

National Conference June 19-21 in Louisville Awaits Attendees

The National Conference on Problem Gambling will be held at the Hyatt Regency-Louisville, June 19-21, 2003. Sponsored by the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), with the Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling (KYCPG) as local host, the conference offers counselors, policy-makers and those interested in problem gambling issues three days of educational programs.

The featured speakers are:

- ♦ The Honorable Mark Farrell, Senior Amherst Justice, Amherst Town Court, N.Y., who established the first gambling treatment court in the U.S., will deliver the opening plenary session keynote speech on Thursday, June 19, at noon.

- ♦ William Eadington, Ph.D., director of the University of Nevada-Reno Center for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming, will present **Trends in Gambling and Responsible Gaming** at the Friday, June 20, plenary session at 8:30 a.m.

- ♦ Louisville's own Clifford Kuhn, M.D., *The Laugh Doctor*, will speak at the Friday, June 20, luncheon on **The Fun Factor: How Does the Fun Factor In?**

- ♦ Rachel Volberg, Ph.D., president of Gemini Research, will present **Results from Recent Prevalence Research: The Impact of Problem Gambling Services** at the Saturday morning plenary session at 8:30 a.m.

The program also features 45 workshops divided into three tracks — clinical, research and public policy — spread over the conference's three days. Counselors can obtain up to 16 hours of CEUs or contact hours for attending the entire program. A special series of workshops on self-help programs for gamblers and their families will provide insight for counselors.

For the first time, the National Conference on Problem Gambling will offer a **discount for groups** registered through an administrative entity. Please call KYCPG, 502/223-1823 for more details. The early registration deadline is May 19. All persons receiving this newsletter should have received an NCPG registration brochure. Please call KYCPG if additional brochures are needed.

KYCPG will hold a special **Awards Experience** that will be offered separately on Thursday evening, June 19, at the Kentucky Derby Museum. The Awards Experience includes museum entry, food and entertainment. Tickets may be purchased separately by those who cannot attend the Conference by calling KYCPG.

Second Kentucky Responsible Gaming Education Week Set

Kentucky's Second Annual Responsible Gaming Education Week (RGEW) will be held August 4-8, 2003. The RGEW Planning Committee, chaired by Churchill Down's Trish Candler, met on April 16. The Committee decided to focus the second RGEW effort on awareness of youth gambling. The theme remains the same as the first RGEW: *When Gambling Is No Longer Fun, There Is Help.*

The RGEW Planning Committee consists of representatives from Churchill Downs, the Kentucky Lottery, Turfway Park, Keeneland Race Course, Ellis Park, Caesars Riverboat Casino, Argosy Casino and Hotel, Casino Aztar, Harrah's Metropolis Casino, the Kentucky Department of Charitable Gaming, the Kentucky Division of Substance Abuse, Kentucky's certified compulsive gambler counselors, and KYCPG.

The Committee is developing plans to implement awareness activities through youth organizations in the state.

KYCPG Meets with Legislative Research Commission Staff

KYCPG Executive Director Michael R. Stone met in April with three Kentucky Legislative Research Commission staff who are developing the research methodologies to meet the directives of HCR 126. The bill requires a study of the social and economic impacts of gambling in Kentucky. Recommendations are to be forwarded to the 2004 Kentucky General Assembly.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. C.B. Embry (Morgantown). It passed the House 97-0 and the Senate 37-0. It was signed by Gov. Paul Patton on March 7. (Please see excerpts from KYCPG's testimony on the bill in this issue of *Inside the Numbers*.)

Stone explained to the LRC staff that KYCPG is gambling neutral. He offered the Council's services as a resource and volunteered to assist in the collection of information. This is the first legislatively directed effort to quantify the extent of problem gambling and its economic and social costs in the state. It is hoped the results will form the basis for problem gambling assistance legislation in the 2004 Kentucky General Assembly Session.

Gambling expansion legislation, which was introduced but not passed in the 2003 legislative session, became a topic in the gubernatorial primary campaigns in mid-April. Democratic candidate Bruce Lunsford called for expanded gambling, with state proceeds to be used for education spending. Four of the candidates endorsed a constitutional vote on expanded gambling.

KYCPG has developed model legislative language to establish a Gambling Assistance Program. The proposal is being shared with all candidates for statewide office. For more information or to obtain a copy, please contact KYCPG at 502/223-1823, or e-mail kmstone@mis.net.

KYCPG Memberships Available

2003 membership invoices were sent to all 2002 KYCPG members in early April. KYCPG's ability to meet its goals depends on individual and organizational memberships and donations. KYCPG receives no direct governmental financial support.

