

CALCAP, ANEF & CCAGE

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EXECUTIVE REPORT



Dear friends of CalCAP, ANEF & CCAGE,

First, the picture. Although I have served as your Executive Director for

almost three years, there are still many friends and supporters that I have not met. I have not yet been to your church, denominational meeting or community and so you have not had the opportunity to put a face with a name. Consequently, the Board decided that putting my picture in the Newsletter would be a good idea (You can decide if they were right).

You may not be aware of this report

from another state. A father takes his 7 year old to a baseball game. While there he buys himself a beer and his son a bottle of lemonade. After a few sips, he is told that the lemonade is an alcoholic beverage (unbeknownst to him). He immediately takes the drink away, but too late. Child Protective Services has been contacted and the child is removed for 48 hours while the family is being investigated. This was of course traumatic for the family and the child. A day at the ballpark ruined because of poor labeling of an alcoholic product. This could easily happen in California. That is why we are supporting AB 346 (see Capitol Watch).

There is also breaking news concerning the governor's plans for the Lottery. These plans include lowering the revenue percentage for schools (the reason

the Lottery was even approved) and authorizing the Lottery Commission to expand access to the games, including the possibility of using the internet and video machines. Sometimes the more you see, the more unbelievable it seems. But we continue to watch and speak against the intrusion and expansion of alcohol and gambling in California. Thanks for supporting our efforts.

Rev. James B. Butler
Executive Director

SOMEONE WATCHING OVER YOU

Some of you may remember the song "Someone to Watch Over Me" by George and Ira Gershwin. Its title suggests the importance of having someone watching-out for us. This is especially true in the political climate of Sacramento. As you will read in this newsletter, there are many efforts seeking to expand the influence and presence of alcohol and gambling in California. These efforts are supported by two large and well-financed industries.

However, CalCAP ANEF & CCAGE are working to regulate, moderate and limit the impact of these two powerful and destructive forces. We are vigilant and steadfast as we "Watch Over You" here in Sacramento, and inform the churches around the state about the dangers of alcohol, other drugs, and gambling. Only through your gifts and prayers are we able to "Watch" Sacramento and "Watch Over You." Thank You.

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CAPITOL WATCH

Although the California Budget shortfall has been the primary focus of the Capitol in 2008, there are still many bills that will be considered before November of this year. We follow bills that relate to alcohol or gambling, and below are just some in which we are actively engaged, either supporting **S** or opposing **O**.

ALCOHOL BILLS

AB 346 (Beall): Will require "Contains Alcohol" labels on products that can be confused with non-alcoholic beverages, such as "alcopops" and energy drinks. **S**

AB 1487 (Berryhill): This will lower the DUI Blood Alcohol Concentration Levels (BAC) needed to require certain treatment programs. **S**

AB 1657 (Runner): Will allow felony charges against someone who provides alcohol to a minor who then causes injury or death to others or self. **S**

AB 2073 (Benoit): Will extend the probation time for DUI from 7 to 10 years in considering repeat offences. **S**

AB 2088 (Beall): Will require Governor to appoint a Sec. of Addiction Prevention & Recovery Services. **S**

AB 2294 (Plescia): Will allow suppliers to provide to any on-site seller of alcohol a free plasma TV in exchange for 50% ad time. This will include family restaurants that serve beer, wine or liquor, not just bars. **O**

AB 2297 (Saldana): Will calculate the additional income for California from properly taxing "Alcopop" type products. **S**

SB 1159 (Cox): Will prohibit alcohol on the Truckee River during summer holiday periods. **S**

SB 1190 (Oropeza), **SB 1361** (Coffea), **SB 1388** (Torlakson): All relate to the use of Ignition Interlock in specific DUI convictions. **S**



GAMBLING BILLS

AB 163 (Mendoza): Will authorize a city or county, without a vote of the people, to increase the number of tables in cardrooms. **O**

AB 1389 (Torrico): Will allow money from Casinos to communities to only be used to mitigate impacts of the casino. **S**

AB 2026 (Levine): Authorizes a study that seeks the legalization of internet poker in California. **O**

AB 2254 (Benoit): Will authorize the Gambling Commission to finger print and limit association of people not qualified for licenses. **S**

SB 1201 (Battin): Will permit casinos to have 50,000 more slot machines (3 times the number approved in February) without the approval of communities, the legislature or a vote of the people. Further it will require a 2/3 vote of the legislature to deny any future tribal compacts. **O**

