

Triumph



Special Olympics New York • JUNE 2002

Special Olympics Honors FDNY at 14th Annual Metro Tournament

Nearly 50 members of the New York City Fire Department took part in the festivities.

For the past five years, the Fire Department of New York has sent volunteers to the Special Olympics New York Metro Tournament in New York City. This year's tournament, on June 1 at Riverbank State Park, was no different. Many had helped in the past, but were not present. They had lost their lives on Sept. 11.

During his Opening



Suzanne Vreeland

Firefighters were very popular at Metro Tournament.

Ceremonies remarks, Special Olympics New York President and Chief Executive Officer Neal J. Johnson dedicated the 2002 Metro Tournament to those firefighters and all of FDNY before asking for a moment of silence to honor all those lost on Sept. 11.

"Look around at these firefighters here today," Johnson said, "Remember to thank them for all that they do



Suzanne Vreeland

An athlete celebrates after an impressive lift.

for the city and all that they're doing for you today."

Nearly 50 firefighters volunteered for

Continued on p. 6

Cingular Wireless Connects Again With Special Olympics

Wireless service provider launches third-year promotion to benefit athletes nationwide.

Cingular Wireless on June 1 announced a series of nationwide fund-raising promotions in an ongoing commitment to support Special Olympics training and competition.

Athletes from across the Empire State attended launch parties in Albany, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo.

During the promotional months of June and July, customers who donate \$20 to Special Olympics and bring the paper phone (see insert) to their Cingular store will receive a free cellphone when they sign up for service. Customers without the paper phone who sign up for service and donate \$20 will get a free phone after a \$50 mail-in rebate.

The fund-raising efforts by Cingular support year-round training and competition for athletes nationwide, including nearly 40,000 athletes in New York. Cingular's sponsorship will also help send Team USA athletes to the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Ireland.

"I'm very happy to be launching another promotion to benefit Special Olympics," said Terry Stenzel, vice president and general manager of Cingular's Upstate New York market. "For the past three years I've heard great comments from customers who say they are honored to help Special Olympics by signing up for the promotion."



Bring the paper phone (see insert) to your Cingular retailer and you'll receive a free phone when you sign up for service and donate \$20 to Special Olympics.



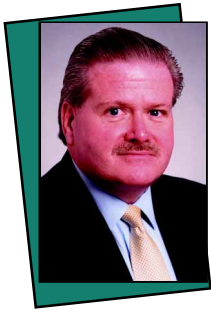
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Find up-to-date information on our official Web site, www.specialolympicsnewyork.org.

A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson is President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



Over the past two years Special Olympics athletes have found a great friend in Cingular Wireless.

Two years ago, Cingular made a commitment to raise \$40 million nationwide. At the halfway point, more than \$22 million has been raised through \$20 donations. One million dollars has

been raised in New York alone.

The success of this initiative is a result of an aggressive branding campaign (which has made "Jack" one of the most recognizable logos in America), the devotion of Cingular employees, who promote our athletes to every customer and, of course, the customers, who have shown tremendous generosity toward Special Olympics.

On June 1, Cingular launched the third year of this four-year initiative. Expectations are high that this two-month promotion will break last year's record of \$11-plus million nationally, in part because of a new billing option that lets new and existing and new customers donate \$1 a month to Special Olympics. The gift option is added to the customer's monthly bill.

I am very hopeful that Cingular customers will support this option. If they do, then our athletes will benefit in ways none of us have ever imagined. The potential for this type of annuity program is enormous. This gift annuity is a supplement to Cingular's offer of great deals in exchange for a \$20 donation.

"Special Olympics has a special place in our hearts because Special Olympics creates opportunities for its athletes to build self-esteem, instill pride and express themselves in achieving goals and experiencing sports competition firsthand," said Stephen Carter, president and chief executive officer of Cingular Wireless, whose leadership has helped motivate the company's employees and customers.

