



LETR International Executive Council

HANDBOOK

Release 14 - December 2023



Special Olympics



LAW ENFORCEMENT
TORCH RUN[®]
FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

LETR International Executive Council Handbook

*This document is maintained by the
LETR International Executive Council's Policies & Procedures Committee
on a continuing and ongoing basis.*

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Introduction

The 2023 LETR International Executive Council Handbook has been designed to assist council members, both existing and new by providing, in one document, relevant information about the workings of the council.

This version of the handbook builds on the work done in 2016 by Mark Musso and Victoria Rivers .

It goes without saying that this document will never be completed - it will always be subject to amendment and adjustment as aspects of the council's work and activities change over time.

Please don't hesitate to send any comments, criticisms or suggestions for improvement to me so that the document can be continually enhanced.



John Clifton
Chairman
LETR International Executive Council

Mission and Vision

The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is to increase public awareness and generate resources for the Special Olympics movement worldwide.

The vision is to further the Special Olympics mission, law enforcement will carry the torch, representing the "Flame of Hope," and dedicate itself to the goals of continually increasing both awareness and generating resources for Special Olympics athletes worldwide.

Purpose

The Law Enforcement Torch Run International Executive Council (the Council) is authorized by Special Olympics, Inc. (SOI) and is endorsed by our founding law enforcement organization - the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) for the purpose of encouraging, promoting, supporting and providing technical guidance to Special Olympics Programs and Torch Run volunteers in planning and coordinating Torch Run events and activities worldwide, facilitating the expansion of existing Torch Run activities and programs, and planning for the development of new Torch Run initiatives and events.

Special Olympics is a movement that daily reaffirms the belief that with hope, love and dedication, any individual can realize achievement and self-worth and that persons with intellectual disabilities, by their involvement in Special Olympics, show the worldwide community the true meaning of sport and a pure joy towards life.

Council Responsibilities

The Law Enforcement Torch Run International Executive Council is responsible for the following:

- Further the mission and purpose of the Law Enforcement Torch Run.
- Set goals and objectives for the Council that are reviewed and updated annually.
- Implement and comply with the Council policies and procedures.
- Submit an annual Council budget for approval by SOI and inclusion in the SOI budget.
- Schedule meetings and conference calls as necessary to carry out the mission, purpose and business of the Law Enforcement Torch Run.
- Establish and oversee Council committees.
- Oversee and coordinate the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run International Conference.
- Oversee and coordinate Torch Run Final Legs in conjunction with Special Olympics World Games.
- Identify and establish a sufficient number of Law Enforcement Torch Run regions to represent all Law Enforcement Torch Run participants worldwide.

Council Membership

Special Olympics Athlete Representative

The Special Olympics Athlete representative shall serve a two (2) year term.

Nominations for the Special Olympics Athlete representative shall be solicited from Special Olympics Programs by the Council on even numbered years prior to the Torch Run International Conference.

The Council, by a majority vote, shall elect the Special Olympics Athlete member during the Torch Run International Conference.

IACP-Appointed Members

Each member appointed by the IACP shall serve for a term of two (2) years from one Torch Run International Conference until the Torch Run International Conference two years following.

The IACP shall appoint or reappoint one member each year, unless an IACP-appointee cannot for any reason complete his or her term or is removed prior to the end of the appointee's term, in which case the IACP may appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the appointee's term.

The IACP shall notify the Chair of the Council of the identity of each year's IACP-appointee prior to the International Torch Run Conference.

SOI-Appointed Members

Each member appointed by SOI shall serve a term of two years from one Torch Run International Conference until the Torch Run International Conference two years following.

SOI shall appoint, or reappoint, one member each year, unless an SOI-appointee cannot for any reason complete his or her term or is removed prior to the end of the appointee's term, in which case SOI may appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the appointee's term.

SOI shall notify the Chair of the Council of the identity of each year's SOI-appointee prior to the International Torch Run Conference.

International Executive Council Appointed Members

Each of the four members appointed by the Council shall serve a term of two years from one Torch Run International Conference until the Torch Run International Conference two years following.

The Council shall appoint, or reappoint, two members each year, unless a Council Appointed Member cannot for any reason complete his or her term or is removed prior to the end of his or her term, in which case the Council may appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the member's term.

Law Enforcement At-Large Members

Law Enforcement At-large members shall serve three (3) year terms.

One Law Enforcement At-large member shall be elected each year during the Torch Run International Conference to serve from that conference to the Torch Run International Conference three years following.

Special Olympics Program At-Large Members

Special Olympics Program At-large members shall serve three (3) year terms.

One Special Olympics Program At-large member shall be elected each year during the Torch Run International Conference to serve from that conference to the Torch Run International Conference three years following.

Regional Coordinator Members

Each Regional Coordinator member elected to the Council shall serve a three (3) year term from one Torch Run International Conference to the Torch Run International Conference three years following.

Each Regional Coordinator shall be elected by the Torch Run Directors from the Special Olympics Programs within a Torch Run Region.

A Regional Coordinator must be an active current member of his or her home Torch Run Program for at least three (3) years.

