



TO: Executive Committee

FROM: Jon Gurban

DATE: April 28, 1998

RE: MRPA Entry into and Experience with Lawful Gaming

Lawful gaming was a controversial issue when we entered into it, and it will probably always be so! Shari French probably summarized it best in 1994 when she wrote "...this may be one (lawful gaming) we will debate for years, no matter what your decision..." Ms. French's letter was one of twenty-five we received and shared with the Board of Directors. Twenty-two of those letters supported our entry into lawful gaming; three opposed it. At the Board of Directors level, the vote was 12-4 in favor of entering into lawful gaming.

Given the controversial nature of this issue, it is worthwhile for us to revisit our original thoughts, plans, and goals for engaging in lawful gaming. The MRPA developed a careful, cautious approach to lawful gaming. We developed a mission statement, a formal approach, and a conservative apportioning of utilizing Allowable Expenditures (these items attached for your reference).

Our primary concerns regarding lawful gaming were:

1. To adhere to all state statutes governing lawful gaming;
2. To minimize staff involvement;*
3. To generate revenue.

We have been very successful to date! Since 1995, the Association has generated new revenue in the amount of \$400,000 from lawful gaming!

Of this \$400,000:

- \$75,000 was used to offset general administrative expenses;
- \$25,000 was used to support RSC programs;
- Over \$300,000 was distributed through our grant program.

