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For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit www.michigangaming.com

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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



MGCB RELEASES NOTICE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

The Michigan Gaming Control Board (“MGCB”) has recently announced that it will hold a special public meeting on **Wednesday, March 12, 2014** at the MGCB Detroit office, Cadillac Place, 3062 West Grand Blvd., Suite L-700, in Detroit.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the staff briefing, followed immediately by the agenda items. The Cadillac Place is in Detroit's New Center Area near the John Lodge Freeway (M-10), between Second Avenue and Cass Avenue. The Fisher Building and the Albert Kahn Building are nearby landmarks.

For more information regarding the MGCB, please visit their website at: www.michigan.gov/mgcb

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO HOLD GAMING-RELATED MEETING

On Tuesday, March 11, 2014, the Michigan Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a meeting concerning Michigan gaming-related matters.

The meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the Senate Appropriations Room, 3rd Floor in the Capitol Building located at 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, Michigan.

Agenda items includes the Michigan Gaming Control Board, Bureau of

State Lottery and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

For more information regarding the Senate Appropriations Committee, please visit: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/approps.html>

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING PROMOTES MARCH AS NATIONAL PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

This week, the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) started its four-week campaign for National Problem Gambling Awareness Month. The goal of the campaign is to educate the general public and health care professionals about the warning signs of problem gambling and raise awareness of local and national assistance programs. Previously, the program ran for only one week and coincided with the NCAA's March Madness basketball tournament. The campaign now takes place during the entire month of March.



The month of March has also been marked by an official Proclamation by Governor Rick Snyder, which states “during this month, we join with the Michigan Department of Community Health Office of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care to encourage Michigan residents to participate in this awareness month by sharing treatment information about this issue and supporting those who are in treatment and recovery.”

According to the NCPG, it is estimated that 2-3% of the United States population will have a gambling problem in any given year. The organization has suggested that healthcare providers, gaming industry representatives, and public organizations promote awareness of the issue through educational campaigns. This year's event, titled “Navigate Problem Gambling,” marks the twelfth annual campaign on the issue, but the first annual month-long campaign.

“Gambling becomes a serious problem when you can't stop,” states Keith Whyte, Executive Director of the National Council on Problem Gambling. “A problem gambler loses control and cannot stick to limits, even when gambling is causing serious financial, family, work or other problems.”

The NCPG's gambling awareness month provides weekly themes and questions for individuals and organizations to use in their communities. These materials are available free of charge at www.ncpgambling.org.

In addition, the Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network will be hosting a four-part webinar series exploring diagnostic and treatment issues in problem gambling. The first webinar of the series will begin with a 90-minute program to be held on March 20 at 2 p.m. EST that will offer an overview of problem gambling issues with a focus on the impact of the new DSM-5 criteria. For more information regarding this webinar series, please visit: <http://www.npgam.org/>.

The NCPG is a national advocate for programs and services to assist problem gamblers and their families. For more information about the NCPG, National Problem Gambling Awareness Month, and associated materials, please visit www.ncpgambling.org.

MICHIGAN LOTTERY RENEWS CONTRACT WITH GTECH THROUGH JANUARY 2017

On Friday, February 28, 2014, the Michigan Lottery announced that it had renewed its contract with GTECH to provide products and services related to the operation of the Lottery's draw games, such as Powerball, Mega Millions, Classic Lotto 47, and Club Keno. The current contract with GTECH was set to expire in January of this year, but the extension provides for the continuation of the company's relationship with the Lottery through January 19, 2017. GTECH has provided services to the Lottery since 1988.

In a press release on the matter, Director of Public

Relations Jeff Holyfield stated that, “[t]he Michigan Lottery games supported by GTECH’s products and services are very popular with our players and provide a significant share of the revenue that we contribute each year to the state School Aid Fund. The contract extension recognizes that GTECH and its team have proven they share our commitment to provide excellent services to our players and the 11,000 retailers that sell Michigan Lottery products across the state.”

According to its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2013, the Lottery disbursed \$734.3 Million to the State School Aid Fund in Fiscal Year 2013. It is required by law to deposit all of its net income into the School Aid Fund or the state’s General Fund. These deposits do not include unrealized gains or losses of the agency’s investments and bond amortization.

Current Legislation

In addition, on March 4, 2014, [House Bill 4855 \(“HB 4855”\)](#) was referred to the Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Human Services after it passed the House by a vote of 107-1. HB 4855, if passed and signed into law, would require the Lottery to check with the state Department of Human Services prior to issuing any winnings in excess of \$1,000.00 or more to ensure that the winner does not owe a debt to the department. If a debt exists, then the winnings must be applied to the debt, as well as to other debts such as child support arrearages, outstanding court fees, and unemployment compensation debts, prior to being paid to the winner. The winner would receive the remaining balances after these debts have been satisfied.

SOUTHERN GAMING SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR MAY 6-8, 2014 IN BILOXI

The Southern Gaming Summit will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi on May 6-8, 2014. The event will be held jointly with BingoWorld, the world’s largest bingo conference and trade show, at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center.

The summit will consist of conferences,

networking, and exhibit space featuring information and products related to all facets of the gaming industry. The event will begin with the Southern Gaming Summit/BingoWorld Golf Tournament on May 6, 2014 for exhibitors. Conference events begin on Wednesday and include discussions, presentations, and workshops on current issues facing the gaming industry. Featured speakers include Tilman Fertitta, CEO and Owner of Landry’s, Inc. and Geoff Freeman, President and CEO of the American Gaming Association. Other events include the Global Gaming Women Luncheon, an Executive Roundtable, and numerous networking opportunities for attendees.

Gaming and hospitality industry executives, regulators, legislators, and consultants are likely to express interest in the event. For more information on the event, as well as registration information, please visit: <http://www.sgsummit.com/>.

SIGN UP FOR RMC’S DAILY GAMING NEWS FEED

Regulatory Management Counselors, P.C. (RMC Legal), authors of *The Michigan Gaming Newsletter*, would like to extend an invitation to sign up for the complimentary *RMC Daily Gaming News Feed*. The Daily News Feed delivers Michigan and gaming-industry specific news links directly to you each morning.

To sign up to receive the RMC Daily Gaming News Feed, simply visit: <http://rmclegal.com/media-publications> and complete the form.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Blaine DeGracia at 517-507-3857 or degracia@rmclegal.com.