Chair and Vice-Chair Positions

CHAIR

Only Law Enforcement Members of the Council who have been active in the Torch Run for at least five (5) years and have served at least one year on the Council are eligible to be elected Chair. The Chair shall be elected for a three-year term and subject to term limits of two consecutive full terms, which shall run from one Torch Run International Conference to the next. Council Chair is a stand-alone position on Council with the elected member vacating their previously held position. The appointment to the vacated position previously held by the Chair will be filled in accordance to Section VII, Sub Section D.

The primary roles of the Chair include:

- Represent the Council at Torch Run events.
- Preside at and manage all meetings of the Council.
- Act as official spokesperson for the Council in communications with SOI and the IACP.
- Appoint ad hoc Council committees as needed to conduct the business of the Council and to further the Torch Run.
- Nominate committee chairs for Council approval.
- Propose annual Council goals and objectives.
- Establish an agenda for each meeting and conference call of the Council.
- Set the date and time for Council meetings and/or conference calls in collaboration with other Council members and SOI Torch Run staff.
- Other duties as directed by the Council.

VICE-CHAIR

Only Special Olympics Program members, SOI members, and Special Olympics athlete members, of the Council who have served at least one year on the Council are eligible to be elected Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall be elected for a two-year term with no term limits imposed, which shall run from one Torch Run International Conference to the next.

The primary roles of the Vice-Chair include:

- Work with and provide assistance to the Chair in connection with Council business and operations.
- Assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chair during the Chair's absence.
- Serve as interim Chair in the event the Chair does not complete his or her term of office until a new Chair is elected.
- Chair the Finance Committee.
- Perform other duties as directed by the Chair or Council.

Elected & Appointed Positions

NAME		JOINED COUNCIL	TERM EXPIRES	NAME		JOINED COUNCIL	TERM EXPIRES
Appointed Positions - 2 Year Terms				Elected Positions - 3 Year Terms			
Special Olympics Athlete Appointee				Law Enforcement At-Large			
Dustin Edmondson		2023	2025	Robin McNeil		2023	2024
IACP Appointees				Jimmy Johnson		2022	2025
Rodney Seurer		2018	2024	Greg Dawson		2023	2026
Ken Walker		2023	2025	Special Olympics At-Large			
International Executive Council Appointees				Heather Andersen		2022	2025
Joe Carlone		2011	2025	Ellen Head		2021	2024
Mark McCorkle		2022	2024	David Solo		2018	2026
Alan Wilson (NAAG)		2023	2025				
Larry Crosman (FOP)		2023	2024				
Special Olympics Appointees							
Tim Hileman		2023	2025				
Jenny Fortner		2022	2024				
Region Coordinators - 3 Year Term							
1	James DiGianvittorio	2021	2023	9	Ivan Shields	2022	2025
2	Danny Hall	2020	2024		Jan Branderhorst	2017	2023
3	David Keigan	2023	2025	11	Mark McGugan	2021	2024
4	Patrick Hoey	2016	2023	12	James Kao	2017	2025
5	Jon Cole	2021	2024	13	Stephanie Lindsay	2015	2023
6	Heath Helton	2017	2025	14	Mick Olsen	2017	2024
7	Dan Winter	2021	2023	15	Vacant		
8	Ron Casalenda	2013	2024				
Chairman Emeritus							
Chief Richard LaMunyon							
2023 - 2026 Chairman				2022 - 2025 Vice Chairman			
John Clifton				David Solo			

SOI Executive Support to Council

Amy Wise	Vice President, Marketing	Sandy Nash	Executive Director, LETR
Kami Delameter	Senior Manager, LETR	Shawn Byrne	Manager, Digital & Social Engagement

2024 Committees

COMMITTEE	2024 CHAIR/S
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STANDING COMMITTEES	
COMMUNICATIONS & TRAINING	
CONFERENCE PLANNING (ICPC)	
ELECTIONS	
FINAL LEG	
FINANCE	
IACP	
MARKETING & PARTNERSHIPS	
POLICIES & PROCEDURES	
REGIONAL COORDINATORS	

AD-HOC COMMITTEES	

AWARD COMMITTEES	
HALL OF FAME	
JOHN CARION AWARD	
COUNCIL ATHLETE AWARD	
GUARDIAN AWARD	
PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARD	

Standing Committees

COMMUNICATIONS & TRAINING COMMITTEE

The LETR Communications & Training Committee provides direction and leadership to communications and training issues related to the LETR International Executive Council.

Objectives:

Determine communications strategy and execute programs to deliver communications objectives throughout the organization.

- Develop communication vehicles for the LETR Executive Council and sub-committees which may include:
 - Final Leg - World Game
 - The Guardian Newsletter
 - ICPC
 - International Expansion
 - Marketing and Development
 - Social Media Workgroup
- Work in collaboration with SOI and the LETR Executive Director to develop and secure approval of an annual Executive Council budget.
- Provide timely approval decisions to Executive Council members for expenditures.
- Review financials provided by SOI and present to the Executive Council in a timely manner.
- Ensure budget compliance and take proactive action where needed.
- Work with SOI to provide a year-end financial report to the Executive Council.
- Manage an electronic repository for LETR forms, brochures, videos, and fundraising initiatives and special events.
- Point of contact for the media and public information.
- Manage LETR brand and reputation.
- Develop On-line Training modules that can be delivered on a variety of platforms to torch runners.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Elections Committee is composed of at least three members of the Executive Council who are not eligible for re-election during the current year.

