



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 3

July 16, 2010

VIRGINIA LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



Message from Council Director Ben Fravel

Greetings Torch Runners!

I want to start by thanking all our Law Enforcement Torch Runners who ran the miles to deliver the Flame of Hope to the SOVA opening ceremonies in Richmond, and to those who came back on Saturday to volunteer at the swimming event. You made the celebration of our 25th anniversary a great success! We've had a great twenty-five year run, and we're off and running for the next twenty-five. There are still several events coming up to finish off the 2010 Torch Run year. Motorcycle rides and raffle, golf tournaments and of course Torch Run's biggest event...the Plane Pull sponsored by the Metro Airport Authority Police. Please check these out and join us to make this another record year.

Speaking of continued success, there are a number of ways we can guarantee the next 25 years will be as great as the last! First, let's get more departments involved and more members of each department involved. Let's share this fun and very fulfilling experience. Second, if you are in a Torch Run leadership position either as a department lead or an event coordinator, start mentoring some young officers to take over when it is your time to step aside, so that all that you've built never misses a stride.

We have had two very important individuals depart Virginia Torch Run recently. Chuck Hart of the Roanoke Sheriffs through retirement and Michelle Gates of Special Olympics Virginia. Both have served the Torch Run with distinction and we wish them all the best.

Again congratulations on the all the work you have done so far. *Please keep up the good work.*

CONGRATULATIONS

2010 VIRGINIA TORCH RUN UNSUNG HERO AND HALL OF FAME AWARD WINNERS

Hall of Fame Awards



Sheriff Donald Farley has been with the Va. Torch Run since the beginning, 25 years ago. He's sheriff of Rockingham County and the 2010 Torch Run State Chair. Sheriff Farley is often quoted as saying that from the very start of his Torch Run involvement, it was his interaction with the athletes that hooked him! Athletes in his community know him by name and he knows their names, as well as their personal stories of struggles and successes that

continually serve to motivate him and to keep the Flame of Hope burning the hearts and minds of officers in his agency as well as around the state. Farley has experience in every job that the Torch Run has to offer...he's been a department liaison, a region director liaison, region director and a state chair, and he's always active in recruiting new agencies to be a part of the Torch Run family. Some of his accomplishments include organizing a 240 mile bike ride from his community in Rockingham County to Virginia Beach; organizing an annual golf tournament and putting together a traveling team of Polar Plungers! Sheriff Farley is happy to tell you that if you have a golf tournament, get him the date and info, then he will round up a team. After all, nothing beats a round of golf when it benefits Special Olympics and the Torch Run!



Lt. Scott Carter works with the Hanover County Sheriff's office. He's made commitment, hard work and dedication to the Torch Run visible in his own community, region and across the Commonwealth. He began running in the torch run 23 years ago, and has served as his department's liaison for 13 years, and as a region director for several years.

Continued on page 6

EVENTS



* If you want to announce your event, please e-mail the information to janice.dow@vadoc.virginia.gov



Dulles Day Family Festival & Plane Pull
September 25, 2010 11am– 4pm " Dulles International Airport

www.planepull.com



International LETR
Conference Information
October 19 – October 22, 2010
www.sosc.org/2010torchrn



FIND MORE EVENTS AT <http://www.torchrnva.com/View/Page/Calendar>

http://overtheedgeva.com/View/Page/about_us



GO OVER THE EDGE

Go Over the Edge for Special Olympics Virginia.

Richmond Event—Rappel from the roof of the downtown SunTrust Center Saturday, Oct. 23 with a VIP/Media rappel day on Friday, Oct. 22. Registration is limited to the first 75 rappellers, so register now!

Norfolk Event – Be the first to go above and beyond for Special Olympics Virginia and go Over the Edge on Nov. 6-7 in Norfolk

Pat Thomas Selected to Represent Virginia in National Torch Run



Congratulations to **Pat Thomas** (formally Schupin) from VCE/DOC at Buckingham Correctional Center on her selection to represent the Virginia law enforcement community in the Torch Run to the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Summer Games, which takes place in Lincoln, Nebraska on July 18-26. The running of the "Flame of Hope" will begin in Ames, Iowa and culminate during the Final Leg in Lincoln.

The Torch Run Final leg is not only a salute to athletes from around the U.S. who will compete in the 2010 USA National Games, but also an honor for the participating law enforcement officers who comprise the Torch Run Final Leg Team. The Final Leg Team includes law enforcement runners, Special Olympic athletes and Support Team members.

The Department of Corrections is proud to support one of its own in this event, especially since this is 25th Anniversary year of the Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Harley Raffle 2010



The Hanover County Sheriff's Office will once again be coordinating the **Harley-Davidson motorcycle raffle** this year. It's a **2010 Heritage Softail Classic** motorcycle.

