

Area 32 Special Olympics

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."



Special Olympics

Michigan

Winter 2011 Issue Four Area 32 Director: Mike Maxwell Newsletter: Judy Nichols

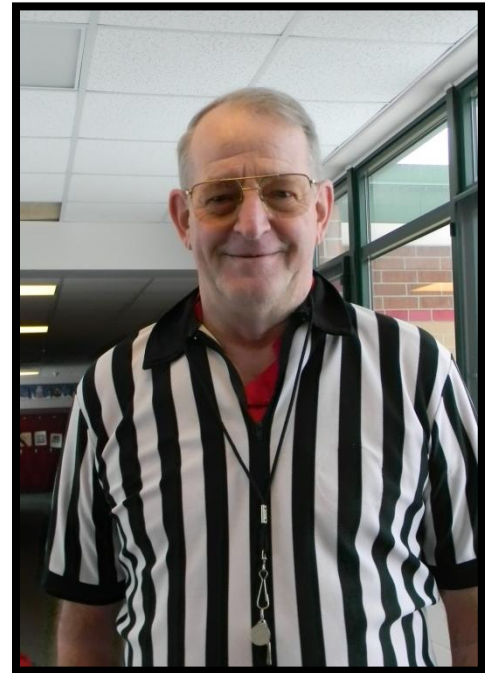
Welcome to 2011....A new year with new hope for our athletes!! We are glad you are part of our team and want to share our news with you from 2010 and information for 2011. In an effort to keep athletes and their families informed as to who is in charge of what, we would like to start by announcing the list of our Management Team for 2010.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Area Director.....Mike Maxwell
Asst. Director.....Cal Reynolds
Financial Rep.....Vacant
Secretarial Rep.....Vacant
Public Relations Rep.....Cal Reynolds
Fund Raising Rep.....Cal Reynolds
Parent/Family Rep.....Judy Nichols
Medical Rep.....Mike Maxwell
Competition Rep.....Bill Lanphear
Volunteer Rep.....Linda Rhoades
Training Rep.....Dallas Schuster
Outreach Rep.....Judy Nichols
Athlete Rep.....Joel Nichols
Registration/Records.....Cal Reynolds

Our heartfelt THANKS to these dedicated workers!! As you can see....*there is always room for more!!!* Please consider how you can help us out!

A Word from the Director



First, I would like to thank everyone that is involved in Area 32 Special Olympics, from our management team, coaches, volunteers, sponsors and most of all to our athletes in making 2010 one of our best years. We competed in more area tournaments than ever before and also all of the state tournaments. We could not do this without everyone's help.

Secondly, we have started a fundraiser that everyone can be a part of. The athlete, your family, group home can collect returnable bottles and cans, turn them in and bring the slip to Cal Reynolds or any management team member. We will be collecting them until April 2011. This will help defray the cost of taking our athletes to area tournaments.

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Speaking of tournaments, we need drivers to transport the athletes to area tournaments and state tournaments. If we don't get more drivers we will have to leave some of our athletes at home and we certainly do not want to do this. If you can occasionally volunteer it would be a great help.

We need more people to get involved in our monthly meetings, we have a lot of tough issues, and decisions and we need your input to make these decisions.

Again I would like to thank everyone involved in Area 32 Special Olympics.

Mike Maxwell

Area Director

**Area 32 Special Olympics PO Box 182
Cadillac, Mi 49601 or contact Mike
Maxwell at 231-942-9603**

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Area 32 Meetings are held on the 1st Monday of each month at 5:00 P.M. Meetings are held at 9907 13th St., Cadillac, MI. Follow signs to the Special Service Building located north or behind CTC. Follow signs to the Board of Education and enter building.

Check the Cadillac News Community Calendar for updates.

VOLUNTEERING

Area 32 offers 8 team sports throughout the year. The amount of time that a few individuals devote to helping coach, chaperone, provide transportation, for our Special Olympians is greatly appreciated. Not only do a few help with sport events they are also responsible for helping raise money through fundraising to support our programs.

If you are interested in helping to coach, provide transportation, chaperone, or help with fundraisers please contact Linda Rhoades at 231-884-4175 for further information. If you could help only occasionally your volunteerism will be greatly appreciated.

"Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve...You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physic to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."...Martin Luther King, Jr...

How to Log On To Area 32 Website

1. Enter WWW.Somi.org in your search engine
2. Select Special Olympics Michigan.
3. Select region/Area pages.
4. Click on the √ box. All Michigan Counties will appear, select Wexford.
5. Scroll down to Area #32 and click on the website
6. View documents or see pictures

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2010 FUNDRAISING RECAP

Area 32 had a very successful year of fundraising activities.

