

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

December 20, 2019

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

Welcome to the HOLIDAY edition of the SOMD Area Memo!

If there are any members of your Area’s leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, please send their names and email address to jabel@somd.org to have them included in future distributions. While Danielle is on Maternity Leave, Jeff will be responsible for distributing the Area Memo, so please contact him directly if you have any questions.

(NEW) THANK YOU

The past few weeks have been filled with Holiday Parties, Athlete Celebrations, and Receptions. Our local programs spent a lot of time thanking the many volunteers, athletes, and family members who participate, but I want to make sure we take a minute to thank you, our area leaders, who make our programs possible. 2019 was an exciting year for Special Olympics Maryland! We have enjoyed exciting competitions, high-quality sports clinics, engaging Athlete Leadership Trainings, and impactful Unified[®] Sport experiences--- all providing our athletes, their families, and our community unforgettable experiences that highlight sport as an important vehicle for inclusion.

THANK YOU, Area Leaders, for your work and energy in support of the 8,033 athletes of Special Olympics Maryland---- and your commitment to building interactive and inclusive communities through sport.

Best wishes for a very happy holiday with your family and friends, and for a great start to 2020!

Jeff

(NEW) Welcome to SOMD, Joanne Engler!

We are pleased to announce that Joanne Engler has accepted our offer of employment for the role of Vice President, Finance, succeeding our soon-to-be-retired CFO, George Hergenbahn.

Joanne is a CPA and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration/Economics from McDaniel College. A 20+ year veteran of the nonprofit sector, Joanne most recently as the CFO of Saint Vincent de Paul of Baltimore (SVDP) where she managed an operating budget of over \$20 million. Prior to SVDP Joanne spent more than a decade working in various financial roles for the United Way of Central Maryland where her varied duties included directing the disbursement of \$35 million in campaign fund payments.

Joanne will join our team on January 6, 2020 and will report to Jim Schmutz. She will lead the Finance Department which include Maureen Hartnett (Senior Director, Finance) and Darlene Taylor (Senior Director, Accounts Payable). Joanne's email address will be jengler@somd.org and she will assume the telephone extension 116 once George transitions out of his role.

(NEW) Welcome to SOMD, Donghyun "Peter" Kim!

2 years ago, Special Olympics Maryland started a partnership with the CulturalVistas Organization and their KoreaWest program. This program places high-performing college graduates from South Korea in the United States for 1-year internship and language immersion programs fully-funded by the South Korean Government. Some of you may remember our first KoreaWest Team Member, Taewoo Yu!

Please join us in welcoming Donghyun "Peter" Kim to Special Olympics Maryland! Peter recently graduated from the University of Seoul with a degree in Physical Education. He has experience teaching Physical Education in Elementary, Middle, and High School settings, and served as a member of the Student Council on the Korea University Department of Sport.

Peter began his time with Special Olympics Maryland on Monday 12/16 and will be working primarily with Mike Myers, Ron Freeman, and Melissa Kelly on our school-based programs including the BCPS Adapted PE Sports Program and our Interscholastic Unified Sports program, but he will also be attending many state competitions during his time with us through July, 2020, please welcome him to the SOMD Family when you see him!

Similarly, Peter has moved to Baltimore by himself—and though he has some friends in Washington, DC, the SOMD staff is working to help him feel at home in Charm City! If you, or any SOMD families you know, would be interested in sharing a meal, coffee, or other experience with Peter, please contact Jeff (Jabel@somd.org).

(NEW) IUS Leaders Recognized

Special Olympics Maryland Lower Shore Area Director, Jen Hill, won the Society for Health & Physical Educators (SHAPE) America 2020 Eastern District Teachers of the Year for adapted physical education. Jen is one of three teachers in the country earning this honor. She will be honored during the 2020 SHAPE America National Convention & Expo in Salt Lake City at the Hall of Fame Celebration and Give Back Event. In addition to serving as the Lower Shore Area Director, Jen teaches at Pinehurst Elementary in Salisbury and serves as the Young Athletes Program and Interscholastic Unified Sports Coordinator for Wicomico County Public Schools.



