

Fall 2011

The Guardian

The Newsletter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council

THE FLAME OF HOPE CELEBRATES THIRTY YEARS



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Cover Photo by: Andrea Kramer, Special Olympics Idaho

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Mike Peretti, LETR Executive Council

WOW, 2011 has come and gone and what a year it was for the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Nothing screams louder of YOUR success this past year than having raised **\$42,651,242** worldwide for our athletes! At a time when there is so much economic uncertainty in the world, your efforts continue to provide a voice for our athletes while Law Enforcement validates the importance of this cause around the world.

As we push forward into 2012 we do so with new leadership, new energies, and a new vision of continued growth—as we have seen this year in Australia, Latin America, and Europe. We also move into the future with renewed support from the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Special Olympics International with new strategic initiatives that will guide our success. With this support, and most importantly YOUR LEADERSHIP within your programs, 2012 will be another historic year.

I congratulate all of you who have committed yourselves to making a difference around the world. My deepest appreciation goes to the men and women of the LETR Canada who hosted our movement in Calgary, Alberta, for our 30th anniversary, and for the first time, took the LETR conference international. It was a memorial and historic event.

To each of you, be proud of your accomplishments and celebrate your success. You have over 42 million reasons to do so!

Mike



Law Enforcement Torch Run International Conference Calgary, Alberta, Canada

By Detective Theresa Garagan, Conference Chair

Alberta put in a bid to host the conference when we were in Connecticut in 2009 and we were thrilled to be successful. This would be the first time the conference would be held outside of the United States. Let the games begin!! Thus, we embarked on a journey that would provide lifetime memories, not only for the planning committee, but for the delegates attending.

We kicked the event off by opening up “The Cuff ‘n’ Billy Club,” the Calgary Police Service Association Club, to our conference guests who arrived early. A lot of new friends were made and many old friendships renewed. In true Calgary style, our hospitality night was a Stampede party that included getting branded, line-dance lessons, photo opportunities with Stampede Queens and Princesses, great food and amazing live music.

Our keynote speakers brought messages of inspiration and motivation on how to “reach new heights” – our conference theme. The Concurrent Sessions brought us back to basics, teaching us how we can grow with little steps or how we can get “just one more.” One of the most heartfelt sessions came from the Special Olympics family, Marilyn and Leonka. They reminded us all why the Torch Run and Special Olympics are so close to our hearts. There was “not a dry eye in the house.”

Dressed in flapper dresses and three-piece suits, we headed to Heritage Park for a Dirty Thirties night. In keeping with the theme of the dirty Thirties, the liquor was controlled by “a dirty cop.” Throughout the night clues were provided as to who the cop might be. When all was said and done, SHE was identified!! Who would have guessed? Greg and the Boys entertained us with some seriously swinging tunes and a good time was had by all.



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Torch Runner Profile Commitment, Pride, and Determination Lieutenant Carl Dabadie



In 1988, Sergeant Carl Dabadie decided to participate in the Baton Rouge leg of the Louisiana Law Enforcement Torch Run as a member of the Baton Rouge Police Department; little did he know that decision would change his life. In 2005 the department was asked to have more members involved, and the Chief at the time recommended Carl to lead the task, which he gladly accepted. He was then appointed Area Coordinator and within a year he was rewarded for the increase in participation he brought to the Movement. In 2008, he was appointed to the Torch Run Executive Council and currently serves as the State Director. Now a Lieutenant with Baton Rouge Police Department, Carl states, "I have been a police officer for over 26 years. I am proud to be a police officer, and I am even more proud to be a Torch Runner for Special Olympics."

In 2009, Carl was chosen to represent Louisiana as a representative in the World Winter Games Final Leg in Idaho. In his speech he remarked, "My involvement with the Torch Run and with Special Olympics has taught me many things. **Commitment**, seeing the amount of dedication that the athletes put into their training and competition amazes me. They work tirelessly to always be at their personal best. In addition, the officers of the Torch Run often take their own time to attend events for Special Olympics. Officers are committed to changing the athletes' lives. **Pride**; Special Olympics Athletes take pride in being a part of Special Olympics. They take pride in accomplishing their goals

much as officers take pride in the job that they do each day. **Determination**; the spirit of a Special Olympics athlete is like no other. Being a part of Special Olympics boosts their self-esteem and increases their skills. Determination just like officers have when they put their lives on the line for their community each day."

