

# Bingo Bulletin

July/August 2001

## From the Desk of Billy Atkins

As we approach the 20th Anniversary of Charitable Bingo in Texas, we have cause to celebrate the accomplishments of the past twenty years and the exciting future of Charitable Bingo in the new millennium. With the advent of 2002, we will begin celebrating the past accomplishments of Charitable Bingo and making plans for the future. Preliminary plans include the design of a 20th Anniversary logo to be used on all licenses, other documents and publications during the anniversary year, publication of the Charitable Bingo 20th Anniversary Report, and recognition of the benefits Charitable Bingo has brought to the citizens and charitable organizations of Texas.

It's fun to celebrate the accomplishments of the past but more important to plan for the future of Charitable Bingo in Texas. Won't you join me in the celebration of Charitable Bingo's 20 years in Texas and in planning for the future of Charitable Bingo in the new millennium? My goal is for Charitable Bingo in Texas to be the bellwether for the Charitable Bingo industry in the United States for the next twenty years and beyond. If you have ideas or suggestions for the 20th year celebration and for the future of Charitable Bingo in Texas, please pass them on to me.

The Charitable Bingo Website is expanding to make doing Charitable Bingo business in Texas faster and more efficient for you, our customers. The website is the key to the future implementation of many paper-less processes for Charitable Bingo in Texas.

Please visit the website at [www.txbingo.org](http://www.txbingo.org) and look at the information currently available; however, be sure to revisit the site frequently because new features are being added. I hope you find the website useful and that you take advantage of the information such as forms, applications, related links, news alerts, on-line Operator Training registration and scheduled training programs, minutes of the Bingo Advisory Committee and upcoming committee meetings, names and contact information of the current members of the Bingo Advisory Committee, lists of licensed distributors, manufacturers and system service providers, and much more.

Please let me know what you think about the website, I would like to hear your suggestions and comments. The website is designed for your use; if there is something we can do to improve it we will give it every consideration. And don't forget to share your ideas and suggestions regarding the 20th Anniversary Celebration and the future of Charitable Bingo in Texas. You can contact me as follows:

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Texas Lottery Commission, P. O. Box 16630  
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1-800-246-4677 • FAX (512) 344-5142 e-mail: [info@txbingo.org](mailto:info@txbingo.org)

## Is There Money In Your Organization's Amendment Escrow Fund?

We process approximately 600 fax and telephone amendments per year. (Note: Faxed and telephone amendments are those that are changing playing days and/or times only.) These types of amendments can be processed quickly if the organization has adequate funds in the amendment escrow account. We encourage organization's that routinely submit faxed or telephone amendments to keep adequate funds in the organization's amendment escrow account. The charge is \$10 per amendment.

Other issues that impede the processing of faxed and telephone amendments are: (1) playing schedule conflicts with other organizations at the playing location, (2) faxed amendments that are signed by officers or primary operators that aren't on the organization's bingo records that are required to be filed with the Division.

Organizations that are adding an additional playing occasion within the first 6 months of issuance of the original license to conduct charitable bingo must submit Schedule H Worksheet for Calculating License Fee and Bond Amount for a Conductor Amendment (TLC Pub. #1900, Rev 6/99) and submit an additional licensing fee and bond if required.

If you would like to know how much money is currently in your organization's amendment escrow account or who is qualified to sign a faxed amendment for your organization, see the back of this newsletter for all contact information.

## Very Important Reminder About Operator Training Programs

Administrative Rule 402.550 sets a deadline of September 1, 2001, for the primary operator or an alternate operator, listed on an organization's annual license to conduct Charitable Bingo, to have completed the Operator Training Program.

Organizations that fail to have an individual, named as an operator on their license, trained by September 2, 2001, are subject to disciplinary action and possible denial of their renewal application.

Some organizations have sent individuals listed as directors, officers or workers, but not operators to the Operator Training Program. These organizations will not have met the training requirement as stated in Administrative Rule 402.550.

After September 1, 2001, at least one operator from the organization must have completed the training within 24 months prior to the date of expiration of the license.

## Your Organization's Current Officers Must Be On The Bingo Record

We frequently receive renewal applications, temporary applications, amendments, supplements and other documents requiring the signature of an officer that are signed by an individual signing as an officer who is not on the organization's bingo record as an officer. When this occurs we have two options: (1) the organization must resubmit the document with the signature of an officer that is on the organization's bingo record or (2) add the individual signing the document to the organization's bingo record by submitting them on a Texas Supplement to Bingo License (B-AP-124-C, Rev 9/99). This procedure may result in a delay in processing the application if the added officer has not undergone a current Texas Department of Public Safety background check.

Section 2001.105(b) of the Bingo Enabling Act requires all officers of an organization be listed on the organization's bingo record, in the Division's computer system. If your organization has a change in officers, Charitable Bingo Administrative Rule 402.545(g) requires each licensee to promptly notify the commission in writing of any changes in an organization's officers. New officers should be added using the Texas Supplement to Bingo License (Conductor) (B-AP-124-C, Rev. 9/99). To delete officers from your organization's bingo record, submit a letter providing the name (as it appears on the bingo record) of the individual(s) to be deleted, their Social Security Number(s) and the position(s) they are to be deleted from. Note: Many individuals are on the bingo record with multiple positions, i.e., director, officer, and operator. We need to know specifically which position(s) they are to be deleted from.

If you need a list of individuals currently on your organization's bingo record please contact us through the information provided on the back of this newsletter.