Locally, Terry Stenzel, president and general manager of the upstate market of Cingular Wireless, continues with his devotion to our athletes, and we are all grateful.

Here in New York we are awaiting the launch of Cingular's Metro New York market, which is being orchestrated by another friend of Special Olympics, Dennis Whiteside.

More than eight million people live in New York City. Several million more live in the market area that includes parts of New Jersey and upstate New York. If Cingular even begins to capture the market share it enjoys in other parts of the state and country, and if their new customers show the same enthusiasm for Special Olympics that other customers have shown over the past two years, then the athletes of Special Olympics will enjoy incredible benefits for years to come.

Many thanks to the Cingular Wireless family for the impact it is having, and will continue to have, on our athletes. ■

2002 Calendar of Events

July

11-15 SOI World Summer Games, Dublin, Ireland, Head of Delegation Seminar

27-28 Satins, Silks & Stars Weekend, Saratoga Springs

Saturday

- Silks & Satins 5K Run, Saratoga Springs

- Satins, Silks & Stars Black Tie Gala, Sheraton Saratoga Springs

Sunday

- Equestrian Demonstration, Saratoga Race Course

- Gourmet Luncheon, Saratoga Race Course

29 Oak Hill Summer Golf Classic, Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester

Also scheduled during July, with dates to be confirmed:

■ Training schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year *

August

21-24 SOI North America Regional Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Also scheduled during August, with dates to be confirmed:

■ Training schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year *

* For more details, please contact your Director of Field Services or the Special Olympics New York office.

In the Next Issue

- Summer Games Recap and Pictures
- Stars Announced for Satins Weekend
- LETR Summer Harley Raffle



Triumph

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Inspire Greatness

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From Building Supplies to Building Dreams

The Home Depot becomes statewide LETR sponsor.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is proud to announce that The Home Depot has begun what is hopefully a long and winning relationship as a new statewide sponsor.

"We are very proud and honored about our new partnership with The Home Depot," said Colonie Police Chief John Grebert, co-chair of the New York LETR. "Their commitment to our mission will have a significant impact on many lives and help us reach more people about the importance of Special Olympics."

Founded in 1978 in Atlanta, The Home Depot is the world's largest home improvement retailer, operating in more than 1,300 communities. District Manager Cheryl Kleis said, "The Home Depot is committed to helping athletes fulfill their dreams, whether they compete

in the Olympics, the Paralympics or Special Olympics.

"Expanding our commitment to support Special Olympics here in New York was a very natural progression," Kleis added. "Supporting dreams is very important to everyone at The Home Depot, whether it's a dream of a new kitchen or a dream of Olympic

gold. Our sponsorship of the Law Enforcement Torch Run is even more meaningful in that we get to support our state's law enforcement at a very difficult time and the athletes of Special Olympics New York. We look forward to a long and successful relationship."



The Home Depot becomes part of a family of statewide LETR sponsors that includes CARQUEST Auto Parts, NYSCOPBA, Cingular Wireless, NY Lottery and Red Lobster restaurants.

The Home Depot is no stranger to supporting charitable efforts at local, state, national and international levels. The company has supported affordable housing programs, at-risk youth initiatives, the environment, and disaster preparedness and relief programs. The Home Depot began supporting the Olympic movement in 1992, when it signed on as a sponsor of the 1994 and 1996 United States teams and the Centennial Olympic Games.

Kleis added that The Home Depot, which has employed many Olympic competitors, would likely jump in to the partnership with both feet and enter teams in some LETR events, such as Plane Pulls, Fire Truck Pulls and golf tournaments. ■

Athletes Return from Greece with Memories and Medals

Ten Special Olympics New York athletes and three coaches represented the United States at a once in a lifetime competition in Greece.

Special Olympics Hellas (Greece) celebrated its 15th anniversary by holding an international invitational, "Athens 2002," from April 19 to 26.

