

# SEPTEMBER 2016 SOYC NEWSLETTER



**Hello all York County Head Coaches/Assistant Coaches/Volunteers/Athletes,  
*Meet Penny Coup*  
Senior Director  
of Local Program Development  
Special Olympics Pennsylvania**

*As we begin this new program year, I wanted to first officially announce that as of July 6, 2016, Ruth Joynes/Shiro has stepped down as the York County Program Manager. Ruth has been spending her time caring for and supporting her son, Sebastian, as he continues to deal with health challenges and feels she cannot devote the time needed to fulfill the manager role. Please join me in thanking Ruth for her past program leadership and wishing her and her family the best going forward.*

*Until a new manager is identified, I, along with the support of the York management team, will be serving as the program's Interim Manager and will be attending and facilitating all management team meetings as well as provide guidance and direction, as needed, to keep things running as smoothly as possible. Since I live 2 hours from York County, it will be necessary for me to reach out periodically to individuals to assist with some of the day to day program needs and I would appreciate everyone's support.*

*I also will be taking the lead in identifying and recruiting a new manager, assistant manager and other key volunteer roles, as needed, for your program over the next few weeks and months. In addition to meeting with individuals who are interested in learning more about the open positions on the management team, I will also be making myself available to meet with anyone in the program who wishes to talk with me about any issues or concerns or what some of the program needs are going forward to continue having the program grow. These conversations also help me to better identify/recruit the right people to serve in your program leadership roles.*

*If you are interested in setting up a time to talk with me, please email me at [pcoup@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:pcoup@specialolympicspa.org) or call 1-800-235-9058, Ext 247. I will be available for both daytime and evening appointments.*

*I look forward to working with all of you and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns or need any assistance.*

Penny has been employed with Special Olympics Pennsylvania since 2001. After 8 years as the Northeast Field Director, she was promoted to the Senior Director of Local Program Development role. Prior to coming to SOPA, she was employed with Northern Central Bank/M & T Bank for 28 years where she was Assistant Vice President and Market Administrator overseeing 18 branch banks.

Penny has been married to her husband Ed for 41 years and they have 2 children and 1 grandson.

Penny is looking forward to working with the York Program as our Interim Manager until a new manager is identified.

***And now some information from SOPA...***

## NEW BACKGROUND CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

As of July 1, 2016, all Class A volunteers (those serving as Coaches, Volunteers to meet the 1:4 ratio, Management Team Members, etc.) are required to have new background clearances to comply with Pennsylvania State Law. So in order for us to meet this requirement let's review a few things:

- **No individual should be participating in a Class A role (coaches, assistant coaches and those who are part of your 1:4 ratio at training sites) until this process has been completed. The 1:4 ratio must be maintained at all times at your training sites.**
- **If you are ready to start your sports training and do not have enough volunteers who have the appropriate clearances, you will not be able to start until those clearances have been completed.**
- **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.**
- **Currently, there are only 3 Head Coaches (Heather Bell/Volleyball; Jane Misner/Golf; Mike Smith/Bocce) who have completed this process. For all others receiving this newsletter, the records are not showing that you have completed the process.**
- **REMINDER – All Class A Volunteers must also complete the following trainings: Protective Behaviors; General Orientation; and Concussion Training (required for all coaches; recommended for others assisting at training sites)**

### **WHAT HEAD COACHES NEED TO DO:**

- If you have not completed the clearance process, please contact Karen Plappert (Training Coordinator and Interim Volunteer Coordinator) for guidance on what you need to do to complete.
- Before the start of your training, please review your list of coaches, assistant coaches and 1:4 volunteers with Karen Plappert (Training Coordinator and Interim Volunteer Coordinator) to assure they have started/completed the clearance process. If they have not, they need to be notified to do so or not be eligible for coach or assist at your site until that has been completed.
- Karen's email address is [wfpsr@comcast.net](mailto:wfpsr@comcast.net)
- **DO NOT START YOUR TRAINING UNTIL YOU AND YOUR SITE VOLUNTEERS HAVE THE APPROPRIATE CLEARANCES.**

While it is always our goal to not interrupt any of our services or activities for our athletes, it is also important that we assure we are complying with all requirements and in the case of Background Clearances it means complying with Pennsylvania State Law. So it is extremely important that you act immediately to assure your training sites are in compliance so that we do not have to cancel any sports trainings.

