

Summer/Fall 2014

The Guardian

The Newsletter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council

International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference New Orleans



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Front Cover Photo provided by: Andrea Kramer

Chief Carl Dabadie of the Baton Rouge Police Department, State Director for Louisiana LETR Executive Council leading the Torch Run® from the river front to the French Quarter.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Mike Peretti, LETR Executive Council

What an incredible celebration in New Orleans, and WOW, we sure had a lot to celebrate. If you did not get a chance to experience the International Conference in New Orleans, I encourage you to focus on the 2015 Conference in the Bahamas as 2015 will be another triumphant year to celebrate.

Congratulations again on an amazing effort by our Torch Run programs that have continued to defy the odds of reason, defy the global challenged economy, and continue to build support within your communities to achieve an astonishing \$50,394,633 RAISED IN 2013!

We could have spent three days alone celebrating this news, but there was more. As we mentioned at the conference, collectively since our inception as a movement, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN® HAS RAISED \$511,966,903! The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest donor to Special Olympic programs globally. You truly are Guardians of Hope!

So many exciting initiatives were released in New Orleans for this upcoming year, and I encourage all of you to track the progress and engage where you can. The I-Myne purchasing program is a great way to get everyone involved; all they have to do is shop. The E-Gaming initiative will allow us to reach a new and perhaps younger population of our own officers, which is a way to expose them to our movement, and, certainly, the most exciting to me is the Unified Relay Across America (URAA).

The URAA is a bold move to unite the USA but will have ramifications worldwide. Only through the help of Law Enforcement in every program will this vision be achieved, for we are the "Unifiers." We are the component that rallies our communities behind this movement and Special Olympics. You are more than Guardians of the Flame of Hope, you are visionaries fueled by success. Let's make this another successful record breaking year.

Keep the Flame Burning Bright!



Special Olympic Athlete Patty Connors

By Debbie Farrell, Canada Border Services Agency

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) that forms part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run supporting Special Olympics, were delighted to help support Patty Connor's participation and success in the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer games held in Vancouver, B.C. Patty said she was nervous about going but overjoyed to be chosen to represent everyone here at home. The talented athlete promised that she would do her very best to bring back a medal for herself and her CBSA friends....and that is what she certainly did!!! We are extremely proud of her and her accomplishments in adding two gold medals and one silver medal to her outstanding collection. CBSA recently presented Patty with a bouquet of flowers, an LETR t-shirt, a CBSA ball cap, water bottle and key chain flash light, as well as a framed poster of Patty's participation in the Vancouver Games.



In the photo back row from left to right: CBSA employees, Florence Harper (District Office Services), Gina Kennedy (A/Director NWNB), BSO Debbie Farrell, BSO Neil Keenan, Josee Brennan (Assistant to the Director), BSO Marjorie Gavel and Micheline Rivington (Management Services Officer). Front row, left to right is Pat Gallivan (Regional Program Officer), Athlete Patty Connors and Superintendent Steve Bede.

Each year the Law Enforcement Torch Run raises many thousands of dollars for the organization through various fundraising events and is passionate about the work they do for Special Olympics. All of the money raised help fund the Special Olympics athletes to compete in various sports at local and national games.

The spirit and determination of the LETR goes well beyond the call of duty – it helps transform the lives of children, youth and adults with intellectual disability. It is with gratitude and humility that we help make it possible for the athletes to have their moments in the spotlight.

This year the CBSA "Draft an Athlete" program in New Brunswick raised a grand total of \$1,540 through donations for three athletes to attend the summer games in Vancouver. Along with Connors from Woodstock, N.B., who competed in athletics, was Derrick Wiseman from Fredericton competing in golf and Chrystal Bradley from Moncton competing in powerlifting.

As the LETR coordinator of the Western Valley Region of Special Olympics in New Brunswick, I would like to thank CBSA for their contributions. Besides the gift of time, donations, energy and kindness, we offer the gift of pure joy to those who don't normally have the chance to play sports. The contributions help to unite people with different disabilities, letting them know they are not alone, and can all realize their potential. Having fun, developing important skills and building self-esteem through sport training and competition is the life of a Special Olympics athlete.

The LETR members have gone above and beyond the call of duty for many years to help make a difference in the lives of children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities, and we look forward to many more years of raising money and awareness for those in Special Olympics.



