



# MICAP RECAP

*Volume 109, Number 3 - June 2014*

**A Publication of the Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems  
an American Alcohol and Drug Information Foundation Entity**

## AADIF/MICAP

(517) 999-0013  
[info@micap.org](mailto:info@micap.org)

### Officers:

President:

Mrs. Patricia A. Cook  
Lansing, MI

Vice President:

Vernon K. Smith, Ph.D.  
Okemos, MI

Treasurer:

Rev. William J. Amundsen  
Lansing, MI

Secretary:

Mr. Richard Braun  
Allen Park, MI

### Board of Directors:

Rev. Robert Kersten  
Lansing, MI

The Rev. George Lewis  
Howell, MI

Rev. John L. Moore  
Portage, MI

Mr. Mike Tobias  
Perry, MI

Dear Friends of MICAP,

In our MICAP-RECAP for April, 2014, Mike Tobias, one of our Board Members wrote an article entitled "One Man's Recovery." It is Mike's own story about his journey to recovery. In that article he reminded us that while drinking by high school students has been substantially reduced, we still have a long way to go. And besides under-age drinking, there is still the huge cost of abusive adult drinking which takes its toll of dollars and human misery each year.

Mike suggested a Web-Site in his article: This letter seeks to expand on that suggestion and offers a brief overview of this free resource. It is in the Public Domain, but those who provide it request citation when using its information. See footnote. <sup>1</sup>

Using panels of experts, this Web-Site sifts through thousands of pages of studies and provides recommendations of the interventions that reduce excessive alcohol consumption. These recommended interventions or strategies are consistent with what MICAP has advocated for years and include the following:

- Dram Shop Liability (Liability for "on-premise" [bar, restaurant, etc.] establishments)
- Electronic Screening and Brief Intervention
- Increasing Alcohol Taxes (Remember: Alcohol Taxes Save Lives!)
- Maintaining Limits on Days of Sale
- Maintaining Limits on Hours of Sale
- Recommends against the Privatization of retail Alcohol Sales (Privatization of Alcohol Sales increases personal consumption)
- Regulation of Alcohol Outlet Density
- Enhanced Enforcement of Laws Prohibiting Sales to Minors

If you are working in your community to reduce under-age and/or abusive drinking; or, if you are working with your Church, Temple, Civic Club, or Church and Society group, this Web-Site is for you. It lists resources, brief summaries of the literature, supporting materials and promotional materials.

I hope this will provide you with information and materials so you can lead your people toward a better social policy on beverage alcohol in your community. With the help of this Web-Site, you can be a trail-blazer in your own village, city, township, or County.

Sincerely,

Rev. W. J. (Bill) Amundsen, Treasurer  
Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems (MICAP)

<sup>1</sup> Guide to Community Preventive Services. Preventing Excessive alcohol Consumption: <[www.thecommunityguide.org/Alcohol](http://www.thecommunityguide.org/Alcohol)>

# **LANSING'S HOPE SPORTS COMPLEX KNOWS "ITS HARD TO REFUSE TO SAY YES TO BEVERAGE ALCOHOL"**

**by Rev. W. J. (Bill) Amundsen, Treasurer  
Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems**

From a visit to a friend's home, to a dinner in a restaurant, to a late-night visit with a friend, it is difficult to say "NO!" to an offer of a glass, or can, or bottle, or shot, or mixed drink of beverage alcohol. Our culture has been changed and Big Alcohol has helped us to do it.

And, "YES," I am grateful the days are nearly gone when a person is attacked and labeled a "sinner" if he or she so much as lets a drop of beverage alcohol pass his or her lips.

Nor should the taxes on beverage alcohol be labeled a "sin tax." Study after study affirms that alcohol taxes save lives. Besides paying for some of the bad consequences of underage and abusive drinking, alcohol taxes help cut the average consumption per person as well as reduce underage drinking. Alcohol taxes are woefully low, and they need to be increased for all of the above reasons. Yes, increasing alcohol taxes really does help us...and helps save lives!

The operators of the Lansing Hope Sports Complex on Aurelius Road are hoping that many persons visiting that facility in the near future will say "YES" after their Liquor License gets approved by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. They tell us that the availability of beverage alcohol will nearly double their food sales, make

more money for the Complex, (possibly for themselves, too?) so they can improve and enlarge the complex, etc.,.