### **PURCHASING PROCESS for SPECIAL OLYMPICS YORK COUNTY**

York County has a process in place before anything is ordered with the SOYC logo, and it was noted that some coaches may not be aware of this process. As a result, this article is meant to outline/remind the following:

David Gerzewski and John Rinehart will oversee the review and approval of all these types of purchases. Our Interim Manager, will only be involved if there are issues or concerns that need to be brought to the interim manager's attention.

Coaches are not authorized to place orders for uniforms, equipment, etc. (anything with the SOYC logo on it). Once John & Dave review and approve an order, Dave will place that order with the agreed upon supplier. Please keep in mind that we all need to assure that any SOYC monies spent receive the best value for that money.

There are not meant to be **ANY EXCEPTIONS to this policy.** It was created to make sure that SOYC adheres to the new logo policy that Special Olympics has adopted. We are here to HELP you not to put hurdles in front of you.

If any SOYC coach has a need or desire to purchase uniforms, equipment, etc., (anything with the SOYC logo on it) they should gather as much information as they can (potential vendor, quantities/sizes needed, projected costs, date needed, etc.) and submit that information to Dave and John for review and approval **BEFORE** an order will be placed.

*For non-logo items (equipment, supplies, food and drink, etc.), you may make needed purchases directly with your preferred supplier, using the approved SOYC budget as a guide to spending limits. Have the vendor invoice SOYC if you can; otherwise you*

may make the purchase with your own resources, and submit the receipt to John for reimbursement. If you have any question or doubt about a purchase, ask Dave or John for guidance. If you need something that goes beyond our budget planning limits, ask to have it reviewed by the management team. In most cases, it will be approved.

If you have specific questions or need any assistance with the Purchasing Process, please contact Dave Gerzewski ([dgerzewski@comcast.net](mailto:dgerzewski@comcast.net))

## Meet your Volleyball Coach



### Heather Bell



*Pictured with Husband, Joe and Daughter, Adrianna  
and the spoiled Pepper and Molly*

**Hi! My name is Heather Bell and I have been the volleyball coach for York County Special Olympics since 2002. I live in Mount Wolf with my husband Joe, who is also a coach, and my daughter Adrianna, who is an athlete. We also have two spoiled dogs, our Dalmatian whose name is Pepper and our White German Sheppard whose name is Molly. I have worked for Vector Security, located in Lancaster, for the past 21 years in customer service and human resources. I became the volleyball coach when I saw the position was open after Adrianna joined Special Olympics when she was 8 years old. I played volleyball for Northeastern High School starting on the Junior Varsity team in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and moving to the Varsity team for my 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade years. I was also the team manager for the boys' volleyball team throughout high school. I always enjoyed the sport and thought it would be fun to coach for Special Olympics, and it has been! My sister, Delcie Boyd, has been an athlete since she was 8 years old and my mother, Beverly Boyd, and late father, Butch Boyd, are/were also volunteers, so Special Olympics has been a part of our family for most of my life. I also volunteer with the Athletics and Kayaking programs. As a family, we enjoy camping, kayaking and geocaching and as I**

**mentioned before, spoiling our dogs. I have met a lot of wonderful athletes and their family members over the years and hope to continue coaching for many more years to come.**

**Special Olympics – York County recently held a skills competition at South Hills Golf Course in Hanover.**



**Pictured left to right Dean Prowell, Damian Miele, Michael Wolfgang, Anthony Watts, and Michael Plappert.**

**Trophies were presented to Michael Wolfgang -2nd place, Michael Plappert - 3rd place. Dean Prowell, Damian Miele, and Anthony Watts received commendation medals.**

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***Target employees remember Pat Smith.....***



