

Fall Edition 2016

The Guardian

The Newsletter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council



*2016 Law Enforcement
Torch Run® for Special
Olympics International
Conference
Phoenix, Arizona*

Inside this issue:

<i>Chairman's Corner</i>	3
<i>Chief Brendan Bridges, Greensburg, Indiana Police Department</i>	4, 20
<i>Elena K. Weaver, Rhythmic Gymnast for Special Olympics Georgia—Athlete Profile</i>	5
<i>Cycling for Special Olympics South Carolina</i>	6
<i>Congratulations for the John Carion Winner from Colorado</i>	7
<i>Rangers SS Elvis Andrus is Dedicated to the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics Athletes in Texas</i>	7
<i>Children's Book by Law Enforcement Torch Run Member Set to Support Special Olympics British Columbia</i>	8, 9
<i>Chief Art Acevedo, Austin (TX) Explains Benefits Police Departments Reap from Law Enforcement Torch Run Involvement</i>	9
<i>Torch Runner Profile—Senior Trooper Callie Field, Vermont State Police</i>	10
<i>Inaugural Tip-A-Cop Event</i>	10
<i>Police Service of Northern Ireland 20th Anniversary Celebration</i>	11
<i>In Memorial</i>	12
<i>2016 Law Enforcement Torch Run Special Olympics International Conference, Phoenix, Arizona</i>	13, 14
<i>Special Olympics Colorado Hall of Fame Luncheon</i>	14
<i>IACP Photo Contest Winners</i>	15—19

Chairman's Corner

Torch Runners,

As many of you would know, Mike Peretti stepped down as the Chair of the LETR International Executive Council in September after six years in that position.

I'd like to acknowledge Mike's leadership and contribution to the Torch Run movement over the past 20 years, including the past 13 years as a member of the International Executive Council. It is very pleasing that Mike intends staying on Council for at least the next two years.

So – who am I. My name is Scott Whyte and I come from Sydney in Australia. I retired from the New South Wales Police Force last year with 35 years policing service behind me. I have been involved with LETR for the past ten years and helped establish the Torch Run in Australia and New Zealand. I have been a member of Council since 2012 as the Coordinator for the Oceania Region (Region 14). I am really looking forward to the next 12 months and hope to build on the great work done by Mike Peretti.

If you were one of the 950 odd attendees at the 2016 LETR International Conference in Phoenix, I am sure that like me, you came away with a mixed bag of emotions – amazement at the spirit and determination of the guest speakers, satisfaction that the efforts of Torch Runners from around the world led to yet another year of record fundraising – USD\$55,354,258 and perhaps a sense of awe that you were one of more than 147,000 Torch Runners, Special Olympics athletes and Volunteers involved in Torch Run activities throughout the year.

I'd like to recognize and thank Arizona Special Olympics CEO Tim Martin, Chief Sherry Kiyler and the members of the Arizona 2016 International Conference Committee for all the hard work put in to make this year's conference a resounding success.

In addition, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the members of the Executive Council's International Conference Planning Committee led by John Pratt. The Committee works tirelessly throughout the year preparing for the upcoming conference as well as the necessary advance work on future conferences. The result of their hard work was an outstanding conference – the bar seems to get higher every year.

As we move into 2017, the focus will be on the World Winter Games in Austria and the Final Leg. I know that preparations are well advanced and am sure that the 130 members of the Final Leg team will enjoy every minute of their time in Austria (it's the one without the kangaroos).

And then it will be the turn of Nashville to host the 2017 Conference – mark your calendars – 21 to 23 September.



Scott Whyte
Chair
LETR International Executive Council

Chief Brendan Bridges, Greensburg, Indiana Police Department

By: Special Olympics Indiana

It was March of 2015 when Greensburg, Indiana Police Chief Brendan Bridges attended the Chief School at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and heard the Special Olympics Indiana LETR Liaison speak that he was inspired to get involved with Special Olympics. Growing up, his brother and sister volunteered with Special Olympics at Summer Games in Terre Haute, through school. After hearing his siblings' stories and excitement from their experience with Special Olympics, he knew it was a worthy cause. "I've always known that Special Olympics to be a very good organization in what they do for the athletes throughout the state," stated Chief Bridges. Needless to say, once he was invited to get involved as an officer, Chief Bridges went all in!

