

Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino Announces New General Manager Russ Burbank



Russ Burbank

Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino is pleased to welcome Russ Burbank as new General Manager of the resort, with oversight of the adjacent Home-wood Suites by the Hilton Hotel.

Russ has had an impressive career in hotel and resorts development, operations, sales and marketing, as well as the culinary arts, and has worked for Marriott, Starwood and Native American casino resorts. Most recently,

Russ has been consulting with investment groups, hotels and casinos doing market studies and business evaluations. While working nine years with Casino Arizona, Russ opened the 4 Diamond Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale and held senior management positions during his stint including COO/SVP, GM and Chief Hospitality Officer. Prior to that, he held senior management positions with Durango Mountain Resort and Sheraton Tamarron Resort, both in Durango, Colorado. Russ got his start in the hospitality industry after graduating from the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, working as a Chef, F&B Director, Operations Director, GM, VP of Operations.

"We are pleased to have Russ Burbank join us at Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino," stated Governor of Pojoaque Pueblo, George Rivera. "We believe his experience in development, operations and senior management will be great contributing factors to the resort's overall success as a destination in the Southwest."

American Gaming Systems Announces Appointment of Curt C. Mayer as CFO



Curt C. Mayer

American Gaming Systems (AGS), a leading designer, manufacturer and operator of gaming machines with more than 8,000 units in operation, announced today it has appointed gaming industry veteran Curt C. Mayer as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Mayer comes to AGS from Las Vegas-based SkyWire Media, Inc., where he served as Executive Vice President and CFO for the private

start-up company that develops integrated, mobile-centric applications for the hospitality industry.

Prior to joining SkyWire, Mayer, beginning in 2007, served as the Corporate Vice President of Finance for Station Casinos, Inc., where he played key roles in Station's \$5.7 billion going-private transaction in 2007, \$410 million in debt financing for Aliante Station in 2007 and a

\$250 million land loan in 2008.

From 2002 until 2007, Mayer served as CFO for Black Gaming, LLC, a public gaming company located in Mesquite, NV, where he was integral in raising approximately \$180 million and taking the company public in 2004. Prior to Black Gaming, Mayer spent 10 years with the accounting firm Arthur Andersen serving public companies in various industries from gaming to technology.

Fantasy Springs Resort Casino Names Jill Philbrook as Marketing Manager



Jill Philbrook

Fantasy Springs Resort Casino is pleased to announce Jill Philbrook as its new Marketing Manager. Philbrook brings an extensive, 15-year resume in casino marketing to Fantasy Springs Resort Casino. She previously worked in the marketing departments for some of the biggest southern California resorts and casinos.

She has also lent her marketing expertise to companies outside the hospitality industry, namely Ryder Truck Rental and Trek Bicycles. Jill earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Marquette University. In 2008, she was awarded a Graduate Certification in Tribal Government Administration from Claremont Graduate University. She was a founding member and vice-chair of Women in Gaming, an organization devoted to the empowerment, education and advancement of females in the gaming industry. Philbrook is also a member of the American Marketing Association and the National Indian Gaming Association Roundtable.

Konami Gaming Announces Three Executive Promotions and One New Appointment

Konami Gaming, Inc. is pleased to announce the promotions of Eduardo Aching, Ross O'Hanley and Ray Suarez, and the appointment of Jovica Perovic.

Eduardo Aching has been promoted to Senior Director, International Sales. In this role, Eduardo oversees Konami's global sales including Latin America, Europe and Caribbean and is responsible for developing international markets for the company's games and systems products. He develops and maintains relationships with key distributors and existing customers, and manages new business opportunities. Eduardo has been with Konami since 2008 following several years in the gaming industry and more than twenty years in the technology sector. He has lived and worked on four continents.

Ross O'Hanley has been promoted to Vice President,

Domestic Game Sales. In this role, Ross is responsible for operational and strategic direction for North American game sales and lease/participation products, as well as Gaming and Systems marketing initiatives for the global brand. He has more than ten years of experience in senior operational management roles within the gaming industry. Ross joined Konami in 2008 as Senior Director of Marketing, and was promoted to Senior Director of North American Game Sales and Marketing in 2009.

Ray Suarez has been promoted to Vice President, Sales Operations/Director, Manufacturing. In this role, Ray is responsible for the Sales Operation Department which includes all sales order support functions for the Games and Systems divisions. He also provides internal and external customer support by developing and implementing business solutions and operational procedures. In addition to his Sales Operations responsibilities, Ray also serves as Director, Manufacturing. He joined Konami in 2008 as the Director of Sales Operations, and was promoted to Senior Director Sales Operations/Acting Director of

Manufacturing in 2009.

Jovica Perovic has been appointed to Director, International Sales for the European market. Jovica brings more than fifteen years of international experience in business development and senior operational management roles, including designing and opening of gaming facilities in Canada and Europe. During his tenure with one provincial lottery corporation in Canada, he directed teams responsible for the gaming product launch at sixteen new gaming facilities. His role was to identify opportunities to support business development and work collaboratively with various government levels, as well as First Nations groups and vendors, to eliminate any impediments to the operation and profitability of the gaming facilities.

Steve Sutherland, Chief Operating Officer at Konami Gaming, Inc., says, "With these promotions and appointment, Konami Gaming, Inc. has strengthened our senior management team as the company grows its market share. We continue to pursue our stated goal of being one of the top three gaming manufacturers." ♣



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About Randy Fromm: I am the publisher of Slot Tech Magazine. First published in 2001, Slot Tech Magazine is a monthly trade journal focusing on casino slot machine repair. I have been repairing electronics for the gaming industry since 1972. I really enjoy what I do and I love showing others how easy it can be. **No previous knowledge of electronics is required.**

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