



November 2007

Our trip to D.C. went well. Upon arrival, a shuttle bus took us to the Sheridan Inn where the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling (NCALG) Conference was also held. On the shuttle were several others arriving for the conference which resulted in a very enjoyable ride. Among them was Ken Darnell who you may recall spoke at the original anti-reservation/casino meeting held at Lynwood URC back in 2004. (The NCALG website is at www.ncalg.org).

On Friday morning, we visited the office of Sen. Richard Durbin and left a copy of eight resolutions adopted by cities surrounding Lynwood against the HoChunk reservation/casino proposal along with a map highlighting where these cities were located.

As we walked to our meeting with Mr. George Skibine of the BIA, we passed the Archives of the United States building which was inscribed as follows: "THE HERITAGE OF THE PAST IS THE SEED THAT BRINGS FORTH THE HARVEST OF THE FUTURE." We jotted this down as a reminder for us to leave a similar heritage for future generations to harvest wholesome, productive activities rather than ones based on greed and the deceitfulness of gambling.

We met Mr. George Skibine and submitted our research/report compiled by Mr. James Lynch with a cover letter including questions regarding the HoChunk land-to-trust application. We also submitted the eight above mentioned resolutions. Mr. Skibine talked with us for over an hour. He indicated that under the present administration of President Bush no action will take place by the Department of the Interior on off-site reservation land applications by any tribe, including the HoChunks. He said legislation regarding reservations will be on hold until after the upcoming election and the new administration is in place.

We returned to the NCALG Conference in time to hear Professor John Kindt of the University of Illinois. The conference, hosted by the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, was chaired by Diane Berlin of CasinoFreePA (www.CasinoFreePA.org). We heard more speakers on topics such as the deceitful designs of slot machines and methods other countries are using to help people severely addicted to gambling.

At 8:00AM on Saturday, the NCALG Conference began. We heard over ten speakers during the course of the day and were privileged to hear Mr. James P. Lynch on the subject, "Confronting Indian Gaming: An Overview of the Fundamentals and its Current Trends." During the breaks we gave a copy of the above mentioned eight resolutions to Mr. Lynch and to Anita Bedell of Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems (ILCAAAP) or (www.ILCAAAP.org). The Conference was a clear reminder of how forcefully gambling is being promoted in Illinois and throughout the U.S. and worldwide. Thankfully, we heard from speakers representing people from many parts of the U.S. and the world opposing the destructive influences of gambling with positive goals.

One important reminder mentioned at the NCALG Conference is the important place of our young people. With their computer skills, e-mail networks, and blogs they are very effective at mobilizing people and contacting elected officials when necessary. As they will be the ones to face the devastating effects of gambling in the future, we need to encourage them to voice their opposition now!

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The following websites were also obtained at the Conference for those who can access the internet.

For information on the exposing the dark side of gambling visit www.casinowatch.org, an organization based in Missouri, and you will find references to The National Council on Problem Gambling found in Washington D.C., a resolution about gambling by the American Medical Association, and much more.

There is a series of 60-second commentaries that stimulate questions on gambling and its expansion called "The Gambling Minute". It is interesting and informative. The Gambling Minute is suited as a "public service announcement" for radio and may be downloaded and broadcasted without charge at www.haroldhendrick.com/content/blogcategory/3/6/. Radio stations are encouraged to provide this service to their listeners.

Visit www.opensecrets.org and type in gambling in the search box and your political donations summaries for the Casinos/Gambling industry and much more.

We saw a brochure promoting a 2008 International Gambling Conference this coming February sponsored by The Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand. Visit www.pgfnz.co.nz/ for more information.

As you are know, many Illinois politicians are presently promoting expansion of gambling in Illinois to obtain needed revenue which we view to be lazy, irresponsible and unproductive. We agree with Tom Grey who is quoted as saying "America should be ashamed of itself that it has let gambling have a free ride, and I mean the political and the religious establishment".

