

Abelt Receives First WCPG Nancy Baker Award *Annual awards presented at Statewide Problem Gambling Conference*

For Immediate Release

April 1, 2014

(Green Bay, WI) – The [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](http://www.wisconsinproblemgambling.org) honored Diana Abelt of Franksville during the 15th Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference.

Abelt received the Nancy Baker Award, named for the long-time WCPG board member and supporter who died last summer. The award honors Abelt for her dedication, outstanding contributions and long-term support of problem gamblers and the WCPG, including her work on the WCPG board of directors and as a call responder for the Problem Gambling Helpline.

“Diana gives her heart and soul in helping in any way she can,” said Rose Gruber, WCPG Executive Director. “Her passion for helping compulsive gambling goes well beyond what she does on the Helpline. It’s an honor to present her the first Nancy Baker Award, which recognizes a long-time friend of the Council.”

Other awards presented by the WCPG include:

- **Leadership Award – Robert McGuigan, Madison.** Robert, who lost his son because of his son’s gambling addiction, has spent years talking to middle and high school students, prison inmates and others about the impact of a gambling addiction.
- **Outstanding Volunteer Award – Andrea Rathsack, Little Chute.** Andrea gives freely of her time and energy to share her personal story so that others may learn about problem gambling.
- **Special Recognition Award – Pat Ustianowski, Lac du Flambeau.** Pat has been a supporter of the council for many years, including a sponsorship of the WCPG Phase 1 & 2 training in Lac du Flambeau.
- **Special Recognition Award – Susan Hengst, Wind Lake.** Susan has been a member of the WCPG board of directors for several years, is a call responder and active volunteer at the annual statewide conference.

The WCPG awards are presented to those who have gone above and beyond in helping the Council achieve its mission of providing resources, public awareness and education on problem and pathological gambling disorders.

“We are grateful for all of the support we receive,” Gruber added. “As a small, nonprofit organization, we would not be able to accomplish everything we do without the important help we get from these community-minded award winners. Our volunteers and supporters do so much to help with our success.”

More than 125 people attended the recent conference in the Wisconsin Dells. Gruber also announced that the 16th annual conference will take place March 12-13, 2015 at the [Osthoff Resort](#) in Elkhart Lake.

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*The **Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling** is funded by a public awareness grant from the State of Wisconsin and additional funding from donors, including Wisconsin Native American Tribes. The Council operates a 24-hour Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, distributes informational brochures, organizes an annual statewide conference, makes presentations on problem gambling and conducts training sessions for treatment providers interested in the special requirements for working with compulsive gamblers and their families.*

For more information, visit [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#) or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 for confidential help.

Media Contact:

Scott Stein

Leonard & Finco Public Relations

(920) 965-7750

sstein@LFpublicrelations.com