



Special Olympics
Minnesota

September 12, 2018

PRESS RELEASE- *For Immediate Release*

CONTACT: Kathy Karkula, Development Director
Special Olympics Minnesota
612/840-9660 or karkulak@somn.org

SPECIAL OLYMPICS INVITES ALL TO THE 14th ANNUAL TRUCK CONVOY

The 14th Annual Truck Convoy for Special Olympics will be returning to Running Aces Casino and Racetrack September 28-29 and has something for everyone. Only one time a year can you witness this very unique event. The Convoy is an annual fundraiser for Special Olympics and is an event that demonstrates the support of the trucking Industries for the athletes of Special Olympics Minnesota. But there are so many ways that the public can also play a role in this support.

- Friday, September 28 the doors open for the truckers to register at 4:00 and remain open till 9:00. This will take place in the Atrium of Running Aces.
- Friday, September 28 the Fabulous DelCounts will be performing from 7-9pm. THIS IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC by donation only. Come out to listen and dance to the best Rock and Roll Band in the Country. All Truckers, Athletes, Families and Volunteers of the Convoy and Special Olympics will be admitted at NO CHARGE. The public is encouraged to attend.
- There will be raffle prizes available through the purchase of tickets from 4:00 Friday through 9:00am on Saturday. MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN! Donation of prizes can be brought to Running Aces by 4:00 On Friday or contacting us at 612/840-9660.
- Saturday, September 29 the doors will open for registration at 6:00am in the Atrium.
- Coffee and Donuts will be served to all participants on Saturday, September 29 beginning at 7:00 and provided by Thrivent and Running Aces.
- Athletes will be staged at 8:30am for the Running in of the Torch of Hope. All Special Olympics Athletes are welcome to attend. These athletes will be riding in the Big Rigs.
- 8:00am Law Enforcement will gather to manage traffic along the route. The organization of the Convoy is only possible due to the efforts of these law enforcement personnel.
- 9:00am the Opening Ceremony will begin with the National Anthem being sung by Athlete, Louie Nosan.
- *This year's Convoy is being dedicated to the memory of Officer Steve Nanney who played an active role in this event for many years and his wife Suzie. Ribbons will be worn in their memory.*
- *The public is invited to join in the Opening Ceremony and to cheer in the departure of the Convoy from Running Aces.*

- THE CONVOY IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 FROM RUNNING ACES AND HEAD NORTH ON I-35 TO HARRIS WHERE THEY WILL EXIT AND TURN AROUND TO HEAD BACK VIA I-35 SOUTH AND RETURN TO RUNNING ACES.

The public is encouraged to watch along the route and cheer on the participants of the Convoy! Make a sign or wave a flag in support of the Truckers and the Athletes who are riding with them.

- Upon the return of the trucks to Running Aces, there will be an Awards Ceremony to acknowledge the company with the most trucks participating, the nicest truck driver, the coolest truck and the driver who recruited the most trucks.
- **Participants and the public are encouraged to eat at the Deli and Trout Air located within Running Aces or the Food Stand outside the Casino both Friday and Saturday.**

As you can see, the focal point is always the trucks who participate in this event and the inclusion of the Athletes of Special Olympics Minnesota. However, with the addition of the Concert/Dance by the Fabulous DelCounts and the dedication of this event to Officer Steve Nanney, there is plenty of room for the public to participate.

Questions? Contact Kathy Karkula, 612/840-9660 or karkulak@somn.org.

SEE YOU AT THE CONVOY!