

Kewadin Casinos Names Ron Olson as New CEO



Ron Olson

Ron Olson has been named the new CEO of Kewadin Casinos, five gaming properties with slot machines, table games, two hotels, convention and meeting facilities, and other amenities in Michigan's picturesque Upper Peninsula. Olson was selected to lead the casinos after a national search by the Kewadin Gaming Authority.

Olson has 25 years of experience in Native American gaming, including more than 20 years in executive leadership positions. During his career, he has managed single-casino properties and gaming enterprises with a variety of amenities, including hotels and golf courses. Olson spent a decade in Michigan as the CEO of Grand Traverse Resort and Spa near Traverse City and General Manager of the Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey.

"We are thrilled to welcome Ron and his family back to Michigan and to the top executive post at our Kewadin Casinos," said Sault Tribe Chairperson and Kewadin Gaming Authority Chair Aaron Payment. "His national and Michigan gaming knowledge and experience will help solidify Kewadin Casinos as the premier gaming destinations in the U.S. for residents and visitors alike."

Gila River Gaming Enterprises Inc. Names Dominic Orozco as Corporate Vice President of Marketing



Dominic Orozco

Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. has named Dominic Orozco as Corporate Vice President of Marketing for its three Valley gaming and hotel properties. Orozco will oversee marketing operations at all three Gila River properties, which include Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino, Vee Quiva Hotel & Casino, and Lone Butte Casino.

"The enterprise is thrilled to welcome on board Dominic Orozco as the Vice President of Marketing," said Kenneth Manuel, Chief Executive Officer for Gila River Gaming Enterprises. "With his extensive background in the gaming and marketing field, we are confident that new and innovative days are ahead for the Gila River Gaming Enterprise brand."

Dominic brings more than 17 years of experience in the gaming industry to Gila River Casinos. During his gaming career, Dominic served as President and Chairman for the New Mexico Cibola County Chamber of Commerce and served as a board member for the State of New Mexico Division of Tourism.

"It is a pleasure to fill this role and market such a dynamic enterprise. The Enterprise is complete with robust property amenities and a strong presence in the market, which will be instrumental in enriching the experience and brand," said Dominic Orozco.

Relocating to Arizona from New Mexico to serve as the Director of Gaming at Riestler Advertising, Dominic directed advertising and marketing efforts for 20 casinos, including casinos in Phoenix, Arizona and Choctaw Casinos and Resorts in Oklahoma.

Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Names Erica V. Jones as Vice President of Human Resources of Paragon Casino Resort



Erica V. Jones

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana has announced the hiring of Erica V. Jones as Vice President of Human Resources at Paragon Casino Resort.

Jones began work as a Human Resources Coordinator with the Isle of Capri Casino Corporation shortly after completing her undergraduate studies. There, Jones learned the casino business and honed her skills in the Human Resources field over a ten year tenure.

Jones has worked for other major companies in the casino industry, including Horizon Casino, MGM'S Gold Strike Casino Resort and Churchill Downs' Harlow's Casino & Resort.

She feels that her 20 years of vast experience in multiple markets in the casino industry has allowed her to secure the biggest role of her career, with Paragon Casino Resort.

"I am absolutely certain this new role will not only be challenging, but equally rewarding," said Jones.

Pechanga Resort & Casino Names Lee Torres as First Ever General Manager Promoted from Within



Lee Torres

The Pechanga Development Corporation's Board of Directors recently named the first-ever General Manager promoted from within Pechanga Resort & Casino. Lee Torres, Pechanga's former Chief Marketing Officer, will now oversee the entire property and all 11 divisions as the new General Manager.

In addition to overseeing all departments and the property as a whole, Lee will continue to play a lead role, in conjunction with the Pechanga Development Corporation, in executing Pechanga's \$285 million expansion set to be completed by December 2017. Lee has been an integral part of Pechanga's leadership

team, most recently serving as its Chief Marketing Officer and Vice President of Marketing for the past six years.