The New York delegation represented the United States. The Hellas program invited a total 2,002 athletes, mostly from war-touched countries such as Bosnia, Israel and Kuwait, to participate. In view of events over the last year throughout the world, the event quickly became known as the "Peace Games."

Athletes and coaches were housed on cruise ships docked in Piraeus, which is the country's third largest city, its major port, and not far from Athens.

The delegation was lucky enough to have a native on their team in Sophia Gianakouros, who was born in Greece. She was not only their Bowling coach but their translator and tour guide. ■



Team USA: Left to right, Coach Sofia Gianakouros, Amy Gustina, Jennifer Ryan, John Gianakouros, Jennifer Wong, Head of Delegation Jeff Countois, Shawn Livingston, Jack Scott, Greg Lieberman, Diane Muoio, Coach Larry Kolwaite, Elizabeth Habeeb, Coach Joanne Certo, Jeremy Cook.

SONY Staff

Mapping Out a Brighter Future

A snapshot of Special Olympics New York under regionalization.

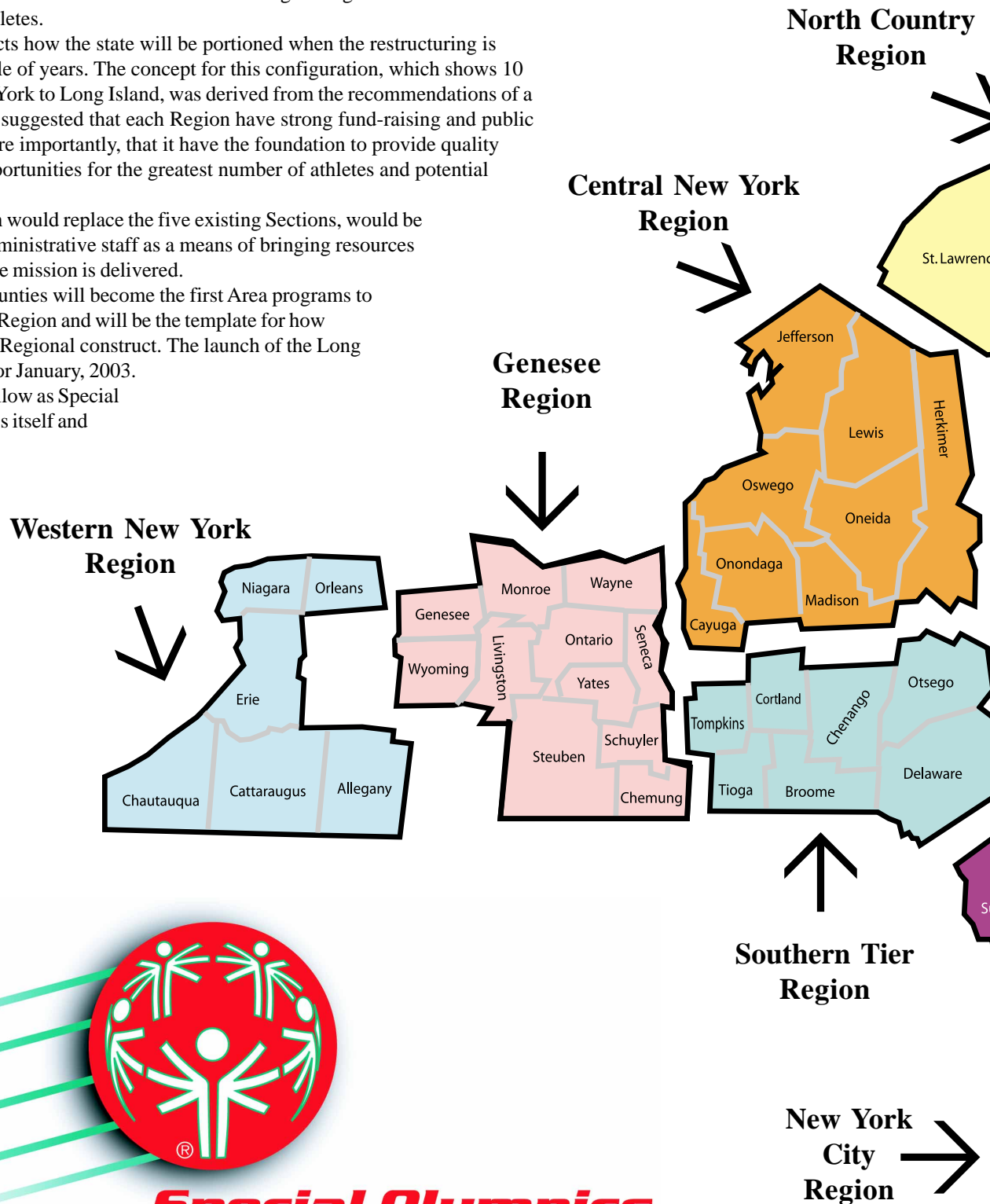
Special Olympics New York is in the midst of restructuring the organization to better serve existing and future athletes.

