

2012 Annual Report

Alliance Names Lottery Manager As 2013 Chairperson

'New Year Brings New Opportunities'

I'm excited about the opportunities that lay ahead for the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling. Before I get into my goals for the Alliance over the course of the year, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank every Alliance member who has helped further the Alliance's mission since it began in 1997.

The role of 2013 chairperson isn't something I take lightly, because I respect and value the integrity and mission of the Alliance. As Communications Manager at the Missouri Lottery – one of the Alliance's founding members – I had the privilege of seeing the Alliance take shape over the years and become the force it is today. I'm proud of what we've accomplished, and I'm eager to help further the Alliance's objectives of raising awareness about problem gambling and directing individuals needing help to treatment.

For the upcoming year, my goals include:

- Strengthening the Alliance's membership by reaching out to industry professionals and seeking their input and expertise to help the Alliance become stronger and more effective in raising awareness about problem gambling;
- Making the 10th Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse one of the biggest conferences ever by teaming up with Consortium members and marketing early;
- Promoting the problem gambling help line, Bets Off website, voluntary exclusion program and free compulsive treatment services available in Missouri via awareness campaigns, brochures, billboards, publications, public service announcements and news releases; and
- Continuing to distribute the award-winning youth addiction prevention program, "Beat Addiction: Choose the Right Path," to Missouri schools.

It is only through working together that these aspirations can come to fruition. I welcome any ideas, suggestions, feedback or comments from Alliance members or *Bets Off Bulletin* subscribers and beyond about how to make 2013 a year to remember. Please feel free to reach me at (573) 526-7425 or Susan.Goedde@molottery.com.

Sincerely,

Susan Goedde, 2013 Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Chairperson



Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Overview

The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, which was created in 1997, is a partnership between the Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns Inc., the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Missouri Gaming Association, the Missouri Gaming Commission, the Missouri Lottery, the Port Authority of Kansas City and a recovery community representative.

The purpose of the Alliance is to educate Missourians on the potential characteristics and dangers of problem and compulsive gambling, to refer compulsive gamblers and their family and friends to free treatment through a toll-free help line, to prevent underage play and to promote responsible gaming.

To learn more about the Alliance, visit 888betsoff.org.

Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Service Highlights

Problem Gambling Help Line: 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633)

Provident, Inc. operates a 24-hour help line service for callers seeking help for a gambling problem. The Missouri Gaming Association provides the funding for the help line. Provident received a total of 2,454 calls during calendar year 2012.

Bets Off Website: 888betsoff.org

The Bets Off website features a list of Missouri certified compulsive gambling counselors and information about problem gambling, the Voluntary Exclusion Program, the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, the *Bets Off Bulletin* and more. During calendar year 2012, the website had 463,870 visits.

Voluntary Exclusion Program

The Missouri Gaming Commission administers a statewide self-exclusion program for problem and pathological gamblers. The voluntary exclusion program is also known as the List of Disassociated Persons (DAP). A total of 1,023 individuals were approved for DAP placement during calendar year 2012.

Effective in March 2012, individuals were given the option of choosing to be placed on DAP for a lifetime or temporary exclusion. Additional details can be found at mgc.dps.mo.gov.

Free Compulsive Gambling Treatment Services

The Missouri Department of Mental Health Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse contracts with certified compulsive gambling counselors to provide free treatment services to compulsive gamblers and their family members. Family members can access services regardless of whether the problem gambler enters treatment. During calendar year 2012, 168 clients accessed the free treatment services. Individuals seeking referral to a counselor in a specific area can call the help line at 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633).

Statistics

Calendar Year	Bets Off Help Line	Web Site Hits	Voluntary Exclusion	Free Treatment
1998	871	N/A	356	54
1999	1,034	N/A	596	113
2000	1,738	18,171	1,093	186
2001	2,846	46,617	1,403	335
2002	2,889	31,522	1,290	373
2003	3,339	46,456	1,367	344
2004	3,527	75,264	1,506	377
2005	2,593	139,423	1,696	360
2006	1,834	118,920	1,553	370
2007	1,682	623,214	1,412	358
2008	1,915	508,746	1,279	332
2009	2,263	514,940	896	343
2010	2,740	435,369	797	368
2011	2,093	444,062	790	231
2012	2,454	463,870	1,023	168

Save The Dates!

March 3 - 9

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week

June 26 - 28

10th Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, Kansas City, Mo., MCPGSA.org

July 19 - 20

27th National Conference on Problem Gambling, Seattle, Wash., Ncpgambling.org

August

Missouri's Responsible Gaming Education Month

Alliance Offers Free Presentations for Missouri Events

Are you looking for a speaker at an upcoming event? The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling can help. We provide speakers for groups and organizations throughout the state on topics ranging from the prevention of youth gambling to the warning signs of problem gambling.

