

CALCAP, ANEF & CCAGE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3 JULY 2012



Dear Friends
of CalCAP,
ANEF &
CCAGE,

Things are
heating up and

the “Fireworks” are beginning to fly in Sacramento—it must be July.

Fireworks are reminiscent of both battles fought and signs of struggles that still continue. In Sacramento, we are meeting the challenges of the alcohol and gambling interests that seek to expand their presence and increase their profits at the expense of its citizens—often the most vulnerable. There will be fireworks!

The alcohol and gambling interests

SACRAMENTO FIREWORKS

will use their economic resources to influence, cajole and persuade the decision makers, and we will use the research, studies, and reports indicating the devastating consequences of these vices to call those same decision makers to stand on the moral high-ground. It will not be an easy battle, and it will not end with this session, regardless of the outcome. Neither side will surrender to the other. The alcohol and gambling interests will not willingly accept responsibility for the negative consequences associated with their expansion, and they will not accept the financial re-

sponsibility to mitigate the damages they cause. And we will not be silenced or deterred from calling upon our leaders to care more about the people of California than these major financial players in our political system.

Let the Fireworks begin, and let them be for us the beginning of our celebration of victory over these interests and freedom from the oppression of the addictions they bring.

Rev. James B. Butler,
Executive Director

THE NCAA AND SPORTS WAGERING

In California there are more than fifty colleges and universities that participate in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). If the Sports Wagering bill, SB 1390, passes, each one of them will be impacted. According to the NCAA official policy, “No predetermined or non-predetermined session of an NCAA championship may be conducted in a state with legal wagering that is based on single-game betting on the outcome of any event (i.e., high school, college or professional) in a sport in which the

NCAA conducts a championship.” Simply put, if a state allows sports wagering, that state cannot host college championship games.

Although SB 1390 will not instantly legalize sports wagering in California, it is enabling legislation. If passed, it will allow that final determination regarding sports wagering in our state to be made by either the US Congress or the Federal Courts (current case involving New Jersey), where Californians will have less influence. If we do not stop this now, later may be too late.

UPDATES ON 2012 LEGISLATION

Below are updates on some of the proposed bills related to Alcohol and Gambling that we are following.

ALCOHOL

SB 778, Padilla. Alcoholic beverages licensees: contests and sweepstakes: Currently the state of California does not permit contests and sweepstakes that are sponsored by the alcohol industry. This bill will remove that prohibition and allow another form of marketing. This bill has passed the Senate and one committee in the assembly. We continue to monitor and oppose.

GAMBLING

SB 162, Anderson. Economic Development: federally recognized Indian tribes. This is a newly amended bill that will prohibit the state from opposing land acquisition to be placed in trust by tribes. Although it states that this land must be used for housing, environmental protection or cultural preservation, once the land is placed in trust, there are no restrictions on how the tribe chooses to use the land. We are not opposing tribes, we are opposing gambling. There are cases where the tribes promised not to build a casino, only to decide later that they want a casino, and there is nothing that can be done. Because of a ruling by the Supreme Court (see related article), this bill has been pulled, though it may be considered later in this session. We will be watching.

SB 1390, Wright. Sports Gambling: sports wagering. Currently, it is against the law to wager on professional or amateur sporting events. Depending on action taken at the federal level, this bill would change that and legalize a whole new level of gambling in our society. Californians would be able to bet on any sporting event – professional or college. This bill has passed the Senate and one committee in the Assembly. We will continue to oppose and are trying to generate opposition among California Colleges and Universities because of NCAA implications (see related article).

SB 1463, Wright and Steinberg. Internet gambling. This bill is a part of a continuing effort to legalize intrastate internet gambling in California. We have been successfully opposing this effort for more than two years. The gambling interests continue to push this huge expansion of gambling in the attempt to place a virtual poker parlor in every home, business, dorm room, public library and on every smart phone in California. This bill has been temporarily delayed, but it will be considered later. We will participate in all the hearings, and will do everything we can to stop this unprecedented expansion of gambling in California. (See related article addressing the challenge we face).

TIME FOR ALCOHOL TO PAY ITS SHARE

In past years, the alcohol industry has seen a loosening of limits on give-a-way items, an expansion of “tastings” (even in our grocery stores) and now a bill permitting prize based sweepstakes and contests. In spite of the expanded marketing opportunities, the legislature has done nothing to require the alcohol industry to increase their level of accountability and responsibility for the damage done by their products. As we know there has not been a tax increase on alcohol since 1994. Before the state provides more advantageous legislation for the alcohol industry, the alcohol tax must be increased to help mitigate the billions of dollars alcohol is costing our state every year.

