



September 16, 2020

Fellow Guardians of the Flame of Hope,

I hope this letter finds you each doing well. As the State Director, I am writing you to share positive news about things that have taken place within the North Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics movement this year and to provide upcoming opportunities where you can continue to assist with making an impact on the lives of those with intellectual disabilities.

Let me begin by stating the obvious; this year has presented us with the most significant challenges I have seen during my time being involved with the NC LETR Program. We started the year on track to break previous fundraising records for our State, and then COVID-19 halted our efforts almost overnight. With the restrictions put in place across the State on gatherings and social distancing, fundraising events were either postponed or canceled. To comply with the Governor's Order and to protect the athletes, Special Olympics NC decided to cancel all competitive events and in-person training for the athletes.

During these unpredictable times, creative ideas were put into motion to keep our mission going. For example, Keep the Hope Virtual Torch Run was initiated as a state-level event so agencies could be able to participate and to continue showing their support for the athletes in a safe manner. This helped get the NC LETR message of Inclusion out to the greater public, raise much-needed funds to support Special Olympics NC virtual events, but more importantly, it showed the athletes that they were not forgotten.

The most recent state event was the Dunkin Donuts Icon Campaign that took place across parts of North Carolina and South Carolina August 9-23<sup>rd</sup>. This campaign was a huge success not only for our program, but it also provided needed funds to the SC LETR Program. More than \$45,00 was raised for SONC and over \$11,000 for SOSOC. For the agencies that had a participating Dunkin Donuts store, please stop in to let them know how much we appreciate and value them as a partner.

I want to recognize and thank the agencies who have continued to find ways to support the athletes by creating safe events to fundraise or by collecting donations for NC LETR t-shirts or other merchandise. Without the fundraising you each do locally, it would be even more challenging to meet the needs of the over 40,000 athletes who participate with Special Olympics NC.

Even though this year has presented us all with challenges, we as Guardians of the Flame have found ways to overcome them and continue to carry the flame of hope. However, this year is not over, and the athletes still need us to continue supporting them. Even with the positive things I have highlighted, we are still short of meeting the needs of the athletes and ensuring the funding is there for them in 2021.

To help ensure we meet the needs of the athletes, I ask you to consider having your agency participate in or help recruit participants for the following events-



**Over the Edge** on October 3 in Raleigh

**Plane Pull** on October 17 at RDU International Airport

**Truck Convoy** on November 14 in Charlotte

Please direct your questions to Leslie Moyar or Aaron George about how you can get involved. You are also welcome to call me or email me anytime. Again, I appreciate the efforts and the energy you each bring to this cause and would not ask more of you if it was not of the utmost importance.

In closing, thank you each for everything you do for the athletes and the commitment to the communities that you serve daily. Please know I support you in your mission in bringing about Inclusion for all people. Stay Safe!

Respectfully,

Lt. William Davis, NC State Campus Police  
NC LETR Council State Director  
[wadavis@ncsu.edu](mailto:wadavis@ncsu.edu)  
919-291-0383