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The

MICHIGAN GAMING

Newsletter



POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS ELECTS MATTHEW WESAW AS CHAIRMAN

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians issued the following press release on July 21 announcing that Matthew Wesaw was elected as its Tribal Council Chairman during the Tribe's general election on Saturday, July 14. During the election, Kelly Curran was elected Secretary, Colin Wesaw as Elders Representative, and Gary Morseau, Sr. as Member-at-Large.



As Chairman, Wesaw will also serve as Chairman and CEO of the Pokagon Gaming Authority Board, which oversees the Band's casino properties including Four Winds New Buffalo®, Four Winds Hartford®, Four Winds Dowagiac® and Four Winds South Bend®. This marks his third successful election as Chairman, the first time 2008 and again in 2012. In October 2013, he announced his retirement from the Council to become the Executive Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. At that time, current Chairman John P. Warren was chosen in a special election to serve out the remainder of the term and was re-elected in 2015.

Other members of the 11-member Tribal Council who were not up for re-election are Vice-Chairman Bob Moody, and Members-at-Large Steve Winchester, Becky Price, Andy Jackson, and Alex Wesaw.

FIREKEEPERS ANNOUNCES HOTEL EXPANSION

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, the owners of FireKeepers Casino Hotel, announced the expansion of its hotel on Monday, July 23. A second guest tower is being built to accommodate an increasing demand for rooms. The goal of the expansion is to attract more patrons from throughout the Midwest, along with new and larger conventions and business meetings.

Occupancy at the hotel has exceeded 95 percent for the last year, making it a challenge for retail guests and larger group businesses to reserve rooms, according to the tribe. FireKeepers Casino Hotel opened its 243-room hotel tower in December 2012.

"Today's announcement is the first step in the process, as we secure architects and construction management," Jamie Stuck, chairman of the NHBP Tribal Council, said in a [press release](#). "This is a key step in our Strategic Plan for FireKeepers to provide for future generations of our tribe. With more rooms and potentially more meeting space, FireKeepers will be able to market and attract guests from greater distances, bringing new visitors to the area and boosting the local economy."

FireKeepers has yet to announce a groundbreaking date, along with details including its budget, additional jobs, number of rooms, and amenities. Additional information will become available as the project progresses, the company said.

MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL AWARDED FOR GameSense PROGRAM

MGM Resorts International was honored with the National Council on Problem Gambling's (NCPG) Corporate Social Responsibility Award on July 20 at the organization's 32nd National Conference on problem gambling in Cleveland. The award recognizes an organization that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to social responsibility related to problem gambling.

The award was presented in recognition of MGM's responsible gambling program, GameSense. The program was launched nationwide at MGM Resorts' properties late last year. GameSense integrates responsible gambling education and support into the company's industry-leading guest service culture.

"We are thrilled to receive this honor from the National Council on Problem Gambling and can't thank them enough for the incredible work they do in raising awareness in the problem gambling community," said MGM Resorts Chairman & CEO

Jim Murren in a [press release](#) dated July 20, 2018. "GameSense has been a tremendous success and is already transforming the way the industry approaches responsible gambling. MGM Resorts is at the forefront of driving the conversation and culture around this important issue, and GameSense ensures responsible gambling education is at the heart of our guest service model at every one of our casinos – worldwide."

GameSense uses personal interactions between guests and trained staff based at each property's M life Rewards desk. In addition to speaking to trained employees, guests are also utilizing interactive GameSense touchscreens and other resources. The program is designed to help guests make informed decisions and keep gambling fun.

11TH ANNUAL ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING CONFERENCE EXPECTING RECORD ATTENDANCE IN LAS VEGAS

Record attendance is expected for the 2018 Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Conference being held at the Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas on August 14 – 16, 2018. Last year, more than 500 gaming professionals, regulators and attorneys attended the annual conference in Las Vegas. The AML conference was developed by Casino Essentials in partnership with the Dowling Advisory Group (DAG).

Several key government speakers are scheduled, including the Director of FinCEN, Kenneth Blanco, who will kick off the conference with a keynote speech on the first day of the three-day event. The Director's keynote will be followed by additional keynotes, panels and presentations from FinCEN's Enforcement Division, the Deputy Chief of IRS Criminal Investigations and the Department of Justice's Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section.

"Attendees will hear from the most experienced legal and regulatory experts in the gaming industry" said Jim Dowling, the Managing Director of The Dowling Advisory Group (DAG) stated in a

[PRNewswire press release](#). "Our extensive experience with AML compliance allows us to connect casino professionals with federal regulators to address the most challenging issues in the gaming industry."

The conference offers a pre-conference AML Fundamentals workshop on August 13, 2018. Sponsorship opportunities and exhibitor booths are available by calling 877-811-3534 extension 106. [Click here for more information on the 2018 AML Conference.](#)

GLOBAL GAMING BUSINESS MAGAZINE CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 18TH ANNUAL GAMING AND TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

Nominations for the [**GGB Gaming & Technology Awards**](#), the casino industry's most prestigious awards for technology, products and services, are due **August 22, 2018**. The honors are designed to recognize and encourage innovation and technology in the rapidly changing gaming industry. Winners of the G&T Awards 2019 will be announced in the November 2018 issue of *Global Gaming Business* magazine and the awards will be presented on the show floor at Global Gaming Expo (G2E), October 8-11, 2018. **The categories up for nomination are:**

BEST CONSUMER-SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

This category concerns technology that directly touches the customers. Whether it is an enhanced kiosk, a new player tracking system, reservations system, parking management system, or any other guest-friendly device, this technology impacts the experience of the customer.

BEST PRODUCTIVITY-ENHANCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

This category describes a technology that makes a job or task easier and more efficient. Examples could be an online accounting system, better technology for printing tickets on cashless slots, or an employee communications device that

allows a property to better explain its programs to its workers

BEST SLOT PRODUCT

Very simply, this product is the judges' favorite new slot product. It can be a new game or a traditional game that has been updated within the past 12 months. What makes this machine or game a step forward technologically?

BEST TABLE-GAME PRODUCT OR INNOVATION

The growth of table games continues to occur around the world and makes it important to recognize innovative developments in this area. In this category, nominations can be made for table games or any product related to table games.

BEST INTERACTIVE PRODUCT

Recognizing emerging technology, nominations are open to products that electronically connect customers with land-based or online casinos or gaming platforms.

Click the link [**G&T AWARDS 2019**](#) to fill out a nomination form.