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# Georgia's Champions

May 2014

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## News and Stories

### The "Chaos" Seeks Second Gold at Summer Games

Named "Chaos" for being quick to score points on the soccer field, the Carrollton team plans to win another gold at the State Summer Games May 30th-June 1st at Emory University.



"We like to make other teams afraid of us, like thunder and lightening," said Athlete Ryan Young. To help make that happen, Ryan and his teammates are practicing twice a week on blocking, stealing, and shooting the ball.

Ryan will be one of nearly 3,000 athletes, coaches and unified partners to participate in State Summer Games, which is anticipated to be SOGA's largest State Games ever. The sports offered this year are aquatics, athletics, flag-football, gymnastics, long distance walking and running, soccer, table tennis, tennis, and volleyball. Opening Ceremony will be 7:30 p.m. Friday.

To athletes and coaches: Check out the free Special Smiles, Opening Eyes and Fit Feet Healthy Athletes offerings at Summer Games. There will be give-aways, including new prescription glasses. The screenings will be open from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Olympic Town and in the Woodruff PE

## Upcoming Events

### Moe's Give Back Day May 2nd

Moe's Southwest Grill will host a Give Back Day for SOGA May 2nd at its original location at 2915 Peachtree Rd. NE, Atlanta. Come out to eat some great food while also giving back to a great organization. Mention to your cashier that you are there for Special Olympics Georgia and drop your receipt into the "spirit bucket." 20% will go back to SOGA!



### Virtual Torch Run May 9th-30th

As law enforcement officers run with the Flame of Hope across the state in the annual Torch Relay, you can join them virtually in the Virtual



Center.

## Summer Games Athletes Need Your Support

With this year's Summer Games anticipated to be the largest State Games ever hosted by SOGA, we still need to raise \$5,000 to help cover the expenses, and we are hoping that you can help us reach this goal! The cost per athlete for the weekend is \$100. Please help make an athlete's dream come true with a tax deductible donation. Any gift amount is greatly appreciated and will be a tremendous help. **Please click here to show your support of the athletes and make your life-changing donation today!**



## In Memorial of Long-Time Friend Bob Busse

We will dearly miss Bob Busse, long-time friend and supporter of the athletes, who passed away in April.

This year, we hope to raise \$101,000 at the annual Bob Busse Golf Tournament in his honor, who would have been 101 in June. The tournament's name has been changed this week to the Bob Busse Memorial Classic.



A former member of SOGA's Board of Directors, Bob also helped raise more than \$2.5 million mostly through the golf tournament. Until this year, he recruited golfers and sponsors for his tournament and made regular calls to the state office with updates.

Bob worked for Burroughs Corporation for 36 years in six states. He was married to Dorothy (Dottie) for 57 years before she passed away. They were parents to son Ronald and daughter Laurie.

Bob majored in accounting at what's now known as Rutgers Business School at Rutgers University-Newark and was involved in many extracurricular activities. He played on the newly formed men's basketball team and acted with a student theater group. As a member of the University of Newark's Delta Sigma Pi -- a business fraternity -- Bob served as chapter president, regional director and Grand President. He helped endow the Bob and Dorothy Busse Scholarship Fund, and was honored with the fraternity's 1996 Lifetime Achievement Award.

He also joined Rotary in New Jersey in 1943, served in seven different clubs and was chief consultant to the Atlanta Rotary office for 35 years.

Our condolences go out to Bob's friends and family.

## Athlete of the Month: Elena Weaver

Torch Run and receive a medal and T-shirt. Join us **here**. The relay ends as the top five fundraising departments carry the Flame of Hope into the Opening Ceremony of State Summer Games and light the cauldron. Find a run near you **here**.

## Which Wich May 12th and May 19th

**Which Wich  
Superior  
Sandwiches** will



hold two more Fundraising Days for SOGA on Monday, May 12th and May 19th at the following locations: Brookhaven @ Town Brookhaven, Canton @ Canton Marketplace, Cumming @ The Collection at Forsyth, Duluth @ Sugarloaf Day Centre, Emory @ Emory Point, Norcross @ The Forum, and Snellville @ The Shoppes at Webb Gin. Which Wich will donate 10% of all sales before tax to support the State Summer Games. To find the address of the location nearest to you, or to start planning what you'll have for lunch or dinner, visit **www.whichwich.com**.

For more information, contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111.

## Cops on Doughnut Shops June 27th-29th

Officers will soon take to the roofs of Krispy Kremes for our annual Cops on Doughnut Shops across the state



of Georgia. Visit your local Krispy Kreme June 27th-29th to support your Georgia Law Enforcement Torch Run Officers

The Athlete of the Month is Elena Weaver.

Born with devastating multiple birth defects, there was little hope for a long and normal life. But her family fought for her and she began to respond positively to surgeries and therapies. As she grew stronger and celebrated more birthdays, her parents discovered Elena had dreams about what she would like to do and accomplish in her life!



One dream was to become a gymnast. Elena found a gym program and her family helped out at the gym for lessons. Eventually her dad became her certified Special Olympics coach and her mom became the photographer, cheerleader, and costume maker. She competed in artistic gymnastics and became a state champion with the Level 4 status.

Now she has learned and competes in rhythmic gymnastics - achieving Level 4 status as a state, national and world champion. She has led her family throughout the U.S.A. and to other countries for competitions.

As Elena gained strength and accomplishments, her family became stronger, more united and more committed to helping other families believe in their exceptional children.

Congratulations, Elena, for being named Athlete of the Month!

### P&G Promotion

Help support Special Olympics with this year's P&GbrandSAVER® and **Thank you, Mom promotion!** Keep an eye out for your P&GbrandSAVER® coupon books in your local newspaper on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11.

This promotion is based on coupon redemption: Special Olympics will receive 2 cents for every coupon redeemed at checkout. There is no limit to the donation from P&G, so the more coupons redeemed, the higher the gift to Special Olympics.



The coupons expire and promotion ends June 30. To find a local newspaper carrying the P&GbrandSAVER® coupon book please **click here**.

### Sponsor of the Month: Aetna

We are excited and honored to announce that **Aetna** once again is the Presenting Sponsor of our



and Special Olympics Georgia!

### Duck Derby August 8th

Time to adopt ducks for the **Duck Derby!** On August 8th, 10,000 ducks will race at Six Flags



White Water. You can adopt a single duck for \$5, or increase your chances by buying a quack pack of 7 ducks for \$30! If your duck is one of the first six to cross the finish line first, you will win one of these amazing prizes: iPhone 5c 16 GB, .55 Carat Diamond Stud Earrings on 14K White Gold, Six Flags White Water Family Ticket Package, Surface RT Tablet 32 GB, \$300 Publix Gift Card, or a \$150 QuikTrip Gift Card! Visit **www.AtlantaDuckDerby.com** to adopt your ducks today!

Thank you to our sponsors **Kids 'R' Kids Learning Academies, Rooms To Go Children's Fund**, Allconnect, LAZ Parking, Whitaker Oil Company, Risk Placement Services, Precision Aviation Group, Dobbins Thrift Shoppe, Highwoods Properties, Craig Automotive, Dale Massey-State Farm Insurance, and North Georgia Replacement Windows. Also thank you to Six Flags White Water and our media partner 94.9 The Bull.

### Clay Shoot September 25th

Secure your spot now for the Sporting Clay Charity



Tournament, called the 2014 Shoot for Champions,

## State Summer Games!

Aetna's relationship with Special Olympics Georgia spans the past 12 years, and 2014 marks the third consecutive year that they have taken on the role of Presenting Sponsor. Aetna is a passionate supporter of Special Olympics Georgia athletes, and **Aetna** employees have been very instrumental in the success of the Summer Games since 2003. 150 Aetna employees will be present over the course of the three days of Summer Games competition, and they will be cheering on the participants and working tirelessly to provide a high-quality event for everyone in attendance.

"The Special Olympics Georgia State Summer Games are near and dear to the hearts of Aetna's employees," said Angela Meoli, president of Aetna's Georgia market. "They celebrate physical activity and the realization of human potential. These athletes inspire all of us to overcome obstacles and strive to be our very best."

As one of the nation's leading health care benefits companies, **Aetna** believes it can help create a better health care system. Aetna helps people achieve health and financial security by providing easy access to cost-effective, high-quality health care. Aetna is committed to helping people live healthier, more productive lives.

Thank you Aetna for your extraordinary Summer Games support and for believing in Special Olympics Georgia athletes!

## Kroger Community Rewards®

Kroger Community Rewards® makes supporting SOGA super easy . . . all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! Sign up with your 12 digit Kroger Plus Card number at [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards), and in the Community Rewards section, select Special Olympics Georgia (code 57973) as the organization you wish to support. Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for SOGA every time you shop and use your Plus Card, and you'll keep earning rewards points for yourself! **Enroll now for the Kroger Community Rewards Program** (you must re-enroll each year to continue earning rewards for SOGA). If your Kroger Plus Card is not already registered online, you will need to create an account. If you already have an account, simply sign in, find the Community Rewards section, and select Special Olympics Georgia. Questions or problems, contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111.



## 114 Braved Over The Edge

Congrats to our 114 brave people who rappelled 20 stories from



Thursday, Sept. 25 at Foxhall Resort and Sporting Club in Douglasville. The event benefits the athletes of Special Olympics Georgia. Costs \$425 per person and includes breakfast, lunch, shells, snacks, beverages, and awards. **Click here** for the flyer. For more information, contact **Georgia Milton-Sheats**.

## Bob Busse Memorial Classic November 3rd

Special Olympics Georgia once again proudly hosts the **Bob Busse Memorial Classic** in honor of Bob, who passed away last month. The tournament will be held at a prestigious golf club Nov. 3rd in Sandy Springs. This event promises to be a great way to spend your day. Each year, this tournament grows and becomes better than the last. Expect a great golf game, prizes, a silent auction and wonderful reception. Email **Riley Cerone** for more information.



## Volunteer Opportunities



## State Summer Games May 30th-June 1st Atlanta

We need Fans in the Stands volunteers and others to help run events for Summer Games. Come cheer them on!

## State Masters Bowling Tournament

Buckhead Tower in Over the Edge April 26th. Together, they raised over \$165,000 for Special Olympics Georgia athletes!



Special appearances included Bat Girl (Stacey Weiss, wife of Bert from The Bert Show) and Robin (DJ Adam Bomb). Stacey, Adam, and The Bert Show raised over \$26,000 and was our largest fundraising team. Special thanks to our sponsors AutoTrader.com, Morgan Stanley, Fulcrum Equity Partners, and State Bank & Trust Company.

## 2013 Annual Report: Unified

[Take a look](#) at SOGA's 2013 Annual Report. See the athletes' accomplishments, goals reached and lots of great photos. Thank you for helping make the year great.



## Help by Recycling Phones

Looking for an easy way to give back to support SOGA? Take on our Phone Bones project and recycle old cell phones to fundraise and help the environment. Other items we can recycle are empty toner/printer cartridges, laptops and iPods.



We can even help you set up a collection at your business by sending a box and pay for shipping if you'll do the collecting! If you'd like to help, contact [Whitney Warren](#).

## August 22nd-24th Warner Robins

Love bowling? We have a whole weekend of bowling for you and we need your help! Volunteers are needed to assist athletes on bowling lanes and hand out awards afterwards.

## Strike the R-word Bowling Event September 16th Atlanta

Special Olympics has a worldwide campaign to eliminate the word "retard(ed)" and educate people on the effects of the hurtful word. Volunteers are needed day of to help with this event.

## Clay Shoot September 25th Douglasville

Join us for the first Charity Clay Shoot event to benefit Special Olympics Georgia at Foxhall Resort and Sporting Club in Douglasville. Volunteers are needed to help with the day's activities.

**If you are interested in the volunteering opportunities above, please contact [Stephen Sparks](#).**

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