

## Minnesota: Continuing to Do Charitable Gambling Right

### A Message from the Executive Director

It took a little longer than expected, but the legislative session ended without any significant changes to charitable gambling—or gambling in general. The budget was a major focus, with lawmakers looking ahead to the 2028–2029 financial future. However, the Gambling Control Board, which is funded by regulatory fees rather than the state’s general fund, will maintain its current budget for the 2026–2027 biennium.

Some of our staff recently attended the North American Gaming Regulators Association (NAGRA) annual conference to learn about common regulatory issues across different types of gambling. Like my experience last year, I continue to be struck by how different charitable gambling looks from state to state. For example, did you know that Iowa doesn’t have a minimum age requirement for participating in charitable gambling? It’s true—but their charitable gambling is limited to bingo, games of skill and chance, game nights, and raffles (as defined in law).

As with last year, my biggest takeaway from NAGRA was that Minnesota—both in terms of receipts and regulation—continues to do an excellent job with charitable gambling! But it also makes me ask: What can we do better? One of the major themes of the conference was responsible gambling. While we may not think that charitable gambling carries the same risks as sports betting or casino games, I believe both regulators and the industry share a responsibility to watch out for our players.

There’s Help for Problem Gamblers.

**1-800-333-HOPE**  
(4673)



Minnesota Department of Human Services

A few quick reminders:

- House rules must include the problem gambling hotline number: 1-800-333-HOPE
- Charities are allowed (as a lawful purpose expenditure) to support programs for education, prevention, or treatment of problem gambling under Code A-3
- Half of one percent (0.5%) of the combined net receipts tax collected goes to the Department of Human Services specifically for problem gambling education and programs—almost \$950,000 last year!

Charitable gambling provides entertainment for players and vital support for Minnesota communities—but we all have a role in protecting those who may be struggling with gambling addiction.

We really are a national leader in charitable gambling—let’s continue to do this right!

*Laura E. Shick*

Executive Director, MN Gambling Control Board

# Coming June 30th: Website 2.0!

We're excited to announce the upcoming launch of our redesigned website! The new site features a clean, modern look, but more importantly, it's been built with you in mind.

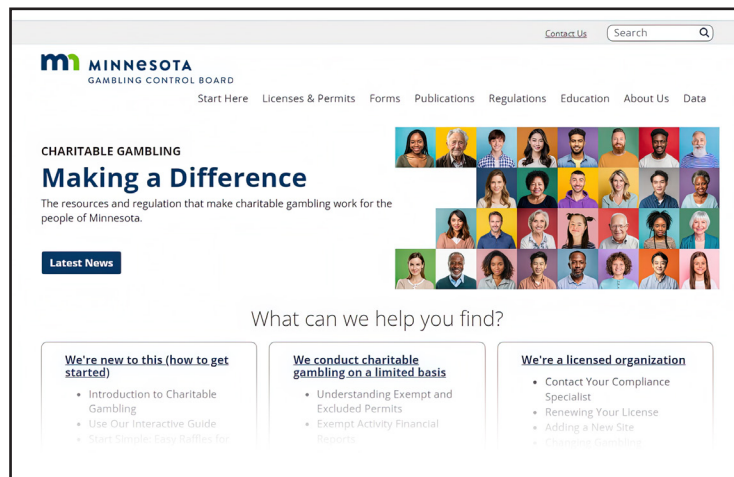
The homepage now proudly shares how charitable gambling makes a real difference to people and communities across Minnesota. We wanted visitors to immediately understand the positive impact of the work you do.

For gambling managers, all the information you rely on is still there—it may be in a slightly different place, but it will be quicker to access and easier to find. We've streamlined the navigation based on how people actually use the site.

One of the biggest improvements is that the Lawful Gambling Manual is now fully digital. This means it's completely searchable, and we can update it more easily to ensure it stays current and accurate. No more hunting through a PDF to find what you need.

And in the near future, we'll be adding a powerful AI-assisted search tool to make finding answers even faster.

Whether you visit regularly or only occasionally, we think you'll find the new site cleaner, more intuitive, and much more user-friendly.



## Citations Paid

The director of the Gambling Control Board may issue citations for failure to comply with lawful gambling statutes or rules. Citation amounts for similar violations may vary depending on unique circumstances and are determined on a case-by-case basis.