Patty Connors

Region: Western Valley

Birthdate: September 13, 1965

Years involved in SO: 34 years

Participates in: Athletics

Hero: My good friend and caregiver Mary

Favorite SO Memory: Participating in the World Games North Carolina. Patty was also formerly recognized as Special Olympics Canada Female Athlete of the Year.

2014 National Games Goal: To do my best.

Patty will participate in the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer games in Vancouver, BC with her Athletics Team!

Good Luck Patty!

Sponsored by your friends at the Canada Border Service Agency

Torch Runner Profile — Dixon Andrews

By Ashley Allenby, Special Olympics Oregon



In the 1980s Dixon Andrews, who at the time worked for the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, began running in the Law Enforcement Torch Run. He participated in that event for many

years, and then in 2004 he jumped headlong into Special Olympics Oregon and Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR). While with Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, Dixon participated in MANY events for LETR including, Tip-A-Cop, Cops on Donut Shops and Torch Run.

In 2011 Dixon retired from Clackamas County Sheriff's Office and became the police chief in Gold Beach. He continues to be very involved in LETR by handing out medals, coordinating the South Coast leg of the Torch Run, helping at the Eugene Tip-A-Cop and sitting on the LETR Executive Council.

His involvement doesn't stop with LETR events though; Dixon also spends almost every weekend coaching Special Olympics Oregon athletes in Curry County. He just completed his third year as the track & field coach and coaches basketball and bowling. Also, this past year his daughter, Megan, began participating in Special Olympics, so now it's a family affair!

When asked about his involvement with LETR and Special Olympics Oregon, Dixon said, "What an honor it has been for me to award medals at games, and it is completely true that when you volunteer for the right reasons you get far more back in return. The athletes I coach in Curry County are incredible. I learn so much

from them about courage, passion, and especially about sportsmanship."

Thanks, Dixon for all of the ways you support Special Olympics Oregon and Law Enforcement Torch Run!



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN®
HANDMADE QUILT RAFFLE
Crafted & Donated by B.S.O. Debbie Farrell

SUPPORTING SPECIAL OLYMPICS New Brunswick

Hello, my name is Debbie Farrell, and I'm addicted to quilting.

From my collection of fabrics, I have created this quilt, made of cotton and thread, to place upon someone's bed!

It is definitely not your "Grannie's Quilt" but pretty close to it.... I believe, it is really 'high end'. This quilt was raffled to raise funds for the New Brunswick Special Olympics.

I am super excited to tell you that we raised **\$1,800** from the quilt raffle. Proceeds will go towards the N.B. Special Olympics Winter Games in Woodstock, happening in February 2015!

Our winner is **KARLA DAVENPORT!** BIG CONGRATULATIONS!

To those in hopes of being the winner and were not....your reward is the smiles that have lit up the faces of those with intellectual disabilities.

I can't even begin to tell you how much I appreciate your generous help in purchasing and selling tickets for Special Olympic Athletes! My heart says...."THANK YOU!"

The top seller of quilt tickets was S.O. Athlete Merriatta Murphy who was accompanied by BSO Kate Tuttle.



Border Services Officer Debbie Farrell and Border Services Officer Darren Horseman



Athlete Merriatta Murphy from Western Valley Region, Special Olympics New Brunswick.



Winning ticket drawn by BSO Marjorie Gavel and BSO Darren Horsman from Fosterville port.

Special Olympic Athlete Billy Noss

By Debbie Farrell, Canada Border Services Agency

(Reprinted with permission. WEAU News, Wisconsin)

Eau Claire, WI (WEAU) - For decades, Special Olympics Wisconsin has given those with intellectual disabilities a chance to play competitive sports. There's one local athlete who's been around longer than the nonprofit organization. But here's the catch, at 74 year's old he's still volunteering and playing ball.

Billy says, "I like softball the best."

His name is Billy Noss and in Eau Claire it's a name everyone knows. That comes as no surprise to one of the happiest guys you'll meet.

Today he's 74, ready for 75 and always ready to volunteer or play ball.

Billy says he plays, "Outfielder, right left or left field or I'm a catcher."

He's one guy that's never afraid of the spotlight...well almost.

"I thought I get away from her, but she's following me around continuous. I don't know if she's running out of tape or what," he says.

Nope Billy, there's plenty of tape and time to capture your big heart.

Eau Claire officers say, "Billy is everywhere. He's our traffic security guy. He's been around for years."