SHAPE Maryland recognizes two of Special Olympics Maryland Interscholastic Unified Sports leaders as 2019 Teachers of the Year:

Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year - Michelle Ignaszewski, Charles County Public Schools. Michelle is a graduate of the State University of New York, College at Brockport. She has been employed by Charles County Public Schools since 2009 and currently serves as a certified Adapted Physical Education Resource Teacher for the school system, as well as the Unified Sports Co-District Representative and Young Athletes Program Coordinator. Michelle has been tremendously instrumental in the development and success of Special Olympics programming in Charles County Public Schools.



High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year - Tim Stedman, Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Tim is a 1996 graduate of the University of Maryland, with a B.S. in Physical Education and has over 15 years of experience in such classes as Strength and Conditioning, Team Sports, Fitness for Life, Walking for Wellness, Lifetime Sports and Health, and inclusive sports. Tim has served as the AACPS Interscholastic Unified Tennis Commissioner for three seasons. Tim is a true fan and advocate for inclusivity and fair play both on and off the field.



(NEW) Charles H. Flowers High School Unified Bocce represents SOMD at National Conference



Charles H. Flowers High School’s Interscholastic Unified Bocce team represented Special Olympics Maryland at the 2019 National Athletic Directors Conference & Exhibit Show, which is hosted by The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). Charles H. Flowers High School student-athletes demonstrated Unified Bocce with the intent of bringing awareness about Unified Sports to more than 2,000 attendees primarily consisting of interscholastic athletic directors and administrators.

PGCPS was one of three school systems that partnered with SOMD to begin the Interscholastic Unified Sports program in 2009; Charles H. Flowers High School was one of ten high schools that competed in the first Interscholastic Unified Track and Field Championships in the country at Towson University’s Johnny Unitas Stadium on Friday, June 5, 2009. Today Special Olympics Maryland partners with 20 of 24 (public) schools systems state-wide to offer five Interscholastic Unified Sports, bringing inclusivity and equality to the sports arena and school communities.

(NEW) Athlete Leadership Training- Beginner Global Messenger Training Sunday, February 2, 2020

WHAT: Beginner Global Messenger Training

WHERE: SOMD HQ, 3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore (Halethorpe), MD 21227

WHEN: Sunday February 02nd, 2020 1pm-5pm

Who should attend?

All athletes who are interested in representing Special Olympics Maryland and their home county or program as a public speaker, emcee or presenter in their community and at a state level.

The Beginner Global Messenger is part of the Athlete Leadership Program (ALPs- <http://www.somd.org/learn/athlete-leadership/>) and the first step in becoming certified as a full Global Messenger which may open opportunities nationally and globally. Special Olympics Athlete Leadership Programs allow athletes to explore opportunities in roles previously considered “non-traditional.” Such participation might come in the form of an athlete serving on the Board of Directors or local organizing committee; or it might find an athlete as a spokesperson, coach or official.

Global Messenger Beginner Course – to provide training and presentation skills for athletes interested in representing Special Olympics Maryland and Special Olympics athletes in formal or support settings.

Cost: FREE.

Special Olympics Maryland will not be responsible for any supervision or chaperone duties during the class. That responsibility is with the athlete and the mentor.

A parent can be a mentor.

A mentor can mentor 1 or 2 athletes but no more than that.

Register: You can register at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GM1_Feb02_2020

(NEW) Changes to World Winter Games

The message below was sent to Area Leaders and Board of Directors from Jim Schmutz. We are circulating in hopes that by reaching more members of the SOMD Community with the direct messaging, we will avoid any rumors or misinformation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Jeff Abel (jabel@somd), Mike Czarnowsky (mczarnowsky@somd.org), Steve Bennett (sbennett@somd.org), or Jim Schmutz (jschmutz@somd.org).

