

NYS Gaming Commission's Responsible Gaming Program Earns Global Recognition

March is National Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

NY one of six jurisdictions to achieve World Lottery Association Level 3 certification.

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. (March 2, 2015) – The World Lottery Association (WLA), the leading global authority on the lottery business, has granted the New York State Gaming Commission's Lottery Division its prestigious Level 3 Responsible Gaming Certification.

The advanced accreditation recognizes the Commission's ongoing efforts to apply a strict responsible gaming framework to its products, advertising, player education and activities. Other factors such as research, treatment referral, and reporting and measurement were also cited as factors that contributed to the WLA's decision.

In achieving Level 3 Responsible Gaming Certification, New York joins only five other Lottery jurisdictions in North America who have attained this prestigious distinction.

The Commission's advanced certification comes at the beginning of March, which is National Problem Gambling Awareness Month. This month, the Commission seeks to raise awareness about the issue and educate the public and healthcare professionals about the warning signs of problem gambling as well as the availability of treatment options and referrals.

Commission Chairman Mark D. Gearan said, "We held the state's first-ever forum on problem gambling last year and learned a great deal. The WLA's certification proves that we are moving in the right direction in recognizing that effective regulation of gaming includes addressing the challenges posed by problem gambling. We will continue to partner with the industry to indeed 'have the conversation' as proposed by the National Council on Problem Gambling."

Chairman Gearan recently announced that the Commission will soon host public forums around the state aimed at breaking down the stigma's surrounding problem gambling, charting a path to treatment, and exploring better ways to provide education and awareness on this important issue. Details about these events will be announced in coming weeks.

To achieve WLA Level 3 Certification Lotteries must demonstrate they have:

- Allocated sufficient resources to support the implementation of specific Responsible Gaming programs;
- Initiated the development of internal and external communications to inform relevant stakeholders of the Lottery’s Responsible Gaming commitments; and
- Begun the implementation of engagement processes that support the Development of a Responsible Gaming program.

National Council on Problem Gambling Executive Director Keith Whyte, who personally reviewed and endorsed New York’s Level 3 proposal prior to its submission said, “I believe New York is one of the first states to truly unify all forms of gaming oversight under a single commission and I expect this will continue to lead to improved responsible gaming outcomes across the entire spectrum of gaming operations in the state, up to and including the new casinos.”

Members of New York’s Responsible Play Partnership (RPP) also voiced their support of the Lottery Division’s ongoing Responsible Gaming initiatives.

New York State Office of Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez said, “Clearly the staff of the New York State Gaming Commission is committed to developing an industry best practice framework that will support its daily operation for the benefit of the citizens of New York.”

New York Council on Problem Gambling Executive Director James Maney said, “The formation of the RPP was an indication, to those working in the field of problem gambling prevention and treatment, NY Lottery retailers, and the general public, that addressing Responsible Gaming is a priority for the State of New York.”

New York Association of Convenience Stores (NYACS) President James S. Calvin also reviewed and endorsed the Lottery Division’s submission and said, “NYACS applauds the Lottery’s expanded outreach to its retailer base, and we look forward to partnering with the Division on future Responsible Gaming initiatives.”

The World Lottery Association is a global professional association of state lottery and gaming organizations from more than 80 countries on six continents. All members adhere to the strictest standards of social responsibility, responsible gaming, security and risk management.

About the New York State Gaming Commission

The New York State Gaming Commission regulates all aspects of gaming and gambling activity in the state, including horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering, class III Indian gaming, video lottery terminal facilities at race tracks, the state lottery and charitable gaming.

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