

## **Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics New Jersey - February 2020**

Come join our state team, the New Jersey Knights of Columbus Polar Penguins, as we plunge for Special Olympics of New Jersey!

Our Team started in February 2009 when then State Deputy Tom Ciborski and 2 others decided to “take the plunge”, raising \$8,000. In the 2012 Plunge, the Team reached new highs in the number of Team members and total money donated: the 48 members raised over \$24,000. The 2013 Plunge Team didn't fare as well, raising \$15,000, due in large part to Superstorm Sandy's impact. However, we rallied in 2014, raising \$22,369.22 with 47 team members. In February 2015, with 58 members, the team raised a total of \$34,991. In February 2016, the team raised \$35,485. The 2017 Polar Penguins raised \$63,371. The 2018 Penguins raised \$65,575 for Special Olympics New Jersey.

As seems to occur every year, our team set a NEW RECORD on February 23, 2019, with the team members raising an amazing \$70,304. Again, David Coppola, FDD, Ray Lill, FDD, and Gary Seals, FDD led the way, raising \$32,665 among them. This brings our total fundraising amount to \$359,745, which we are very proud of, and cannot thank our supporters enough! You guys are amazing!

Our goal for 2020 is 60 members and \$75,000 in pledges for team members. With your help, the NJKofC Polar Penguins can not only meet, but exceed their goal, and help these special athletes with their training. If a member of your council volunteers to participate in the plunge, please consider supporting him and assist him in his fundraising effort by donating. You could run a fundraising dinner for him and publicize his efforts to your members and parish community.

The monies raised by the plunge are dedicated to providing year-round sports training and Olympic-type competition in 24 sports for more that 25,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

The NJ State Council believes this is a great way to begin the year, by warming the hearts of these extraordinary athletes, and your own.

The Polar Bear Plunge is tentatively scheduled to be held on February 22, 2020, in Seaside Heights. Our day usually begins with a team breakfast at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Center in Seaside Heights, and a hot lunch after the Plunge, served and furnished by the Staff at Simon's Kitchen and Rev. Gebhard Braungart Council 8415. Contact the State Chairman for information on joining the Polar Penguins.

Please make a donation to Special Olympics New Jersey through this worthwhile program! To donate to either a specific Penguin or a general donation to the team, contact the State Council Polar Bear Plunge Chairman, and he will send you the link to the Team Plunge Page. Donating to a specific team member, even if you don't know him, will help him meet his personal goal, as well as help the team reach our goal of \$75,000. You can use a credit/debit card or you can print a form and mail it with a check. The forms and donation pages are usually open to the public in December and will also be distributed at that time via email to all Grand Knights. If you have any questions, please contact State Chairman John Gazis, FDD.

**Polar Bear Plunge State Chairman:  
John A. Gazis, FDD**