The Committee oversee the elections for At-Large and Regional Coordinator positions for the Executive Council.

FINAL LEG COMMITTEE

The Final Leg Committee is responsible for planning and coordinating Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg events for Special Olympics World Summer and Winter Games and other Final Leg events as deemed appropriate by the Executive Council.

The planning and implementation of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) Final Leg is designed to heighten awareness for Special Olympics and is a collaborative effort between the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council, the Games Organizing Committee (GOC), and Special Olympics Incorporated (SOI). The GOC identifies a staff member to focus solely on the Final Leg and work directly with SOI through the Chair of the Final Leg Committee of the LETR Executive Council to develop the comprehensive event plan. The Torch Run Coordinator of GOC is responsible for local planning and logistics. The Chair of the Final Leg Committee will provide guidance, expertise, and oversight, assemble the Final Leg Team, and lead implementation efforts by serving as the Team Captain for the Final Leg.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is responsible for the development, approval and management of the Executive Council annual budget working in partnership with SOI and the LETR Executive Director.

Specific duties of the committee include but are not limited to:

- Work in collaboration with SOI and the LETR Executive Director to develop and secure approval of an annual Executive Council budget.
- Provide timely approval decisions to Executive Council members for expenditures.
- Review financials provided by SOI and present to the Executive Council in a timely manner.
- Ensure budget compliance and take proactive action where needed.
- Work with SOI to provide a year-end financial report to the Executive Council.

IACP COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for collaborating and connecting with the IACP and Association initiatives to grow the cause of Special Olympics within the IACP and to help garner increased awareness and financial support for Special Olympics.

Duties:

The committee shall explore ways and means to promote Special Olympics within the law enforcement community while ensuring that the IACP relationships with the programs are carried out at the highest professional levels.

Objectives:

- Serve as liaison between the Executive Council and the IACP.
- Work with the International Expansion Committee using IACP members as contacts in areas without LETR programs or to assist struggling programs.
- Oversee and implement the IACP LETR photo contest.
- Promote the goals of the LETR Executive Council and Special Olympics in the IACP Executive Committee meetings.
- Promote Special Olympics and LETR awareness and activities at the annual IACP Conference.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The International Conference Planning Committee (ICPC) is responsible for all logistical issues surrounding the conference as it pertains to planning, and implementation of that which is approved and budgeted by the Executive Council. The ICPC Committee Chair, by policy, must be an Executive Council member. Other ICPC members may be representatives of the LETR and Special Olympics community, who have experience or knowledge that would assist the committee.

All aspects of conference planning, development and execution are subject to approval by the LETR Executive Council. The ICPC will identify and propose to the Executive Council potential venue sites and locations for the annual LETR International Conference. The ICPC will recommend a probable agenda and schedule of the LETR International Conference to the Executive Council and work with SOI, the conference planner and the selected local Torch Run and Special Olympics Programs to review and recommend the conference terms of agreement between Executive Council/SOI and the local program.

MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The LETR Marketing and Development Committee provide direction and leadership to marketing related projects and sponsor associations aligned with the LETR Executive Council.

The LETR Marketing and Development Committee shall focus its resources on projects and sponsor associations where the presence of law enforcement is deemed crucial to the execution and/or associated benefits derived by the sponsor. While projects of merit may be introduced through and by LETR personnel, ONLY associations (or products) that are viewed to have a reciprocal benefit shall be deemed LETR partners. This will include a Memo of Understanding that encompasses all elements of the relationship and is executed by all applicable parties.

Objectives:

- Work with SOI staff to identify, develop and cultivate sponsors and fundraising ideas that will assist all Torch Run Programs.
- Work with the Executive Council to meet sponsor expectations in accordance with sponsorship agreements established between SOI and LETR sponsors.
- Collaborate with the International Conference Planning Committee (ICPC) on marketing and sponsor initiatives which enhance the effectiveness event and the overall impact of LETR.
- Enhance the International impact of the LETR through collaborative strategies and proposals that effect programs beyond the USA.
- Facilitate training and sharing of information to enhance LETR fundraising at the program level.

The Committee shall also focus its resources on targeted Affiliates in order to promote LETR and continue its growth worldwide. This will be achieved by working in partnership with SOI and the LETR Executive Director. We will continue to promote the active Affiliate organizations that enhance LETR. A Memo of Understanding that encompasses all elements of the relationship and is executed by all applicable parties will be developed.

Specific duties of the committee include, but are not limited to:

- Work in collaboration with SOI and the LETR Executive Director to identify and secure Affiliate organizations.
- Ensure any current or future organizations promote the LETR movement in a positive way
- Provide Affiliate organizations with resources to promote the LETR movement.
- Provide the LETR Executive Council and SOI updates on Affiliate organizations and what the organizations have provided to the LETR.

Committee Membership:

The LETR Marketing and Development Committee shall have a membership representing both law enforcement and Special Olympics from congruent with LETR membership and the marketing priorities established by the committee.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

The Policies and Procedures committee is responsible for maintaining the Policies and Procedures for the Executive Council by working with SOI Staff and Legal Department on proposed amendments to the Executive Council's Policies and Procedures.