He has been able to jump right in, getting involved with his area's local athletes. "The athletes come up and give you hugs, high fives,"



Chief Bridges lighting the cauldron as the torch enters the Summer Games with two athletes who ran the Torch Run.



Chief Bridges poses for a photo with track and field athletes after lighting the cauldron to kick off Summer Games with the athlete on the far right.

Chief Bridges said. "They pretty much make you forget about all the problems that you have back home or what people think about law enforcement and make you forget about the little things and make you appreciate everything else." What he's learned since being involved with Special Olympics is that until you're in, you don't know Special Olympics. "The athletes are just like any other athlete out there. It is their sport, and they're going to be serious about it while giving 100%. They're excited if they win and letdown if they lose." Chief Bridges knows he will have many moments that stay with him as a part of the LETR program but fondly recalls his first trip to Summer Games when they brought the torch in to the track and he was invited, as a new Chief, to light the cauldron with the athletes. Then he went on to hand out medals. "They're just like anybody else but you have to get involved to see that" he said, "They're just a great group of athletes to be around and really appreciate what you do."

"Once you get involved, you're hooked." Chief Bridges's advice to other police chiefs or officers considering bringing Special Olympics to their departments is that you will have no regrets. "If anything, you'll wish that you have done it sooner. It's something you can't explain; it's something you have to experience." The LETR program positively impacted his department through a

(Continued on page 20)

Elena K. Weaver, Rhythmic Gymnast for Special Olympics Georgia

By: Linda Weaver, Elena's mother



Elena was totally in awe of this amazing experience!

Elena Weaver started running the torch for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Georgia in 1999. She could only trot about a block the first time, and the Torch was too heavy for her to carry. As time went on and her training as a gymnast became more directed, she became stronger and stronger. Now she can carry the Torch and run up to 3 miles!

After that, she got involved with LETR fundraising events and became friends with a lot of the law enforcement volunteers. She has been to many, many events – from the Polar Plunge to Cops on Top of Donut Shops. As a Global Ambassador,

Elena has given many, many speeches in support of all of the law enforcement officers for everything they do daily and for Special Olympics. Elena has loved every minute of this experience.

There have been two amazing opportunities that have clearly taken center stage in Elena's life. The first came in 2013 when she was nominated by the Georgia Law Enforcement Torch Run for the International Law Enforcement Torch Run award. She WON!!! We accompanied her to Disney World to receive this amazing award. Elena and two young men from other countries were selected for this award. The other came in 2015 when she was asked to represent SOGA in one of the legs of the Torch Run across the USA to the World Games in Los Angeles.

If Special Olympics Georgia and the Law Enforcement Torch Run did not exist, Elena's life would definitely be very, very different. She was born with multiple birth defects – with no expectation of a healthy and normal life. It took years of hospitalizations, surgeries and therapies for Elena to prove to everyone she could and would live. Not only did she live, she actually began to dream of all that her life could become. As her parents, we needed to find a way to help make this happen. We found it in Special Olympics Georgia. Special Olympics Georgia gave Elena opportunities and hope, and the organization gave her family the same thing. We thank every law enforcement officer we have ever met for giving our daughter the possibility of a good and healthy life!!



This picture sums up how much the Georgia Law Enforcement Torch Run means to Elena! The smile—the confidence—the physical ability to run with the Torch—the ability to leave shyness behind and talk with complete strangers—and the friendship of the officers.

