

NAGRA NEWS

Winter 2005

A Message From the President



Billy Atkins
President

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Halifax Here We Come!

From June 11-15, 2005, gaming regulators from across North America will gather in Halifax for the 2005 NAGRA Conference.

My special thanks to Kathy Baertsch, Kay Gaines, Rick Saville and all of the committee chairs for all their work in putting together another first-rate conference. Halifax is shaping up to be one of our most informative conferences yet, covering a broad range of gaming issues.

Additionally, I'd like to extend my thanks to our host jurisdiction – the Nova Scotia Alcohol & Gaming Authority. Dennis Kerr and the staff of the Nova Scotia Alcohol & Gaming Authority are working hard to help make this conference a success and we appreciate their hard work and dedication.

An all-day bonus session on “Professional Interviewing Skills” will be presented by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners on Saturday, June 11th. The Saturday bonus session has been very popular and well received at previous conferences and this one promises to measure up to the others.

Our host jurisdiction, the Nova Scotia Liquor and Gaming Authority, will provide the traditional “Best Regulatory Practices” session. Another planned general session is “Community Regulation and Enforcement: The CORE Concept and the Importance of Communication in Investigations.”

The planned breakout sessions cover the gamut of gaming issues and should offer something for everyone. Currently scheduled sessions include:

- Regulation and Enforcement Implications of Texas Hold ‘Em Poker Tournaments—Are They Being Operated In Your Jurisdiction? Are They Legal?
- Regulatory Requirements for Raffles—Licensing, Reporting and Audit Structures
- “Mini Baccarat” Investigations—The Current Scam.
- The Future of Slot Machines/ Electronic Devices/Table Games and Their Impact on Casinos, Tribal Casinos, Charitable Gaming and Lotteries
- The Internet—Canadian Lotteries and Their Use of the Internet in Lottery Sales

The conference includes much more and don't forget the networking opportunities. Members consistently comment that, in addition to the informative sessions held at our conferences, a major benefit of attending the NAGRA conferences is the opportunity to network with other regulators from across North America. A lot of valuable information and ideas are the result of informal conversations.

See you in Halifax!
Billy Atkins
NAGRA President

Meet Your Officers



Georgine Zalesky

Georgine has been involved with the regulation of gaming since 1991 when the Colorado Division of Gaming was first created. As one of the original Division employees, Georgine was involved with many aspects of molding the Division and the many changes to the Division over the past 14 years. She was responsible for the development of the

Internal Control Minimum Procedures (ICMPs) for the casinos to follow, audit programs and processes, the monthly gaming tax return and filing process, casino standard financial statement formats and process, gaming regulations addressing accounting and audit, the Division accounting reporting format, and industry training programs to name a few. In the beginning, Georgine served as the sole auditor and the controller for the Division. In addition to auditing the casinos, she also prepared and presented the Division's monthly financial statements to the Colorado Limited Gaming Control Commission. As relief arrived with the hiring of additional Division staff, Georgine's responsibilities focused on developing and managing the Audit Section, which consists of two Audit Managers, nine Auditors and one Tax Examiner located among the three Division offices. The Audit Section's three main duties are conducting revenue audits, information system audits and compliance inspections. As Chief Auditor, Georgine ensures all 45 casinos are properly reporting their gaming taxes and are in compliance with the gaming regulations and ICMPs.

Prior to joining the Division of Gaming, Georgine worked at the Colorado State Auditor's office and the office of Auditor of Public Accounts in Nebraska. Her time spent auditing various State agencies provided her with the abilities needed to create the Audit Section for the Colorado Division of Gaming. Georgine's first attendance at a NAGRA conference was in Indiana. She has since participated on panel presentations at NAGRA conferences and joined the Board as Treasurer in 2001.

Georgine is married to Rockie, who has been known to have a good time at the NAGRA events. They have two daughters, Jamie and Allison, who currently live in Nebraska.

The basic goal-reaching principle is to understand that you go as far as you can see, and when you get there you will always be able to see farther.