“As a reflection of Pechanga Resort & Casino’s growth and commitment to internal development, the board is especially proud that Lee is the first General Manager to be promoted from within the organization,” said Edith Atwood, President of the Pechanga Development Corporation. “Lee has been an integral part of Pechanga’s strong growth and success over the last six years, and we look forward to his leadership and strategic vision for the future of the property.”

Prior to Pechanga, Lee worked for some of the largest casino properties in the U.S., serving as the Vice President of Casino Marketing and Director of Marketing. In those roles, he ran player development, VIP services and database and marketing analytics. He also oversaw the departments that ran advertising, public relations, business development and sponsorships, group sales and bussing, database and analytics, and event hotel revenue management.

“I’m honored to be the first General Manager selected from within of such a premier property, rivaling even the most prestigious of casino-resort properties in Las Vegas, by the Pechanga Development Corporation’s Board of Directors,” said Lee Torres, General Manager at Pechanga Resort & Casino. “They’re trusting me with not only the responsibility of overseeing all 11 divisions and essentially all four thousand team members on property, but also with leading the charge on Pechanga’s \$285 million expansion. This is a very exciting time for Pechanga and I’m deeply humbled to be a part of the journey.”

AGS Appoints Matt Reback as Executive Vice President



Matt Reback

AGS recently announced that Matt Reback has joined the company as Executive Vice President. In his new position, Reback will lead AGS’ slot product operations, including product management, production, and service, as well as the company’s growing interactive division.

“There’s no doubt AGS had a momentous 2016 and we’re not about to let up anytime soon – that’s why we’ve recruited Matt to drive continued success for our slot and interactive product operations in 2017 and beyond,” said David Lopez, President and CEO of AGS. “Matt is a thoughtful and conscientious leader with a dynamic personality that fits with our culture and execution style. We’re pleased to have him as a part of the AGS family and a member of our executive team.”

In his new role, Reback will report directly to Lopez with a focused effort on strengthening the company’s product operations to strategically align output with the growing

product demand in the marketplace. Before joining AGS, Reback was most recently the Vice President of Marketing for Konami Gaming. Prior to Konami, Reback served in multiple executive positions for Station Casinos as well as Caesars Entertainment.

“It’s hard not to sit up and take notice of AGS,” said Reback. “I’ve been watching the company grow from a relatively unknown Class II distributor to one of the most diversified, fastest-growing suppliers in the marketplace. I’m thrilled to have joined a company on the rise, with so much potential, and with such a remarkable culture.”

Barry Fishman Named Vice President of Support Services at Banyan Gaming



Barry Fishman

Barry Fishman has been named Vice President of Support Services at Banyan Gaming, a manufacturer and distributor of highly-adaptable slot machines with a rapidly expanding customer base in gaming states and tribal gaming locations throughout the nation.

“We are extremely pleased to welcome Barry Fishman to the Banyan Gaming team,” said company President Jason Seelig. “His 10 years of experience in finance, accounting and operations in the gaming industry will be very beneficial to Banyan.”

As Vice President of Support Services at Banyan Gaming, Fishman will have overall responsibility for all financial and support functions of the company. He will work to systemize company operations and he will specifically oversee finance, contracts and human resources.

Fishman comes to Banyan Gaming from Scientific Games International in Atlanta, where he was most recently Senior Director of Finance. During his tenure at Scientific Games, he was responsible for all financial components of new business opportunities and guided various financial processes, including budgeting, forecasting, financial analysis, revenue recognition, pricing, allocations, operational improvement and strategy. He served as Accounting Manager at Scientific Games before being promoted to Senior Director of Finance.

Prior to his work with Scientific Games International, Fishman was Finance Manager at Purity Wholesale Grocers, a Boca Raton, FL-based wholesaler of grocery, pharmaceuticals and health and beauty products.

