Harrison- 4th Place



Congratulations to these great competitors and coaches...and many thanks to the Team Maryland Golf, Tennis, and Softball Coaches for providing our Athletes and Unified Teammates an awesome experience!

(NEW) TopGolf Season of Giving

It's the last week of TopGolf's Season of Giving for Special Olympics! When you make a reservation at your Local TopGolf, use access code 'special23' for a percentage of your cost to benefit Special Olympics Maryland!

Area Directors: On our Wednesday call, we mentioned a possible activation opportunity this weekend. At this time, we have not received confirmation from Maryland locations, but that will be sent out as soon as we have that information.

(NEW) Unified PE Consultant, Sue Snyder, honored by SHAPE-MD

Congratulations to Special Olympics Maryland's Unified Physical Education Consultant, Sue Snyder on receiving the Friends of SHAPE-MD (Society of Health And Physical Educators- Maryland) Award at their awards banquet this past week. Sue was recognized by this group for her dedication to developing educators who use unified principles to create more inclusive educational environments for student success! We are lucky to have Sue on our team...congratulations, Sue!



(NEW) Crofton HS Named to the ESPN Honor Roll

Congratulations to Crofton High School, a Unified Champion School National Banner Recipient on being named to the Unified Champion Schools ESPN Honor Roll for their exemplary work in Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement!

(NEW) Play Unified at Towson University- Flag Football

Congratulations to our Athletes who wrapped up their Unified Soccer Intramural season this past Wednesday! We are looking forward to an exciting season of Unified Flag Football with Towson starting THIS WEDNESDAY!

Join Towson students and Special Olympics Maryland athletes for a Unified Recreation Flag Football league this fall. All games will take place at Burdick Field at Towson University from on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00pm on the following dates! 10/25/2023

- 11/1/2023
- 11/8/2023
- 11/15/2023
- 11/29/2023
- 12/6/2023

Use this [link](#) to register!

(NEW) Fall Sports Festival Feedback Survey

We enjoyed a weekend of great competition at the 2023 Fall Sports Festival! Congratulations to those who competed, coached, and volunteered!

For those who attended/competed in events at either Mount St. Mary's University or our cycling venue, *Please take a few minutes to complete the brief Fall Sports Festival Evaluation (link below)*. Most folks are able to complete the brief survey in about 3 minutes and it provides very valuable input for us to continually make Special Olympics Maryland events better year after year. I can guarantee you that we read every single one of the evaluations and comments and, while we may not always be able to follow all of your recommendations, I promise you they are each given due consideration by the SOMD staff and Games Management Team. So please let us know what you think. Also, as Steve Bennett always reminds us, people are usually quick to let us know what they would like to have changes, but also please be sure that you let us know what you liked as well – otherwise we may make a change to some aspect of the event (based on concerns) when it was actually liked by a larger number of folks.

2023 Fall Sports Festival Evaluation/Feedback: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FSF2023_Eval

(NEW) Special Olympics Maryland Day with the Maryland Terrapins Women's Basketball Team

University of Maryland Women's Basketball will be hosting a Special Olympics Maryland Day at their game on October 29, 2023 against East Carolina University at 12:00pm at the Xfinity Center. Admission is FREE to all attendees, and, in lieu of purchasing a game ticket, attendees are asked to make a donation to Special Olympics Maryland- Prince George's County.

The game will feature a halftime game of SOMD-PG Basketball Teams as well as Special Olympics Maryland Cheer teams!

View the press release for this great opportunity here:

<https://umterps.com/news/2023/10/5/womens-basketball-terrapins-to-host-charity-game-october-29>

Go Terps!

Area Program Sport & Activity Information Form

To more effectively capture the many programs and activities taking place in the community, we have put together a Training Program Information Form.

This form will help our state office stay more organized with up-to-date information on what programs are happening, where they're happening, and when they are happening.

Please submit 1 form for each sport/activity from your program using the link below:

<https://wkf.ms/3Kqg0Zp>

To avoid duplicate submissions, Coaches, Sport Volunteers, and Sport Coordinators, please work with your Area Leadership on submitting this form as they may have done so already.

We ask that this is submitted by the registration deadline during each sport season.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Abel (jabel@somd.org).

Area Program Fundraiser Info Form

As we discussed in our Area Director meeting and on Monday's call, we'd like to get a better idea of the many fundraisers taking place around the state in support of Special Olympics Maryland. This will also help us advertise your events while also consolidating state office requests for credit card machines, Classy Pages, and more.

[Moving forward, please fill out this form when you are planning a fundraiser.](#)

(UPDATED) Finance Corner

FINANCE CORNER



Fun Fact – Did you know....

- La Tomatina festival is the world's messiest food fight and is a unique event held in a small Spanish town close to the city of Valencia
- Thousands of people take part in the festival each year by hurling tomatoes at one another for an hour
- The rule is to squash the tomato first before throwing it; the hit will be less painful
- When the event is over, the natural acid in the tomatoes actually helps clean the cobblestone streets.

BUDGET 2024 – All of the Area budgets have been submitted and locked in MARTUS. Darlene and I are in the process of pulling the separate worksheets together into a central 2024 budget. Remember, budgets are not approved until the Board of Directors approves them in December.

Donation Information Corner

1. **Area Donation Tracking Link:** please use this link to provide information to SOMD about any anticipated gifts that may come directly to the SOMD office or bank account:
[Area Donation Tracking Report](#)
2. **Private Donation Link for Honor/Memorial Donations and specific gifts from donors:** If you have an individual donor or sponsor that has reached out to you and wants to make a donation to support your program directly, or if you would like to include a link for memorial donations, you can provide this PRIVATE donation link, but please remember, **this link cannot be included on your local area website or sent out as an email blast**. Please encourage donors to fill out the “Direct My Gift to” dropdown in the form.
[Private Giving Link Request](#)
3. **Stock Giving Option:** please provide the information below to anyone who would like to make a gift of stock to your local area program. You can also notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#).

