

Spring 2012

# The Guardian

The Newsletter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council

**Polar Plunge  
Improvisation and Ingenuity  
Comes to Kuwait**



**1LT Ryan Doliber doing a swan dive.**

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**Cover Photo by: Bruce Stowe**

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

### Mike Peretti, LETR Executive Council

HELLO TORCH RUNNERS!

With the passing of spring, summer is quickly upon us. It is a busy time for most programs, but at the same time, a most rewarding one. Many of you are gearing up for, or have just completed, your annual Torch Run, supporting your summer games, or kicking into action your latest round of fund raisers. All of this after a very busy and lucrative season of the Polar Bear Plunge!

Like each of you, your Executive Council has been hard at work embarking on an intense and focused expansion effort in our international regions. Having identified many new opportunities throughout the globe as a result of your hard work, the Executive Council initiated new efforts in Singapore and many countries throughout Europe. Also, we continue to fuel the growth initiatives in place with our partners in Australia and the surrounding region, as well as Latin America, where we will be attending two IACP conferences this summer, educating many of our fellow law enforcement agencies along the way. Many thanks to the Torch Run volunteers in these areas making it all happen. Stay tuned, there is much more to come!

Speaking of thanks, all our efforts throughout the Torch Run are exciting and meaningful and it is so important to share them. To that end, I want to give special thanks to the man who is out in front of making it all happen. A guy, who from behind the scenes, is critical in our information sharing network and that is Lieutenant Rod Kusch, of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the man who puts this newsletter together! ROD, thanks for making a difference and spreading the word, literally! (Editor's Note: Thanks Mike! It's a team effort and I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Georgette Burgess, the vital team member here who's responsible for the nice look of the final product!)

Keep the Flame of Hope Burning Bright, and I hope to see you in Indianapolis!



## “Raising the Game” at the 2012 Law Enforcement Torch Run® International Conference

Special Olympics Indiana will be “Raising the Game” in Indianapolis for the 2012 Law Enforcement Torch Run® International Conference, November 8-10, 2012. Beginning with the dramatic opening ceremony and lighting of the torch on November 8, the 2012 conference will inspire and educate more than 1,000 law enforcement personnel from around the globe toward the ongoing goals of raising funds and awareness in support of Special Olympics athletes.

Every year, the International Conference provides an opportunity for Torch Run volunteers to network, share and learn how to improve their local Torch Run programs. The 2012 conference, located at the new JW Marriott in downtown Indianapolis, will celebrate the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. This is the first time that Indiana will host the event. To date, the sponsors of the Indianapolis conference include the Indiana Department of Correction, Gordon Food Service, Indiana Pacers, Sun King Brewery and Cassidy Turley.

Check for up-to-date information at the official website of the 2012 International LETR Conference:

<http://soindiana.org/special-events/law-enforcement-torch-run/letr2012/>

### What can I do in Indianapolis?

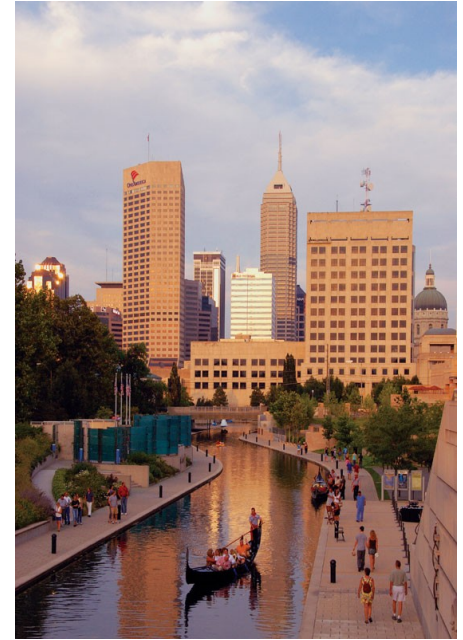
#### \* *Downtown*

Choosing a downtown property such as the world’s largest JW Marriott puts visitors in the epicenter of over 200 restaurants, 50 major attractions and an urban, four-story shopping mall offering more than 100 specialty stores. Indianapolis has been spotlighted as the most walkable city in America, and this remains true during the colder months thanks to climate-controlled skywalks connecting much of downtown. Guests staying at the JW Marriott can access Circle Centre Mall, the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium, and 11 other hotels without stepping a foot outside.

#### \* *Indoor Attractions Abound*

Indy offers museums for any interest. The **Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art** immerses visitors in the many cultures of the American West through exhibitions, performances, festivals and hands-on workshops. This award-winning museum offers one of the finest collections in the world dedicated to Native American and Western art, culture and history. Next door is the **Indiana State Museum**, which invites visitors to explore art, science and culture or view a film on the six-story tall IMAX Theater screen. Across the street is the home of the **Indiana Historical Society**, where visitors can engage in the rich history of Indiana. Also in this cluster of renowned museums is the **Indianapolis Zoo**, featuring an in-water dolphin experience and the world’s largest shark touch tank. It was

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named one of *Trip Advisor's* Top Ten in America and is open 9-4 Wednesday-Sunday in November.

Just north of the city are two more world-class attractions. The **Indianapolis Museum of Art**, one of ten largest general art museums in the US, offers 54,000 works in their collection, spanning 5,000 years of African, American, Asian, and European history. And five floors of fun and excitement await you at the world's biggest and best **Children's Museum**.

