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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



RESPONSIBLE GAMING EDUCATION WEEK: AUGUST 6 – 10, 2018

This week the American Gaming Association (AGA) and the gaming industry is observing the 21st Annual Responsible Gaming Education Week (RGEW), August 6-10, 2018.

The AGA is encouraging the casino gaming industry to use this week to reiterate foundational and responsible gaming education, programming and awareness with employees, patrons, policymakers, regulators and the public.

In collaboration with AGA members the [Responsible Gaming Code of Conduct](#) has been updated to demonstrate the industry's commitment to protecting players and promoting responsible play. Enhanced materials for RGEW are available on [the AGA website](#) and include:

- **Social Media Toolkit;**
- **Meeting Planner;**
- **Newsletter Article for employee news;**
- **A quiz for employees on the topic;**
- **Paycheck Message;** and
- **Suggested Activities.**

AGA members are asked to continue to strive year-round to keep their employees trained on the most effective responsible gaming practices and to ensure that gaming patrons have easy access to responsible gaming resources.

The AGA's efforts have been well received locally here in the state of Michigan.

"The Michigan Association of Problem Gambling (MAPG) applauds and supports the American Gaming Association and the greater gambling industry in its ongoing efforts to address the issue of problem gambling,"

MAPG Executive Director and National Council on Problem Gambling Board Member, Michael Burke stated.

The MAPG organization is comprised of various stakeholders to the gambling industry including Michigan's casinos, lottery, clinicians, and researchers. A main pillar of MAPG is educating the public and those at-risk groups that are more susceptible to problem gambling issues. Confidential help is always available 24-7 for those Michigan residents believe they may have a gambling problem by calling 1-800-270-7117.

Two local area casinos also recently received special recognition for their responsible gaming efforts. 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. It was presented in recognition of the company's ground-breaking 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.

Additionally, Caesars Windsor was recognized for promoting responsible gambling by achieving the gold standard "RG Check" from the Responsible Gambling Council. The program was developed to offer gaming companies an independent assessment of their Responsible Gambling Program by examining corporate policies, help for problem gamblers, advertising and promotion. Caesars Windsor was the first gaming facility in the world to earn designation back in 2012.

POKAGON BAND AND FOUR WINDS CASINO MAKE GIFT TO BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and Four Winds Casinos announced this week that a \$115,000 gift was presented to Beacon Health System at a special ceremony in downtown South Bend. The ceremony took place in the Atrium of the Children's Hospital.

The donation represents proceeds from the 2018 Four Winds Invitational which took place June 8 – 10 at Blackthorn Golf Club in South Bend. The funds will underwrite two patient power-load systems for Beacon Children's Hospital pediatric emergency transport units, as well as four portable radios to be used during MedFlight patient transfers.

This is the seventh year of the partnership between The Pokagon Band, Four Winds Casinos and Blackthorn, with proceeds totaling \$545,000 for Beacon Health System.

"We are incredibly grateful for our long-standing friendship with the Pokagon Band, Four Winds Casinos and Blackthorn," said Kreg Gruber, CEO of Beacon Health System. "In seven years, they have raised over a half-million dollars to fund projects that directly help people when they need it most. We're a stronger community because of them."

"Four Winds Casinos is proud to sponsor the Four Winds Invitational and support a great organization like Beacon," said Frank Freedman, COO of Four Winds Casino. "Collectively, we all work hard to create an event that makes this tremendous impact on our region. We'll continue to make it bigger and better each year—it's going to be great for our community for many years to come."

IGT RECEIVES 10-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION FROM THE MICHIGAN LOTTERY

According to a press release issued on July 31, International Game Technology PLC (IGT) announced that its subsidiary, IGT Global Solutions Corporation, has signed a 10-year contract extension with the Michigan Lottery to provide new lottery technology and ongoing services through January 2031.

Under the terms of the contract extension, IGT will provide the Michigan Lottery with innovative tools from IGT's Aurora™ platform, such as Aurora Navigator™. IGT also provides several “BizApps” which are lottery applications such as Performance Wizard, Retailer Wizard, Order Wizard, and Instant Tracking Wizard which enable the Lottery to drive profitable growth.

IGT's new Retailer Pro terminals will replace the 11,550 existing lottery terminals. WinCheck™ ticket checkers will also be installed in retail locations allowing for players to easily check whether their tickets are winners. In addition, the Lottery will receive 2,100 GameTouch™ self-service touch-screen lottery vending machines.

IGT will maintain its primary data center in Lansing, Michigan, and will continue providing services for the Michigan Lottery including installation and maintenance of the new central system and terminals; maintenance of the communications network; retailer training; field merchandisers; marketing support; call center services; field services; and instant ticket warehousing and distribution.

GRAND TRAVERSE BAND ANNOUNCES REVENUE SHARING

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians announced the distribution of \$701,948.11 of gaming revenue allocation to local units of government. The dollars have been allocated to 38 local applicants as part of the Tribe's “2 percent allocation,” which takes place twice per year.

Since the 2 percent allocation began in 1994, the Grand Traverse Band has allocated **\$37,879,541.58** to local organizations. For this 2% cycle, the Tribal Council voted to determine which organizations would receive allocations. Of the 78 applications received, totaling \$2,100,449.91 in requests, the Tribal Council awarded 38 applicants for a total of \$701,948.11.

The Grand Traverse Band will make its decision regarding the second 2018 2% allocation in December 2018.

FIVE LANSING RESIDENTS SENTENCED TO JAIL, FINES FOR ILLEGAL GAMBLING

A 54-year-old Lansing woman was sentenced July 25 in Ingham County Circuit Court to seven months in the Ingham County Jail, 18 months of probation and a \$35,000 fine for conducting an illegal gambling operation in Lansing. Four former employees each will serve a day in jail for related misdemeanor illegal gambling offenses.

Business owner Li Deng pled guilty in June to a felony for conducting a gambling operation inside a vacant store at the Logan Square shopping center located at 3222 South Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., in Lansing. Deng earlier agreed to forfeit \$67,754 and equipment used for gambling and will pay more than \$4,000 in fines and fees. Charges were filed against Deng and four employees in October 2017 following an investigation of the illegal operation by the Michigan Attorney General's office, Michigan State Police Gaming Section and the Michigan Gaming Control Board.

Investigators visited the business multiple times last year and verified allegations of patrons wagering on slot-style games inside the location. In July 2017, approximately 60 gaming terminals were seized when a search warrant was executed at the location. In addition, investigators seized seven so-called “fish” gaming stations, which allow multiple patrons to gamble at the same time.

“We encourage the public to report possible illegal activity to police authorities or the Gaming Control Board to help us identify and eliminate the dangers associated with unregulated and illegal gaming activities,” said Richard Kalm, executive director, Michigan Gaming Control Board in a press release dated July 31.

Michigan citizens are encouraged to report any suspicious or illegal gambling by calling the MGCB’s 24-hour anonymous tip line, 888-314-2682.

REMINDER: NOMINATIONS FOR THE GAMING HALL OF FAME DUE MONDAY, AUGUST 20

Do not miss the chance to nominate a gaming professional for the 2018 Gaming Hall of Fame before the deadline, **Monday August 20**.

The Gaming Hall of Fame recognizes leaders who have made significant contributions and achievements in the gaming industry. The event will take place during [Global Gaming Expo \(G2E\)](#) in Las Vegas at an invitation-only event.

[Click here](#) for more information or see our full article in [Issue 22 of The Michigan Gaming Newsletter](#).