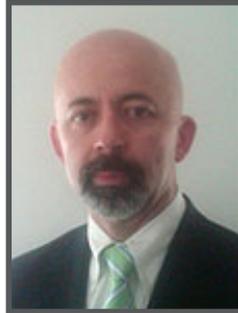


A Message from the President

The last time I remember using the term “amalgamation” in a coherent sentence was during a conversation a couple of years ago with an acquaintance of mine who had worked his entire life as a jeweler. More recently, though, I heard the term being used within the context of the transformation that has been going on in Canada which has led to the consolidation of agencies that previously --and separately-- regulated gaming and liquor in their respective provinces.

The amalgamation of agencies was but one of the many topics that were discussed during the recent conference of the Canadian Association of Gaming Regulatory Agencies, from September 16 - 18, 2014, in Gimli, Manitoba, which I had the opportunity to attend. Kudos to the Liquor and Gaming Authority of Manitoba for putting together an exceptional event that attracted and promoted networking opportunities among 70+ representatives from government, industry and academia.

A take-away from this conference was the striking similarities that exist between Canadian and US gaming regulatory agencies in terms of challenges and opportunities. Perhaps the top two common issues are the rapid advances in gaming technology, and the vagaries of the budget cycles. Several of the attendees are members of NAGRA, while



Andres Alvarez
NAGRA President
2014/2015

others expressed interest in joining our association, so I am looking forward to a strong participation by the Canadian contingent during our upcoming annual training and education conference at The Inverness, in Denver, from June 15 -18, 2015.

Plans for the 2015 NAGRA conference are taking shape. Our Vice President, Gary Vigneault, with the Arizona Department of Gaming, is responsible for conference content. Gary and the members of the Conference Committee have a nice tentative line-up of presentations and speakers but they would like to learn about specific topics that you would enjoy seeing during the 2015 conference. To that effect, please share your ideas with Gary at GVigneault@azgaming.gov or (602) 255-3870, or submit them via NAGRA’s website at www.nagra.org, under “Call for Presentations.”

For Denver next year, in addition to the standing gaming interest

groups, we are also planning on convening the first meeting of a new gaming interest group that would be composed of attorneys who work for gaming regulatory agencies or who serve as legal counsel to those agencies. The idea was initially floated by Holly Citko, with the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. If you are interested in joining the gaming attorneys group, please send Holly and me your contact information. Holly can be reached at Holly.Citko@maryland.gov or (410) 230-8780, and I can be reached at Andres.Alvarez@vdacs.virginia.gov or (804) 225-3821.

Continued on next page

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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 scottf@nagra.org or mailed to the NAGRA office at 1000 Westgate Drive, Suite 252, St. Paul, MN 55114.

2015 Newsletter Schedule

Winter:

Call for News: January 1
 Content Due: February 1
 Newsletter Emailed: February 15

Spring:

Call for News: April 1
 Content Due: May 1
 Newsletter Emailed: May 15

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.

**2014/2015
Board of Directors**

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President's Message continued from page 1.

With respect to the 2016 conference, NAGRA's Board of Directors wanted to bring our premier training event back to Canada. To that effect, we received bids from several cities and narrowed down our selection to Quebec City. We are currently in the process of reviewing the bids and will be visiting the finalist hotels in mid-November, with an eye toward communicating our choice of venue to you in the next newsletter.

If you are looking for ways to become more actively involved in NAGRA, please consider joining our Programming Committee. The Committee plans and executes

educational opportunities outside of the NAGRA annual conference that add value for our members and other stakeholders in the North American gaming sector. These programs typically come in the form of bi-monthly webinars that are free for NAGRA members. The chair of the Programming Committee is Greg Lestikow, with the Colorado Secretary of State. If you or any member of your staff would be interested in, would benefit from, or can provide the valuable support we seek for the Programming Committee, please contact Greg directly at Greg.Lestikow@sos.state.co.us, or (303) 860-6929.

