

NAGRA News

A Quarterly Publication of the North American Gaming Regulators Association

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As your incoming President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for bestowing your trust and confidence in me this coming year. I look forward to what we do as an organization over the next 11 months. I also look forward to working with our current board and hearing from our membership on how we can improve our organization, increase our membership, and ensure that we are responsive and meeting your needs.



Dave Jeseritz
NAGRA President 2016/2017

The 2016 NAGRA Training & Education Conference brought together representatives from every corner of the gaming sector for the purpose of learning and discussing the latest industry developments, policy trends, and regulatory updates affecting the US, Canada, and European gaming markets. A variety of plenary and breakout sessions offered attendees multiple opportunities to expand their knowledge base as well as their professional networks.

The pre-conference kicked off with a session on “Risk Based Regulation” that was not only insightful, but interactive and entertaining as well. The conference officially opened on Saturday, June 18th, with a three-member panel discussion on current and emerging issues facing the North American gaming industry. Over the next several days, attendees heard excellent presentations on Charitable gaming modernization, Daily fantasy

sports, I-gaming, Regulatory intelligence, and the Evolving role of regulators in a mature gaming market to name a few. On the final day, GLI University hosted a Regulators Seminar on Internet Security Network Risk Assessment programs, Electronic Raffle Systems, The Future of 50/50's, Social Gaming, and The “Where” of I-Cloud Gaming. The conference also included several sessions on Responsible gaming and the latest data on problem gamblers patterns of play. Every presenter contributed significantly to the success of the conference and they are to be commended for a job well done!

While we couldn't have had a more scenic and historic backdrop than Old Quebec City, our conference numbers were down somewhat from years past. Many small factors seemed to contribute to this, so as a board, we are paying

attention and looking to rebound our attendance numbers in 2017. We start off by going back to our weekday conference format and hosting it earlier in the month of June. The board is also pursuing some unique opportunities for next year's conference, so hopefully in the next few months, more information can be shared.

I would like to take a moment and welcome the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) as one of our newest North American Associate members. UNLV's membership was approved by the board in July and its great having them aboard.

I would also like to introduce our Board of Directors for this year. Kathie Oviedo, from the Michigan

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NAGRA LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

It's not enough for us to serve the gaming industry. At NAGRA, we also encourage our members to be engaged and involved, and we create opportunities for this purpose.

Since we're a member-based organization, we need Gaming Regulator and Trade Affiliate member volunteers. In exchange for your time and your support, you will develop leadership skills that will benefit you both professionally and personally. Please consider serving with our Membership, Programming, Conference Committees, or any one of our Gaming Interest Groups. Volunteering is just as easy as it is rewarding.



WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

Have an idea for an article for the NAGRA News? Would you like to contribute an article? Send in your idea today. Please include your name, agency, phone number and email address. Any member updates or insights into the industry make for great content! We appreciate your contribution. Articles can be sent via email to Sue at suep@nagra.org.

2016/2017 Newsletter Schedule

Autumn:

Call for News: October 1

Content Due: November 1

Newsletter Emailed: November 15

Winter:

Call for News: January 1

Content Due: February 1

Newsletter Emailed: February 15

The opinions expressed in NAGRA News articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the North American Gaming Regulators Association.

2016/2017 Board of Directors

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ABOUT NAGRA

NAGRA brings together agencies that regulate gaming activities and provides them a forum for the mutual exchange of regulatory information and techniques. Collecting and disseminating regulatory and enforcement information, procedures, and experiences from all jurisdictions provides ongoing gaming education and training for all members.

Join us in
congratulating
Simone
Syrenne.



SIMONE SYRENNE WINS THE PRESTIGIOUS NAGRA EXCELLENCE IN GAMING REGULATION AWARD

During the 32nd Annual Training & Education Conference at the Hilton Quebec, NAGRA awarded the Excellence in Gaming Regulation Award to Simone Syrenne from the Liquor and Gaming Authority of Manitoba. NAGRA congratulates Ms. Syrenne on being selected as the recipient for this prestigious award, and thanks her for her contributions to the gaming regulation industry.

Honesty, integrity, responsibility, accountability, and fairness are the five words which guide a regulator. They are also the five best words that can be used to describe the character and ethics of Simone Syrenne. She has steadfastly maintained these values since she began her career in the gaming industry 40 years ago. There are really only two reasons Syrenne deserves the Excellence in Gaming Regulation Award; first is her service to the gaming regulatory industry, and second is her service to the association of gaming regulatory agencies.

