



Hello Newsletter Member

April 1, 2023

Spring

Edition



## Upcoming Sports

Summer Games | June, 2023 | Fargo

Soccer/Bocce State Tournament | September, 2023

[Click here to volunteer](#)

## News and Updates

### CEO Update

Welcome back!

Here at SOND, we are excited to get our newsletter running again. As we emerge from the pandemic, we want to share all the great things we are involved in!

Our newsletter will be sent out quarterly (January, April, July, and October) showcasing upcoming events and fundraisers including sporting events, work with local schools, Polars Plunges, Dancing for Special Stars and more.

We want to use the newsletter to keep athletes, volunteers, coaches, and supporters up-to-date with everything Special Olympics North Dakota!

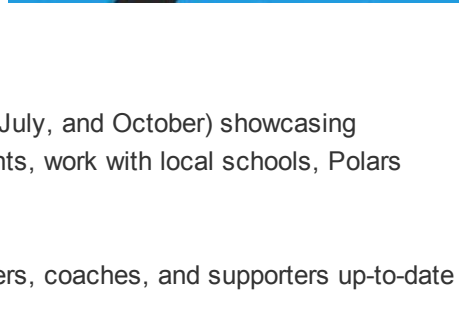


[Know someone that would like this information? Have them sign-up on our list.](#)

If you're looking for further information regarding any of our upcoming events, visit our website

at <https://specialolympicsnd.org/>.

Look forward to connecting with you all soon!



## Upcoming Fundraising Events



### [Dancing for Special Stars | April 18th | Empire Arts Center in Grand Forks](#)

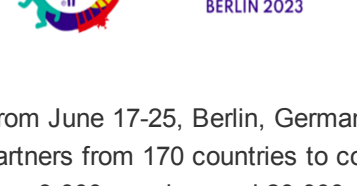
The 13th Annual Dancing for Special Stars in Grand Forks will be held at the Empire Arts Center on April 18. The event pairs up local celebrities/business owners/professionals with dance instructors to perform a dance. The event also includes a reception, silent auction, and specialty entertainment acts.

This year's event will feature eight couples:

Tom Campbell and Jill Kadmas  
Adam Helgeson and Taylor Vasek  
Kamrin Macki and Franklin Wickstrom  
Anthony Miller and Adelyn Emter  
Carson Muth and Michala Hodnefield  
Ben Quanrud and Alexandra Quanrud  
Anna Rosburg and Julie Visagie  
Ryan Wall and Alicia Bullinger

Funds from the event are raised through sponsorships, ticket sales, donations, and a silent auction.

Donate to your favorite dancer online at <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/DFSS> or call us at (701) 746-0331 to make a donation.



### Special Olympics World Games

**2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Berlin, Germany**

From June 17-25, Berlin, Germany will welcome 7,000 Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners from 170 countries to compete in 24 sports. The athletes will be supported by more than 3,000 coaches and 20,000 volunteers.

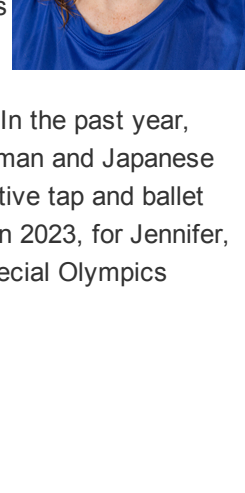
Special Olympics North Dakota will be represented on Team USA by Jennifer Bennett, Valley City who will compete in track and field, Cindy Schopper, Valley City who is the Sports Manager for athletics and soccer and Dr. Julie Blehm, Fargo who is part of the Team USA medical team.

Special Olympics Team USA is comprised of 133 athletes and Unified partners, 38 coaches and 23 delegation members who support team operations. Athletes will compete in the following sports: athletics, basketball, bocce, bowling, cycling, golf, gymnastics – artistic, gymnastics—rhythmic, kayaking, powerlifting, sailing, soccer, swimming, tennis and volleyball.

Jennifer Bennett joins a select group from across the country to make up Special Olympics USA at the World Games this June. Read full bios and learn more at [SpecialOlympicsUSA.org](https://SpecialOlympicsUSA.org).

### Jennifer Bennett

Jennifer Bennett of Valley City, North Dakota, has participated in Special Olympics for 14 years in athletics, basketball, bowling, snowshoeing, soccer and swimming. She will represent Special Olympics USA in athletics. Faced with many health challenges, Jennifer has been seizure and cancer-free for 14 years. Overcoming those obstacles, she attended the Special Olympics World Games Athens 2011 and the Special Olympics USA Games in 2014.



