

# AREA 1 NEWS

Delta, Menominee & Schoolcraft Counties  
April 8, 2010



*Special Olympics*  
*Michigan*  
*Area 1*

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## **GREETINGS TO EVERYONE IN AREA 1**

As I looked out the window this morning it's hard to believe that there's snow on the ground. After having such a beautiful spring, perhaps we missed summer and are back to winter! Area 1 has had a very busy year so far with winter games, unified bowling, basketball and aquatics. Track and field athletes will be starting next week so please let Joyce know if you are interested.

## **CURRENT SPORTS**

### **AQUATICS**

Athletes from Delta and Schoolcraft counties are currently practicing swimming in Escanaba and Manistique. Swim practice in Escanaba is held every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the YMCA. Sheila Marks is coordinating the swim practice in Manistique.

Area 1 will be attending the UP Aquatics Tournament in Sault Ste. Marie on April 16/17, 2010 with a delegation of 21 athletes.

### **UP SPRING GAMES**

Sports offered at the UP Spring Games will be walking, running, standing long jump, running long jump, softball throw, wheelchair races and possibly horseshoes.

If anyone would like to do horseshoes, please give Joyce a call. We are trying to determine if there is enough interest for this sport.

The UP Spring Games will be held at the Escanaba Sr. High School on May 7/8, 2010.

The schedule of events is as follows:

#### **Friday – May 7, 2010**

6-7 pm – Dinner  
7-7:15 pm – Opening Ceremonies  
7-9:15 pm – Beach Party Theme Dance

#### **Saturday – May 8, 2010**

9 am – Athletes Arrive  
9:30 – 11:30 am – Track & Field Events  
11:30 – Noon – Lunch

Dinner on Friday night will be sponsored by the Escanaba Sr. High School S.A.D.D. Lunch on Saturday will be sponsored by the Escanaba Elks #354.

Please remember that meals are for participating athletes, volunteers and coaches only. All others are welcome to attend the other scheduled events.

It would be greatly appreciated if parents/guardians of track & field athletes could bring a plate of cookies or bars to sell at the concession stand.

## **PRACTICE SCHEDULE:**

**Delta County:** Track & field practice will be held every Tuesday beginning April 13 from 6 to 8 pm at the Escanaba Sr. High School track. Please remember to dress accordingly as it may be chilly outside.

**Menominee County:** Track & field practice is as follows:

Menominee High School – 6 to 7 pm – April 13, 20, 28 and May 4

Stephenson Sports Complex – 6-7 pm – April 14, 21, 28 and May 5

If you have any questions regarding Menominee track & field, please call Terry Unti at 906-863-9407.

**Schoolcraft County:** Anyone interested in participating in track & field events should call Sheila Marks at 906-450-0984.

## **STATE SUMMER GAMES**

The State Summer Games will be held in Mt. Pleasant from June 3-5, 2010. Area 1 will be taking a delegation of 15 athletes and 5 coaches/chaperones.

It is always difficult to select the athletes who will attend the State Summer Games. Selection is done in part by attendance at practice, sportsmanship and behavior. Please always try to attend practice and give your best effort in competition. Those selected will be notified in advance.

## **CYCLING**

Area 1 will be implementing a new sports program this year – cycling! You will have to have your own bicycle. Area 1 has helmets and gloves. Anyone interested in participating in this sport should let Joyce know so we can plan accordingly.

## **TRAINING**

There will be a Global Messenger Training in Escanaba on May 15, 2010 from 10 am until 3:30 pm.

This program instructs Special Olympics athletes in public speaking skills. Athletes are great ambassadors for Special Olympics and show the potential of what people with intellectual disabilities can accomplish if given training and opportunity. Global Messengers often speak at SOMI events.

If any athletes in Area 1 are interested in becoming a Global Messenger, please give Joyce a call.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Area 1 receives generous donations from corporations, businesses, service organizations and individuals to help with the program expenses. No one is charged a fee for participating in Special Olympics.

Fundraising money is used to pay for the sports practices, registration fees, transportation, lodging, food, equipment and tournament trips that everyone enjoys.

**All money raised in the three counties stays in Area 1 and supports all program expenses.**

All athletes in Area 1 Special Olympics are expected to help with fundraising. This is your program so let's see if we can get 100% participation in fundraising in 2010.

There currently are a few families who send in monthly/quarterly donations. If you would like to donate to this very worthwhile program, please send your tax deductible donations to the Area 1 address.

**Thank you for your support!**

## **RUMMAGE SALE**

Area 1 is planning on having a huge rummage sale in July or August. This will be an indoor sale thanks to George Dunlap. If anyone has items around the house that you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause, please let me know. All proceeds will remain with Area 1.

## **CELEBRITY BASKETBALL GAME**

The Celebrity Basketball Game fundraiser that was held on March 16, 2010 was a huge success again this year.

I would like to thank all the celebrities who came out and played basketball, the Gladstone Middle School for the use of their facility and to everyone who attended this event. My thanks to everyone who bought and sold raffle tickets, worked the concessions, worked on the raffle and sold t-shirts. Thanks are also extended to Darnece Unti for her terrific organization on the raffle prizes. She does a fantastic job every year!