Board of Directors

President

William "Billy" Atkins
President (to 06/05; Past Pres to 06/06)

Vice President

Kathy Baertsch
Vice President (to 06/05; Pres to 06/06; Past Pres to 06/07)

Past President

Kay Gaines
(to 06/05)

Secretary

Penny Taylor Moore
(term ends 06/05)

Treasurer *

Georgine Zalesky
(term ends 06/05)

Eastern US Regional Director

William Yorke
(term ends 06/06)

Midwestern US Regional Director

Gerald "Odie" Otoupal
(term ends 06/05)

Western US Regional Director *

Kathy Mills
(term ends 06/05)

Canadian Regional Director

Rick Saville
(term ends 06/06)

**Featured Board Members*



Kathleen "Kathy" Mills

The Washington State Gambling Commission's mission is to keep gambling legal and honest. Kathy has been involved in carrying out this mission since 2000, as the Financial Reporting Services Supervisor. Kathy plans to move into the Financial Investigations Unit in February 2005. The Financial

Investigation Unit plans, organizes, and conducts pre-licensing investigations of nonprofit and/or commercial entities using independent examination, evaluation, and analysis. Investigations are also performed to detect hidden ownership, determine fund sources and undisclosed associations. Reviews are conducted also of nonprofit organizations to determine compliance with applicable rules and expenditures. This group also prepares reports of investigative findings for its Commission.

Years ago, as the accounting manager for a health care agency, Kathy decided that she wanted to be the best accountant she could be. To her, that meant obtaining her CPA license in 1998. After she came to work for the Washington State Gambling Commission, she decided to pursue the certified fraud examiner program, becoming a CFE in 2004. Kathy had long been interested in the field of fraud prevention and detection, taking root when she worked for the Washington State Lottery and developed their automated ticket distribution system. This system was built with tight controls. Now, she wants to be the best she can be at preventing and detecting fraud, so she is now working on her masters in Economic Crime Management.

Kathy was first introduced to NAGRA when her boss, Amy Blume Hunter (formerly Amy Patjens), brought her to her first NAGRA conference in Wisconsin. Kathy was instantly impressed with the professionalism of the members and also the educational opportunities, as well as the friendliness of her compatriots. She learned a lot on that first visit. Kathy served on the Nomination Committee in 2004. She has volunteered more than once to be a moderator for the charitable portion of the NAGRA sessions during the conferences. She is currently the Western U. S. Regional Director for NAGRA. She has learned a lot from the other states and Canadian folks. Not only does she enjoy the

education, she values the relationships she is building. She has found them worth a lot when the Gambling Commission has asked for special projects that call on experts from the other states (and Canada) for information about their gambling activities.

Kathy has three children, all married. Her greatest joy is in the fun of playing with her first grandson, Skylar, now six months old. She is looking forward to having a granddaughter (Lyric) to arrive in April.

Where Are They Now

Bill Faust – 1986 NAGRA President

WOW a blast from the past!!!! Thank you for your interest and giving me the opportunity to update you on what I have been doing.

At the time that I was president, I was an Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Organized Crime Unit of the Louisiana Attorney General's Office. I became involved with charitable gaming issues as our state at that time was considering and later adopted regulations bingo, pull tabs and eventually video bingo and poker machines. NAGRA was instrumental in establishing standards for the pull tabs at about that time. The association was quite active and held annual conferences, and had met in several of the U.S. states. I remember Seattle, WA and Nashville, TN as being a couple of the locations. I was president of the organization when we met in Tennessee. I left the office of the Attorney General to run for a judgeship in 1989. That effort was not successful. I then became employed by the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's office where I was a felony prosecutor and I am still working in that office. I also have become a Special Investigator for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1997. That is a part-time contractual position involving travel and interviewing to determine suitability for employment in the Bureau and Justice Department and find the work rewarding. When I was a Special Agent (gung-ho and wanting to go after the bad guys) I did not particularly like those assignments, but now feel it to be a responsibility relieving active agents for more meaningful tasks.

After seventeen years with the Attorney General and another 15 as a felony prosecutor for Jefferson Parish D.A., I have found a comfortable slot as a child support attorney with the DA's office. I no longer lust for the stress, tension and pressures of a prosecutor. I am eligible for retirement and will probably kick it in pretty soon, this is when I find a new and interesting challenge.

