

CALCAP, ANEF & CCAGE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2009

BRAND NEW YEAR — SAME OLD STORIES!



Dear Friends of CalCAP,

We greet 2009 with optimism and a hope-filled anticipation. We

know that there are possibilities and opportunities that await us. We know the kind of year that this can be and we are ready to work to make that happen.

We also know that there will be challenges. We will face many of the same old problems and be confronted by the same old stories – lives broken by alcohol, other drugs and gambling.

We know the stories: stories about

alcohol-fueled violence; stories inviting us to share the sorrow of the families victimized by drunk drivers., stories of tragedy and loss associated with gambling.

We know the stories of ruined lives. We know the hopelessness and desperation that accompanies alcohol, other drugs and gambling. We also know that things can be different and better.

Challenges and opportunities both await us in 2009. Let's meet the challenges, grasp the opportunities and make this the year we know it can be.

Rev James B. Butler
Executive Director

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2009 ALCOPOP UPDATE

In 2008, we celebrated two “Alcopop” victories (“Alcopops” are sweet, colored, fruit-flavored alcoholic beverages that appeal to underage drinkers). One was at the Board of Equalization (B.O.E.), where it was decided that these products would be taxed at the distilled spirit per gallon rate of \$3.30 instead of the beer rate of 20 cents. The second was a “Labeling Bill” which would require that they have a clear statement that they contain alcohol.

However, in the midst of our celebration, the insidious nature and practice of the alcohol industry surfaced again. First, they filed a suit against the B.O.E. claiming that they acted without authority, which will be heard in late January, and second, they announced that they have changed the formulas, and so the two actions do not apply to their products. It is clear that this battle is not over and a good reminder that when fighting the alcohol industry, it is not over even when it is over.

NEW WEB SITES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

On February 15 (or sooner) three new web sites are expected to arrive on the internet. Each of our three organizations will have their own site and will be able to better focus on their primary mission. All three will be linked to each other and be able to receive donations through the web site.

The California Council on Alcohol Problems, www.calcap.org, will have a section on current legislation as well as links to the California State Senate and Assembly sites. There will also be news items and research dealing with specific legislation.

The Alcohol-Narcotic Education Foundation of California, www.anefca.org, will compile research on alcohol and other drugs, including marijuana and methamphetamine. There will be links to web sites that focus on alcohol and other

drug problems, such as the Center for Disease Control, the American Medical Association and state and federal organizations, and we anticipate a forum for those in recovery to share their thoughts about avoiding addiction.

Finally, the California Coalition Against Gambling Expansion, www.ccage.org, will have both legislative and news sections similar to CalCAP and a research element in the manner of ANEF.

These sites should allow us to extend our impact and help raise awareness of both the problems caused by alcohol and gambling as well as some of the possible solutions.

If you have a computer, please visit our new sites in February.



2009 LEGISLATION

In 2008, the State Government was focused on the state budgetary crisis. Each day we were told of the mounting deficit, and that other legislation would need to be deferred until a later time. Many of us thought that 2009 would be the “later time.” Well, things have only gotten worse in the Capitol, where the governor has a monitor outside his office showing the increasing deficit (more than \$1,000 a second).

We expect that this situation will afford us both opportunities and challenges. Serious consideration is being given to raising taxes on alcohol, which is long overdue, but many in government are still looking at gambling as the financial savior of our state, in spite of evidence to the contrary.

We expect that there will be efforts to re-structure the lottery, approve internet poker, and permit bigger and more tribal casinos (closer to urban areas). We also expect that there will be opportunities to support bills that will help prevent and treat the problems caused by alcohol, other drugs and gambling.

We are prepared to respond to the legislation of 2009. We are ready to share your concerns and be your voice in Sacramento. We will meet the challenges and grasp the opportunities.



AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A LIFE

Because of our long history of working to prevent the problems caused by alcohol and other drugs, the Alcohol-Narcotic Education Foundation was invited to participate in a special event on the grounds of the Capitol. The event was called "Recovery Happens" and between 4,000 and 5,000 people attended.

At our display booth we invited persons in recovery to answer questions that will help us in our prevention-oriented mission. In this and future newsletters we will share some of those answers.

When asked **"What could have been done that would have helped you decide not to abuse alcohol or some other drug?"** many answers related to education, communication and parental involvement. Below are some of the answers from individuals in recovery.

"Show me the downsides of drinking, not just partying and having fun. There are always consequences."

"Education in grade schools about how much wreckage and damage it causes."

"Never, Never get in the ugly life of gangs and drugs."

"I think more education, more spirituality and more religion."

Parents' support and not thinking living in an alcoholic home was normal."

"Parents being more involved and spending more time with me."

"If I knew the medical effects of the drugs on my mind, and the non-reversible physical side effects with you for life."

"A better childhood."

"If I had more emotional stability from my parents, and better communication."

"My parents or teachers showing me a realistic film that didn't sugar coat what life in addiction is like—homeless, sick, ugly appearance, nothing but sadness."

"Surrounding myself with positive people."

"To have learned the effect they do and the problems they cause."

"More Love."

Although recovery does happen, everyone agreed that it is easier to never start than quit, and a lot less destructive, affirming what we have always known, "an ounce of prevention is worth a life."

CALCAP, ANEF & CCAGE ANNUAL MEETINGS

On Monday February 2, 2009, the Annual Meetings of CalCAP, ANEF, and CCAGE are scheduled to be held at the Riverside United Methodist Church in Sacramento (803 Vallejo Way). Beginning at 10:00 am and concluding at 3:00 pm, various aspects of our organization will be

discussed and considered. Along with business, there will be information provided on a number of alcohol and gambling related topics, presentations, and introduction to some of the resources that are available. Although only Board members will be able to vote on

the various issues that come before us, the meeting is open to everyone.

ANNUAL
MEETING
FEBRUARY 2,
10:00
TO
3:00
SACRAMENTO



CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ON
ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

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

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

Rev. James B. Butler
Executive Director

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CALCAP.ORG

NEW YEAR
NEW CHALLENGES
NEW OPPORTUNITIES

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.

WHAT'S A PARENT TO DO?

What can a parent do to help prevent their children from smoking, drinking or using drugs? In this and our next newsletter, that question will be addressed using a recent report from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA). Many parents want to help their children, but may not know "How" to best do it. The following excerpts from the CASA report are provided by the Center on Substance Abuse Research in Maryland.

"Although virtually all mothers and fathers are concerned about the challenges of raising their kids in today's world, many fail to take essential actions to prevent their kids from smoking, drinking or using drugs," according to a report from (CASA). Using data from a telephone survey of teens and parents, CASA identifies four steps that parents can take to help their children: 1) monitor their children's school night activities; 2) safeguard prescription drugs in the home; 3) address the problem of drugs in schools; and 4) set a good example.

Monitor School Night Socializing

1. Nearly one-half (46%) of teens say that they typically go out with friends on school nights, while only 14% of parents say that their teens do so.
 2. Once out, 53% of teens come home between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. and 15% come home later.
 3. The later teens stay out, the more likely they are to use alcohol or other drugs—even among older teens. Nearly one-third (29%) of those who come home between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. and 50% of those who come home after 10:00 p.m. say there's alcohol or drug use among the kids they are with.
- Our next issue will address the other steps.