She is employed at Valley City Parks & Recreation as a fitness assistant. In the past year, Jennifer wrote her first book, "Owl Girl." Her hobbies include practicing German and Japanese language skills, studying life sciences and traveling. She is also a competitive tap and ballet dancer. Traveling to Germany for the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023, for Jennifer, is a chance to learn about other cultures while competing alongside her Special Olympics friends.



### Cindy Schopper

Cindy Schopper of Valley City is attending the World Games as an AS Staff - Sports Manager. She has been involved with Special Olympics since 1987 and has served as a coach and area director for Valley City. Schopper has attended 11 Special Olympics World Games and five Special Olympics USA Games!

### Dr. Julie Blehm

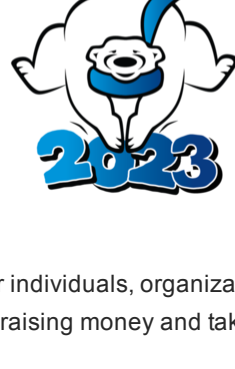
Dr. Julie Blehm will be attending as medical staff. Blehm is the Senior Medical Director at Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota and was a member of the medical team for Team USA in the Special Olympics World Games of 2013.



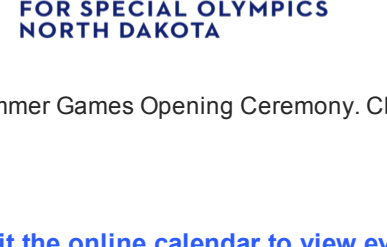
### [Bismarck Polar Plunge | April 15th | The Pier Bar & Grill](#)

The Polar Plunge® is an annual fundraiser organized by North Dakota Law Enforcement as part of the year-round Law Enforcement Torch Run®.

Polar Plunges offer a unique opportunity for individuals, organizations, and businesses to support Special Olympics North Dakota athletes by raising money and taking the plunge into frigid North Dakota waters.



**POLAR PLUNGE**  
FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTH DAKOTA

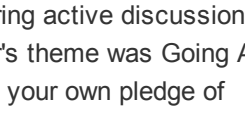


### LETR Torch Run | June 5-10

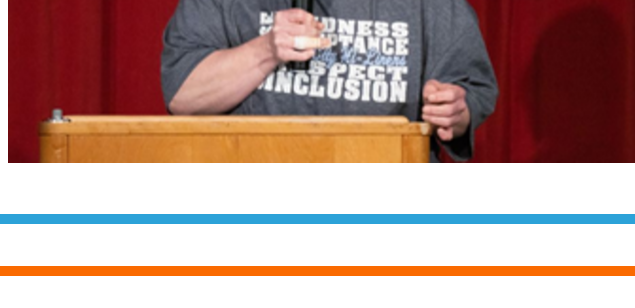
The Torch Run consists of a series of local runs that take place across the state during the week preceding the SOND State Summer Games. Six runs will be held before the event culminates with the arrival of the torch at the State Summer Games Opening Ceremony. Click the link find how you can support the Torch Run!

[Visit the online calendar to view event updates!](#)

## Unified Champions Update

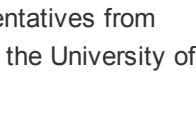


Throughout the month of March, schools across the state of North Dakota participated in the annual Spread the Word: Inclusion campaign. This campaign strives to bring active discussion about inclusion to schools and how they can choose to include. This year's theme was Going All In(clusive). To learn more about the Spread the Word campaign or to take your own pledge of inclusion, visit: <https://www.spreadtheword.global/>



## Past Events

### UND SO College ESPN Banner Raising | January 6 | Grand Forks



The banner event was a huge success! Our athletes had a great time participating and being honored at the UND hockey game on Friday, 1/6 against Lindenwood. Representatives from Special Olympics North America and ESPN came up to recognize the work of the University of North Dakota SO College Club. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Check out of Flickr page for more photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/143129558@N02/>



### [Links to Past Event Photos](#)



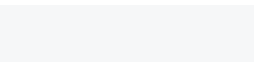
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**SUBSCRIBE**

## Get Involved

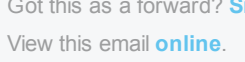
[Visit our website to get involved.](#) Whether you want to become an athlete, coach, or volunteer, we would love to help you get connected!

**Make a donation**



Contact Us:  
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Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201  
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[info@specialolympicsnd.org](mailto:info@specialolympicsnd.org)

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