Committee Chair's Duties:

- Select the Vice Chair and any other committee member to serve on the Policies and Procedures Committee
- Review all amendments and ensure compliance and conformity to the Special Olympics General Rules
- Submit each proposed amendment that has been approved by the Executive Council to SOI Legal Department for review and approval.
- Ensure that no amendment shall take effect until it is reviewed and approved by the Legal Department.
- Provide guidance to the Executive Council Chair and Vice Chair during discussions of matters that are outlined in or covered in the Policies and Procedure.
- Provide guidance to any Committee as it pertains to matters outlined in or covered in the Policies and Procedures

REGIONAL COORDINATOR'S COMMITTEE

The Regional Coordinator Committee shall support and assist the Regional Coordinators by:

- 1 Being a strong communication conduit with all the Regional Coordinators, the Council and the Chair.
- 2 Identifying programs that are successful and model their success.
- 3 Maintaining a working relationship with SO/SOI staff.
- 4 Providing a mentoring program for all new Regional Coordinators.

Committee Chair's Duties:

- The Chairperson is the formal representative of the 15 Regional Coordinators on Council. The Chair will speak on behalf of RC's on issues affecting the group at large.
- Report to Council on RC activities during Council conference calls and in person meetings.
- Be the single point of contact for the Council Chairperson for information on and regarding RC's.
- When necessary, be the "go-between," for RC's and the Council Chair, or other members of Council.
- Mediate disputes between RC's.
- Ensure a positive work environment between RC's.
- Coordinate requests for RC's from the Council Chair and appropriate SOI staff
- Assist RC's with their annual budget preparation.
- Advise RC's well in advance of the due date.
- Send reminders
- Coordinate with appropriate SOI staff regarding what reports are outstanding.
- Follow up with delinquent RC's and ensure reports are submitted.
- Ensure ALL Budgets are submitted on time.
- Coordinate all budget draws with RC's. Ensure RC is informed to send the Draw Request to the EC Chair and Vice-Chair for their approval. Review the draw form to ensure the draw is related to budgeted requests. Keep abreast of budget balance.
- Appropriate SOI Staff, EC Chair & Vice-Chair will approve all requested forms and will inform the RC Chairman. Upon receiving final approval, notify the RC. Ensure ALL travel bookings are done through the SOI Approved travel consultant. (FcM)
- Assist RC's with the preparation of their Annual Regional Reports.
 - Advise all RC's well in advance of the due date.
 - Provide a standardized reporting format
 - Send reminders
 - Coordinate with appropriate SOI staff regarding what reports are outstanding.
 - Follow up with delinquent RC's and ensure reports are submitted

- Hold conference calls on an as needed basis with the Regional Coordinators. Purpose: Elicit information on issues, trends and general information sharing.
- Guardian Award Chairperson
 - Select committee members (minimum 2, maximum 4) + Chairman
 - Review and confirm nomination process and documents.
 - Set timelines for submissions, review and selection
 - Ensure RC's nominate a program from their Region

Awards Committees

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

The Richard LaMunyon Torch Run Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding individuals who have significantly contributed to the worldwide success of the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The committee is responsible for the selection of up to three inductees per year who have met or exceed the requirements outlined in the Council Policy and Procedures.

JOHN CARION "UNSUNG HERO" COMMITTEE

The John Carion Unsung Hero Award was established to recognize outstanding individuals who have contributed to the success of the Law Enforcement Torch Run on a local, state or community level. The John Carion "Unsung Hero" is someone who contributes to the Torch Run and Special Olympics in spirit, dedication and enthusiasm in an effective and unheralded fashion.

The award was created to honor the memory of Sgt. John Carion, Sterling Heights (MI) Police Department and his many contributions to the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics. The Unsung Hero award is a tribute to Sergeant John Carion, who epitomized the term "Unsung Hero" during his lifetime before his untimely death in a plane crash in January, 1994.

The committee is responsible for the selection of up to three inductees per year who have met or exceed the requirements outlined in the Council Policy and Procedures.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ATHLETE AWARD COMMITTEE

The LETR International Executive Council Athlete Award was created to recognize outstanding Special Olympics Athletes who have contributed to the success of the Law Enforcement Torch Run on a local, state or national level. The Council Athlete Award nominee should be someone who contributes to Torch Run and Special Olympics in spirit, dedication and enthusiasm in an effective fashion.

The committee is responsible for the selection of up to three inductees per year who have met or exceed the requirements outlined in the Council Policy and Procedures.

LETR GUARDIAN AWARD COMMITTEE

The LETR Guardian Award was created to recognize one outstanding Special Olympics Accredited Torch Run Program. To be considered for the Guardian Award, each Special Olympics Accredited Torch Run Program should exemplify the true meaning of the LETR mission and have responsibly guarded the Flame of Hope and all it represents.

This award is determined exclusively by the Region Coordinators.

PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Program Excellence Awards Committee was formed to manage the process of collating financial information from the annual LETR Program End-of-Year Returns (previously known as LETR Program Surveys) to identify recipients of the followings awards presented at the LETR International Conference:

- Awards of Excellence
 - Titanium - \$2.5 Million +
 - Diamond - \$1 Million +
 - Ruby - \$750,000 +
 - Emerald - \$500,000 +
 - Sapphire - \$250,000 +
- Highest Grossing Programs
- Highest Grossing Programs per capita
- Largest Gross Revenue Increase
- Largest Percentage Growth

LETR Websites

INTRODUCTION

The LETR International Executive Council maintains one website that has been developed to provide LETR members from around the world with relevant information about the activities of the Law Enforcement Torch Run. The website was re-developed in late 2019 and at that time, the content from two other related websites (Final Leg website and LETR Conference website) were merged into the LETR website). The information below describes the intent of each of the three main areas of the website:

www.lettr.org

LETR.ORG

LETR.ORG is the primary website of the organisation. It was designed to be a 'One-Stop Shop' where visitors to the website could locate a wide variety of information about the history, role, function and activities of the torch run. It also provides access to a variety of templated forms as well as an access point for the submission of Council Election Nominations, Awards Nominations and Program End-of-Year Reports.

There is a 'Council Members' area on the website which is passcode protected. The purpose of this section is to provide members of the International Executive Council with additional reference material to enable them to participate effectively as members of the council.

LETR FINAL LEG

The LETR Final Leg section provides information about current and previous LETR Final Leg events. Its primary use during the lead-up to a Final Leg is for the collection of biographical and statistical information about Final Leg participants as well as the dissemination of relevant information to Final Leg team members.

LETR CONFERENCE

The LETR Conference section provides LETR International Conference attendees with information concerning all aspects of the Conference. It is also the gateway through which Conference registration is effected.

LETR International Executive Council Chairs

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS	Richard LaMunyon <i>Kansas</i>
2023 - 2026	John Clifton <i>Georgia</i>
2016 - 2023	Scott Whyte <i>New South Wales, Australia</i>
2010 - 2016	Mike Peretti <i>Northern California</i>
2004 - 2010	Mike Teem <i>North Carolina</i>
1997 - 2004	Steve Graehling <i>Arizona</i>
1995 - 1997	Richard LaMunyon <i>Kansas</i>
1990 - 1995	Darrell Sanders <i>Illinois</i>

LETR Regions

The LETR International Executive Council has defined a series of ‘Geographical Regions’ each represented by a Regional Coordinator on Council.

The list shown below details the current Regional Structure:

REGION I	USA Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island	REGION II	USA Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia
REGION III	USA Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee	REGION IV	USA Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio

REGION V	USA Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin	REGION VI	USA Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas
REGION VII	USA Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Northern California, Southern California, Utah	REGION VIII	USA Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming
REGION IX	EUROPE / EURASIA Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Gibraltar, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Poland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland	REGION X	Not in Use
REGION XI	CANADA Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon	REGION XII	EAST ASIA Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong
REGION XIII	CARIBBEAN Bahamas, Barbados, Cayman Island, Costa Rica, Dominica, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago	REGION XIV	OCEANIA New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia
REGION XV	Not in Use		

LETR International Conference

The LETR International Conference is a time to celebrate the successes of the Torch Run movement, as well as providing attendees with relevant training opportunities to enrich their understanding of the aims and objectives of LETR.

The conference has been held annually since 1984:

2026	TBA	2025	Minneapolis, Minnesota
2024	San Antonio, Texas	2023	Chicago, Illinois
2022	Round Rock, Texas	2021	Not Held (COVID-19)
2020	Not Held (COVID-19)	2019	Aurora, Colorado
2018	Las Vegas, Nevada	2017	Nashville, Tennessee
2016	Phoenix, Arizona	2015	Nassau, Bahamas
2014	New Orleans, Louisiana	2013	Orlando, Florida
2012	Calgary, Alberta	2011	Indianapolis, Indiana
2010	Long Beach, California	2009	Mashantucket, Connecticut
2008	Dallas, Texas	2007	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
2006	Buffalo, New York	2005	Minneapolis, Minnesota
2004	Arlington, Virginia	2003	San Francisco, California
2002	Honolulu, Hawaii	2001	Wichita, Kansas
2000	Nashville, Tennessee	1999	St Louis, Missouri
1998	Anchorage, Alaska	1997	Portland, Oregon
1996	Oakbrook, Illinois	1995	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1994	Charlotte, North Carolina	1993	Princeton, New Jersey
1992	Houston, Texas	1991	Tampa, Florida
1990	Albuquerque, New Mexico	1989	Phoenix, Arizona
1988	Orlando, Florida	1987	San Francisco, California
1986	Overland Park, Kansas	1985	Overland Park, Kansas
1984	Overland Park, Kansas		

LETR Final Leg

Since 1987 law enforcement officers from around the world have participated in the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run prior to the Special Olympics World Summer and Winter Games. The tradition of the Final Leg Torch Run is for law enforcement officers representing their country, state and Torch Run Program, to act as "Guardians of the Flame" and carry the Special Olympics Torch and "Flame of Hope" to the Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics World Games.

This Torch Run event is called the Final Leg because it represents the culmination of Torch Run events that have occurred previously throughout the World. The Torch Run Final Leg is not only a salute to the athletes from around the World who will compete in the Special Olympics World Summer Games, but also an honor for the participating law enforcement officers and Special Olympics athletes who comprise the Torch Run Final Leg Team.

The Olympic flame symbolizes the light of spirit, knowledge and life. With identical power and majesty, the Special Olympics "Flame of Hope," in the entrusted care of the law enforcement community, symbolizes the courage and celebration of diversity that the Special Olympics movement represents.

