

DIRECTOR'S DESK

By: Aaron Hummel

As we move into the latter part of summer, I would like to take a moment to recognize the tremendous efforts of our Gaming Division staff, as well as the charitable organizations, manufacturers, and distributors who worked together to make this year's licensing transition a success. The transfer of charitable gaming licensing responsibilities to the Gaming Division, combined with the implementation of our new electronic licensing system, represented one of the most significant changes to gaming administration in recent years.

As with any project of this size, the transition did not come without challenges. Throughout the application and renewal process, our staff worked diligently to respond to questions, resolve technical issues, and assist organizations as they navigated the new system. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Office of Attorney General's Information Technology staff and the software developer who help through the process of creating our electronic licensing system. Their countless hours of planning, development, testing, troubleshooting, and ongoing support were instrumental in making this project a success. Likewise, I want to thank the organizations that demonstrated tremendous patience, flexibility, and a willingness to try new things and provide constructive feedback throughout the process. That collaboration has allowed us to refine system functionality, improve internal processes, and identify enhancements that will make next year's licensing cycle even more efficient.

One of the many benefits of the new licensing system is its ability to provide greater consistency and accountability throughout the licensing process. As applications were reviewed, we worked closely with organizations to identify documentation gaps and ensured all required materials were complete and current. While this required additional communication in some cases, it has strengthened compliance and will help establish a more complete and accurate foundation for future licensing cycles.

I am also pleased to report that the administrative rules process for this round has now been completed. I would like to thank the members of the North Dakota State Gaming Commission for their time, thoughtful consideration, and leadership throughout the rulemaking process. Their careful review and adoption of the updated administrative rules have helped ensure that North Dakota's charitable gaming industry continues to operate under a clear, modern, and effective regulatory framework. We also appreciate the valuable input provided by organizations and industry partners throughout the process. Printed copies of the updated gaming law and administrative rules books will soon be available for purchase for those organizations that wish to maintain a hard copy.

Organizations choosing not to purchase a printed rule book now have the option of posting a QR code at their gaming site that provides direct access to the current laws and administrative rules. This provides an easy way to ensure the most up-to-date information is readily available while reducing printing costs. Additional information regarding this option, including posting requirements, is available in the Rules Overview included with this newsletter.

Looking ahead, we are excited to play a significant role in the educational programming for the inaugural North Dakota Gaming Conference and Tradeshow, scheduled for October 27-28. This conference represents an outstanding opportunity for organizations, manufacturers, distributors, and industry partners to receive valuable training, learn about regulatory updates and best practices, and strengthen relationships across North Dakota's charitable gaming community. I encourage everyone to make plans to attend and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership and your commitment to operating charitable gaming with integrity and in compliance with North Dakota law. The work you do continues to benefit communities across our state, and we appreciate your cooperation throughout this year of significant change.

Nelly Dean

On behalf of the entire Gaming Division, I wish you a safe, enjoyable, and successful remainder of the summer.