

Special Olympics Pennsylvania Announces New Regional Executive Director

By Nicky Rourk

Norristown, PA, – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) recently announced that Julie L. Benjamin will serve as the Regional Executive Director for SOPA's newly formed regional area covering Berks, Bethlehem, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton and Schuylkill counties.

As Regional Executive Director, Benjamin will be responsible for developing and implementing strategies that align with SOPA's Strategic Plan, overseeing all region staff and volunteers serving on leadership teams, building strategic partnerships with local schools, universities and colleges and organizations to support volunteer needs, enhancing the athlete experience and increasing athlete participation, and heightening the visibility of SOPA as a whole within the region.

Benjamin has extensive experience in strategic leadership, fundraising, project management and relationship building in the community. Prior to being named Regional Executive Director, Benjamin served as the Director of Communications for the Allentown School district.

She has also previously served as the Vice President of Community Partnerships for ArtsQuest, Executive Director of Levitt Pavilion SteelStacks, and the Senior Vice President of Development & Community Partnerships for PBS 39/WLVT.

"We are thrilled to welcome Julie to our Special Olympics Pennsylvania team," said Matt Aaron, President & CEO, Special Olympics Pennsylvania. "Her leadership experience, knowledge of the local area and ability to forge lasting community and corporate partnerships will be instrumental as we launch our first region."

The newly formed region is the first to be launched as part of SOPA's statewide reorganization of its 54 local programs into nine regions that will help the local programs work together to provide more and better opportunities for athletes. In addition to the regional executive director, each region will have a leadership team made up of staff and volunteers in order to meet the goals and fulfill each region's strategies. The local programs in Region 5 currently serve nearly 3,500 athletes and 1,000 volunteers and give athletes the opportunity to compete in 20 different sports year round.

Scavello and Toomey Partner to Recognize Korean War Veterans

By Senator Mario Scavello

PEN ARGYL - I want to make you aware of the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal which is available to veterans who serviced served in Korea from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. The Medal was created by the Korean Consul General to recognize and thank our veterans for serving in what is often called "the forgotten war."

U.S. Senator Toomey has been able to secure these medals and is asking my office to help Korean War veterans apply for and receive this honor. An eligible veteran must have served in Korea at some time during the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. Members of the US Navy are eligible if they served aboard a naval vessel that was assigned to Korean waters during the aforementioned timeframe. Veterans who participated in UN peacekeeping efforts in Korea until the end of 1955 are also eligible for this award. Applications for the Peace Medal are available in all of my offices and on my website. We are happy to help any eligible veteran fill out the application and submit it. The deadline for applications is January 10, 2020. Please help us spread the word so that we may honor as many veterans as possible!



December 30

Portland Fire Co
Starts 7pm

December 28

Immaculate
Conception
Doors 11am;
Starts 1pm

December 31

Bushkill Twp Fire Co
Doors 5pm
Starts 7pm

December 29

St. Elizabeth Church
Starts 1pm

December 27

Wind Gap Fire Co
Doors 5pm; Starts
6:45pm

December 26

Kunkletown Fire Co
Progressive
Jackpot - 7pm

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The Office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey and Pennsylvania State Senator Mario Scavello, invite eligible veterans to apply for the Korean War "Ambassador for Peace Medal". To be eligible, veterans must have served in Korea at any time during the period of June 25, 1950 through July 27, 1953. U.S. Navy veterans are eligible if their vessel was assigned to Korean waters during this specific time. UN peacekeeping forces assigned to Korea through December 31, of 1955 are also eligible.

The "Ambassador for Peace Medal" was created by the government of South Korea and will be awarded to veterans in a future presentation ceremony honoring recipients. Eligible veterans must complete an application and provide a copy of their DD214 for verification purposes by the Korean Consulate.

Applications in pdf format are available to download at senatorscavello.com/korean-peace-medal, or you may contact Senator Scavello's office at 610-863-1200 to have an application mailed to you. Completed applications and a copy of your DD214 must be sent to:

Office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey
Attn: Marta Gabriel
1150 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Suite 101
Allentown, PA 18103



You may email copies of both documents to Marta_Gabriel@toomey.senate.gov. Medals will be provided posthumously to family members with proper documentation. The deadline for the application is Friday, January 10, 2020.

Information on the upcoming presentation ceremony will be provided to approved medal recipients upon verification of their application from the Korean Consulate. We anticipate that approved applications will be returned to our office during the month of April, 2020.

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