When asked about his favorite Torch Run memory, Carl states, "The first year that I coordinated the run in my area, which happens to be in our state capital, we were coming down the main highway and we had to stop for a train that was passing through. Even though we were stuck there for about five minutes, no one ever stopped running in place. When the train passed, everyone kept going. It was a great moment to see how dedicated all of these people are to this event. The next year I made sure to check the train schedule." When asked about his favorite Special Olympics Louisiana memory, he says, "The first time that I was able to attend the State Summer Games Opening Ceremonies, it was an amazing experience. Being with the athletes and seeing them parade in put the Torch Run in a whole new light for me. I was able to see how much all of it meant to the athletes and it was a humbling experience." From that day forward, Carl has made it a point to always attend State Indoor Games and State Summer Games.

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Outside of Special Olympics his proudest achievement was being able to attend the FBI Academy that only 1% of law enforcement personnel are chosen to attend. In his spare time, he is very involved in the community and with other organizations. He takes time for fishing and riding his motorcycle, as well as spending time with his wife and two children. He focuses all of his efforts on living by the Law Enforcement Torch Run Movement Values: Commitment, Pride and Dedication. "In law enforcement you spend most of your time correcting bad behavior from bad people. Special Olympics has brought light to a world of darkness that law enforcement deals with everyday. We are able to express our hearts and souls for a very special group of TRUE heroes," said Lieutenant Carl Dabadie, Baton Rouge Police Department.



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The question we were asked most by folks coming to the conference was, "What will the weather be?" It was amazing "til the morning of the run, and then it dropped to -3 Celsius (27 Fahrenheit) and it snowed, but that didn't stop any of the runners. We even had officers in shorts making snow angels, and it wasn't even us hardy Canadians! It was the team from Florida.

After the scenic 5km Torch Run, there was opportunity for everyone to participate in a very traditional Canadian sport, street hockey. With the official puck drop at 1300 hours with Richard LaMunyon and Mathew Williams (Sargent Schriver Global Messenger), the challenge began, with teams from Ontario and Minnesota dominating the tournament. Northern California and Southern California battled it out on Rink A with the South taking it by a score of 12-9. While hockey was being played, we had a train pull in the Canadian Pacific Railway pavilion. Teams of 20 had to pull a 115 ton classic locomotive a distance of 30 feet. The first demonstration was done by the Calgary Police Services' strong man, Constable Dennis Ruygrok, followed by Officer Derek Poundstone from the Naugatuck, Connecticut Police Department, world strongman and LETR Global Ambassador. Dennis and Derek pulled the locomotive 85 feet. Very impressive to watch!

The Hall of Fame banquet is our focal event and always a very special time. This year was even more special because we were celebrating a milestone, the 30th anniversary of this amazing movement. A video was produced for Richard LaMunyon showing the incredible things the Torch Run has accomplished over the last 30 years. Calgary Special Olympics Athlete Alyssa Hatton painted a mountain scene and presented it to him during the banquet. Chief LaMunyon was able to share his joy and accomplishments with his whole family in attendance.

On behalf of the Alberta Law Enforcement Torch Run, we would like to thank everyone who attended. Also, thank you to those who sent their regrets but did send their best wishes for a successful conference.

INDIANA SELECTED TO HOST THE 2012 INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN CONFERENCE



JW Marriott to host over 1,000 officers worldwide

Special Olympics Indiana will be “Raising the Game” in Indianapolis for the 2012 Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) International Conference. Beginning with the dramatic opening ceremony and lighting of the torch, the 2012 conference is sure to inspire more than 1,000 law enforcement personnel from around the globe toward the ongoing goals of raising funds and awareness in support of Special Olympics athletes.