Of particular concern in our area is the push for a casino in the southern suburbs of Chicago. John Stob of SSCAGE recently informed us a site is being recommended in Country Club Hills near 167th and Pulaski. (Visit www.gamblingexposed.org for additional information) We, at C4C, have been in consistent opposition to the HoChunk casino for a host of reasons, one of which is the attraction of this project to our youth. How can we not oppose a state licensed proposal to locate a casino in Country Club Hills located near a senior assisted living complex and within walking distance of a high school? What kind of message will these types of actions send to our children and grandchildren? Enclosed is a flyer from SSCAGE with more information.

As Thanksgiving Day is around the corner and as we count our many blessings let us especially be thankful to God. Our fight against a reservation/casino in our community has taken more effort than first expected but has made us aware of so many other groups around the world who have organized to oppose similar "economic developments" based on what is the economically unsound policy and social disaster known as gambling. C4C has a remaining debt outstanding to the aforementioned Mr. Lynch for his very important and substantial work defining the lack of aboriginal rights of the Ho-Chunk Nation to the land in Lynwood. We know many requests come for your consideration at this time, and we would respectfully request that you keep C4C in mind, as every dollar counts toward paying our debt to Mr. Lynch.

Your continued support and prayers are a great encouragement. Let us know of others who may like to be included on our mailing list. We do our best to keep you informed via newsletters, emails and our website (www.citizens4community.org).

We wish you a blessed Thanksgiving Day.

The C4C Executive Committee

PEACEFUL PROTEST
on Saturday, November 17, 2007, 10:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
sponsored by South Suburban Coalition Against Gambling Expansion

WHO IS INVITED

Residents of Country Club Hills and all volunteers, families and friends who are opposed to a casino in the South Suburbs and to gambling expansion in Illinois!

ARRIVAL

Please park in the east parking lot across the street from City Hall, Country Club Hills, 4200 W. 183rd Street. If lot is full, use north parking lot. Please arrive no later than 10:45 a.m. for final instructions. Be prepared to be flexible with these details, if necessary.

WHERE TO STAND

We will be standing on the public walkway in front of the City of Country Club Hills sign and will form a line stretching east to the intersection of 183rd Street and Pulaski. Additional participants can stand on opposite corners of this intersection on public sidewalks. **PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS OR STREETS!** Please stand approx. 20' apart from each other. This will make our protest line appear longer and will allow time for motorists to read our signs clearly as they pass.

POSTERS AND SLOGANS

We ask each participant to prepare and bring his/her own poster. We recommend a 20" x 30" x ¼" foam board (purchase from an office supply store). A small number of posters will be available if you were unable to make your own. If you borrow a sign, please return it to us after the protest. Please avoid long phrases. Use your own creativity....colored markers, designs, symbols, etc

SOME SUGGESTIONS:

- * NO South Suburban Casino!
- * Country Club Hills Casino – NO DICE!
- * Casinos prey on the elderly
- * Casinos Increase Bankruptcy
- * Casinos Increase Crime
- * Gambling impact – 50 mile radius
- * Citizens Demand a Public Hearing
 - * We Demand a Referendum!
- * Gambling Destroys Families
- * No more gambling in South Suburbs!
 - * Casinos Increase Political Corruption
 - * Gambling Causes Addictions

RULES OF CONDUCT

No yelling, blocking of traffic, or retaliatory shouts at motorists. If someone honks his horn in support, smile back and give a friendly wave. Anyone who intentionally breaks the law will not be considered part of this group.

PURPOSE OF PROTEST AND MEDIA TALKING POINTS

- * Citizens wish to raise public awareness to local & state legislators that there IS OPPOSITION to a south suburban casino.
- * Citizens should have the right to vote on gambling issues by way of referendum prior to the introduction of a casino!
- * Citizens demand a public hearing. They have been left in the dark and out of any discussions.
- * The prevalence of a gambling facility within 50 miles roughly doubles the prevalence of problem and pathological gamblers. (National Gambling Impact Study Commission, Final Report, June, 1999)
- * National Gambling Impact Study Commission recommends a moratorium on gambling expansion.

Newspapers, television, and radio stations will be notified of this event. Please be prepared to share personal concerns about a CCH casino with reporters.