**AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND**

**OF NEW YORK, INC.**

AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Members and Friends

The Westchester Council of the Blind is pleased to be hosting the 2015 Convention of the American Council of the Blind of New York (ACBNY) from October 30- November 1, 2015. The convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel,66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. 10601 <http://www.cpwestchester.com/>.

Rates are $119.00 for single, double, triple or quad. Please note the $119.00 rate will only apply if you register through ACBNY by midnight, September 26. If you register through the hotel after this date, and not through ACB, you will not receive the convention room rate, which is higher and you will also be charged 20.5% tax.

Beginning September 6, you will be able to register online for the convention. Registration for the annual 2015 ACB of New York Convention is $25.00. Day passes are as follows: an individual, single day pass is $10.00. A family single day pass is $15.00. This price will go up after September 26; if you attend and wish to purchase a pass after this date online or on the day of the convention, you will pay a late fee of $10.00 per pass.

 To register and pay via pay pal for the convention on the web: go to [www.wcbny.org/](http://www.wcbny.org/)

Should you require assistance with the online form, call WCB President Mike Golfo at 914-631-4870. We are not accepting paper registrations, but have no fear, registration can be paid by check or via pay pal and Mike will assist anyone unable to register online.

Pre-Convention Activities:

Thursday morning, October 29, (9:15 to 10:30 a.m.) Come and take part in an interactive Accessible Pedestrian Signal workshop. Meet State and County signal engineers and learn about the latest in APS technology and how it all works. Panel discussion on requesting APS and other subjects of interest will be discussed.

Thursday, October 29, 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Required leadership Training: all Chapter Presidents, Chapter Treasurers, and ACB NY Chapter Board Directors are mandated to attend this training. Other officers and directors are invited; however, if you are not required to participate, lunch is $40.00.

On Thursday evening, October 29, from 5:15 to 11 p.m., join us for a fabulous time at the Elmsford Dinner Theater. Enjoy dinner and a show. ($97.00 per person, non- refundable) Dine in comfort and then sit back and tap your foot to the timeless tunes of the celebrated musical SHOWBOAT. Coach bus transportation is included and provided by White Plains Bus. This musical will be audio described and is limited to 20 guests, so get your ticket before they sell out.

Not going to the show? The hospitality room will be open-- times TBA.

The 2015 New York State Convention begins Friday, October 30th at 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. with a continental breakfast located in the pool patio area ($21.00 per person).

Friday, October 30 at 10:00 a.m. until noon the New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) will be holding a Town Hall meeting. Please come and express your thoughts and views on children's services, vocational rehabilitation and senior services in New York State. This is your chance to provide input into the NYSCB Annual plan that will be submitted to the federal government. Please limit your comments to 5 minutes.

Friday, October 30, at 12:30 p.m. ACBNY will be hosting a luncheon (28.00 per person). Following lunch, the ACBNY business meeting will convene. After the business meeting, the hospitality suite will be open for socializing.

Dinner on Friday is on your own freestyle. Why not get out and sample the wonderful restaurants in downtown White Plains. You can choose from Southern Barbecue, Italian, Irish, American, Mexican, Latino, Asian, and that’s not all; sandwich shops and pubs abound. Ask the concierge for more information or directions to the most popular places to eat. Don’t feel like going out? Try the Hotel’s restaurant instead.

Friday evening, October 30, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., ($25.00) enjoy an intimate wine tasting. Tickets are limited to 20 guests and sell out quickly so don’t delay! Learn more about wine and how to pare wine with various foods. Individuals must be 21 or older; ID will be required at the door. Tickets are not refundable.

Saturday, October31st, 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. begins with a continental breakfast ($21.00 per person) located in the pool patio area.

The exhibit hall will be open on Saturday, October 31 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please visit the vendors to learn about new technology that is available for blind and visually impaired individuals or shop for other products for everyday living. Other blindness related services will also be displayed. Who knows, maybe there will also be a Vendor hall haunting, too.