To make a gift of stock, please share this information with your financial advisor:

**Morgan Stanley LLC
DTC #0015**

For the benefit of Special Olympics Maryland/633-117478

**c/o: Morgan Stanley
650 S. Exeter Street, Suite 1100
Baltimore, MD 21202**

4. **Matching Gifts:** Many companies generously offer to match their employees’ charitable contributions. Some even provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours. Most of these programs match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift!

[Click Here](#) to enter your employer’s name to see if they participate in the matching gift program, and if they do, get a link to the matching donation page.

If you are aware of any matching gifts that may be coming in for your local area program, please notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#)

(UPDATED) Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars

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

Pre-Season Coaches Webinars (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Cycling	Tue, 08/01	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kp5A4XGD1LI
Dist. Run.	Mon, 08/14	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AH-ovuBylcU

Flag Football	Wed, 08/09	Recording: https://youtu.be/1qiPIDqIb7g
Powerlifting	Mon, 08/14	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhatbnWtilA
Soccer	Thu, 08/17	Recording: https://youtu.be/PyGqIJjOvxg
Tennis	Wed, 08/09	Recording: https://youtu.be/kCzlx_Q07S8
Bowling	Thu, 09/07	Recording: https://youtu.be/TfyGQhftCk

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Cycling	Thu, 10/12	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXh2S-hdwH8
Dist. Run.	Wed, 10/11	Recording: https://youtu.be/tKKScdKqy3k
Flag Football	Tue, 10/10	Recording: https://youtu.be/cxmYBr1RzLE
Powerlifting	Wed, 10/11	Recording: https://youtu.be/uX-C72RW55c
Soccer	Tue, 10/24 6:00-7:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpf-yrqDMuGNbirl2T_JkMboM2egRy-UHu
Tennis	Tue, 10/10	Recording: https://youtu.be/pGeAzSkEBj4
Bowling - Regionals	Thu, 11/02 6:00-7:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctf-GvqDoiGdTPAe6MQhPdfyWLIwbGrAyr
Bowling - Finals	Tue, 11/28 6:00-7:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsdeytrispHtBoFx18GPTcbB5OPlvgTlCn

Sports Department Contacts – Assigned Sports

Your Area Director and Area Leadership should always be your first point of contact. However, should you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

- **Melissa Anger, Senior Sports Director**
 - manger@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x122
 - Basketball
 - Soccer
 - Cheerleading
 - Softball
 - Flag Football
 - Tennis

*Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball,
Cross Country Skiing, Pickleball*

- **Casey Collins, Sports Director**
 - ccollins@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x171
 - Athletics
 - Golf
 - Bocce
 - Powerlifting
 - Distance Running
 - Snowshoeing

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

- **Elizabeth Kramer, Sports Director**
 - ekramer@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x127
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Kayaking
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Swimming
 - Cycling

*Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating,
Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating,
Duckpin Bowling*

- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**
 - rkelchner@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x171
 - *Special projects*

If you have questions regarding multi-sport events, or USA/World Games, please contact:

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**
 - sbennett@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x102
 - Summer Games
 - Fall Sports Festival
 - USA Games
 - Winter Games
 - World Games

If you have questions regarding High School Unified® Sports (IUS) training and competition, please contact:

- **Zach Cintron, Senior Director, High School Unified® Sports**
 - zcintron@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x161
 - IUS Athletics (T&F) IUS Indoor Bocce IUS Tennis
 - IUS Outdoor Bocce IUS Strength & Conditioning IUS Flag Football

Overall Sports Leadership (any sports/competition questions that aren't related to a specific sport)

- **Mike Czarnowsky, Vice President, Sports**
 - mczarnowsky@somd.org, 410.241.6280

Questions?

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

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President, Local Programs**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- **Melissa Kelly, Senior Director, Unified® Champion schools**
 - mkelly@somd.org, 410-979-5839
 - Unified® Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement, Middle School Sports
- **Julie Martin, Manager, Unified Champion Schools**
 - jmartin@somd.org
 - Unified Champion Schools Grant, Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement
- **Jake Novick, Manager, Unified Recreation**
 - jnovick@somd.org, 774-276-5861
 - College Unified Champion Schools Programs, Unified Intramurals, Community Unified Rec Options
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Kayla Shields, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness**
 - kshields@somd.org, 410-404-4115
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified® Physical Education
- **Abi Bauman, Manager, Young Athletes Program**
 - abauman@somd.org, 802-881-4623
 - Young Athletes Program in school, community, and home
- **Sue Snyder, Unified® Physical Education Consultant**
 - ssnyder@somd.org
 - Unified® Physical Education
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
 - sboyd@somd.org, 443-766-9245
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Sr. Director, Area Programs**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 443-799-5335
 - All Area Programs- Primary POC for BA, HO, MO, AA, SM, CH, CL
- **VACANT, Region Director- Metro Programs**
 - mmyers@somd.org
 - Baltimore City, Prince George's County

- **Allie Boyd, City Schools Coordinator**
 - aboyd@somd.org, 223-848-1210
 - Baltimore City Schools APE Sports Program

- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
 - kmellott@somd.org, 814-470-9474
 - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore

- **VACANT, Region Director- West**
 - mmyers@somd.org
 - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett