

## April 5 Memo to Local Programs

It's been three weeks since I've sent the email announcing our suspension of program activities through the end of May and I wanted to give you an update and direction as we continue to experience these unprecedented times.

First and foremost is **our program activities**:

The decision to suspend was easy when we took into consideration the safety of our athletes, their families, and our volunteers. The impact on the lives of our athletes continues to be an ever-present concern.

I have asked staff to reach out to individual athletes to keep our connection and to relay the message that they are first and foremost on our minds. If you have athletes that you feel could use the extra boost from any of us, [please let me know](#). As I have spoken with athletes and local coordinators and I know you are in touch with your athletes; please encourage them to stay active, if they have access to Facebook, invite them to join the Special Olympics Wyoming "Home Challenge Training Group." There is also information about the "School of Strength" and "Fit-5" on our website. Our goal is to keep athletes engaged and active!

We are working on a proposal to celebrate when our program activities can start up again. If you are interested in being part of that planning process, [please let me know](#). We would like athletes, coaches, family members, Law Enforcement, and of course, Local Coordinators to work together in the planning.

### **Finance and Fundraising:**

- Due to the limited fundraising potential and uncertainty, we are implementing a moratorium on all spending. If you have current bills, please submit them to Christine no later than Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Any potential new expenditures through the end of May must be pre-approved by me.
- The Law Enforcement Torch Run Council met (via zoom) on Friday and have decided to proceed with virtual torch runs in April and May. They will have T-shirts available for sale and will reach out for athletes to participate in these virtual runs. Our Law Enforcement Community is also looking to stay connected with athletes; you may hear from them for names and phone #s for athletes.
- Jackalope Jumps - we are currently finalizing accounting for the jumps that have been held and will get funds distributed and incentives sent. For those that are postponed. Mike and Tara will be in touch about alternative dates or approaches.

### **Organization in General**

- The staff is working remotely with minimal time in the office. They will continue their ordinary course of work and are available via email and are checking phone messages regularly.
- The Board of Directors receives a weekly update on activities and developments associated with COVID-19; they will meet (via zoom) May 8th.
- The Athlete Input Council will meet (via zoom) on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Please stay safe – stay connected – and wash your hands!

*Priscilla P. Dowse*

Special Olympics Wyoming

239 West 1<sup>st</sup> St.

Casper, WY 82601

(307) 235-3062

[pdowse@specialolympicswy.org](mailto:pdowse@specialolympicswy.org)

<http://www.sowy.org>