Now, get me talking about the kids and grandkids and I might

have trouble stopping. My oldest is Bryant, he is the Registrar of the Louisiana State University Medical School. His wife is a CPA and internal auditor for a New Orleans savings and loan. They have two children, Catherine (9) and Bennet (6).

Melissa lives in Pompano Beach, Florida and is the mother of 3-year-old twins, Jacob and Madilyn. Her husband is vice president of Gulfstream Airlines, the "Continental Connection" in Florida serving the Bahamas. Melissa is an occupational therapist at a Hollywood, Florida hospital. Courtnie is living in Hartford, Connecticut with her husband Steve. She is a speech pathologist working for Easter Seals and working with early intervention. Her husband is a chemical engineer. They are expecting their first, a boy we are told, in April. George is the sports anchor at a television station in Lafayette, Louisiana and was married this past summer to local girl Cassidy.

My lovely wife Cheryl retired last year after teaching for 33 years in the Jefferson Parish Public School System. She has seriously taken up pottery and has many beautiful pieces to her credit. The picture of Cheryl and I was taken in Hawaii at my niece's marriage in 2003. There may be a few members that remember Cheryl; she accompanied me to many of the NAGRA conferences.



Bill and Cheryl Faust



Tribal Contributions are working in Arizona

By Christa Severns, Public Information Officer, Arizona Department of Gaming

Kay Gaines has been busy. As most of you know, Kay is the past president of NAGRA, but her day job is managing the Arizona Department of Gaming's Tribal Contribution Audit Unit. Kay and her staff of financial experts are tasked with ensuring that tribal revenue sharing to the state is done correctly.

In 2004 the Tribal Contribution Audit team completed 28 audits. Since there are 15 tribes with casinos in Arizona it means the Tribal Contribution Audit Unit completed almost 2 audits per tribe in one year. This was possible because of an effective partnership between the tribes and the Department of Gaming. A partnership that is due, in part, to our new tribal state compacts.

In November of 2002 Arizona voters approved new gaming compacts for Arizona's 22 tribes. The old compacts had been in effect for almost 10 years, and tribes and the state had clear ideas on how they could be improved. After good faith negotiations that lasted more than three years, tribes and the state agreed to new compacts. Some aspects of the new compacts included: an increase in slot machines at casinos; blackjack for the first time in Arizona casinos; enhanced regulatory responsibilities for the Arizona Department of Gaming; and voluntary tribal contributions to the state in exchange for the tribes' exclusive rights to operate casino gambling in Arizona.

What was also added to the new compacts was a further clarification and delineation of responsibilities for the tribes and the state. This takes the guess work out of what the Department of Gaming is tasked to do and how we can go about doing it.

The new compacts make a stable partnership between tribes and the state because each has a role and that role is clearly defined. In the case of auditing tribal contributions, Section 12 of the compact allows the Department of Gaming access to all documents, records and reports necessary to confirm the correct amount of tribal contributions, and Section 7b specifies that these documents remain the property of the tribe and must remain confidential. Appendix I, Computation and Auditing of Tribal Contributions, gives details on how and what to include in computing tribal contributions. The Tribal Contribution auditors examine all the casino financial documents including out-

side audits to ensure that tribal contributions are being made correctly.

The tremendous cooperation we receive from the tribes and the precise compact language, make auditing tribal contributions a routine task. The state is proud of the partnership it has developed with tribes. With 28 audits under our belt, we are confident that tribal contributions in Arizona are working.

Motivation gets you going and
habit gets you there.
Make motivation a habit and
you will get there more
quickly and have more fun on the trip.

Election Process for NAGRA Officers and Directors Underway

President Billy Atkins has notified all NAGRA Members that it is time to think about nominations for the NAGRA Board. In a February 14 e-mail, President Atkins called for NAGRA Members to make nominations for the five positions on the NAGRA Board that will come open in June.

The biannual meeting on June 15 in Halifax will see the election of a new vice president, secretary, treasurer and two new directors. The bylaws provide that on odd-numbered years directors for the Western and Midwestern Regions shall be elected and on even-numbered years directors for the Eastern and Canadian Regions shall be elected. The Western Region is comprised of the states of: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The Midwestern Region is made of up of the states of; Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin. As provided in the NAGRA bylaws, President Atkins has appointed Gene Huntington from Montana as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and asked for two more volunteers to make up the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or have NAGRA members you would like to nominate to the Board, contact Gene Huntington at ghuntington@state.mt.us prior to March 11, 2005.