00113 | American Legion Post 542 Roseville | Roseville  
Inaccurate site inventory records \$300.00

00136 | American Legion Post 98 St. Paul Park | St. Paul Park  
Game remnants not retained for 3.5 years \$700.00

00529 | American Legion Post 255 Brainerd | Brainerd  
Improper use of paddlewheel to award drink prizes \$200.00

00541 | Eagles Aerie 3718 New Brighton | New Brighton  
Check not signed by two active members \$100.00

00813 | VFW Post 428 St. Cloud | St. Cloud  
Failed to complete continuing education class in CY2024 \$500.00

(continues on next page)

(Citations: continued from previous page)

01038 | Eagles Aerie 2469 Grand Rapids | Grand Rapids  
Failed to complete continuing education class in CY2024 \$500.00

01632 | Divine Mercy Catholic Church | Faribault  
Multiple employees shared a single username and password to access  
the electronic game system \$400.00

01968 | Elbow Lake Firemen's Relief Assoc | Elbow Lake  
Deposits not made within required timeframe \$600.00

02132 | VFW Post 5252 Pelican Rapids | Pelican Rapids  
Failed to complete continuing education class in CY2024 \$500.00

02190 | Lions Club of Forest Lake | Forest Lake  
Site inventory not properly updated and maintained \$500.00

02222 | Elysian Fire Dept Relief Assoc | Elysian  
Multiple employees shared a single username and password to access the electronic  
game system \$300.00

02356 | Eagle Bend Fire Dept Relief Assoc | Eagle Bend  
Failed to complete continuing education class in CY2024 \$500.00

02530 | Clarkfield Firemen's Relief Assoc | Clarkfield  
Failed to complete continuing education class in CY2024 \$500.00

02581 | Isanti County Sportsmen's Club | Cambridge  
Missing electronic pull-tab prize receipts. Incomplete paper pull-tab prize receipts \$500.00

03123 | Rush Lake Improvement Assoc | Rush City  
Prize receipts not completed and retained \$500.00

04555 | Knights of Columbus Council 9140 Big Lake | Big Lake  
Allowed a minor to unlawfully participate in a bingo game \$200.00

05703 | MSO Productions | White Bear Lake  
Failed to complete continuing education class in CY2024 \$500.00

30811 | Kenyon Firemen's Relief Assoc | Kenyon  
Failed to provide documentation of gambling account expenditures \$400.00

34760 | Caledonia Volunteer Fire Department Relief Assoc | Caledonia  
Failed to complete continuing education class in CY2024 \$500.00

93273 | Plainview Polar Bearons Snowmobile Club | Plainview  
Failed to complete continuing education class in CY2024 \$500.00



The Compliance Review Group (CRG), a committee of the Gambling Control Board, meets with licensees to conduct informal inquiries into alleged violations of lawful gambling statutes and rules. The information presented here is a condensed report of recently completed CRG conferences. The penalties imposed are based on specific and unique information reviewed for each licensee.

01625 Palisade Fire Dept Relief Assoc.

Failure to comply with Board requests; failure to maintain accurate LG100A reports; failure to maintain records including reconciliation of perpetual inventory; failure to provide proof of gambling fund reconciliation

- Pay \$1,000 civil penalty
- Resolve all issues in Compliance Report within 30 days or face suspension
- CEO must attend the in-person Gambling Manager Seminar and pass the exam

01096 Minneapolis Riverview Lions

Failure to comply with Board requests; failure to complete monthly reports; failure to provide monthly bank reconciliation; failure to expend at least 30% of gross profits on lawful expenditures in FY24

- Pay \$2,000 civil penalty
- Initiate a corrective action plan including a five-member Gambling Oversight Committee
- CEO must attend the in-person Gambling Manager Seminar and pass the exam
- No same or similar violations for a period of one year
- Be at or above the 30% lawful purpose expenditure threshold by the end of FY25
- Resolve all compliance issues within 90 days or face possible suspension

31337 Platte Lake Property Owners Assoc.

Failure to maintain internal controls

- Initiate a corrective action plan, including a five-member Gambling Oversight Committee
- CEO and Gambling Manager must attend the in-person Gambling Manager Seminar and pass the exam
- Submit an updated LG202: Internal Controls form

Gambling Control Board meetings are open to the public and may be attended either in person or online. Please check our website ([mn.gov/gcb](http://mn.gov/gcb)) to confirm the date, time, location, and for information on how to join online.

Upcoming meetings:  
July 21, 2025, 10:00 a.m.  
Aug 18, 2025, 10:00 a.m.  
Sept 15, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

**Board Members:**

**Janet Lorenzo, Chair** (Inver Grove Heights)

**Jim Nardone, Vice Chair** (Grand Rapids)

**Mike Sundin, Secretary** (Esko)

**Al deJesus** (Minneapolis)

**Bill English** (Plymouth)

**Doug Forsman** (Shakopee)

**Kate Luthner** (Forest Lake)