READER, PLEASE NOTE: MICAP is a temperance organization, not a prohibition organization. So our primary goals are to educate, to prevent underage and abusive drinking, and to help forge a better beverage alcohol social policy for the State of Michigan. We are not against drinking, per se.

But the process by which the Hope Sports Complex is receiving its Liquor License leaves me with many questions. Some of them follow:

Why did Councilwoman Carol Woods' words fall on deaf ears when she reminded the other Council Members that beverage alcohol was never mentioned by the present operators a year ago when they were negotiating a lease for the same facility?

Why have we only heard from one (1) Council Member about adult modeling for our children and youth when, presently, this is primarily a youth sport complex?

Does it seem strange to you that no one has mentioned the ramifications of adults bringing their children/youth to participate in sports at the complex, enjoying a beer or two, or three while their child/youth is prac-

ting or vying against another team, and then driving them home again?

The Mayor of the City of Lansing has been publicly encouraging (twice or three times) the City Council Members to approve this request. What is his stake in this?

The Lansing State Journal has run at least two editorials encouraging the City Council to approve the request. What is their stake in this?

What about the person or persons in our society whose gene-pool conspires to make them addicts to beverage alcohol in our no-holds-barred alcohol society? Or their encouragement to drink warps that gene-pool to help them become alcoholics? Or warps their brains with underage drinking?

What about those restaurants and sports establishments which do not sell beverage alcohol? Are we to believe their "in-the-black" bottom lines are false?

And what about those establishments which fail and which only sell beverage alcohol in its many forms? Are we still to believe that beverage alcohol is the panacea for making money?

There is no doubt in my mind that businesses need to show a profit at year's end.

And the Hope Sports Complex needs to do the same. But at what long-term expenses for the city? The State? The Community?

Yes, it is good that we aren't calling taxes on Beverage Alcohol "sin taxes." But not labeling something a sin does not mean that we may close our eyes or put our head in the sand. It means we must grow up and make adult decisions, not the least of which is when to say "YES" and when to say "NO" to beverage alcohol. MICAP encourages the State of Michigan and local communities to have a conversation around what is an appropriate venue to serve alcohol. MICAP believes that there are already enough alcohol outlets in our state. Michigan doesn't need more outlets, and certainly not at a youth soccer complex!

Dear Reader: The above is not only about the Hope Sports Complex on Aurelius Road in Lansing, Michigan. It is about any business anywhere that begins by just getting a lease, and later switches and asks for approval to sell beverage alcohol where many minors will be present and where Mayors and Newspaper Editors apply the pressure and City Fathers and Mothers cave to the pressure, and no citizens speak up. In fact, that situation may already be at your community's doors, or it may come tomorrow, or the next day.

## News from Around Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (June 3, 2014) — B.O.B. owner Greg Gilmore appealed the liquor license suspension his establishment faced, and lost. The initial three-day suspension has now been lengthened to 10 days by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC). That's the maximum penalty. This took place in a hearing on Tuesday, June 3, 2014. MLCC spokesperson Andrea Miller said an establishment that appeals a ruling runs the risk of hav-

ing it amended (for better or worse) by the commission. She said the suspension will take place June 10 to June 19, 2014. Also, there is another \$300 fine for allowing an intoxicated person to loiter. Originally, the B.O.B. was not found guilty of this charge. Miller said that's the maximum fine for the 'loitering charge.' In the original ruling, the business had already been fined \$600 for over-serving alcohol and serving to an intoxicated person.



# **MICAP/AADIF**

Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems  
American Alcohol and Drug Information Foundation  
Office address: 4433 Saginaw St., Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48917  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 10212, Lansing, MI 48901

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT NO. 1624



## **Your Gifts Make a Difference**

MICAP is a small non-profit organization with a mission to provide information about the consequences of alcohol abuse, and to promote public policies that address these issues. It is a big task, sometimes in the face of opposing views, and for this work MICAP depends 100% on gifts from people like you. There are no fund-raisers or other

revenues, just gifts and bequests, and an occasional modest grant for a specific purpose. So, your gift truly makes a difference in this important work. Thank you.

A gift to MICAP (a 501(c)(3) organization) is 100% tax deductible to the extent allowed by the tax code.