

NOGAMBLING in Indiana

Indiana Coalition Against Legalized Gambling NEWSLETTER

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Citizens needed to speak in opposition to proposed gambling legislation in upcoming Indiana General Assembly

As the Legislative session is about to begin we need individuals who will speak in opposition to proposals and bills leading to the expansion of gambling in Indiana. Often, we only have 24 hours notice of a pending bill. The more that speak in opposition to gambling the more we will be heard by our legislators. If you are interested in this needed opposition please write Lorin L. Clemenz, 6337 Creekview Lane, Fishers, IN 46038, 317-845-5655, or my e-mail at lclemenz@sbcglobal.net. YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED!



Clemenz

Hoosiers heading toward more legalized gambling

Hoosier United Methodists Together had an excellent editorial in the October 2006 issue. Editor Dan Gangler gives a clear description of the proposal for electronic gambling machines for Indiana. If you did not see it you can get it by going to the Internet at www.inareaumc.org. Click on Together. You might want to download a copy of the page 3 PDF and make copies to give to others.

Herb Taylor was a Rotarian who believed in the "Four Way Test."

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Tom Grey speaks at Cleveland

The following article is composed of excerpts from the Rev. Tom Grey's address to the Seventh Annual Commercial Real Estate Deal Maker Forum held Oct. 24 in Cleveland, Ohio. Read the address in its entirety by going to ncalg@ncalg.org, and clicking on his speech.

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For national information log on to
www.ncalg.org

Gambling promoters pick community causes to raise their own incomes

Gambling promoters need to pick education or some other worthy community cause to buy their way into our community or states. They want us to overlook the fact that the lion's share of the money goes to them. In Ohio, it's 55 percent. They want us to think the money's not going to the gambling promoters, they want you to think it's going to the schools.

Gambling came to New Mexico in 1994 and by 1998 the state's Secretary of Taxation and Revenue reported roughly \$1-billion to \$1.2-billion per year in other taxable sales had fallen off the balance sheet. Entertainment, retail, restaurants and services took huge hits from the casinos, and as a result, paid far less in taxes. The best the economists could say was the economy was playing a "zero sum game." The casinos were winning and the other businesses were losing.

Nevada ranks near the bottom in per pupil spending on education, and spends less per capita on Medicaid than any other state. If those two areas do not concern you, take a look at where Nevada ranks in high school dropout rates, teen pregnancy and children living in poverty

Warren Buffett is another man who does not think government should be promoting gambling. In a fireside chat I had with Buffett when he was working to keep gambling out of Omaha, he was emphatic that government should be on the side of its people. Buffett says the state is "Teaching the citizenry something all the time" by what the government does, and he argues that gambling teaches citizens that "the state is on the other side of the transaction from you. They are trying to get you to do something dumb. I think the state should be trying to do something FOR its citizens, not TO its citizens. I think for the state to prey upon its citizens, to create more of these addictions... is wrong. I think it's cynical on the part of the state to raise money from people who can't afford it by promising a dream that is not going to come true for any but the tiniest, tiniest fraction of the people who participate.

"There is a lot of hope being sold in the world. I think it's very cynical of the state...to sell false hopes."

So let's review the score.

- Gambling is not telling you the truth;
- It's NOT fair to all concerned;
- It builds addiction and dependencies, NOT good will and better friendships,
- And it is NOT beneficial to all concerned.
- Good deal for Ohio? I don't think so. In your hearts, and in your minds, when you do the math and determine who wins and who loses, you know this is a bad deal. It's a sucker's deal, and Ohio is a state built of better stuff than sucker's deals.

Editor's note: This is just a small part of the address. It is potent and has application to every state that has gambling interests present.

Election victories and disappointments across the USA

Opponents to gambling expansion saw big victories in Ohio, Nebraska and Rhode Island! Race track owners in Ohio and developers in Cleveland bet \$25 million of their own money that they could convince voters to approve slot machine gambling if it was packaged with the promise of college scholarships. Approximately 58 percent of the voters said “no”! Nebraska voters defeated a measure to authorize video keno. About 71 percent of the voters voted “no”! Rhode Island voters rejected a constitutional amendment that would have allowed the Narragansett Indian Tribe and Las Vegas-based gambling company Harrah’s Entertainment Inc. to build a casino in West Warwick.