Selling 2500 tickets @ \$20 a ticket

The drawing will be on September 18, 2010, at 5pm, at the Richmond Harley-Davidson store located 10441 Washington Highway, Glen Allen, VA 23059

CONTACT: RSCARTER@CO.HANOVER.VA.US

Eunice Kennedy Shriver had one vision - to show the world that people with intellectual disabilities could achieve and thrive in society. Her vision and legacy live on through two organizations - Best Buddies and Special Olympics. To further ensure that Mrs. Shriver's legacy lives on, Best Buddies and Special Olympics are partnering in 2010 on an event in the nation's capital, **the inaugural Eunice Kennedy Shriver Challenge**, a 20-mile ride, run and a walk, which will be held in **Washington, DC, Saturday, Oct. 23**.



In addition to friends and admirers of Mrs. Shriver, hundreds of Best Buddies participants and Special Olympics athletes are expected to take part in this recreational event that will celebrate Mrs. Shriver's love of sports and friendship. The day's activities will include cycling races, tandem events, a 5K run and a 3K walk. There will also be a youth run designed to engage young people in both movements. The day will conclude with a gourmet family picnic lunch.

Through this event, the two movements will help build more communities of acceptance and inclusion. **For more information and to sign up, visit www.ekschallenge.org.**

Opening Hearts. Changing Minds.



My Torch Run Experience

Ofc. Moe Dietrich, Christiansburg Police Dept.

I first became involved with Special Olympics, like most officers I know, by running in the Law Enforcement Torch Run. In 1997, as an intern for the Cardinal Academy in Salem, I was asked if I wanted to run in the Torch Run. Being a runner I immediately said “Yeah sure.” I really didn’t have an understanding of the significance of the run, I just remember wearing a specific t-shirt, meeting a group of officers at the Roanoke County line, running through Salem, and there was a torch involved. Throughout the years I have organized several fundraisers for Special Olympics and never understood the impact until 2004 when I went to my first State Conference in VA Beach and I met my first athlete, Max Everton.

Now, thirteen years later, I have come to know the importance of the run and the significant role police officers around the world play for Special Olympics. We are the Guardians of the Flame. This year I was asked to carry one of the torches in the Final Leg in Richmond and honestly I have never felt more honored! Carrying the Flame of Hope on this 25th year anniversary was an amazing experience for me. The other officers looked at me and two other flame holders to set the pace for the run. Though it was a bit quick this year, it’s never fast enough to help be part of the message of Respect, Inclusion and Unity for our Special Olympians. The Flame of Hope has lit a spark in my heart that I will carry with me forever and help spread it’s flames to others. I thank my Law Enforcement Family for giving me that opportunity.

Virginia Torch Run Executive Council

Director - Ben Fravel (9/1/12) Prince Wm. Co. Police Department (Ret.) (703)791-4828

Vice Director - Lynn Perkinson (9/1/10) NN Police Dept. (Ret.) (757)969-0248

Secretary - Jan Dow (9/1/12) Department of Corrections (804)674-3303 ext.1128

Major Clayton Bennett (1/1/13) Chesapeake Sheriff’s Office (757) 382-6159

Lt. Scott Carter (9/1/11) Hanover Sheriff’s Office (804)365-6471

Frank Cresswell (9/1/11) Fairfax County Police (Ret.) (540) 729-9874

1st Sgt. Darrell English (1/1/13) Stafford Sheriff’s Department (540)658-4428

Max Everton (9/1/10) SOVA Athlete Representative (757)340-8956

Lt. Brian Grenadier (6/1/13) Alexandria Sheriff’s office

Sgt. Dean Jones (9/1/11) Virginia State Police (571)283-2758

Dana Kinsley (9/1/10) Department of Corrections (434)535-7000 ext.6269

Lt. Randy LeFebvre (1/1/13) Chesapeake Police Department (757)615-3715

Ken Moulder (9/1/12) Riverside Regional Jail (804)524-6600

Charles Sims (9/1/10) Department of Corrections (434)984-3700 x4282

Special Olympics Virginia
3212 Skipwith Road, Suite
100

Richmond, VA 23294

(804) 346-5544

(800) 932-GOLD (in VA
only)

FAX (804) 346-9633

info@specialolympicsva.org

Debbie Apperson
Director of SOVA Special
Events

184 Business park Drive
Suite 202

Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Phone: (757) 962-1575

Toll-free: (877) 874-7462

2010 Summer Games

“SWIMMERS TAKE YOUR MARK... GET SET...”

by Angela O'Connor

Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Hanover County

The buzzer sounded, the light flashed and the swimmers were off. I felt an immediate rush of adrenaline as I hit the start button on the stop watch. The excitement grew as I stared into the pool, watched the athletes race and heard the roar of the crowd. Before I knew it, I found myself screaming, too. I was so moved by the athletes' commitment to their sport, the joy/pride I saw on the spectators' faces and the absolute heart that every athlete displayed. You see, I was a first time volunteer. I had run in the LETR and participated in the Polar Plunge the past two years, but I had never been to “the Games”.

