

# Special Olympics Kansas

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**Special  
Olympics**  
Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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## TONIA LEE ELECTED TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS KANSAS BOARD

Mission, KS ~ Tonia Lee, Topeka, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Special Olympics Kansas (SOKS)

President & CEO of SOKS John Lair said, "I am excited to have Tonia join the Board of Directors. Tonia wears many hats as a volunteer coach, parent and foster mother. I am excited to have her ideas and energy on our Board. She has been involved in Special Olympics Kansas for a long time and we look forward to her helping us move forward to become an elite program."

Lee stated, "Special Olympics is an organization designed to provide competitive sporting competition for individuals with cognitive disabilities. It has however, developed into so much more. It provides athletes with health and nutrition education, friendship and connection with others. It provides support, encouragement and a safe and stable environment. For many athletes, Special Olympics is the only family they have."

Lee and her husband (Ed Lee) are a licensed foster home for voluntary placements through children's residential. All placements are children with disabilities. They have fostered 7 individuals since 2004. The entire family is involved with SOKS. Both of their sons, Justin and David participate, and so does their foster son, Jordan. Her husband and daughter, Krista, also coach.

Lee is a native of Pretty Prairie, Kansas. She received her degree in social work from Washburn University. She has a nutrition club and conducts fitness camps and designs weight training circuits with a certified trainer. Lee is a long-time Special Olympics coach with Topeka teams. She has served on USD 437 Special Education Advisory Council in numerous positions, including President and on USD 501 Site Council as a parent representative. She also volunteers for Easter Seals Capper Foundation.

Lee was elected at the August 2017 SOKS Board of Directors meeting, and will begin a three year term in 2018.

Energized by the pride and power of teamwork, Special Olympics Kansas provides individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to be an athlete, and more, through achievement, acceptance, inclusion, physical fitness, health and nutrition programs and leadership development.

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