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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



NESSEL: ILLEGAL GAMBLING OPERATIONS HAVE NO PLACE IN MICHIGAN

Michigan Attorney General, Dana Nessel, announced in a press release dated May 8, 2019, that Bruce Zitka, 69, and his wife Susan, 54, were convicted of six felonies each for their role in three illegal gambling operations in Muskegon. The couple was convicted by a jury late last week in Ingham County Circuit Court with Judge Rosemarie Aquilina presiding.

The Zitkas were each charged with, and convicted of, the following:

- Three counts of Operating a Casino Without a License, a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison; and
- Three counts of Using a Computer to Commit a Crime, a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Last week's conviction follows charges filed in late 2016 after a joint investigation led by the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) and the Michigan Attorney General's Office showed that for more than a year, the Zitkas owned and operated three unlicensed casinos: Fast Lane, Lucky Mouse and the Landing Strip.

According to business and bank records found in the couple's home during the execution of a search warrant, the three businesses grossed nearly \$1 million in revenue in 2015 alone. Tax filings show the couple wrote off most of that revenue and claimed very little in taxes.

"Gambling is a highly regulated industry in our state and those who operate illegal gambling venues will consistently be held accountable," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said. "When individuals conduct these illegal operations, it robs Michigan public schools of the dollars they need to provide quality education to our students and it robs the state and local government of important tax revenue."

Mr. Zitka is a former, long-time member of the Orchard View Schools Board of Education. He resigned his seat on July 3, 2018.

“The Gaming Control Board staff provides expertise to help the Michigan Attorney General and other law enforcement agencies stop illegal gambling in Michigan,” said Richard S. Kalm, MGCB executive director. “The consequences of a felony conviction can be significant for the offender. The jury’s decision to convict the Zitkas hopefully will discourage the spread of illegal gambling operations not only in Muskegon but around the state.”

The Zitkas will be sentenced on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 by Judge Aquilina.

Michigan residents are encouraged to report illegal or suspicious gambling activity through the MGCB’s anonymous tip line, 888-314-2682.

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING WELCOMES NEW CORPORATE CASINO MEMBERS

Per a press release dated May 8, 2019, The Michigan Association on Problem Gambling (MAPG) announced that its board of directors has approved the memberships of two new Corporate Members: Four Winds Casinos (Four Winds) and MGM Grand Detroit (MGM).

Raquel Buari, Vice President of Compliance at Four Winds, and Tanja Walker, Cage Manager at MGM Grand Detroit, also will serve as MAPG Board Members.

“Both Four Winds and MGM are doing great work in the field of problem gambling,” said Michael Burke, Executive Director for MAPG. “They truly care for their players and have implemented numerous safeguards to help protect the small percentage of customers who may experience a gambling problem. MAPG looks forward to working with these new members to continue addressing problem gambling issues within the state of Michigan and elsewhere.”

MAPG is an advocate for problem gamblers and their families and serves as the Michigan affiliate to the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG). MAPG is neutral on legalized gambling and is comprised of a cross section of the problem gambling community in Michigan, including problem gambling trainers, clinicians, researchers, and stakeholders from Michigan’s gambling industry. For more information about the MAPG or how you can become involved with the association, please visit www.MichAPG.com.

FIREKEEPERS CASINO HOTEL ANNOUNCES JOB FAIR

Per a press release dated May 6, 2019, FireKeepers Casino Hotel has announced that they will be holding a job fair on Wednesday, May 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the FireKeepers Event Center. Applicants will be able to apply and interview during the job fair for positions in Food & Beverage, Security, Hotel, Bingo, Finance and Marketing departments. Human Resources will be on sight to make offers on the spot.

“Now is a great time to join our team. We have enjoyed nearly a decade of success, we offer a great package of benefits and opportunities for career growth,” stated FireKeepers Casino Hotel CEO Kathy George. “We are looking for individuals who are welcoming, engaging, enthusiastic and appreciative, who will take pride in providing great guest service for every guest, every day.”

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, though some positions require applicants to be at least 21. Computers will be available for applicants to complete applications during the job fair, but are encouraged to apply prior to the event. Eligible applicants must bring resumes and are required to pass a drug screen and a background check in order to qualify for and maintain a gaming license for employment at FireKeepers Casino Hotel.

“We are proud to be able to offer our Team Members comprehensive benefits such as 401(k)

with company match and paid time off,” stated FireKeepers Casino Hotel Vice President of Human Resources Frank Tecumseh. “FireKeepers also offers medical, dental, vision and prescription coverage, life insurance, an on-site medical clinic, discounted Team Member cafeteria, employee assistance programs, and so much more.”

More information is available by contacting FireKeepers Human Resources Department at 269.660.5740.

Anyone interested in viewing other Michigan jobs available in the casino industry can search available positions at CasinoCareers.com.

MGCB PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MAY 21

The Michigan Gaming Control Board will hold a regular public meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the staff briefing, followed immediately by the regular agenda items.

The meeting is open to the public and questions, comments and suggestions from the public regarding Board business and the licensing regulation and conduct of casino gaming in Detroit under the Act are welcomed and encouraged during the public comment portion of the meeting.

The meeting will be located at the MGCB Detroit office, Cadillac Place, 3062 West Grand Blvd., Suite L-700, Detroit. 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.

INDIANA GOVERNOR ERIC HOLCOMB SIGNS SPORTS WAGERING BILL

On Wednesday of this week, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb signed House Bill 1015 that

authorizes mobile sports wagering in the state. In connection with the enactment of the law, the Governor issued the following statement

“Gaming is a highly regulated industry that once had little competition, but now does from surrounding states and new technology. By modernizing our laws, this legislation will spur positive economic growth for our state and for an industry that employs over 11,000 Hoosiers. Additionally, it will bring in new revenue and create hundreds of new jobs – both permanent and in construction. I will direct the Indiana Gaming Commission to monitor for potential effects of this bill so that we can make necessary changes in future legislative sessions.”

Pursuant to the new law, the Indiana Gaming Commission could start accepting sports betting applications on July 1, 2019. The law allows the Commission to issue temporary licenses while full approval is pending. Under the law, the casino operators that choose to offer sports wagering can apply for up to three different skins for their online sports wagering offerings. More information on the legislation that passed was included in the prior Michigan Gaming newsletter article, Volume 25, Issue 12, [Indiana Passes Gaming Expansion Legislation](#).