



## ***Problem Gambling Takes Center Stage at Statewide Conference*** 16<sup>th</sup> WCPG conference set for Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake

For most Wisconsinites gambling is a fun form of entertainment. But for a segment of the population, gambling is an addiction that has an impact on the gambler, as well as his or her family, friends and even the gambler's place of work.

As part of its ongoing work to increase awareness of problem and compulsive gambling, the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#) (WCPG) is hosting the **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference**. This year's event will take place **March 12-13, 2014** at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake.

The conference falls during Problem Gambling Awareness Month with the theme, "Building the Future Through Awareness, Education & Prevention." The focus will be on the impact of problem gambling on individuals, families, friends, employers, co-workers and the community.

"The statewide conference is a way to bring together a wide range of people who are interested in gambling addictions for one reason or another," said Rose Gruber, WCPG Executive Director. "We have once again been able to schedule an impressive list of guest speakers who are noted experts in the field of problem gambling."

Conference speakers will cover a variety of topics during the two-day conference, including:

- Gambling and the Millennial Generation
- Living with a Problem Gambler
- Problem Gambling and Special Populations
- Gray Areas of Gambling Disorder
- And other important topics

"In Wisconsin, and across much of the United States, gambling has become an accepted form of entertainment," Gruber said. "Almost every state now has some form or forms of legalized gambling. It's important to provide resources and services for those who find that gambling has become an addiction."

The annual conference is open to anyone interested in problem or compulsive gambling. The goal is to provide information and discussion for a wide range of people, including those active

in treating, preventing or researching problem gambling, as well as criminal justice personnel, government officials, tribal leaders, educators, clergy, gaming industry personnel, human resource and employee assistance professionals, compulsive gamblers and their family members, and others.

Two pre-conference workshops are also scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Donna Riemer will lead the workshop “You Cannot Give What You Do Not Have: What’s In Your Tool Box?” Meanwhile, Jerry Bauerkemper will conduct “Problem Gambling and Supervision: Insuring More Successful Outcomes with Clients.”

More information on the conference, including a downloadable conference brochure, is available on the WCPG website at [www.wi-problemgamblers.org](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org).

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***If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 or Live Chat through the WCPG website at [www.wi-problemgamblers.org](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org).***

*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 the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](http://www.wisconsin-council-on-problem-gambling.org) website, visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling) or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>.*

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