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FROM THE PUBLISHER



The Northwest Indian Gaming Conference & Expo recently held at the Little Creek Casino in Shelton was a terrific success. Congratulations to Chairman Ron Allen, Ernie Stebbins and all of their team members for an incredible meeting and the best-attended Northwest conference ever.

At the show's luncheon, the inaugural INDIAN GAMING HALL OF FAME winners were announced and awarded the Eagle Visionary Award. Accepting their trophies were the honorable Ron Allen, Rick Hill, Ernie Stevens and Sheila Morago. Although Stanley Crooks and Steve Cadue were in other parts of the country, both of these leaders also won this award and were acknowledged during the presentation. For me personally, this was a long time coming – over 22 years of watching these great leaders and so many others emerge to move the industry forward.

There is ongoing discussion and high interest in Internet gaming and how this new product will enhance Indian gaming revenues by bringing a whole new player to the casino property. Reasons to come to the casino have always been the goal, whether it's for entertainment, the buffet, a slot tournament, just to name a few. By using free play, Internet gaming will bring in new players with a points system that gets players to the property. It really isn't "if" Internet gaming is coming to Indian Country, but how and when. We will be following this topic very closely in the magazine.

Next up we head to the 18th OIGA Annual Conference and Trade Show, August 13-15, 2012 at the Cox Center in Oklahoma City. If you are able to attend the show, please stop by our booth and say hello!

Steve Burke, Publisher

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