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# The \_\_\_\_\_ MICHIGAN GAMING \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter



## **GOVERNOR SNYDER ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF ARIC NESBITT AS LOTTERY COMMISSIONER**

On March 22, 2018, Governor Rick Snyder announced that he has accepted the resignation of Aric Nesbitt as Commissioner of the Michigan Lottery. Nesbitt is stepping down as Lottery Commissioner to explore other options for public service. Brian O. Neill, the Lottery's Chief Deputy Commissioner, has been appointed to the post.

"I thank Aric for his leadership at the Lottery and for his long-standing commitment to serving the people of Michigan. Under his management, the Lottery provided a record \$924.1 million to the School Aid Fund last year to help support public education in our state," Snyder said.

The Lottery Commissioner is responsible for the overall management and operation of the Lottery, including the development of long-range plans, formulation of policy, and assuring the accountability and integrity of the Lottery. The Commissioner also establishes and maintains contact with state legislators to research, evaluate, and gauge the impact of Lottery-related legislation.

Brian O. Neill joined the Lottery in 2013 where he served as the Lottery's Deputy Commissioner for Compliance and Legal Affairs and interim Chief Financial Officer. Since 2016, Neill has served as the Lottery's Chief Deputy Commissioner. In that position, he has been responsible for managing the ongoing operations and administration of the Lottery.

Nesbitt's resignation takes effect on Saturday and Neill's appointment begins on Sunday. Neill will serve at the pleasure of the Governor. His appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

## **CAESARS WINDSOR GIVE COMMITTEE VOTE TO STRIKE MANDATE**

According to yesterday's Windsor Star newspaper, and confirmed by the Union's Facebook page, Caesars Windsor workers represented by Unifor Local 444 voted in support of a strike if a deal cannot be reached with casino management by the contract expiration on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The strike mandate received strong (98%) support, with wages, pensions and workplace concerns as the main issues.

Unifor Local 444 represents approximately 2,300 Caesars Windsor workers.

Doug Boughner, third vice-president of Unifor Local 444 and the union's liaison for casino workers stated on the Union Local Facebook page: "It shows members support their bargaining committee. We don't want a strike if there's no need. But the members made it clear tonight that they will withdraw their work if we can't reach a fair deal."

Casino management and the union are still at the bargaining table, so hope remains that a strike may be averted.

## **2018 FOUR WINDS INVITATIONAL TO BE HELD JUNE 8-10**

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and its Four Winds® Casinos have announced that the 2018 Four Winds Invitational will be held from Friday, June 8 through Sunday, June 10. The tournament will be held at Blackthorn Golf Club, located at 6100 Nimtz Parkway, South Bend. The seventh annual tournament will feature a field of professional women golfers from around the world competing on the Symetra® Tour – Road to the LPGA®. The 2018 tournament will include 144 golfers who will be playing for a \$150,000 purse.

Since its inception 2012, the Four Winds Invitational has donated more than \$430,000 in tournament proceeds to Beacon Children's Hospital. Additionally, more than \$1 million in

prize money has been awarded to athletes playing in the tournament. Fifty golfers who competed in South Bend have graduated from the Symetra Tour and moved on to the LPGA Tour, including 2015 tournament winner and Major Champion Brooke Henderson and 2016 winner Jackie Stoelting.

"We are proud to bring back the Four Winds Invitational to South Bend for the seventh straight year," said John P. Warren, Chairman of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. "We've watched as this event has grown in popularity for the players, and for the community. Through this growth, we've been able to donate significant proceeds for valuable, lifesaving equipment at Beacon Children's Hospital."

The Four Winds Invitational is one of four Symetra Tour events that is part of the fifth annual Potawatomi Cup, which has a total prize pool of \$40,000. It awards Symetra Tour players a bonus based on performance at events sponsored by four Potawatomi nations' casinos.

More information on the tournament is available at [fourwindsinvitational.com](http://fourwindsinvitational.com).