

Director of Sports & Advanced Competitions 02/06/2019 Board of Director Meeting Report

Bowling: The 2018 SOIA Bowling Tournament was held on November 17 in Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs and two bowling centers in Des Moines. Over 1200 athletes and Unified Sports partners participated in the tournament. Athletes and Unified Sports partners each bowled two games. Divisions were made up of singles, doubles and four-person teams.

Each bowling center held at least two Opening Ceremonies which included Special Olympics Iowa athletes and LETR members. Several hundred volunteers assisted with the tournament.

Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau: The ACVB held its' annual meeting on January 10 at the Hansen Agricultural Center in Ames. Businesses and organizations including Special Olympics Iowa were recognized for events held in Ames in 2018.

Winter Games: The 2019 SOIA Winter Games were held in Dubuque January 14 – 15. Over 280 athletes and Unified Sports partners competed in the event. Sports offered included alpine skiing, cross country skiing, figure skating, speed skating and snow shoeing. Student volunteers from Loras College, the University of Dubuque, the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa assisted with the competition.

Athletes and Unified Sports partners enjoyed an outdoor Opening Ceremony along the River Walk, a dance with live music provided by the Upper Street Jazz Band and a pool party. The Opening Ceremony was led by the Dubuque Drum and Bugle Corps. The Dubuque 4th Degree Knights of Columbus provided an Honor Guard.

Basketball Skills and Conference Team Basketball: Area competitions in basketball skills and conference tournaments in team basketball are being held in January and February. Athletes and teams that receive first place in their division qualify for the Mid-Winter Tournament which will be held March 16 in Iowa City / Coralville.

Mid-Winter Tournament: The first 2019 SOIA Mid-Winter Tournament committee meeting was changed to a conference call on January 22 due to inclement weather. Agenda items included tournament logistics, banquet updates, venue transportation, event schedule revisions and volunteer recruitment.

Team Iowa: Powerlifter Mitchell Betsworth of the Sioux City Knights and member of Team Iowa at the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games was featured in the 2018 Sportsperson of the Year edition of Sports Illustrated. The full page photo of Mitchell shows him participating in the deadlift competition. Mitchell received second in the deadlift, first in the bench press, first in the squat and first in combination.