



LOTUS LETTER

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Welcome to this inaugural edition of the **LOTUS LETTER**, a periodic informational piece for Blue Lotus clients and other interested parties. My goal is to share important news occurring in the nonprofit community that agencies might find useful in effectively meeting their missions. New editions of the **LOTUS LETTER** will be announced through email and you may view them on the Blue Lotus website. Do right by doing well!

Vivian

CA BANS CHARITY POKER GAMES & MONTE CARLO NIGHT EVENTS

Many nonprofits host gaming nights as major fundraisers, but be aware that they are prohibited by CA law. Nonprofit charities and anyone other than a licensed gaming establishment are not allowed to host poker tournaments, casino games such as craps or roulette or plan "Monte Carlo" or "Casino Night" events.

The state Attorney General has ruled that anyone other than a licensed gaming establishment holding controlled card games violates state law (Penal Code 330;337j). The only exception is for games played with cards in private homes or residences in which no person makes money for operating the game, except as a player.

If you would like further information on this topic, contact the Attorney General's Division of Gambling Control at GamblingControl@doj.ca.gov or (916) 263- 3408.

REGISTER YOUR RAFFLE

California state law requires that you register with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts and receive written confirmation before conducting a raffle in support of your nonprofit efforts. Ninety percent of gross receipts must go directly to support beneficial purposes and each raffle must be registered. There is a cost of \$20.00 to register and the registration is good for a year beginning Sept. 1. For more info go to:

<http://ag.ca.gov/charities/raffles.htm>.

DON'T MISS OUT ON GOOGLE GRANTS!

Google is offering FREE advertising for nonprofit agencies through their Google Grants program. Similar to the click through ads that businesses use to advertise their products, nonprofits may now develop their own search advertising, but without the payment required by Google when someone clicks on your box ad.

Use this opportunity to send people to your Donate Now page, read about issues or learn about your programs. For more info and to fill out an online application go to:

<http://services.google.com/googlegrants/application>.

Google picks new grantees each quarter.

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