Message from Jim Schmutz:

Dear Members of the Board and Area Directors,

Some of you may already be aware of today's announcement indicating that Sweden will no longer be the host for the 2021 World Winter Games. Please see information below along with the attached FAQ provided by SONA regarding the decision. As stated in the email, please respect the guidance to refrain from posting on any social media platforms and please don't share the information by email either.

Steve Bennett has contacted our three Special Olympics USA Team nominees and the Area Directors in those counties where the athletes train and compete.

I am sharing this with you for information purposes so that you are aware of the decision. I will forward any additional pertinent information if and when it becomes available.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best,

Jim

Message from Mary Davis, CEO, Special Olympics International:

Dear Special Olympics family,

*It is with a heavy heart that I share some disappointing news: **Special Olympics World Winter Games Sweden 2021 have been canceled.** This was a decision made after close consultation with the Board of the Swedish Paraspport Federation (in which Special Olympics Sweden sits) after a political promise to deliver necessary funds failed to materialize.*

The Special Olympics World Winter Games, planned for Sweden in February 2021, will no longer take place in the European nation. The reason is that the event's organizing committee have not been able to secure sufficient funds for the Games. The Games in Sweden were designed as part of a larger public health initiative for people with intellectual disabilities funded by the government. The government in Sweden, as in every nation, is complex, with many factors influencing how finite resources are allocated. Despite solid promises for funding from both the Center party and the Liberal party, and in cooperation with the government, during a crucial vote on Thursday 19 December, we learned that government funding will not be available to Special

Olympics World Winter Games Sweden 2021. This marks the first time Special Olympics World Games will be cancelled because of a lack of political will. **A core team of Special Olympics staff are exploring additional locations that may be able to host the World Winter Games in 2021.** I will keep you all updated on any new information.

However, I would like to stress that Special Olympics Sweden Invitational Games 2020 will be hosted as planned in Östersund and Åre, and will feature delegations from almost 20 countries. The funding for this event has been separately secured from the European Union and the event will deliver on several legacy items for Special Olympics Sweden.

Separately, we are working on a media strategy. **If you are contacted by a reporter, please forward them to Jason Teitler [jteitler@specialolympics.org] and Rebecca Simon [rsimon@specialolympics.org].** Attached are some FAQs for your reference.

This is a significant setback, and we are treating it with necessary urgency. This is also a poignant reminder of why The Revolution Is Inclusion. Special Olympics was created out of pervasive setbacks for people with intellectual disabilities. We will overcome this challenge, and we will be stronger for it.

In solidarity and optimism,

Mary

Mary Davis

CEO, Special Olympics International

(NEW) Winter Games HOD Webinars

WINTER GAMES HOD Pre-Season Webinar

January 7, 2020 / 7-8:00pm

Link to Webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8412816866388556812>

WINTER GAMES HOD Pre-Competition Webinar

February 13, 2020 / at 7-8:00pm

Link to Webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8132893300584732172>

Please contact Steve Bennett (sbennett@somd.org) with any questions or concerns.

Winter Holiday Leave Schedule

Between 12/16 and 1/3, some SOMD Program Staff members will be taking leave to enjoy the holidays! Please use the grid below to see if a staff member you need to contact is available or on leave. If a staff member is on personal leave, please consider contacting Jeff (jabel@somd.org) instead.