Saturday, October 31, from 9:30 am to 12 noon activities for ages 5 to 18 years; WCB volunteers will help your child decorate a holiday paper pumpkin. We encourage everyone to come in costume and get ready to collect some candy for Trick-or-treating fun.

Saturday, October 31, lunch ($38.00 per person) will be served at 12:30p.m. Dine while listening to Halloween inspired folktales from the Hudson Valley.

Saturday afternoon, October 31, individuals with low vision can join CCLVI’s Workshop from 2:30to 4 p.m. Learn about the latest research with low vision experts.

Saturday afternoon, October 31, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Join other guide dog users for an open forum to discuss the formation of a GDUI Westchester/multi- county affiliate that would meet the needs of guide dog users living in Westchester and other counties outside the NYC area. .

Saturday, October 31, beginning at 7:00 pm we will be hosting a cocktail hour with a cash bar, followed by the 2015 dinner banquet ($55.00). The 2015 keynote speaker is Thomas Panek, President and CEO of Guiding Eyes for the Blind, located in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. we are pleased Mr. Panek has agreed to share his experiences being an executive who is blind, as well as being a blind athlete and marathon runner.

Why not try out winning a gift at our Awesome Auction? Ask for more information about the list of prizes at the registration table. Winners will be announced during the banquet dinner.

Following the banquet, everyone is welcome back to the hospitality suite.

On Sunday November 1 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.we are again offering a continental breakfast (21.00 per person) in the pool patio area, followed by the ACBNY Board meeting. This meeting will conclude at 12 noon, which signifies the end of the convention.

IMPORTANT: Please note

Attendees who register and reserve a room must make the reservation by midnight, September 26, 2015. Rooms are subject to the Crowne Plaza room reservation cancelation policy. Meal tickets can be refunded until October 8th. The dinner theater tickets for Thursday and the Wine Tasting tickets on Friday are not refundable. Late registrations will be charged an additional $10.00.

Housekeeping Notice

A guide Dog Relief Area will be available for guide dog users. Please note that this area will be used by many guide dogs and your care and attention to picking up after your dog is necessary and appreciated.

Transportation Options

Please make your travel arrangements accordingly.

* From the Westchester County Airport: Free Crowne Plaza shuttle is available. Call 914-682-0050.
* From the White Plains train or bus station: taxi service is available from Splendid Taxi Price is approximately $6.00 one way not including gratuity. Call 914.949.1333.
* From Croton Harmon or Yonkers train Stations: Due to recent hotel shuttle restrictions beyond our control, we strongly recommend that convention attendees traveling into either the Croton Harmon or Yonkers stations utilize para transit services, if already a para transit rider in your county of origin. The Westchester County Para Transit will extend temporary eligibility to individuals receiving para transit services in other counties in New York State. Please note only current para transit riders can request guest eligibility and your home service must contact the Westchester Office for the Disabled to process the request. Trips are $4.00 per trip. Riders wishing to request guest eligibility are instructed to have your current para transit company send by fax your name, address, phone number, date of birth, expiration date and indicate any additional mobility devices.  The fax number is: 914-995-2799. The deadline is October 25. If you have any questions, contact Terri Goodwyn, Westchester Office for the Disabled, at 914-995-2960.
* Should you wish to hail a taxi from either Croton Harmon or Yonkers train station, the average price for a one-way fare is between $40.00-50.00 not including gratuity.

 If you have any questions about registration or convention events, please contact WCB President Mike Golfo at 914.631.4870 or email Mike at president@wcbny.org. You can also contact Annie Chiappetta, Convention Chair at 914.393.6605 or email her at events@wcbny.org.

Please contact WCB President Mike Golfo at 914.631.4870 **sincerely,**

Annie Chiappetta

ACBNY 2015. Convention Coordinator

events@wcbny.org

914-393-6605