

# Message from the Executive Director



The MGC values the assertion that, “if you can be licensed in Missouri you can be licensed anywhere.” We are respected as leaders among regulatory agencies; our electronic gaming device experts lead the nation, and our Highway Patrol and financial investigators command respect for their background checks. We are represented, recognized and active with the North American Gaming Regulators Association and International Association of Gaming Advisors/Regulators where we have provided leadership. As with any enforcement or regulatory agency, measurements of success are difficult to identify, however, the fact that there have been no negative reports concerning criminal involvement in the casino industry attests to our regulatory success.

During the past fiscal year MGC has evolved into a cohesive and productive team. We have a full complement of five commissioners; Chairman Noel Shull and Commissioner Darryl Jones were reappointed in the spring by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Staff as well has developed into a capable veteran unit. Previous consolidation of functions, reorganization and salary increases have led to an exceptionally low turnover which has enhanced working relationships, efficiency and effectiveness. The work of our IT department has streamlined our communications. With the main headquarters in Jefferson City, and offices in St. Louis and Kansas City, and a presence on each of the boats, video conferencing has been utilized effectively and has minimized travel. The automation of licensing, gaming incident reports (GIRs), and imaging of records have all streamlined our operations. Our auditors track casino operations and are effective in monitoring the casinos. The rapidly changing technology in the industry which includes cashless wagering, server based gaming and wireless innovations requires our staff to not only stay abreast of these changes but work with casino managers and our own lawyers in proposing and enacting relevant rules and regulations. Our administrative staff is responsible for an accurate admissions count and tax collection with a timely distribution of proceeds to the worthy causes according to formula. We have been responsive to our elected officials such as the Governor’s office and Senate and House committees with research and analysis and when called upon to provide testimony on various issues.

A comprehensive revision of Chapters 4 and 10 of the *Code of State Regulations* was implemented during the past year which extended licensing to include suppliers and gaming laboratories. These companies are in a position to affect the outcome of gaming and should be subject to the same background checks as casinos. These revisions also streamlined the application process.

An emphasis was placed on coordinating GIRs, disciplines and compliance. Fines meted out in 2007 led to increased compliance in 2008, a mark of getting the attention and cooperation of the casinos.

The voters will decide in November whether to pass the initiative petition which includes a repeal of the loss limits, an increase in the AGR tax and a cap on the number of casinos. If the petition passes, then we will adjust our procedures, enact relevant regulations and expand our training to maintain the high quality regulation our citizens and the industry expect. If the petition fails, then we will be guided by the market study and its findings which was commissioned by MGC in 2008 in deciding on new applications that may be filed. MGC will determine whether there is a market for a new casino at a particular location, its impact on the community and the State and ultimately whether a priority investigation should be approved which is tantamount to licensing if the applicant meets its commitments.

MGC has established excellent relationships with those with whom it interacts. These include the dock cities, casino managers, federal, state and local law enforcement, and other groups interested in the financial and social aspects of gambling. We treat seriously patron complaints and strive to ensure the integrity of the games.