Cycling for Special Olympics South Carolina

By: Leigh Lowery, Special Olympics South Carolina

On October 19, ten cyclists from Greenville County Sheriff's Office, South Carolina Highway Patrol and Greenville County EMS embarked on a 300 mile, 3-day bike ride to raise awareness of and funds for Special Olympics South Carolina. Cliffs to the Coast began in 2015

with just a few cyclists and raised over \$7,000. In the future they hope to open the ride to the public. Their route started at the North Carolina /South Carolina state line at Caesars Head State Park and will journey through the state finishing at Waterfront Park in Mount Pleasant, just outside of Charleston, SC.



This is the second year the group has covered the state on bikes to bring awareness and raise funds for the 24,848 Special Olympics athletes in South Carolina. Athletes were at Greenville County Sheriff's Office to send off the riders and a Charleston County group of athletes greeted them when they arrived in Mount Pleasant.

Virginia's 24th Annual Plane Pull

The Metropolitan Airports Authority Police raised over \$350,000 for the Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run® this year. Wow! We are very proud of this agency for creating this event almost 25 years ago, sustaining it, and growing it to this level.



Fairfax County Police pulling hard in Virginia's 24th Annual Plane Pull.

Congratulations to the John Carion Winner from Colorado

By: Jennifer Moore, Special Olympics Colorado

Special Olympics Colorado and the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office would again like to congratulate Deputy Brian McKnight. Deputy McKnight was honored with the highly esteemed John Carion award at the LETR International Conference in Phoenix!!! He was amongst 25 nominees from around the world and no one deserves it more!! Congratulations Brian! We love you and are thrilled that all of your years of service and passion for our athletes is being recognized on this prestigious platform!!



Rangers SS Elvis Andrus is Dedicated to the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics Athletes in Texas

By: Steve Helm, Special Olympics Texas

Everyone knows professional athletes have very demanding schedules, especially during the season, but that does not stop Texas Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus from sparing some time for Special Olympics Texas. For the last six years, the two-time All-Star has gone out of his way to support all facets of the organization, including the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Each year before SOTX holds its statewide Summer Games in Arlington, Andrus provides tickets and invites a group of local LETR members and SOTX athletes for a torch run around the infield during the pregame festivities.

His generosity and involvement doesn't stop there. Since 2010, Andrus has donated \$24,000 to SOTX to help fund the annual Summer Games and the Young Athletes Program for children ages 2-7 in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

More recently, Andrus welcomed a group of SOTX athletes for the Texas Rangers - Oakland Athletics game back in August. He treated everyone to supper and a goody bag filled with Rangers gear before the game.

For his unwavering support of Special Olympics athletes in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Andrus and the Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation were presented with the 2016 Outstanding Fundraiser of the Year Award from SOTX-Greater Dallas Area.

Thanks to Elvis Andrus, the Law Enforcement Torch Run in Texas has become better known, leading to increased involvement from Dallas-Fort Worth area police departments, which ultimately has resulted in greater support for the athletes.



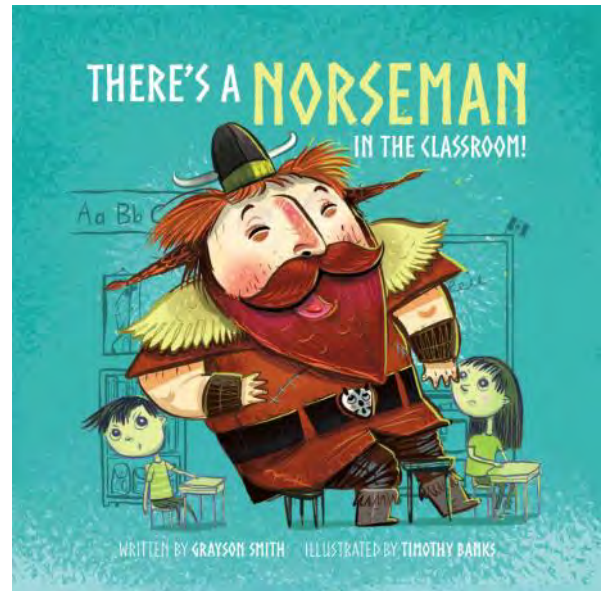
Texas Rangers shortstop' Elvis Andrus presents a \$5,000 check to Special Olympics Texas and accepts his award for Outstanding Fundraiser of the Year from Dough Ray (left) and Duncanville Police Officer Doug Sisk (right).