The map you see depicts how the state will be portioned when the restructuring is complete over the next couple of years. The concept for this configuration, which shows 10 Regions from Western New York to Long Island, was derived from the recommendations of a volunteer committee, which suggested that each Region have strong fund-raising and public awareness potential and, more importantly, that it have the foundation to provide quality training and competitive opportunities for the greatest number of athletes and potential athletes.

The 10 Regions, which would replace the five existing Sections, would be staffed with Program and administrative staff as a means of bringing resources directly to the field, where the mission is delivered.

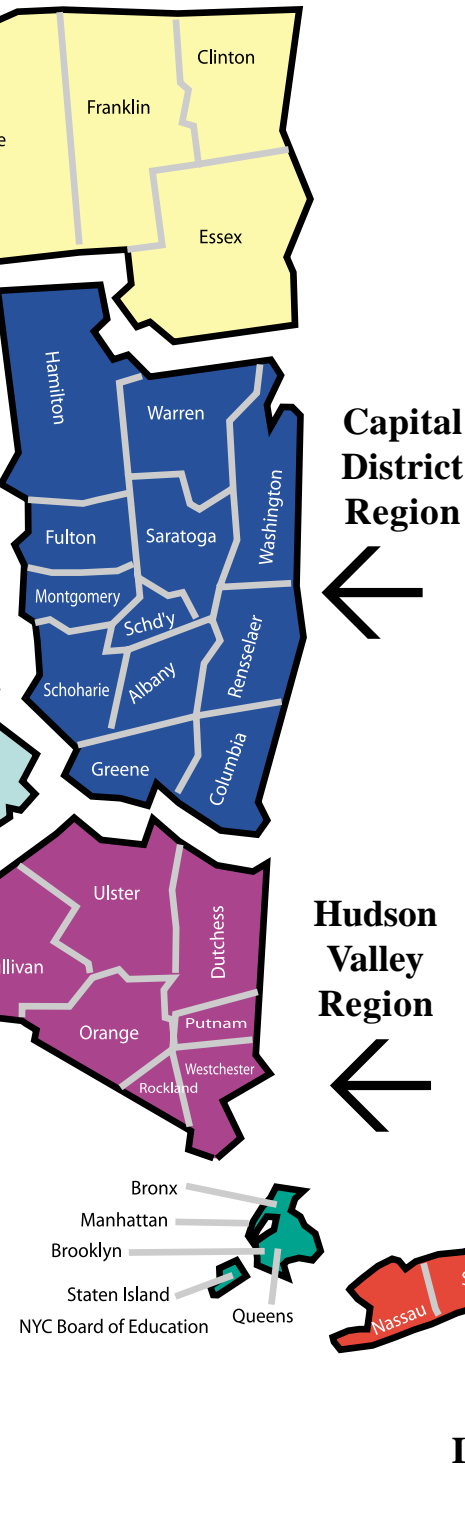
Nassau and Suffolk counties will become the first Area programs to formally merge into a single Region and will be the template for how programs will operate in the Regional construct. The launch of the Long Island Region is scheduled for January, 2003.