Under the bylaws, the Nominating Committee notifies the Secretary of the NAGRA Board of Directors of the nominees who will forward ballots to all voting NAGRA members. Designated representatives of NAGRA members can look for-

ward to receiving ballots and a brief biographical sketch of each nominee during the month of May. Ballots will be returned to the nominating committee to be verified and tallied prior to the biannual meeting. Votes will be cast by one representative of each of the governmental members who make up the current membership of NAGRA. NAGRA trade affiliates do not participate in the election.

The nominating committee will present the results of the election to the president at the biannual meeting. The term of the new officers and directors will begin at the end of the June 15 biannual meeting.

Pull-Tab Update

Bob Blessing - Michigan, Chairman of Pull-tab Standards Committee.

In Charleston, South Carolina industry members requested that it might be time for the committee to take a look at the standards because of the many new pull-tab games and styles of pull-tab games that have developed since the last amendments were added to the standards. As chairman of the committee I agreed. To facilitate a quick start I asked that industry suggest what changes they felt were appropriate.

The Pull-tab Standards Committee reviewed their suggestions and have been discussing which are appropriate revisions to the current Pull-tab standards for more than a year. Due to travel restrictions and the reduction in the number of annual conferences our work has been somewhat difficult and has required operating through conference calls.

The first draft of the revised standards are nearly complete and it is hoped that they can be presented by one of the Pull-tab Committee at the Halifax Conference.

Many of the changes are technical, such as removing definitions from the text of the document and moving them into a definition section. Many new definitions describing new products and words that were not previously defined have been added.

The main thrust of the standards has not changed, only brought forward into a new century. The committee has worked hard to create a useable and forward-thinking document. I appreciate their hard work.

Join us in Halifax June 12-15, 2005

Here are a few scenic shots to entice you to attend...



Indian Committee

By: Norman DesRosiers, Chair

The Indian gaming committee will have a double time slot for two presentations on perhaps the hottest topic in Indian Gaming: "proposed Federal regulations on CLASS II GAMING DEVICES." The proposed regulations have been divided into two sections; first, what are the required functional parameters to qualify as a class II game (the classification of games), secondly, what are the

actual technical specifications for the computers and hardware for the operation of these games. These informative presentations will be made by Mr. Phil Hogen, chairman of the NIGC, and Norm DesRosiers, NAGRA Indian gaming committee chair and member of the NIGC advisory committee for the development of these regulations.

Internet Gaming Committee

By: Mike Petersen, Chair

The internet gaming committee is planning a break out session for the Halifax conference that will feature two Canadian jurisdictions; the Atlantic Lottery and the British Columbia Lottery. The Atlantic Lottery launched on August 24, 2004, PlaySphere, which is a controlled environment where players have access to a mix of lottery games. British Columbia residents aged 19 and over have had the ability since October 8, 2004 to purchase on Play Time, a secure site, four lottery sports-based games; Sports Action Point Spread, Oddset, Over/Under, and a Football Pool.

The panelists will be Terry Towns, British Columbia Lottery Corporation and Maurice Richard of the Atlantic Lottery Corporation. Dale Fuga, Past President of NAGRA, will be the moderator for this session. Topics to be covered include: security, age restriction, spending limits, registrations, demographics, jurisdictional issues, and future plans.

The internet gaming committee has also been working on updating the NAGRA website. We encourage all members to visit the website and send all suggestions to Mike Petersen, Michigan Lottery.

Charitable Gaming Committee

By: Phil Sanderson and Simone Syrenne, Co-Chairs

The Charitable Gaming Committee is well on its way to putting together some very informative sessions for the conference in Halifax in June 2005. You're not going to want to miss this one!!

We are very excited and look forward to presenting a very timely and exciting 2-part session on Texas Hold'em Poker Tournaments, which we will be offering to members jointly with the Investigations Committee. The first session will focus on setting the regulatory framework for the licensing of Charitable Texas Hold'em Poker, and the second session will focus on the enforcement and control of the unregulated events being conducted throughout North America.

