

## A Message from the President

As I write these lines, my home state of Virginia is paralyzed by the residual effects of a weather system that blanketed the Commonwealth with a nice layer of powdery snow. A full two inches in some places! And the thermometer dropped below freezing, too!

"Boo-hoo," "cry-me-a-river," etc... is what most of you across the US and Canada are probably saying. And what does that have to do with NAGRA, anyhow?

Well, I believe there is an analogy here that serves to illustrate one of NAGRA's most ambitious strategic goals, so bear with me, please. You see, much like those of you who function just fine in inclement weather, many of our NAGRA members have honed skills and achieved expert-level status in areas to which the rest of us can barely relate.

Case in point... the i-gaming geolocation and geofencing issues that Rod Rickenbach – with the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement – deals with are as foreign to me as NAGRA's Canadian Regional Director, Dave Peters' car engine warm up ritual during the long Saskatchewan winters.

I cannot relate personally to either Rod or Dave's realities because I lack the appropriate frames



Andres Alvarez  
NAGRA President  
2014/2015

of reference. And I submit that the same is true for many of us when it comes to relating to the accelerated pace of new issues that we are collectively facing as gaming regulators.

Concerns over the physical and logical security of gaming systems, due diligence challenges in the face of globalized operations, shifting client expectations, changing demographics, pressure from state or provincial governments to streamline operations, and so forth, are but a few of the challenges we as regulators are expected to manage... and manage well.

To help bridge gaps in knowledge and provide our members with a systematic process to learn, demonstrate, and receive certification in a variety of core areas related to the regulation of gaming, NAGRA is considering embarking in an ambitious professional development initiative. To that effect, NAGRA's Western

Regional Director and Oregon State Lottery Security Director Craig Durbin, is spearheading an effort that we hope will lead to a formalized credentialing program.

Upon successful completion of the prescribed modules, program participants would receive a credential that we are tentatively calling "Executive Gaming Certificate." The concept is in its infancy but I believe it holds tremendous potential. Not only would this program be a logical evolution of our organizational mandate for the advancement of professionalism in our industry, it would also serve as an effective tool to attract and retain members...

*Continued on next page*

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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.

## 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 [erice@ewald.com](mailto:erice@ewald.com) or mailed to the NAGRA office at 1000 Westgate Drive, Suite 252, St. Paul, MN 55114.

## 2015 Newsletter Schedule

### Spring:

Call for News: April 1

Content Due: May 1

Newsletter Emailed: May 15

### Summer:

Call for News: July 1

Content Due: August 1

Newsletter Emailed: August 15

## 2014/2015 Board of Directors

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Craig Durbin

### Canadian Regional Director

David Peters

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*President's Message continued from page 1.*

something that our Treasurer, Ms. Debbie Parpounas, with the Texas Lottery Commission, would certainly appreciate. So stay tuned for developments on this promising undertaking.

With respect to future events, I mentioned in the previous newsletter that we had selected Québec City for our 2016 Annual Conference. We are in the process of finalizing the contract with the hotel and expect to make a formal announcement in the days ahead. This has taken a bit of extra work to complete on account of

how popular Québec City is as a worldwide tourist destination and as a venue for conventions, particularly during the month of June.

But I am getting ahead of myself. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to start making plans to attend the 2015 NAGRA Annual Training and Education Conference at The Inverness Hotel and Conference Center, in Denver, Colorado, from June 15-18. NAGRA's Vice-President, Gary Vigneault and the members of the Conference Committee have an

exceptional line-up of presenters and topics. As always, the conference will provide exceptional professional development and networking opportunities. NAGRA's Programming Committee Chair, Greg Lestikow and his big boss, Colorado Secretary of State, Wayne Williams, are looking forward to our visit. Visit NAGRA's website at [www.nagra.org](http://www.nagra.org) for updates.

See you in Denver!!

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



**NAGRA** 31st Annual  
Training & Education  
Conference

**Save the Date**

**June 15-18, 2015**  
Denver, CO

The Inverness Hotel & Conference Center • 200 Inverness Drive West • Englewood, Colorado

**Now Open:**

- Sponsorship & Exhibitor Opportunities
- Hotel Reservation Link

**Coming Soon:**

- Attendee Registration

**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.

**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...

**The Inverness Hotel & Conference Center**

200 Inverness Drive West  
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<http://www.invernesshotel.com/>

**Online Room Reservation:**

Click here to make online room reservations.

