

The Torch Bearer

Newsletter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run to Support
Special Olympics Wyoming
Spring 2018



The Wyoming Torch Run Hall of Fame



"The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a sustained and significant contribution to the Torch Run and Special Olympics Wyoming".



Chief Dale Stalder Laramie Police Department

Dale stepped up as a young officer and volunteered to organize and lead the newly formed Law Enforcement Torch Run in Wyoming. In a nomination letter from former Special Olympics Wyoming CEO Julie Gillett, Dale was described as enthusiastic, unshakable, big-hearted and humble.

Chief Stalder began his Torch Run journey like most, with a vision to create awareness and raise funds for Special Olympics. However, when he began there was no Torch Run in Wyoming, so through his hard work and dedication he established and developed the Torch Run.

Dale was the **first** to carry the Flame of Hope in Wyoming. He participated in the first Torch Run in Wyoming back in 1987 prior to the Summer Games in Cheyenne.

Dale also served as the State Torch Run Director for Wyoming from 1987-1995. He represented Wyoming as a member of the first ever Final Leg at the University of Notre Dame in 1987. He was also a member of the 1989 & 1993 Final Leg Torch Run teams.

He continues to support the Torch Run today to ensure that the athletes of Special Olympics Wyoming are able to compete and be included.

Chief Ron Casalenda Douglas Police Department

Ron first participated in the Torch Run in 1994, and has coordinated the Torch Run in his community each year since. He has organized numerous fundraisers and has helped raise thousands of dollars for Special Olympics Wyoming.

Chief Casalenda became the State Co-Director in 1999. In 2013, he was appointed to the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Council as the Region 8 Coordinator. He is a Final Leg veteran and was inducted into the Richard LaMunyon Torch Run Hall of Fame in 2008. He also currently serves on the board of directors for Special Olympics Wyoming.

Ron's enthusiasm and dedication for the Torch Run has been described as contagious. He continues to advocate for the athletes of Special Olympics as a true leader of the Law Enforcement

Thank you to all of our "Below Zero Heroes." The Jump season wrapped up in Evanston on April 28th. Casper, Cheyenne, Douglas, Keyhole, Sheridan were all Law Enforcement Events as well as support in other jumps run around the state. Next year we'll look to add Laramie back to the list!



Our Merchandise opportunities are a great way to support fundraising efforts and promote the remarkable relationship that Law Enforcement has with Special Olympics Wyoming. Click [here](#) for the order form. Two shirts are available. Merchandise shirts to be sold are printed on Kelly blue in short and long sleeved.



Year # 2 for the Liaison Luncheon another success

Nearly forty attendees representing twenty agencies attended the luncheon to kick off what looks like maybe one of our most successful Torch Run years ever. Thank you to Attorney General Peter Michael for participating and all that attended.



We are pleased, no proud to announce our Torch Run Representatives to the 2019 World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi next March. Chief Dwane Pacheco of Rock Springs and Brendan Burke, Special Olympics athlete from Jackson



The Wyoming Torch Run –



The Torch has made its way across the state; Evanston, Cody, Lovell, Riverton, Lander and with many miles to go with runs scheduled for Sweetwater County, Park County (Powell), Sheridan, Gillette, Crook County (to Devils Tower), Glenrock, Douglas, Wheatland, Cheyenne and... Opening Ceremonies in Laramie.

Please check the [Special Olympics Wyoming website](#) for scheduled start times.



Please consider joining us in Laramie for the 2019 Special Olympics Wyoming Summer Games Opening Ceremonies on Thursday, May 17th. Chief Mike Samp will be sending out details. If you are interested in spending the night (Special Olympics will cover the cost of hotel rooms) and would be willing to help with awards on Friday, please contact [Priscilla Dowse](#)



Upcoming Events



Pig Skin Madness!

Tickets are available to sell now! \$ 20.00 ticket gives the purchaser seven chances to win every week for seventeen weeks - all they have to do is wait for the check to arrive. [Click here](#) to submit an order.



Application for the 2018 International Torch Run Conference, November 8-10, 2018 in Las Vegas, NV. [This application](#) is due no later than **Friday, June 1, 2018.**

Tip-a-Cop!

Two locations, **one** great restaurant, **many many** Law Enforcement! What a great combination. **In Cheyenne, June 8th, 9th, 10th** and in **Casper, June 14th.**



Thank you to Texas Roadhouse and all of our servers (Law Enforcement and TR employees). Come join us for a meal!



The [2018 Special Olympics USA Summer Games](#) will open **July 1, 2018**, in Seattle. Wyoming will be represented by Julie Wickett, Glenrock, Officer Matt Koritnik of Lovell PD, and Chief Ron Casalenda, Douglas PD.



The [50th Anniversary of Special Olympics](#) will be celebrated in July. A Torch Run and eternal flame lighting will take place on **Friday, July 20th in Chicago**

Torch Run Council

The Law Enforcement Torch Run to Benefit Special Olympics is coordinated by a small group of experienced, dedicated and passionate Law Enforcement representatives. The Torch Run council is then supported by a designated Special Olympics Wyoming staff person (Priscilla Dowse).

We're excited to welcome Thomas Howell and Chief Bill Motley to the Council.

We are looking for two representatives for Region I (Big Horn Basin and Fremont County) and an additional individual for Region II (Western Wyoming and Sweetwater County)

Torch Run Council

State Director: [Matt Koritnik](#)

State Deputy Director: [Mike Samp](#)

Region I: open

Region II: [Frostie Egley](#)

Region III: [Mike Fernandez & Donnie Heiduck](#)

Region IV: [Boot Hill & Bill Motley](#)

Region V: [Ty Mower & Brad Reinhart](#)

Special Olympics Athlete: [Lewis Fancher](#)

WHP Representative: [Keith Groeneweg](#)

WPOA: Mike Ogden

Federal Agency Rep: [Thomas Howell](#)

Director Emeritus: [Ron Casalenda](#)

Special Olympics Liaison: [Priscilla Dowse](#)

Upcoming Calendar

MAY

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting, Casper
- 11 Sweetwater County TR
- 12 Powell Torch Run
- 14 Sheridan, Gillette, & Crook Cty TR
- 15 Glenrock Torch Run
- 16 WLEA, Douglas, and Wheatland TR
- 17 Cheyenne Torch Run
- 17-19 State Summer Games, Laramie
- 28 Office Closed Memorial Day

JUNE

- 8-10 Tip-a-Cop, Texas Roadhouse, Cheyenne
- 14 Tip-a-Cop, Texas Roadhouse, Casper
- 16 Coaches Training, Casper
- 16 CNFR Special Rodeo, Casper
- 26-2 LETR Final Leg for USA Games, Seattle
- 30 Bowl-A-Thon, Johnson Co A Team, Buffalo

JULY

- 1-6 USA Games, Seattle
- TBD Benefit Golf Tournament, Cody
- 4 Office Closed for 4th of July



- 16 Special Olympics @ Casper Horseheads Game
- 20-22 Special Olympics 50th Anniversary
- 21 Wind River Cycling Poker Ride, Sublette County

AUGUST

- 4 Jackalope Ride, Jackson
- 10 Fall Tournament Coaches Training, Casper
- 17-18 Summer Sports Classic, Casper
- TBD Fire Truck Pull—Cheyenne

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