Staff Member	Leave Begins On	Returns to HQ On	Notes
Jeff Abel	No leave scheduled		Will be in until 1:00 pm on 12/24 and 12/31
Melissa Anger	12/16/19	1/6/2020	

Steve Bennett	12/19/19	1/6/2020	
Sam Boyd	12/23/19	1/6/2020	
Zach Cintron	12/19/19	1/6/2020	
Pat Cullinan	<i>No leave scheduled</i>		
Mike Czarnowsky	12/19/19	01/06/2020	
Ron Freeman	12/25/2019	1/2/2020	
Mackenzie Irvin	12/23/2019	1/6/2020	Days in green will be working remotely
Ryan Kelchner	12/23/2019	1/6/2020	
Melissa Kelly	12/24/2019	12/30/2020	
Tyler Martin	12/24/19	1/6/2020	
Mike Myers	12/25/2019	1/2/2020	
Angela Nadeau	12/30/2019	1/3/2020	
Dottie Rush	12/20/19	1/6/2020	
Danielle Weddle	11/21/2019	Mid-Feb	<i>On Family Leave</i>

Staff Member	Mon 12/23	Tue 12/24	Wed 12/25	Thu 12/26	Fri 12/27	Mon 12/30	Tue 12/31	Wed 1/1	Thu 1/2	Fri 1/3
Jeff A.		Until 1:00P					Until 1:00P			
Melissa A.										
Steve B.										
Sam B.										
Zach C.										
Pat C.										
Mike Cz.										
Ron F.										
Mackenzie										
Ryan K.										
Melissa K.										
Tyler M.										
Mike M.										
Angela N.										
Dottie R.										
Danielle										

	Person on leave this day (i.e., not available)
	Person working on this date (i.e., available)
	SOMD HQ offices closed on this date (i.e., not available)

College Basketball Clinics and Games

- **Univ. of Maryland Terps Clinic**
 - o Tuesday, December 31, 2019

- 3v3 Traditional & Up **ONLY** (3v3 Traditional, 5v5 PDU, 5v5 Traditional & 5v5 Unified)
- Athletes Only- No partners can participate
- MUST be 15 and older to participate
- Registration Link- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TerpsBB2020>
 - Registration Closes on Friday, December 13, 2019
- **Towson University**
 - Sunday, January 11th
 - Participate in Pre-Game
 - Play Game at Conclusion of Towson's Game
 - Looking for two 5v5 Teams (similar ability level)- Unified or Traditional
- **Towson University**
 - Sunday, January 26th
 - Participate in Pre-Game
 - Play Game at Conclusion of Towson's Game
 - Looking for two 5v5 Teams (similar ability level)- Unified or Traditional

For more information, email Melissa Anger (manger@somd.org)

(UPDATED) Congratulations St. Mary's County on the St. Mary's Splash!

Congrats to the St. Mary's County Team for a very successful St. Mary's Splash! Their Splash Leadership team has grown the event to surpass their \$15,000 and currently have raised over \$20,000!

SOMD Sports Committee Approves New SOMD-Specific Rules Changes for BB, BO and BC

The Sports Committee of the SOMD Board of Directors met on Thursday evening, November 14 with the following outcomes to be discussed in greater depth at the November 16 Area Leader Meeting:

- Item 1 – Determine 2020 Sports Committee Meeting Schedule.
 - Action/Decision: Schedule established as follows: March 3, May 5, August 4, November 3
- Item 2 – Address Rule Change Requests Submitted by Sports Management Teams
 - Action/Decision: Approved 4 submissions as follows:
 - Basketball: Amended and approved recommendation to allow athletes who use assistive devices for mobility to participate on 3v3 Player Development Unified Teams
 - Bowling: Approved recommendation to allow athletes to wear noise cancelling headphones after provided documented medical need in advance
 - Bocce: Approved recommendations to (1) clarify penalties for violation of prohibition of coaching during a match and (2) allowing athletes to deliver a ball with one foot within the court and one foot outside the court (i.e., straddling the sideboard)
- Item 3 – Discussions on items to be addressed by SMTs; initial input from Area Leaders on 11/16/2019:
 - Potential Season Changes for Flag Football and Softball
 - Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Diverse Participants per SOI Guidelines
 - Sports Comm. Membership (replacement, length of term, addit. members from Areas)
 - USA Games – How To Include All SOMD Athletes in Selection Process (incl IUS)
 - Locally popular sports and Sports not offered within SOMD

Brave in the Attempt

The First Lady of Maryland, Maryland Department of Disabilities, and the Developmental Disabilities Administration and Special Olympics Maryland Athlete Leadership program are proud to present the 4th Annual Brave in the Attempt Talks on Tuesday June 2nd, 2020.