Patrick Cottingham Joins GLI Team as Client Service Representative

Gaming Laboratories International (GLI) recently welcomed a new addition to the U.S.-based Client Services team – Patrick Cottingham. In order to keep pace with increasing industry demand while providing the best customer service possible, the addition of another Client Service



Patrick Cottingham

Representative was critical for the company.

In his current role as a Client Service Representative, Cottingham provides service and consultation to several key gaming and lottery suppliers.

GLI's Senior Director of Client Services Patrick Moore said, "We are pleased to welcome Patrick to the team as he will help us in our relentless pursuit of world-class customer service

for which GLI is known. Patrick is a strong addition to our team, especially since he has prior gaming industry experience in Information Technology, testing and gaming operations. This experience will allow Patrick to become an important resource for GLI's client base. GLI is never standing still in its goal to provide an unmatched customer experience, and I believe Patrick will be an important part of providing the level of service and expertise GLI's clients have come to expect from us."

Cottingham joined GLI in 2015 as a Test Engineer and was primarily tasked with the testing and certification of electronic gaming devices. He also worked closely with GLI's test automation group, where he helped to design and implement advanced test automation processes.

Prior to GLI, Cottingham worked as a Computer Networking Specialist at USANG. After that, he worked for South Point Casino as a Slot Attendant, and then, a Department Supervisor for Loss Prevention.

Gary Platt Manufacturing Names Marek Petrilak New VP of Finance



Marek Petrilak

Gary Platt Manufacturing has named its new Vice President of Finance. Having served as a financial advisor to Gary Platt for several months, Marek Petrilak has been formally tapped for the job, bringing a world of experience to Gary Platt.

Petrilak has worked in finance departments in four countries on two continents, giving crucial global production insight at a time when Gary

Platt is expanding its footprint worldwide.

Most recently, Petrilak served as Finance & Control Manager for Whirlpool Corp. in the company's Isithebe production plant in South Africa. He has also served as Senior Financial Analyst and as Google Reporting Implementation Manager for Comerio's EMEA headquarters in Italy; as Finance Controller for Cassinetta ETS; as Finance Controller for the Swedish production plant Norrköping; and as Finance Analyst for Poprad, a production plant in Slovakia.

Aruze Gaming America Announces Eric H. Persson as General Manager



Eric H. Persson

Aruze Gaming America, Inc. recently announced that it has appointed Eric H. Persson as General Manager. Persson will oversee all of Aruze's operations in the U.S., Canada, and Latin America. In this role, his initial focus will be on the sales, marketing, human resources, production and service functions.

"Aruze is very fortunate to have secured the experience and skill-sets of such a talented gaming executive,"

said Aruze's Global COO Yugo Kinoshita. "The gaming industry has become very competitive, requiring a leader with strong product knowledge and an understanding of our customer's customer, the player. There are very few people in the industry that can match Eric's proven track record in this area."

Eric's career in the gaming industry spans 17 years, most recently as Corporate Senior Vice President of Global Slot Operations and Slot Marketing at Las Vegas Sands Corporation. Prior to joining the Las Vegas Sands Corp., Eric held senior positions at Harrah's Entertainment, Coast Resorts, Delaware North, and American Racing and Entertainment. His titles in these organizations included Director of Tables Games, President, and General Manager.

Aruze also announced that Richard Pennington will no longer maintain the title of CEO at Aruze Gaming America. Pennington will remain on the Board of Directors and focus on his global responsibilities, including finance, accounting, legal, and compliance as Global CFO and CAO.

"Eric joins Aruze at a time when its financial stability and long term competitive advantages position it to build on a history of growth in the North American markets. I'm confident that with a strong staff at his side our sales momentum will kick into an even higher gear," Pennington commented.

Plasma Air Welcomes Stalice June as Director of Business Development, Gaming & Hospitality

Plasma Air International recently announced the appointment of Stalice June as Director of Business Development, Gaming & Hospitality. In her new role, June is responsible for developing Plasma Air's business and driving the growth of all product lines within North American gaming and hospitality markets. Chief among her duties will be to develop winning sales and marketing strategies to attain growth objectives. She will also ensure customer satisfaction and drive growth within existing accounts.