"He's telling us how to do our jobs." Billy replies, "Better believe it."

One thing you won't believe is a picture dating back to the 1980's. It shows Billy's dedication as a batboy for the Eau Claire Cavaliers.

Karen says, " She's getting you Billy."

For Karen Kraus with Special Olympics, Billy is her go-to guy.

She says, "He helps with traffic, he works at country jam. Honestly I don't know how the guy pulls it all off. You just know him even for a few hours and he has this huge impact on your life."

Tyler says, "He's the most friendliest guy in Eau Claire. For sure." Billy replies and says, "All the girls like me and all of that." Tyler answers, "Fact!"

Billy says, "You know what I'm on. I'm on TV today."

After years of dedication, the real fact is what he wants most of all.

Billy points to a police badge and says, "I want one of these things. A real one."

So as 75 years approaches, the lives he touched came together to give him a surprise birthday party. But the real surprise came from the Eau Claire Police Department. They presented him with a plaque to be an honorary member and with a shiny, new police badge to call his own.

Police Chief Jerry Staniszewski says, "I think if you were to define Eau Claire he'd be right in the mix with it."

Lisa Schuetz, his pretend fiancé says, "Billy is one of the biggest ladies men not of just Eau Claire, but the Chippewa Valley. Every hug that Billy gives, there's so much behind it."



Special Olympic Athlete Billy Noss Continued

(Continued from page 8)

Although there's always tomorrow, he'll remember today wearing proof of what he's done for this community.

"I'm part of the police department now!" exclaims Billy.

Billy turns 75 officially on July 12th.





Officer Tracy Grady and her friend Josh

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.
 Connie Grandmason | Office of Bequest and Estate Gifts
 Toll-free at: +1 (866) 690-3951 | Email: PlannedGiving@SpecialOlympics.org

www.SpecialOlympics.org/Legacy/



**Special
Olympics**

Louisiana Elevating the Conference to Another Level

By Rodney Seurer



The saying, “Laissez le bons temps rouler” (Let the good times roll!) is what best describes the Louisiana Torch Run and Special Olympics programs. From the time we stepped off on the second line, parading down the streets of New Orleans to the food at the Ole’ Sugar Mill. Just add the outstanding taste of New Orleans food, music from a local Zydeco legend, Rockin’ Dopsie, along with all of the International Torch Runners, and they gave us a true Mardi Gras Law Enforcement Torch Run party.

It is true that in New Orleans they do things a little differently as they promised. With the focus on, “Celebrate Our Passion” and the accomplishments of the Torch Runners around the world, they brought a Mardi Gras Parade during the Opening Ceremony with local and historical Mardi Gras Indians and the Krewe of Zulu!



I would also like to recognize the entire Louisiana Law Enforcement Torch Run Program and Special Olympics Louisiana for they have set the bar for future conference sites to beat with a record-setting conference attendance. We had over 1,059 attendees and 100 Unified Athletes. What excellent attendance; it clearly shows how

excited programs were to join us in New Orleans.



SOLA athlete and 2014 Conference emcee did a masterful job emceeing the General Sessions and hosting the more than 1,059 law enforcement and Special Olympics personnel who attended this year’s conference.

Louisiana Elevating the Conference to Another Level Continued



What a memorial moment! LaMunyon Unplugged. Founder of the Law Enforcement Torch, Chief Richard LaMunyon retired. Hearing how it all started.



2014 Live & Silent Auction, sponsored by the National Fraternal Order of Police, led by Greg Askren the auctioneer and his outstanding team. Thanking all who participated.



Royal Bahamas Police Force Assistant Commissioner Leon Bethal, extending his personal welcome and invitation to the 2015 LETR International Conference at Atlantis, Paradise Island in the Bahamas from October 1 through October 3, 2015.

2015 Royal Bahamas Police Force Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference Committee. From Left: Zhivago Dames, Asst. Superintendent; Dellareece Ferguson, Asst. Super. (LETR Director); Craig Stubbs, Asst. Super.; Leon Bethel, Assistant Commissioner; Julian Butler, Asst. Super.; Stephen Dean, Superintendent; and Kirkwood Andrews, Asst. Superintendent.





