

CALCAP, ANEF & CCAGE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 JULY 2007

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Dear Friends of CalCAP,

Because we know what is at stake, we “press on toward the goal” of preventing the problems caused by alcohol and gambling. Although we continue to read and hear of the crushing consequences of alcohol fueled violence, deaths and injuries caused by drunk driving, lives of individuals in all economic and social classes being destroyed, losses of jobs, relationships, opportunities and self-respect, we do not cease to hope that our continued efforts will change our society, and make a difference in the lives of the people. When faced with set-backs, we do not surrender. Rather, we take courage and hope from our victories, and persist in our stand against the exploiting, profit-seeking industries of alcohol and gambling.



As you will read in this newsletter, our challenge is certainly not over. However, you will also read about positive changes that are starting to occur. We are making a difference, in spite of a well funded and influential opposition, and I thank you for your support as “we press on toward the goal” that is before us – a goal of preventing the many problems caused by alcohol and gambling.

James B. Butler,
Executive Director

AB 346 — PROGRESS REPORT

Assembly Bill 346 is a bill requiring that Alcopops have labels that can be seen from five feet away identifying that they contain alcohol. This is a bill that we have supported from the beginning, along with the “Alcopop Coalition,” and it continues its journey toward becoming law. It has passed the Assembly, and will come before the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization in July.

We have again expressed our support, and are optimistic that it will pass the committee and then be voted upon and passed in the Senate. Although this bill is supported by many groups and agencies, including law enforcement organizations, its victory is not assured and there is still industry resistence. We will continue to monitor and support this bill.

Now you Know!

Adolescents are 239 times more likely to see an ad touting alcohol than to view an industry-sponsored ad about "responsible" drinking, according to a new study from the Center on Alcohol Marketing & Youth (CAMY)

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The NFL scores with their latest decision banning alcohol from team functions, facilities, team buses or flights

NFL'S NEW ALCOHOL POLICY

In a letter, Roger Goodell, the new National Football League Commissioner, informed the NFL about a newly established alcohol policy. The letter states, "Effective immediately, clubs are prohibited from providing alcoholic beverages, including beer, in any club setting, including in locker rooms, practice or office facilities, or while traveling, including on team buses or flights. This prohibition extends not only to players, but to all team personnel, as well as to other guests trav-

eling with the team or who have access to club facilities." In the same letter, Goodell explained this new rule by stating, "I believe that no constructive purpose is served by clubs continuing to make alcoholic beverages available, and that doing so imposes significant and unnecessary risks to the league, its players and others." We applaud this new attitude toward alcohol by the NFL, and hope that other sports will adopt similar policies.

A CALL TO ACTION FROM SURGEON GENERAL

In March 2007, the Surgeon General Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu issued a "Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking." In this and future newsletters, I will excerpt that report.

From the beginning, this report acknowledges the serious and tragic consequences of underage drinking, and issues the "Call to Action" as a "way forward through the collaborative effort of societal change involving parents, police officers, colleges

and communities." The process of solving the problem of underage alcohol use begins with an examination of our own attitudes toward underage drinking.

One of the five principals of taking action for the future is "Underage alcohol use is not inevitable, and parents and society are not helpless to prevent it." That should be our rallying cry as we face the challenge before us. We are not helpless! We can make a difference! We will make a difference!

"WE OWE NOTHING LESS TO OUR CHILDREN AND OUR COUNTRY THAN SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF UNDERAGE DRINKING."

CELEBRATING ALCOHOL FREE

In 2005, the July 4th celebration on the American River in Sacramento was described as a "drunken mass of humanity." This year it was reported that the "wild behavior from years past is gone." What is different between July 4, 2005 and 2007? What sparked this change? The answer is that this year the Legislature passed and the Governor signed AB 951. This bill,

which we supported, bans alcohol on the American River during the major summer holiday weekends. The effect was both immediate and obvious. One park ranger said, "There are families here. It is Amazing!" The passage of this bill is a vivid reminder that we can impact our society, and make California a better place for our children and families.



Celebrating Freedom
Alcohol Free.

FOUR TRIBAL COMPACTS APPROVED

In a vote on June 28, lawmakers in Sacramento approved tribal compacts for four of the richest California tribes, adding up to 17,000 new slot machines. This occurred despite opposition from organized labor, and our testimony regarding the problems and costs of gambling to our state.

