

## Second Annual Midwest Conference To Be Held Aug. 24-26 In Kansas City

Make plans now to attend the 2005 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse Aug. 24-26 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City. This second annual conference will feature national experts in the fields of problem gambling and substance abuse, as well as regional experts from throughout the Midwest, who will be sharing their best methods and practices.

Although planning is still underway, Melissa Stephens, problem gambling administrator with the Missouri Gaming Commission, said the Midwest Consortium on Problem Gambling, which is planning the conference, is working to ensure the conference will include workshops and general sessions that will benefit a wide range of individuals.

"We're working on setting up workshops that will focus on clinical applications, research, public policy, the gaming industry, gaming regulation and special populations," Stephens said. "We're very excited about the conference this year, and we're again pleased to be able to host it in Kansas

City. Hosting the conference gives Missouri residents and professionals the opportunity to attend a first-rate conference just a short drive from their homes."



Deborah Haskins of Loyola College in Maryland participates in a panel discussion during the 2004 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling & Substance Abuse.

Hosted by the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, the conference is also being sponsored by organizations throughout the four-state region – Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

Stephens said the conference planning committee is working on selecting the best workshops, and although the deadline for the call for presenters has past, there is still time to apply to present a poster presentation and set up an exhibit. Application deadline for poster presentations and exhibits is June 30.

Registration and additional conference information will be available soon on the conference Web site at: [www.888betsoff.com/links/midwest\\_conference.shtm](http://www.888betsoff.com/links/midwest_conference.shtm).

Bets Off Bulletin subscribers will receive an e-mail notification when registration information becomes available on the Web site.

## Web Site Makes Finding Area Counselors Easy

Certified compulsive gambling counselors (CCGC) are now on-line. The complete list of Missouri's CCGCs have been placed on the Alliance's Web site at [www.888BETSOFF.org](http://www.888BETSOFF.org).

"The list of the counselors offering services through the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse has been on the site all along, but the list now includes all the certified counselors who wanted to be on the list," said Shelly Perez, responsible gaming coordinator for the Missouri Lottery and editor of the Web site.

Perez said the list is updated as she

receives changes from the Missouri Department of Mental Health.

According to Perez, the list is now easier to use, too.

"We organized the Web page with links to each county's list," she said. "Visitors to the Web site just need to click on their county or a county near them to find a list of the certified compulsive gambling counselors in that county.

"We hope the revisions to the list will make finding counselors easier for problem gamblers and their family members," she continued. "That's our ultimate goal."

## Programs, Events, Participation On The Increase

This is an exciting time for the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling as our programs continue to grow, and we are serving more people than ever before. This is good news when put into perspective. It does not mean that there are more problem gamblers. The consensus of prevalence studies has given us a very good estimate of the number of problem gamblers. The fact that we are serving more people means that a higher percentage of the problem gambling population is getting help. Presumably, this also means that a higher percentage of problem gambling population is on its way to recovery. Thank you to all our member agencies, which are working hard to improve their programs, increase awareness of problem gambling issues and improve access to programs for problem gamblers and their families.

The Alliance has also learned that it is the successful bidder for the National Council on Problem Gambling's (NCPG) 2007 convention. NCPG officials will be visiting Missouri within the next few months to determine whether to choose Kansas City or St. Louis as the venue for the event. This is a major achievement for the Alliance, giving it a chance to display Missouri's innovations in problem gambling treatment and prevention. It is an opportunity that comes with responsibility. Thus, we will be depending in all our member agencies, partners and supporters to make significant contributions to make it the best NCPG convention ever! If you would like to become involved in the planning for this event, please contact Shelly Perez at (573) 526-7467 or Melissa Stephens at (573) 522-1373.

Finally, it is important to recognize the special efforts of Kami Delameter, public affairs assistant for the Missouri Lottery, for her outstanding efforts in organizing the bid for the NCPG conference. Thank you, Kami!

### Number Of Calls To 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633)

	2004	2005
January	280	197
February	369	217
March	350	239
April	343	226

## Upcoming Alliance Events

### May 16

Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling meeting; contact Melissa Stephens at (573) 522-1373 for details.

