

URAA SPECIAL EDITION

The Guardian

The Newsletter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council

 **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**
UNIFIED RELAY
ACROSS AMERICA
Presented by: **Bank of America** 



Inside this issue:

A Message from Special Olympics CEO Janet Froetscher 3

Chairman's Corner 4

Bank of America—URAA Presenting Sponsor 5

Carry the Torch 6

Special Olympics Unified Relay Across America Talking Points 7

Map of URAA Routes 8

Law Enforcement Torch Run Overview 9



A Message from Special Olympics CEO Janet Froetscher:

Over the last 34 years, the world has watched in support as over 100,000 Law Enforcement officers deliver the Special Olympics Flame of Hope to Special Olympics Games around the world. Thousands of family, friends and community members have cheered as the Guardians of the Flame pass through their hometown, bringing Law Enforcement and Special Olympics athletes together as one for respect and inclusion.

This year, for the first time ever, your family, friends and community can join you in delivering the Flame of Hope to Los Angeles to the 2015 World Summer Games by participating in the Special Olympics Unified Relay Across America presented by Bank of America.

The Unified Relay Across America is a once in a lifetime opportunity for America to take action, come together and build communities of respect and inclusion. Over the course of 46 days, in a hand-to-hand exchange, people throughout the nation will carry the Flame of Hope across the country and help deliver it to Los Angeles where it will be handed off to the Guardians for the final leg of its journey. The Unified Relay will be three simultaneous routes hitting all 50 states and will be led by celebrity and Special Olympics athlete co-captains and supported by Law Enforcement. This event will provide the opportunity to mobilize more than 20,000 people to deliver the Flame of Hope to the World Summer Games in support of inclusion and respect for people with intellectual disabilities everywhere.

As the Flame of Hope travels through your state, we hope that you will engage as many people as possible to meet our athletes and learn about Special Olympics. This is a chance for us to break down stigma and misunderstanding, build respect and inclusion and bring an unprecedented amount of awareness to the movement that Law Enforcement holds so dear. In addition, teams have the opportunity to keep the torch they carry!

As dedicated members of our movement, we ask you and your families to participate in this monumental, once in a lifetime experience. Please take the time to register yourself for the Unified Relay as it comes through your community and help raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics. We need your help to show that we are all defined by our abilities.

Register today as an individual or team at www.unifiedrelay.org

Thank you for your on-going support,

Janet Froetscher
CEO
Special Olympics

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Mike Peretti, LETR Executive Council

2015 Unified Relay Across America
Guardian: Special Edition

We in policing thrive on challenges, and when the future of so many people with intellectual disabilities lies in the balance, we have but one course of action.....SUCCEED!

For nearly thirty-four years, members of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® have stood side by side the athletes of Special Olympics and others with intellectual disabilities to ensure they had a voice within our communities. We have taken an active role in this modern day civil rights movement and have committed personally and professionally to provide opportunity and HOPE to so many, who are so worthy of our efforts.

Now, in 2015, we have before us a rare challenge to reach a nation; to unify millions of people in support of our athletes; to bring a level of recognition and awareness of those with intellectual disabilities that has not been seen since the inception of Special Olympics itself, **THE UNIFIED RELAY ACROSS AMERICA!**

WE, the LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN®, must lead the way in this initiative and activate vigorously around its goals to sell run and cycling segments, and bring an unparalleled awareness to our cause. We must not delay, for the relay will be quickly upon us. Now is the time to demonstrate to our athletes, our communities and ourselves, the commitment behind the badge to improve the quality of life for everyone.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BE THE HERO THE ATHLETES OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS
BELIEVE YOU TO BE!

Support the Unified Relay Across America and help lead it to a great success for all of us.



Mike Peretti
Chair, LETR Executive Council



Bank of America Unified Relay Across America Presenting Sponsor

Our long-standing partnership with Special Olympics reflects a companywide commitment to diversity and inclusion, from employing individuals with disabilities to engaging employees through advocacy and volunteerism and ensuring our products and services are accessible. For more than 30 years, we've worked with Special Olympics to help people with intellectual disabilities become accepted and valued members of their communities.