As usual, please make plans to attend the 2015 conference at The Inverness Hotel and Conference Center, in Denver, Colorado, from June 15-18. This will be another value-packed and informative conference.

I hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to a most productive and informative 2015.

See you in Denver!!

Andres Alvarez
 Director, Division of Consumer Protection
 VA Dept. of Ag. & Consumer Services

Call for Presentations

Can you or a colleague offer expertise in charitable gaming, casino/electronic gaming, Indian gaming, internet gaming, investigation, lottery or other areas? If yes, please take this opportunity to submit a proposal for the NAGRA Annual Training & Education Conference in June.

The NAGRA Conference will be held June 16-18 at the Inverness Hotel in Englewood, Colorado, USA.



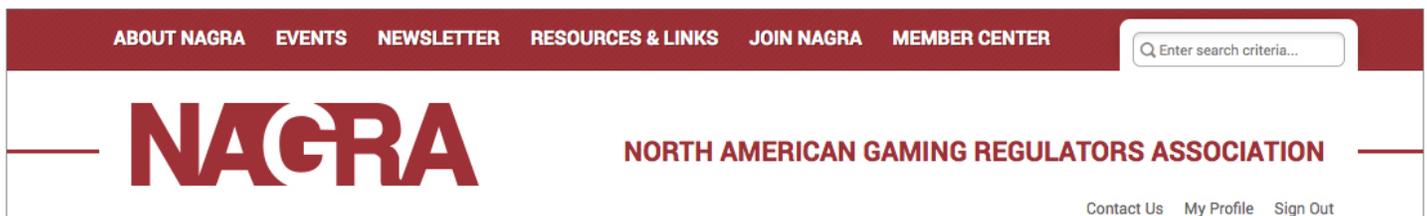
Submission Process

Proposals must be submitted electronically using the online form. Click here to be redirected to the form. You will be notified of your acceptance by February 10.

Submission Deadline: Friday, January 9, 2014; 11:45 p.m. CST.

If you have questions, contact info@nagra.org.

Maintaining your Organization's Profile & Memberships through the NAGRA Website



How do you login and control your profile?

If you have forgotten your password, click on the "Forgot Password" link on the website's login page. Use the email associated with your NAGRA membership or your username to get started - your temporary password will be email to you. Once you log in, please change your password to something you will remember and be sure to review and update your unique profile.

I've updated my individual profile, how do I update my organization's information and add or remove members from my organization?

Your organizational information is maintained by the primary (voting) NAGRA member contact from your organization. If that is you, view the "Organizational Management" video below. If it is not you, it is the responsibility of the primary member to maintain and

oversee the organization's member list as well as its profile information. Contact them if you notice that changes should be made.

Need more help? Check out our Webinars...

We've created the following webinars to help in navigating the new website - you can also access them on the website by clicking here.

- Member Login
- Member Profile
- New Features Overview
- Event Registration
- Organizational Management

Please note that www.nagra.org is best optimized for modern browsers (Mozilla Firefox and Chrome are preferred.) ■

NAGRA 31st Annual Training & Education Conference June 15-18, 2015

Save the Date

**The Inverness
Hotel & Conference Center**
200 Inverness Drive West
Denver (Englewood), CO USA

Visit Denver

Welcome to Denver – The Mile High City – where a thriving arts and cultural scene, 300 days of sunshine, stunning natural beauty and urban adventure combine for the world’s most spectacular playground. A vibrant outdoor city near the Rocky Mountains, Denver is as laid-back as it is sophisticated. It’s a place where engineers rub elbows with rock climbers at local brewpubs, at art festivals, or while strolling along downtown’s 16th Street pedestrian mall. Free shuttles give visitors quick access to world-class art and culture, wine bars, restaurants, nighttime entertainment and live music in Larimer Square or historic LoDo. Upscale shopping awaits in Cherry Creek, while Denver’s seven professional sports teams entertain year-round. Denver’s 850 miles of paved biking and walking paths, the largest of its kind in the country, connect to unique attractions, parks and diverse neighborhoods. One trip is all it takes to fall in love with this great city. VISITDENVER.com.