Others Regions will follow as Special Olympics New York redefines itself and strengthens its focus on – and commitment to – the athletes. ■



**Special Olympics
New York, Inc.**
in it together

Region by Region



Long Island Region

Suffolk County
Nassau County

New York City Region

Bronx
Manhattan
Brooklyn
Staten Island
Queens
NYC Board of Education

Hudson Valley Region

Westchester County
Putnam County
Rockland County
Orange County
Sullivan County
Ulster County
Dutchess County

Capital District Region

Albany County
Greene County
Columbia County
Rensselaer County
Schenectady County
Schoharie County
Montgomery County
Fulton County
Hamilton County
Saratoga County
Washington County
Warren County

North Country Region

Franklin County
St. Lawrence County
Clinton County
Essex County

Central New York Region

Herkimer County
Oneida County
Madison County
Jefferson County
Lewis County
Oswego County
Onondaga County
Cayuga County

Southern Tier Region

Chenango County
Otsego County
Delaware County
Broome County
Tioga County
Tompkins County
Cortland County

Genesee Region

Monroe County
Wayne County
Ontario County
Wyoming County
Genesee County
Seneca County
Yates County
Livingston County
Steuben County
Schuyler County
Chemung County

Western New York Region

Niagara County
Orleans County
Chautauqua County
Cattaraugus County
Allegany County
Erie County

Around the State

Area 2 – Nassau County

The St. Christopher-Ottilie Owls basketball team joined famed St. John's University coach Lou Carnesecca at the dedication of a new basketball court on May 16. The court is on the grounds of the Sea Cliff Residential Treatment Center.

"We have some top-notch basketball players here at St. Christopher-Ottilie," said Executive Director Bob McMahon. "I know that this basketball court will be the site of games and practices all year round."

Area 12 – Oneida/Herkimer Counties

The Oneida County Sons of the American Legion received a special award from Special Olympics New York – Oneida/Herkimer Counties in recognition of the \$10,000 they raised.

Area 16 – Onondaga County

On May 4, more than 250 athletes and their parents were guests at a sports banquet honoring the athletes of Onondaga County. "Each and every one of them were the stars, or outstanding athletes, of their individual training clubs," said Peggy O'Hara, Area coordinator and speaker at the banquet. Each athlete received a framed certificate for their hard work, perseverance and accomplishments in Special Olympics, O'Hara said.

Area 17 – Cayuga, Cortland & Tompkins Counties

IDEAS of Ithaca College hosted athletes from the Eastern Finger Lakes at a Sock Hop on April 12. There was a deejay, refreshments and dancing. Ithaca College students volunteered their time to work the dance and all proceeds collected at the door benefited Area 17's program.

Area 20 – Monroe County

The Eighth Annual Spike's Hike took place at Frontier Field in Rochester. Monroe County once again teamed up with the Rochester Red Wings baseball team for the fund-raising walk. Many other nonprofits took part in the walk and then split the proceeds with Area 20.

Area 24 – Chautauqua County

Area 24 held its awards banquet on April 16 in Jamestown. Area Coordinator Bob Goold presented the Female and Male Athletes of the Year awards to Kristine Fuller and Jim Williams. Eleven other athletes were presented with Most Improved Awards.

Please call, fax or e-mail your Area information to Doreen Hand, 212-661-3963, Fax: 212-661-4658, dhand@nyso.org



China wins bid for 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games

New York athletes will be selected following 2006 state Summer Games.

By unanimous vote of the Special Olympics Board of Directors, the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games have been awarded to The People's Republic of China. The announcement was made May 24, in both Shanghai, the host city for the World Games, and in Washington, D.C.

China will now play host, in a one-year period, to three of the world's largest sporting events: the 2008 Olympic Summer Games, the 2008 Paralympic Games and now the 2007 Special Olympics World Games. It is the first time the Special Olympics World Summer Games will be held in Asia and only the second time the Games will be held outside the United States.