Every year, the International Conference provides an opportunity for Torch Run volunteers to network, share, and learn how to improve their local Torch Run programs. The conference scheduled for Nov 8-10 at the new JW Marriott in Indianapolis will celebrate the 31st year of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics. This is the first time that Indiana will host the event.

The conference will kick off November 8 with a dramatic opening ceremony where the “Flame of Hope” torch will arrive courtesy of a host of Indiana law enforcement officers. It will culminate on November 10 with a variety of sports activities, including a 5K Torch Run, unified teams of law enforcement officers and Special Olympics athletes competing in a new Special Olympics sport.

Lieutenant Mike Beck of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and past-Torch Run Director for Indiana says that his dedicated Law Enforcement Torch Run® team is eager to serve as hosts for their colleagues from around the world. “This is Indiana’s opportunity to showcase our community and our dedication to Special Olympics athletes who are the beneficiaries of the knowledge learned by conference attendees,” Beck said. “Our ultimate goal is that law enforcement’s impact will bring even greater awareness and motivation for Special Olympics in communities throughout the world.”

The LETR International Conference allows volunteers from all corners of the globe to mingle, share inspirational stories and learn from one another as they collaborate to improve their local Torch Run programs. In turn, the conference will build public awareness and continue to change the lives of Special Olympic athletes through new and fresh ideas. Attendees come from North America and as far as Europe, Latin America, China, Korea, and Australia.

Check for up-to-date information at the official website of the 2012 International LETR Conference:

<http://soindiana.org/special-events/law-enforcement-torch-run/letr2012/>



**Indiana Torch Run Officer
Tommy Walker with SO Athlete**



Indianapolis Motor Speedway



JW Marriott



NCAA Hall of Champions



Lucas Oil Stadium

A Big Thank You from SO Chinese Taipei (Taiwan)
By Joan Chang (Chiung-Wen Chang)
Torch Run Liaison, Special Olympics Chinese Taipei (Taiwan)

As Taiwan, my motherland, celebrated its centennial in 2011, Special Olympics Chinese Taipei had more to celebrate. Announced during the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) International Conference held in Calgary in November 2011, two Taiwanese police officers won the Photo Competition held jointly by IACP and Special Olympics International. Also announced during the conference was the John Carion Unsung Hero Award. I was honored to have been presented the award in recognition of my and our team's efforts in the promotion and development of the LETR in Taiwan.

Special Olympics Chinese Taipei is comparatively new to the Torch Run community, having started in 1999. However, our participation and achievements in the international arena are comparable to any fully developed program. Taiwanese police were first enlisted in a Final Leg team in 2001 and Taiwanese police officers have been present in all subsequent Final Legs. Police officers have been invited to attend the LETR International Conference since 2002 and so far, more than 20 Taiwanese police officers have been to an LETR International Conference. Having witnessed the passion and commitment of



Athlete Hsiao-Chieh Lin
1999 Gold Medalist of Track and Field

their fellow officers in providing hope and change to athletes with intellectual disabilities, many have pledged their full support for the Law Enforcement Torch Run®, as well as Special Olympics.

Locally, the LETR for Special Olympics Chinese Taipei (SO CT) was held on June 4, 2011, when yet another new record was set for the amount of donations received and the number of T-shirts sold.

Athletes of SO CT not only find joy and pride in taking part and winning in Special Olympics World Games, their full time employment also makes them respected individuals in the community.

We are extremely grateful for the advice and guidance we have continually received from the LETR Executive Council and in particular, the Regional Coordinators. In our attempt to spread the Flame of Hope throughout Taiwanese soil, we look forward to the same level of support and guidance the international Torch Run community has given us in the past, and we thank you all for everything you have done for Special Olympics Chinese Taipei.