The table below details the World Games Final Leg event held since 1987:

WORLD SUMMER GAMES		WORLD WINTER GAMES	
2023	Berlin, Germany	2025	Torino, Italy
2019	Abu Dhabi, UAE	2021	Not Held
2015	California, USA	2017	Schladming, Austria
2011	Athens, Greece	2013	PyeongChang, Korea
2007	Shanghai, China	2009	Idaho, USA
2003	Dublin, Ireland	2005	Nagano, Japan
1999	North Carolina, USA	2001	Alaska, USA
1995	Connecticut, USA	1997	Toronto, Canada
1991	Minnesota, USA	1993	Austria
1987	Indiana, USA	1989	Nevada, USA

LETR Honor Roll

Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame

The Richard LaMunyon Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Hall of Fame recognises individuals who have demonstrated a sustained and significant contribution to the Torch Run and Special Olympics at the local, national and international levels. The Hall of Fame is the most prestigious award given in the Torch Run community.

Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame Recipients					
2023	Danny Hall <i>Delaware</i> James Meier <i>Illinois</i> Jerry Williams <i>Montana</i>	2022	HONORARY INDUCTEES <i>(The Original Six)</i> Robert Bachman Walt Kuykendall Jack Leon Jan McCloud Don (Barney) Epsen <i>Kansas</i>	2022	Harry Drucker <i>Southern California</i> David Keith Jones <i>North Carolina</i> Brian McKnight <i>Colorado</i>
2021	Joe Carroll <i>Virginia</i> Adam Christin <i>Southern California</i> Jim Nystrom <i>Minnesota</i>	2020	Doug Holland <i>Maryland</i> Mark McCorkle <i>Idaho</i> Dave Seper <i>Colorado</i>	2019	Gary Gordon <i>Ireland</i> Sherry Kiyler <i>Arizona</i> Glenn MacDonell <i>Ontario</i>
2018	Rick Lucy <i>British Columbia</i> Mark Musso <i>Missouri</i> Bill Proll <i>Southern California</i>	2017	Ward Webb <i>Louisiana</i> Francis Williams <i>Gibraltar</i> Robert Woolsey <i>Nevada</i> Joe Casey <i>Tennessee</i> <i>(Honorary Inductee)</i>	2016	Randy Boehm <i>Missouri</i> Steve Nigrelli <i>New York</i> Scott Whyte <i>New South Wales</i>

Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame Recipients

2015	<p>Avgousti Costas <i>Cyprus</i></p> <p>Joe Carlone <i>Connecticut</i></p> <p>Richard Fernandez <i>Southern California</i></p>	2014	<p>Jason Johnson <i>Montana</i></p> <p>Jeff Spaulding <i>Maryland</i></p>	2013	<p>Roberta Abner <i>Southern California</i></p> <p>Russ Laine <i>Illinois</i></p> <p>Don Stuart <i>New South Wales</i></p>
2012	<p>Therese Garagan <i>Alberta</i></p> <p>Joe Pellicci <i>South Carolina</i></p> <p>Lisa Walter <i>Wisconsin</i></p>	2011	<p>Jeremy Adams <i>Northern Ireland</i></p> <p>John Pratt <i>Northern California</i></p> <p>Luis Rosa <i>Connecticut</i></p>	2010	<p>James McKeever <i>New Jersey</i></p> <p>Mary Beth McMahon <i>Northern California</i></p> <p>Tom Reasoner <i>Illinois</i></p>
2009	<p>Paul Manuel <i>Alberta</i></p> <p>Rodney Seurer <i>Minnesota</i></p> <p>Jeanette Steinfeldt <i>Iowa</i></p>	2008	<p>Julie Buedding <i>Wisconsin</i></p> <p>Ron Casalenda <i>Wyoming</i></p> <p>Mike Peretti <i>Northern California</i></p>	2007	<p>Tim Craig <i>Northern Ireland</i></p> <p>Robert Driscoll <i>New Jersey</i></p> <p>Susan Stegeman <i>Missouri</i></p>
2006	<p>Richard Candelaria <i>Texas</i></p> <p>Ben Fravel <i>Virginia</i></p> <p>Sal Gerbino <i>New York</i></p>	2005	<p>Doug Abraham <i>Colorado</i></p> <p>Pete Dunbar <i>Northern California</i></p> <p>John Newnan <i>Maryland</i></p>	2004	<p>Rich Banahan <i>Missouri</i></p> <p>Jeff Henson <i>Illinois</i></p> <p>Gene Stokes <i>Florida</i></p>
2003	<p>Rob Hall <i>Utah</i></p> <p>Bruce Matthews <i>New Jersey</i></p> <p>Gerald Sandoval <i>New Mexico</i></p>	2002	<p>Phil Carr <i>Oklahoma</i></p> <p>Kurt Kendro <i>Hawaii</i></p> <p>Al Richardson <i>Ontario</i></p>	2001	<p>Kenneth Bennett <i>Michigan</i></p> <p>Jim Gardiner <i>Southern California</i></p> <p>Dean Jones <i>Virginia</i></p>

Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame Recipients

2000	<p>Roy Forrest <i>North Carolina</i></p> <p>Jacek Hachulski <i>Poland</i></p> <p>David Pudlowski <i>Missouri</i></p>	1999	<p>Peggy Berg <i>Wisconsin</i></p> <p>Adi Reiter <i>Austria</i></p> <p>Brian Snyder <i>Ontario</i></p> <p>Wayne Sumpter <i>North Carolina</i></p>	1998	<p>Nancy Botello <i>Hawaii</i></p> <p>Lorne Gelowitz <i>Saskatchewan</i></p> <p>Joe Pena <i>Illinois</i></p>
1997	<p>Robert Bell <i>Maine</i></p> <p>Ronnie Davis <i>North Carolina</i></p> <p>Peter McHarg <i>Ontario</i></p> <p>Tom Schniedwind <i>Maryland</i></p> <p>Roy Zeidman <i>Virginia</i></p>	1996	<p>Dennis Aldridge <i>Wisconsin</i></p> <p>Lloyd Hamrick <i>Colorado</i></p> <p>Chris Upham <i>United Kingdom</i></p>	1995	<p>Dan Bell <i>Texas</i></p> <p>Steve Graehling <i>Arizona</i></p> <p>Michael Teem <i>North Carolina</i></p>
1994	<p>Peter Bakker <i>Ontario</i></p> <p>Larry Nelson <i>Nebraska</i></p> <p>Neville Wheatle <i>Caribbean</i></p>	1993	<p>Robert Belfiore <i>New Jersey</i></p> <p>Bill Buford <i>Arkansas</i></p> <p>Ann Grunert <i>Delaware</i></p>	1992	<p>James Braddock <i>South Carolina</i></p> <p>Hiram Brownell <i>Illinois</i></p> <p>Paul Epstein <i>Hawaii</i></p> <p>John Miller <i>Delaware</i></p>
1991	<p>Richard LaMunyon <i>Kansas</i></p> <p>Dave Atkins <i>New Hampshire</i></p> <p>Dale Brineer <i>Wisconsin</i></p> <p>Chris Casey <i>Kansas</i></p>		<p>Janet Holliday <i>Texas</i></p> <p>Joseph Hurtuk <i>New Jersey</i></p> <p>Doyle King <i>Kansas</i></p> <p>Kirk Miles <i>Kansas</i></p>		<p>Darrell Sanders <i>Illinois</i></p> <p>Peter Wheeler <i>Connecticut</i></p> <p>Lorne White <i>Ontario</i></p>

John Carion 'Unsung Hero' Award

The John Carion Award was created to recognize outstanding individuals who have contributed to the success of the Law Enforcement Torch Run on a local, state or community level. The John Carion "Unsung Hero" is someone who contributes to the Torch Run and Special Olympics in spirit, dedication and enthusiasm in an effective and unheralded fashion. The award was created to honor the memory of Sgt. John Carion, Sterling Heights (MI) Police Department and his many contributions to the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics. The Unsung Hero award is a tribute to Sergeant John Carion, who epitomized the term "Unsung Hero" during his lifetime before his untimely death in a plane crash in January, 1994. John was a low-key, quiet, but effective leader in the Torch Run effort, especially in the areas of law enforcement volunteerism for Special Olympics and furthering the ideals of Unified Sports in Special Olympics.

John Carion 'Unsung Heroes' Recipients					
2023	Rick Doll <i>Minnesota</i>	2022	Jimmy Johnson <i>Alaska</i>	2021	Darryal Abeyasekera <i>New South Wales</i>
	Stewart Meyer <i>Oklahoma</i>		Sheri Lucas <i>British Columbia</i>		Ugo "Butch" Arnoldi <i>Southern California</i>
	Scott Schubert <i>Pennsylvania</i>		Todd Pelazza <i>Connecticut</i>		Mark Priebe <i>Missouri</i>
2020	Michele Ennis <i>Northern Ireland</i>	2019	Joe Barca <i>New York</i>	2018	Rick Allen <i>New York</i>
	Rick Pierce <i>Massachusetts</i>		John Hohmann <i>Northern California</i>		Michael Gilbert <i>Nevada</i>
	Jason Stevenson <i>Delaware</i>		Mike McAllister <i>Ontario</i>		Amanda Trenchard <i>Alberta</i>
2017	Eric Abt <i>Arizona</i>	2016	Danny Hall <i>Delaware</i>	2015	Shawn Byrne <i>Oklahoma</i>
	Rex Caldwell <i>Washington</i>		Brian McKnight <i>Colorado</i>		Alan Keane <i>New South Wales</i>
	Elwood Johnson <i>Rhode Island</i>		Joanne Wild <i>British Columbia</i>		David Ramer <i>Arizona</i>