We're honored to help bring the Flame of Hope to Los Angeles this summer through our support of the Special Olympics Unified Relay Across America and the Law Enforcement Final Leg, and as an Official Partner of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles (LA2015), which builds on our historical partnership with Special Olympics at the local and national level. Past support has ranged from an athletic focus – funding Special Olympics USA, the World Summer and Winter Games – to investing in health and wellness, employment, skills training, and mentoring through our support of the Healthy Athletes® initiative and the Special Olympics Athlete Leadership Program, we've helped Special Olympics athletes achieve their goals. In addition to philanthropic funding, our employee volunteers have rallied around Special Olympics athletes who demonstrate the transformative power of sports. Since 2010, more than 6,000 Bank of America employees have volunteered more than 40,000 hours to support Special Olympics.

We've fostered a meaningful connection with Special Olympics through our Support Services team, which includes approximately 300 employees with intellectual disabilities in Delaware, Maine and Texas who deliver services that are core to our business operations. We're proud that many of our colleagues compete in Special Olympics games at the local, national and global levels – most recently with five employee athletes participating at the 2014 USA Games - and we celebrate their accomplishments internally to raise awareness and foster employee engagement.

Learn more about our partnership with Special Olympics at www.about.bankofamerica.com

Bank of America



Special Olympics



CARRY THE TORCH!



For more than 33 years, law enforcement officers have been volunteering together to champion acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities through the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

Lighting the way to a future of inclusion, law enforcement officers have used the Flame of Hope as their beacon to unite their communities in acceptance.

This year, they will take their role as Guardians of the Flame to a new level as they champion the Special Olympics Unified Relay Across America presented by Bank of America.

Register a team for this once in a life time event and join fellow Law Enforcement and your community in creating awareness and raising money for Special Olympics.

Register Now!
www.unifiedrelay.org

Funds raised from the Unified Relay will go to Special Olympics to provide sports training, competition opportunity and additional programming that empowers people with intellectual disabilities to become accepted and valued members of their community which leads to a more respectful and inclusive society for all.

50 STATES
46 DAYS
3 RELAY ROUTES

JOIN US
 May 26 – July 10, 2015



REGISTER NOW!
www.unifiedrelay.org

CHAMPIONED BY: **LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN**
 FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED RELAY ACROSS AMERICA TALKING POINTS

Key Talking Points

- The Special Olympics Unified Relay Across America presented by Bank of America will give anyone in the country a chance to carry and help deliver the *Flame of Hope* lit in Athens, Greece to Los Angeles for the [2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games](#).
- This event will provide the opportunity to **mobilize** and **unify** the nation while also bringing unprecedented awareness to the Special Olympics movement, creating communities where everyone is **included** and **respected**.
- **THE RELAY:** For 46 days, from May 26 to July 10, in the first known torch relay to cross all 50 states, over 20,000 participants will run, walk or bike over 10,000 segments of the relay. The Unified Relay is a team and individual fundraising event.
- **THE ROUTES:** Three simultaneous relay routes will cover almost 21,000 miles of the US, starting their individual journeys in Augusta, Maine, Miami, Florida and Washington, DC and unifying in Los Angeles. Along each route, welcoming ceremonies and community celebrations will take place nightly with musical performances, celebrity guests and Unified Sports Experiences.
- **FINAL DESTINATION:** This July, Special Olympics will hold its flagship event, the World Summer Games. Beginning on July 25, 7,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing 177 countries, along with 30,000 volunteers and an anticipated 500,000 spectators, will come together in Los Angeles for competition in 25 Olympics-style sports.
- **ANYONE CAN CARRY THE TORCH:** Sign up to participate today! Registration is open: www.unifiedrelay.org
- **WHAT IGNITING THE TORCH MEANS:** Funds raised from the Unified Relay will go to Special Olympics to provide sports training, competition opportunities and additional programming that empowers people with intellectual disabilities to become accepted and valued members of their communities, which leads to a more respectful and inclusive society for all.

