

ACR 2010 Conference
The Most Affordable Conference Yet for Community Mediators

We want Community Mediators to come to the ACR Conference! There are several sessions throughout the conference focused on community mediation and other more general sessions which will be of interest to community mediators. The ACR Community Section will distribute a list of suggested sessions as the conference gets closer. In addition, the ACR Community Section will host a meeting and meal to pick your brains about how we can best serve community mediation, and the National Association for Community Mediation Centers will hold their annual reception.

In order to make the event more affordable, there are several steps you can take. Below you will find information about:

- 1) Home-stays in Chicago
- 2) Ride-sharing to and from Chicago
- 3) Volunteering at the Conference in Exchange for a Discount
- 4) Applying for a full or partial scholarship for the Conference.

These are great ways to get to the conference and build community in the process.

1) Home-stays in Chicago

Mediators with the Center for Conflict Resolution in Chicago have graciously opened their homes to community mediators from around the country. To request a home-stay, complete the attached form and send it to lorig.charkoudian@gmail.com or fax it to 410-553-0206.

2) Ride-Shares to and From Chicago

To Coordinate Carpooling with others:

Put the following link into your browser:

<http://acrcommunity.erideshare.com>

The password is: ACRorBust

You will then see a list of any other postings from ACR participants. You can list your own request for a ride or offer of a ride by clicking on the “here” button. You will need to create your personal username and password.

You can also link to the general erideshare list to see if anyone else not related to ACR is going towards Chicago when you need to. If you have trouble with this site, contact Lorig at lorig.charkoudian@gmail.com.

3) Volunteering at the Conference in Exchange for a Discount

The ACR Community Section is working with the ACR conference committee to make this a dynamic conference by helping to identify individuals interested in serving as volunteers at the conference. Volunteers collect session evaluations, provide directions, check badges, assist with registration, staff the information table and help at conference events.

In return for committing to work four (4) shifts, each 4 – 5 hours long, volunteers receive the discounted registration rate of only \$170.00, and the opportunity to attend conference sessions and events when not on duty. Volunteers receive all conference materials, all conference meals and a volunteer t-shirt. It is a great opportunity for those who want to participate in the conference at less than half of the early bird registration rate.

For information about volunteering at the conference, contact Dottie Painter at dottiepainter@gmail.com, inquire by email to Cathi Eifert at ceifert@acrnet.org, or call Marya Kolman at 614-226-1063. Applications to serve as a conference volunteer must be received by; noon EST on Thursday, August 19, 2010.

4) Applying for a Scholarship or Discount

Financial Aid Scholarships

Twenty financial aid scholarships are available for ACR members who are active in the field of conflict resolution as practitioners or educators, but lack the personal financial resources and/or employer sponsorship to attend the Annual Conference. Financial aid scholarship recipients pay a reduced registration fee of \$195.00 for the Main Conference. ACR members interested in applying may inquire by email to Cathi Eifert at ceifert@acrnet.org. The application deadline is Thursday, July 29, 2010. Those who apply by the deadline who do not receive a scholarship may register later through the regular registration process and the early bird rate will be honored.

Volunteer Mediator Discount

ACR provides a volunteer mediator registration discount for the Main Conference. Discounts are honored for up to 100 ACR members who serve as volunteer mediators or provide only voluntary support to community-based programs. Applicants should submit a completed Registration form, a letter from the community-based program indicating volunteer status and confirmation that the discount is necessary to make attendance possible, and a fee of \$195.00.