Are you a Marylander with an intellectual disability? Do you know a Marylander with an intellectual disability? We're seeking speakers to share their experiences and perspectives surrounding this year's theme of "VISION"

You will present a short 5 minute speech to an audience about what "VISION" means to you. Is it your VISION of the future? Is looking back in order to move forward? Is it wishing you were able to see something clearer in your past? Tell us what VISION means to you.

There will be 5 practices to help you develop your idea and write your speech. These practices will start in January 2020.

If you are interested please go to www.BITAtalks.com for more details or email me at jschriml@somd.org

Athlete LeaderSHIP Carnival Cruise October 2020

ALL ABOARD!!

In partnership with Carnival Cruise Lines we have created an exciting opportunity for athlete leaders.

- WHAT:** Special Olympics Maryland Carnival Cruise and Athlete LeaderSHIP Training.
WHEN: Sunday October 25th-Sunday October 31st, 2020
WHERE: Leave from Baltimore Cruise Harbor
Ports of Call include Grand Turk, Princess Cays, and Freeport
HOW: Please check attached brochure for more information on how to sign up.
When you sign up please indicate "Athlete LeaderSHIP" on your form or email so you will be eligible for a discount on the cruise price listed on the brochure.
COST: All costs for the cruise and shore excursions are the responsibility of the athlete, family and chaperone.
All training costs and materials will be responsibility of SOMD.
CHAPERONES: Athletes must be accompanied by a chaperone. Additional family members may attend but are not eligible for the discount.

Tentative Schedule

October 25th, 2020	5pm	Leave Baltimore
October 26th, 2020	9a-noon Class 2pm-5pm Class	Fun Day at Sea
October 27th, 2020	9a-noon Class 2pm-5pm Class	Fun Day at Sea
October 28th, 2020	7am-2pm	Grand Turk
October 29th, 2020	9:30am-3pm	Princess Cays
October 30th, 2020	7am-1:30p	Freeport
October 31 st , 2020	8am	Arrive Baltimore

Courses offered: (Very Tentative and subject to change)

Photography-Conducted by Carnival Staff
Videography-Conducted by Carnival Staff
Leadership-Conducted by Carnival Staff
Social Media-Conducted by Carnival Staff
Media Training-Conducted by SOMD Staff

*Beginner Global Messenger only if athletes have not already taken this course.

We will also be offering an opportunity for 6 athletes to present TED style talks during the cruise. This event will be open to the public.

Other Events on the cruise:

Tour of boat by Captain or his/her designee.

Polar Bear Plunge during cruise.

Ice Cream Social.

All activities normally offered by cruise including entertainment shows, group activities, etc.

Other.

Discounted Medicals at MinuteClinic

Thanks to a new partnership between SOI and Minute Clinic, Special Olympics athletes are now entitled to sports physicals at a reduced rate of \$49.00. Any US Special Olympics Athlete, or prospective athlete who needs to complete a physical can present the attached voucher at any of the 1,100+ MinuteClinics in CVS or Target stores between now and July 31, 2020.

[See list of participating locations here](#) or on the [CVS MinuteClinic](#) and [Target MinuteClinic](#) websites. **No insurance or appointment is needed but [please bring the SOMD Athlete Medical Form with you.](#)**

Please note this is not an endorsement for MinuteClinic or their services from SOMD nor SOI; it is simply one more way for our athletes to have access to a relatively affordable Sports Physical.

We are excited about this opportunity and hope that you will share with your families and athletes.

Polar Bear Plunge Website is now live! Fundraise for your areas starting today!