**Children's Book By Law Enforcement Torch Run® Member
Set to Support Special Olympics British Columbia
By: Charlotte Taylor, Special Olympics British Columbia**

A new children's book is teaching kids about inclusion and raising funds for Special Olympics British Columbia.

In *There's a Norseman in the Classroom!*, children return from summer vacation to discover a new student has joined their class — and he happens to be a huge, hairy, noisy Norseman. While the kids initially reject Norm the Norseman because he is different, they learn to accept him and appreciate all the great things he brings to their classroom.

Constable Grayson Smith of the Delta Police Department wrote the story, which features fun and vibrant visuals created by award-winning illustrator Timothy Banks. Two dollars from the sale of every book will go to benefit SOBC, which Smith selected as the beneficiary due to the fit with the subject matter and his involvement with the [BC Law Enforcement Torch Run](#).



There's a Norseman in the Classroom! book cover.

You can pick up a copy of *There's a Norseman in the Classroom!* on [Peppermint Toast Publishing's website](#) or [Amazon.ca](#).



Grayson Smith and his wife Linda Smith.

Smith started writing children's stories for his nieces and nephews. After writing his first illustrated children's book, Smith founded Peppermint Toast Publishing to help him share the story with a bigger audience. With every title they release, Peppermint Toast Publishing looks to support a charitable organization that has a connection to the content of the story. He says SOBC is a great fit for *There's a Norseman in the Classroom!* because of the book's message of inclusion.

"SOBC believes in opening windows of understanding that come from challenging misconceptions and promoting familiarity and inclusion of people with disabilities, and we believe this book highlights this type of behaviour," Smith said.

Smith first found out about SOBC through the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Now a dedicated LETR member, Smith has volunteered at a number of LETR fundraising events.

"Over the past few years, I've had the opportunity to meet and become friends with several athletes, and it's awesome to see their high level of talent and commitment to being active and involved in sport," Smith said. "Partnering with SOBC on this book is another example of the grassroots-level initiatives that the LETR works at to raise money and awareness for athletes with intellectual disabilities."

(Continued on page 9)



Grayson Smith (second from right) with fellow athletes and fellow LETR members during the West Vancouver leg of the Lower Mainland Torch Run for Special Olympics.

Smith said the idea for *There's a Norseman in the Classroom!* came from his wife Linda Smith's experiences as a Grade 2 teacher.

"It seems that, depending on people's attitudes, a classroom can develop into a place of either inclusion or exclusion of people who come across differently," Smith said. "It struck me as funny to imagine a larger-than-life main character trying to figure out the social requirements of elementary school, and some of the lessons that could be drawn out from that."

Smith says he hopes people who read the book will begin to recognize

"Norsemen" in their own lives, and learn to accept these people who may be perceived as different.

"Teaching inclusion to kids is important and simple: inclusion looks exactly like kindness," Smith said. "Being generous, friendly, and considerate is something that everyone can do, and can have a big impact on the people who receive it."

For organizations that would like to purchase the book in bulk, or use it as a fundraising tool, please contact Smith at grayson@pepperminttoast.com for details on discounts.

Chief Art Acevedo, Austin (TX) Explains Benefits Police Departments Reap from Law Enforcement Torch Run® Involvement

By: Steve Helm, Special Olympics Texas

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo firmly believes a police officer's involvement with Special Olympics through the Law Enforcement Torch Run greatly improves one's personal wellness, which contributes to the overall well-being of the police department. Acevedo explained more in a video interview with Special Olympics Texas. In the video, members of the Travis County Sheriff's Office echoed his sentiments. You can check out the video at www.sotx.org/letr.



