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Gaming Commissioners Sworn in to Office

Principal Chief George Thurman recently swore in two new gaming commissioners and one reinstated.

They are as follows:

Steven Loyd *Broken Arrow Oklahoma.*

Steven is an accomplished gaming industry professional with 30 years of experience in leadership positions within corporate, properly level and state regulatory gaming organizations.

Areas of Expertise

Casino Leadership at the General Manager and Corporate Vice President levels.

- Maximizing Profitability
- Single and Multi-Facility management involving major Native American entities
- Property and Corporate level Management Team Building

- Casino Development
- Gaming Floor Design
- Game Protection
- Regulatory Consulting

Experience Overview

Steven has a long history of senior management level positions in the gaming industry, much of which has been in Indian Gaming including Regional Director of Gaming for the Choctaw Nation, General Manager for both Tropicana owned casinos at Lake Tahoe, Corporate Vice President of Casino Operations for Cherokee Nation Enterprises, and Director of Gaming Operations for Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino near Phoenix.

Steven spent the first ten years of his gaming career with the Nevada Gaming Control Board including Senior Agent responsibilities in the Enforcement and Intelligence Divisions. Prior to

that, Steven served as a police officer for the city of Sacramento and as a United States Army Aviator during the Viet Nam conflict. Steven has several college degrees including an MBA in Global Management.

Significant Achievements

Regional Director of Gaming for the Choctaw Nation-2009 to 2013.

Oversaw the roles of four gaming facility general managers. In this role he provided guidance and support for Choctaw Tribal Members as they developed leadership skill sets as general managers.

Steven also served as an Advisor assisting with strategic positioning, organizational development and facility planning and design.

General Manager of MontBleu and Horizon Casino Resorts 2007 to 2009.

Steven oversaw both MontBleu and Horizon Casino Resorts on the shores of beautiful Lake Tahoe. He was asked to serve in that capacity during a period of time parent company Tropicana was undergoing reorganization and careful attention to team leadership and conservative management principles was required.

Corporate Vice President of Operations for Cherokee Nation Casinos-2004 to 2007.

Oversaw and directed all gaming and hotel related activity for all seven Cherokee Nation Casinos. All facility general managers reported directly to Steven. Four of the seven casinos were developed, constructed and staffed under Steven's operational leadership during which time gaming revenues

more than tripled for the Cherokee Nation.

The seven Cherokee casinos reporting to Steven offered more than 4000 slots, 60 table games and the definitive poker environment in Oklahoma.

At Cherokee, Steven developed the Oklahoma State Poker Championship with a 50 table, card room environment, and entertained some of the world's top players in a variety of professional tournament offerings.

Director of Operations for Harrah's Ak-Chln Casino 1994 to 2004.

Steven oversaw all gaming, facilities, security, surveillance and compliance responsibilities for this highly successful Native American casino near Phoenix Arizona.

While a Harrah's Director, Steven was the winner of the 2001 Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. Western Division Leadership Award, a competition that includes Harrah's executives from all Harrah's casinos in the Western United States.

Steven was also selected to attend Harrah's "Excellence in Management" leadership course awarded to only a few high potential Harrah's executives each year.

Senior Agent with the Nevada State Gaming Control Board 1985 to 1994

Steven held critical leadership roles supervising the Las Vegas Criminal Unit and the Gaming Control Board's Intelligence Unit. As a State Gaming Control Board senior Criminal investigator, Steven led the arrests and prosecutions of countless gaming related criminals.

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New Gaming Commissioners: Principal Chief, George Thurman recently swore in three new Gaming Commissioners (From top) Steven Loyd, George Harjo and Robert Williamson (SFNews Photo)

Chief's Address To The Nation



Greetings,

This month I share information about very important and exciting advancements for our Sac & Fox Nation!



Principal Chief
George Thurman

Local News

Grants Writer/Planner. I am pleased to announce that Grants Writer / Planner Keith Pike has accepted our offer to relocate and work for our Nation. Pike has a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA and a Graduate School degree in Community Psychology from Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA.

He has over twenty years'

planning and development work with Tribal Governments. From September 2000 to the Present Pike was: Executive Management; Strategic Planning and Consulting tribes in California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and Alaska. In 1984 to 1995, he served as Tribal Chairperson and Tribal Administrator for the Guidiville Rancheria, Ukiah, CA.

I want to thank our Human Resources Department for their diligent work in advertising, compiling candidates lists, checking backgrounds and references, and arranging interviews for the Business Committee, not just for this position but for all positions within our tribal government.

Black Hawk Health Center Construction Project. Our Health Director, Don Whitehead, recently updated the Business Committee regarding the feasibility of constructing a new health center. On December 8, 2014 a group made up of Chief of Staff Rick Quarry, Property & Procurement Director Vickie Benham, Policy Analyst Melissa Peros, Self-Governance Director Jellene

Morehead, and Health Director Don Whitehead met to discuss the pros and cons of applying for a HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG.) The only pro is additional funding for the project which would represent less than 10% of the total project cost. The cons are undertaking the application process; awards would not take place until the fall of 2015; the possibility of not being funded; and delaying the construction project for at least a year. The group agreed that delaying the project was not in the best interest of the Sac & Fox Nation and recommended that we not apply for a HUD grant. (We will apply for an ICDBG for another project).

They then discussed the various methods to develop the project. They are:

- Architect/Contractor/Owner format which is the traditional way projects have been developed. This process would include engaging an architectural firm to create documents for construction. This would include steps from conceptual drawings through construction documents. Once construction

documents are approved, the project would be sent out for bid by contractors. Once engaged, the architect, contractor and SFN owner representative would work in conjunction to complete the project.

- Design/Build format makes the architectural firm responsible for all aspects of the project including construction. The advantage of this process is that the contractor works for the architect. This lessens the prospect of "finger pointing" and allows the architect to have more control of the project.

- Construction Project Management (CPM) is the third format for developing projects. In some cases, a construction company is the CPM and responsible for engaging the architect and overseeing the project. In other cases the owner engages a construction management company which engages the contractor and architect. The company is then responsible for completing the project.

By consensus, the group recommended engaging an architect to begin the development of architectural drawings. This (Continued on Page 3)

Upcoming Events

February 10

Sac and Fox Nation Veterans Meeting Cultural Center

February 11

Sac and Fox Elders Monthly Meeting Stroud

February 14

Sac and Fox Nation Powwow Committee Sweetheart Dance Community Building 2:00 p.m.

February 19

Sac and Fox Nation Womens Auxillary

March 7

Sac and Fox Elders All-Gourd Dance Benefit Community Building 1:00 - ?