

KYCPG Fall Conference Offers ACGCCB Preparation, Test

The Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling Fall Conference will be held at the Executive Inn, Louisville, Oct. 24-25, 2002. The Conference is being planned in cooperation with the American Compulsive Gambling Counselor Certification Board. On Friday, Oct. 25, the ACGCCB certification exam will be administered. The Thursday, Oct. 24, program will be a preparation session for the exam.

KYCPG Professional Adviser Dr. Curtis Barrett, who is a member of the ACGCCB, said the Board wanted to present the newly developed certification exam. Kentucky offers a central location, particularly with several individuals in Kentucky seeking to achieve ACGCCB certification. The Executive Inn in Louisville is across the Watterson Expressway (I-264) from the Louisville International Airport, making it convenient for out-of-state counselors wishing to sit for the exam.

At the suggestion of KYCPG Board Member Dr. Tangerine Holt, the Council agreed to be the host of the testing at the Fall Conference and develop the Thursday program as a preparation class for the exam. There will be no fee for the exam, and the registration will be kept as low as possible to encourage participants.

Details on registration and hotel reservations will be available in late June.

Responsible Gaming Education Week Plans Progressing

Several activities are planned for Kentucky's first Responsible Gaming Education Week Aug. 5-10. The RGEW Planning Committee, organized under the umbrella of KYCPG, is chaired by Nichelle Lee of the Kentucky Lottery. Other Committee members are Trish Candler of Churchill Downs, Inc. and Nick Nicholson of Keeneland Race Course; Fred McCarter of Argosy Casino and Joe Feldman of Caesars of Indiana; Mike Townsend and Barry Kellond of the state Division of Substance Abuse; State Representative Jack Coleman; Gayle DiCesare, Caleb Cooley and Mike Stone of KYCPG; and certified compulsive gambling counselors Steven Alexander, RonSonLyn Colston, Joyce Howarth and Kennon Stone.

A **Kickoff Event** will be held in Frankfort on Aug. 5. Gov. Paul Patton has been invited to speak and present a proclamation declaring Responsible Gaming Education Week.

A **Counselor Education program**, sponsored by the Division of Substance Abuse, will be held at River Valley Behavioral Health in Owensboro on Friday, Aug. 9. There will be no fee for the program, which is being planned by Alexander and Colston. There is a proportionally high number of callers to the 1-800-GAMBLER helpline from Western Kentucky, prompting the decision to provide a counselor training opportunity in the area.

Community-focused events will be planned across the

Commonwealth. Cities/areas targeted for an awareness activity such as a presentation to the chamber of commerce or civic organization, a counselor update, or media event are Ashland, Bowling Green, Hazard, Lexington, Louisville, Northern Kentucky, Owensboro, Paducah, Pikeville and Somerset. Committee members or KYCPG officials will take the lead in organizing the events or activities. A final event in Louisville Aug. 9 or 10 may include music.

Committee members from the gaming industry are working to develop **employee awareness materials** and programs that can be shared among all gaming industry employers. The goal, like all RGEW activities, will be to raise awareness of compulsive and problem gambling as a pathological disorder and know where individuals can be referred for help.

Brochures, posters and flyers are being developed for statewide distribution, such as for display at public libraries.

For more information, contact Nichelle Lee at the Kentucky Lottery (Nichelle.Lee@kylottery.com) or KYCPG Executive Director Mike Stone (502/223-1823 or kmstone@mis.net). Volunteers are welcome, as are additional ideas on how to raise awareness of compulsive or problem gambling.

The theme for Responsible Gaming Education Week is **When Gambling Is No Longer Fun, There Is Help**. It is hoped that the diversity of the coalition coming together to promote a single theme will bring media attention to Responsible Gaming Education Week and thus raise public awareness of compulsive and problem gambling.

2002 KYCPG Membership Statements Mailed in May

2002 KYCPG membership statements were mailed in May to all 2001 members. In addition, requests were sent to individuals and organizations asking them to support KYCPG by becoming members. Members receive a subscription to *Inside the Numbers*, discounted conference registration fees and complimentary copies of all KYCPG-produced awareness materials, such as the brochure *When It's No Longer a Game . . .*

KYCPG is a non-profit, 501(C)(3) organization. Its support comes from memberships, donations, grants and conference or training revenues. The only government funds KYCPG receives are conference sponsorship from the Division of Substance Abuse.

KYCPG asks that members, readers and supporters help in the membership effort by suggesting individuals and groups that may be interested in supporting activities to raise awareness of compulsive and problem gambling in Kentucky. Please provide suggestion to KYCPG Executive Director Mike Stone (502/223-1823 or kmstone@mis.net).