### May 18-20

Missouri Spring Training Institute in Osage Beach

### June 23-25

National Council on Problem Gambling 19th Annual Conference on Prevention, Research and Treatment of Problem Gambling in New Orleans, La. For more details, visit [www.ncpgambling.org/events/view.asp?id=50037365](http://www.ncpgambling.org/events/view.asp?id=50037365)

### August

Responsible Gaming Education Month

### Aug. 24-26

Second Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling & Substance Abuse in Kansas City. For more details, visit: [www.888betsoff.com/links/midwest\\_conference.shtm](http://www.888betsoff.com/links/midwest_conference.shtm)

## Paycheck Inserts Feature Problem Gambling Information

Missouri state employees received an insert in their paycheck envelopes in March as part of Missouri's participation in National Problem Gambling Awareness Week. The paycheck insert included the help line number – 1-888-BETSOFF, the warning signs and risk factors of addiction and self-help quiz questions.

A second version of the paycheck inserts are planned for the month of August during Responsible Gaming Education Month.

Several additional requests for the inserts, which are 8 inches by 3.5 inches, have been received from various other businesses. If you would like a small supply of these inserts to provide to employees, customers, clients or to members of an organization, please contact Melissa Stephens at the Missouri Gaming Commission at (573) 522-1373.

**The one number that is always on your side.**

**1-888-BETSOFF**

Call for **free** help if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.

Ask yourself the following questions to see if your gambling may be a problem:

1. Have you often gambled longer than you had planned?
2. Have you often gambled until your last dollar was gone?
3. Has gambling ever made your home life unhappy?
4. Do you ever lie to cover up your gambling activity?
5. Do you become restless or irritable when trying to cut back or stop gambling?
6. Have you ever broken the law or considered breaking the law to finance your gambling?
7. Do you rely on others for financial help and/or to finance your gambling?
8. Has your gambling ever caused you to be careless of the welfare of yourself or your family?
9. Do you gamble to escape problems or to feel better?
10. Have you ever gambled to get money with which to pay bills or otherwise solve financial difficulties?
11. After losing, have you ever gambled in attempt to win it back?
12. Have you ever considered self-destruction or suicide as a result of your gambling?

If you or someone you know answers "Yes" to any of these questions, call Missouri's problem gambling help-line, 1-888-BETSOFF (1-888-238-7633). The call is toll free and confidential.

Missouri offers free treatment services for problem gamblers and their family members.

Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse • Missouri Lottery • Missouri Gaming Commission

## Two New Representatives Take Port Authority Seat On Alliance

Welcome Joanne Collins and Steve Rinne to the Alliance! Collins and Rinne recently were named as Alliance representatives for the Port Authority of Kansas City, a voting member of the Alliance.



Joanne Collins

Collins serves on the board of commissioners of the Port Authority of Kansas City. Appointed by Mayor Kay Barnes, she chairs the Port Authority's Problem Gaming Committee. She is a full-time volunteer and a member of more than 40 not-for-profit organizations, serving on 20 boards of directors.

She holds presidential, gubernatorial, regional, county and local appointments. She served on the Kansas City Council for 17 years, was a candidate for U.S. Congress, and seconded the presidential nomination for George H. Bush. She has worked in the fields of banking, insurance, real estate sales, postal services and community building. She actively recruits women and minorities for public office and encourages young people to serve as volunteers.

She has been a member of St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church for more than 65 years. She travels frequently for enrichment and enjoyment. She is

widowed and has two children, three stepchildren and 11 grandchildren.

Rinne recently joined the Port Authority of Kansas City as a business development officer, where he serves as staff liaison to the Port Authority's Problem Gaming Committee. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla and a master's degree in public administration from UMKC.



Steve Rinne

He is a registered professional engineer and worked for 22 years as an industrial loss prevention engineer in St. Louis, Little Rock and Kansas City.

Before joining the Port Authority, he worked with community projects concerning neighborhood development, affordable housing issues and improving services for the homeless population.