Torch Runner Profile — Senior Trooper Callie Field, Vermont State Police

By: Special Olympics Vermont



Trooper Field was the 2015 recipient of the Special Olympics Vermont Torch Run Volunteer of the Year award.

South Burlington, VT – Senior Trooper Callie Field has been an active member of Vermont’s Law Enforcement Torch Run for more than a decade. In a region that is geographically isolated and small in population, Callie has single handedly built an impressive Torch Run network the includes state and local police, fire departments, corrections, border patrol, and schools. She has also achieved the highest LETR t-shirt sales in the state for three years running, and consistently brings new sponsors and partners to the table.

In addition to her fundraising efforts, Callie is a fierce advocate for Special Olympics and a quiet leader. She is an active member of Vermont’s LETR Executive Council and by setting a strong example, has encouraged other council members to increase their

fundraising efforts and participation. Callie is a true friend to Special Olympics and a wonderful teammate.



Trooper Field never misses the Games and takes great pride in draping medals.

Inaugural Tip-A-Cop Event

By: Jennifer Moore, Special Olympics Colorado



Congratulations to Chief Joey Staufer of Eagle Police Department, Chief Dwight Henniger of Vail PD, as well as Eagle County Sheriff’s Office, Avon PD and Colorado State Patrol for an incredibly successful Tip-A-Cop event. The event raised nearly \$4,000. Thank you so much to the Lancelot restaurant and to all involved. Such a huge success!



Police Service of Northern Ireland 20th Anniversary Celebration

By: Special Olympics Ireland

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) recently celebrated 20 years' involvement with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics

Since 1996 the LETR programme have raised funds for Special Olympics, been guardians of the SO Flame of Hope Torch and raised awareness of Special Olympics Ireland across Northern Ireland.

The PSNI got involved with LETR at the invitation of their colleagues in An Garda Síochána, who started their programme in 1989 and have worked collectively over the 20 years in supporting Special Olympics Ireland.



Constable Niki Martin, Newry LPT with two Newry Special Olympic Athletes



Garda Mounted Unit leading Newry Special Olympics athletes, PSNI and Garda Torch Runners into school.

The first Northern Ireland Torch Run event took place on 20th June 1996, when both police services met at the Newry border between Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland and then carried the Torch at ceremonies across Ireland before arriving at the Special Olympics National Games Opening ceremony.

THE IRISH TIMES

NEWS	SPORT	BUSINESS	OPINION
Ireland	World	Politics	Crime & Law
			Social Affairs

Special run by Garda and RUC

Thu, Jun 20, 1996

The Garda and the RUC have begun a 900 mile relay through the country to raise money and create awareness about the Special Olympics.

The Special Olympics Ireland Torch Run, sponsored by Eircell, began at Dublin Castle yesterday. The Garda Commissioner, Mr Patrick Culligan and the RUC assistant Chief Constable, Mr Freddie Hall, lit two special Olympic torches. The 150 runners then split into two teams. They will return to Dublin next Thursday for the opening of the Special Olympics Ireland National Games in Belfield.

Both Police Services returned to Newry to on 20th June 2016 to mark the 20th anniversary of the PSNI involvement with LETR and visited Rathore Special School. They were joined by local Newry Special Olympics Clubs, staff from Special Olympics Ulster and the Garda Mounted Horse Unit, PSNI Dog Section and local police officers.

PSNI LETR Director, David Smith was delighted to be able to mark the occasion in style on the actual date and City that the first Torch Run was held 20 years ago. He added, "We're delighted to have many people who were involved at the start and new members, who have joined more recently join us for our celebration." Deputy PSNI

Director Jeremy Adams took part in the 1996 event and has remained involved with the programme ever since. He added "I have seen the programme evolve over the years and hopefully we can continue to grow."

