

Melanie Benjamin Appointed to Affordable Housing Council



Melanie Benjamin

Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, has been appointed to the Affordable Housing Advisory Council of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. The council advises the bank on housing and economic development needs and programs in a five-state area including Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Missouri.

The council consists of 15 members who have extensive experience in housing and economic development. Benjamin's three-year term began in January, 2006.

Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band since 2000, Benjamin has been committed to creating and preserving affordable housing throughout her career. Under her leadership, the Band has increased its new home construction, home loan programs, home improvement grants, and affordable housing programs for Band members.

Benjamin currently serves as Vice-Chairman on the Tribal Executive Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), as Chair of the MCT Housing Subcommittee, as Treasurer of Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN), and as a member of the board of directors for the Indian Law Resource Center.

Grand Casino Hinckley Names Director of Service Operations

Grand Casino Hinckley associate Miki Miwa has been named Director of Service Operations, responsible for ensuring quality service in the casino's four restaurants, lounge, and banquet and beverage operations. She will also coordinate the food and beverage department's associate training and development efforts.



Miki Miwa

Miwa has worked at Grand Casino Hinckley for nearly six years and in the food service industry for more than 20 years, including six years with Target Corporation's foods division. In her most recent position with the casino, Miwa's role as Performance Specialist included providing training, job performance analysis, and other support to the food and beverage department.

"At a young age, I learned to appreciate the complexities of even the most simple dishes or ingredients," said Miwa, whose family operated a Japanese restaurant in Minneapolis for 16 years.

Potawatomi Bingo Casino Promotes John Hawkins to Assistant General Manager

Potawatomi Bingo Casino has named John Hawkins Assistant General Manager. Hawkins has been with Potawatomi since 2003 as the Director of Slot Operations. In his new role, Hawkins will be fully responsible for ensuring the overall efficiency of casino operations.

"As the Assistant General Manager, Hawkins will assist in developing policy, procedures, and strategic plans for all operational objectives for the entire gaming property," General Manager, Mike Goodrich said. "He will also be responsible for assisting in the management of the Casino's leadership team and helping the facility achieve annual business goals."



John Hawkins

Hawkins came to Potawatomi Bingo Casino with more than 21 years of experience in the casino industry. He began his career at the Flamingo Hilton Reno and has helped open several riverboats for the Hilton Hotels Corporation. Before taking the position at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, Hawkins moved to Detroit where he spent four years as the Greektown Casino's vice president of slot operations.

Northern Quest Casino Promotes Lisa Bonga Director of Cage Operations

Lisa Bonga was recently promoted to Director of Cage Operations at Northern Quest Casino, becoming the casino's first women director.

Bonga was the first team member hired at Northern Quest Casino in February of 2000 as a finance clerk processing the initial funding loan. During that time she assisted the project manager in payroll and purchasing. She was then promoted to Slot Shift Supervisor, a position she held for two years before being appointed Keno Manager for the following two years. She was then promoted to Slot Operations Manager before accepting the position of Director of Cage Operations.



Lisa Bonga

Gaming Standards Association Names Marc McDermott as Technical Director

In a move designed to speed progress and quickly provide its standards to the industry, the Gaming Standards Association has named Marc McDermott as its Technical Director. McDermott was selected from a field of more than 200 candidates from across the U.S. McDermott brings a wealth of experience to GSA, having most recently served

as Chief of the Electronic Services Division for the State of Nevada Gaming Control Board.

GSA President Peter DeRaedt said, "I am looking forward to working with Marc. His depth of understanding of game and systems technology, combined with his long term regulatory experience, is a true asset to the association. This new relationship will be to the benefit of the entire gaming industry."

As Technical Director, McDermott will facilitate the identification, definition, development, promotion and implementation of open standards enabling innovation, education, and communication for the benefit of the gaming industry.

Becker & Poliakoff Names David Romanik to Law Firm's Gaming Practice



David S. Romanik

Becker & Poliakoff, P.A., a Florida-based full-service commercial law firm, announced that South Florida gaming law attorney David S. Romanik has been appointed to the firm's expanding Entertainment, Sports and Gaming Law practice.

The appointment of Romanik adds his 30 years of experience of general civil practice and extensive experience as a lawyer and business advisor to the gaming and thoroughbred racing industries to Becker & Poliakoff's gaming practice. In his new capacity, he will work closely with Becker & Poliakoff shareholder Alan B. Koslow, lead attorney in charge of the law firm's entertainment, gaming, pari-mutuel and sports law practice, and a member of the prestigious International Association of Gaming Attorneys.

J.E. Dunn Construction Selects Ken Bock to Lead Business Development for Southwest Expansion

J.E. Dunn Construction welcomes Ken Bock as Vice President of Business Development for the gaming industry, based in their new Southwest office. Bock will be responsible for establishing business development objectives, researching market trends and discovering new opportunities.

"I'm excited about this move for several reasons," comments Bock, "It's an 81-year old, privately owned company and they're involved with many different fields of construction, and they want to expand their presence in the Phoenix and Las Vegas areas."

J.E. Dunn Construction has been a leader in building Native American projects, both gaming and non-gaming, since 1991. Bock's experience with Native American gaming facilities across the country, combined with his 21-year residence in the Southwest, make this a strong alliance. Bock will team with Jeff Dalton, head of J.E. Dunn Con-



Ken Bock

struction's Gaming Center of Excellence, to provide gaming construction expertise for clients nationwide.

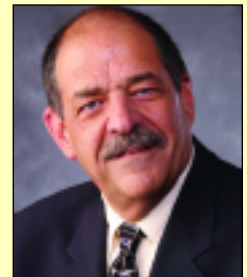
During his 20+ years of experience in the gaming industry, Bock has been responsible for securing several multimillion-dollar construction contracts. Prior to his business development role, Bock held a broad range of managerial positions, including Vice President of Lodging and Gaming Services, Director of Preconstruction, Director of Conceptual Estimating, and Operating Assistant.

Marnell Corrao Announces New President of Construction

Marnell Corrao Associates, a leading design/build firm in Las Vegas, Nevada recently appointed Marshall Cutting as President of Construction.

Cutting has been with Marnell Corrao since 2003 and was instrumental in the start up and success of the Marnell Consulting Business Unit. He has over 35 years experience in the construction industry including 24 years in top leadership positions throughout the country.

Cutting has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Building Construction from the University of Washington. He is a charter member of the Collaborative Building Institute at the University of Washington and served as a guest lecturer. He has also served on the Board of Trustees for the Associated General Contractors.



Marshall Cutting

NIGC Announces New Regional Director

National Indian Gaming Commission Chairman, Phil Hogen recently announced that Eric Schalansky has been chosen to be the new Region Director for the Commission Office in Sacramento, California, which covers all Indian gaming operations in California and northern Nevada. Eric has been a field investigator in the Sacramento Office for the past six years.

Schalansky worked for over 3 decades with the California Department of Justice beginning in 1964 through 1998 working in a wide range of areas such as terrorism, white collar crimes, narcotics and illegal gambling. Commission Chair Phil Hogen stated "Eric has demonstrated a commitment and professional example that we feel will continue to provide the Commission with strong leadership in California during these times of continued growth in Indian gaming." ♣