

Media Alert

Special Olympics
Pennsylvania



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4/13/18

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT SPORTS CHALLENGE IN EAST ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL *Government Officials and Other Leaders to Join Special Olympics PA Athletes for Reception & Unified Bocce Competitions*

WHAT: Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) will host the second annual Unified Government Sports Challenge. The challenge pairs various local organizational leaders, government officials and legislative leaders (Unified Partners) with SOPA athletes for a fun competitive and social experience. Attendees will compete in bocce competitions. SOPA athletes and Unified Partners will be divided into 3 divisions with a total of 10 teams, and will compete on one of three bocce courts. Each team will have 8 members. Competition rounds will be 12 minutes long with a 5 minute transition periods in between. Each group will play 4 rounds in order to determine a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place team in each division. Teams will compete in a round robin format. The challenge will feature food, drinks, camaraderie and friendly competition.

WHEN/WHERE: **Monday, April 16, 2018**
Pennsylvania State Capitol Rotunda, 501 N 3rd St, Harrisburg, PA 17120

5:10 p.m. - 5:25 p.m. Opening Ceremonies

Guests slated to attend include:

- o Emcee: Special Olympics Pennsylvania CEO, Matthew Aaron

5:25 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Introduction to bocce

5:30 p.m. - 6:35 p.m. Bocce Competitions Begins

6:35 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Award Ceremony

7:00 p.m. Departure

WHO: Attendees include but are not limited to: Jay Costa, PA State Senator; Pat Stefano, PA State Senator; Jeremy N. Kiehl, Executive Director, House Finance Committee; Glendon King, House State Government Committee; Marcus Brown, Director of Homeland Security; Eric Hagarty, Office of PA Governor Deputy Chief of Staff; Mike Chmielewski, Office of PA Governor Director of External Affairs; TJ Yablonsk, Office of PA Governor Director of Boards and Commissions; David De Notaris, Executive Director, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR); Jerry Oleksiak, Secretary, OVR; Denise Verchimak, Government Director, OVR; Representative Frank Ryan, PA House of Representatives; Representative Paul Costa, PA House of Representatives; Representative Alexander Charlton, PA House of Representatives; Representative Zachary Mako, PA House of Representatives; Representative Ryan Warner, PA House of Representatives; Representative Justin Walsh, PA House of Representatives; Representative Warren Kampf, PA House of Representatives; Representative Thomas Murt, PA House of Representatives; Representative Mike Schlossberg, PA House of Representatives; Representative Michael Corr, PA House of Representatives; Representative Donna Oberlander, PA House of Representatives; Representative Dawn Keefer, PA House of Representatives; and athletes from Area M, Blair, Bedford, Franklin, Lycoming, Mifflin/Juniata, Northumberland/Snyder and York County local programs.

MEDIA ARE WELCOME – Media are welcomed to attend any portion of the event. Contact Wenona Sutton (wsutton@specialolympicspa.org) at (347) 659-8591 or Mike Bovino (mbovino@specialolympicspa.org) at (202) 494-5584 for further information or to arrange interviews.

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