

For Immediate Release
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SPECIAL OLYMPICS MINNESOTA ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION ***Bill Fish appointed new President & CEO, succeeding long-serving leader Dave Dorn***

Minneapolis, MN, October 24, 2024 – Special Olympics Minnesota is proud to announce the appointment of Bill Fish as its new President and CEO, effective January 1, 2025. Fish will succeed Dave Dorn, who is retiring after 19 years of dedicated service that transformed the organization into a leading force for inclusion across the state.

Dorn fostered a period of unprecedented growth for Special Olympics Minnesota. During his tenure, the organization expanded its programming to reach more athletes and implemented key initiatives such as Unified Champion Schools. Dorn’s leadership was instrumental in securing the 2026 USA Games in Minnesota—an achievement that will leave a lasting legacy for the state and organization.

Reflecting on his time, Dorn says, “It’s impossible to choose just a few favorite memories because every event, season and year has been filled with remarkable moments. What stands out most is the incredible people I’ve had the privilege of meeting.”

The organization’s Board of Directors, which includes athlete representatives, conducted the search process for a new CEO and is confident that Fish’s vision and commitment to the organization’s mission will guide Special Olympics Minnesota into a new era of growth and impact.

“Bill has a deep understanding of our organization and genuine care for our community that ensures he will lead our staff, volunteers and athletes with humility and excellence,” said Dave Larson, Board Chair of Special Olympics Minnesota.

Fish brings more than 30 years of experience with the Special Olympics movement, and most recently served as the organization’s Chief Development Officer. He has been a driving force behind some of the organization’s most successful events and campaigns, including the Polar Plunge and the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

“I am honored and excited to step into this new role,” said Bill Fish. “Dave has set a remarkable standard, and I look forward to building on that foundation to advance our mission of creating a more inclusive world for people with intellectual disabilities.”

This transition marks an exciting and strategic moment for Special Olympics Minnesota. With the 2026 USA Games approaching, Dorn and the Board of Directors believe it is important for a new leader to take charge now and guide the organization through the Games and continue building on its momentum in the years that follow.

Dorn will remain in an advisory capacity during the transition period to ensure a seamless handover of leadership and after January 1, 2025, will remain active in the mission while serving as a liaison between Special Olympics Minnesota and the local organizing committee for the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games.

For more information, please visit somn.org/ceo.

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