Syrenne began her career in the gaming industry very early in life. Forty years ago, in May, 1976, Simone began as a receptionist with the Western Lotteries Manitoba Distributor (WLMD) – the distributor of government lottery tickets in the province. In 1984 she transferred to the newly created Manitoba Lotteries Foundation (MLF) becoming a Licensing Officer in July, 1992. Simone moved to the Manitoba Gaming Control Commission

(MGCC) when it was created in 1997 and was appointed the Licensing Manager for the MGCC in 2000. As a result of her experience as a Licensing Officer, and sensing that departmental efficiencies could be achieved through the delegation of authority. Simone began a

series of process reviews which resulted in more authority being given to subordinate staff which had the direct result of improving customer/client service, building relationships, adding value to front-line positions and improving processing times.

A champion for the use of technology to assist with customer/client service and further improve processes, Simone was instrumental in guiding the development of the Regulatory Management System (RMS), the MGCC’s internally developed licensing and compliance information system. Simone is also

a great believer in staff development and training. Simone has a good understanding of the non-profit and charitable sectors. Her expertise was utilized as she chaired a multitude of internal committees to create and review regulatory policies, made recommendations for changes to legislation, regulation, and terms and conditions. She has participated in various business reviews of her department and, as a result of her global interests, continues to implement best practices in her department to stay topical, relevant, and responsive to changes in industry.



IAGR Vice President, Dale Fuga (left) and NAGRA President, Lisa Christiansen (right) present Simone Syrenne (center) with the Excellence in Gaming Regulation Award at the 2016 Annual Training & Education Conference

2017 NAGRA ANNUAL TRAINING & EDUCATION CONFERENCE JUNE 5-8, 2017

The 2017 NAGRA Training & Education Conference is a unique professional development event that brings together representatives from every corner of the gaming sector for the purpose of learning and discussing the latest industry developments, policy trends, and regulatory updates affecting the US, Canada, and European gaming markets. By providing a full array of plenary and breakout sessions presented by dynamic experts in their respective fields, the conference will offer attendees multiple opportunities to expand their knowledge base as well as their professional networks.



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at the Entrance to Universal Orlando

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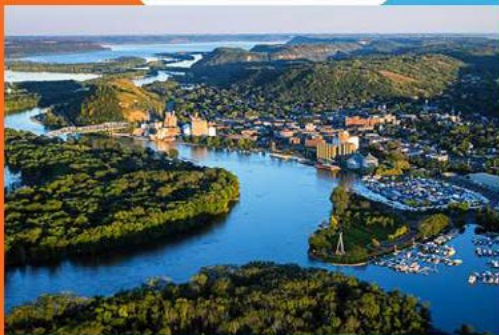


**Fall 2016
Training Conference
and Roundtable**



October 18-20, 2016

**Treasure Island Resort and Casino
Welch, MN**



For information,
registration, and agenda,
contact Tracy Bigelow
with the North Dakota
Office of Attorney General at
701-328-2313



President...continued from page 1

Lottery/Charitable Gaming Division is our newly elected Vice President. Tracy Bigelow, from the North Dakota Office of the Attorney General-Gaming Division is our Treasurer, Craig Durbin of the Oregon State Police-Lottery Security Section is our Secretary and Lisa Christiansen of the MT Gambling Control Division is the Past President.

Our Regional Directors are as follows: Tom Mungham, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario(Canadian Region); William Murray, Delaware State Police-Division of Gaming Enforcement(Eastern Region); Joe Osterloh, Morongo Gaming Agency(Indian Country); Roger

Pinson, Colorado Division of Gaming(Western Region) and our newest member, Alfonso Royal, III, Texas Lottery Commission, who has been appointed as the Midwest Regional Director and completing the remaining term formerly held by Kathie Oviedo.

It is an honor being able to work with such a talented and professional group of people who are not only leaders within their own agencies, but in our NAGRA organization as well. So while I extend a sincere thanks to each of them, I want to also extend that same thanks to their respective agencies, who allow them the time to travel and participate in the work of the board. Without the support of their member agencies, the NAGRA

board could not function as well as it does.

Finally, mark your calendars for June 5th-8th and join us in Orlando, Florida for the 2017 NAGRA Training & Education Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton, which is at the entrance to Universal Orlando. The newly renovated venue offers government rates, great meeting space and many food and entertainment opportunities within a short distance. Watch for our conference agenda after the first of the year. Hope to see you there!

