

IGS casino audit: tribal politics a deficiency



**DARCY MORROW, DIRECTOR,
UNIT IV**

I would like to wish everyone a happy new year. December was a busy month for myself and Director Chase with all the Christmas events. All of our elders committees had their annual holiday dinners; each event had a fantastic turn out. It was so nice

to see all of the familiar faces and many new additions to the events. The annual children's Christmas parties took place in Escanaba and Manistique. Thank you to the Marquette elders for holding their annual children's Christmas party. Director Chase and I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who helped us make each of these parties a huge success. It has been great to watch the families grow throughout the years of working the Christmas parties. I enjoy watching grandmas with their grandchildren at the parties, I remember those same grandmas coming in with their own children years before.

The board has been holding Gaming Authority workshops with Tony Goetz, COO, twice a month to go over the results of the IGS audit and other areas of improvement and/or cost savings he has identified. Several weeks ago he made us aware of identi-

fied savings and implemented his plan. The board didn't take a vote on his identified savings; he was making us aware of changes that would be taking place. And he followed through with the changes. On Dec. 17 at the Gaming Authority meeting, Tony made the board aware of other identified cost savings and he would be implementing his plan just like he had done several weeks before. At this same meeting, the Gaming Authority did pass the 2014 casino and capital expenditure budgets. Before Tony implemented his plan some board members wanted a special meeting called; one said it was because she didn't know what she voted on and had questions. What made this identified cost savings any different then the one Tony implemented several weeks ago? We meet with Tony twice a month for Gaming Authority workshops, it is individual board member's and the

chair's responsibility to attend these meetings to be informed.

Several emails went back and forth on whether the chair was going to call a special meeting or not. My question was why would you call a special meeting when only five board members requested one? The unfortunate part was the chair called a special meeting, hyped it up and gave team members false hope. The difference between this reduction from the one Tony implemented several weeks earlier without a board vote was that this cost savings included an immediate family member of a Unit I board member. It was amazing how quick certain board members wanted to call a meeting to stop the decision of the COO, wouldn't this be considered micromanaging? The IGS audit contained the following statements for the board, "During our audit, it was seen

regularly board members using their positions to inject their personal wants, needs or desires into the way different departments are running." And, "there is no secret politics is a part of your operational deficiencies." This has been reported to us by an outside audit company. It is time we allow Tony Goetz to be the Kewadin Casino COO and do the job he should have been doing since he stepped into this position in 2006. It's unfortunate that tribal politics have had such a hold on our casinos, it is time to make a change in the right direction, otherwise we will never succeed.

If I can answer any questions, feel free to give me a call at (906) 203-6699 or email me at dmorrow@saulttribe.net or darcy-morrowforunit4@yahoo.com.

Thank you,
Darcy Morrow
Unit IV Director