Call for Presentations Now Open

Coming Soon:

- Hotel Reservation Link
- Sponsorship & Exhibitor Opportunities
- Attendee Registration

The Inverness, Englewood, CO

The Inverness Hotel and Conference Center is the preeminent destination for celebrating all of life’s important moments. Set against the backdrop of the majestic Rocky Mountains, The Inverness is a AAA four-diamond, inviting suburban hotel and conference center with a remarkable array of leisure amenities. Reflecting an authentic and comfortable Colorado style, The Inverness distinguishes itself with the region’s more technologically advances, IAAC-accredited meeting facilities, richly appointed guest rooms, a full-service spa and fitness center, 18 holes of championship golf, indoor/outdoor swimming, five distinctive dining and beverage options and more...

<http://www.invernesshotel.com/>



Updated: Judge blocks Texas Racing Commission from moving forward with historical racing

November 10, 2014

Supporters of the video gambling terminals are “considering our options.”

A judge in Travis County on Monday blocked the Texas Racing Commission from moving forward with a controversial proposal to allow what are known as “historical racing” machines at race tracks around the state. The machines, which allow gamblers to bet on videos of races that have already been run, were approved nearly unanimously by the commission earlier this year and the lawsuits have been flying ever since.

Attorneys on both sides – including the Racing Commission on one side and bingo halls on the other – clashed for about three hours in the morning on the question of whether the commission is overstepping its authority.

Quorum Report readers may recall that as the commission was approving the rule on this, a similar lawsuit was making its way through the courts up in Tarrant County. That suit was filed by Rep. Matt Krause, R-Ft. Worth, and was shot down by a judge in Cowtown who said Krause didn’t have standing to file it. That judge did agree with Krause’s attorneys on the merits of the case, however.

During the hearing in Austin, State District Judge Lora Livingston seemed skeptical that the machines are all that different from slot machines, which are not legal in Texas. Supporters of the video terminals, including the horse industry and race track owners, argue that they’re a natural extension of already-legal pari-mutuel betting.

Like Krause, the plaintiffs in this lawsuit argue the commission is in violation of the Texas Racing Act and the Texas Constitution.

Raymond White, one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs, told Judge Livingston that the entire scheme laid out under the law has to do with live races and simulcasts of them. Put simply: Whether you’re watching it in person or on a video monitor, the race has to be playing out in real time in front of a gambler’s eyes. “It

has to be going on at the time” if someone is going to legally bet on a race, White said.

White and other lawyers for the plaintiffs like Anatole Barnstone argued that if the law does not expressly allow the commission to do something, then it cannot do it. “No matter how broadly they interpret the law, it doesn’t give them authority over historical racing,” Barnstone said. After the judge’s ruled, Barnstone said the rules would have “gutted funding for the veterans groups, environmental and disability advocacy organizations and other charities who filed this case. We are grateful the Court agreed with the Comptroller and the Department of Public Safety that gambling devices were not what the Legislature envisioned when it passed the Texas Racing Act.”

But the Assistant Attorney General representing the agency before the court, Ted Ross, said there isn’t anything in the Racing Act preventing the commission from authorizing or regulating “any form of racing.”

“What is authorized is a broad grant of authority,” Ross said of horse and greyhound racing in Texas.

Under the plain language of the law, there is “nothing ambiguous” about what the commission is allowed to do, Ross said. It would defeat the purpose of all regulatory acts if the The Legislature had to meet and grant specific authority every time there’s a new form of technology that comes along like these machines, Ross said.

There is already talk of an appeal of Monday’s ruling, but it isn’t a sure bet.