Respectfully yours,

Dave Jeseritz

Dave Jeseritz, President
Montana Gambling Control Division

GAMING REGULATORS, SUPPLIERS REAP BENEFITS OF **NEW GAT STANDARDS** FROM GAMING STANDARDS ASSOCIATION (GSA)

LAS VEGAS (June 20, 2016) – Recently the Gaming Standards Association (GSA) released 11 new, mature standards for the gaming industry, and now regulators and suppliers are reaping the benefits of three of GSA's new standards that relate to GAT (Game Authentication Terminal).

GSA's suite of GAT-related standards includes GAT (Game Authentication Terminal) v4.1, NGI (Network GAT Interface) v1.0, and TGR (Trusted GAT Results File Format) v1.0. Each of the standards enjoyed review and input from regulators and is available for free download now at www.gamingstandards.com.

"Identifying and authenticating gaming software and firmware in the field is an integral part of regulatory landscape. These three new GAT-related standards address each of the primary points of GAT interaction – the terminal, the network and the results – creating an all-encompassing ecosystem. The benefit to regulators, suppliers and operators is a modernization and streamlining of the entire process," said Mark Pace, Vice President, Global Technical Operations at Scientific Games International, and Vice-Chair of the GSA Board of Directors. [READ MORE>>](#)

FORMER BENTLEY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER **PLEADS GUILTY** IN **CHARITY SKIMMING CASE**

MLive/Flint Journal by Amanda Emery

BURTON, MI , 2016-7-14-- A former Bentley School board member has plead guilty to two felony charges and 11 misdemeanor charges after he was accused of skimming profits from charity events.

Michael McCollum, 52 of Burton, will pay \$40,000 in restitution for funds stolen from Flint-area charities' poker fundraisers. McCollum plead guilty to two felony larceny charges and 11 misdemeanor charitable gaming violations on June 28 in Genesee County's 67th District Court.

McCollum operated charity poker events at the former Gloria's Poker Palace in Burton and admitted taking proceeds from events affiliated with two Catholic churches -- Blessed Sacrament and St. Francis Xavier -- between 2010 and 2013, according to a news release from the Michigan Gaming Control Board.

Investigators said McCollum spent charitable gaming proceeds on a time-share property in Mexico and vacations, according to the release. He was accused of skimming profits from more than 130 licensed charity events.

"State charitable gaming laws require charities to manage the games and gaming records," said Richard Kalm, executive director, MGCB, in a statement. "In this case, a non-member managed the events and stole from the gaming proceeds." [READ MORE>>](#)

MICHIGAN GAMING CONTROL BOARD NEWS

Contact: Mary Kay Bean 313-456-1344

Café owner pleads guilty to felony illegal gambling, pays nearly \$1,200 in fines and costs in Cass County Circuit Court

Detroit – A Bristol, Ind., man was sentenced to pay \$1,198 in fines and court costs by Judge Michael E. Dodge in Cass County's 43rd Circuit Court June 3 after pleading guilty to a felony illegal gambling charge in the Cassopolis court.

Robert G. George, 40, owner of George's Café, 69595 Sunset Blvd., Union, Mich., was charged after a Michigan Attorney General's office and Michigan Gaming Control Board investigation led to an early June 2015 raid of his Union business. [READ MORE>>](#)

Shelby Township man pleads guilty to embezzling youth baseball team's funds, pays \$21,440 in restitution

Detroit – A Shelby Township man pled guilty March 28 in 16th Circuit Court, Mount Clemens, to embezzlement from a nonprofit or charitable organization and paid \$21,440 in restitution to the Detroit Metro Stars youth baseball team whose funds he admitted stealing.

Joseph Wallace Wolf Jr., 51, also pled guilty to two misdemeanor counts of improper disposition of proceeds from charitable gaming events. He was charged Aug. 5, 2015, following a joint investigation by the Michigan Gaming Control Board and the Michigan Attorney General's office (see MGCB news release).

"While we are pleased the Detroit Metro Stars will receive restitution, we hope other charitable organizations will take note and institute proper financial procedures to discourage embezzlement or theft of charitable gaming funds," said Richard Kalm, MGCB executive director. "We enforce Michigan law to ensure nonprofits and their causes truly benefit from charitable gaming." [READ MORE>>](#)

Fenton man fined \$200 and \$350 in costs and fees after pleading guilty to charitable gaming violation

Detroit – A 41-year-old Fenton financial advisor and Bird Foundation chairman, William C. Bird, was sentenced to pay a \$200 fine and \$350 in costs and fees April 29 in Flushing's 67th District Court for intentionally violating Michigan's charitable gaming law. Bird pled guilty to a six-month misdemeanor for violating the Bingo Act, falsifying state gaming records to hide that he did not attend and oversee his own charitable gaming events.