The PSNI LETR also held a 20th Anniversary fund raising gala ball on 21st October at a Belfast Hotel, when over 250 guests attend to mark the anniversary, with food, refreshments, entertainment and grand auction. Guests from

(Continued on page 12)



(Left) Constable David Smith, PSNI LETR Director; Chair of Board of Governors, Rathmore Head Teacher Ms. Caroline Currie; and Retired Inspector Jeremy Adams, PSNI LETR D/Director



(Continued from page 11)

Special Olympics Ireland & Ulster, LETR members with family and friends attended along with 20 Special Olympics athletes, who assisted with proceedings on the night. PSNI Director David Smith stated, "We're continuing to celebrate our special anniversary of 20yrs of LETR involvement and I'm delighted that we have some many old and new friends with us tonight.

(Left) Constable Steve Douglas, Head Teacher Caroline Currie, Constable David Smith and retired Inspector Jeremy Adams

In Memorial

Bellaire Police Officer **Anthony Marco Zarate** was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident while on duty on July 13. Zarate was a familiar face at local and statewide Special Olympics Texas competitions and Law Enforcement Torch Run fundraisers during the last five years. He truly loved the athletes and felt honored to be a tiny part of their successes, accomplishments and celebrations. To pay tribute to his legacy and to show appreciation for all law enforcement, Special Olympics Texas included a moment of observance during the Opening Ceremony of its statewide fall competition on Oct. 14. During the ceremonial torch run to the cauldron, a special fifth segment was added. Cecilia Zarate (Marco's wife) and Deputy Tracie Mathews-Segura, Harris County Constable Precinct 1, walked the final leg of the torch run, as fellow cops and LETR members joined the solemn procession to the cauldron. To express respect for Zarate once more, the inaugural Five-O 5K Run for Special Olympics Texas, hosted by Harris County Constables Office Precinct 1, was ran in his memory on Oct. 29 in downtown Houston.



Cecilia Zarate (left) and Deputy Tracie Mathews-Segura (right) of Harris County Constables Office Precinct 1 were invited to carry the torch at Special Olympics Texas' Fall Classic Opening Ceremony.



Deputy Mathews-Segura (left) and Cecilia Zarate (right) lit the cauldron at Special Olympics Texas' Fall Classic Opening Ceremony.

2016 Law Enforcement Torch Run® Special Olympics Arizona International Conference

By: Jeremy Adams

"During the International Conference I acquired a greater understanding of LETR and seen the direct impact that it has on the lives of all involved. I was able to see the actual size and magnitude of this movement. I was in awe to see over 1100 members of the Law enforcement family from around the world, all unified for one common goal"

"The LETR conference proved not only to be a learning environment where I gained knowledge of LETR's origin and history, but more so an inspiring and motivational one as well, as I was able to meet and hear stories from the athletes themselves of their courage and determination in the face of adversity that would discourage even the strongest of people"

"With over 1100 law enforcement officers in attendance at the conference my ability to network and gain new strategies was invaluable. I have returned more motivated and inspired to continue on my involvement with not only LETR but Special Olympics."

"As always, the International Conference is a humbling experience – from meeting Special Olympics Athletes to networking with countless other agencies, from attending the learning sessions to the guest speakers. This year was no different however I do know that I took away more from this conference than I ever have"

These are a few quotes heard about this year's conference; they come from seasoned conference attendees to first timers.

The conference host night was kicked off with a walk to Chase Field to watch the Diamondbacks defeat the LA Dodgers. When you arrived at the stadium you enjoyed some of the culinary food and beverage with the \$25.00 credit that each attendee was provided.

Special Olympics Athlete and Global Messenger, Loretta Claiborne, continues to inspire and motivate the Law Enforcement community. A pin could drop in the conference centre when she was talking about the race riots and her brother calling the officers PIG; her mother grabbed her brother and told him never to be disrespectful again; however, Loretta turned a negative into a positive and said, PIG stood for Pride, Integrity and Guts.