## Texas Charitable Bingo Quarterly Report Statistics for the First Quarter of 2001 And Comparison of First Quarter 2001 to First Quarter 2000

Category	1st Quarter 2001	1st Quarter 2000	Change
Regular	\$85,867,855.00	\$95,464,381.00	-\$9,596,526.00
Electronic	\$36,466,160.00	\$34,212,960.00	\$2,253,200.00
Instant	\$21,863,876.50	\$24,347,095.00	-\$2,483,218.50
Total Gross Receipts	\$144,197,891.50	\$154,024,436.00	-\$9,826,544.50
Regular Prizes	\$84,176,238.00	\$89,286,413.00	-\$5,110,175.00
Instant Prizes	\$15,176,824.00	\$16,933,314.00	-\$1,756,490.00
Total Prizes	\$99,353,062.00	\$106,219,727.00	-\$6,866,665.00
Charitable Distributions	\$8,713,174.00	\$9,526,761.00	-\$813,587.00
Attendance	6,151,801	6,820,886	-669,085

Note: Statistics as of April 26, 2001. All figures are unaudited.

## Please Join Us In Welcoming New Employees To The Charitable Bingo Family!

Charles Carr, Auditor, Dallas Regional Office, joined Charitable Bingo in April 2001. Charles previously worked as a Program Analyst for the Department of the Treasury. He has a BBA in Banking and Finance from Texas Tech University and a BBA in Accounting from Southern Methodist University. He is married to Linda Carr, an accounting manager. He has a son who is a stock broker and a graduate of Texas A & M. His daughter is a 3rd grade teacher, also a graduate of Texas A & M University. Charles' hobbies are golf, music, reading, surfing the internet and following the stock market. In the pet department he has a Boston Terrier that likes to chase (but not catch) cats and squirrels. When asked what he likes about working in Charitable Bingo he said, "Meeting different people."

Joe Tutt, Auditor, Dallas Regional Office, joined Charitable Bingo in March 2001.

Melissa Wolff, Auditor, Dallas Regional Office, joined Charitable Bingo in May 2001. Melissa grew up in Wisconsin and went to college in Michigan. She has over twenty years experience in accounting. Her previous work experience includes manager/bookkeeper for a Humane Society, Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a Sergeant in the prison chow hall and Texas Department of Transportation as an accountant doing damage claims. Melissa's husband works for the Texas Department of Transportation. She has two teenage children and two cats. Of her job in Charitable Bingo she says, "I am very happy and excited to be working for the Texas Lottery Commission."

Andrea Bridgeman, Accounts Examiner, Austin Headquarters, Accounting Services, joined Charitable Bingo in September 2000. Andrea has 2 1/2 years of previous state service working for the State Comptroller's Office. Andrea is a native Austinite. Her hobbies are singing and volunteering to work with youth. Of working in Bingo, Andrea said, "What I enjoy most is the environment. My co-workers are a spirited group which makes it a stimulating and pleasant place to work."

Debbie Regalado, Data Entry Operator, Austin Headquarters, Licensing Services, joined Charitable Bingo in February 2001. Debbie has 3 1/2 years previous state experience that includes the Texas Department of Health and the Attorney General's Office. Regarding her job in Charitable Bingo, Debbie said, "I really enjoy working in Bingo because my duties include a variety of tasks in addition to data entry. Everyone in Bingo is very helpful when I have questions." Her favorite pastime is shopping with her mother.

Theresa "Terri" Caldwell, License Examiner, Austin Headquarters, Licensing Services, joined Charitable Bingo in April 2001. Terri previously worked for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for 13 1/2 years as a Rehabilitation Service Technician prior to coming to Charitable Bingo. Terri, her husband and daughter moved to Austin from Houston last year and really enjoy Austin and being closer to family. Regarding working in Charitable Bingo she said, "I enjoy it very much, it is very different from what I used to do." Terri's hobbies are taking care of her family and reading.

Lana Sosa, License Examiner, Austin Headquarters, Licensing Services, joined Charitable Bingo in April 2001. Lana has worked for the State of Texas for 13 years. She comes to Charitable Bingo from the Lottery, where she worked as a License Examiner for 7 years. Prior to the Lottery, she worked for the Texas Department of Agriculture. Regarding working in Bingo, Lana said, "I have really loved all my jobs but what brought me to Bingo is the people. This department really is one big happy family! Everyone is so friendly and happy. I am realizing there is a lot involved in issuing Bingo licenses but with the support of my new Charitable Bingo family, I'm sure I'll get through this learning process." Lana enjoys spending time with all her nieces and nephews, going to the movies, church activities, and playing pool.

### **Please Check Our Website for A Schedule Of Bingo Operator Training Programs**

You can see future class dates and register for the Charitable Bingo Operator Training Program on-line. Go to [www.txbingo.org](http://www.txbingo.org) and click on Bingo Operator Training to access future class dates and the on-line registration form. If you do not find class dates in your area keep checking as this section is updated as classes are scheduled.

Please register in advance for the Bingo Operator Training Programs. Seating is limited and we may not be able to provide you with a seat if you fail to register. Also, we want to make sure we have enough training materials for each program. In addition, should it be necessary to cancel, move, reschedule or combine a training program(s) we would need to notify you of the cancellation. If you do not register in advance, we cannot contact you.

### **Reminder – Include Your Taxpayer Number on Correspondence & Payments**

Be sure to include your eleven-digit taxpayer number on all correspondence sent to this office. It is also a good idea to include the name of a contact person and telephone number should we need to call you.

When mailing in a payment it is important to be sure the eleven-digit taxpayer number appears on your check, cashiers check, or money order.

### **How To Contact Us**

Charitable Bingo Division, Texas Lottery Commission

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