

## A Message from the President

What an interesting past year this has been! After spending much of my time relaxing and enjoying my Past Presidents roll, I find myself once again in the seat of the President. Because of the untimely departure of both our Vice President Gary Vigneault (AZ) and our President Andy Alvarez (VA), I was asked to step back into the presidency. Not only did we lose our President and Vice President, we have also had to say goodbye to a couple of other board members and/or Gaming Interest Representatives within one short year. All of these losses to the board will be sorely missed but I do wish them well in their new ventures! In order to gain some stability, I asked that our Past President Simone Syrenne (Manitoba) come back on board and fill this roll again. We now have a full board and I look forward to another successful year.

In speaking of positions, let me reach out to our members once again. We are looking for some individuals to help fill out our Gaming Interest groups. If you have the time and you would like to become more involved with NAGRA, please let us know. I encourage you to reach out to me or Dave Jeseritz. We would love to see some new people bring some



Lisa M. Christiansen  
NAGRA President  
2015/2016

fresh ideas and perspectives. The conference in Denver this past June was another success. The conference was well-attended and feedback from attendees on most of the topics and speakers, including the Monday training opportunity, was very positive. I want to thank everyone who came to the conference for this great training opportunity and all the committee presenters/speakers for taking time out of their busy schedule to share your knowledge of the gaming industry with others. It is because of all of you that NAGRA continues to be a success.

Plans are underway for the 2016 NAGRA Conference to be held in Quebec City, Quebec on June 17-20, 2016 at the Hilton Quebec. This year's conference is being held over a weekend, a blast from the past when the conferences were typically held over the weekend. The Conference Committee is in

the beginning stages of getting this conference together and I look forward to seeing the outcome.

I would like to close by thanking everyone involved in NAGRA and making this the great association it is. I am honored to be once again serving as your president and look forward to speaking with you at the next conference.

Lisa Christiansen  
Montana Gambling Control Division

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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.

Leadership  
Opportunities



Gaming  
Interest Areas



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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 Kelli at [kellim@ewald.com](mailto:kellim@ewald.com).

## 2015/2016 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

## 2015/2016 Board of Directors

### President

Lisa M. Christiansen

### Vice President

Dave Jeseritz

### Treasurer

Tracy Bigelow

### Secretary

Craig Durbin

### Past President

Simone Syrenne

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### Indian Country Director

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### Midwestern U.S. Regional Director

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### Western U.S. Regional Director

Mike McGee, MBA, CPA

### Canadian Regional Director

David Peters

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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 Richard Herrington

### 2015 Excellence in Gaming Regulation Award Winner

During its 31st Annual Training & Education Conference in Denver, NAGRA awarded the Excellence in Gaming Regulation Award to Mr. Rick Herrington, Washington State Gambling Commission. NAGRA congratulates Mr. Herrington on being selected as the recipient of this prestigious award, and thanks him for his contributions to the Gaming field.

SAC Rick Herrington has spent his entire career committed to making an impact upon the citizens of Washington State. His unwavering professionalism, sustained professional achievement and exceptional performance have left a profound impact upon the global gaming industry. SAC Herrington deserves not only our profound respect and appreciation, but the recognition he so richly deserves for his extraordinary contributions in the field of gaming regulation. He has diligently served the international gambling community and citizens of Washington State with passion, professionalism, and a true spirit of innovation. He has left an indelible mark upon the entire national and international gambling community. His sustained leadership and innovative contributions to the global gambling community have brought great credit upon himself, the Washington State Gambling Commission and the State of Washington. Please [click here](http://www.nagra.org/resource/resmgr/Excellence_Award/RickHerringtonBio.pdf) to read a complete biography of Rick Herrington's accomplishments (or copy and paste the following URL into your internet browser: [http://www.nagra.org/resource/resmgr/Excellence\\_Award/RickHerringtonBio.pdf](http://www.nagra.org/resource/resmgr/Excellence_Award/RickHerringtonBio.pdf)).



Current President, Lisa Christiansen presents Rick Herrington with the Excellence in Gaming Regulation Award at the 2015 Annual Training & Education Conference.



Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the 2015 NAGRA conference in Denver. The conference was well-attended and the feedback from attendees was very positive.