Authority will share important information about their jurisdiction during the Charitable Gaming – Best Regulatory Practices Session. This session has become very popular and has met with very positive feedback at each conference. It is through this session that each 'host' jurisdiction gets an opportunity to highlight their 'Best Practices' as well as to open up important discussion related to any regulatory issues they may currently be experiencing.

We also hope to present members with a session regarding the regulation of Satellite/Linked Bingo schemes and the related licensing, reporting and audit requirements.

The Nova Scotia Alcohol and Gaming

Remember – members' suggestions for

Committee Chairs

Casino/Electronic Gaming

Larry Eliason
South Dakota Commission on Gaming

Charitable Gaming

Phil Sanderson
Texas Lottery Commission

Simone Syrenne
Manitoba Gaming Control Commission

Indian Gaming

Norm DesRosiers
Viejas Tribal Gaming Commission

Internet Gaming

Michael Petersen
Michigan Lottery

Policy

Kevin Mullally
Missouri Gaming Commission

Investigators

Charles Devenney
Manitoba Gaming Control Commission

Aaron Wong
California Division of Gambling Control

Past President Committee

Dale Fuga
Manitoba Gaming Control Commission

conference topics are welcomed, and we greatly appreciate volunteers for session moderators or speakers. If you know you're coming and would like to participate in some way in this conference, just let us know and we'll be pleased to take advantage of your offer! The involvement we've had from NAGRA members has resulted in some great conferences in the past and I'm sure Halifax will be no exception!

We look forward to seeing you all there!

NAGRA Regional Update Information

Colorado Reflects on Gaming Revenues in 2004

Last year at this time when the year-end casino revenue figures were released the outlook was bleak for the Colorado gaming industry. Annual revenues in 2003 were down for the first time in the history of casino gaming in the state, and no end to the downturn appeared in sight.

Well, the reports at that time of the death of the gaming industry were greatly exaggerated. The industry rebounded well in 2004, with revenues up 4 percent during the year. The pessimism that greeted 2004 was replaced at the end of the year with a sense that better days are ahead.

Many reasons exist for this turnaround and optimism. The first is the Central City

Parkway. In December, the first full month the new road was in operation, revenues at Central City casinos rose an amazing 39 percent over the same month in 2003. How long this dramatic upturn in Central City will continue is yet to be seen, but having a new access point to the Central City and Black Hawk markets when only one primary access existed before cannot help but bring more people to the area. Meanwhile, Cripple Creek in 2004 continued its 13-year streak of increased annual revenues after bucking the trend with a slight increase in 2003.

A second reason for optimism is the advancement of casino technology. Casino patrons have apparently responded

to ticketing systems because more casinos are moving toward that technology. New game platforms and themes, video enhancements and multi-line small denomination machines are also drawing and keeping customers.

For the first time in Colorado gaming history optimism also abounds for table games. While total casino AGP rose 4 percent in 2004, table game revenues increased 13 percent. The popularity of televised poker has translated in more casinos adding more poker tables and more people playing them.

Canadian Regional Update

Nova Scotia

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Nova Scotia is the host jurisdiction for the NAGRA conference in Halifax in June 2005 and is looking forward to welcoming all NAGRA delegates.

Ontario

The Canadian Gaming Summit and Exhibition is scheduled to be held at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort, Niagara Falls from March 7-9, 2005.

The Canadian Gaming Regulators Association (CAGRA) is holding its annual conference in Toronto from June 10-13, 2005.

Manitoba

Simone Syrenne (Charitable Gaming Committee Chair) and Charles Devenney (Investigators Committee Co-chair) are putting their programs together for the NAGRA Conference next June. With the current popularity of poker, it's expected that a session on the charitable licensing of Texas Hold'em Tournaments will be of interest to many jurisdictions.

Saskatchewan

Two new First Nations casinos, one near Saskatoon and the other at Swift Current, have been approved for the province.

Alberta

Two new First Nations casinos and three new Charity Casinos have passed government approval processes.

British Columbia

The Edgewater Casino, the first full service casino with slots to be located in downtown Vancouver, opened on February 3, 2005.

BC is adding slot machine gaming to the existing bingo gaming in selected Community Gaming Centers around the province.