Right in the heart of downtown on Monument Circle is the landmark **Hilbert Circle Theatre**, home of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Just outside the theatre on the Circle is the iconic **Soldiers & Sailors Monument**. The ambitious can climb 333 stairs to the top (or take an elevator for \$1) for a spectacular view of the city. Indianapolis is home to the second-most monuments in the country, second only to Washington, D.C. And if live theater is of interest, the **Indiana Repertory Theatre** presents the best in professional regional theater within walking distance.

For something unique, visit **Fountain Square**, a funky downtown enclave with art galleries and restaurants, and try your hand at duckpin bowling in one of two historic bowling alleys reminiscent of decades ago. Or stroll through boutique shops, traditional pubs, and art galleries along **Mass Ave**, the city's arts and theater district. **Broad**



**Ripple Village**, where David Letterman grew up, also offers boutiques, locally owned restaurants, and vibrant nightlife.

#### *\*For Sports Enthusiasts*

Indianapolis is a natural destination for people who love sports. Tour the home of the Colts and host of Super Bowl XLVI **Lucas Oil Stadium**

Catch a Pacers or Ice game at **Bankers Life Fieldhouse**

Check out the Indians' **Victory Field**, which *Sports Illustrated* called "the Best Minor League Ballpark in America"

Tour historic **Hinkle Fieldhouse** on the campus of Butler University

Visit the iconic **Indianapolis Motor Speedway** and **Hall of Fame**

The NCAA is headquartered in Indy, and the **Hall of Champions** showcases the history of collegiate athletics in an interactive way.

#### *\*Stay Warm with Great Eats and Local Drinks*

Whether it's barbeque, steak, organic or locally-grown that piques visitors' taste buds, the Indy dining landscape offers plenty of options at various price points. The Circle City offers original eateries that can't be found anywhere else, including **Iozzo's Garden of Italy** – Indy's first full-service Italian restaurant, **Bazbeaux** gourmet pizza, and **St. Elmo's Steak House** – home of the super-spicy World Famous Shrimp Cocktail and the largest retail wine cellar in the state. Authentic Greek cuisine can be found at **Santorini** and Moroccan fare at **Saffron Café**. And being located in an agricultural state has made it only natural for farm-to-table restaurants and bistros to crop up. Downtown chefs have capitalized on easy accessibility to fresh ingredients at

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restaurants such as **Café Patachou**, **R bistro**, **Black Market** and **Goose the Market**.

If original craft beer or locally-made wine is your style, Indianapolis has much to offer. Locally-owned and operated **Sun King Brewery** has quickly made a name for itself and earned a reputation for crafting award-winning brews. Their house brews and seasonal and specialty beers have earned the most gold medals at the 2011 Great American Beer Festival. **Flat 12 Bierwerks** is another new and welcomed addition to Indy's beer scene, offering six house beers that can be found in restaurants around the city. And a visit to the historic **City Market's Tomlinson Tap Room** offers a chance to taste from a rotating selection of 16 craft brews from across Indiana. Another brewery and Indiana's only meadery can also be found just five minutes south of downtown in historic Fountain Square. **Fountain Square Brewery** has quickly gained popularity and **New Day Meadery** offers fine, handcrafted wines and ciders made from honey harvested from the owners' family farm.

For more information on what the fascinating city of Indianapolis has to offer, check out <http://visitindy.com/>



## Websites: Keeping the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Out of Trouble!

By Kelly Kloepping on behalf of Region VII

Special Olympics (SO) and the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) are moving in a direction that totally aligns with the technology age. This means your website is often the first point of contact into this technology age that will not only help you spread the word of your program, but also help you raise substantial funds to support your program. Below are some thoughts you should take into account as you take a look at your website through the eyes of an outsider.

- First and foremost, officers should be able to find Torch Run info somewhat easily, so it's nice to have a link of some type immediately from the home page of your website. For many states, the LETR is a mission partner so you see the logo where sponsors are listed, but a separate button link is still recommended high up on the page.

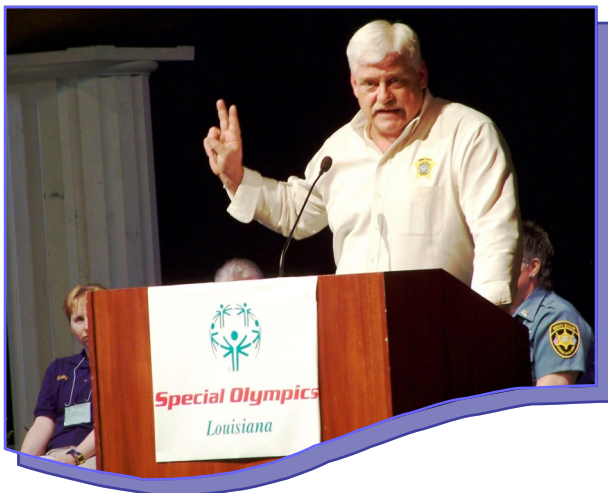
- LETR is an initiative that has a Registered Trade Mark, meaning the "®" must be used upon first mention on all that is done. This is a branded initiative, and Special Olympics Inc. is working on an entire new brand, tying the LETR into Special Olympics. It's important to introduce LETR in the same sentence with SO to keep the tie associated with the charity that law enforcement is raising money for (e.g., Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics Southern California). This is not money going into the Law Enforcement Agency's pocket.

