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The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



LOTTERY, PARI-MUTUEL TRENDS AMONG GAMING ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED AT JANUARY 6-8 WINTER MEETING OF LEGISLATORS FROM GAMING STATES

On December 20, 2016, the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States ("NCLGS") announced an upcoming panel of leading lottery experts at its Winter Meeting, which will take place January 6-8, 2017, at Hotel Valley Ho in Scottsdale, Arizona.

"Many states depend on lotteries to fund essential programs, and legislators need to understand the issues, concerns and opportunities that lottery experts are grappling with," said Ohio Senator William Coley, who chairs the Lottery Committee for NCLGS. "Fortunately, we have an extraordinary panel of experts who can provide that guidance."

On January 6, Panel members will include:

- Dennis Berg, Executive Director, Ohio Lottery
- Andrew Crowe, Vice President of Emerging Markets, Vantiv
- M. Scott Bowen, Commissioner, Michigan Lottery
- Kurt Freedlund, former Chief Operation officer, General Counsel for Georgia Lottery
- Tom Nieman, Vice President of Worldwide Marketing, JCM Global
- Paul Sternburg, Senior Lottery Associate, Spectrum Gaming Group, former Executive Director of Massachusetts Lottery

The meeting will also focus largely on the outlook of the pari-mutuel industry and its relationship with casino gaming. Experts will discuss numerous topics such as the state of horse racing, profitability of racetracks,

the future of greyhound racing and state attitudes toward the industry.

“The complexity of the pari-mutuel industry, and the ever-changing environment of gaming require that we provide real-time analysis for what is and is not working,” said NCLGS President Bill Galvano, a state senator from Florida.

The NCLGS states that the conference will also include presentations from industry experts in responsible gaming, pari-mutuels, lotteries, casinos, and state-federal relations, which covers both Internet and tribal gaming issues. Furthermore, the International Masters of Gaming Law will be leading sessions that address the emergence of eSports, tribal legal issues, and the role of regulators.

Additional Panel members who will address the committee on January 6 are:

- Steve Geller, Shareholder, Geller Law Firm
- Jack Jeziorski, Executive Vice President, Monarch Content Management
- Keith Johnson, President, AmTote International
- Steve Keech, Executive Vice President, AmTote International
- Chris McErlean, Vice President of Racing, Penn National Gaming
- Doug Reed, Principal, RG&E LLC

THE POKAGON BAND AND ITS FOUR WINDS CASINOS DONATE 1,200 FOOD BASKETS TO FAMILIES IN NEED

On December 20, 2016, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and its Four Winds Casinos announced a donation of 1,200 baskets of food to those in need throughout Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan. Each basket contains a turkey, potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, corn and apple pie and are being delivered from December 19 – 22 by Four Winds employees alongside several local organizations.

Participating local organizations include:

- The Food Bank of Northern Indiana in South Bend, Indiana
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi in Dowagiac, Michigan
- Decatur Human Services in Decatur, Michigan
- The Methodist Church in Hartford, Michigan
- Emergency Shelter Services in Benton Harbor, Michigan
- Child & Family Services of Southwest Michigan in Benton Harbor, Michigan
- Marcellus Food Bank in Marcellus, Michigan

“Many families and individuals struggle with hunger especially during the holiday season,” said John P. Warren, Chairman of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, which owns Four Winds Casinos. “The Pokagon Band hopes our efforts along with the assistance of several local organizations eases this burden and brings relief to all recipients.”

AGA ANNOUNCES AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2017

On December 21, the American Gaming Association (“AGA”) specified three areas of focus for the upcoming year. According to the AGA, its first emphasis will be on strengthening its congressional champion development efforts. The “Get to Know Gaming” campaign will continue and the AGA will develop proactive engagement with the Trump Administration and incoming members of Congress. Additionally, the AGA has submitted a memo that provides the transition team of President-elect Donald Trump with an overview of the U.S. casino industry, its strong economic impacts and the key policy priorities for 2017 and beyond.

Second, the AGA will focus on enhancing the Global Gaming Expo (“G2E”) in Las Vegas, Nevada. “AGA will continue our comprehensive efforts to take G2E to the next level. We are also exploring several new ventures that could support your business functions and significantly reduce costs,”

said AGA President and CEO, Geoff Freeman.

Lastly, the AGA says it will concentrate on advancing the legal sports betting campaign. According to the AGA, there will be a focus on creating a coalition of key stakeholders such as law enforcement, sports fans, and regulatory officials in order to create the best environment needed to pursue legislative action.