The Polar Bear Plunge website is now live: www.plungemd.com

Any teams registered with an area will be entitled to a 70%/30% split after expenses. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to fundraise for your local program. Last year our teams raised over \$20,000 for their counties, and we'd like to continue that success in 2020.

Reach out to Jessie Hayes with any questions: jhayes@somd.org

(UPDATED) Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars

The dates and time for Pre-Season and Pre-Competition webinars have been set for the upcoming seasons. Please share this info with your coaches and sports volunteers.

Pre-Season Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Bowling	Thu 8/15	Recording: https://youtu.be/jHpCSUQIDd8
Alpine Skiing	Tue 11/26	Recording: https://youtu.be/GFBtpPzv-tQ
Snowshoeing	Tue 11/21	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvEiWDdyOf8&t=5s

Basketball	Wed 12/04	Recording: https://youtu.be/3z4aQpfM1-k
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Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Bowling – Families	Wed 10/30	Recording: https://youtu.be/yvOjmqWvHH8
Bowling - Championship	Tue 12/03	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqVWLuyvgKI
Alpine Skiing	Mon 02/17 7:00 p.m.	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1466357488678712845
Snowshoeing	Thu 02/13 7:00 p.m.	https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/dcfe4428d9436dea4ac87b605f06faf5
Basketball	Tue 03/24 7:00 p.m.	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/285561165198905611

Community Sports Registration Deadlines For Most of 2020

Registration Deadlines for community sports through most of 2020 have been set and are incorporated into the Sports Calendar included with this email. They are summarized below for your convenience as well.

Event	Competition Date(s)	Training Registration Deadline (in GMS)**	Last Date To Submit Missing Forms**	Competition Registration Deadline (in GMS)**
Winter Games	2/23-25/2020	1/9/2020	1/20/2020	2/6/2020
Basketball Tournament	3/28 – 29/2020 (Tentative)	1/23/2020	2/3/2020	2/13/2020
2020 Summer Games	6/5-7/2020	4/23/2020	5/4/2020	5/18/2020
Kayaking Time Trials (Required)	08/08/2020 (Tentative)	7/9/2020	7/16/2020	7/30/2020
Kayaking Championships	08/22/2020 (Tentative)			
2020 Golf State Championship	9/27/2020 OR 10/4/2020 (Tentative)	8/13/2020	8/20/2020	9/3/2020
2020 Fall Sports Festival	10/17/2020 (Tentative)	8/27/2020	9/10/2020	10/1/2020
2020 State Soccer Championships	10/25/2020 OR 11/1/2020 (Tentative)	8/27/2020	9/10/2020	10/1/2020

Sports Directors – Assigned Sports

If you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

- **Melissa Anger, Sports Director**
 - manger@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x122
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football

- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Locally Popular Sports: Cross Country Skiing, Duckpin Bowling
- **Zach Cintron, Sports Director**
 - zcintron@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x161
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Cycling
 - Kayaking
 - Snowshoeing
 - Swimming
 - Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Volleyball
- **Ryan Kelchner Sports Director**
 - rkelchner@somd.org, 410-242-1515 x171
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Athletics
 - Bocce
 - Distance Running
 - Golf
 - Powerlifting
 - Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey

Questions?

If You Have Any Questions on Any Other Non-Sports-Related Issues, please contact a member of the Local Program Team

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President. Local Program Development**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- **Claire Huston, Development Services Manager**
 - chuston@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 145
 - All Local Program Fundraising
- **Pat Cullinan, Northern Chesapeake Region Director**
 - pcullinan@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Harford, Cecil, and Kent Counties
- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 410-242-1515
 - Baltimore County and City
- **Ron Freeman, Baltimore City Coordinator**
 - rfreeman@somd.org, 410.598.1027
 - Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore City Rec and Parks
- **Tyler Martin, Western Region Coordinator**
 - tmartin@somd.org, 717-321-3642
 - Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties