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Phone Number:
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(Note: Call one of the board mem-
bers for a quicker response)

Mailing Address:
SBAWNY
137 Warner Avenue
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

SBAWNY

Fall 2011

***Beatlemagic* - Sunday October 2nd at 2:30pm**

Lancaster Opera House - All are invited, Cost is \$22 per person. Those with Spina Bifida will be covered thru the Adult Network funds. RSVP by Sep 15th to Karen at 585-457-9867 or kes484@aol.com so that the tickets can be ordered. There is wheelchair access on the side of the building.

Dinner and Trivia

Saturday, October 15th

Come out for a fun filled night with friends and family and enjoy a great dinner with entertainment provided by the King of Trivia—Dennis George. We will also have a Chinese auction. If you have anything you'd like to donate please contact Gale Podsiadlo.

Christmas Party

Sunday, December 4th

At Dave and Busters in the Eastern Hills Mall. Sure to be fun for all.

Check us out on Facebook!

We are now on Facebook.

Search for "Spina Bifida Association of Western New York"

From the President of SBAWNY

Hope that you are all enjoying the wonderful Summer we've had. It's so great to go outside without a jacket and so much easier for those with walkers and wheelchairs.

We have several activities to look forward to in the near future. We are planning a trip to the Lancaster Opera House for the Beatlemagic Concert at 2:30pm on October 2nd. Our Dinner/Trivia night will be on Saturday, October 15th at Classics V Banquet hall in Amherst, and our Christmas Party on Sunday, December 4th. Try to squeeze one, two, or all activities into your schedule. Let us know if you have any ideas for future events. We would like to hear from you.

We will have a guest speaker at the Dinner/Trivia night. Heather Britton, who is the mother of a disabled child started her own online business Wheelchairflair.com. She makes and sells various wheelchair designed accessories. It should be an inspirational talk. We have eliminated the youth dance room this year and hope some of the young adults will join us for dinner and the entertaining Dennis George Trivia Show. To keep up with the rising costs, the event will cost \$30 which is the first price increase in about 20 years. The cost for those with Spina Bifida (age 14 and up) will be \$15. Hope to see you then!

Karen Savanyu
President of SBAWNY

Membership

We are attempting to update our current contact list. Please let us know if you wish to stay on the mailing list and if so please provide any updated contact info such as new address, phone number and email address. The best way to do this is to fill out the membership form in the back of this newsletter.

UB Football

Anyone interested in going to a game?

Date: Saturday, October 8th at 3:30pm

UB vs Ohio

Cost is \$18 per person, free to individuals with Spina bifida

RSVP to Karen at 585-457-9867 or

Email: kes484@aol.com by October 1st.

Sled Hockey

Sled Hockey will start up again in September for all disabled youth ages 6 to adult.

There are several of our Spina Bifida kids that play and they have a great time.

For further information contact Jeff DeGlopper at jdeglopper@gmail.com

Gale Podsiadlo would like to let everyone know that she has "graduated" from the Parent Network Leadership Training, she would be willing to offer her services to offer any help or assistance that she can to those who have questions about what the State can help with their child, whether it be school, work, driving, or at home - She has several resources that can help.

Have your heard of the Miracle League of WNY?

Western New York has a NEW Baseball Diamond built especially for anyone with mental and/or physical challenges – *Because every child deserves a chance to play ball.*

The Miracle League of Western New York is having the opening day on September 11, 2011, at Veterans Park, 1751 Bedell Road, Grand Island, NY., from 2 – 4pm. The Miracle League was brought to life with a lot of support from the community and especially from the Buffalo Sabres. This field has a rubberized surface, the entire field, concessions and bathrooms are handicapped accessible. As a parent with a child in a wheelchair, I know that when a public restroom states “handicapped” - they really aren’t. These are! I personally helped with the design of the restrooms.

This organization needs volunteers and players. The parents need to do nothing, but cheer our children on. We get to sit in the stands and watch as any other parent would at a ball park. Our kids will be on the field with a Buddy. This buddy will work with your child, help bat, run (roll), and score runs. This is going to be awesome.

Check out the web site at: www.miracleleaguewny.org

Or call: 716-773-9600 x 725

Please join the fun – teams are forming for next year, this year will be open for all.

Gale Podsiadlo



Christmas Party

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held at Dave & Busters at the Eastern Hills Mall

Date: Sunday, December 4th

Time: 11am to 2pm

Cost: \$10 per person

This includes a buffet lunch, dessert, coffee, and soft drinks.

RSVP to Lori Reed at labreid@gmail.com or 716-741-1032

Need ALL responses by Monday, Nov 28th.

Concerned about Wheelchair Damage when flying?

The federal Department of Transportation is asking all of us to provide opinions and advice about how they should capture the number of mobility devices being handled by the airlines, and how incidents of damage to that equipment should be reported. Before that will occur, DOT needs to be reassured by the legion of travelers with disabilities that this is important information to capture. That's where we come in.

Here is the DOT's Federal Register announcement, which is available at <http://www.regulations.gov>:

"The Department of Transportation is interested in capturing data about the number of mishandled wheelchairs/scooters per unit of wheelchairs/scooters transported in aircraft cargo. Many air travelers who use wheelchairs are reluctant to travel by air because of concern that the return of their wheelchairs or scooters will be delayed, or the wheelchair/scooter will be damaged or lost. However, we do not know the magnitude of the problem. The proposed data collection for mishandled wheelchairs/scooters is crucial to understanding the magnitude of the problem as this data is not available to us through other means.

It is very important that passengers with mobility disabilities arrive at their destination with their wheelchair/scooter in good working order. Without these devices, they will have great difficulty in exiting the airport or may be confined to their hotel or place of visit.

We invite interested persons to comment on this proposal. Should the rule be expanded to require data not only about wheelchairs and scooters transported in the aircraft cargo compartment but about all wheelchairs and scooters regardless of whether the devices are transported in the cabin or in the cargo compartment? Should the rule also apply to other mobility devices, such as walkers?

The Department plans to publish the data it receives from the carriers, which would increase public awareness of the issue, provide passengers with disabilities a means by which to compare the overall mishandled wheelchair/scooter rates by carrier and create an added incentive for air carriers to treat these mobility devices with greater care.

DATES: All comments must be received by September 13, 2011. Late filed comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments to Docket RITA 2011-0001 by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal:

Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- Mail: Docket Management Facility: U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

DOT will post all comments received, without change, to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. If DOT acknowledgement of comments is desired, please include a pre-addressed, stamped postcard on which the docket number appears. We will date the postcard and mail it to you.

Docket: To read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or to Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

: bernard.stankus@dot.gov.

Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, RTS-42, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001, Telephone Number (202) 366-4387, Fax Number (202) 366-3383 or E-MAIL bernard.stankus@dot.gov."

This information came from Clifton Perez, M.S.W. a Systems Advocate from the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley Inc. in Troy, NY.

SBAWNY 2011 Membership Form

Individual/Family Memberships:

First and Last Name (Household Family)	Ages (Children only)	Check if this is person has SB or Hydro	Birth Date Children Only	Email Address: (This will allow dissemination of information quicker)

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

County: _____ Phone Number(s): _____

Membership dues are on a sliding scale to enable you to give as much as you can for our programs and services. We value your membership and financial support. Please circle one of the following dollar amounts and mail a check or money order for that amount to the address shown below.

\$15, \$20, \$25, \$30, or \$35: Local Chapter family/individual membership

Professional Memberships:

Contact Name: _____ Organization: _____

Title of Contact: _____ Relationship to SBAWNY: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

County: _____ Phone Number(s): _____

We value your membership and your financial support. Please choose your organization's membership level.

Gold (\$500) Silver (\$250) Bronze (\$150) Professional (\$50)

Please make checks payable to SBAWNY and mail with this form to:

SBAWNY, 137 Warner Avenue, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Spina Bifida Association of Western New York
137 Warner Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 2nd—Beatlemagic at The Lancaster Opera House

October 15th—Dinner and Trivia

December 4th—Christmas Party

When corresponding to SBAWNY use the address on the front of this newsletter. DO NOT use the address that is in the Telephone Book as the mail might not get to us in a timely manner.