An anonymous tip led to the investigation by the Michigan Attorney General's office and Michigan Gaming Control Board and the charge against Bird, who also chairs the Fenton-based nonprofit group Emily's Helping Hand. Bird lied to state regulators and falsified documents saying he was present and managing the Bird Foundation and Emily's Helping Hand poker fundraisers. The state's investigation determined he did not even attend multiple events in 2013 as state law requires. Chips were sold using his charity's license at events held between January 2010 and December 2013 at Pocket Aces Poker Room inside Foutch's Pub, 1477 S. Linden Road, Flint Township. [READ MORE>>](#)

Café owner pleads guilty to felony illegal gambling, pays nearly \$1,200 in fines and costs in Cass County Circuit Court

Detroit – A Bristol, Ind., man was sentenced to pay \$1,198 in fines and court costs by Judge Michael E. Dodge in Cass County's 43rd Circuit Court June 3 after pleading guilty to a felony illegal gambling charge in the Cassopolis court.

Robert G. George, 40, owner of George's Café, 69595 Sunset Blvd., Union, Mich., was charged after a Michigan Attorney General's office and Michigan Gaming Control Board investigation led to an early June 2015 raid of his Union business. [READ MORE>>](#)

Ex-Lapeer H.S. coach pleads guilty to charitable gaming crimes - Two youth sports team associates also plead guilty

Detroit – A former Lapeer High School softball coach was sentenced to pay \$500 in restitution to the Lapeer West Softball Club and to serve six months of non-reporting probation after pleading guilty April 7 in 67th District Court to three misdemeanor charitable gaming violations. Two other Lapeer residents also pled guilty April 7 in 67th District Court to multiple misdemeanor charitable gaming violations involving the softball club.

The charges stemmed from a joint criminal investigation by the Michigan Attorney General's Office and the Michigan Gaming Control Board. [**READ MORE>>**](#)

Former Kearsley teacher, coach sentenced to pay restitution, court costs in charity gaming case

Detroit – A former Kearsley High School physical education teacher and baseball coach today was sentenced to pay nearly \$33,000 in restitution and \$788 in court costs for embezzlement and charitable gaming violations by Judge Joseph J. Farah in Flint's Seventh Circuit Court.

Timothy Phipps, 49, of Flint was accused of diverting funds raised at 22 charity poker events advertised as benefits for Kearsley district schools following a joint investigation by the Michigan Attorney General's office and the Michigan Gaming Control Board. Phipps pled guilty Jan. 19 and agreed to pay the restitution to the Kearsley school district. The investigation revealed district officials were unaware of the charitable gaming events for which Phipps had obtained licenses between July 2012 and October 2013. [**READ MORE>>**](#)

Former Bentley school board member will pay \$40,000 in restitution to charities, pleads guilty to larceny

Detroit – A former Bentley School board member will pay \$40,000 in restitution for funds stolen from Flint area charities' poker fundraisers after pleading guilty June 28 in Genesee County's 67th District Court to two felony counts of larceny by false pretenses and 11 counts of misdemeanor charitable gaming violations.

Michael McCollum, 52, of Burton operated charity poker events at the former Gloria's Poker Palace in Burton and admitted taking proceeds from events affiliated with two Catholic churches, Blessed Sacrament and St. Francis Xavier, between 2010 and 2013. The charges arose from a two-year investigation by the Michigan Attorney General's office and the Michigan Gaming Control Board. [**READ MORE>>**](#)

Lapeer H.S. teacher pleads guilty to charitable gaming violations

Detroit – A Lapeer High School mathematics and science teacher pled guilty March 10 before Judge Mark W. Latchana in 67th District Court, Burton, to unlawful distribution of charitable gaming proceeds and conspiracy to violate the Bingo Act, which authorizes charitable gaming. The charges were filed following a joint criminal investigation by the Michigan Attorney General's office and the Michigan Gaming Control Board.

Theodore Tomczyk, 53, of Lapeer paid a \$400 fine and \$525 in court fees and was sentenced to three months of non-reporting probation on the two misdemeanor charges as part of a plea agreement dismissing other charges. The charges stem from a two-year investigation focused on charity poker events conducted at Gloria's Poker Palace in Burton, Mich., between 2010 and 2013. [**READ MORE>>**](#)