Washington State

SB 5287, which would put a 10% state tax on all social card games has been introduced. Currently, only local governments tax gambling in Washington, not the state; the maximum rate is 20%. Washington is the only state that we are aware of that does not have a state tax on gambling (if your state does not tax gambling, please let us know by emailing kathym@wsgc.wa.gov). The tax would apply to house-banked card rooms and poker rooms. If a city taxes above 10% (for example, 11%),

the licensee would get a credit and the state tax would be 9% instead.

Senate Bill 5037 and House Bill 1031 (identical bills) have been introduced to fund a problem gambling program (including treatment) by imposing a tax on all gambling licensees (both charitable and commercial), as well as on lottery and horse racing activities. This bill was the result of the (former) Governor's Work Group. Although state agencies, like

the Washington State Gambling Commission, have long contributed towards problem gambling education and awareness, this is the first-time state funds would be used for treatment.

The Regulatory Look of Poker Tournaments in Colorado

With the popularity of televised poker tournaments, interest in high-stakes poker action has increased. Colorado law allows “social gambling,” which requires two criteria be met: (1) all participants must have a bona fide social relationship, meaning that every participant must know the other participants socially (other than for gambling itself) and (2) all moneys that go in must come out in the form of prizes, meaning that no one can take a cut of the action.

Since Colorado casinos must follow the \$5 maximum wager, taking away the “all in” drama on television, more people in Colorado appear to be turning to home games, most of which meet the definition of “social gambling,” but a number that do not. The Division has zero tolerance for licensees being involved in illegal gambling activities, specifically any connection with internet gaming sites that accept wagers illegally from locations in North America. The same standard applies to licensees who engage in any other form of illegal gambling, including home games that violate the social gambling statutes.

Precedence exists for licensed dealers who have lost their licenses after being caught dealing or participating in illegal poker games. As a policy, the Division is not the policing agency for illegal poker games throughout the state, unless a licensee is involved. The Division is aware the temptation exists to work at illegal games to give them an air of legitimacy and because of the large tips associated with them. There is also the temptation to use casino card rooms as a recruiting ground for players looking for higher limits and more “thrills.” Casino employees have been warned not to succumb to this temptation because they won’t be dealing in a Colorado casino again once the administrative process has run its course.

The bottom line for anyone who has a gaming license in Colorado at any level is to avoid getting involved in any illegal type of gaming activity, whether it be internet gaming or illegal poker games. Colorado voters approved legal forms of gaming in Black Hawk, Central City and Cripple Creek—and that’s where it belongs.



Northern Plains States Legislatures Want to be Involved in Tribal Gaming Negotiations

By: Gene Huntington, Administrator, and Montana Dept of Justice, Gambling Control Division

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA)

regulates the process of tribes and states negotiating class III gaming compacts. Who has the authority to negotiate and execute the compact is a matter for each state to decide. However, in recent years a number of state and federal courts have interpreted that approval of the compact by the state requires ratification by the state's legislature.

The practicality of legislative approval has presented a problem for both governors and tribes in that it begins to add a third side to the negotiating table. Tribes in Montana have sought to clarify what issues can be negotiated by the executive branch and what issues require legislative ratification. This concern led to a recommendation by an advisory committee to introduce legislation to clarify the roles to be played by the legislature and the executive. The proposal would have given the Governor the authority to negotiate conditions of play and the Legislature would need to approve changes in the forms of gaming that would be permitted. As of the date of this writing the proposal appears to be stalled in the legislature.

As this effort was being considered in Montana it appears that several surrounding states are grappling with the same or similar issues. In Wyoming where the state and tribes have been in federal court, legislation was introduced that would require legislative approval of any compacts negotiated by the Governor. In South Dakota legislation has been proposed to amend existing law to require legislative approval before any compact can take effect. In North Dakota Senate

Bill 2025 was introduced that would require legislative approval for gaming compacts, where previously only legislative notification had been required.

The push for more legislative involvement comes from the courts as well as from state legislators. Governors may increasingly find that they are caught between the IGRA mandate to bargain in good faith with tribes and legislators who are reluctant to approve any changes in gaming. Compact negotiations are complex and time consuming and involving legislators directly in negotiations may be difficult. But increased legislative involvement would appear to be inevitable in many states.