Lastly, Menominee County won the Traveling Trophy again this year! Way to go!

## **CULVER'S DINING CARDS**

This fundraiser was a huge success for Area 1 but there are still a few people who haven't turned in their dining cards or money. If you can't sell the cards you have, please return them along with any money collected to Joyce as soon as possible.

Thanks to everyone who sold and purchased these dining cards.

## **PAST SPORTS EVENTS**

Many sincere thanks to all the coaches and volunteers for giving their time and talents to volunteer at these terrific events.

## **DISTRICT BASKETBALL**

The Regional Basketball Tournament was held on March 5-6, 2010 at the Escanaba Sr. High School.

There were 21 basketball teams attending from Area 1, Area 33, Area 36, Area 38 and Area 39. Area 1 had eight basketball teams with a total of 73 athletes participating.

### **Area 1 Game Results:**

The Heat coached by Mike Metor won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Division 1. In Division 2, Blue Thunder coached by Terry Unti won 1<sup>st</sup> Place and the A-Team coached by George Dunlap won 4<sup>th</sup> Place. In Division 5, the Lakers coached by Nick Robitaille won 1<sup>st</sup> Place, the Pistons coached by Julie Nelson won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and the Scorpions coached by Dale King and Sheila Marks won 4<sup>th</sup> Place. In Division 6, the Menominee Eagles coached by Terry Unti won 1<sup>st</sup> Place and Jazz coached by Cheri Mathieson won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place.

## **STATE SR. MALE BASKETBALL FINALS**

Area 1 attended the State Sr. Male Basketball Finals in Grandville on March 26-27, 2010 with the Heat and Blue Thunder. This was quite a busy tournament with running between so many schools. Both the Heat (Division 2) and Blue Thunder (Division 3) won 4<sup>th</sup> Place in their respective divisions.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!**

## WELCOME TO AREA 1

I'd like to welcome the following new athletes, unified partners and volunteers who joined Area 1:

### Athletes

Jaeger, Jill  
Laszlo, Theresa

### Volunteers

Smith, Michelle

## VOLUNTEERS

All Special Olympic Volunteers are required to complete both the General Orientation and Protective Behaviors slideshows. If you have access to a computer, please go to the Special Olympics Michigan website ([www.somi.org](http://www.somi.org)) and click on the "Get Involved" tab at the right side. Click on "Coach" from the drop list. The General Orientation and Protective Behaviors should be the first two items listed. Just click on them one at a time and complete the quiz. Don't worry – you'll be able to correct any answers before submitting it via the internet. Once a quiz is completed, an email is sent to me verifying that the quiz was completed. It's very easy and simple.

If you don't have access to a computer, please let me know and I will arrange to present the slideshows to you.

If anyone has any problems, please give Joyce a call or send me an email.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to coach, chaperone, assist at games, be a unified partner or be on the Area 1 Management Team is always welcome. If anyone is interested, please give Joyce a call.

## ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

The following criteria will be enforced in Area 1:

**No athlete may attend sports practices without a current medical application on file.**

**Athletes must attend more than 50% of sports practices to be eligible to attend tournaments.**

**Any athlete who signs up for a tournament in which Area 1 pays a registration fee and then chooses not to attend will not be able to attend the next tournament they participate in. Please remember that we pay registration fees for each athlete to attend tournaments. Please call Joyce as soon as possible if you have a conflict and can't attend a tournament. This will not apply to anyone with a valid excuse for not attending.**

## 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 16-17 – UP Swim Meet in Sault Ste. Marie
- May 7-8 – UP Spring Games in Escanaba
- May 15 – Global Messenger Training in Escanaba
- June 3-5 – State Summer Games in Mt. Pleasant
- Sept. 10-11 – UP Bocce & Golf Tournament in Bessemer
- October 16 – UP Bowling Tournament in Iron Mountain

## REMINDERS

Please remember to give Joyce your new address and phone number if you move.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MI – AREA 1  
DELTA MENOMINEE & SCHOOLCRAFT  
COUNTIES  
PO BOX 275  
WELLS MI 49894-0275



## **THANK YOU SPONSORS!**

I'd like to thank the following sponsors for their generous donations:

ARC of Delta County  
American Legion Post #146 (Menominee)  
New Page (Gary Thinglum)  
First Lutheran Church (Gladstone)  
Knights of Columbus Council #2026  
(Manistique)  
United Way of Delta County

## **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

In an effort to reduce postage expenses, I will be sending the Area 1 Newsletter to

everyone I have an email address on. This will save Area 1 a lot of postage.

If you have an email address, please give Joyce a call or send me an email. The Area 1 email address is: [somiarea1@charter.net](mailto:somiarea1@charter.net)

## **AREA 1 WEBSITE**

Area 1 has a website: [www.somi.org/area1](http://www.somi.org/area1)  
Check out our website as it contains the latest information, newsletter, practice schedule, upcoming events, sponsors, etc.

