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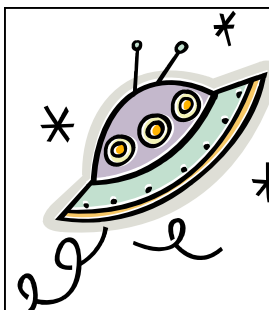


## Tribute to Eunice Kennedy Shriver

The Special Olympics world and indeed the entire world, was saddened by the recent death of our founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver. We hope you have had time to talk with each other and other members of our Special Olympics Wisconsin family about your memories and have taken time to talk with athletes in particular as many have felt a great loss and may need time to process their emotions.

Special Olympics Wisconsin may share in the pride of preserving Mrs. Shriver's legacy in a very unique and prestigious way as a Wisconsin artist, David Lenz, was given the honor of painting a portrait of Mrs. Shriver with five Special Olympics athletes. The portrait was publically unveiled this past May and will be part of the permanent collection at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC. Airika Straka from Wisconsin Rapids Special Olympics is featured in the portrait and represents the bright future for people with disabilities because of Mrs. Shriver's vision and dedication.

If you haven't already, please visit the SOWI Web site and see a link to both the Eunice Kennedy Shriver tribute page where you can read her story, view pictures and post a tribute of your own. There is also a link on our site to view the portrait.



### State Competitions Wrap-up & Preview

Summer Games feels like long ago, but it is hard to forget the beautiful weather and wonderful enhancements to Partners Park and Victory Village including the dunk tank, the Milwaukee Wave and the space odyssey theme (nanu, nanu).

Next year's Summer Games will see an increase in quota in athletics and aquatics. This will mean a slight adjustment for Athletics in event selection. Instead of being in three individual events and a relay, athletes will be choosing two individual events and a relay.

Outdoor Sports Tournament had more volatile weather, but it cooperated long enough to get almost all of the competition complete except the last portion of bocce and softball games on Saturday. The big news of the tournament was an increase in bocce teams by 62.5% totaling more than 90 teams. This meant an adjustment from a double to a single elimination tournament, but included 144 more athletes in attendance. For 2010, we anticipate similar numbers and format.

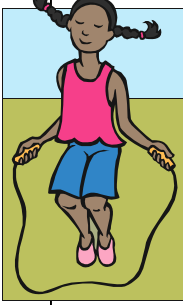
Fall Sports Tournament is coming up December 5 in Waukesha with little change predicted in numbers, but we will be returning to Center Court Sport Complex for volleyball as in 2007. In addition, a change was made regarding ramp bowlers participating in singles bowling only, due to facility and time limitations for doubles and teams bowling. The Fall Sports Tournament Area forms and bowling rules from the new 2009-2010 Agency Manager Handbook are enclosed for your convenience.

More specific sports updates will be included in the discussion at your Agency Fall meetings.



# Engaging Youth

Last August, SOWI received \$70,000 of a \$4.4 million dollar Project Unify grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Its goal is to activate youth around the country in an effort to develop school communities where all young people are agents of change - fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities by utilizing the programs and initiatives of Special Olympics.



SOWI utilized the grant in three main project areas designed to “unify” kids with and without disabilities: starting eight pilot Young Athlete Programs introducing over 300 new 2-7 year olds to a SOWI play program; offering a winter and summer Camp Shriver to 150+ kids in LaCrosse in collaboration with LaCrosse Parks and Recreation Dept.; and a unified basketball league and enrichment program within Milwaukee Public Schools where 80+ kids came four days a week for six weeks to play basketball and learn more about healthy living.

SOWI has already submitted a grant for year two which will enhance these existing projects and dive deeper into those student communities to impact positive change. Visit the SOWI website to view photos and join the conversation at: <http://specialolympicswisconsin.org>



## SOWI top 10 quick facts & reminders

1. Thank you in advance for completing the Agency Registration and Accreditation materials which are enclosed and due in the SOWI Madison office by Sept. 30. We will cover a variety of items at the Agency Fall meetings, but accreditation packets must be mailed to the Madison headquarters (not brought to the meetings).
2. You will see a change on your Class A Volunteer Rosters due to a change in policy regarding the General Orientation. Viewing the General Orientation is mandatory for coaches certification and recommended for all other Class A volunteers. Therefore, the prompt will only appear in “red” on your rosters for certified coaches.
3. The World’s Largest Convoy® for Special Olympics Wisconsin is September 26 at the Pioneer Travel Plaza in Richfield (6:30-9:30am) or by the EAA sign in Oshkosh at 10:30am. We ask Agencies to support the Convoy with attendance and signs and there is free lunch to athletes (\$5 for family members) who RSVP to their Regional Director of Development by Sept. 11.
4. The first National Games training camp is being held at UW-Oshkosh September 11-13.
5. WOW- SOWI hosted 69 Certified Training Schools for our 1,347 registered coaches in 2008. Thanks to all of your local coaches who attended.
6. Please tell your local volunteers to consider utilizing a Kwik Trip Card Plus for their personal use which can be set up to act as a credit or debit card with rewards going to benefit SOWI. It is a great way to support SOWI without having to take anything out of their family budget...they are just shopping our stores and using their Kwik Card to pay for those purchases. For more information call toll-free (1-888-736-5945), or visit the Kwik Rewards Fundraising Program at [www.kwikcard.com/kwikcard.asp](http://www.kwikcard.com/kwikcard.asp).
7. SOWI said good bye to Dasha Zarkhovia, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver fellow from Special Olympics Russia who returned home last week after four weeks in Wisconsin and a total of 10 weeks in the United States. She was very impressed with SOWI which is a reflection on all of you.
8. The annual Agency T-shirt fund raising materials are enclosed and per your request the design is the Be a Fan logo. This has been a great fund raiser for many local Agencies so check it out!
9. Four out of five Du Run Run fund raisers are yet to be held in September and October. During the Du Run Run, children ages 2-12 compete against kids their own age and gender in a duathlon, which is a run/bike/run. Check out the SOWI web site for more information.
10. The athlete roster information is now available online. Go to: <http://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/agency> and follow directions provided by your Regional Director of Sports.



SOWI is offering three Athlete Leadership Programs (ALPs) this fall. The dates are as follows: Oct. 17th—Global Messenger (public speaking), Nov. 14—Leadership & Governance (in Janesville), and Dec. 14—Athletes as Coaches. For more information, please contact Jeanne Hrovat at 608-222-1324 ext. 206 or [jhrovat@specialolympicswisconsin.org](mailto:jhrovat@specialolympicswisconsin.org).

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