Members receive the *Inside the Numbers* newsletter, discounts on educational conference registration fees, and complimentary awareness material. Memberships begin at \$25. For more information, contact KYCPG at 502/223-1823, or e-mail kmstone@mis.net.

KYCPG Presents Legislative Testimony

In February 2003, Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling (KYCPG) President Caleb Cooley testified before the Kentucky House of Representatives Committee on Licensing and Occupations in support of HCR 126, a bill introduced by Rep. C.B. Embry to direct the Legislative Research Commission to study the economic and social effects of gambling in Kentucky, and to prepare recommendations for the 2004 General Assembly. The bill passed both Houses and was signed by Gov. Paul Patton on March 7. Following are key items from Cooley's testimony.

* * * * *

The first step in any process to address an issue is to grasp the size of the problem. HCR 126 is an initial step to quantify the scope of compulsive and problem gambling in Kentucky. The Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling (KYCPG) urges the Committee's favorable reporting of this measure and eventual passage by both houses of the Kentucky General Assembly.

KYCPG cites anecdotal evidence that compulsive and problem gambling are increasing in the state.

- ♦ KYCPG sponsors the 1-800-GAMBLER helpline. From 2000-2001, the number of callers provided a measurable service increased by 38 percent. In 2002, the increase in these callers was 26 percent. This represents almost a two-thirds increase in two years.

- ♦ Counselors across the state relate that more individuals are presenting themselves for help in confronting gambling problems.

- ♦ A December 2002 series in the *Louisville Courier-Journal* noted an increase in criminal cases linked to gambling behaviors.

The Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling cites national studies on the prevalence and impact of compulsive gambling.

- ♦ A mid-1990s metastudy conducted by the Harvard University School of Medicine Division on Addictions found

compulsive gamblers are 1 percent of the population. Given Kentucky's population of more than 4 million, there are about 40,000 compulsive gamblers in the state.

- ♦ A 1999 study from the National Opinion Research Council for the National Gaming Impact Study Commission presented findings similar to the Harvard metastudy.

- ♦ Surveys for gaming enterprises in Kentucky indicate that about two-thirds of all adult Kentuckians gamble during a year. One percent of Kentucky's adult, gambling population (a more conservative prevalence measure) means there are about 25,000 compulsive gamblers in the state.

- ♦ In Spring 2001, the *Murray State University Journal of Business and Public Affairs* extrapolated that each compulsive gambler was responsible for more than \$13,000 in social costs to the state and its employers. That represents a negative impact of more than \$300 million, based on the 25,000 prevalence figure.

KYCPG urges action to begin addressing the issue of compulsive and problem gambling in Kentucky. . .

- ♦ Kentucky is a gambling state. Almost \$2 billion is gambled legally in Kentucky each year. The state received about \$175 million annually in revenues from its sanctioned, legal gambling.

- ♦ Kentuckians also spend more than \$300 million annually at Ohio River casinos.

- ♦ The Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling has created a recommendation for properly funding a Gamblers Assistance Program that can be made a part of any legislation that proposes to expand gambling in the state. It is based on national models as well as Kentucky realities.

All of these items notwithstanding, any legislative action that will help guide public policy in this area is welcome. □

Upcoming Events

- June 19-21, National Conference on Problem Gambling, Hyatt Regency, Louisville (registration on-line at www.ncpgambling.org)
- July 23, Workshop, *Trends in Gambling Counseling*, Northern Kentucky University (during Kentucky School on Alcohol and Other Drug Studies)
- August 4-8, Responsible Gaming Education Week
- September 17, Mental Health Association of Northern Kentucky, St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Edgewood, 6:15 p.m., Curtis L. Barrett, Ph.D., on problem gambling

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.)
- Lakeside Christian Church, 7:30 p.m., Florence
- 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
- Lincoln Trail Behavioral Center, 7:30 p.m., Radcliff

Wednesday

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

Thursday

- Southland Christian Church, 6:30 p.m., Lexington
- Caritas Peace Ctr., 1st Fl. Cafeteria, 7:30 p.m., Louisville
- St. Mary's Church, 6 p.m., Evansville, IN (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)

Friday

- Generations Center (downtown), 6:30 p.m., Hazard
- Living Stone, 7:30 p.m., Louisville (Also separate Gam-Anon meeting)

Saturday

- St. Michael's Catholic Church, 8:30 a.m., Louisville
- Token Club III, 6 p.m., Louisville

Sunday

- Hazelwood United Methodist Church, 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.)
- Unity Trinity Methodist Church, 7 p.m., New Albany, IN