P: +1 (303) 397-6400 or +1 (888) 958-8036

Please indicate you are with the NAGRA Annual Conference.

Rooms are available for booking until May 24, 2015.

**Room Rate:**

\$156.00 single/double occupancy

# Special Offer to Our Trade Affiliate Members

NAGRA invites all Trade Affiliate members and gaming industry professionals to take a special role in the organization’s Annual Training and Education Conference. NAGRA recognizes that regulators have a unique opportunity to learn about emerging technologies, types of gaming and industry services from the many firms that support the gaming industry. Our members are interested in seeing and learning firsthand about products and services that support the gaming industry. We encourage you to review the display and sponsorship opportunities soon to be detailed on the NAGRA website and to review the full conference agenda to see the high-caliber training programming that is central to this conference.

We have designed the display and sponsorship opportunities with high respect for rules that regulators

need to follow. For example, that is why we do not have specific refreshment breaks or lunches sponsored by any one particular firm, as it might preclude a regulator from participating in that activity if they have any kind of regulatory relationship with that firm. The opportunities were designed specifically to:

1. Give trade affiliate members and other firms greater visibility in front of the regulatory community;
2. Help educate regulators about emerging and current gaming technologies;
3. Showcase your company’s specific technology to upper level regulators in North America.
4. Support NAGRA in continuing to offer an annual conference with high-quality training and education opportunities for regulators.

## Sponsorship Levels

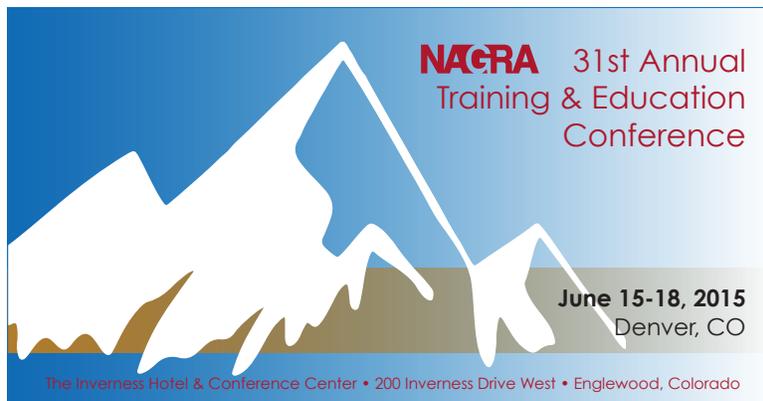
	Trade Affiliate Members	Non-Members
Platinum	\$6,000	\$7,500
Gold	\$4,800	\$6,000
Silver	\$2,400	\$3,000
Bronze	\$1,200	\$1,500
Exhibitor	\$ 400	\$ 500

[Click here for the 2015 Sponsorship/Exhibitor Prosectus.](#)

**To register online as a Sponsor/Exhibitor,**

**Click or copy and paste the following URL into your browser’s address bar:**

<http://www.nagra.org/events/Sessions.aspx?id=603297>



NAGRA appreciates your consideration and support!

## Spotlight on the Colorado Secretary of State

In November 1958, the people of Colorado approved an amendment allowing nonprofits to conduct bingo, raffles, and pull tabs, making ours the twelfth state in the nation to sanction charitable gaming. A lot has changed in the 60 years since, but one thing has remained the same: the Colorado Secretary of State's office is still the place to go for all things bingo.

Charitable gaming (what we usually call "bingo/raffle") is just one of a number of areas that our Department oversees. Like many Secretaries of State, we manage Colorado's elections. But we also handle business filings, lobbyists, charitable registrations, campaign finance, administrative rules... We could go on but, seeing as how this is the NAGRA newsletter, maybe we'll just focus on gaming!

First, the big picture. We license over 1,200 nonprofits to run charitable games in the state. All told, these organizations bring in about \$115 million in gaming revenue, a large portion of which comes from bingo and pull tabs. After expenses and payouts, nonprofits keep roughly \$22 million, all of which goes toward supporting their various missions.



Part of Colorado's Charitable gaming team dressed for Halloween as the "SOS Nonprofits SWAT Team."

