



**When It's No Longer a Game,
There Is Help!
Call or Text 1-800-GAMBLER**

Media Advisory

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NOTE TO EDITORS: *Please contact KYCPG Executive Director Mike Stone for further information.*

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For information on problem gambling awareness and self-assessment, please visit www.kygamblinghelp.org.

For more information on KYCPG or on problem gambling issues, visit www.kycpg.org.

Kentucky Lottery's Chip Polston to Receive Gleason Award

Chip Polston, senior vice president of communications, public relations and social responsibility for the Kentucky Lottery, will be the second juried recipient of the Arch L. Gleason Award for Responsible Gambling Leadership presented by the Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling (KYCPG).

Polston's nomination for the Gleason Award noted he wrote the first responsible gambling standards for the lottery industry in the United States. He facilitated creation of the lottery industry's first responsible gambling verification program by the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) and the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL) and served six years as the North American representative on the World Lottery Association's Responsible Gaming Workgroup. Polston also serves as a member of the NCPG Board of Directors.

When Kentucky launched internet lottery sales in 2016, Polston helped ensure responsible gambling measures were in place on the platform, which have been cited as a best-practices model. He has also advised numerous other lotteries on how to best sell via the internet in the most responsible manner possible. "Chip works tirelessly to ensure that the Kentucky Lottery provides our product in the most responsible manner," the nomination stressed.

Lottery President and CEO Thomas Delacenserie supported the nomination, noting Polston was instrumental in helping the Kentucky Lottery achieve all three industry standards for responsible gaming. The Kentucky Lottery was the first – and one of only two organizations – to have achieved that standard.

(more)

Polston

First Add

“He is one of the most sincere, genuine and caring people I have ever met,” wrote NCPG Past-President Marlene Warner, Executive Director, Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling. “I greatly appreciate his tremendous empathy

and compassion for people directly impacted by problem gambling, both the individuals and their family members.”

Arch Gleason, for whom the award is named, was the long-time president and CEO of the Kentucky Lottery. He was one of the first lottery directors in North America to recognize the need to help players struggling with gambling problems. “For many years, problem gambling was the elephant in the room for gaming operations – no one wanted to talk about it, let alone acknowledge it,” Michael R. Stone, KYCPG Executive Director, said.

Through Gleason’s actions, the issue came to the forefront of the industry not just in a state and national venue, but across the world as well. As the 23-year president and CEO of the Kentucky Lottery Corporation, Gleason worked to establish the KYCPG, the state’s National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) affiliate. He championed many initiatives for the cause through NASPL during his tenure. Gleason passed away in July 2016.

Gleason’s crowning achievement in the field was his work to establish the World Lottery Association’s responsible gambling certification program during his term as the group’s president. This became the first-ever responsible gambling program implemented on a global basis, taking the cause into corners of the globe that had never previously addressed the issue.

The award will be presented at the 23rd Annual KYCPG Educational and Awareness Conference at the Clarion Hotel, Lexington, Jan. 30-31, 2020. Polston will deliver an acceptance address following the presentation at the Awards Luncheon on Friday, Jan. 31, 2020. The presentation will highlight a conference focusing on the future of gambling with presentations by John Grant, MD, on the brain and gambling, and experts on E-gambling and E-gaming. For information on the conference, please e-mail kmstone1951@gmail.com. Conference details and registration information will be available on the KYCPG website, www.kycpg.org, after Nov. 1, 2019.

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The Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to increase awareness of problem gambling, promote prevention and research, and advocate for the availability of treatment. KYCPG is supported by memberships and donations. Corporate members include Churchill Downs, Ellis Park, Keeneland Race Course, Kentucky Downs, The Red Mile, Turfway Park, The Kentucky Lottery Corporation, IGT, KRM Wagering, Belterra Casino Resort, Harrah’s Metropolis Casino, Hollywood Casino Hotel, Horseshoe Casino of Southern Indiana, and Tropicana Casino.

Members of the Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling Board of Directors are President Herbert (Bud) Newman, Psy.D, Louisville; Secretary Sara Westerman, Crestwood; Treasurer Mike Townsend, Crestwood; Professional Adviser Curtis L. Barrett, Ph.D., Prospect; Director of Education RonSonLyn Clark, Psy.D., Owensboro; NCPG Representative Chip Polston, Louisville; John Arnett, Florence; Jim Blackerby, Lexington; Dennis Boyd, Louisville; Scott Hunt, Ph.D., Richmond; Susan Jacobson, Petersburg; Patrick Malarkey, Louisville; Tami May, Lexington; and Alfred Perkins, Louisville.

When It's No Longer Fun – There Is Help.

If you or someone you know thinks there is a gambling problem, please call or text 1-800-GAMBLER.