A sales and marketing leader for over 20 years, June's professional experience spans previous roles as VP of Sales, VP of Strategic Sales, Sales Executive Director, Sales



Staice June

Consultant and Marketing Manager for several multi-million-dollar international brands as well as gaming and hospitality organizations, including Company Kitchen, GCA, Inc., Palace Hotel and Casino, and Grand Casinos. Her proven track record of success includes the introduction and development of new sales channels and territories, as well as helping gaming and hospitality organizations experience product success.

“We are excited to have Staice June on board to help guide gaming and hospitality organizations as they embrace Plasma Air’s advanced air purification technology,” remarks Larry Sunshine, President of Plasma Air International. “I am confident that her proven sales expertise, combined with a strong customer focus and extensive professional network within these sectors will be great assets to Plasma Air as we continue to expand our gaming and hospitality division.”

“I am honored to join Plasma Air and build on the existing strengths of our sales team as we embark on our next stage of growth,” said June. “In addition to expanding Plasma Air’s business, I look forward to implementing its innovative ionization technology within various gaming and hospitality institutions to help improve the health and well-being of their patrons and employees alike.”

Harry Hagerty Joins Galaxy Gaming as Chief Financial Officer



Harry Haggerty

Galaxy Gaming, Inc. recently announced that Harry C. Hagerty has joined the company in the position of Chief Financial Officer. In that capacity, Hagerty will be responsible for all of the financial functions of the company. In addition, Hagerty will oversee Compliance, IT and Human Resources.

Hagerty has had a long career in finance and the gaming industry. He served as investment banker covering the gaming and lodging industries and was CFO of Caesars Entertainment, Inc. and Global Cash Access Holdings, Inc., both NYSE-listed gaming companies. He was a founder of and currently serves as an Officer and Director of Sightline Payments, LLC, an innovator in payment systems for gaming companies.

“We are very excited to have Harry join the Galaxy team,” said Galaxy’s Chief Executive Officer, Robert Saucier. “His background and experience will be instrumental in helping us grow while meeting the expectations of our various stakeholders, including regulators, investors and fellow employees.”

“I am excited as well,” commented Hagerty. “Galaxy has been growing nicely over the last few years and has completed some significant corporate transactions. However, I strongly believe that the company’s best days are ahead of it, and I look forward to working with my Galaxy colleagues to realize that future.”

Dona Cassese Joins Galaxy Gaming to Lead Marketing Efforts



Dona Cassese

Galaxy Gaming, Inc. recently announced that Dona Cassese has joined the company in the position of Vice President of Marketing. In that capacity, Cassese is responsible for the development and implementation marketing strategies for the company in a global capacity. The areas of responsibility include all internal and external communications, branding, tradeshow, events, customer engagement and all

aspects of training.

Cassese was most recently the CEO of Your Marketing Group for the last three years. With over 30 years of experience in the gaming industry as both an operator and in manufacturing, Cassese has held many executive positions with industry leaders including Aristocrat Technologies, WMS Gaming, The Mirage and Luxor. Cassese is well respected in the gaming industry for her creative abilities and team-building skills.

“One area I believed we needed to enhance was our marketing activities,” stated Robert Saucier, Galaxy’s CEO. “We are fortunate to have recruited Dona to lead this important segment of our overall sales and marketing strategies. Her reputation within the gaming industry is unsurpassed and I am confident she and her marketing team will generate rapid results.”

“I am delighted to join Galaxy Gaming,” commented Cassese. “This is a very exciting time in the history of the company and I am looking forward to being a part of the Galaxy Gaming leadership team. In my new role at Galaxy I will work closely with my team in order to increase the brand awareness of the company and our products to the gaming industry.”

