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BULLETIN

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000

Announcing the First Charitable Bingo Training Program

The first in a series of Charitable Bingo Training Programs will be held on March 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in Austin for licensees in Region Five at Lottery Headquarters, 611 E. 6th Street. For your convenience the program is offered on three different days (the program is the same on each of the days). The programs will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. each day. An active member of the organization responsible for the conduct of bingo must attend. We encourage officers and other members to attend to the extent space is available. The Training Program will be offered in locations throughout the state in the coming months. The training program is a requirement of Sec. 2001.107 of the *Bingo Enabling Act*.

Those attending will be required to sign a statement affirming that they have read the *Bingo Enabling Act* and *Charitable Bingo Administrative Rules*.

To register send us the following information via mail, fax or e-mail, or call 1-800-BINGO-77 or (512) 344-5110:

- Name of organization, as it appears on the bingo license.
- Taxpayer number, as it appears on the bingo license.
- Name, title (primary operator, operator and/or officer) and phone number of all individual(s) who will attend.
- Date the individual(s) will attend.

Registration may be submitted as follows:

To Register By Mail:

Charitable Bingo Division – Texas Lottery Commission
Operator Training Program
Attention: Roy Gabrillo
PO Box 16630
Austin, TX 78761-6630

To Register By FAX:

512-344-5142
Charitable Bingo Division – Texas Lottery Commission
Operator Training Program
Attention: Roy Gabrillo

To Register By E-mail:

roy.gabrillo@mail.capnet.state.tx.us
Subject: Operator Training Program

Note: This training program is limited to 75 participants per session and the deadline for registration is February 29, 2000 so you need to register early.

In Remembrance

C. H. "Pokey" Matthies, Jr., February 12, 1932 – January 2, 2000

C. H. "Pokey" Matthies, Jr., a long-time friend and supporter of Charitable Bingo in Texas died January 2, 2000. The Texas Lottery Commission and the Charitable Bingo Operations Division extends sincere sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of Mr. Matthies. He is survived by his wife, Betty Ann; sons, C. Henry Matthies, III and Wesley Herrmann Matthies; daughter, Elizabeth Matthies; mother, Mary Fleming Matthies; 2 granddaughters, 2 sisters and 2 brothers.

Mr. Matthies served as a charity representative on the Charitable Bingo Advisory Committee from August 28, 1998 until he died. He retired from Southwestern Bell in 1988. At the time of his death Mr. Matthies was serving as Mayor Pro-Tem of Seguin. He was a member of the Seguin City Council, Seguin Rotary Club, Seguin Elks Lodge, president-elect of the Texas Elks State Association, member of the American Legion 245, chairman of the San Geronimo Cemetery Association, director of the Pecan Museum Board, and ambassador of the Seguin-Guadalupe County Chamber of Commerce.

Top 5 Bingo Complaints Received by the Security Division of the Texas Lottery Commission

The Security Division of the Texas Lottery Commission receives and investigates all bingo complaints. During the first quarter of fiscal year 2000 (September 1 – November 30, 1999) a total of 88 complaints were received. Action was taken on 21 of the complaints received. Twelve complaints on organizations were referred to District Attorneys or County Attorneys, the Legal Section of the Texas Lottery Commission and the Audit Section of the Bingo Operations Division of the Texas Lottery Commission. Nine organizations were issued warnings. The remaining cases were closed and no regulatory administrative action was taken.

The following is a list of the top five complaints received from September 1, 1999 to November 30, 1999:

Rank	Nature of Complaint	Number of Complaints
1	Gambling	13
2	House rules violations	11
3	Failure to pay prize to winner(s)	10
4	Reserved bingo cards	8
5	Person denied admission	6

Consider the following suggestions for possibly avoiding the above complaints:

Rule Review Proposed

At the January 28, 2000 meeting of the Texas Lottery Commission, the Commission proposed the rule review of all Charitable Bingo Administrative Rules except 402.572, License Fee Rule. For information on the proposed rule review visit the Texas Register website at www.sos.state.tx.us/textrg/index.html.

New Members of Bingo Advisory Committee (BAC) Appointed

At the January 28, 2000, meeting of the Texas Lottery Commission, the Commissioners appointed Mrs. Betty Ann Matthies to fill the unexpired term of her late husband, C. H. "Pokey" Matthies. Mrs. Matthies represents charities. The Commissioners also appointed Mr. Fabian Hoffner to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Jim MacPhearson. Mr. Hoffner represents manufacturers and distributors.

Gambling - call your local prosecutor (District Attorney or County Attorney) and request an interpretation of any questionable gaming or gaming devices you may have at your playing location.

House rules violations - post and/or make available to everyone the house rules. Be sure the house rules are written clearly and are easy to understand. By doing this, you will help insure that players and those associated with the operation of the games know the rules.

Failure to pay prizes to winner - state clearly in the house rules the procedure for paying winners and always follow the procedure when making prize payments to winners.

Reserved Bingo Cards - Charitable Bingo Administrative Rule 402.548(g) prohibits the practice of reserving bingo cards or card-minding devices that are loaded. Include a statement in your house rules about the prohibition of reserving bingo cards and preloaded card-minding devices.

Persons denied admission - Sec. 2001.412 of the Bingo Enabling Act states, "A person may not be denied admissions to a bingo game or the opportunity to participate in a game because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, or disability or because the person is not a member of the licensed authorized organization conducting the bingo game." Be sure your games are operated within these parameters.

Note: In addition to posting the house rules be sure you have current copies of the Bingo Enabling Act and Charitable Bingo Administrative Rules available for both players and those responsible for the conduct and operation of the bingo games. If you need copies of these documents or have questions, please contact our office at 1-800-BINGO-77 (246-4677).

Survey Results

The March/April 1999 issue of the Bingo Bulletin included a reader survey asking you to tell us what you think about the Bingo Bulletin. The following are the survey questions and what you told us:

1 I routinely read the following in the Bingo Bulletin (check all that apply):

- 97% of the people who responded routinely read the entire Bingo Bulletin
- 3% of the people who responded routinely read accounting, audit, IRS, quarterly statistics and other articles.

2 How would you rate the usefulness of the following categories or articles?

	Very Useful	Okay	Not Useful
Entire Bulletin	75%	25%	0%
Feature Articles	50%	50%	0%
Charity Stories	43%	50%	7%
New Licenses.	48%	48%	4%
Accounting Articles	86%	14%	0%
Audit Articles.	82%	18%	0%
Licensing Articles	90%	10%	0%
IRS Articles	75%	25%	0%
Quarterly Statistics.	57%	43%	0%

3 What overall grade would you give the Bingo Bulletin?

Excellent	54%
Good	43%
Satisfactory	1%

4 If it were up to you, what additions or changes would you make in the Bingo Bulletin to improve it?

- "More info on the IRS requirements – forms, taxes, etc. relating to pull-tabs."
- "Publish statistics, by area, of average bingo expense, per player, per session. More tips on innovating bingo sessions."
- "Doing a great job!"
- "Re: quarterly statistics, include year to year comparisons, otherwise it is not possible to judge trends."
- "More information on bingo procedures, laws and all changes."
- "Each bulletin should have a question/answer section of the most frequently asked questions from that quarter."
- "On charity articles more information on the conductor organization – do they use 100% organization personnel or operate out of a bingo hall w/paid labor and rent."
- "Share ideas on increasing bingo attendance to where it was a few years ago. Ways bingo charities can make enough money to continue in the bingo business, our charities are suffering. Marketing tips."
- "The bulletins that you people send are extremely beneficial to all bingo operations. The information is well presented and informative"

