

Message to Our Licensees

There have been communications publicly disseminated by representatives of Allied Charities that give a less than favorable picture of the Minnesota Gambling Control Board. Unfortunately, it is difficult to respond when uncorroborated claims like this are distributed.

Part of the Gambling Control Board's mission is to regulate lawful gambling, to insure integrity of operations, and to provide for the use of net profits. The staff at the Gambling Control Board performs many tasks to accomplish this mission, some of which are regulation, education, and helping guide lawful gambling organizations with their operations. Staff conducts compliance audits of lawful gambling organizations' operations, performs inspections of lawful gambling sites, and investigates allegations of misconduct, theft, and fraud.

To our licensed charitable organizations, whether you belong to a trade association or not, we say:

As a regulatory agency, it has never been the Board's function to perform the internal control work of licensed charities. The Board's role is to ensure that the licensed charities control their operations. If you discover problems, give us facts to go on and follow some of our quick to-do's: audit games, check your cash bank, and verify deposits and expenditures. Then contact your Compliance Specialist who will guide you on steps you can take to help ensure your organization's lawful gambling operation is run properly, or assist in further review.

As licensees, you have control over your organization's lawful gambling operation. You get to decide whether to engage in this type of fundraising method unique to nonprofits. You get to choose what forms of gambling you wish to offer. You get to choose from a list of several licensed distributors for gambling product. You get to choose areas where you may be able to cut expenses. You get to choose the level of professional accounting services needed, if any, to ensure accurate reporting. Our website and information are available to you at your disposal. Make sure you have solid communication with your lessors and vendors. Talk to distributors, ask if you can get better prices or learn about new products or tools that will benefit your organization. If you see issues, let us know—or go forward with productive solutions!

And, more importantly, get to know your Compliance Specialist here at the Gambling Control Board. They are here to answer your questions and guide you as you raise funds for your missions.

In an era that seems to promote divisiveness, it doesn't have to happen here. Contact us directly if you have questions. Communication is key.

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