Disappointments occurred in Arkansas where charitable bingo won approval by a 2-to-1 margin; in South Dakota where voters defeated an attempt to repeal the video lottery with about 67 percent of the voters; in Indiana where in Clark County approved legalized gambling by a wide margin. This does not necessarily mean the county will receive a riverboat casino. Indiana only allows 11 riverboats so one of the eleven would have to move or the state Legislature would have to authorize a 12th license.

The Clark County vote will have very little immediate impact but there are aspects that are very disturbing. According to news sources, a supporter of gambling in Clark County commented that the opposition talked about the dangers and evils that gambling would bring into the community, but they had not seen any of that in the community close at hand that has a riverboat. The facts are plain and compelling. We must do a better job of communicating to the public what gambling does to addicted gamblers, their families and those others around him or her.

The stakes being suggested for the State General Assembly, if successful, are far ranging and much more damaging. The Indiana Licensed Beverage Association is proposing that those more than 12,000 establishments with on-premise liquor licenses be permitted to have electronic gambling machines. John Wolf, in his article in the Oct. 12 issue of the NW Times, says this move would represent more than 8,000 locations throughout Indiana. Our state would virtually become one big casino.

Our Indiana State Senators and Representatives have been elected. We hear the plans of the liquor industry about legalized gambling legislature for 2007. We also know that finances will again be a primary concern. It’s a budget year for legislation. Gambling revenues are usually considered an easy way to raise revenue because it is not considered a tax. Many legislators will take this avenue for raising revenue unless

- A.) they are already opposed to gambling or
- B.) they hear many of their constituents say loud and clear that they oppose gambling interests and they want their senators and representatives to oppose it in the legislature.

Also, Governor Mitch Daniels needs to hear your voice of opposition. As elected officials they do listen to the voters. If we do not speak up how can they hear?

Enough is enough! It is time our state does what is in the best interest of its citizens!

Contact information about the states legislators and governor are available online at www.in.gov.

NO CASINO

Indiana must reject legalized gambling expansion

By the Rev. John Wolf

Ever since the National Gambling Impact Study of 1999 recommended banning all Internet gambling, congressional leaders have tried to find a way to stop the rapid growth of illegal Internet activity. It happened with bipartisan support in the closing days of Congress before the recess. America has had enough gambling growth.

Guy Clark, chairman of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, said, “You could almost hear the doors slamming from Antigua to London.” The vote came despite tremendous pressure from gambling interests. Internet gambling has jumped from almost \$6 billion in 2003 to \$12 billion in 2006.

U.S. Senator John Kyl (R-Ariz.) and U.S. Representatives Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) and Jim Leach (R-Iowa), were finally successful in attaching HR 441 to the port security bill.

Foreign gambling Web sites have operated out of Russia, England, Gibraltar, Costa Rica and islands of the West Indies.

Clark says, “Internet gambling is a double negative because of its convenience allowing a person of any age to operate from their house. As the saying goes, ‘With the click of the mouse, you can lose your house – from your house.’” The FBI testified about the money the mob and terrorists are able to launder using the Internet.

Closer to home, Indiana will again be faced with the lure of gambling expansion. Even before the 2007 session of the General Assembly, gambling proponents are proposing a spread of video poker machines at taverns, fraternal organizations and wherever a liquor license has been granted. This would include around 8,000 new locations in Indiana. Race tracks also are seeking slot machines called “racinos.”

Gov. Mitch Daniels has waffled on the issue and is being pressured to support such expansion. He needs to know what citizens think.

The cost of gambling addiction, societal problems, marital strains, crime, bankruptcies and suicides have expanded with gambling expansion. Jerry Bauerkemper, executive director of the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling, reports, “The compulsive gambler in Nebraska has an average \$90,000 in gambling debts.”

Indiana has a self-imposed ban of one year, five years or a lifetime for gambling addicts. At last report, almost 2,000 people had signed on. However, one addict called me to report he has been back to gambling three times without being stopped after signing on.

Bill Moyers is examining “Capital Crimes” on a Public Broadcasting documentary. He calls the Jack Abramoff scandal “a swashbuckling spectacle of corruption.”

Abramoff’s lobbying was on behalf of the Choctaw casinos which paid him \$7 million to prevent competition. His lobbying efforts involved Karl Rove, Ralph Reed, Grover Norquist, Tom DeLay and many others on the Washington scene.

Hoosiers and all Americans are encouraged to put a stop to gambling accessibility.

This editorial was first published as a guest editorial in the Oct. 12 issue of the NW Times.

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