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Special Olympics



MAP OF URRR ROUTES





Law Enforcement Torch Run Overview



What is the Law Enforcement Torch Run?

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics is the Special Olympics movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle in the world. In 2013, dedicated law enforcement volunteers raised over US\$50 million for Special Olympics Programs around the world and eclipsed US\$511 million raised since the inception of the LETR.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1981 when Wichita, Kansas (USA) Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw an urgent need to raise funds for and increase awareness of Special Olympics. The LETR was quickly endorsed by Special Olympics International and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), now recognized as the Founding Law Enforcement Organization of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

Over the past 34 years, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has evolved from a symbolic awareness run to a very significant, annual fundraising effort conducted by the law enforcement community. From Torch Run t-shirt and hat sales and to a wide variety and multitude of special events, such as golf tournaments, Over the Edge, "Tip-A-Cop" events, Polar Plunges®, the World's Largest Truck Convoy® and Cops on Doughnut Shops® fundraisers, the LETR raises funds so that more Special Olympics athletes can benefit in many areas of their lives through sports training and competition.

More than 96,000 law enforcement members in all 50 U.S. States, 12 Canadian provinces/territories, and 44 other countries contribute to LETR efforts annually as Guardians of the Flame®, ensuring the delivery of the Special Olympics Flame of Hope™ to the Opening Ceremonies of local Special Olympics competitions, state/provincial Games, and national/regional Games.

What is the Unified Relay Across America and the Final Leg?

In 2015, the Flame of Hope will be lit from the rays of the sun in Greece, the home of the Olympics, and will travel across the sea to the United States where it will journey to communities throughout the country and Southern California, ending at the Opening Ceremony in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

This journey begins with a **Unified Relay Across America**. The Unified Relay will start in the U.S. on May 26, where the Flame of Hope will be split into three simultaneous routes. Each flame will start its individual journey from one of three points and will travel west where all three routes will become unified in Los Angeles on July 10. The community is invited to take part by running, walking or biking a portion of the relay and raising money to support Special Olympics for the honor of carrying the Flame of Hope.

On July 10, the Unified Relay will hand the flame over to the Special Olympics Law Enforcement volunteers to begin the **Final Leg**. 130 members representing 23 nations and 96 Law Enforcement Agencies, accompanied by 10 Special Olympics athletes will then carry the flame from the State Capitol of California throughout the state raising awareness for the World Games. The Final Leg will conclude as the Law Enforcement officers hand the Flame of Hope to seven Special Olympics athletes representing the seven regions of the world, who will light the official cauldron at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

For more information on the Unified Relay Across America visit: www.unifiedrelay.org

For more information on the Final Leg visit: www.lettr-finalleg.org

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

Special Olympics, Inc.

Chairman Emeritus

Richard LaMunyon (Ret.)

Kansas, LETR

IACP Appointee

Russ Luine

Illinois, LETR

IACP Appointee

Walter McNeil

Florida, LETR

Council Appointee

Steve Nigrelli

New York, LETR

Council Appointee

Luis A Rosa

Connecticut, LETR

Law Enforcement At-Large

Antonio Williams

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, Do-
minica, Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Kitts &
Nevis, Puerto Rico, Grand Cayman,
Bahamas, Grenada, Trinidad & Toba-
go, Guadeloupe, Martinique, US Virgin
Islands, St. Maarten, Bonaire, Curacao,
Aruba, Haiti, Belize, Guyana, Montser-
rat, Suriname)

Bill Buford (Ret.)

Arkansas, LETR

Region XIV

Oceania

Scott Whyte

Australia, LETR

Region XV

Latin America

Vladimir Caceres

Policia Nacional Civil de El Salvador
El Salvador, LETR