(SPECIAL NOTE: *The National Council on Problem Gambling will hold the 17th National Conference on Problem Gambling in Louisville's Hyatt Regency Hotel on June 19-21, 2003. KYCPG will provide logistic and program-planning assistance. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.*)

"The Gambler" — A Natural Resource

(Editor's Note: *This is Part 1 of a paper authored by KYCCG Professional Adviser Curtis L. Barrett, Ph.D., ABPP, CCGC, Professor Emeritus, University of Louisville.*)

The Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling (KYCPG) takes no position, pro or con, on the issue of expanding legal gambling in the Commonwealth. As do most citizens, members of KYCPG oppose *illegal* gambling. It is quite appropriate, however, for KYCPG board members to comment on gambling in general ways that do not amount to supporting or opposing legal gambling. This article is that sort of comment.

Gambling Law expert Nelson Rose says that the United States is now in the "third wave" of its experience with legalized gambling. That is, after a period of years when gambling was generally banned, more forms of gambling, in more forums, now are being legalized, established or expanded. Re-establishing pari-mutuel (racetrack) gambling and legalizing gambling in Nevada led the way. A virtual explosion of state-sponsored gambling, in the form of lotteries, and state-encouraged gambling at riverboats and land-based casinos followed legalizing casino gambling in New Jersey's Atlantic City. Native American gambling developed separately as another form of government-sponsored gambling, although "government" in this case refers to tribal government.

At first glance, it may appear that gambling businesses are functioning in much the same way as natural resources such as coal, farmland, or scenic beauty that attracts tourists. Closer scrutiny, however, makes it clear that the "natural resource" is actually the social gambler's apparent willingness to win less than he or she could, or should, from gambling. This willingness to take less, in order to gamble at all, is what allows governments to realize 30 to even 50 percent of what gambling enterprises net after business

expenses. This is far more than what governments would realize from the usual business taxes. Why social gamblers tolerate such reduced winnings remains a puzzlement.

Some may say that what government requires from gambling profits is no different from traditionally high "sin taxes" such as those on tobacco and liquor. Actually, there is a crucial difference. "Sin taxes" recognize that such products will be used, despite their presumed harmfulness, but function somewhat to *discourage* use. By contrast, state-sponsored lotteries and selective state licensing of gambling activities *encourage* gambling. For example, economically depressed communities are *encouraged* to bring in gambling businesses and to use the income from them to solve financial problems. Tax breaks, zoning changes, and even property confiscation, may be used by governments to attract gambling businesses. Much of the political justification for gambling-related legislation, therefore, is that state-endorsed goals, such as education or simple increases in general revenues, will be met. It is difficult to think of gambling as "sin" when governments conduct or encourage the activity so strongly.

If it is decided that state-sponsored and state-encouraged gambling are to provide significant economic resources for governments, i.e. to act as "natural resources," several questions arise. First, what forms of gambling are to be used? Should free-market principles be followed so that consumers will decide which gambling businesses and which forms of gambling prosper and which will fail? Or, should the state restrict the forms of gambling and, in effect, give itself and/or some businesses an effective monopoly on income from gambling? Each of these models is in place today, somewhere.

(Part 2 will be presented next issue.)

Upcoming Events

- July 21-26, Kentucky School on Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, Northern Kentucky University (Compulsive Gambling Workshop on July 24).
- August 5-9, Responsible Gaming Education Week.
- October 24-25, KYCPG Fall Conference (ACGCCB Certification Exam Preparation and Testing)
- June 19-21, 2003, National Conference on Problem Gambling, Louisville

Gamblers Anonymous Meetings

The following is a list of the current G.A. (Gamblers Anonymous) meetings in or serving Kentucky. For exact times, locations and a phone number for contact person, **please call 1-800-GAMBLER.**

Monday

- Southeast Christian Church, 7 p.m., Louisville (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting at 6 p.m.)
- United Way Building, 7 p.m., Bowling Green
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, 8 p.m., Huntington, WV
- Steppingstone Counseling, 7 p.m., Evansville, IN

Tuesday

- CARE Center, 9 p.m., Louisville

- First Presbyterian Church, 6:30 p.m., Lexington

- First Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m., Pikeville (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)

- Florence Christian Church, 8 p.m., Florence

Wednesday

- Pigeon Roost 12-step Club, 7:30 p.m., Louisville

- St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6:30 p.m., Lexington

Thursday

- Southland Christian Church, 6:30 p.m., Lexington

- Caritas Hospital B Cafeteria, 7:30 p.m., Louisville

- St. Mary's Church, 6 p.m., Evansville, IN (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)

- Lourdes Hospital Classroom #4, 7 p.m., Paducah

Friday

- Generations Center (downtown), 6:30 p.m., Hazard

- Southeast Church of Christ, 7:30 p.m., Louisville (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)

Saturday

- Pigeon Roost 12-step Club, 8:30 a.m., Louisville

- Token Club III, 6 p.m., Louisville

Sunday

- Iroquois Pizza (2nd&4th), 1 p.m., Louisville (Open meeting, family welcome)

- KET Building, 4:30 p.m., Lexington (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)

- Methodist Temple, 5 p.m. Evansville, IN (Also separate Gam-Anon meet.)