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**NEWS RELEASE**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Contact Kara Lee Ford at 501-683-1646 for more information.*

## **Lottery Announces Problem Gambling Awareness Month**

March 1, 2019

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month, and the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery (ASL) wants to remind players to play responsibly.

“We are dedicating March to helping people ‘have the conversation’ about problem gambling,” said Bishop Woosley, ASL director. “Approximately 2 percent of U.S. adults are considered problem gamblers; yet for many, gambling remains a hidden addiction.

“The mission of the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery is to provide proceeds for scholarships in a responsible way. We want people to remember that lottery should be considered entertainment and not a way to make money.”

Problem Gambling Awareness Month is designed to help raise awareness of the prevention, treatment and recovery services available for those adversely affected by gambling.

Woosley said problem gambling includes all gambling behavior that damages personal, family or vocational pursuits. In extreme cases, problem gambling can result in financial ruin, legal problems, loss of career and family or suicide.

According to the National Council of Problem Gambling, most problem gamblers will answer yes to at least one of the following questions:

1. Have you often gambled longer than you had planned?
2. Have you gambled until your last dollar was gone?
3. Have thoughts of gambling caused you to lose sleep?
4. Have you used your income or savings to gamble while letting bills go unpaid?
5. Have you attempted to stop gambling, but couldn't?
6. Have you borrowed money to finance gambling?
7. Have you gambled to get money or to meet financial obligations?
8. Have you felt remorseful after gambling?
9. Have you felt depressed or suicidal because of gambling losses?
10. Have you broken the law or considered it to finance gambling?

Problem gambling is a preventable and treatable disorder. If gambling is causing a problem for you or someone you know, help is available. Call or text the 24-hour confidential National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700, or visit [ncpgambling.org](http://ncpgambling.org). Or contact Gamblers Anonymous at [gamblersanonymous.org](http://gamblersanonymous.org).

### **About the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery**

More than 92 cents of every dollar of Lottery revenue goes to prizes, scholarships, retailer commissions, and other expenses in Arkansas. Since 2009, the Lottery has provided more than \$781 million for more than 302,000 college scholarships, more than \$2.8 billion in prizes to players, about \$240 million in retailer commissions and more than \$122 million state and federal tax revenue.

Follow the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Visit [MyArkansasLottery.com](http://MyArkansasLottery.com) for more information on scholarships, winners, games, odds, promotions – and to join The Club for free. To hear winning numbers, call the Winning Numbers Hotline at 501-682-IWON (4966). To get help with problem gambling, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700.

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