**Thanks you for another successful conference!**



**Save the Date!**

**2016 NAGRA Annual Training & Education Conference**  
**June 17-20, 2015**  
**Québec Hilton**  
**Québec City, Québec Canada**

## Arizona Gaming Updates

### Arizona State Officials Shut Down Illegal Gaming Cafes

PHOENIX (KPHO/KTVK) - July 9, 2015 - By Jennifer Thomas, CONNECT (Source: Arizona Department of Gaming)

The Arizona Department of Gaming has seen a lot of success shutting down illegal internet sweepstakes cafes thanks to partnerships with local law enforcement agencies. Recently, the Department has been combining resources with local jurisdictions to help build cases against these illegal gambling operations. Gaming department investigators offer their undercover efforts and specialized knowledge, while local agencies, in turn, offer their manpower to serve search warrants closing down illegal gambling businesses. This joint venture has successfully closed down several of these businesses, and effective media attention has caused many more to voluntarily close. These joint operations help to serve the mission of the gaming department, and local police departments are able to close businesses that are serving as magnets for various criminal offences and even violent crimes in their cities. In the past month, the gaming department has partnered with three local police agencies and has served at least four search warrants. >>[Read More](#).

### Report Showcases Arizona's Casino Oversight

By Sue Doerfler, The Republic | [azcentral.com](#) - July 11, 2015

In June, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on the regulation of tribal casinos across the United States. Tribal gaming, which has grown to a 28 billion dollar industry, still has a wide range of regulatory efforts imposed by each state. As part of this report, the GAO surveyed more than 400 gaming operations in 28 states and visited a handful of states, including Arizona.

The report explains that regulatory measures differ by state ranging from basic informal monitoring to more active regulation, like Arizona, where gaming operations are monitored on a weekly, monthly and annual basis. Arizona is one of seven states that regularly monitors tribal casinos, a list that also includes Connecticut, Kansas, Wisconsin, Oregon, New York and Louisiana. "We are pleased this report highlights Arizona as a jurisdiction with solid regulatory oversight," said Mike McGee, Assistant Director for the Department of Gaming and NAGRA Western Regional Director. "A sound regulatory structure is key to our mission of protecting the public and ensuring compliance with the tribal state gaming compacts." Arizona's Department of Gaming has about 100 employees that oversee both regulated gambling in the state as well as investigate illegal gambling businesses and enterprises.

The GAO study was part of an investigation into the effectiveness of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. The report found that overall, the act has been successful in increasing economic growth among tribes. The report included four recommendations, including that the National Indian Gaming Commission seek input from states on minimal control standards for gaming casinos. They also suggested the commission review and revise performance measures as needed to better assess training and technical assistance efforts. To read the report you go to <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-355>. >>[Read More](#).

## Gambling and the Law®: Casinos Coming to Cuba – Again

By Professor I. Nelson Rose

Diplomatic relations have been restored and the U.S. embassy in Havana and the Cuban embassy in Washington, D.C., are being reopened. Travel restrictions have been eased, though Americans without relatives in Cuba still have to be part of educational or similar programs to visit the island nation. But Pres. Obama has done as much as he can on his own. It may be difficult for Americans to travel to North Korea or Iran. But Cuba is the only country in the world where American tourists and businesses bars are barred not by a declaration from the U.S. State Department, but by an act of Congress. So Cuba will remain off-limits until Congress passes another act.

Unfortunately for both Americans and Cubans, Congress is unlikely to act, until well after the 2016 election.

The problem is purely political. The Cuban revolution of January 1959 led to the communist dictatorship of Fidel Castro and the nationalization of all private industry and property. The wealthy ruling class left with whatever they could carry. Many ended up in the U.S., particularly Florida. They naturally hated Castro. For five decades, these Cuban refugees determined the direction of American policy. >>[Read more.](#)

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## Cyber-attack hits N.J. gambling sites

By Ted Sherman | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com  
July 06, 2015

State and federal authorities are investigating a cyber-attack on four of New Jersey's online gaming sites last week by a hacker who promised more disruption unless a ransom in bitcoin was paid, officials said today.

State Division of Gaming Enforcement Director David Rebeck said the attack was launched Thursday before the long holiday weekend and continued through Sunday.

"At least four casinos were impacted and experienced downtime," he said. "We're continuing to monitor."