The guest speakers continued to WOW us throughout the 3 days, with Jessica Cox, who was born without arms, has eliminated "I can't" from her vocabulary. She has earned a black belt in American Taekwondo and has obtained her pilots license.

Then if the last 2 speakers didn't bring you to your feet and shed a tear, Jason Schechterle a former Phoenix Police officer whose dream was to be a police officer. With only 14 months on the street, his life took a tragic turn in March of 2001. He was responding to a call when his vehicle was rear-ended at 100 mph, and his car



(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

burst into flames. His life would never be the same again. He shares his journey with all of us and he truly inspired every one of us that no matter what life gives to you, you can survive.

Austin Rector, Kevin Magee and Connor unified partners with SOAZ: Austin said it best “Most importantly, is that you realize we are in your own communities. If not for unified sports, where would Kevin be today? What about Connor? I ask myself, “Where would I be?” Are you in need of a unified partner? Is a unified partner in need of you? There is only one way to find out! Take a leap of faith and team up – be on the side of Unified!

Throughout the conference we continued to be motivated by all the Special Olympic athletes who graced us with, not only with their presence but their incredible stories. If you were on the fence if this wonderful movement called the Law Enforcement Torch Run was a fit for you, you would have no question after listening to the amazing challenges and life stories they shared.

As the Torch was passed in a unique unified exchange at the Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame Banquet, we look forward to next year’s conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Thank you to the Arizona Conference committee for your hospitality and an incredible conference.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JOHN CARION AND HALL OF FAME WINNERS!!

This year’s John Carion award winners were Danny Hall of Delaware, Brian McNight of Colorado, and Joanne Wild of British Columbia.

This year’s inductees to the Richard La Munyon Hall of Fame are Randy Boehm of Missouri, Steve Nigrelli of New York, and Scott Whyte of New South Wales.

Special Olympics Colorado Hall of Fame Luncheon **By: Jennifer Moore, Special Olympics Colorado**

The Hall of Fame Luncheon presented by Comfort Dental recognizes the contributions and achievements of individuals and organizations around Colorado. This year, we honor the newest LETR inductee for Law Enforcement Agency of the Year: **Boulder Police Department.**

Congratulations to Sergeant Dave Seper and the Boulder Police Department for their years of commitment and dedication to our athletes and the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Since 1986 Boulder PD has raised over \$200,000 for our Special Olympics programs and athletes. So incredible, and you inspire us all!

<http://www.specialolympicsco.org/law-enforcement-agency-year-boulder-police-department/>

IACP Photo Contest



First Place—Virginia

SPIRIT



Second Place—Arkansas



Third Place—Oregon

Guardians of the Flame



Second Place—Michigan



First Place —Georgia



Third Place —Indiana

Group



First Place —Northern Ireland



Second Place—Pennsylvania



Third Place—Missouri

Professional



First Place—Dave Kramer



Second Place—Melissa Vincelli



Third Place —Soozie Sundlun

Athlete & Officer



First Place—Alabama



Second Place —Rhode Island



Third Place — Southern California

(Continued from page 4)

transitional year and seemed to come just at the right time.

The department came together for their first Tip-A-Cop fundraiser last year and this year the department will get even more involved with Special Olympics. Chief Bridges has developed the support of his department, family, and community through the agency events and his first Polar Plunge in 2016.

The Chief has also become a member of the Recruiting Committee to show new officers the joy that Special Olympics Indiana can bring to their departments. He was even able to re-visit ILEA for the Chief's School in 2016 to encourage the new Chiefs to join the LETR program like he did in their seats. He is looking forward to bringing his department to the 2016 game, up next in June, to support the athletes. "These are exciting times for the athletes," His philosophy is pretty clear, "Anything we can do for them."



Chief Bridges makes new friends with Indiana Athlete, Charity, from a different part of the state for the first times, when she asks him to walk her to her next race.

WILL ENTERPRISES

IS YOUR ONE STOP SHOP OFFERING

- **GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE**
- **BEST PRICING**
- **FASTEST TURN AROUND IN THE INDUSTRY**

LET US QUOTE YOUR PROGRAMS!



