

# CALCAP, ANEF & CCAGE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER 2007

## EXECUTIVE REPORT

Dear Friends of CalCAP,

At this time of the year, we will probably hear and perhaps even ask the most popular question of this holiday season, "What would you like for Christmas?" For many of us the most important items on our Christmas list are not found at Sears, Macy's or even Ham-macher Schlemmer. The gifts that we value most and seek first are those found in the Bible, specifically Galatians 5:22. In this passage, the fruits of the spirit are identified as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness and self-control. These are the gifts that we want for Christmas, and these are the gifts that we want to share with others.

Although most of us will find ourselves shopping for gifts for family and friends



that reflect our love for them, I invite you to also remember these "fruits of the spirit" and enjoy and share these very special Christmas gifts.

What would you like for Christmas? Consider joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness and self-control? It seems to be a very good Christmas list.

Merry Christmas!  
Jim Butler,  
Executive Director

## A LIFE CHANGING CHRISTMAS

What is one of the most difficult things that you have ever done? For one emergency room doctor in Sacramento it was telling parents that their teenage child had died as a result of an alcohol related crash. Like us, this doctor knows that each sorrow-filled tragedy caused by alcohol is more than a simple statistic. It is an individual and unique personal experience that will never be forgotten. It changes everything for those whose

lives have been touched by it. That is one reason that this doctor supports the efforts of the California Council on Alcohol Problems and other organizations working to prevent underage drinking.

Christmas is also a unique personal experience that can change everything and everyone it touches. But, unlike alcohol, the change is for the better. Let this Christmas change you, and then you can change your world

### NOW YOU KNOW!

*According to a study by Wake Forest School of Medicine, nearly one quarter of college student current drinkers reported drinking alcohol mixed with energy drinks. These students are at increased risk for alcohol-related consequences.*

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## A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Even as we celebrate the joys of Christmas, we reflect upon what has happened in 2007 and begin to anticipate what awaits us in 2008. We know that the best way to have a “Happy New Year” is to finish the present year well and begin the new strong. That is what we are doing at CalCAP. We are paying our final bills of 2007 and preparing to meet the significant challenges of 2008.

As you will read in this newsletter, the alcohol and gambling industries are not taking a holiday from their assaults on individuals, families and our society. You will

see many ads from the alcohol industry and shows on television, some glamorizing underage drinking, implying that Christmas can only be celebrated when people are drinking. The gambling industry will continue to promote support of the four Mega Casinos, on which we will vote on February 5, 2008.

I hope that you can you provide a Christmas gift that will help us at CalCAP finish well and start strong, as we continue our efforts to prevent the problems caused by alcohol and gambling.

“WE OWE  
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SURGEON  
GENERAL

## A CALL TO ACTION FROM SURGEON GENERAL

In the Surgeon General’s “Call to Action on Underage Drinking”, he states “The prevention and reduction of underage drinking is the collective responsibility of the Nation.” He then states that preventing underage drinking “is the responsibility of all people in all of the social systems in which adolescents operate: family, schools, communities, health care systems, religious institutions, criminal and juvenile justice systems, all levels of government, and society as a whole.”

Three areas of actions of the actions that families can take in this effort to reduce underage drinking is 1) Support your teens and give them space to grow; 2) Talk with your teens about alcohol; and 3) Help your teens make good decisions about alcohol. In each area the Surgeon General provides specific actions, such as “Know where your teens are, what they’re doing, who they’re with,” and “Make clear your expectation that your teens will not drink.” These reports are available on-line or through our Sacramento Office.

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## AMERICAN COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

In September the American Council on Alcohol Problems met in Atlanta, Georgia. Representatives from more than 14 state organizations attended this meeting. Along with reports from the different states outlining specific issues and actions, there were speakers from the Center for Science in the Public Interest and the Center for Disease Control.

Among the resolutions passed at this meeting were: support for a ban on “Alcohol without Liquid” machines; support for retaining the legal drinking age at twenty-one (unbelievably there are some people who want to lower the drinking age); support for raising federal excise taxes on alcohol; and support to ban all alcohol advertising from college sports.

