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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 SUSPENDS CHARITABLE GAMING ACTIVITY AT BURTON POKER ROOM

On Wednesday, October 30, 2013, the Michigan Gaming Control Board ("MGCB") announced that it had suspended all charitable gaming activity at Gloria's Poker Palace, operating as Palace Poker Room, located in Burton, Michigan. The suspension has been issued after a joint investigation was conducted by the MGCB and the Michigan State Police.

According to the announcement, the investigation began in August of this year when the MGCB received tips of illegal gambling activity occurring onsite. The MGCB has alleged that the investigation uncovered a scheme by which charities were required to pay the location a specific amount of funds from the event beyond what is required under the law or be denied the ability to use the location to hold charitable gaming events. In addition, the MGCB alleges several other violations of charitable gaming laws and regulations, claiming that the location operated charitable gaming events without the charity's supervision, falsifying financial reports, and provided charitable gaming funds to unlicensed charities or organizations.

The suspension represents the 16th charitable location that has been the subject of closure from the MGCB since 2010. In response to these investigations and in an effort to clarify legal charitable gaming practices, MGCB Executive Director Richard Kalm has submitted revised regulations governing millionaire party events, which include poker room activities. The draft regulations were submitted to the Department of Licensing and regulatory Affairs on September 18, 2013, and discussed at a hearing with the Michigan Legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules on October 31, 2013. In order to become effective, the draft regulations must be subject to a public comment period and comply with the Michigan Administrative Procedures Act.

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POKAGON BAND CELEBRATES THE COMPLETION OF NEW HOUSING UNITS IN DOWAGIAC

On Wednesday October 30, 2013, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians (“Pokagon Band”), owners and operators of the three Four Winds Casino properties, celebrated the addition of 32 new additional housing units in Dowagiac, Michigan. Upon its completion, the new development brings the total number of Tribal Village units to 66. The homes provide affordable housing, economic development, and increased self-sufficiency for its tribal citizens.

In addition to the community housing services, the Pokagon Band also provides education, family services, medical care and cultural preservation for the citizens. The tribe is located in four counties in Southwestern Michigan and six in Northern Indiana. “These homes are the result of our continued mission to support our Citizens and help them obtain a better quality of life,” stated Bob Moody, Vice Chairman of the Pokagon Band.

Notably, the Pokagon Band owns and operates three Native American casinos properties in south-west Michigan. Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo, Michigan opened in 2007 and features 130,000-square-feet of gaming floor space, 3,000 slot machines, and 60 table games. In 2011, the first of the Pokagon’s satellite casinos, Four Winds Hartford, opened its doors and features 52,000-square-feet of gaming space. The third satellite property, located in Dowagiac, opened in April of 2013 and features 300 slot machines and four table games.

LOTTERY LAUNCHES NEW POKER LOTTO GAME

This week, the Michigan Bureau of State Lottery announced the launch of its newest game, “Poker Lotto.” The Poker Lotto game is a dual game consisting instant lottery and nightly drawings.

When you purchase a Poker Lotto ticket, you receive five random cards. If those cards form a winning hand, under the rules, then patrons win instantly. Win or lose, those five random cards are also eligible for the next Poker Lotto nightly

drawing, which airs at 7:20 p.m. The nightly drawing will choose five cards at random. If two or more of your cards match any of those cards including the same suit, you win. The nightly drawing is a completely separate game from the instant-win game.

Overall odds of winning a nightly draw prize are 1 in 16. For more information, please visit the Michigan Lottery’s website at: <http://www.michigan.gov/lottery/>.

IAGA LAUNCHES NEWLY REVAMPED WEBSITE

The International Association of Gaming Advisors (“IAGA”) recently launched its newly revamped website that includes a new wide range of functionalities, adding more value to the membership of the organization.

Through the website, IAGA members can stay connected, read and publish original gaming articles of interest, network with fellow IAGA advisors from around the world, register for IAGA’s Annual International Gaming Conference and other IAGA-related industry conferences, manage membership, view photos from IAGA events and much more. In addition, the website features links to the IAGA Twitter and LinkedIn accounts.

Most recently, IAGA partnered with the American Gaming Association and had a major presence at the Global Gaming Expo, which included a one day series of panels on September 23, 2013, including a luncheon, which was co-sponsored by Regulatory Management Counselors, P.C. It was attended by more than 200 persons to honor longtime IAGA member and industry veteran Bob Faiss. This event was followed by a cocktail party for more than 165 IAGA members, guests and regulators.

To visit the newly configured website, please visit: <https://iaga.squarespace.com/>