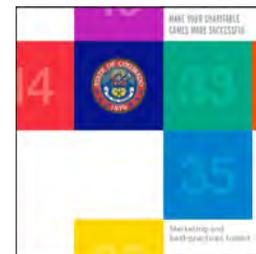
The Bingo/Raffle Team comprises three full-time program staff. Our fearless leader, Shannon Bee, started with the office nearly 15 years ago. In her current incarnation as Bingo/Raffle Program Manager, Shannon oversees the team's day-to-day operations. This includes processing applications and quarterly financial reports for our nonprofit licensees, as well as a handful of bingo halls and charitable gaming suppliers. She also pioneered our new "Consultation Services" model, which allows any licensee to request one-on-one face time to review application materials. The new service saves our customers loads of time by reducing

back-and-forth with our office.

And, speaking of saving time, Shannon is also spearheading our move to migrate all of our filings to an online platform. We hope to release e-filing for quarterly reports within the next few months, with annual applications not far behind. While this may not seem like a big deal to many, our customer base would disagree: in a 2012 survey, about 40 percent of our organizations told us that they could not file online, either because they don't have a debit or credit card, or because they don't have access to the internet. Shannon's big challenge in the next two years will be finding ways to get our licensees to adopt this new, more efficient technologies—she's already exploring financial incentives (i.e., lower filing fees) to get the ball rolling!

Of course, we're not just a filing office. As the state's charitable gaming regulator, we're also charged with ensuring that players get a fair shake and that the communities in which our licensees operate benefit from their gaming activities. Enter the Nonprofits Investigations Team, led by longtime investigator and resident polar bear, Larry Runn. Larry and his two investigators spend their time looking into complaints from the gaming public and then recommending sanctions for organizations that violate the law. We receive 30 to 40 complaints each year from throughout the Great Square State; throw in a few audits and our mandatory Games Manager trainings, and you've got one busy team.

Marshalling all of these resources (or at least trying not to get in the way) is Greg Lestikow, Nonprofits Program Manager. Greg works with both the Bingo/Raffle and Charities Registration Programs, for which he focuses mostly on outreach and strategic initiatives. In the past two years, Greg helped to develop the "Bingo Toolkit," a compact guide aimed at helping nonprofits run more successful bingo games. He also coordinated a legislative task force which made recommendations to the Colorado General Assembly for improving the state's operating environment for charitable gaming. Both projects typify the proactive approach that our office takes to supporting the nonprofit community.



We look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful state at the NAGRA Conference this June! ■



# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: Craig Durbin – Chair, CSGI  
Phone: 503-540-1406  
craig.durbin@state.or.us

## Committee for Securing Gaming Integrity Now Accepting Submissions

**September 26, 2014** - The Committee for Securing Gaming Integrity (CSGI) is pleased to announce it is now accepting submissions for CSGI's repository of technical, regulatory and protocol standards.

For the first time in the gaming industry, CSGI is generating a single web-based repository that will house recognized technical, regulatory and protocol standards, and other vital industry specific information. Accepted documents will serve the industry as the benchmark of leading-edge protection, across multiple jurisdictions and regulatory associations.

When an entity wishes to submit a standard for CSGI recognition, the entity will submit the proposed standard electronically to CSGI through the website. Once a standard, regulation or protocol is brought before the Committee, a call for recognition vote will be taken twice a year, once during the fall/winter and during the board meeting held in Las Vegas in the spring. Upon recognition, the recommended technical, regulatory standard or protocol will be placed into the CSGI repository.

The work that will be accomplished by the CSGI is vital, allowing those who have expertise in the development of standards, regulations and protocols an avenue to validate that their work is recognized by the industry we operate in. The CSGI repository also will enable regulators to keep pace with standards in addressing the rapid technology changes without becoming a barrier to the industry. In turn, this will begin to elevate commonality, best practice, expertise, due diligence and protection of our industry.

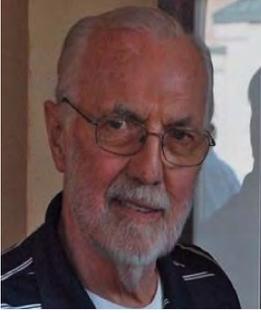
**About the CSGI** – The Committee for Securing Gaming Integrity (CSGI), through a common voice, will serve the fairness, integrity, security and honesty of gaming by the recognition of industry technical, regulatory and protocol standards. The CSGI provides a common recognition of regulatory standards and protocols within the industry.

**CSGI Members include** – North American State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL), North American Gaming Regulators Association (NAGRA), GTECH S.p.A, The International Masters of Gaming Law (IMGL), Central Account Management System (CAMS), BMM Testlabs, Gaming Laboratories International (GLI) and the British Columbia Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch.