In an article by Peter Hecht of the Sacramento Bee,

these four tribes raked in between \$200 and \$425 million in 2005, and now stand to earn hundreds of millions more. Last year a tribal campaign committee, representing the \$8 billion a year casino industry in California, doled out \$2.2 million to Senate and Assembly members. Mr. Hecht provides some examples. Sen. Jeff Denham, a staunch casino supporter,

received \$465,000 and Sen. Jenny Oropeza, after breaking with labor and supporting the compacts in April, received \$439,000.

Shakespeare wrote in Julius Caesar, "Even the wife of Caesar must avoid the appearance of evil." Maybe it is time for our state lawmakers to brush up on their Shakespeare, and consider how things look.



California Tribal Casinos use more than \$2 Million of their \$8 Billion in annual revenue toward campaign contributions

LOTTERY NEWS — PRIVITAZATION

The Lottery is back in the news. This time there is a plan to "Privatize" the Lottery. This would allow private investors to buy or lease the lottery. Surprisingly, supporters see this as revenue without negative consequences. Some of the strategies of these investors are to market the Lottery more aggressively,

especially to the middle-class, in the hope of raising revenues. But, currently 60% of Lottery players earn less than \$50,000, and studies show that those with lower incomes spend more per capita than those with higher incomes. The California Budget Project suggested that expanding the lottery will only en-

courage lower-income people to play more. Jean Ross, the Executive Director of the Project said, "I think there are questions about whether it's good public policy for the state to encourage families that are already struggling to make ends meet to spend money on the lottery." We agree!

WILL THE CALIFORNIA STATE LOTTERY BECOME AN EVEN GREATER BURDEN ON THE POOR?

A LOST DECADE?

The National Institute of Health reports that, at some time during their lives, more than 30% of U.S. adults surveyed in 2001-2002 had met criteria for an alcohol use disorder (AUD). However, treatment was received by only 24% of those with alcohol dependency and 7% of

those with alcohol abuse. And those who did seek treatment waited an average of 8 to 10 years, wasting a decade of their lives. According to Dr. Ting-Kai, that lost decade "leads to personal disability and societal damage."

Because children begin

drinking at a young age, the average age of alcohol abuse onset was 21.9 years and alcohol dependency was 22.5 years, which makes the "lost years" between AUD onset and treatment between 21 and 31 years of age. Can we afford to lose a third of our young adults?



30% of adults will experience Alcohol Use Disorder sometime in their lives.



CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CALCAP.ORG

PRESS ON TOWARD
THE GOAL

OUR TASK AND MISSION

The CalCAP family, which includes the California Council on Alcohol Problems (CalCAP), the Alcohol-Narcotic Education Foundation (ANEF) and the California Coalition Against Gambling Expansion (CCAGE), is a statewide, faith based organization that seeks to prevent the moral, economic, scientific and social problems caused by alcohol and gambling. This is done through research, education, advocacy and lobbying. Thus, we raise the awareness of these problems among the people, and address the legislature regarding alcohol and gambling issues.

We are funded entirely by gifts from denominations, churches, church groups and individuals. We do not receive any financial support from any governmental agency or political party.

If you would like to be part of our information network, arrange for a program or preaching date, or support our work through-out California, please contact our Executive Director, the Rev. James Butler, or our Sacramento office, at 916 / 441-1844 or calcap@sbcuc.net. Our Mailing address is 803 Vallejo Way, Sacramento CA 95818.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION UPDATE

On August 14, the Board of Equalization is scheduled to vote on a resolution that will establish, for tax purposes, "alcopops" as distilled spirits. If this resolution is passed by the BOE, it will mean that these fruit-flavored, colorful, youth oriented products will be taxed at \$3.30 a gallon instead of 30 cents (the tax on beer). This will not only raise more than \$40 million dollars in new revenue, it will also increase the price of alcopops, and thus deter underage drinking. This vote follows a very long process that began in February, and has included two informational hearings. At the first hearing, testimony was given regarding the dangers that alcopops pose to our youth as they contribute to the culture of underage drinking. The second hearing dealt with some of the technical issues of the proposed resolutions, including the ability to verify alcohol sources and percentages. During that hearing, representatives from the alcohol industry admitted that alcopops are produced with a beer base only in the USA, in order to seek a lower tax rate. They also admitted that information is available that can be used to determine the amount of alcohol that comes from distilled spirits within their products.

We are guardedly optimistic that the BOE will properly classify alcopops as distilled spirits, and will offer our support and testimony at the August meeting. If you wish to express your support of our efforts, contact State Controller, John Chiang at P.O.Box 942850, Sacramento, CA, 94250-5872. Or call 916/445-2636 office; 916/322-4404 fax. His vote set in motion these hearings, and we hope that he will support us again.



Industry admits that alcopops are produced from a beer base in order to seek a lower tax rate.