

Thank you Polar Plungers

Thanks to all the Agencies who caught the Polar Plunge cold to benefit SOWI at the area and state levels as well as raise money for their Agency. In 2009, 8,369 plungers assisted in raising a total of more than \$1.5 million during 11 plunges.



Agency Finances—FAQ for Agencies without SOWI bank accounts



SOWI is excited that Agencies can enjoy and benefit from being involved in state sponsored fund raisers (such as the Polar Plunge) where Agencies can earn pledges and receive a 25% rebate. It is a wonderful cooperative effort where everyone wins – especially the athletes who serve on all levels of the organization.

If you are an Agency without a SOWI bank account, please see the attached Agency Finances- FAQ to learn how your Agency may still participate.



SOWI top ten quick facts and reminders:

1. The 2010 National Games Coaches and Assistant Coaches have been selected and notified. Athlete applications are on the SOWI Website and athlete selections for training camp will be announced in July.
2. New at the Delta Dental Special Smiles venue at Summer Games, athletes have the opportunity to have a fluoride varnish applied to their teeth.
3. SOWI's first Medfest will be held on December 4, 2009 at the Tommy Thompson Youth Center for all Agencies interested. We hope that teams from outside the Milwaukee area will come to the Fall Sports Tournament early and take advantage of the free medical exam services. Mark the date on your calendar and look for more information in the fall.
4. In March, SOWI participated in Walmart Lobby Days at the state capitol where SOWI staff and athletes educated Walmart employees and other businesses that support Walmart about our program. Walmart funded the SOWI Healthy Athletes Initiatives (HAI) this year.
5. Texas Roadhouse in Kenosha, along with LETR volunteers raised \$9,000 at a free lunch for Special Olympics "promotion" where officers served 1400 meals or collected tips and donations. Look for more information about similar events around the state in future issues.
6. What does Special Olympics mean to you? Check out the compilation of three-word videos created by students from the University of Miami in response to this question on the SOWI home page.
7. "Spread the Word to End the Word" is a campaign to ban the R-word which was kicked off at the World Winter Games in Idaho. Special Olympics efforts were fueled by a recent statement made by President Obama on Jay Leno, which spurred a rash of media calls and concerns on how we can change the way society looks at those with disabilities...more specifically the use of the "R-word." [See a recent email which was sent to ALL Agency Managers asking them to help spread the word by having someone within your agency sign one of two "letters to the editor" and sending it to your local newspaper\(s\).](#) In addition, visit the SOWI Website to see how the SOWI Athlete Input Council, an AmeriCorps member as well as Madison and Milwaukee schools are coming up with creative ways to spread the word in their communities.
8. Mosinee Agency 2-32 collects milk caps from Kwik Trip as an Agency fundraiser – what a win:win to earn money and involve a SOWI Mission Partner.
9. The selling season for Law Enforcement Torch Run t-shirts is underway and this year SOWI agencies can again fundraise by selling the shirts. They can earn 25% of the price of each shirt sold (\$3.00/shirt) for their agency. See enclosure for details.

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