

The Indiana Casino Gaming News

A regular update of issues regarding Indiana casinos

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Inside this issue:

- Getting to Know... 2
Jerry Long and the ICPG
- Aztar and the ARK Team 3
Up To Prevent Child Abuse
- Indiana Casinos Help 3
Hurricane Victims
- Message from the 4
Director

Casino Quick News

- According to the Indianapolis Star, "Casino gaming workers rank No. 21 among the fastest-growing occupations in Indiana."
- Just 2 months before Hurricane Katrina struck, the city of Biloxi spent \$92,999 on a business interruption insurance policy that will pay out \$10 million.

Self-Exclusion Program Reaches First Anniversary

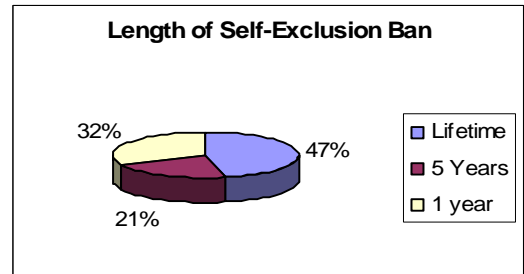
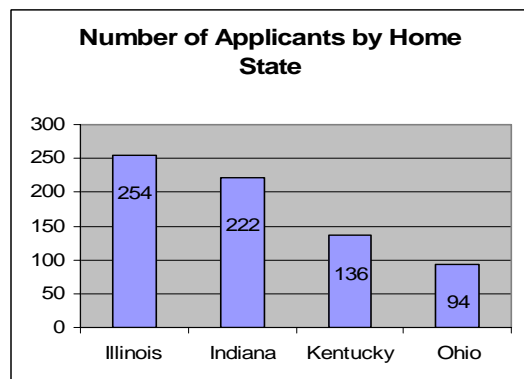
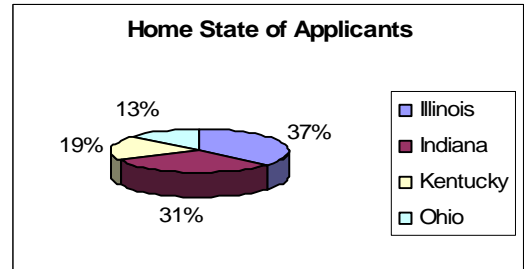
The Indiana Casino Voluntary Self-Exclusion Program was created to help problem gamblers by allowing them to ban themselves from Indiana casinos. The program has been in effect for one year and 724 names are on the list, but the demographic statistics might surprise you.

Most notably, 69 percent of the patrons on the list for Indiana's 10 casinos do not even live in the state of Indiana. The largest group is from Illinois.

As for gender, it is almost even, with slightly more women (51%) than men (49%).

The patrons participating in the self-exclusion program have the choice of a lifetime ban, a five year ban or a one year ban. Nearly half put themselves on the lifetime ban list.

The self-exclusion program is just one way that the casinos and the State of Indiana take a proactive approach to combating problem gaming.



Penn Acquires Argosy

On October 3, the Wyomissing, PA based Penn National Gaming, Inc. bought Alton based Argosy Gaming Inc. Penn's \$2.2 billion acquisition was no simple task. The final regulatory hurdle was approval by the Illinois Gaming Board (IGB). As a condition of the deal, the IGB is requiring Penn to sell 2 of Argosy's casinos (Alton Belle Casino and Empress Casino Joliet) by

December 31, 2006. Since Penn National already owns the Hollywood Casino in Aurora, selling the properties will prevent Penn from having more than one casino in the Chicago market.

Penn National operates horse racing facilities, OTB centers and casinos in the United States and Canada. Argosy operates casinos in Illinois, Missouri, Louisiana, Iowa and Indiana.

Getting to Know... Jerry Long and the ICPG

Jerry Long, the new Executive Director for the Indiana Council on Problem Gambling, has over 25 years of experience in the social service field and government. His experience and ambition will help him fulfill the goals of the ICPG, a not-for-profit



agency. Its mission is to generate awareness, promote education and be an advocate for quality treatment of problem gamblers in the State of Indiana.

Prior to accepting this position at the ICPG, Long spent almost 2 years at the Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health

and Addiction as a Program Director in charge of the State's efforts to address problem gambling.

"Problem gambling is a hidden addiction and the general population is unaware of its impact on lives," said Long.

According to Long, the ICPG needs to be the best resource for information on problem gambling and where to get help.

"The ICPG is the logical place to seek help should a person or family member have a gambling problem. We know what treatment resources exist and how to gain access [to] them." Long is leading initiatives for the Council to expand their website and produce a series of brochures geared towards specific population groups.

The Indiana Problem Gambling Help Line

(800) 994-8448 (which appears on the back page of this newsletter each month) is also a good resource. It receives approximately 450 calls each month. Of those calls, about 150 result in an assessment and referral. "Too often, individuals with a gambling problem believe that there is no solution to their situation. Help is available..." says Long.

Another tool available to those with gambling problems is the self-exclusion program which the Indiana Casinos proactively support. "The Casinos all support the ICPG and its activities via their ICPG membership. The Council would not exist without their support and would suffer without their leadership."

Currently, access to State supported gambling treatment programs is restricted based on a financial means test. Long wants to make these programs available to *everyone*. "The Council is working with both the State and the State supported treatment providers to increase the availability and quality of services available."

