

New Mexico Elks Association
May 2010

Update

To all Lodge Exalted Rulers and Membership:

Greetings from Santa Fe. There was a meeting yesterday (May 25th.) with the VFN&P, (Veterans and Fraternal non Profit Organization) and the Gaming Control People were there. They gave a very good update on their duties and some problems. This will update you, the Gaming Manager and the membership.

The State of NM policy on gaming is:

Limited gaming activities should be allowed in the State if those activities are strictly regulated to ensure honest and competitive gaming that is free from criminal and corruptive elements and influences; and

The holder of any license issued by the State in connection with the regulation of gaming activities has a revocable privilege only and has no property right or vested interest in the license.

Basically, they advised us that all “gambling” is illegal unless you have the proper licenses to conduct gaming. This is restricted to the machines, pull tabs, bingo, etc. Where some Lodges and Clubs fall into problem is that they have illegal poker games, drawings (not cleared with Gaming), and activities beyond the scope of the laws, rules and regulations. If we run a “clean and lawful operation, there is no worry about enforcement coming in and issuing citations etc.

The Universal Work Permit Application:

Applies to any employee with direct involvement in gaming

Cashiers/Bartender

Initial license fee of \$75.00/Renewal fee of \$75.00

Universal work permit is valid for three years

Permit issued to the individual

May register to work in other GCB licensed venues (This one allows the individual to work in more than one GCB licensed club/lodge. There is a form to be filled out and MUST be filled out before working.)

Upon receipt of the completed application, the applicant may begin employment. (This one means when the GCB receives it, not the club. lodge.)

There are a number of factors involved in the individual applications. They are all in the application process, but they stated that the main problem they have in approving one is the failure of the applicant to disclose all information. There have been incidents where the failure to disclose is the reason they are denied, when the facts that were not disclosed would not have prevented them from receiving the approval. Have the applicants be honest.

Remember that the GCB Agents are bonified and certified law enforcement officers.

You must cooperate with them when they contact your lodges during an investigation.

There were a couple of items regarding the charity decisions. There should be a committee that approves or disapproves charity requests. This should not be the Gaming Manager only. ALL Charity requests should be in writing from the requestor and the charity decision in writing approving or disapproving said request. These are to be kept on file. (If there is a request from within your Lodge, CP, C&B, etc, have the Lodge chairman make a written request, even though you were approving it anyway.)

One problem they see is that the Gaming Manager thinks that he/she has total control, say and management of the Gaming. This is very incorrect as it is the Organization Management that is responsible for the Licensee's Gaming License. Organization management has a duty to members to ensure that the organization obtains maximum benefits from Gaming. The Organization Management would be your Governing Board.

They have advised that they are also there to assist us in our endeavors, not just criticize us and issue citations. If there are specific questions or problems, please contact me or any of the committee to get you answers (hopefully correct ones) or solutions to the problem.

My last request is that the VFN&P is an organization that we in the NMEA belong to and their dues are \$50.00 per year, per Lodge. If the Lodges that have not paid this year would please forward their check to me, I will forward it to them. Make the check out to VFNP. This assists us in conducting the business to assist the Lodges.

Thanks.

Bob Guillen PSP

Chairman - NMEA Government Relations