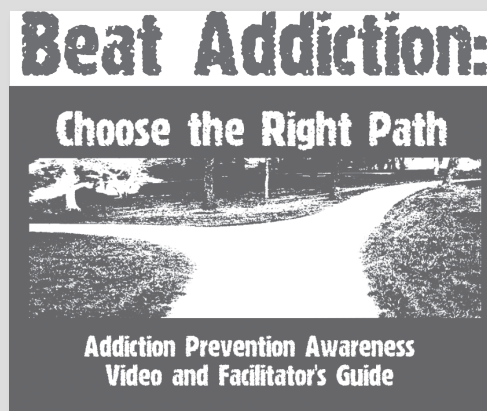
For more information about the speakers' bureau or to arrange a free presentation, call (573) 526-7467, or email Holly.Koofer-Thompson@molottery.com.

Order Your Free 'Beat Addiction' Program Today

Hundreds of Missouri teachers in grades 6 through 12 are already utilizing the updated and free "Beat Addiction: Choose the Right Path" youth addiction prevention program in their classes. If you're a teacher, counselor or know someone who could use a program, call (573) 526-7467, or email Holly.Koofer-Thompson@molottery.com.

The program includes a 30-minute DVD featuring four personal stories from a diverse cast of youth in recovery from various addictions, a facilitator's guide and poster. The DVD also includes a closed-caption and Spanish version, as well as the original video released in 2003.

To view a sample of the program, visit <http://888betsoff.org/resource/index.htm>.



Alliance Award Nominations Accepted Until April 4

Do you know an individual, group, organization or company outside of the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's voting membership who has demonstrated superior achievement in addressing issues of problem and pathological gambling? If so, submit an award nomination for that person to win the Alliance's 2013 **Outstanding Contributor Award!**

Do you have someone in mind (an individual or a representative of a member organization – voting or participating) who has contributed to the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling in an extraordinary manner? Honor that person by nominating them for the Alliance's 2013 **Service Award!**

Nominations are due by April 4. Visit 888betsoff.org to download a nomination form.

Stay Connected to the *Bulletin*

To remain on the *Bets Off Bulletin* distribution list*, please send email address changes to the publication's editor at Holly.Koofer-Thompson@molottery.com. Thank you for your interest in the *Bulletin!*

*Hard copies of the *Bets Off Bulletin* are no longer being printed.

NPGAW Prompts Educational Efforts Locally and Nationally

The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), the national advocate for programs and services to assist problem gamblers, is providing free educational materials during the 11th Annual National Problem Gambling Awareness Week (NPGAW) March 3-9.

This year's theme, "Problem Gambling: A New Understanding of a Community Concern," is a grassroots campaign geared to educate the general public and healthcare professionals about the warning signs of problem gambling and raise awareness about the help that is available locally and nationally.

In Missouri, problem gamblers and their loved ones can call the toll-free problem gambling help line – 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633) – a 24 hour a day, seven day per week, service sponsored by Provident, Inc. in St. Louis.

"In addition to calling Missouri's help line, people can also email gamblingcounselor@providentstl.org, to request a list of available counselors nearest to the concerned party's county," explained Heather Barnett, clinical specialist at Provident, Inc.

On a national level, NCPG offers free public service announcements, flyers, brochures and other materials on their website, npgaw.org.

NCPG Executive Director Keith Whyte noted that out of the millions of Americans experiencing a gambling problem each year, only a small percentage seeks help.

"Our mission is to increase awareness of pathological gambling, ensure widespread availability of treatment and to encourage research for prevention and education," Whyte began. "Recovery is possible, but problem gamblers or their loved ones must take the first step, which is seeking help from trained professionals. Callers all over the country can call the National Problem Gambling Help Line Network at 1-800-522-4700."

Questions or concerns about problem gambling or NCPG can be directed to (202) 547-9204 or ncpg@ncpgambling.org.

10th Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse

It's hard to believe that it was nearly 10 years ago that the Midwest Consortium on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse (MCPGSA) hosted the first conference in Missouri. Now, a decade later, the Consortium is pleased to announce that the 2013 conference, which will be held at the Hilton Kansas City Airport in Kansas City, June 26-28, is gearing up to be one of the biggest and best yet.



This year, like past years, the conference will boast excellent speakers and presenters, continuing education certification, networking opportunities, exceptional dining opportunities nearby and all at a very affordable conference registration and lodging rates. With day-to-day expenses going up, the Consortium worked hard to keep conference costs low for attendees. The conference registration rate has stayed the same as last year, and the hotel lodging rate is a low \$109 per night, which includes free parking.

Conference information can be accessed by visiting MCPGSA.org. Check back often, as the 2013 schedule will be finalized and posted soon. If you're interested in exhibiting, sponsoring or obtaining general conference information, call Holly Koofer-Thompson, the 2013 MCPGSA conference coordinator, at (573) 526-7467, or email Holly.Koofer-Thompson@molottery.com.

1-888-BETSOFF

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Editor: Holly Koofer-Thompson, responsible gaming program coordinator for the Missouri Lottery
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If you would like to be added to our mailing list,
contact Holly Koofer-Thompson at Holly.Koofer-Thompson@molottery.com.

MISSOURI ALLIANCE
TO CURB PROBLEM GAMBLING

The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's mission is to heighten public awareness for the dangers of problem gambling; develop prevention and education programs for gamblers of all ages; and direct problem gamblers and their families to the 1-888-BETSOFF help line and treatment.