Team USA has not been selected and it won't be clear how many slots the United States, and specifically New York, will be awarded. New York athletes will be selected after the 2006 Summer Games.

One of the major factors in awarding the bid to China was its strong Special

Olympics program. It comes nearly a year after the Chinese government introduced a historic policy mandating the success of Special Olympics China's five-year Plan for Growth to attract 500,000 new Special Olympics athletes by 2005, half of Special Olympics' global goal. The current number of athletes in China is almost triple what it was in 2000.

At the Shanghai announcement, Shanghai Mayor Chen Liangyu said, "Our city is excited to promote Special Olympics and its athletes from today to the 2007 World Games and into the future. I'm confident the city of Shanghai and its citizens will stage a wonderful Games."

In addition to some 7,000 athletes, Special Olympics expects the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games to draw 40,000 volunteers, 3,500 event officials and thousands of families, volunteers, spectators and journalists from every continent.

For more information on the Games, visit www.specialolympics.org.

Metro Tournament

Continued from p. 1

the hardest work, including setting up and breaking down gymnastics equipment, getting water to athletes and lugging tables and chairs throughout the 28-acre park.

Metro Tournament is the largest Sectional competition in the state with

nearly 1,000 athletes from the metropolitan area and Hudson Valley taking part. Special Olympics New York depends heavily on the support of corporate volunteers and the FDNY.

Also participating in the Opening Ceremonies were New York City Sports Commissioner Kenneth Podziba, who presented Johnson with a proclamation from Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and actress Lorraine Bracco of the "Sopranos," who came as a guest of Metro Tournament Honorary Chairman Donald Drapkin of Revlon. In addition, chiefs from the FDNY led each delegation in the Parade of Athletes.



Suzanne Vreeland

Athletes from the New York City Public Schools horse around before the Parade of Athletes.

Twelfth Annual Benefit Weekend for Special Olympics New York

The 12th annual Satins, Silks & Stars weekend to benefit Special Olympics New York will be held July 27 and 28 in Saratoga Springs.

The glamorous weekend draws stars from television, stage and film to Saratoga Springs during the annual Hats Off Weekend. Satins events have raised more than \$1 million in the past 11 years.

Returning as Equestrian Demonstration host, and bringing many of his celebrity friends, is Thom Christopher, who's best known for his work on daytime soap operas *Guiding Light* and *One Life to Live*.

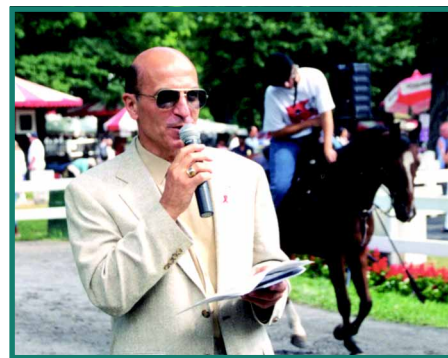
This year's festivities begin with the



Silks & Satins 5K Run at 8 a.m. on Saturday, July 27. The weekend continues with a Black-Tie Gala that evening at the Sheraton Saratoga Springs, and concludes on Sunday, July 28, with an Equestrian Demonstration, Q & A with the stars and a Gourmet Luncheon at Saratoga Race Course.

The registration fee for the Silks & Satins 5K Run is \$18 prior to the weekend, \$23 on the day of the event. Tickets for the Gala are \$175 each. The private luncheon in the elegant At The Rail Pavilion is \$85.

To make reservations for any of the above events, call 518-388-0793 or visit www.specialolympicsnewyork.org.



Dave Feiden Photographic Services

Actor Thom Christopher returns as the emcee of the Equestrian Demonstration taking place on Sunday, July 28 at the Saratoga Race Course Paddock.