Theresa A. Connors Appointed to Tribal Election Board

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Clerk Betty Roundpoint conducted the swearing-in for incoming Tribal Election Board Member Theresa A. Connors.

Connor’s appointment to the Election Board follows the adoption of TCR 2016-77 that expanded the Election Board to no less than five members. The resolution is intended to ensure a uniform and consistent oversight of



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all tribal elections and referendums.

She will fill a position that was recently vacated until the position's term ends on September 15, 2018. Until then, she joins Joseph Bowen-Brewer, Sheila Loran, Debra Martin and Hope Wheelock on the five-member board.

Larry Roberts, Former Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Joins Kilpatrick Townsend



Larry Roberts

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton recently announced the addition of Lawrence "Larry" Roberts to the firm's Litigation Department in the Washington, D.C. office. Roberts is joining as Counsel in the firm's nationally recognized Native American Affairs Team. Roberts' addition continues the firm's expansion of the Native American Affairs Team with the recent additions of Keith Harper

and Stephen Anstey.

"Larry brings the combination of a talented Federal Indian law attorney with high-level governmental experience to assist clients in furthering tribal self-determination and self-governance," says Catherine Munson, Co-Team Leader of the Native American Affairs Team and Managing Partner of the Washington, D.C. office. "Larry's public service and close work with tribal leaders to advance meaningful change in Indian Country will enhance the team's already strong capabilities to assist tribal communities."

"I am delighted to be a part of Kilpatrick Townsend's Native American Affairs Team," says Larry Roberts. "I had the privilege of working with members of the team in the Obama Administration to advance the Nation-to-Nation relationship and have seen first-hand the phenomenal work that they do. This firm is unwavering in its commitment to protecting tribal sovereignty. When tribes face significant litigation or regulatory issues, I look forward to being part of the firm's team to proactively advance tribal rights for current and future generations."

Soboba Casino Employee Mary Reynolds Earns Masters Degree Against All Odds



Mary Reynolds

Soboba Casino recently announced that a member of the casino's accounting team, Mary Reynolds, has successfully completed her post-graduate requirements to earn her Masters of Science in Accountancy from the University of Phoenix. While this academic and professional accomplishment is in itself noteworthy, it is even a greater accomplishment knowing that this occurred while Reynolds was battling a life threatening condition.

"Mary has worked hard to earn her master's degree while maintaining a full work schedule, managing a home, and an unimaginable health crisis," said Scott Sirois, General Manager at Soboba Casino "We are proud of her accomplishment and look forward to seeing how she will apply her newly acquired skills to strengthen the Soboba team in the coming years."

This is especially inspiring coming from Reynolds, who in 2016 literally battled for her life after an intracranial hemorrhage landed her in an induced coma for several weeks. While placed on life support, Reynolds's family was informed of her dire condition and warned that her chance of survival was at a mere 20%. Luckily after weeks of intensive care, Mary awoke.

When asked what advice she would give to those in pursuit of a continued education, Reynolds stated, "Never lose sight of your goals no matter how impossible obtaining them may seem."

Reynolds completed her undergraduate education at the California State University of San Bernardino, and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. Reynolds has been with Soboba Casino for over twelve years. Through a combination of her experience in administration, accounting, and continued educational achievements, she has persevered and found success not only as Financial Controller at the casino, but also in life.

Agua Caliente Tribal Council Election Results Announced

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians recently announced Tribal Council election results: Tribal Council Chairman Jeff L. Grubbe continues his third consecutive two-year term. Tribal Council Vice Chairman Larry N. Olinger was re-elected to his third consecutive two-year term. Tribal Council Secretary/Treasurer Vincent Gonzales III was re-elected to his fourth consecutive two-year term. Tribal Council Member Reid D. Milanovich was re-elected to his fourth consecutive one-year term. Tribal Council Member Anthony W. Purnel was elected to his first one-year term.

The Tribal Council elections are a matter of tribal law, and are managed privately by the Election Board. ♣