SB 1328 (Cedillo): Would allow "Remote Caller" bingo games, games that are connected electronically to other sites, and would remove any limit to prizes. This could result in Bingo games linked across the state, with prizes of thousands of dollars. **O**

SB 1626 (Steinberg): Will allow the use of electronic bingo machines, that will be similar to Keno or slot machines in appearance and play. **O**

SB 1679 (Florez): Will remove the 34% revenue guarantee to schools from the Lottery, and authorize the Lottery Commission to explore and develop new delivery systems to increase the sales of Lottery tickets. This could include the internet and video machines. **O**

MARIJUANA IS NOT HARMLESS

Marijuana is not the harmless drug that many people think. A recent report, from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), reveals that marijuana use can worsen depression and lead to more serious mental disorders, such as schizophrenia, anxiety, and even suicide.

Research shows that some teens are using drugs to alleviate feelings of depression ("self-medicating"), when in fact, using marijuana can compound the problem. Marijuana use is associated with depression, suicidal thoughts, and suicide attempts. Clearly, "Marijuana is not the answer. Too many young people are making a bad situation worse by using marijuana in a misguided effort

to relieve their symptoms of depression," said John P. Walters, Director, National Drug Control Policy.

In fact, the potency of smoked marijuana has risen consistently over the past decades and higher potency translates into serious health consequences for teens. Some studies show that higher potency marijuana may be contributing to an increase in the number of American teens seeking treatment for marijuana dependence. The risks associated with recent and long-term marijuana use include schizophrenia, other forms of psychosis, and even suicide.



There are many myths about Marijuana, including the one that says it is harmless. If you would like a free booklet titled "Marijuana, Myths & Facts", contact the CalCAP/ANEF office. (You can use the response card and envelope if you have one)

PREVENTING COLLEGE CAMPUS DRINKING

No one is surprised that alcohol and other drugs are a problem on college campuses. Recent reports include more than 70 students being arrested in association with selling drugs on a Southern California campus and an alcohol fueled fight resulting in a stabbing death at a Northern California campus. These reports help illustrate what we already know. Nationwide more than 1400 deaths, 500,000 injuries, and 75,000 sexual assaults are related to alcohol use on our college campuses.

College presidents recognize the problem of alcohol in their schools and have taken steps to try and prevent these, sometimes catastrophic, events.

Nearly every college and university in California has an Alcohol Policy, and most have preventative programs. These programs usually are in one or more of the following categories, Education, Intervention, Treatment, and Environmental. Some schools have programs that relate to more than one area, while others focus only on one.

For instance, one college in Orange County has a computer driven Education/Awareness program for each of their incoming students, while a school in the Central Valley is working with their community to prohibit places that sell alcohol within a one mile distance of their campus. A Northern California school has developed an Education and Peer Intervention program, and a University along the Central Coasts has a class that

incorporates the development of programs to persuade students not to binge drink or engage in drug use. These programs are then tried within the student population, which provides an on-going and innovative approach to the campus drinking problem. Despite these efforts, alcohol is still a problem and our schools need to continue their efforts to focus upon and address this situation.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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WATCHING THE CAPITOL

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.

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

Donations to ANEF are tax-deductible.

A FIRST STEP IN PREVENTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE*

It is important that churches strengthen their commitment to substance abuse prevention. To accomplish this, there are basic steps churches might follow. The first is to **Elevate Substance Abuse Prevention on Your Faith Agenda**. Here are some actions you can take to make this happen:

1. Renew or establish a strong position statement and policies against illicit drug use and underage alcohol use. The position statement should acknowledge the risks – physical, social, legal, mental, financial and spiritual – associated with use and abuse.
2. Take a public stand against abuse of alcohol and other drugs and make your position about known. Include it in your vision and expectation statements, new member classes, newsletters, bulletins and any other communication with members.
3. Partner with community-based, private and nonprofit organizations that have substance abuse prevention programs. These can help you to identify resources, training and grant awards that augment programs already extended to fellow faith leaders.
4. Collaborate with local seminaries, divinity schools and other religious institutions. Encourage them to include youth substance abuse prevention training and counseling into their curricula.

Because drug use affects everyone, and instilling strong values is an effective protective factor for preventing many high-risk behaviors, I hope that your church will take this “First Step” in preventing substance abuse. In our next newsletter, I will present another step in helping churches strengthen their commitment to substance abuse prevention.

*Taken from “Four Ways to Include Drug Prevention in Your Religious Programs” — A.D.P.