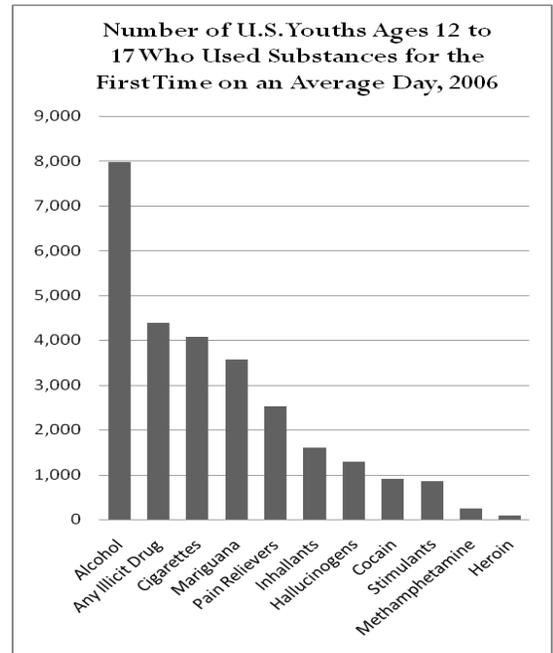
## ALCOHOL STILL #1 AMONG YOUTH

In spite of the growing number of harmful drugs that are often readily available to our children, including methamphetamine, marijuana and inhalants, alcohol is still the drug of choice for children ages 12-17, according to a report from the Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse Research. On an average day in America, nearly 8,000 children in that age group

will take their first drink.

As you can see by the chart, alcohol is even more popular than cigarettes.

Clearly our challenge to prevent underage drinking is not over, and we will continue to work towards higher taxes, fewer advertisements, better labeling and more alcohol education for our youth.



## ALCOPOP BATTLE CONTINUES

On November 15, the Board of Equalization held a public hearing to consider the proposed adoption of the regulation that will properly tax “alcopops” as distilled spirits. As you know “alcopops” are the colorful, sweet, fruit-flavored drinks that are especially appealing to underage girls. This hearing

was to reaffirm their earlier decision. However, because of their courage to properly tax these beverages, and go against the alcohol industry, the three supporting members came under personal attacks on radio and in newspaper ads. Although the alcohol industry was represented by individuals from as far

away as Washington D.C., our coalition presented the facts, and the decision to tax “alcopops” at a higher rate was upheld. We Appreciate the work of the B.O.E staff and commend the courage and conviction of members Judy Chu, Betty Yee and State Controller John Chiang.



## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH CALCAP

This year as you do some of your Christmas shopping on-line, many of the stores you use will make a contribution to CalCAP. When you do your shopping on line, at such places as Amazon, e-Bay, QVC, Sears, Dell, Macy’s, Home Depot, Staples, or more than 500 other merchants, they

will make a donation to the California Council on Alcohol Problems.

All you need to do to take advantage of this opportunity is to register at “www.iGive.com” and select “California Council on Alcohol Problems” to be your cause. Then every

time you use one of the participating merchants, that company will make a donation to our organization at no cost to you.

If you would like to help CalCAP as you do your Christmas (or year-round) shopping, register today at “www.iGive.com”



Your on-line Christmas shopping can help raise money for CalCAP



## CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.CALCAP.ORG](http://WWW.CALCAP.ORG)

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MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

### 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](mailto:calcap@sbcuc.net). Our Mailing address is 803 Vallejo Way, Sacramento CA 95818.*

*Because CalCAP is involved in lobbying efforts, donations to CalCAP are not tax-deductible. Donations to ANEF are tax-deductible.*

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## CALIFORNIA NEEDS YOU!

California needs your help! On February 5, 2008, you and the voters of California will have the opportunity to say "No!" to one of the largest expansions of gambling in the history of the United States, 17,000 new slot machines for just four tribes. This means they would have more slots machines than 12 big Las Vegas casinos combined, including the Bellagio, MGM Grand, Mirage and Mandalay Bay.

I am sure by now that you have already seen television ads describing the benefits of having more gambling in California. There are promises of free money for California's deficit, and support for schools, public safety, transportation and other programs. Of course there are no guarantees that any money would be spent as indicated, or that these revenues will be as high as anticipated. Even if they are, the money from these casinos will be less than 1/2 of one percent of our current budget, and much less of a percentage in twenty years, when the compacts conclude.

Here are some facts to remember while you watch the pro-gambling ads: problem and pathological gambling cost California more than \$1,000,000,000 a year; this is not about helping impoverished people, it is all about money, as four of the wealthiest tribes seek 17,000 more slot machines; these casinos pay no property taxes on their casinos, hotels or golf courses; they pay no corporate taxes; they are not audited by any state or federal officials; and if these compacts are approved, California will be home to some of the largest casinos in the world.

California needs your voice, your commitment and your efforts in this upcoming vote. This is a rare and unique opportunity to determine the future of our state. California needs the truth. California Needs You!

Vote "No" on gambling on February 5.