Photographer: Kathy Gilmore

1st Place—Special Olympics Missouri

Guardians of the Flame



Photographer: Stephen Scott

3rd Place—Special Olympics Alberta



Photographer: Jayna Oakley

2nd Place—Special Olympics Kentucky

2014 IACP Winners Continued

Group



Photographer: Eliot James

1st Place—Special Olympics British Columbia



Photographer: Jeremy Davidson

2nd Place—Special Olympics Illinois



Photographer: Laura Collins

3rd Place—Special Olympics Florida

2014 IACP Winners Continued

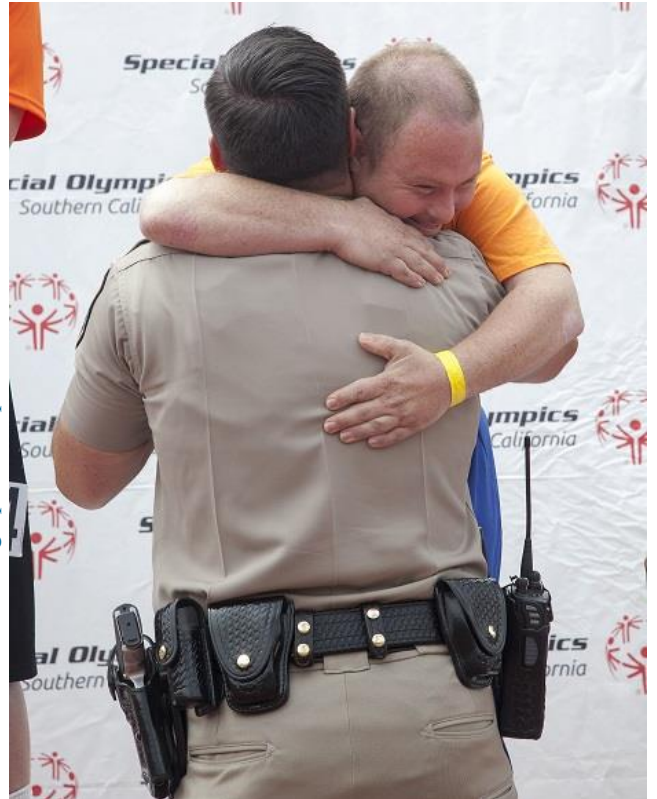
Police Officer and Athlete

Photographer: Melanie Feltner Turner



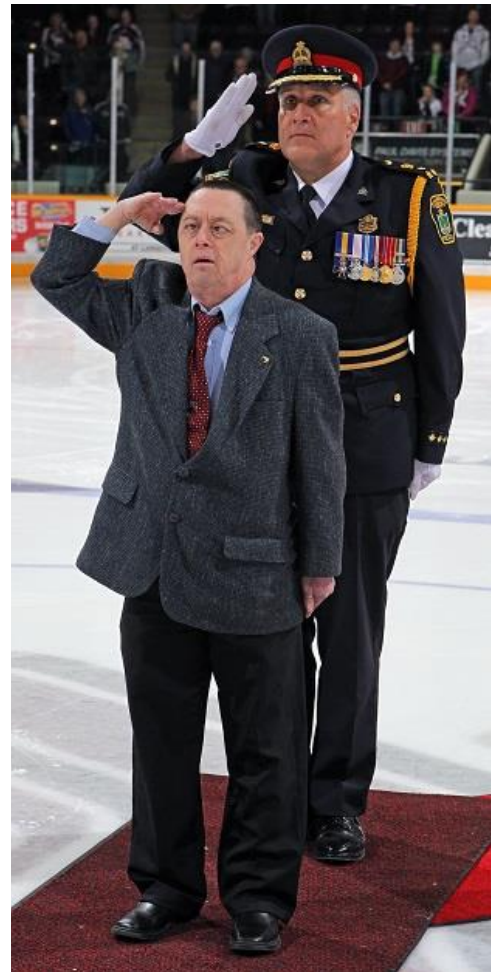
2nd Place—Special Olympics Kentucky

Photographer: Stephani Schreurs



1st Place—Special Olympics Southern California

3rd Place—Special Olympics Ontario

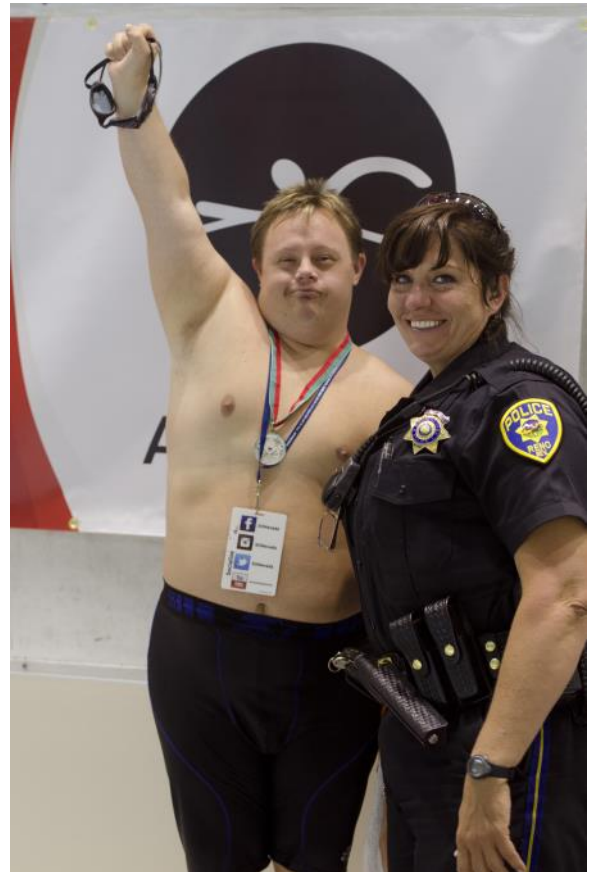


Photographer: Jim Cayer



1st Place—Special Olympics Southern California

Professional



Photographer: Toni Contini

3rd Place—Special Olympics Nevada



Photographer: Bob Palermi

2nd Place—Special Olympics Southern California

2014 IACP Winners Continued

Spirit

Photographer: Bob Flynn



1st Place—Special Olympics Kentucky



Photographer: Melanie Feltner Turner

2nd Place—Special Olympics Kentucky

Photographer: Pat Leon



3rd Place—Special Olympics Kansas

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

**Special Olympics Appointee****Glenn MacDonnell**

Special Olympics Ontario

Special Olympics Appointee**Peter Wheeler**

Special Olympics International

Special Olympics At-Large**Mark Musso**

Special Olympics Missouri

Special Olympics At-Large**Adrian DeWendt (Vice-Chair)**

Special Olympics Oklahoma

Special Olympics At-Large**Rich Fernandez**

Special Olympics Southern California

SOI Executive Director of LETR**Michael Teem**

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Council Appointee**Luis A Rosa**