He said the four internet websites were the targets of a so-called "distributed denial of service," an attack that "floods" a network with information, rendering it inoperable. He said the attack lasted approximately 30 minutes. >>[Read more.](#)

## Washington State New Agent Training - September 14-18, 2015

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He said the four internet websites were the targets of a so-called "distributed denial of service," an attack that "floods" a network with information, rendering it inoperable. He said the attack lasted approximately 30 minutes. >>[Read more.](#)

## Gloves are off in lobbying war for online gambling

*Congress Blog - July 1, 2015*

The weather isn't the only thing heating up in D.C. this summer.

The battle over state-based online gambling has reached a fever pitch. Until last week, Congress had been seemingly quiet on the Restoration of America's Wire Act (RAWA; H.R. 707), the bill to ban Internet gambling. But then Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) introduced a companion bill to RAWA (S. 1668). Behind closed doors, the push for Congress to vote on the bill before adjourning for summer recess has intensified and the tactics become more extreme. And as usual, Sands Chairman Sheldon Adelson, one of RAWA's most prominent supporters, is lurking in the background. [>>Read more.](#)

## Sweepstakes/Internet Cafés Florida attorney who led gambling wants sentence thrown out

*Brandenton Herald - June 30, 2015*

\*\*\* The Florida Times-Union reports that Jacksonville attorney Kelly Mathis says in filings to a Daytona Beach appeals court that the judge in his case refused to allow him to introduce evidence that would have proved his innocence. Mathis was convicted in 2013 of 103 counts of racketeering, possessing slot machines and other charges.

Mathis was accused of operating dozens of so-called Internet cafes throughout the state. He was one of 57 initially arrested in the Allied Veterans case and the only one to receive prison time (6 years).

## Primedice Bitcoin Gambling Site Hacked for \$1M

*NEWSBTC, Bitcoin News Service - June 30, 2015*

Primedice, one of the biggest bitcoin gambling sites, has suffered a loss of \$1 million when one of its members figured out a way to game the system. The user went under the name "Hufflepuff" and was able to devise a method to hack the dice roll game that allows people to win bitcoin.

According to the company's CEO, they are offering rewards to anyone with information that can help them recover the lost money. The company had actually been able to figure out that "Hufflepuff" has been gaming the system but the user declined to return the funds.

\*\*\* Now since bitcoin transactions are anonymous and irreversible, the bitcoin gambling site faces a tough challenge in tracking down "Hufflepuff" and forcing him or her to return the funds. The company is currently focusing its operations in Russia and China after pulling out of the U.S. and Australian markets due to regulation. [>>Read more.](#)

## Bitcoin gambling operators warned over legality

The UK Gambling Commission has written to gambling operators using bitcoin-only websites to warn them that far from being outside the law as has been suggested in some quarters, the digital currency is actually covered by the UK's gambling regulations.

The Commission said that it has become concerned about the illegal gambling operators providing facilities for gambling to consumers in Great Britain under the mistaken assumption that bitcoin's unregulated status means that gambling with bitcoins is also outside of the regulator's purview. [>>Read more.](#)

## Michigan Gaming Updates

### Michigan Charity Poker Events To Face Stricter Rules

*Associated Press/CBS Local Detroit*

<http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2015/05/29/michigan-charity-poker-events-to-face-stricter-rules/>

*By Alisha Green*

May 29, 2015, LANSING, Mich. – Charitable poker events in Michigan will face stricter rules after a Michigan Court of Appeals decision Friday.

The Michigan Court of Appeals overturned an August 2014 injunction from Michigan Court of Claims Judge Pat Donofrio. That injunction had barred the state from enforcing rules issued last May by the Michigan Gaming Control Board significantly restricting charitable poker events. The board said those rules were aimed at assuring gambling operators don't exploit charities for their own profit.

The Michigan Charitable Gaming Association and several charities sued, saying the rules would cost millions of dollars in revenue.

Writing for the majority in the 2-1 Court of Appeals opinion, Judge Jane Beckering said the process by which the rules were adopted was appropriate.

Katharine Hude, executive director of the Charitable Gaming Association, said, "Obviously the majority opinion is disappointing, but the Michigan Charitable Gaming Association is in the process of reviewing the particulars of the opinion to determine the next best course of action for its members."

The Gaming Control Board released a statement praising the Court of Appeals decision.

Richard Kalm, executive director of the Gaming Control Board, said the decision will ensure the "integrity of gaming and the future of millionaire parties as a fundraising option for charities."

"The court recognized our ability to change the rules in response to legislative input," he said.

The Charitable Gaming Association had challenged the rules on another issue that wasn't considered. The Court of Claims may still consider that issue.