

THE FINISH LINE

MT LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME ONE – JULY 2006



Let me introduce myself . . .

Greetings to all! This is the first official newsletter of the MT Law Enforcement Torch Run. The idea behind creating **THE FINISH LINE** is to keep you more informed by personalizing news, events, features, photos and other key information. **THE FINISH LINE** will be published and disseminated four times per year; July, October, January, & April. The format is designed to equally showcase the WEST Region (western MT) and the EAST Region (eastern MT). Let's begin our journey to reach **THE FINISH LINE!**

The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run®

The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics is to raise funds for and awareness of the Special Olympics movement worldwide. Special Olympics is a program that daily reaffirms our beliefs that with hope, love and dedication we can see achievement and self-worth realized by any individual. It is our belief that persons with intellectual disabilities, by their involvement in Special Olympics, show the community at large the true meaning of sports and a pure joy towards life.

The Montana Law Enforcement Torch Run®

The Torch Run began in Montana in 1985. Since then, thousands of dollars have been raised each year for Special Olympics Montana athletes! In 2005, the Montana LETR raised over \$225,000 for Montana athletes. This remarkable feat was accomplished through the statewide Torch Run, special event fundraisers, sponsorship pledges and Torch Run t-shirt sales. **Our goal for 2006 is to raise over \$250,000!**

A word from the WEST (Jason Johnson)

Hello fellow Torch Runners. The year is almost half over and what a year it's been so far. As you know, our statewide goal this year is to reach the \$250K mark and I strongly feel we can do it. Many Torch Run Legs set fundraising records this year. A personal "thank you" to all who made things happen with the Torch Run this year. We couldn't do it without your leadership. This year we have taken a hard look at what we can do to continue our momentum. This has brought about some changes in our program that has me excited for our future. Leg leaders; you hold the most important position in the Torch Run! Your recruitment of more runners every year results in more funds and awareness raised for Special Olympics. The Regional Coordinators are in place to support your efforts so please use them often. Communication is the key to our success. Kansas Police Chief Richard Lamunyon started the Torch Run 25 years ago and it amazes me to think about how many lives have been touched by this movement. Remember, "The drive and energy of a single human being can inspire hundreds to reach out and touch the lives of thousands." A special thank you to West Region Coordinator Mike Pfau for taking the drive and energy to start this news letter.

TERRI SAPPINGTON INFORMS US THAT

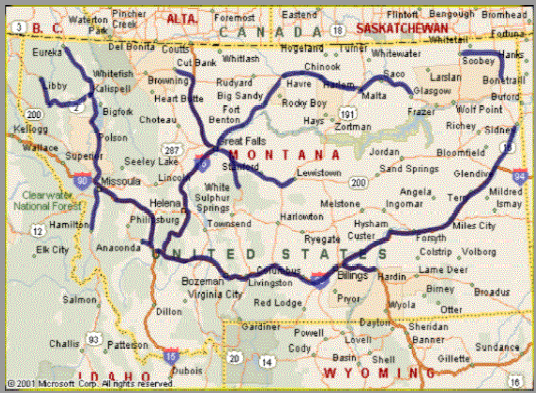
Pledges and t-shirt/hat sales are still coming in to the office in Great Falls and they are **UP** over last year. The Cutbank Leg raised over \$5000, the Plentywood Leg surpassed last year's total of \$2500 with a figure over \$4000, the Missoula Leg raised over \$3000, the Hamilton Leg raised over \$3000 & the Bigfork Leg raised over \$3000. The proceeds from the Torch Run pledges, hat sales & t-shirt sales could crest the \$30,000 mark! Combine those figures with the plunge totals from around the state and it looks like we are making great strides to attain our goal of \$250,000 for the year. Keep in mind, we must never slow down or stop our fund-raising & awareness efforts.

➡ Peggy Ash (Bozeman Police Dept.) and Jason Johnson (Missoula County Sheriff's Office) represented Montana LETR in the National Games June 23rd thru July 3rd. They helped carry the Flame of Hope from Chicago to Ames, Iowa. Peggy ran in the Final Leg while Jason ran and served as a team leader.

Mark these dates in your calendar book . . .

- July 29th Going to the Sun Poker Run (Cutbank – Stanton Ck.)
- July 29th Ride for the Flame Poker Run (Missoula – Stanton Ck.)
- July 29th Cruisin' Glacier Poker Run (Kalispell – Stanton Ck.)
- August 5th Carry the Torch Poker Run (Helena)
- September 16th World's Largest Truck Convoy (Billings)
- September 22nd LETR Executive Committee Meeting (location TBD)
- September 23rd Region VIII Meeting (location TBD)
- November 7-11 International LETR Conference (Buffalo, NY)

Comments, questions or concerns? Contact Lt. Mike Pfau at 406-258-3306 or mpfau@co.missoula.mt.us



DEPUTY JASON JOHNSON
MISSOULA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LETR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – WEST



67 runners participated in the Final Leg this year



86 Circle of Honor participants attended this year