In the many western states the legislature may only meet for 60 or 90 days every other year. Some state constitutions limit the authority of interim legislative committees to act on behalf of the entire legislature. So the challenge not only in western but many states is to design a process that will allow the executive and legislative branches to negotiate on one side of the table and not end up in a process where tribes need to negotiate first with the executive and then with the legislative branch.

Charitable Distributions From Texas Bingo Games Exceed Three-Quarters of a Billion Dollars in 2004! (Note: All figures are as of 02/09/05 and are unaudited)

By: Donna Precure Rose, Special Projects Assistant, Charitable Bingo Operations Division, Texas Lottery Commission

In November 1980 Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing Charitable Bingo on a local option basis. The amendment required, among other things, that all bingo proceeds be spent in Texas for charitable purposes. Since the first bingo licenses were issued in 1982 charitable distributions made by authorized licensed organization have exceeded \$773.6 million!

At the end of 2003 total charitable distributions generated from bingo for the period 1982 through 2003 exceeded \$743,800,000. During 2004 almost \$30 million in charitable distributions generated from bingo was added to that figure bringing the total amount of charitable distributions for the period 1982 through 2004 to over \$773,600,000.

Charitable distributions derived from bingo activities in Texas benefit a broad spectrum of needy and deserving individuals in many ways. Over 1,300 charitable organizations are licensed to conduct charitable bingo in Texas. The following are a few of the organizations and the charitable activities made possible by bingo proceeds. It is intended to provide a brief description of the scope and variety of charitable activities made possible by charitable bingo activities in Texas:

In Trinity, VFW Post 6899 and VFW Post 6899 Auxiliary improve the lives of residents in Trinity, Groveton and the surrounding area by contributing to youth organizations such as The Boys and Girls Club, Little League, Shamen Therapeutic Riding School and the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. The organizations also contribute to the Volunteer Fire Department

and Senior Citizens Nutrition Centers. Members of the auxiliary travel to the Veteran's Outpatient Clinic in Lufkin to serve sandwiches and cookies to the patients one day each month.

The Texas Elks assist children with special needs throughout the state. The Texas Elks Grants for Special Children provides children across Texas with hearing aids, wheelchairs, computers with Braille capabilities, special braces and other devices to make their lives easier and more productive. In addition, the Texas Elks run The Texas Elks Camp, located in Ottine, Texas. The camp is comprised of six week-long sessions that provide special needs children with the opportunity to have fun and make new friends.

In Lubbock, Alcoholic Services Knocks for Women, Inc. provides a safe place for women to live while dealing with substance abuse issues. The goal of the program is to assist each resident in finding employment and developing personal and financial skills that will ultimately enable them to lead independent lives.

In Rowlett, Friends of the Rowlett Public Library (Friends) have provided three life-sized statues for the library grounds. Two of the statues are named Bookworm and Bookworm I and are representative of a ten year old boy and a ten year old girl reading from stacks of books. The third statue is of Mark Twain reading a book. The statues provide a gateway to the library and are a mechanism to bring long-time residents and newcomers together by creating an artistic outdoor area for public use. The statues are also an anchor for the park and garden devel-

opment around the library. Friends purchased 13 complete computer work stations and books for the library, funded summer reading programs and established a scholarship fund for individuals pursuing a Master of Science in Information & Library Science.

In Orange, the American Legion Unit 29 Auxiliary Lloyd Grubbs, donates to cancer aid and research at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and provides college scholarships for youth in the community. In addition, they contribute to an emergency fund to assist displaced homemakers. Assistance is provided in the form of short-term financial assistance and is designed to assist individuals in obtaining housing and in reentering the workplace.

In Dallas, the Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation is committed to meeting the needs of individuals challenged with neurofibromatosis by providing care, comfort, support, information, education, funding and other resources for its treatment, prevention and cure. Neurofibromatosis is a genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow along various types of nerves and can affect the development of non-nervous tissues such as bones and skin. It causes tumors to grow anywhere on or in the body and leads to developmental abnormalities.

Congratulations to the many organizations and their volunteers that conduct charitable bingo in Texas—by doing so they improve the lives of so many Texans. Their efforts continue to make bingo the “Most Charitable Game in Texas”!