

# WASHINGTON STATE GAMBLING COMMISSION

2ND OLDEST GAMBLING REGULATORY AGENCY IN THE NATION



## What's New and What's News

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE LEGISLATURE & OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

November 2013

This newsletter is dedicated to keeping the legislature and other governmental agencies informed of "What's New" in the Gambling Commission and "What's News."

### New Ex Officio Members Appointed

Four members of the legislature act as ex officio members of the Commission and vote to approve or amend Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compacts. They also serve an important liaison role between the Commission and legislature.



**Senator Steve Conway**, 29<sup>th</sup> District, was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor as an ex officio member in February 2013. He replaced Senator Prentice, 11<sup>th</sup> District, who served from 1994 to 2012. Margarita Prentice is now a Commissioner.



**Senator Mike Hewitt**, 16<sup>th</sup> District, was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in September 2013. He replaced Senator Delvin, 8<sup>th</sup> District, who served from 2005 to 2013.



**Representative Gary Alexander**, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, was re-appointed by the Speaker of the House in July 2013. He was initially appointed in December 2007.



**Representative Christopher Hurst**, 31<sup>st</sup> District, was appointed by the Speaker of the House in July 2013. He replaced Representative Ormsby, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, who served from 2011 to 2013.



### New Commissioners Appointed

Five citizens are appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, to act as part-time Commissioners, for a single six-year term.



**Geoff Simpson** was appointed as a Commissioner in August 2013 by Governor Inslee. Commissioner Simpson is a firefighter in Kent and a lobbyist for the Washington State Council of Firefighters. He has served as the Covington Mayor Pro Tem, a City Council Member, and served as a Representative in the Legislature. He was on the Gambling Commission as an ex officio member from 2007 until 2010.



**Chris Stearns** was appointed as a Commissioner in May 2013 by Governor Inslee. Commissioner Stearns is an attorney specializing in Indian law. He previously served four years as Counsel to the U.S. House Committee of Natural Resources and was the first-ever Director of Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of Energy. He is also the past Chairman of the Seattle Human Rights Commission.

#### Our three other Commissioners are:

**Mike Amos**, Chair, appointed 2008.

**Margarita Prentice**, Vice Chair, appointed 2012.

**Kelsey Gray**, PhD, appointed 2012.

### New Director Appointed

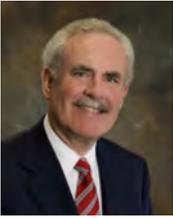


**David Trujillo** was unanimously appointed Director by the Commissioners in June 2013. When the Commissioners announced their decision, they said David's background with the Commission was impeccable and it was an easy choice selecting him as the Commission's new Director. David has been with the agency since 1992 and served in various positions throughout the agency. He is a recipient of the Washington State Leadership Award.

David replaces Rick Day who served as Director from 2001 to March 2013. We wish Rick the best in his new position as the first Director of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, a newly created agency.

**Our Mission: Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest.**

## Farewell Commissioner Ellis



**John Ellis** was appointed as a Commissioner February 2005 by Governor Gregoire; his term expired June 30, 2013. He served as Commission Chair for four years and Vice-Chair for one year.

Governor Inslee recognized Commissioner Ellis in a letter, which was read at the May 2013 Commission meeting. Governor Inslee thanked Commissioner Ellis for the considerable time and energy he devoted to the Commission. We appreciate the leadership and thoughtfulness Commissioner Ellis brought to the Commission.

## Proposed Fee Increase in 2014

After much discussion and consideration, staff asked the Commissioners to consider a fee increase of about 5% to be effective July 1, 2014. At their September 2013 meeting, the Commissioners approved this request.

In order to get input from our stakeholders, we had an online survey. We estimate that through our various outreach efforts, approximately 4,000 stakeholders would be aware of the survey.

About 40 stakeholders took the survey and gave us their thoughts. Two stakeholders were supportive of the increase, two were neutral, and the remainder were not in support. Two of the comments received were:

- "I wish agencies would utilize other avenues to save costs first. How much does it cost to send out these paper newsletters? I for one would much rather have a non paper option and it saves money. This is just one example. There are so many ways to save costs that have not been explored as of yet."
- "I oppose mostly because the economy at the time has severely impacted my gambling income."

Although we plan to work with the legislature on a possible fee increase, we will continue to look for ways to cut costs. "My Account" is our newest cost saving online feature. We are also looking at "going paperless" with all of our newsletters - as suggested in response to the survey.

## Introducing My Account

*My Account* was launched in 2013 and is designed to make it easier for our licensees to do business with us and better connect us with all of our customers.



*My Account* is for both licensees and non-licensees.

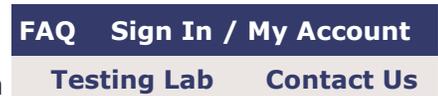
**Licensees** may conduct most gambling related business using their personalized *My Account*.

Here are a few of the tools and services in *My Account*:

- A personalized calendar which can be used for many things, including tracking:
  - Expiration date(s) of gambling license(s) and the gambling licenses held by employees.
  - Activity report due dates.
  - Dates & locations of Commission Meetings.
- Commercial operators can renew their gambling license and their employees' gambling licenses by completing an online renewal application and paying license fees in *My Account*.
- File activity reports and view past activity reports.
- Find contact information for the gambling agent assigned to their licensed business.

**Both licensees and non-licensees** can sign-up for e-mail notifications of newsletters (6 a year), Commission meeting agendas (10 a year) and rule-making.

Create a *My Account* today by clicking on "Sign In/My Account" in



the top right corner of our website. After you register, you will receive a confirmation e-mail to activate your new account.

We continue adding new online functions to make business easier for our licensees and to better connect with all of our customers.

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