“Today’s decision is a blow to the Texas Horse industry and thousands of hardworking horse men and women,” said Andrea Young, President of Sam Houston Race Park. “We obviously disagree with the judge’s decision and are considering our options.”

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Video-slot machine investigation in Ohio leads to guilty plea, cash seizure

By John Caniglia, *The Plain Dealer* on November 12, 2014 at 3:56 PM, updated November 12, 2014 at 4:10 PM

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Martin Sarcyk lost \$1.1 million Wednesday on a bad bet.

Sarcyk, 63, of North Royalton, pleaded guilty to seven gambling-related charges involving a large-scale investigation into video-slot machines. Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Deena Calabrese will sentence him Jan. 12.

Calabrese said she is considering a term of 18 months in prison, though prosecutors are expected to argue for a longer sentence. Mark DeVan, Sarcyk's attorney, is expected to argue for less time. Sarcyk pleaded guilty to three counts of money laundering and four counts of gambling. DeVan declined to comment after the hearing.

Authorities targeted Sarcyk as part of a number of raids involving Internet gambling that stretched to Wayne County. In all, authorities handled 15 search warrants. Sarcyk was arrested during one of the raids -- at his business in Cleveland.

"This is just the beginning of the investigation," said Carl Sullivan, an assistant county prosecutor. He declined to discuss an investigation that he called ongoing. [Read more>>](#)

http://www.cleveland.com/court-justice/index.ssf/2014/11/county_seizes_11_million_in_st.html ■

Michigan Charity Poker Ongoing, But Controversial

September 4th, 2014 | by Kaycee James, pokersites.com

Michigan charity poker should probably be the form of gambling that produces the least amount of backlash of all the state's regulated gambling. After all, poker is often the exception to laws on casino games, and if it's all in the name of a good cause, it's hard for most people to get too riled up about a poker tournament or a few low-stakes cash games.

But in Michigan, charity poker is at the center of a major controversy. Legalized by the 1972 Bingo Act, the charity games were supposed to have pretty strict limits on what was allowed. That's why when investigators from the Michigan Gaming Control Board found that records were being falsified, revenues were being used illegally, and some games were violating the \$15,000 chip sales limits, they tried to completely overhaul the rules on how charity poker rooms could operate. ■

Emergency Rules Put in Place After Court Blocks Laws

Those rules were ultimately blocked by the Michigan Court of Claims, but Governor Rick Snyder worked with the board to put into place some emergency rules that would govern how the charity poker landscape would look until a more permanent fix could be worked out.

Those emergency rules allowed the licensing of what are known as "millionaire parties," or authorized poker tournaments. And in just over a month, the gaming board has already issued 187 millionaire party licenses that cover more than 600 days' worth of events throughout the state.

"We expect that number to continue to grow as charities and suppliers become more familiar with the emergency rules," the gaming board wrote on their website. ■

Arrests disrupt Genovese crime family in N.J.

A reputed 'capo' and a 'soldier' were among those charged with racketeering.

Seven reputed members and associates of the Genovese organized crime family were arrested Tuesday and charged with numerous racketeering counts, delivering a blow that officials said would "weaken the family's grip" on New Jersey.

The Genovese-aligned group allegedly reaped millions in criminal profits in the Garden State through loansharking, unlicensed check cashing, gambling and money laundering, said acting Attorney General John J. Hoffman.

"We charge that this crew of the Genovese crime family was up to many of the Mafia's old tricks in New Jersey," Hoffman said. "[A]s long as they do, we're going to be here to send them to prison."

The group allegedly operated under the control of two alleged "made" members of the Genovese family, Charles "Chuckie" Tuzzo, 80, of Bayside, N.Y., and Vito Alberti, 55, of New Providence, N.J.

Most of their alleged activity was based in Newark but reached as far south as Ocean County. Law enforcement officials said they also issued an arrest warrant for another associate and charged three additional associates by summons.

