

Press Release

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WVA&LVLOA To Participate in First Responsible Gaming Training Session during National Problem Gambling Awareness Week (March 6 – 12, 2005)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Flatwoods, WV) – March 9, 2005 – Board of Directors and Speakers Bureau members of the WV Amusement & Limited Video Lottery Operators Association will participate in the first of a series of Responsible Gaming Training Sessions tailored exclusively for the Association and conducted by the West Virginia Council on Problem Gambling, Thursday, March 10 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Days Inn Conference Center at Flatwoods, WV. Four regional training sessions will subsequently be scheduled to allow VLT operators, retailers, employees, and others to receive the training statewide.

The WVA&LVLOA retained the WVCPG to conduct this training in an effort to reinforce the Code of Conduct adopted at their 50th Anniversary Expo in October 2004. The code states: The members of the West Virginia Amusement & Limited Video Lottery Operators Association pledge to our employees, business associates, and patrons to make responsible gaming an integral part of our daily operations throughout the state of West Virginia.

Two internationally renowned experts on problem gambling, Warren Biller and Dr. Norm Kruedelback, will be present and contribute to the presentation. Dr. Margaret Glenn, chair of the Department of Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling and Counseling Psychology at West Virginia University, and Mia Moran-Cooper, director of the Problem Gamblers Help Network of WV, will lead the training.

Training objectives include:

- understand the concepts of responsible gaming and problem gambling;*
- identify the signs that someone may be experiencing problems related to gaming;*
- gain knowledge of resources for people with problems related to gambling in West Virginia and the local communities; and*
- create a strategy to provide patrons an unobtrusive way to obtaining more information about responsible gaming and seek assistance for problems.*

This training session takes place as one of the many events the WVA&LVLOA and WVCPG have facilitated and participated in during National Problem Gamblers Awareness Week (March 6 - 12, 2005). Other events include donations of problem gambling resource materials to 10 West Virginia public libraries.

The Association is made up of video lottery operators and retailers through the state whose revenue is used for the primary funding of PROMISE scholarships and towards senior, state parks, education, and economic development programs for West Virginia as well as funding for the Problem Gamblers Help Network of WV to counsel and expand services to those with gambling addiction.

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