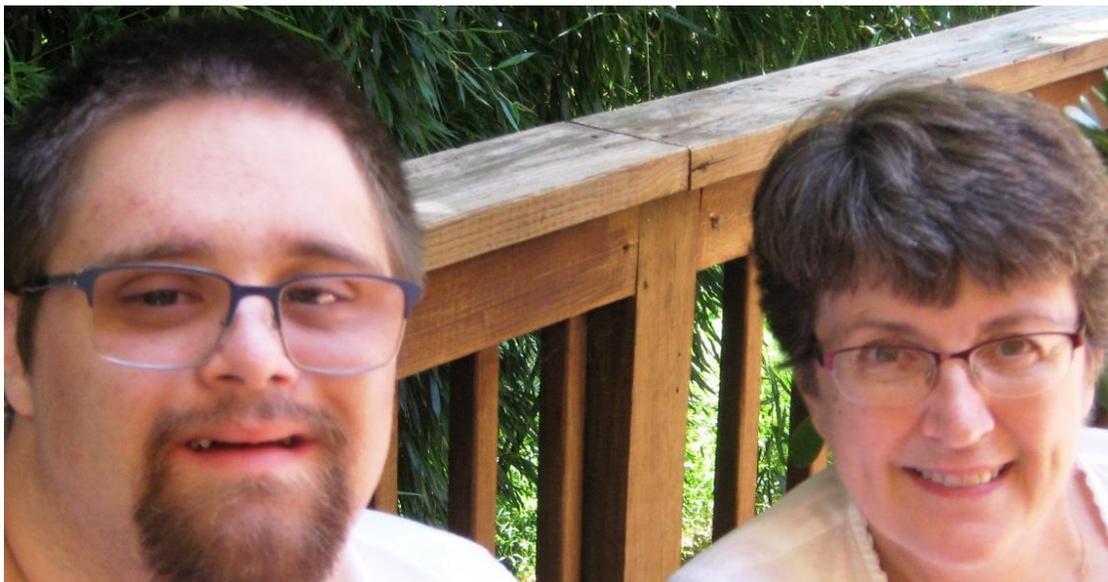
**Target employees have placed this bench at the east end of the store as a memorial to our Beloved Bocce Coach, friend, mother, and wife, Pat Smith.**

**We join Mike and Jimmy in thanking Target and their employees for this lasting tribute to Pat.**

## ***Meet your Athlete Rep and your Athlete Mentor***

### **Noah and Becky Rinehart**

**Noah Rinehart has been participating in Special Olympics York County for about 15 years. As an athlete, you find Noah in the pool (aquatics), on the lake (kayaking), at the alley (bowling) and on the clay court (bocce). As an Athlete Rep, you find him at the conference table with others on the Management Team. His favorite sport is swimming, and attributes his interest and accomplishments in swimming to his friend and mentor, Michael Plappert, who helped coach Noah while he was a member of the Dover High School Varsity Swim Team. After a diving accident in 2006 rendered him paralyzed, Noah fearlessly re-entered the pool for competitive swimming. For this accomplishment, SOPA recognized Noah with the 2010 Sheetz Family Award of Excellence. In spite of difficulties in finding employment since graduating from Dover High School in 2011, Noah engages in many aspects of community life. He volunteers at Dover Public Library, helps to teach 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School at Trinity Luther Church East Berlin, plays trombone in the Twin Rose Community Band, and works with York College's Best Buddies board. In the past two years, Noah has completed the SOPA Athlete Leadership University program, and has helped to spread the word about the Special Olympics Mission as a Global Messenger through the community.**



**Becky Rinehart, Noah's mom, plays the role of Athlete Mentor in Special Olympics York County. She looks forward to working with Rachel Spaulding to help re-energize York County's Athlete Leadership Team. When she is not driving Noah to Athlete Leadership Training, she works as a Business Analyst for Armstrong Flooring in Lancaster. Like Noah, she teaches Sunday School (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade). She is very appreciative of all the hard-work of York County Special Olympic volunteers over the years, especially coaches, who have helped build our vibrant program.**

# ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

**More Information will be on our Website and Facebook Page**

**Fall Sports Covered Dish ..... Sunday, November 27, 2016**



**Sacred Heart Parish Dance ..... November 2016**



**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Bear Plunge ..... February 2017**



**28<sup>th</sup> Annual Robert H. Griffith Holiday Basketball Classic**

**December 28 and December 29, 2016**

**York County School of Technology**



**Athletics Aquatics Basketball Volleyball  
Bocce Bowling Kayaking Tennis  
Figure Skating Golf Roller Skating  
Softball Alpine Skiing Floor Hockey  
Soccer Young Athletes Program  
Athlete Leadership Spirit Squad**

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***Date to Remember  
Spring Sports Registration  
Wednesday, January 4, 2017  
York County School of Technology  
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.***

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***For more details about Special Olympics – York County  
Visit our website [www.specialolympicsyorkcounty.org](http://www.specialolympicsyorkcounty.org)  
or***



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**To submit ideas, articles, photographs for our newsletter**

**Email to: [publicrelation@specialolympicsyorkcounty.org](mailto:publicrelation@specialolympicsyorkcounty.org)**