- LETR can be very confusing to those outside of the movement (e.g., media, general public, and even our SO constituents) since the name sells itself as a simple torch run where the flame is escorted by officers. But we know the movement is so much more,

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## Meet Detective Ricky Ouber, the First Law Enforcement Officer to be elected as Board Chair of Special Olympics Louisiana's Board of Directors

by Tiffany Harvey-Gautier, Director of Internal Communications and Marketing



Detective Ricky Ouber speaks to the participants of the Louisiana State Indoor Games.

Special Olympics Louisiana is honored to have Detective Ricky Ouber of the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office and with the FBI Division in Alexandria, currently assigned to the Safe Streets Task Force Silent Crime Division, as Chair of Special Olympics Louisiana's Board of Directors. Detective Ouber has been actively involved with Special Olympics Louisiana for 20 years and has been a Board member since January 2004. He was elected into office as Board Chair in December 2008 and is the first law enforcement officer to hold the title. Ouber remarks, "As Board chair I want to offer the Special Olympics opportunity to the additional 120,000 persons with intellectual disabilities in our state. As a member of the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office I serve and protect. This is another way I can serve my community and state."

Ouber assumed his volunteer leadership role in January guiding Special Olympics Louisiana which provides services to 13,000 athletes, offers approximately 100 athletic competitions and a variety of other inclusive activities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. One of his first duties as Board Chair was to speak at the State Indoor Games where Detective

Ouber encouraged the athletes and had the entire auditorium cheering when he was done. The next morning Ouber proved his dedication by participating in Freezin' for a Reason, where he jumped into a freezing cold lake for Special Olympics Louisiana!

Law enforcement officers serve a critical role in Special Olympics through the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR). This partnership has developed into the largest fund raising and awareness arm for our movement and raised millions of dollars worldwide. In 2010, the Louisiana Law Enforcement Torch Run raised over \$300,000 for Special Olympics Louisiana programs. Detective Ouber himself has won the LETR Top Fund Raiser Award for several consecutive years, raising thousands of dollars for Louisiana athletes. His dedication and enthusiasm to the LETR Movement is unmatched. He not only raises money himself, but also challenges others to match, or surpass, his efforts. Detective Ouber has been a key entity in the Louisiana Law Enforcement Torch Run and his dedication is commendable.



Detective Ricky Ouber with a Special Olympics Louisiana athlete before State Summer Games.

## Special Olympics Athlete Impresses Women's Basketball Team

By Kathleen Gier, The University Daily Kansan

Sunday, April 29, 2012  
(Reprinted with permission.)

Brady Tanner won three gold medals in Greece last year at the World Special Olympics Games. He practices four days a week for power lifting competitions. But after his own workouts, he devotes his time to supporting Kansas women's basketball.

Tanner participated in a Special Olympics power lifting competition on Saturday morning at Haskell Indian Nations University and when he found out the Jayhawks would be presenting the medals, he was determined to impress. When the Jayhawks found out Tanner was going to be at the event, they contacted their coaches and asked if they could assist in some way.

The competition was split up into three different stations: dead lift, squats and bench press. Tanner attracted attention at each station. He dead lifted 450 pounds, squatted 600 and set a personal record on the bench press with 405. "It is inspiring," Kansas freshman guard Asia Boyd said. "I would never be able to lift that much."

The Jayhawks trickled into the gym during the final round and Tanner made his way over to greet them. They watched and cheered as he set his new personal record. Tanner let out a triumphant cheer that filled the gym and he was met by a line of fist bumps and high fives from the team.

According to Tanner's mother, Janie, junior guard Angel Goodrich and junior forward Carolyn Davis are two of his favorite Jayhawks. Goodrich appreciates his support and enjoys reciprocating. "He comes to all of our games with his face painted and we want to do something for him too," Goodrich said. Tanner, 32, has been competing in pow-

er lifting for 11 years for Douglas County Special Olympics. His mother and father, Janie and Gary, serve as his coaches and trainers. Between lifts, Gary would check his belt and rewrap his knees. Janie would take pictures and video of each lift and then take her seat back on the sideline thrilled to see her son succeeding and having fun.

She said the Jayhawks have been very hospitable to Brady and that makes a huge difference. When he returned from Greece, he was honored before a women's game and then joined the team in the locker room after the game.

"He understands when everyone is rooting for him," Janie said. "It is important for him to be recognized by the community."

His high school teacher, Deb Engstrom, continues to purchase season tickets for Tanner and meet him at the games. Janie credited her with starting his love of Kansas women's basketball.

Goodrich said she enjoys spending time with Brady because of his positivity. "He is always happy," Goodrich said. "He puts smiles on our faces."

While they waited to hand out medals, Boyd and sophomore guard CeCe Harper invited Brady to sing "I Believe I Can Fly" in front of the crowd. Applause rang through the gym after their song.

Brady presented the Jayhawks with an autographed picture from the Olympics in Greece and received three gold medals from Boyd.

"We love Brady," Boyd said.

— Edited by Pat Strathman  
(c) 2012 The University Daily Kansan

**Athlete Profile:****World Games Experience Continues to Impact Heather Pardue**

Submitted by Special Olympics North Carolina

Purple nail polish, pink shoelaces, no matter what it is, if it's pink or purple, chances are 35-year-old Heather Pardue will love it! And yet her parents had some doubt as to whether the Special Olympics North Carolina athlete, from Goldsboro, would accept her new purple hearing aid. Heather was identified as a hearing aid candidate after she was screened at the Healthy Hearing station at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece. She was given a voucher to be fitted with a brand new Phonak hearing aid in her left ear once she returned to North Carolina.

