

THE OLYMPIAN

The newsletter of
Ohio Senior Olympics
Fall 2006

OHIO SENIOR OLYMPICS



www.ohioseniorolympics.org

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Youngstown:
330-746-2938

Ohio Senior
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From the desk of Joe Rossi
President, Ohio Senior Olympics

Greetings from Youngstown and the very best to you and your family this holiday season. I hope this newsletter finds you well and looking forward to a healthy New Year!

I have exciting news to report! Ohio Senior Olympics (OSO) is starting a new program to recognize the accomplishments of Senior Olympians around the state. While everyone competing in Senior Olympics around the state should be proud of their accomplishments, beginning in 2007, OSO will have a **Hall of Fame**. The Ohio Senior Olympics **Hall of Fame** will have two recognition categories: Olympic Athlete and Meritorious Service Award.

The **Olympic Athlete** award is open to any athlete who has competed and been recognized in a sanctioned Senior Olympics program in Ohio. To be considered for the Hall of Fame, an athlete must:

- ⇒ Have been born in Ohio or been a resident of the state for a minimum of three years;
- ⇒ Have competed and been recognized in a sanctioned event at the local, state or national level;
- ⇒ Have competed in a sanctioned Senior Olympics competition for at least two years.

Individuals who have not directly competed, but have played a relevant role (such as coach, sports official, games' administrator or founder) may also be considered for this category. Decisions about the appropriateness of those nominations are at the discretion of the screening committee.

The **Meritorious Service Award** is to honor individuals who have made a contribution to the betterment of athletics for older adults in Ohio Senior Olympics. Individuals considered for inclusion in this category may include: sports journalists who have covered Senior Olympics events, long-term sponsors of events, community leaders or sports program directors who have directed Senior Olympic programs for a long period of time.

The appropriate (athlete or meritorious service award) nomination form and supporting documentation (newspaper articles, testimonials, photographs, documentation of athletic record, etc.) must be completed and returned to the screening committee by March 1, 2007. Nominations received after March 1 will be held over for the next year.

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Promoting healthy lifestyles for seniors through education, fitness and sports.

Hall of Fame, continued

Completed nomination forms and documentation should be sent to:

Ohio Senior Olympics Hall of Fame Program
Screening Committee
580 Northwood Drive
Akron, Ohio 44313

The ceremony for each year's class of inductees will take place during the state games, at the scheduled banquet or social event. Inductees will receive a plaque recognizing their induction. Since Ohio Senior Olympics doesn't have a physical location, our Hall of Fame will exist on the Ohio Senior Olympics web site.

For additional information about the Hall of Fame program, visit the Ohio Senior Olympics web site, www.ohioseniorolympics.org or call Dr. Bob Gandee at 330-864-4659.

Special thanks to Dr. Bob Gandee, Dan Hayes, John Tasseff and Garth Schoffman for putting the Hall of Fame program together.

2007 Ohio Senior Olympics State Games

The 2007 Ohio Senior Olympics State Games will be hosted by the Southwest Ohio Sports Zone (SWOSZ), a collaborative of convention and visitors bureaus in southwestern Ohio. Southwest Ohio Sports Zone was formed to bring together facilities and expertise to market the southwest Ohio region as a host for large sporting events. SWOSZ is a collaborative between Dayton/Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), Clark County CVB, Greene County CVB, Miami County CVB and Warren County CVB. Events hosted in the SWOSZ include: 2004 US Olympic Trials for archery, 2007 NCAA Women's Regionals, 2006 NCAA Men's Round I & II, 2004 Ohio Cup (cycling) and the 2005 USGA Senior Open.

The 2007 games will be the first time the state games will be hosted by an organization other than one of the local/ regional games around the state. SWOSZ will host the state games in 2007 and the qualifying games in 2008. The board of Ohio Senior Olympics is working very closely with SWOSZ to ensure the high quality competition that

the State Games is expected to provide. "We are excited to work with Southwest Ohio Sports Zone for the 2007/8 State Games," says Joe Rossi, president of the Ohio Senior Olympics Board. "The folks from the Sports Zone who are involved with the 2007 State Games have a wealth of experience that will make our games a great success for the athletes."

The 2007 State Games will be held July 27 through August 4. As the schedule is finalized, it will be posted on the Ohio Senior Olympics web site, www.ohioseniorolympics.org.

For additional information about the SWOSZ, visit their web site, www.swohiosportszone.com. For information about the 2007 Ohio Senior Olympics State Games, contact Linda Smith, Greene County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 800-733-9109.

What's in a Name?

Since the beginning of Senior Olympics here in Ohio, our games have been known as Senior Olympics. Each of the regional competitions around the state have then added a geographic identifier to that name- Southwest Ohio Senior Olympics, Lima Senior Games, etc.