John Carion 'Unsung Heroes' Recipients

2014	<p>Dennis Shaw <i>Kansas</i></p> <p>David Smith <i>Northern Ireland</i></p> <p>Robert Woolsey <i>Nevada</i></p>	2013	<p>Mike Beck <i>Indiana</i></p> <p>Brian Bray <i>Kentucky</i></p> <p>Adam Christin <i>Southern California</i></p>	2012	<p>Jack Allen <i>Montana</i></p> <p>Steve Nigrelli <i>New York</i></p> <p>Kevin Torgerson <i>Minnesota</i></p>
2011	<p>Dave Seper <i>Colorado</i></p> <p>Joan Chang <i>Chinese Taipei</i></p> <p>Shawn Farris <i>Kansas</i></p>	2010	<p>Tedd Rutt <i>Washington</i></p> <p>Mark Wollmershauser <i>Oklahoma</i></p> <p>Randall & Rhonda Bannister <i>Texas</i></p>	2009	<p>Vinnie Adler <i>New Jersey</i></p> <p>Michael Nelsen <i>Utah</i></p> <p>Therese Garagan <i>Alberta</i></p>
2008	<p>Michael Pfau <i>Montana</i></p> <p>Jeff Spaulding <i>Maryland</i></p> <p>Judy Macho <i>Oregon</i></p>	2007	<p>Jamie Hainsworth <i>Rhode Island</i></p> <p>Kathi Christ <i>Colorado</i></p> <p>Sam Trujillo <i>Colorado</i></p>	2006	<p>Greg Shipley <i>Maryland</i></p> <p>Pauline Crompton <i>Northern Ireland</i></p> <p>Robert MacFarlane <i>New Jersey</i></p>
2005	<p>Martha Forrest <i>North Carolina</i></p> <p>Larry Timmer <i>Florida</i></p> <p>Don Hull <i>Oklahoma</i></p>	2004	<p>Michel Lariviere <i>Quebec</i></p> <p>John Pratt <i>Northern California</i></p> <p>Rob Steiner <i>Hawaii</i></p>	2003	<p>Phil Crosby-Jones <i>British Columbia</i></p> <p>Ralph Maher <i>Colorado</i></p> <p>John Martin <i>Vermont</i></p>
2002	<p>Ken George <i>Southern California</i></p> <p>Thomas Reasoner <i>Illinois</i></p>	2001	<p>William Frick <i>North Carolina</i></p> <p>Rich Near <i>Northern California</i></p> <p>Jason Plaza <i>Wisconsin</i></p>	2000	<p>Jim Moran <i>Missouri</i></p> <p>Chico Ouellette <i>Ontario</i></p>

John Carion 'Unsung Heroes' Recipients					
1999	William Dalton <i>North Carolina</i>	1998	Charles Cossentino <i>New Jersey</i>	1997	Grant Weyland <i>Minnesota</i>
	Jim Elliott <i>Arkansas</i>		Michael Currie <i>Chatham</i> <i>Ontario</i>		
	Frank Mackey <i>New Jersey</i>		Gregory Nolt <i>Delaware</i>		
	Nancy Mulleneaux <i>Arizona</i>				

LETR International Executive Council Athlete Award

The LETR International Executive Council Athlete Award was created to recognize outstanding Special Olympics Athletes who have contributed to the success of the Law Enforcement Torch Run on a local, state or national level. The LETR International Executive Council Athlete Award nominee should be someone who contributes to Torch Run and Special Olympics in spirit, dedication and enthusiasm in an effective fashion.

Council Athlete Award Recipients					
2025	TBA	2024	TBA	2023	Josh Alters <i>Kansas</i>
					Brett Laza <i>South California</i>
					Jonathan Sparks <i>Northern California</i>
2022	Dustin Edmondson <i>North Carolina</i>	2021	Michael Leon <i>Southern California</i>	2020	Brendan Burke <i>Wyoming</i>
	Justin Latimer <i>New York</i>		Justin Sitler <i>Alberta</i>		Robin Callaway <i>North Carolina</i>
	Marco Martinez <i>Southern California</i>		Michael Walter <i>Rhode Island</i>		Elaina Camacho <i>Maryland</i>
2019	Rikki Kirsch <i>Illinois</i>	2018	Colby Bannister <i>Texas</i>	2017	Kevin Brown <i>New York</i>
	Edward Lawless <i>New York</i>		Kayla McKeon <i>New York</i>		Fred Siegel <i>New York</i>
	David Persons <i>Minnesota</i>		Lindsay Mibach <i>Northern California</i>		

Council Athlete Award Recipients					
2016	Adam Hays <i>Maryland</i> Vivienne Shockley <i>Montana</i>	2015	Amy Wollmershauser <i>Oklahoma</i>	2014	Karissa Krater <i>Northern California</i>
2013	Max Everton <i>Virginia</i> Joshua Frost <i>New South Wales</i> Elena Weaver <i>Georgia</i>	2012	Isaac Baldry <i>Montana</i> Leonka Kahula <i>Alberta</i> Nick Zmuda <i>New York</i>	2011	Martha Hill <i>Wisconsin</i> David Lane <i>Minnesota</i> Chris Paynter <i>Oklahoma</i>

LETR Guardian Award

The LETR Guardian Award was created to recognize one outstanding Special Olympics Accredited Torch Run Program. To be considered for the Guardian Award, each Special Olympics Accredited Torch Run Program should exemplify the true meaning of the LETR mission and have responsibly guarded the Flame of Hope and all it represents.

In 2012, one LETR Program from each of the fifteen regions was recognised with a Guardian Award. As from 2013, one LETR Program will be selected from around the world.

LETR Guardian Award Recipients					
2024		2023	Illinois	2022	Alaska
2021	<i>Not Awarded</i>	2020	<i>Not Awarded</i>	2019	Delaware
2018	South Carolina	2017	Arizona	2016	Minnesota
2015	Montana	2014	South Dakota	2013	Ontario