



2018 Special Olympics USA Games
Seattle, WA– July 1-6, 2018



John Lair

President & CEO—Special Olympics Kansas

Hometown: Pittsburg, Kansas

Lives in: Shawnee, Kansas

Volunteer for Special Olympics: 22 years

Sports: Certified in 16 different sports

Games Attended: World Games Coach in Greece, Los Angeles & Austria. Kansas Coach to the USA Games in 2006, 2010, 2014

“Special Olympics athletes have let me learn to not sweat the small stuff. Laughter is golden and it is contagious! Special Olympics pulled me out of the darkest place in my life. I owe them a lot!”

Other than President/CEO of SOKS, John says that his dream job is to be the head coach for the Dallas Cowboys. Special Olympics has given John a reason to push through some of the hardest times of his life. Losing his best friend at the age of 27 left him down, but Special Olympics gave him a mission and hope.

Accomplishments & Honors: 2014 Special Olympics North America Coach of the Year, 2016 American Health Care Association Hero of the Year, 2016 PSU Outstanding Alumni, 2015 Kansas Advocate of the Year, and starting the New Hope Bulldogs team in Pittsburg, KS.

John has a unique hobby — collecting bobble heads! He started when he was young—and now has over 150 of them! Several of them are in his office, so stop by and check them out!

Favorite Fun Facts

- ◆ **Color:** Purple
- ◆ **Movie:** *The Natural*
- ◆ **Food:** Italian
- ◆ **Music:** Country
- ◆ **Sports Team:** Dallas Cowboys
- ◆ **Book:** *The Shining*



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