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Hawaii, LETR

Law Enforcement At-Large**Kurt Kendro**

Hawaii, LETR

Law Enforcement At-Large**Mike Peretti (chair)**

Northern California, LETR

Special Olympics Athlete Appointee**Sam Tam**

Special Olympics Hong Kong

Region I

CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT

Joe Carlone

Connecticut, LETR

Region II

DC, DE, MD, PA, NJ, NY, VA, WV

John Newnan

Maryland, LETR

Region III

AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN

Mike Anderson

Florida, LETR

Region IV

IL, IN, KY, MI, OH

Jim Reno

Indiana, LETR

Region V

IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI

Richard Sheldon

Minnesota, LETR

Region VI

AR, KS, LA, MO, OK, TX

Mark Wollmershauser

Oklahoma, LETR

Region VII

AZ, N. CA, S. CA, CO, HI, NV, NM, UT,

GUAM

Roberta Abner

Southern California, LETR

Region VIII

AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY

Ron Casalenda

Wyoming, LETR

Region IX**Western Europe****Jeremy Adams**

Ireland, LETR

Region X**Eastern Europe/Eurasia****Jacek Hachulski**

Poland, LETR

Region XI**Canada**

(AB, BS, MB, NB, NF, NWT, NS, ON, PEI, PQ, SK, YK)

Paul Manuel**Region XII****East Asia****Patrick Chan**

Special Olympics Hong Kong

Region XIII**Caribbean**

(St. Vincent, Jamaica, Barbados, Dominica, Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, Puerto Rico, Grand Cayman, Bahamas, Grenada, Trinidad & Tobago, Guadeloupe, Martinique, US Virgin Islands, St. Maarten, Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba, Haiti, Belize, Guyana, Montserrat, Suriname)

Bill Buford (Ret.)

Arkansas, LETR

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Australia, LETR

Region XV**Latin America****Vladimir Caceres**

Policia Nacional Civil de El Salvador

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