SCOT 2011 Conference Delegates with
Richard LaMunyon, Founder of LETR

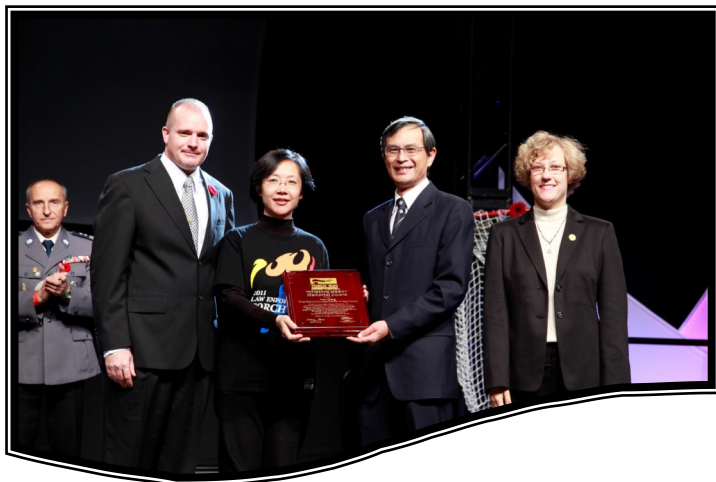
SO Chinese Taipei (Taiwan)
Athletes



Athlete Wei-Hsun Chen
2005 Gold Medalist of Bowling



Athlete Michael Fan
1999 Gold Medalist of Swimming

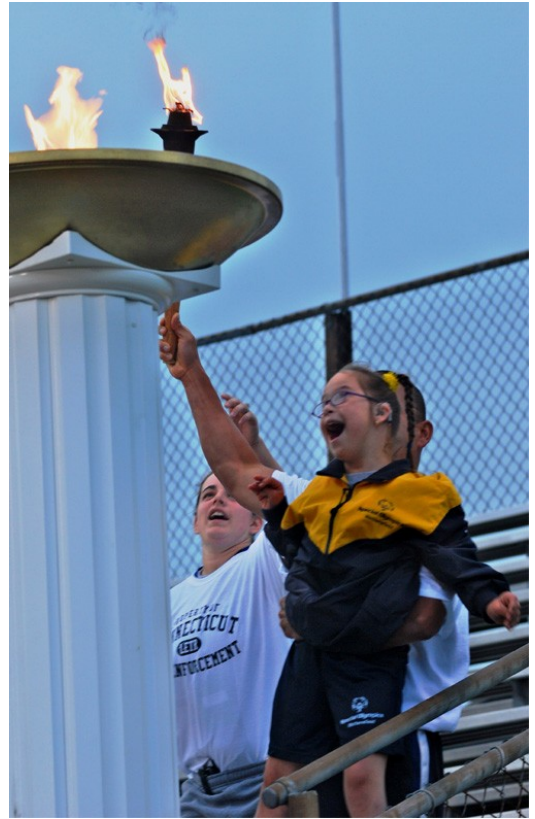


SOCT Joan Chang
2011 John Carrion Unsung Hero Memorial Award

Winners of the Spirit Award



First Place — Kaitlyn Pratt
Special Olympics Northern California



Second Place — Liza Nolan
Special Olympics Connecticut



Third Place — Myron Cramer
Special Olympics Kansas

Winners of the Professional Award



**First Place — Andrea Kramer
Special Olympics Idaho**



**Second Place — Andrea Kramer
Special Olympics Idaho**

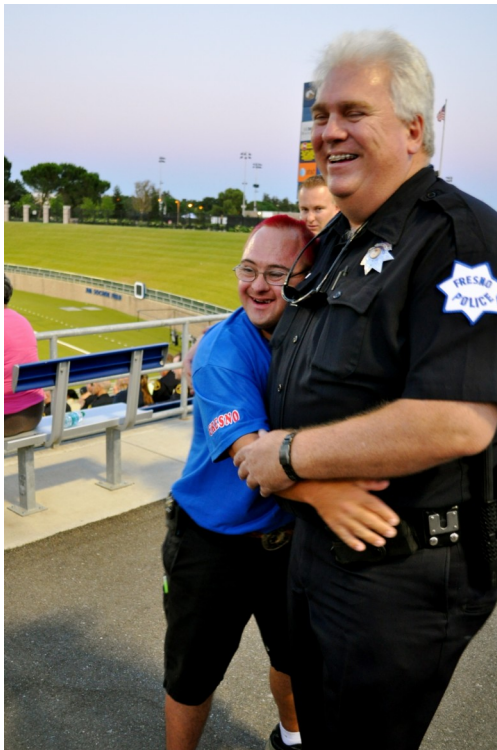


**Third Place — Andrea Kramer
Special Olympics Idaho**

Winners of the Police Officer & Athlete Award



First Place — Steve Cabrales
Special Olympics Nevada



Third Place — Amanda Routh
Special Olympics Opening Ceremonies



Second Place — Kaitlyn Pratt
Special Olympics Northern California

Winners of the Guardians of the Flame Award



**First Place — Amy Neveaux
Special Olympics New York**



**Second Place — Ya-Chi Yang
Special Olympics Taiwan**



**Third Place — Steve Worthy
Special Olympics North Carolina**

Winners of the Group Award



First Place — Michel Duhamel
Olympiques Spéciaux Québec



Second Place — Megan Grittani-Livingstone
Special Olympics British Columbia



Third Place — Hai-Taun Hung
Special Olympics Taiwan

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

**Special Olympics Appointee**

Monty Castevens
Special Olympics Florida

Special Olympics Appointee

Peter Wheeler
Special Olympics International

Special Olympics At-Large

Mark Musso
Special Olympics Missouri

Special Olympics At-Large

Adrian DeWendt (Vice-Chair)
Special Olympics Oklahoma

Special Olympics At-Large

Rich Fernandez
Special Olympics Southern California

SOI Executive Director of LETR

Michael Teem