GAMBLING INTERESTS FLEX THEIR MONEY MUSCLE

We have known for a long time that the gambling interests will spend a lot of money to insure that their profits will continue to grow. This includes using lobbyists, making campaign contributions, and making donations to specific favorite programs and projects of decisions makers. How much was sometimes a mystery. However, in a recent article in the Los Angeles Times, Patrick McGreevy shines a light on gambling money and internet gambling. The Co-Authors of SB1463, the Internet Gambling Bill, are Senators Wright and Steinberg. Below are some excerpts from that article.

“In the last year, casino operators have poured \$1.36 million into the Democratic State Central Committee of California, which Steinberg will rely on for his campaign to increase his party's control of the Legislature in this year's elections.

In the two years since Wright first proposed [internet gambling] legalization, the six largest operators in the online poker association have spent \$7.7 million on political contributions, gifts to officials and lobbying in Sacramento. The group includes Hollywood Park Casino, in Wright's district. Fifteen Indian tribes that own casinos, including the Morongo and San Manuel bands of Mission Indians, are also members.

Wright, chairman of the Senate committee that oversees gambling, has received 85 contributions totaling \$170,000 from gambling interests since he ran for election in 2008. Those included money from a fundraiser hosted by Leo Chu, owner of Hollywood Park Casino.

In addition, four casinos that founded the online poker association have anted up \$11,500 for a legal defense fund for Wright in his ongoing battle against criminal charges of voter fraud and perjury. Los Angeles County prosecutors allege that Wright registered and voted using the address of an Inglewood property he owned but actually lived outside the district that elected him.

Wright and other members of his committee received \$5,000 in gifts from gambling interests last year, including lodging at the Barona Luxury Casino Hotel in San Diego, tickets to a Tower of Power concert at the Chukchansi Casino near Yosemite, rounds of golf at the Rolling Hills Casino in Tehama County and VIP entry to the Del Mar horse-racing track.”

The gambling Interests are using their money to promote more and more gambling, we must use our voices to stop it!

SUPREME COURT RULING ON RESERVATION SHOPPING

In February CCAGE joined an “Amicus Brief” regarding a US Supreme Court case involving “reservation shopping”. The ruling is in, and the court decided in our favor. This means that private individuals, groups and organizations can sue tribes regarding land acquisition. One of the factors in this case is that the tribe may not have been

recognized in 1934, when the congress established the official list of tribes. This ruling will allow a case to continue against a casino on land that was placed in trust for that tribe. The result of this ruling limits the Federal Government, and assures individuals and organizations a role in their own communities.



California Council on Alcohol Problems
803 Vallejo Drive
Sacramento, CA 95818

Phone: 916-441-1844
Fax: 916-441-1844
E-mail: calcap@calcap.org

Rev. James B. Butler
Executive Director

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.CALCAP.ORG
WWW.ANEFCA.ORG
WWW.CCAGE.ORG

OUR TASK AND MISSION

The CalCAP family, which includes the California Council on Alcohol Problems (CalCAP), the Alcohol-Narcotic Education Foundation of California (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@calcap.org. 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.

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN RECOVERY

Most of us are aware of the important role that churches play in recovery by providing space for many 12 Step programs. However, recent research shows us that we can do more. A study reported by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, indicates how important it is that those in recovery develop new attitudes and friends. Where better than in our churches? Below are brief excerpts from that report.

“The attitude of friends, and family, makes a difference for people trying to sustain recovery from addiction to alcohol. That is the message of recent research, which demonstrates that people who make positive changes in their social relationships can improve their chances of success following treatment. This study, published in the May edition of the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, shows that social networks can have a

powerful and lasting effect on how well people are able to cope following treatment for alcohol abuse. These effects can last for at least three years after treatment.”

We know that, “While it can be difficult to make changes in personal relationships, especially when people are stressed by trying to recover from an addiction, modifications may be necessary to sustain their efforts.” And as is noted by researcher Stout, “It can be intimidating to reach out to new people, or to explain to one’s current friends and family that they need their support during recovery. Breaking off old relationships can also be hard, but equally important.”

When your church welcomes someone in recovery, you are providing them a place to develop new attitudes, new friends and a better chance at a better life.