Originally from Seymour, Long has lived in Greenwood since 1987 with his wife, Ricarda, and their daughter, Lindsey. He graduated from Indiana University in 1971. In his free time, Long enjoys collecting and restoring antique furniture and lighting, gardening and WWII History.

More information about the ICPG and the help it provides can be found at www.indianaproblemgambling.org

ADMISSION AND WAGERING TAXES...

Admission Tax - Sept 05	\$ 6,419,487
Wagering Tax - Sept 05	\$ 48,396,564

Admission Tax Fiscal YTD	\$ 20,935,575
Wagering Tax Fiscal YTD	\$123,443,056

Total FY Admission and Wagering Tax	\$144,378,631
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Fiscal Year Defined as July 1 to June 30



Aztar and the ARK Team Up To Prevent Child Abuse

Casino Aztar and the ARK teamed up once again for the "Reason To Share" Celebration Dinner and Auction at Lorenzo's Bistro in Evansville with proceeds benefiting the ARK.

The ARK Crisis Prevention Nursery is an independent, not-for-profit agency and is currently the only licensed crisis nursery in Indiana. The ARK depends on the support of the community and corporate sponsors such as Casino Aztar to accomplish its goal of preventing child abuse and neglect.

Family crisis can result from domestic violence, homelessness, unemployment, a new job, or a new baby. The ARK helps relieve stress for both parents and children by providing a safe place for children when



Jim Brown, Casino Aztar President, entertains a group with a guitar he purchased at the benefit auction.

parents are overwhelmed.

In one instance, a father of 3 used the ARK services when the mother of the children abandoned them. The ARK was able to care for his young children until he found permanent care for the 2 youngest children and the older child went back to school.

Another example is when a foster mother needed care for an 8 week old baby while she continued to work and search for adequate infant care. The ARK provided services for the baby for about 2 months.

"These are just some of the recent ways that the ARK has been able to help prevent child abuse and neglect in our community," said Mary Jo Thompson, Executive Director of the ARK.

Indiana Casinos Help Hurricane Victims

The Indiana casinos worked hard to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

- Caesars Riverboat Casino Foundation of Floyd County and the Harrison County Community Foundation pledged a total of \$150,000 to the Harrah's Employee Recovery Fund
- Majestic Star Casino, Horseshoe Casino, Resorts Casino Hotel and Trump Casino joined forces to collect blankets, new pillows and pillowcases, diapers, soap, shampoo, hair combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other toiletries in addition to monetary donations.
- Trump Casino held a furniture sale and sold bracelets to raise over \$9,000.
- Grand Victoria Casino & Resort raised \$4,278 through employee contributions with a company match.
- The Indiana Gaming Commission authorized Indiana riverboat licensees to offer temporary positions to employees of sister properties affected by Hurricanes Katrina and/or Rita.

Many of the fees and documentation requirements were waived.

The generosity and spirit of the Hoosier casinos will bring hope, supplies and money to many victims.



Surrounded by a sea of NW Indiana casino employees are (kneeling from left to right): Joe DeRosa, SVP/GM of Resorts East Chicago; Chris Leininger, GM of Trump Casino; Troy Keeping, VP/GM of Majestic Star Casino; and Rick Mazer SVP/GM of Horseshoe Casino.



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**Is Your Gambling Out of Control?
Help is available. 1-800-994-8448.**

Luck changes for Hurricane Victim

Jacquelyn Sherman, a 57 year old librarian from New Orleans has been through some tough times. Since Hurricane Katrina destroyed her house, she's been living at her sister's house with dozens of displaced relatives. After a month with no end in sight, Sherman was beginning to feel depressed.

With \$20 in hand, Sherman and her sister were on their way to do some shopping when they decided on a whim to stop at Evangeline Downs Racetrack and Casino to play some slots. In an instant, Sherman became a millionaire

"I had just put in my \$20 in the 'Wheel of Fortune' machine when it hit," Sherman said. She won \$1.6 million before taxes. Her win is the single largest jackpot won since the casino opened.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

The Amazing State of Illinois



The Illinois House of Representatives passed a bill banning riverboat gaming in their state. While some look at this as just political posturing, it has a much greater consequence. The chances of the bill passing the Senate I'm told, is not good. Illinois continues to be the model of how not to treat a business. Increase taxes, roll back taxes and then vote to eliminate an entire industry. An industry that does \$1.7 billion in business, provides thousands of jobs, and buys hundreds of millions in goods and services. In addition, the casinos in Illinois pay over \$800 million a year in taxes.

Sometimes legislators forget about the message that goes beyond the halls of the statehouse. One prominent analyst at a major investment firm in New York started his column with, "One flew over the cuckoo's nest and right into the Illinois House." Even if this bill dies in its tracks, let's look at the potential damage it has created. If you owned a casino in Illinois would you want to invest the millions of dollars it takes to keep a casino competitive? I don't think so. What if you were a company that just acquired another company and had to sell two of the properties in Illinois, do you think there would be much interest? How would you like to be in business in that kind of environment? The casino entertainment industry, just like every other business, needs a stable tax and regulatory environment. Look at Las Vegas, a city that leads the nation in many economic areas. Taxes are low and capital expenditure is incredible, creating hundreds of thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

Indiana, like Illinois, is a partner with the casinos and when you have a partner that really doesn't care about the well-being of the industry the result cannot be good.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of the first casino in Indiana, we are seeing some much needed stability. With a little more comfort, I am confident more capital investment and more jobs will come to Indiana.

Mike Smith, Executive Director