We had 5 fundraisers beginning with a very successful Spaghetti dinner at the Bear Claw Restaurant in March. In April we had a bottle & can drive. In May we enjoyed the walk around Lake Cadillac supporting Miles for Medals. In July we sponsored a Bowl-A-Thon, and concluded the fundraising activities for the year with our golf outing in August.

Many thanks to the chairpersons for the various fundraisers, and to the many volunteers that worked on the projects. We would also like to thank all of our sponsors, and contributors to the various events. Without you these fundraisers would not be possible.

Athletic Practices/Tournaments

Prior to the start of every new sport season, coaches provide all information that is necessary for the season, practice locations, times, etc. We spend many hours away from our own families coaching Special Olympics. It would be appreciated if all parents, guardians, or care givers could be on time to pick up your athlete. Numerous times we have had to wait a considerable amount of time for the ride to show up. This also applies to our bowling program.

Tournament play is a little tougher to call the time of arrival home.

We give it our best shot, sometimes we are early and sometimes we will be late. The ideal way is to have your athlete call you when we have a better idea of our arrival. The problem is that some athletes do not know the number or where you will be. Therefore it is all the more important that your athlete has home and cell phone numbers with them where you can be reached.

The Coaches



Upcoming Fundraisers

Feb. 12 "Golf on the Ice". Sponsor: The Sons of American Legion Post 94. Details call: 231-775-6500 1:00 p.m.

April 6th " Spaghetti Dinner" Bear Claw Restaurant 5:00-8:00p.m. Meal and silent auction😊

April 23rd "Bottle/Can Drive" Wal Mart/Glen's

May 21st "Miles For Medals"

July....."Bowl a Thon"
Parkview Lanes Date TBA

August....."Golf Outing"
The Hawk Golf Course....Date TBA

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A Look Back at 2010

2010 Poly Hockey



Area 32 Special Olympics poly hockey team competed in a two day state tournament in Lansing in 2010. The Wildcats were participating in Division 3, a highly competitive and tough division. After falling behind 8-0 in the first game, the "never give up" attitude of the athletes allowed Area 32 to secure a win in a 9-8 overtime victory.

The second game was a close and competitive challenge, often separated by only one or two goals. The Wildcats tough determination and great team work were able to claim the Division 3 crown for 2010 with the final score of 9-5.

Pictured are: Mike Hepner, Ashley Anderson, Dawn Whaley, Michael Burch, Donielle Greeley, Matt Mortensen, Steve Eckhardt, Derek Ellard, Kala Brightsman, Douglas Ellard, Mallory Reddy, Joel Nichols, Dustin Ellard.

Coached by Bill Lanphear

2010 SUMMER GAMES

Area 32 took 32 athletes, coaches, and volunteers to the 2010 Summer Games in Mt. Pleasant.



They competed in bowling, bocce, track and field. The bowlers included Karen Reed, Nicole Reynolds, April Anderson, Dawn Whaley, Jodi Johnson, Helen Muir, Michael Burch, Michael Hughes, Jerry Lovelace, Denny Moffit, and Dave Emery. They were coached by Cal Reynolds and Norma Stuart.

The bocce players were Larry Burton, Mike Hepner, Ross Hammer, and Troy Tissue. They were coached by Mike Maxwell and Rodney Cudnohufsky.

Those in track & field included Ashley Duncan, Ashley Sebastian, Montanna Duncan, Kala Brightsman, Derek Ellard, Dustin Ellard, Steven Eckhardt, Kevin Butler, and Donnie Barber. The team was coached by William Lanphear, Steven Cooper, and Merialice Taylor.

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2010 WINTER SPORTS



Area 32 offers only 2 winter sports, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. Practices were held and the old Casa Fields and the turnout was very minimal.

The team did participate in one tournament prior to the Winter Games, this was held in Roscommon at Hanson Hills. Those participating (pictured above) were Larry Burton and Steven Eckhardt in cross country skiing, and Matt Gilbert, JP McNaughton, Donnie Barber, and Kim Stockman in snowshoeing.

Hanson Hills was a warm up for Area 32 participation at SOMI Winter Games held at the Grand Traverse Resort February 2-5. Participants included (picture above) Matt Gilbert, JP McNaughton, and Donnie Barber (not pictured) in snowshoeing, and Larry Burton and Steve Eckhardt in cross country skiing. A great time was had by all and many medals were won.



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2010 BOWLING

Bowling has the greatest amount of athletes participating than any other sport. We began bowling on April 1st, and continued for 7 more weeks concluding May 27th just prior to SOMI Summer Games in Mt. Pleasant. As usual we had more attendees the last day for the pizza party. We had approximately 50-60 participants each week. The fall bowling program started on October 7th and went for 4 weeks.

2010 Basketball

Area 32 Special Olympics sponsored two basketball teams this past winter.

The "Wildcats" coached by Mike Maxwell, Cal Reynolds, and Rodney Cudnohufsky played a total of 14 games against other Special Olympics Teams winning 11 of 14 games. They competed in the state tournament in Grandville, Mi. where they placed 3rd in their division.

The "Bobcats" coached by Bill Lanphear, Dallas Schuster, and Rodney Cudnohusky played 12 games. This was the first year that many of these athletes played together so it was a learning experience in the basics of basketball and they all did a great job.



Bobcats Donielle Greeley, Joel Nichols, Mallory Reddy, Donnie Barber, Steven Eckhardt, John Newell, Mike Hepner, Ashley Anderson, Michael Burch, Joseph Galvanek, Montanna Duncan. Coached by Dallas Schuster and Bill Lanphear.



Wildcats: Dustin Ellard, Bob Hatfield, Douglas Ellard, Chris Rodgers, Tom Nolan, Dawn Whaley, J.P. McNaughton, Derek Ellard, Mick Korte, Ashley Duncan, Leonard Kuchinski. Coaches Mike Maxwell, Cal Reynolds Rodney Cudnohusky.

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2010 Area 32 Wildcat Softball

The Area 32 Wildcats Softball teammates for 2010 included: April Anderson, Donnie Barber, Kala Brightsman, Michael Burch,

Larry Burton, Kevin Butler, Pam Clark, Derek Ellard, Doug Ellard, Dustin Ellard, Matt Gilbert, Michael Hepner, J.P. McNaughton, John Newell, Joel Nichols, Ashley Sebastian, Kim Stockman and Dawn Whaley. We also had the pleasure of welcoming new athletes from the Big Rapids area to Area 32: Anna, Matt, Robert and Sue.

The dedication of the entire Area 32 team was astounding. The hot, humid, 90 degree days seemed to arrive on practice day. The athletes were there in force however, with some either walking or biking up to 2 or more miles to Casa Field.

Our one and only scheduled tournament was slated for July 24th at Benzie. The team all showed up at Casa Field at an early hour for the trip. Our group made it as far as Mesick and we learned that we were rained out. The tournament was rescheduled for the following weekend and the Area 32 Wildcats won both of their games in convincing fashion.

Thank you to the parents, chaperones, volunteer drivers and coaches (you know who you are). But most of all, thank you to our outstanding group of athletes. They are true champions, each and every one!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMPETITION HELD

May 12th at Cadillac HS Football Stadium

More than 120 athletes from Wexford & Missaukee Counties came together for competition May 12th at the Special Olympics Michigan Area 32 Spring Games. The games were held at Cadillac High School Football Stadium. These athletes competed in Track & Field sports, and were supported by more than 35 coaches and volunteers.

Summer sports are part of Special Olympics Michigan's year-round program of sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Some of the competitors from Area #32 Spring Games advanced to the State Summer Games held June 3-5 in Mt. Pleasant, Mi. The Summer Games of Special Olympics Michigan are sponsored by Spartan Stores, Inc.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ANNUAL PICNIC

The second annual Area 32 Special Olympics picnic was held on August 21, 2010 at Kenwood Park, from 11 am to 3 pm. Area 32 furnished the hot dogs, buns, condiments, and beverages. Those attending were asked to bring a dish to pass. A good time was had by all attending.

Certificates of participation were presented to all the athletes, listing the sports they were involved in for the past year.

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Area 32 invites YOU to become involved!!!!

- Please contact me, I am interested in volunteering!
- Please send me more info for my son or daughter!
- I am sending a tax deductible gift to Area 32 Sp. Olympics

Please send to:

Area 32 Special Olympics

P.O. Box 182

Cadillac, Michigan 49601

Looking for a place to serve?

Area 32 is looking for a volunteer to be a coach, and chaperone for the bowling programs. It would involve at the most 3 hours per bowling day, and there is not a great deal of coaching.

If you are interested in helping please contact Mike Maxwell at **231-942-9603**.

Participating in and volunteering with Special Olympics is a life changing experience! The Area 32 athletes work very hard to prepare for and participate in their various events. Despite the many challenges our athletes face they give their best efforts and are so happy to be part of a "team". Our volunteers are an important part of that team too! It's the "teamwork" that makes the difference!

2011 Area 32 Annual Plan

In the pullout section of our newsletter we have included our yearly Annual Plan for Area 32.

We hope that you take the time to read this important information which includes our 2011 activities, the objectives for each category, measured outcomes, persons responsible, and completion dates for each category. As you look it over please look for events in which you can volunteer or attend!!