He is a native of Marshall and has lived in Kansas City since 1993. He serves as president of the Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry Council and does volunteer work with the MLM Christmas Store, Operation Breakthrough and Immanuel Lutheran Church. Rinne and his wife, Barbara Mueth, share their Martin City home with their two cats.

## Outstanding Contributor Award Nominations Being Accepted

Do you know of someone who goes above the call of duty to assist problem gamblers and their family members or is working hard to build awareness of problem gambling issues in Missouri? If so, then recommend that person or people for Missouri's Outstanding Contributor Award.

This statewide award will be presented to an individual who has demonstrated superior achievement in addressing issues of problem and pathological gambling in Missouri. The deadline for nominations is June 17.

The award's first recipient was Dan Smith, a counselor with Missouri Valley ADP in St. Louis, who received the award for his outstanding work in recruiting and retaining a large problem gambling client-case load. Kim Dude received the award in 2004 for establishing a problem gambling prevention program at Missouri's colleges and universities throughout the state.

"This award was created to provide much-deserved recognition for individuals or groups who work hard to promote problem gambling prevention and treatment in Missouri," said Kevin Mullally, chairman of the Alliance and executive director of

the Missouri Gaming Commission.

"We know there are many individuals worthy of receiving this award," Mullally continued. "This is a small way we can recognize some of the great work with problem gambling that is going on in Missouri."



Kim Dude, the 2004 recipient

The Outstanding Contributor Award will be presented to an individual, group, organization or company outside of the Missouri Alliance voting membership that has demonstrated superior achievement in addressing issues of problem and pathological gambling in Missouri.

The nomination form can be found at [www.888betsoff.com](http://www.888betsoff.com). The deadline for award nominations is June 17.

Nominations can be faxed or e-mailed to Shelly Perez, responsible gaming program coordinator for the Missouri Lottery at [perezs@molottery.com](mailto:perezs@molottery.com) or by fax at (573) 751-5215.

The award recipient will be selected from all of the nominations received by the Alliance. All nominations will be confidential.

The recipient of the award will be announced at the Alliance's Responsible Gaming Education Month events in August.

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## Membership Is Key To A Strong Alliance

Keep informed about what's happening with problem gambling in Missouri and help develop Alliance programs by becoming a participating member of the Alliance.

Any individual or organization interested in promoting and furthering the Alliance's mission to educate Missouri residents on the potential characteristics and dangers of problem and compulsive gambling and promoting the availability of treatment can join the Missouri Alliance as a participating member.

Participating members are encouraged to:

- **Participate in Alliance meetings and events;**
- **Aid in the planning of awareness events; and**
- **Provide input to further expand the Alliance's programs.**

All memberships into the Alliance are free. For more information about becoming a participating member or to join, visit the Alliance's Web site at [www.888BETSOFF.com](http://www.888BETSOFF.com) or call (573) 522-1373.

Alliance news and event schedules are available on the Web at:

**[www.888betsoff.com](http://www.888betsoff.com)**

## Want To Receive The Bulletin?

In an attempt to streamline costs, the *Betsoff Bulletin* will be available through the Alliance's Web site, [www.888betsoff.com](http://www.888betsoff.com). We are building an e-mail list of individuals who are interested in receiving notification when a new issue is available at the Web site, so please forward your e-mail address to: [perezs@molottery.com](mailto:perezs@molottery.com). If you would prefer to receive a free printed copy of the *Bulletin* through the regular mail service, please let us know by calling (573) 526-7467.

If you received notification by e-mail about this issue, you're already on our e-mail list, but remember to send us updates on any e-mail address changes. In addition, please feel free to forward the link for the newsletter to anyone else who may be interested in reading it.

Thank you for your interest in the *Bulletin*.

## Need A Speaker?

The Alliance provides 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 presentation, please call (573) 526-7467 or (573) 522-1373. All presentations are free of charge.



Missouri Department  
of Mental Health



Missouri Council on  
Problem Gambling  
Concerns



Missouri Gaming  
Commission



Missouri Lottery



Missouri Riverboat  
Gaming Association



Port Authority of  
Kansas City, MO

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 free treatment.