Letters

Editor's Note: New York State Assemblyman Martin A. Luster, D-Trumansburg, led the passage of an Assembly resolution in April, recognizing athletes, volunteers and staff of Special Olympics for their year-round work and for the work done at the Winter Games in Syracuse. This letter to Neal Johnson followed.

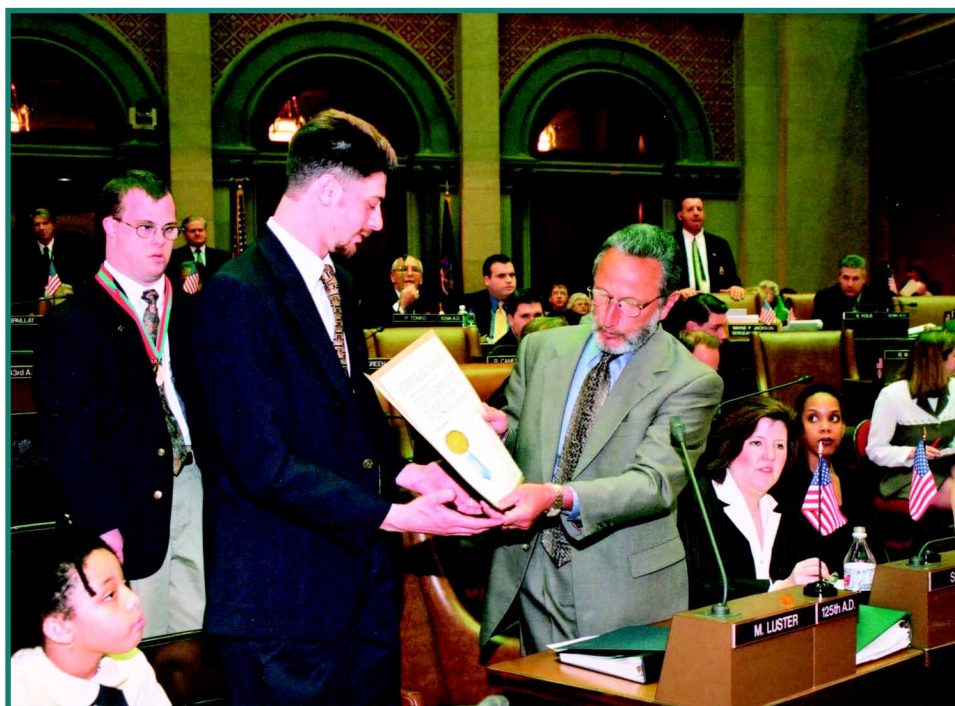
Dear Neal:

Thank you very much for joining me on the floor of the New York State Assembly on April 8, 2002. Your presence helped us immensely in recognizing everyone who participated in the Special Olympics New York 2002 Winter Games.

I have been approached by several Assemblymembers since April 8th who have reiterated their support for this resolution and expressed how pleased they were that you were able to join us in Albany. The overwhelming support for this resolution and the subsequent comments I received are illustrative of the appreciation all New Yorkers have for your hard work and dedication that makes the Special Olympics so successful.

Once again, thank you for coming to Albany to help us commemorate the Special Olympics New York 2002 Winter Games.

Very truly yours,
Martin A. Luster
Chair, Committee on Mental Health,
Mental Retardation and
Developmental Disabilities



The Assembly State of New York

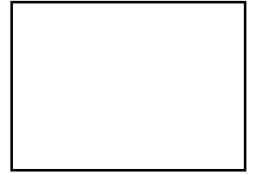
Saratoga County athlete Dan Ritzenberg accepts a proclamation introduced by Assemblyman Martin Luster as Onondaga County athlete Christopher Seereiter looks on. The resolution was warmly received by members of the Assembly, many of whom spoke spontaneously in strong support of Special Olympics.

Submit letters to Doreen Hand, Special Olympics New York, 211 East 43rd Street, 12th Floor New York, NY 10017, e-mail: dhand@nyso.org.



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