

**Games for Charity Study Commission
Meeting
September 1, 2015
02**

Present:

Mr. Larry Belair –Chairman
Senator Lou D’Allesandro - Member
Representative Patrick Abrami -Member
Mr. Timothy Connors -Member
Major Russell Conte – Member
Attorney John Kennedy – Member
Mr. Lynn Presby - Member

In Attendance: Representative Kermit Williams, Fred Booth-RCGC Commissioner, Paul Kelley-Director RCGC, Sudhir Naik-Deputy Director RCGC, Valerie King-Procedures Administrator RCGC, Amir Alic-Gaming Audit Supervisor RCGC, Linda Darrow-Recording Secretary RCGC, Nancy LeVinus-House Committee Researcher, Charlie McIntyre-Executive Director Lottery Commission, Lynda Plante-Administrator Lottery Commission, Ed Callahan, Dick Bouley, Jan DiMarzio, Nick Bonardi, Rick Newman and others

Chairman Belair called the meeting to order shortly after 10:00 a.m.

Introduction of Members

Each member was asked to introduce himself. Chairman Belair noted that Mr. Jim Rausch was not in attendance at today’s meeting due to a prior engagement.

General Ground Rules

Chairman Belair noted that the ground rules were established at the first meeting and reminded everyone to be recognized by the chair before making a comment.

Approval of the minutes of 7/28/15

On a motion by Mr. Connors, and seconded by Representative Abrami, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes dated 7/28/15.

General Discussion Topics

Discussion ensued around the following items:

- a. Update on HB 169 – Mr. Presby provided an overview of the meetings held with the industry and the sponsor of the bill, Representative Kermit Williams, to discuss HB 169 – Table Stakes Poker. Data and information continues to be gathered in order to determine how best to proceed. Discussion will continue at the Racing & Charitable Gaming Commission’s (RCGC) scheduled meeting on September 9th. Mr. Connors, Chairman of the RCGC, stated that they plan to make some changes on September 9th.

- b. Representative Kermit Williams – Representative Williams, sponsor of HB 169, addressed the Commission. His intention was to make the poker player happier by increasing the bet limit. The aim was to have the cash games mirror the tournaments, where the bets are larger but still have limits. An unintentional consequence was that it brought unregulated gaming out of the basement. General discussion on HB 169 ensued covering regulating the game, the increase in revenue to the state, game operator and charities as a result of the game, rule-making, buy-ins, public perception and house rules.
- c. RSA 284:6-b III (b) Oversight and enforcement costs and sufficiency of taxes and fees to pay for such costs – Director Kelley stated that the RCGC, in FY15, took in approximately \$4.5 million dollars, had expenses of approximately \$1.5 million dollars and transferred approximately \$2.9 million dollars to the education trust fund. Any increase in revenue is transferred to the education trust fund. Requests for increased enforcement and oversight costs for RCGC must be requested and approved by the legislature through the budget process. Discussion ensued.
- d. Discussion on revenues and expenditures - covered in section c. above.
- e. Following the generated revenues –
Games of Chance - Director Kelley noted charities receive 35% of proceeds but the actual figure is closer to 28%. By statute, game operators can charge charities a hall rental fee; the charities can hire consultants and managers. These expenses come out of the 35%.
Bingo Operations – to increase Bingo revenue, a shared Bingo bill is in the legislature. The bigger pots will bring more people to the game. Hundreds of charities are self-policing – RCGC does not have the manpower to be at every hall during every game. The sale of Lucky 7 tickets at the halls is an area needing tight controls, since transactions are often done in cash.

Chairman Belair discussed the findings of the Coheco Valley Humane Society audit report. Discussion ensued regarding the mechanisms in place to address findings such as these. Director Kelley stated that the RCGC works to bring them into compliance and has the option to either revoke or suspend their license. Copies of the audits are sent to the police department of the town where the charity is located and to the AG’s Charitable Trust Division. A follow up audit is done to determine if the findings have been addressed by the charity.

Comments from the Public

The public had no comments.

Schedule a Tour of Charitable Gaming Sites

Director Kelley will organize tours of several gaming sites and email the members as to dates and times. Ms. DiMarzio extended an invitation for the commission members to tour her bingo facility in Manchester.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22nd at 10:00 a.m. in Room 100 of the Walker Building, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord NH.

At 11:25 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Presby, and seconded by Representative Abrami, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.