**Member Benefit** – Participate on the CSGI and your organization will be part of a powerful voice on the recognition of standards used in the gaming industry, thereby making the industry safer and stronger. The CSGI is a standalone entity having no reporting obligation to any organization or industry association. As such, the CSGI will not be an association, allowing neutrality for each participating entity to only represent its own association. CSGI is currently accepting new committee chairs and there is no cost to join. Charter agreement and member duties can be found on the website: <http://www.csgi.org>.

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## In Appreciation



ROGER FRANKE

### **Roger Franke**

Few people are more committed to charitable gambling than Roger Franke. A stalwart of the industry for thirty years, Roger retired September 30, 2014. Throughout his career, Roger left his mark on charitable gambling, first in the State of Minnesota, and then across the country. Appointed the first director of the newly created Charitable Gambling Control Board in Minnesota in 1984, Roger shaped the agency into a highly functioning and effective regulatory body, which was tasked with overseeing the largest charitable gambling market in North America. Roger quickly developed a national reputation as an effective and knowledgeable regulator of charitable gambling and in 1990, was elected by his peers as President of the North American Gaming Regulators Association (NAGRA). In 1998 NAGRA honored him again as the first recipient of the NAGRA Distinguished Service Award.

When the Minnesota State Legislature created a new division within the Department of Public Safety to investigate criminal violations related to gambling, Roger was invited on board to train the newly hired investigators. His insight and expertise helped investigators uncover several incidents of theft and fraud, many of which resulted in convictions.

In 1991, Roger left state service and took the position of Director of Government Affairs for Arrow International, a large charitable gambling manufacturer located in Cleveland, Ohio. Roger traveled North America meeting with regulators, legislators and charitable organizations, offering his vast knowledge of the industry to further the adoption of reasonable and effective laws and rules. Roger became a tireless and active member of NAFTM and in 2002 was elected President, a position he held for ten years.

Throughout his career, Roger wore many hats and touched many lives. But he never lost sight of the fact that ultimately, charitable gambling exists to help people. Local people raising money for local programs; programs that make life better for all of us in every corner of every state and province. There is no question that the charitable gambling industry is better today because of the many contributions of Roger Franke. We thank Roger for his unwavering commitment and wish him the very best in his retirement. ■

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### **Patrick J. Finnegan**

Minnesota State Revenue Department attorney, Patrick J. Finnegan, has announced that he will retire from state service on March 3, 2015. He has served the North American Gaming Regulators Association (NAGRA), in many capacities. He was President of the association in 1998 and 1999. He has also held the offices of Past President, Vice President, Midwest Regional Director, and Secretary. He has also served on the charitable gaming committee, the by-laws committee, and in the past on the legal committee.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue is a long-time, active member of this organization.

Mr. Finnegan has worked as an attorney for the Minnesota Revenue Department since 1979. One of his long time duties has been to provide legal services in relation to the department's lawful gambling unit in the Special Taxes Division, which has the responsibility for administering and collecting the taxes related to the lawful gambling games of pull-tabs, tipboards, bingo, raffles and paddle wheels.

According to Finnegan, NAGRA conference meetings are a forum for the mutual exchange of information and techniques. "I have found them very informative and helpful in relation to my legal work with our gambling taxes," Finnegan said. "We do not live in a vacuum, and many of the problems that we encounter in taxing and regulating gaming activities are faced in other jurisdictions. We can learn a lot from one another," he added.

Mr. Finnegan has been involved in NAGRA since 1988. He attended both the University of Minnesota and St. John's University and received his juris doctor degree from William Mitchell College of Law. He says that he made a lot of great friends through his association with NAGRA and will miss them all. ■



**Spring Training Conference  
April 14 – 16, 2015**

**Cadillac Jack’s Gaming Resort**  
Deadwood, South Dakota

Midwest Gaming Investigators and Regulators (MGIR), created in 1988, is a non-profit organization comprised of gaming regulators and investigators throughout the United States and Canada.

MGIR holds conferences biannually with the mission of sharing gaming intelligence. Attendees are asked to share information that may impact other members (confidentiality is maintained).

Roundtable information has included:

- ✓ Thefts and illegal activities
- ✓ Licensing and background investigations
- ✓ New gaming activities and legislation
- ✓ Internet gaming
- ✓ Illegal gaming devices
- ✓ Lottery investigations

See you in Deadwood!