**POLAR
PLUNGE**



**SPREAD THE WORD
TO END THE WORD**



Questions? Need a quote? Contact Kevin!

kevin@willenterprises.biz • 1.800.442.2039 x20

Will 
ENTERPRISES

7474 North Will Enterprise Court
Milwaukee, WI 53224

We are Proud to Announce...



now a
Preferred Vendor



Why Geiger?

Geiger ships internationally - **Our competitors will not!**

We are Promotion Architects

Geiger is a promotional marketing agency that develops branded merchandise. We are independent representatives partnered with Geiger; the largest family owned and managed promotional products company in the US. Geiger is an **industry leader in consumer safety as well as technology for over 138 years.**

We are specialists in reaching your specific goals through fundraising, and reinforcing your brand with law enforcement, businesses, community and athletes.

We Invest in Organizations We Partner with...

- Our goal is to invest and exhibit at conference
- We are your bag and badge holder \$ 10,000 sponsor

We look forward to serving you!

How to INCREASE the Size of Your Donations... Call us for details

You need to CONNECT / ENGAGE / RECOGNIZE / REWARD your audience...

- You need to CONNECT with persons, and share gift levels based on donation. Ask them to stretch!
- You need to ENGAGE potential supporters ... **Share your story and your passion!**
- You need to RECOGNIZE & REWARD supporter with a personal note or even publish a Thank You on Facebook

LETR All Custom Camo Hat



Lantern with LED Lights



Pizza Cutter



Craig Simon, CAS
Phone: 610-941-1316
csimon@geiger.com

Terry S. Derstine, CAS
Phone: 215-723-9378
tderstine@geiger.com

New LETR Website: Call for Fundraising ideas/order online:
<http://letr.geiger.com/>



**PROUD TO BE AN OFFICIAL APPAREL VENDOR
of the LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN**



10% Discount Off Wholesale to Local Chapters

For Details Contact Your local Champion Representative

Sullivan & Associates: 603-964-8670

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Big Time Sports, LLC: 816-309-3744

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Hill & Associates: 856-802-0458

Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania

Monte Robertson Sales Company: 940-321-7903

Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

Teamwork Sporting Goods Sales: 714-394-0441

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

Crown Sport Sales Inc.: 704-965-9586

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Special Olympics Appointee

Mark Musso (Vice Chair)

Special Olympics Missouri

Special Olympics Appointee

Kelli Seely

Special Olympics International

Special Olympics At-Large

Glenn MacDonell

Special Olympics Ontario

Special Olympics At-Large

Tim Martin

Special Olympics Arizona

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 Laine

Illinois, LETR

IACP Appointee

Walter McNeil

Florida, LETR

Council Appointee

Steve Nigrelli

New York, LETR

Council Appointee

Rodney Seurer

, LETR

Law Enforcement At-Large

Antonio Williams

Hawaii, LETR

Law Enforcement At-Large

Vacant

Law Enforcement At-Large

Mike Peretti

Northern California, LETR

Special Olympics Athlete Appointee

Stacey Johnston-Gleason

Special Olympics Montana



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

Patrick Hoey

Illinois, LETR

Region V

IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI

Richard Sheldon

Minnesota, LETR

Region VI

AR, KS, LA, MO, OK, TX

Ward Webb

Louisiana, LETR

Region VII

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

GUAM

Robert Woolsey

Nevada, LETR

Region VIII

AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY

Ron Casalenda

Wyoming, LETR

Region IX

Western Europe

Gary Gordon

Ireland, LETR

Region X

Eastern Europe/Eurasia

Vacant

Region XI

Canada

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

Rick Lucy

Region XII

East Asia

Vacant

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)

Stephanie Lindsay

Jamaica, LETR

Region XIV

Oceania

Don Stuart

Australia, LETR

Region XV

Latin America

Vacant