Special Olympics, Inc.

Chairman Emeritus

Richard LaMunyon (Ret.)
Kansas, LETR

IACP Appointee

Russ Laine
Illinois, LETR

IACP Appointee

Joe Pena
Illinois, LETR

Council Appointee

Roy Forrest
North Carolina, LETR

Council Appointee

Luis A Rosa
Connecticut, LETR

Law Enforcement At-Large

Antonio Williams
Hawaii, LETR

Law Enforcement At-Large

Kurt Kendro
Hawaii, LETR

Law Enforcement At-Large

Mike Peretti (chair)
Northern California, LETR

Special Olympics Athlete Appointee

Martha Hill
Special Olympics Wisconsin

Region I

CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT
Jamie Hainsworth
Rhode Island, LETR

Region II

DC, DE, MD, PA, NJ, NY, VA, WV
John Newnan
Maryland, LETR

Region III

AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN
Joe Pellicci
South Carolina, LETR

Region IV

IL, IN, KY, MI, OH
Jim Reno
Indiana, LETR

Region V

IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI
Jeri Rhoder
Nebraska, LETR

Region VI

AR, KS, LA, MO, OK, TX
Randy Boehm
Missouri, LETR

Region VII

AZ, N. CA, S. CA, CO, HI, NV, NM, UT,
GUAM
Roberta Abner
Southern California, LETR

Region VIII

AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY
Jason Johnson
Montana, LETR

Region IX

Western Europe
Jeremy Adams
Ireland, LETR

Region X

Eastern Europe/Eurasia
Jacek Hachulski
Poland, LETR

Region XI

Canada
(AB, BS, MB, NB, NF, NWT, NS, ON,
PEI, PQ, SK, YK)
Paul Manuel

Region XII

East Asia
Patrick Chan
Special Olympics Hong Kong

Region XIII

Caribbean
(St. Vincent, Jamaica, Barbados, Domini-
ca, Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis,
Puerto Rico, Grand Cayman, Bahamas,
Grenada, Trinidad & Tobago, Guade-
loupe, Martinique, US Virgin Islands, St.
Maarten, Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba, Haiti,
Belize, Guyana, Montserrat, Suriname)
Bill Buford (Ret.)
Arkansas, LETR

Region XIV

Oceania
Don Stuart
Australia, LETR

Region XV

Latin America
Vladimir Caceres
Policia Nacional Civil de El Salvador
El Salvador, LETR