Like MGIR on Facebook @  
[facebook.com/midwestgaminginvestigatorsandregulators](https://www.facebook.com/midwestgaminginvestigatorsandregulators)

**Cadillac Jack’s Gaming Resort  
Springhill Suites by Marriott**

322 Main Street  
Deadwood, SD 57732  
605-559-1600  
866-332-3966  
cadillacjacksgaming.com

Conference Rate: \$69/night  
Reserve by 3/23 to receive group rate.

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**Conference Registration Fee: \$85**

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**For information and registration contact:**

MGIR c/o Sgt Mike Finnegan  
Missouri State Highway Patrol  
Gaming Division  
P.O. Box 1847  
3417 Knipp Drive  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

573-526-2330  
mike.finnegan@mgs.dps.mo.gov

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**Board Members**

**Mike Finnegan**

Missouri Highway Patrol Gaming Unit

**Steve VanOtterloo**

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**Tracy Bigelow**

North Dakota Office of Attorney General  
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**Jared Redekopp**

Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission  
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## Nevada Gaming Updates

### NCLGS To Finalize Policy Framework For Internet Gaming On January 10 At Upcoming NCLGS Winter Meeting In Las Vegas

After over a year of comment and expert input, the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS) will put the final touches on its groundbreaking U.S. Policy Framework for the Regulation of Internet Gaming at the upcoming NCLGS meeting scheduled for January 9 through 11 in Las Vegas, Nevada. On January 10 at the Paris Las Vegas, the NCLGS Executive Committee will consider a revised version of the Framework, incorporating amendments proposed in its initial comment period, as well as any comments received after its June evaluation at the NCLGS Summer Meeting in La Jolla, California.

Amendments to the Framework relate to player protections, payment processing, problem gambling protections, age verification, geo-location, and player identification, taxation, regulatory authority, licensing, multi-jurisdictional agreements, enforcement, and game choice and legality.

At a two and one-half hour meeting on Saturday morning, the Executive Committee will review proposed amendments vetted on November 11 at the Florida Gaming Congress in Miami, Florida, and any other comments ongoing. The Executive Committee also will accept any new input from interested parties attending the January 10 session. [>>Read More.](#)

### Nevada Online Poker Revenue Down...Again

The Nevada Gaming Control Board recently released its November Gaming Revenue Report, revealing that online poker revenue continued its decline.

According to the report, total internet gaming "win" for November, which only includes poker, was just \$641,000 statewide. That represents a 42 percent drop from the same period last year and a 3.6 percent decline from last month, when total online gaming win was \$665,000. [>> Read More.](#)

### Sports Betting/Fantasy Sports

Leagues see real benefits in daily fantasy sports

Bud Selig once tried to warn the world about what would happen if legalized sports gambling spread to more states. Instead of cheering for their favorite teams, the baseball commissioner predicted, fans would be more inclined to cheer for themselves to win money — a factor he said would harm his sport's character.

"Players would not be viewed by fans as exceptionally skilled and talented competitors but as mere assets to be exploited for 'fast money,'" Selig wrote in a statement submitted in federal court in 2012. Two years later, Major League Baseball is singing a

drastically different tune — and so are the NFL, NBA and NHL.

If there is a statistic that puts dollar signs in the heads of league commissioners, it's this one: Fans consume 40% more sports content — across all media — once they start playing FanDuel.

With money on the line every day, daily fantasy participants want to see the results as they happen. So they watch more live games until the end, boosting advertising and television viewership, which fatten the golden goose of American sports: TV rights contracts. [>>Read More.](#)

### In Las Vegas books, college football title game is a big hit

College football fans and ESPN executives aren't the only ones applauding the new championship playoffs.

Bettors and bookies seem to like it a lot, too.

The semifinal games on New Year's Day drew smash box office business in Nevada's legal sports books. And the title game Monday night between Ohio State and Oregon will follow a weekend of NFL playoff games that could be one of the most heavily bet ever. [>>Read More.](#)

## How FanDuel Is Turning Fantasy Sports Into Real Money

Days before Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers even suited up for a recent game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, an Irishman named Nigel Eccles had collected millions of dollars from people betting on Rodgers' All-Pro arm. By noon on game day he was raking in \$30,000 per minute. By the time Rodgers took his first snap, Eccles had collected \$18 million.

The action was happening far from the Vegas Strip or a Costa Rican website out of reach of U.S. law enforcement. Eccles' company, FanDuel, is situated above a storefront in New York City's Union Square, and its business is entirely legal. Eccles exploited an exclusion in the 2006 online gambling laws that

outlawed Web poker and continued the ban on sports betting, but left fantasy sports alone. Five years after its inception FanDuel has 1.1 million customers and is open for business in 45 states.