Hoffman said members of the group ran a massive loansharking operation that generated about \$1.3 million in interest a year; operated an illicit multimillion dollar offshore sports gambling enterprise; and used an unlicensed check-cashing business to make more than \$9 million in fees during a four-year run that enabled customers to launder funds and evade taxes.

In addition, the group allegedly laundered \$666,000 in drug money through check-cashing businesses owned by Domenick Pucillo, 56, of Florham Park; illegally controlled a trucking firm that transported new Nissan cars from the Port of Newark; and committed numerous instances of tax fraud and evasion.

According to prosecutors, Pucillo issued \$3 million in usurious loans during a two-year span that generated \$1.3 million in interest per year. Pucillo, who allegedly partnered with Genovese associate Robert "Bobby Spags" Spagnola, 67, allegedly charged up to 156 percent interest on those loans and shared the proceeds up the Genovese chain of command. New Jersey law prohibits making loans charging more than 30 percent interest.

Among those charged were Flor Miranda, 40, of Newark, who worked as office manager for the check-cashing operation; Vincent P. Coppola, 37, of Union (son of jailed Genovese capo Michael Coppola), who allegedly ran the illegal sports gambling enterprise; and John W. Trainor, 42 of Brick and Jerry Albanese, 47, of Scotch Plains, who prosecutors said acted as agents for the gambling operation.

Abel J. Rodrigues, 52, of Bridgewater, and Manuel Rodriguez, 49, of Chatham were charged in allegedly running the illegal business that cashed \$400 million in checks out of a Newark restaurant.

"The Genovese Crime Family has historically exerted its influence on the Port of New Jersey," said N.J. Commissioner Michael Murphy of the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor. "Disruption of its profits from gambling, loansharking and money laundering weaken that family's grip."

Read more>> http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/20141022_Seven_reputed_mob_figures_arrested_on_racketeering_charges.html

Settlement Reached In Emergency Charitable Gaming Rules

MIRS News, September 30, 2014

The Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) and charitable gaming interests on Monday reached a settlement in the Court of Claims over emergency rules that will govern the industry until July 1, 2015, at the latest.

Court of Claims Judge Pat DONOFRIO told MIRS that after multiple-hour negotiations on Monday, the two sides have reached a compromise on the six state rules the charitable gaming industry was concerned about.

Issues regarding the amount suppliers can recover from events and the number of events able to be held were among those issues resolved.

The emergency rules were put in place until a permanent set of rules goes through the administrative rule-making process and the Joint Committee of Administrative Rules (JCAR), which has been more sympathetic to the charities in recent months.

Donofrio ruled last month that the permanent rules the MGCB previously put in place needed to go back through the approval process because last-minute changes hadn't gone through a public hearing (See "Charitable Gaming Operators Win A Round In Court," 8/8/14).

The coalition of Michigan charities, gaming suppliers and room operators had previously asked the Court of Claims to reverse a set of emergency rules that they say are blocking their income stream.

The 25-member group of organizations joined together to file a complaint for declaratory judgment and injunctive relief against the MGCB, claiming the MGCB's emergency rules are substantively defective and invalid (See "Bits And Tidbits," 8/29/14).

Attorney Charles BARBIERI, who represented the charities, referred comments to officials within the Michigan Charitable Gaming Association, who were not in a position to comment other than to say the judge "was encouraging."

MGCB Executive Director Richard KALM saw Monday's action as a win for the state in the sense the Judge did not issue the preliminary injunction the charitable gaming operators wanted and kept the emergency rules in effect. Donofrio also dismissed all other claims of irreparable harm and did not agree that the emergency rules were not anchored in state law.

"We were pleased in his decision and allows us to concentrate on continuing to license events," Kalm said.

Kalm said that since the emergency rules went into effect July 2, the state has licensed 46 suppliers -- more than double the amount it saw a year ago -- and 1,200 event days. More charities are participating in the gaming, as well, he said.

"The games go on albeit with a regulatory framework to protect the charities and ensure integrity," he said. ■