

## Press Release

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# WVA&LVLOA Donates Funds, Support to WVCPG during National Problem Gambling Awareness Week (March 6 – 12, 2005)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Charleston, WV) – March 7, 2005 – Furthering efforts to reinforce their commitment to responsible gaming and their recently adopted “Code of Conduct”, the West Virginia Amusement & Limited Video Lottery Operators Association donated \$500 to the WV Council on Problem Gambling. The Association is made up of video lottery operators and retailers through the state whose revenue is used for the primary funding of PROMISE scholarships and towards senior, state parks, education, and economic development programs for West Virginia as well as funding for the Problem Gamblers Help Network of WV to counsel and expand services to those with gambling addiction.

The money, matched equally with a donation from the Problem Gamblers Help Network of WV, directed by Mia Moran-Cooper, is being used to purchase and supply the libraries in 10 West Virginia counties with resource materials for problem gamblers. Each following year, as funds become available, additional libraries will receive the materials to insure more widespread availability.

“We are pleased to partner with the WVCPG to work together and provide helpful information to these libraries during National Problem Gamblers Awareness Week, March 6 through 12, stated Patricia Pope, Executive Director of the WVA&LVLOA. Through this partnership, we have the opportunity to help spread awareness of gambling addiction and assistance across the state.” Both Pope and Moran-Cooper are members of the WVCPG.

The materials, which include an informational video, two family resource books, a financial guidance workbook, a book called *Loosing Your Shirt* by Mary Hineman and a booklet published by the national council called *Financial Strategies for the Loved One’s of Problem Gamblers*, will be presented to the Wood, Kanawha, Ohio, Monongalia, Jefferson, Hancock, Harrison, Pleasants, Berkeley, and Putnam County libraries. Each book will contain a bookplate stating the materials are made available through the cooperative funding provided by the Association and the Problem Gamblers Help Network of WV.

The resource packets, discreetly accessible by a family affected by a problem gambler, will be presented by board members from both the WVCPG and the WVA&LVLOA to the libraries.

Anyone wishing to contact the WV Council on Problem Gambling for more information may contact Virginia Shelhammer, council president, at 304.242.8095.

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