FanDuel paid out more than \$500 million in winnings in 2014 and took in \$50 million in fees. This year Eccles expects to pay out more than \$1 billion, which translates into \$100 million in revenue (and a \$1 billion valuation using the multiple analysts apply to the industry). FanDuel currently has about 75% of the daily fantasy market and has the most liquidity, allowing it to offer the biggest payouts and cheapest fees. Rival DraftKings, which has raised about \$80 million, has the rest. [>>ReadMore.](#)

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## Michigan Gaming Updates

### Burton man pleads guilty to operating illegal Genesee Township gaming room

by Roberto Acosta

The Flint Journal, 2014-11-4 (Note: Story also appeared in the Bay City Times)

BURTON, MI – A 32-year-old Burton man pleaded guilty Monday, Nov. 3, to operating an illegal gaming room in Genesee Township.

Thomas Joubran, 32, will pay a \$1,000 fine, forfeit gaming machines at Shamrock's Internet Cafe and testify if needed, as part of a plea agreement. [>>Read More.](#)

### Michigan doesn't gamble on slot machine standards

by John Wisely

Detroit Free Press, 2014-12-23

*The Michigan Gaming Control Board Lab tests slot machines and other games before they are used in Detroit's three casinos.*

Chris Adams and his colleagues don't have a typical state of Michigan office job.

They get paid to play slot machines.

While slot players at Detroit's three casinos watch vigilantly for fruit, crowns and other symbols to line up in hopes of hitting a jackpot, Adams looks for something more mundane yet equally important.

"We want to make sure that it's random," said Adams, manager of the Michigan Gaming Control Board Lab, a testing facility for casino games. "We can actually extract the random number generator output. We'll run a battery of tests on the number to make sure that it is indeed random."

He's one of five engineers who tests slot machines and other games before they are used in Detroit's three casinos.

Every state has its own laws governing casino games and the testers ensure compliance with Michigan standards. [>>Read More.](#)

## Future uncertain for Sports Creek Raceway

by Randy Conat  
WJRT-TV (ABC 12, Flint), 2014-12-31

SWARTZ CREEK (WJRT) - Sports Creek Raceway is planning a big party Wednesday, but it could be the last hurrah.

Sports Creek Raceway in Swartz Creek has 16 races and a big New Year's Eve celebration planned for Wednesday. After that, it's not certain what will happen there.

The state gaming control board has not issued a racing license for 2015.

Sports Creek only had 10 days of harness racing on its calendar this year. To schedule more for 2015, it needs two things - a contract with the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association and a racing license from the state.

"We're really concerned because we hate to see the track cease operations," said Rick Kalm, Michigan Gaming Control Board executive director.

[>>Read More.](#)

## Sports Creek for sale, despite state's optimism for future of horse racing

by Eric Dresden  
The Flint Journal , 2015-1-7

SWARTZ CREEK, MI -- The sign in front says "100 plus acres for sale," but the executive director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board still remains hopeful that horse racing could return to Sports Creek Raceway.

Rick Kalm, executive director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board, said the board is still waiting to see if Sports Creek and the Harness Horsemen's Association come to an agreement.

"Hopefully, they come to an agreement," he said. "We would lift the order if they did, providing that we could fit the days in and they had the horse supply."

Sports Creek was forced to close by the Michigan Gaming Control Board on Jan. 1, after failing to come to an agreement the horsemen's association. [>>Read More.](#)

## Michigan eases licensing requirements for Detroit casinos' nongaming suppliers

by Sherri Welch  
Crain's Detroit Business, 2015-1-13

The changes, which take effect Feb. 1, impact nongaming suppliers providing services like snow removal, lawn maintenance or linen services and goods like fruits and vegetables.

They will make the regulatory process less cumbersome for the Detroit casinos and their nongaming suppliers, said Richard Kalm, executive director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board in a news release.

They are also expected to reduce administrative burden on the state.

The gaming control board projects the licensing changes will result in a 54-percent decrease in license requests and an 80-percent decrease in licensing exemption applications, it said in a news release.

Nongaming suppliers providing \$400,000 or more in business to a Detroit casino during a rolling 12-month period are required to obtain a license. Previously, the licensing threshold was \$300,000 or more. [>>Read More.](#)