The Board of Ohio Senior Olympics has been discussing the use of the word "senior" as part of the Senior Olympics. Some feel that having "senior" as part of the name of our competition is keeping people from participating in the games, because of a perceived negative connotation with the word "senior."

So we want to know what you, the athletes, think? Do you feel there is a negative connotation with the "senior" in Senior Olympics? Does the use of the word "senior" keep people you may know who are age eligible to compete from competing? What would be another word to refer to the games that might capture the attention of the age population we are trying to reach (age 50+)?

Weigh in on this discussion by sending your thoughts on the subject to Lynn Melzer at the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati Ohio 45202 or via e-mail at lynn.melzer@cincinnati-oh.gov

2006 Billiards Results

Congratulations to the nine individuals who competed in the billiards competition during the 2006 Ohio Senior Olympics State Games. The billiards results were inadvertently left out of the published results book, but are included here.

2006 Billiards Results

Women

Age 70-74 Gold Jeanne Larsen
 Silver Florence Shilling

Men

Age 60-64 Gold Daniel Miller
Age 65-69 Gold Paul Harvey
Age 70-74 Gold Paul Neidlinger
 Silver Robert Vrabel
 Bronze John Palchak
Age 75-79 Gold Merle Shilling
 Silver Ercil Cassedy

For copies of the 2006 Ohio Senior Olympics State Games results, visit the Ohio Senior Olympics web site, www.ohioseniorolympics.org. The file is available for download as a .pdf from the state games page. Results books were mailed to all athletes competing in the 2006 State Games.

2006 Qualifiers

Congratulations to the many athletes who competed in the 2006 state games and qualified for competition at the *2007 National Senior Games: The Senior Olympics presented by Humana* next June in Louisville. Ohio had 509 individual athletes qualify, and an additional 360 athletes qualify in team sports for a grand total of 869 qualifiers! (In 2004, Ohio had 848 qualifiers.)

Overall there were 1,067 registered athletes for the 2006 games; almost 10% (110) of those registered were from outside of Ohio.

The 2006 Ohio Senior Olympics State Games were made possible with the generous support of:



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Put Your Dancing Shoes On!

Introducing... DanceSport 2007! If you are ready to test your dance skills against others, you'll want to compete in a new Senior Olympics event- DanceSport! Open to all dancers age 50 and over, DanceSport is a demonstration of athleticism through the artistry of dance.

Competition will be held in two categories: smooth (foxtrot, waltz, tango) and rhythm (cha-cha, rumba, swing). As with most Senior Olympics events, athletes will compete in five year age categories, beginning with 50+. Age for competition is determined by the age of the younger partner on his/her birthday in 2007. Medals will be awarded for the top three couples in each age group, in each category (smooth and rhythm).

DanceSport 2007 is being coordinated by the Tri-County Senior Olympics, based in Akron and is sanctioned by Ohio Senior Olympics.

The event will be Sunday, May 20, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the Martin University Center at the University of Akron.

For more information on DanceSport 2007, contact the Institute for Life-Span Development and Gerontology at the University of Akron, Akron Ohio 44325 or call 330-972-7243.

Calling Qualified Team Members

If you competed in the 2006 Ohio Senior Olympics State Games, and your team either didn't qualify or isn't going to the 2007 National Senior Games in Louisville, but you'd like to compete, let us know! We are starting a registry of TEAM players interested in competing in Louisville, but who are without a team. You **MUST** have competed at any 2006 State Games (yes, even in another state) in the team event in which you'd like to compete in order to qualify to be added to a team roster for the 2007 National Senior Games.

If you are a TEAM CAPTAIN looking for team members, let us know that as well and we'll see what we can do to match you up with interested players.

This matching service is only for TEAMS and team members. Contact Joe Rossi at 330-746-2938 or e-mail at joe.rossi@cboss.com to be added to the registry, either as a player or to find players for your team.

Ohio Senior Olympics, Inc.
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Youngstown, Ohio 44503-1843

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Dates to Remember in 2007

February 15
Deadline to register for the *2007 National Senior Games- The Senior Olympics presented by Humana*

May 30- June 9
Senior Olympics of Northeast Ohio
(Youngstown)

March 1
Deadline for Nominations for the *2007 Ohio Senior Olympics Hall of Fame*

June 8 (tentative)
50+ Sports Classic (Toledo)

April 9-May 22
Southwest Ohio Senior Olympics
(Cincinnati)



June 22- July 7
2007 National Senior Games- The Senior Olympics presented by Humana

April 26- June 9
Central Ohio Senior Olympics (Columbus)

July 27- August 4
2007 Ohio Senior Olympics State Games
Southwest Ohio

May 20
DanceSport 2007!

Dates for the other local games will be announced in the next newsletter or check for schedule updates on the Ohio Senior Olympics web site at www.ohioseniorolympics.org.

Promoting healthy lifestyles for seniors through education, fitness and sports.