"She had one [hearing aid] when she was eight or nine years old," said her mother Donna Countryman. "We were constantly trying to keep up with it as she would turn it off, take it out or lose it. I imagine the background noise annoyed her but it got to the point we just let her do without it."



Heather undergoes an ear exam.

Almost 20 years later, Heather would try again. She sat in an office at the UNC Hearing and Communication Center in Chapel Hill and opened a tiny box. She gently pulled out the purple device that had a clear ear mold with sparkles inside. She looked up at her parents and smiled. "She smiled and she hasn't stopped smiling," said her proud mother. "She

knew what it was for. I'm just overwhelmed by how accepting she is of it. And instantly we saw a difference once it was in. I called her name and immediately she looked at me and smiled. There was no processing delay."

Throughout that first day and for much of the first two weeks with the new hearing aid, her parents looked at each other in amazement. Heather's expressions were more vivid; she no longer repeated questions or statements addressed to her and her responses were quicker.

"The processing delay has been cut in half," said her mom. "We'd just been going along the way we've always been going. But life has now changed and things are much easier. Heather is so happy and if she's happy the world is happy!"

The hearing aid, donated through Phonak's Hear the World Foundation, had the volume digitally programmed through a computer and tailored to Heather's needs. The device can't be turned off and it automatically regulates high and low frequencies. The background noise is very minimal which certainly has helped Heather adjust.

Donna Countryman thought the highlight of the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games was when she watched her



Heather Pardue proudly displays her Greece medal!

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daughter receive a silver medal on the podium at the bowling venue. The moment had been so full of pride and joy. To her surprise, memorable moments and milestones have continued to come her family's way because of the World Games experience.

"It didn't end [in Greece], it just keeps flowing," said Countryman. "Over the holidays, Heather's Special Olympics Team USA coach sent us six CDs full of photos. Those pictures allowed me to experience the World Games through Heather's point of view. It was such a gift. It's been quite a year for Heather—for us all."

Heather's parents are now going to pursue speech therapy for her. They hope to further take advantage of the benefits the hearing aid has given her and see if her pronunciation of letters and words can improve. There is no end in sight to the positive ripple effects of her World Games experience.



Happily showing off her new hearing aid!

## Minnesota Polar Plunge

By Megan Powell, Law Enforcement Torch Run Manager  
Special Olympics Minnesota

Special Olympics Minnesota and the Law Enforcement Torch Run had another wonderful Plunge season, raising over 2.85 million dollars with over 14,000 participants. There were many new and interesting things this year (including our first 70 degree Plunge day!), but one of the most exciting was taking the Polar Bear Plunge internationally!



**Filling up the blivet with water and ice to prepare for the Plunge**

Lieutenant Ryan Doliber and Master Sergeant Brian Newcomer — from the Minnesota Army National Guard's 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Brigade Special Troops Battalion deployed with other Minnesotans from the 1/34<sup>th</sup> Heavy Brigade Combat Team at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait — connected with Special Olympics Minnesota with a great idea: Hold a Plunge event at their Army base! Ryan Doliber was a past Plunger at a Minnesota Plunge in Maple Grove. While discussing Morale, Welfare and

would be a great way to accomplish all three objectives while supporting Special Olympics Minnesota.

The Plunge took place on February 4, 2012, with a 5K run around Zone 6 in Camp Arifjan at 0600 Arabic Standard Time. Following the run, it was time for the Polar Bear Plunge! Instead of a freezing, ice-covered lake like our typical Minnesota events include, the unit used a blivet, a rubberized bladder used to transport water, and filled it with around 3,000 gallons of water. To simulate the take-your-breath-away temperatures, approximately 500 bags (approximately 3,000 pounds) of ice were brought to fill the pool. All of this to simulate the water temperatures participants would feel during the plunges back in Minnesota. As if the cold water wasn't enough, the soldier found



**1LT Ryan Doliber and MSG Brian Newcomer doing interviews following the events.**



**Participants taking the Plunge!**

Recreation at the base, Doliber recalled his previous participation. They thought the Plunge

themselves with almost freezing winds the morning of the event!

Over 125 service members took part in the Polar Bear Plunge and morning 5K events and all left with the signature Minnesota Polar Bear Plunge long sleeve shirt, as well as a fun and wacky bonding experience to last them a lifetime!

# A LEGACY OF HOPE



**Officer Tracy Grady** first got involved with Special Olympics through the Law Enforcement Torch Run with her fellow officers. Before long she was attending events, volunteering, and raising funds for the organization. But she wanted to do more.

Tracy decided to include Special Olympics in her will. "I want my estate to contribute to the welfare of improving people's lives so that they can experience the joy of receiving a medal, the camaraderie of team sports, and get needed health care. If I achieve that, then I have left an indelible mark on society."

For more than 30 years, you have tirelessly carried the **Flame of Hope** to show the world your support of people with intellectual disabilities. Now help us keep the torch burning for the next generation of Special Olympics athletes.

Like Tracy, you too can make a powerful, lasting impact on future athletes. There are a variety of options that are easy to arrange and cost nothing during your lifetime.

Contact Special Olympics today to learn how you can include us in your estate plan and leave a legacy of acceptance, inclusion and empowerment for years to come.