We arrived at the aquatic venue at St. Catherine's at 7:00 a.m. that hot Saturday morning, along with hundreds of other enthusiastic volunteers. My clothes were sticking to me as I boarded that prison bus, wondering what I had gotten myself into. I was struck by the amount of volunteers necessary to get the Games off the ground. I felt a real sense of pride in the part that the local law-enforcement community played in the Games. My partner and I received our assignment and we were off to the pool. A wall of humidity hit us as we opened the door. We were assigned to “Lane 3” and were advised that there were 100+ races that day. For a split second, I again wondered, “what have I gotten myself into?” The answer: The time of my life! We were “on deck” for close to four hours. It felt like four minutes. We were approached twice reference being relieved, but we would have no part of it. You would have had to carry me off that deck. As they lowered an athlete into the water from his wheel chair, I felt the first set of the day's tears prick my eyes. He had a very difficult time during that race and needed to be pulled out of the water by rescue. Imagine my surprise as they lowered him back into the water hours later for another race. When he finished this race he had the biggest smile on his face and I heard him say, “I did a lot better this time!” I'm not sure that I could have gone back in the water after being rescued, hours earlier, but he did. I will never forget that experience as long as I live. I walked away from the athletes a we-inspired and humbled. *It was a great day to be “on deck”.*



Continued from page 1

CONGRATULATIONS

2010 VIRGINIA TORCH RUN UNSUNG HERO AND HALL OF FAME AWARD WINNERS

Carter organizes every torch run event sponsored by his agency, and is supportive of events done by neighboring regions. He'll recruit a softball team for a tournament, get a marked vehicle to a "lock up" event, find some golfers for a tournament, or be an active participant in the Polar Plunge, where he currently serves on the committee to organize security and crowd control at the event. He's also a determined plunger! Each year he raises more money than the year past and brings out more and more co-workers. His team has grown to one of the biggest law enforcement teams at the Plunge. Scott also serves on the Torch Run Executive Council, and the greatest impact on the Torch Run has, without a doubt, been the state-wide motorcycle raffle that he has chaired for 5 years. Not only does he manage every aspect of the raffle from choosing the bike to permit and ticket design to distribution of raffle tickets, you can also find him parked for 10 hours straight each day at the NASCAR races! He's 100% committed to making the Harley Davidson raffle a success.

Unsung Hero Awards

Cpl Joe Carroll of the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority Police Department.



has been involved in many capacities with Special Olympics and the Torch Run for many years. His work began in middle school as a runner at a local Special Olympics track meet. Today Joe is the chair of the single largest Torch Run fundraiser for Special Olympics Virginia, the Dulles Plane Pull. He's also worked and organized Tip-A-Cops, raffles, and attended state, regional and international conferences, and is usually quite a presence at the Polar Plunge Winter Festival where he's raised thousands of dollars over the years. (he's plunged in a wedding dress, in his police uniform, as Brittany Spears and as a cigar smoking pink tutu wearing ballerina!) By far however, Carroll's biggest contribution has been

his work with the Dulles Plane Pull Family Festival. In 1995, the Plane Pull was a small event and his job was to beg, borrow and steal tables and chairs. In 1999, he took over the coordination of the car show that is held at the Plane Pull. Each year, the show has grown, not only in number and dollars raised but also in the exciting variety of cars that enter. In 2009, after the passing of Joe's coworker, Sgt. Steve Sullivan, he took on the enormous task of serving as the Chairman of the Dulles Plane Pull. There certainly were big shoes to fill but Carroll stepped right in and with his leadership skills, passion and commitment, his first event as chairman raised over \$100,000 for the Torch Run and Special Olympics. A major in his department is quoted as saying this about Joe Carroll, "He is the guy who didn't ask or expect recognition. He has done so much, big and small. He exemplifies the words "unsung hero".



Chuck Sims is an organizer. He organizes people, activities and resources through his agency, the Virginia Department of Corrections, to benefit Special Olympics Virginia and the Torch Run. He serves as a region coordinator, ensuring that his region is kept informed about statewide activities; and is continually recruiting staff for participation in fundraisers such as the Polar Plunge and the jail lockup. In 2010, his Plunge team, True Blue, earned the bragging rights of being the law enforcement team with the largest donation for the Polar Plunge during the worst weather in the history of the Virginia! Sims has secured busses (and served as the driver) for members of the Virginia Torch Run to have transportation to the Regional conference in New Jersey and the International Conference in Connecticut. He's

recruited and coordinated his agency's staff to serve as color guards and escorts at the University of Richmond summer games opening ceremonies, and coordinated law enforcement escort logistics at the ceremonies. On numerous occasions Chuck has arranged and driven busses to provide assistance for the Torch Run at the Summer Games, including ceremonies at the Virginia Capitol and subsequent Torch Run to the Tuckahoe Rescue Squad staging area and transportation of athletes and volunteers attending the summer games from the University of Richmond to various athletic venues. Sims serves on the Virginia Torch Run Executive Council and was involved in the Torch Run Executive Council's Strategic Planning Sessions in 2008. Prior to coming to Virginia he served the Torch Run program in Maryland.