**Special Olympics**

**Attn: Connie Grandmason**  
**Office of Bequest and Estate Gifts**  
 Special Olympics  
 1133 19th Street NW  
 Washington, DC 20036

Call us toll-free at: +1 (866) 690-3951  
 Email us at: [PlannedGiving@SpecialOlympics.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@SpecialOlympics.org)  
 Visit us on the web: [www.SpecialOlympics.org/Legacy/](http://www.SpecialOlympics.org/Legacy/)

## Law Enforcement Torch Run® helps New South Wales Police Force celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday

On Sunday, April 1, 2012, LETR New South Wales conducted a Torch Run along the shores of Sydney Harbour to coincide with the opening of Police Expo – a celebration of 150 years by the New South Wales Police Force.

The New South Wales Police Force has existed in various forms since the foundation of the colony by the British in 1788. Between 1788 and 1862, when all police forces in the state were amalgamated into one, law and order was maintained by the Sydney Foot Police (formed in 1790), the Row Boat Guard (later to become the Sydney Water Police in 1832) and the Mounted Police (The oldest continuously serving Mounted Police Unit in the world).

New South Wales Police Force is the largest Police Force in Australia with 20,000 employees, including 16,000 sworn officers.

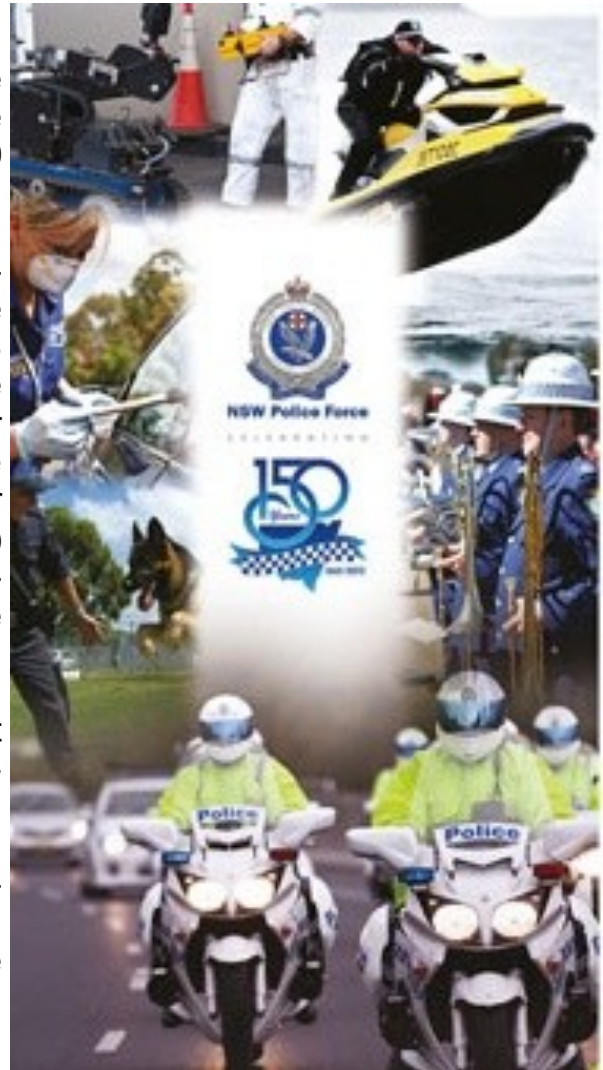
It provides policing services to over seven million people living in metropolitan and rural communities across an area equivalent to the US state of Texas.

There are a number of events planned throughout 2012 to celebrate the Sesquicentenary. They include:

The 'Sea of Blue' March was held on Thursday, March 1, 2012. 800 Police Officers, led by Commissioner Andrew Scipione marched from the site of first settlement in Australia to the steps of Sydney Town Hall where they were greeted by the Governor of New South Wales.

'Police Expo' was held at Darling Harbour in Sydney on Sunday, April 1, 2012, and featured both static and interactive displays from virtually every branch of the organization. Over 20,000 people visited Police Expo during the course of the day.

Law Enforcement Torch Run NSW was invited to participate in the 150th Celebrations by conducting a Torch Run as a lead up to the Opening of Police Expo by Commissioner Scipione and Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr. Michael Gallacher, MP (a former member of NSW Police).



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**Torch Runners prepare for the run to open Police Expo.**

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At 7.30am that morning a group of police officers, Special Olympics athletes, families and friends gathered in a park near the base of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Shortly after 8.15am, 65 Torch Runners commenced a 3.5km run along the edges of Walsh Bay through Darling Harbour to the Sydney Convention Centre where the Flame of Hope was handed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to light the Cauldron with Special Olympics Athlete Kelly Wren. With that done, Police Expo got down to business – showing the community what their Police were capable of doing to protect them from themselves.



**Special Olympics Athlete Kelly Wren and Michael Gallacher, Minister for Police & Emergency Services, light the Cauldron to kick off Police Expo 2012.**

## Captain Ward Webb has a “Special” place in his heart for Special Olympics

by Tiffany Harvey-Gautier



Captain Ward Webb has been a Law Enforcement Officer for 24 years. He is a Captain with the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Department as the Director of Training and has been a longtime supporter of Special Olympics Louisiana. He originally became involved in Special Olympics as a runner in the Torch Run in the 1990s and then more recently, he was asked to organize his department's involvement in the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Webb said, "Once I became involved and met some of these wonderful athletes, it became a part of my life that is really hard to describe. In a way, my involvement is self-serving; as the extreme humility, pride and emotion that I feel when I'm around these gifted individuals goes far beyond the realm of everyday living. The

feeling of knowing that you may have made a difference in even one person's life is incredible. However, the difference that these athletes have made in my own life transcends anything I could possibly do for them." When asked what his favorite Special Olympics memory is, Webb replied, "All of them are special. However, getting to know Special Olympics athlete K'Von Albert of Baton Rouge the past couple of years has been a true inspiration. Whenever I think I'm having a bad day I am reminded of the struggles of his everyday life. Even so, I've never seen him unhappy, nor heard him complain about a single thing. I strive to be like him." Webb says, "Special Olympics has been my main charity for the past few years. With Special Olympics I know that the funding is being spent wisely and appropriately. Selfishly, I get more satisfaction and feel that I can make more of a difference through my involvement, financially and personally, with Special Olympics." Webb believes his agency benefits from its involvement with Special Olympics. He believes that a better working environment is created through teamwork. His department's involvement allows the opportunity to build stronger relationships among the department, area residents, and everyone involved in Special Olympics. Volunteering affords employees the opportunity to be a part of something that is larger than the organization, and allows the opportunity to see the world from a different, more appreciative, point of view. Webb said, "It is my hope that these different points of view allow us to become more rounded, professional employees." For those agencies not involved, he remarks, "Get up and get involved. It only takes a moment to make a difference that will last a lifetime. Once you've taken the opportunity to get involved, it's hard not to become addicted to the emotions and satisfaction that you will feel." "Special Olympics transcends the human spirit like few other gifts in my life," said Webb. "My involvement in Special Olympics has allowed me to grow and prosper as a person and an officer. These wonderful athletes ask for nothing more than a chance. Special Olympics allows them this chance. I owe a part of who I am today to these amazing athletes and the Special Olympics family that have become a part of my life. Thank you! Thank You, for affording me the opportunity to be involved in such a special organization."

## The Flame of Hope lives on with Officer Troy Barboza

The First Hawaiian Bank Troy Barboza Law Enforcement Torch Runners enter the stadium each year with the hope, determination and dreams of the Special Olympics athletes, while raising funds and awareness for the Special Olympics movement in Hawai'i. Law enforcement officers from across the state carry the torch, the "Flame of Hope," into the Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics State Summer Games at Les Murakami stadium at the University of Hawai'i each year.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the passing of a significant name in law enforcement torch run history, Officer Troy Barboza. Widely known in the Special Olympics Hawai'i community for his exceptional volunteerism, Barboza was equally well-regarded as an outstanding officer of the Honolulu Police Department. He was a member of the 92nd recruit class of the Honolulu Police Department where he had his first experience with Special Olympics Hawai'i - participating as a runner in the Final Leg of the first Law Enforcement Torch Run in Hawai'i in 1986.

Barboza became a volunteer of Special Olympics Hawai'i as an assistant coach in soccer and basketball. He volunteered countless hours of his off-duty time, and quickly became an essential member of the Special Olympics Hawai'i Rainbow Sports Team. Although he was only 23 years old, his passion and commitment to the athletes of Special Olympics Hawaii was evident at every practice.

Tragically, Barboza was killed in October 1987 as a result of an undercover drug arrest he had previously made. The impact Officer Barboza made on Special Olympics Hawai'i and the community-at-large touched the lives of many. After his death, the Board of Directors of Special Olympics Hawaii requested Barboza's family's permission to add his name to the official title of Hawaii's Law Enforcement Torch Run. The First Hawaiian Bank Troy Barboza Law Enforcement Torch Run is currently the only law enforcement torch run program in the world to be named after a fallen officer.

In appreciation of the enormous impact on Special Olympics Hawai'i, we celebrate the life and legacy of Officer Troy Barboza this year, 25 years after his passing. Although he will always be missed, we continue to carry the "Flame of Hope" to the Special Olympics Hawai'i Summer Games held on May 25, 2012, in honor of Troy, and the hundreds of other law enforcement officers who have given their time and commitment to better the lives of our Special Olympics athletes.



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so make sure to clarify that. The actual torch run itself needs to be your first target in

explanation, especially since that is part of the name. But touch on the torch run being the umbrella over a countless number of fundraising events happening all around your states such as Tip-a-Cop, Plane/Semi Pull, Over the Edge, World's Largest Truck Convoy™, Cops on Top, Polar Plunge, etc.

- The first page you see upon visiting the torch run page should immediately share the paragraph on the history of how it started, followed by a paragraph on your state's success. An example might be:

#### **The History**

*The Law Enforcement Torch Run® began in 1981 when Wichita, Kansas Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw a need to raise awareness of and funds for Special Olympics. He conceived the idea of the Torch Run as a way to involve local law enforcement with their communities and Special Olympics, by running the torch in intrastate relays that converge at their local Summer Games. Now a global event, all 50 states and more than 35 foreign countries participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run®, generating more than \$34 million a year for Special Olympics Programs around the world. Since its inception in 1981, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® has raised more than \$100,000,000 worldwide. **It is the largest grass roots fundraising program and public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics.***

#### **Northern California**

*More than 3,000 law enforcement personnel from federal, military, state, county and local agencies participate in the Torch Run campaign. Funds are raised year-round through a variety of activities, such as Tip-A-Cops, Building Sits (Badges with Buckets), Polar Plunges, T-Shirt Sales and many more. Every June, hundreds of law enforcement personnel carry the Special Olympics Torch, the Flame of Hope®, through counties all over Northern California, culminating at the Opening Ceremonies of the state Summer Games. As one of the state's largest grass-roots fundraising efforts, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® has become the single largest supporter of Special Olympics.*

- A list of agencies participating is helpful not only to recognize them, but to show those who aren't!

- Use photos showing all levels of agency participation (e.g., local, county, state patrol, corrections, etc.). Remember, PHOTOS SELL SPECIAL OLYMPICS!

- Make sure to download any videos (whether one minute or several minutes) onto YouTube and put a link to the video on your Torch Run page(s)...again our athletes sell the program. This also allows your Special Olympics regions or law enforcement agencies around the state to show it when they do presentations to others about the program.

- It's important to delve into the world of online fundraising whether it's a basic page for your officers to use year round, or if it's associated with the Polar Plunges, Truck Convoys or other specific events. This is where you will see your revenue EXPLODE in numbers as the website does the work for you! Google Analytics is FREE (or other companies will charge you) to analyze where all your money is coming from, how much is coming through by date, etc., so you can analyze your success.

- Don't forget to put a link to your Facebook/Twitter/YouTube, etc. accounts on your homepage! Social media is the future and FREE to help spread the word on your LETR events!

## European/Eurasia Torch Run Presentation in Montenegro



Jeremy Adams and Walt McNeil

The beautiful Country of Montenegro in April 2012 was the venue for the IACP/ Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association conference.

European Regional Coordinator Jeremy Adams had liaised with the Executive Council, IACP representative Chief Russ Laine, about getting onto the agenda for a Torch Run presentation during the conference.

Jeremy along with his Special Olympics Europe/ Eurasia colleague, Claire Kennedy travelled to Budva to deliver a joint Special Olympics and Torch Run presentation.

Many of the 100+ conference delegates, who were representing several Police Services mainly from Eastern Europe, received a presentation on Torch Run and Special Olympics activities across Europe and how they may be able to get involved. The recently produced bespoke European DVD was also shown, to add a visual flavour to how being involved with Torch Run really impacts across the region.

Jeremy had brought along a selection of Torch Run tee shirts from across the world to give out to delegates and these proved to be very popular. Each delegate conference pack contained Torch Run information and merchandise, which again highlighted the Torch Run Worldwide movement.

Jeremy and Claire also got an opportunity to discuss Torch Run with the Europol Director Rob Wainwright and further contact with him will take place.

The conference was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness and network with fellow European police colleagues.

Thanks to IACP President, Chief Walt McNeil, IACP International Expansion, Paul Santiago and Christie Bogle from IACP for the opportunity to present at the conference.

Special thanks to the Montenegro Police, who were very welcoming and helped to organize an excellent conference



## Cops on Donut Shops Across the Emerald Isle



Special Olympics  
Ireland

Following on from the great success of the Cops on Donut shops fundraiser in 2010, it is now growing stronger in its second year. The partnership between An Garda Síochána (AGS) and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), through the Ireland Torch Run Committee, has led to a number of Cops on Donut Shops events across the Island of Ireland.

The initiative was first introduced by AGS Sergeant Gary Gordon along with Dolly's Donuts made by husband and wife team, Joy and James Moore from Oldtown Hill Bakehouse Kilkenny. The delicious donuts are freshly made overnight, at cost price, and give a profit of 80% on all sales.

"Jelly" the eight foot inflatable mascot (based on the Oklahoma logo) along with AGS, PSNI officers, SO Ireland athletes and coaches, have already visited a number of towns across the Isle of Ireland, including Dublin and Belfast. On the Special Olympics Ireland National Collection Day in April over 4,500 donuts were sold in one day in Carlow and Beagnalstown.



The days prove to be great fun with the athletes enjoying the selling and interaction with police officers from both police services.



Later on this year the AGS and PSNI will bring Dolly and Jelly to Dublin City, Wexford Town, Derry, Drogheda and Newry and it is hoped to reach our €30,000 (\$37,000) target. The events afford an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of Special Olympics Ireland and raise much needed funds for Special Olympics clubs across the Island.

Through the Cops on Donut Shops events, new members of the Law Enforcement Community have had a wonderful experience of getting to know Special Olympics athletes in

their area and hopefully will become further involved with Torch Run and Special Olympics.

## **Going to Great Heights for Our Athletes: LAPD Officer Raises Awareness and Funds for Special Olympics Southern California**

By Victoria Santoro, Special Olympics Southern California

Imagine spinning around and around in circles, nonstop, for over a day. For many, the thought of engaging in such an activity is quite unsettling. But for Los Angeles Police Department Detective Gus Martinez, turning in circles and a dislike for heights could not stop him from setting the Guinness world record for "Longest Ride on a Fair Ground/Theme Park Attraction." With a small dose of motion sickness medicine, and a large commitment to an honorable cause, Martinez rode the Ferris wheel at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier for 25 hours, beginning on May 31, 2012, at 7:30 a.m., and ending at 8:30 a.m. on June 1, 2012. Martinez, who has been with LAPD for nearly 18 years, was accompanied throughout the day by his son and Special Olympics athlete, Jason, as well as by his friends and other law enforcement officials.

Importantly, the ride was not only about setting a world record. Special Olympics, together with Santa Monica's Pacific Park and the Law Enforcement Torch Run committee, came up with the idea to create an event that would serve as a public relations kick-off to the Torch Run and as a fundraiser for Special Olympics. Martinez states that "the bonus was to include the 25-hour ride as a world record breaking event." Once back on solid



ground, Martinez and his son lit and passed the Law Enforcement torch to a Santa Monica law enforcement officer and a Special Olympics Southern California (SOSC) athlete, who together then ran the flame along the Santa Monica Pier, down Colorado Boulevard, onto Main Street, and ended at the Santa Monica Police Department.

According to Martinez, the event, and particularly the overwhelming media coverage of the ride, exceeded not only his, but everyone's expectations. The event generated over 1,100 stories (locally, nationally and internationally). His efforts reached more than a half a billion people with our message. Guests paid \$5 to ride the Ferris wheel during after-hours from 8 p.m. to midnight and supporters also made donations online. All of the proceeds went to SOSC and support events such as the Summer Games, which were held on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at Cal State Long Beach. Over 1,100 athletes participated in the Summer Games and were supported by an estimated 6,000 fans, making the event the largest SOSC sports competition of the year.

*(Continued on page 21)*



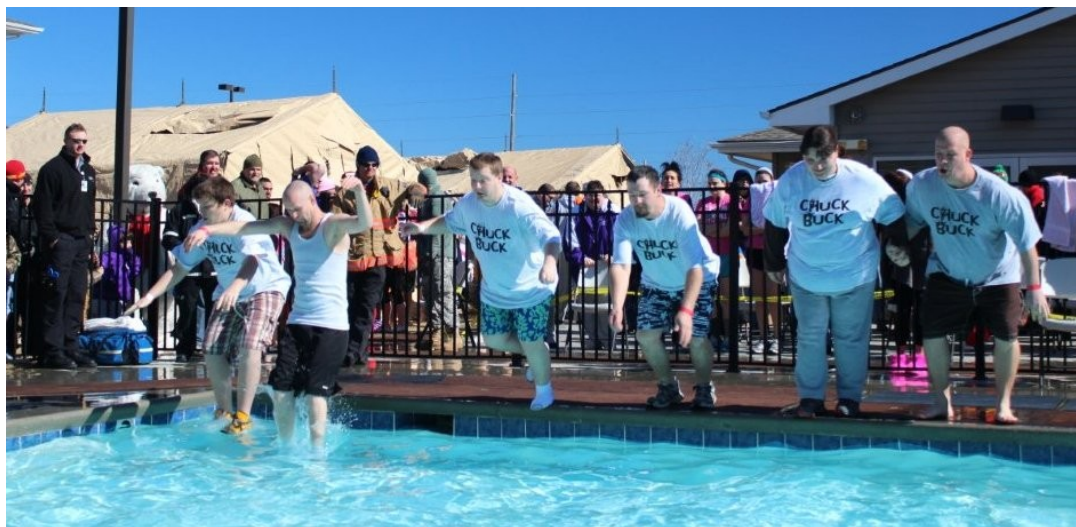
(Continued from page 20)

In addition to his service in the LAPD, Martinez has been involved with Special Olympics for over 12 years as a coach, volunteer, and father of an SOSOC athlete. He especially appreciates the “high and excellent levels of fitness, social skills, self-awareness, self-esteem, and confidence” that his son has gained in part from being involved with Special Olympics.

When asked about the impact of Special Olympics on his son, Martinez replies, “Our cities, governments, and most of society should follow in the footsteps of Special Olympics and view people with intellectual disabilities as people and focus on their strengths and what they can achieve instead of what they can’t. Yes, my son Jason has Down syndrome, but to quote my wife, ‘Jason doesn’t know that he is disabled or different so there is nothing he won’t try.’” For Martinez, “Special Olympics is all about the athlete and what they can achieve with no limitations.”



# CONGRATULATIONS!



New Hope Bulldogs Special Olympics athletes taking the plunge in Kansas.

# POLAR PLUNGE



21 Polar Plunges took place throughout Illinois – more than 6,300 warm-hearted Plungers raised nearly \$1.6 million in support of the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois!



Tinkerbell and Peter Pan with Kansas LETR State Director Dennis Shaw at the Topeka plunge. (Tinkerbell is Allan Henderson whose daughter, Bekah, is in SOKS, and Peter Pan is Mike Molter, Topeka Jr. Blues Coach.)



Pittsburg (Kansas) Fire Department Taking Plunge in Pittsburg. (Photo courtesy of Sean Steffan and the Morning Sun.)

# PROCRASTINATION

It May Cost More Than You Think

Procrastination is an important reason why most people do not meet their personal goals.



Is it that freezing, icy water that threatens you at the Polar Bear Plunges®?

Is it the fear of heights that stops you from Going Over the Edge®?

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

-Ben Franklin

As past event supporter of the 2011 LETR Conference and future 2012 Indy LETR Supporter, we share the admiration, inspiration, and respect to see past those procrastinating fears and prepare to make a difference.

You Aren't Alone: Beacon Financial Group (BFG) is a full-service financial planning firm with experienced professionals who have provided consultations to Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) for over 10+ years.

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Hawaii, LETR

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Northern California, LETR

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Special Olympics Hong Kong

**Region XIII****Caribbean**

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