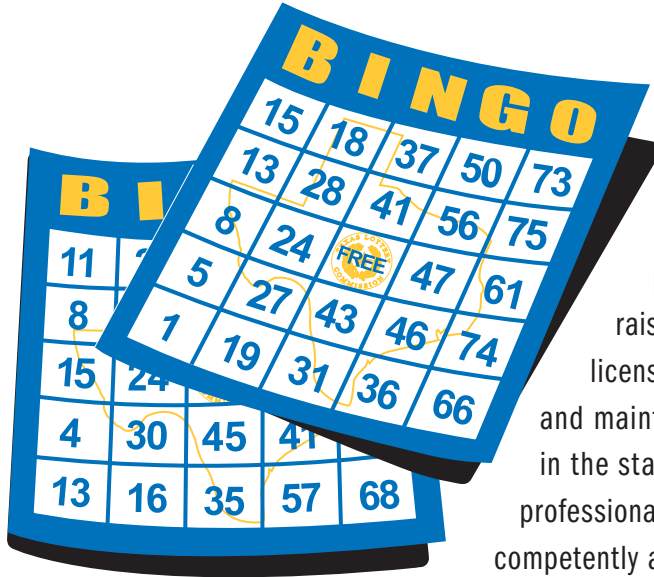


A Message From
Michael Farrell
Charitable Bingo Operations Director



I am honored to be part of the charitable bingo team since July 2018 and part of the agency regulating *the most charitable game in Texas!*

The Charitable Bingo Operations Division (CBOD) provides authorized organizations the opportunity to raise funds for worthy causes through the conduct of licensed Bingo games in Texas. The CBOD also promotes and maintains the integrity of the charitable bingo industry in the state. We continue to strive for the highest levels of professionalism, conducting our regulatory activities fairly, competently and consistently.

The Commission also works to develop clear regulatory requirements in an open environment that encourages two-way communication. As part of this effort the Bingo Advisory Committee (BAC) was reestablished in August 2018. Committee members, meeting agendas and transcripts can be found at https://www.txbingo.org/export/sites/bingo/About_Us/bingo_advisory_committee.html.

The CBOD has implemented some changes to provide better service to you, our customers. These changes include web-accessible fillable forms, updated frequently asked questions (FAQs are at <https://www.txbingo.org/export/sites/bingo/FAQ/index.html>), and improvements to the training and certification process.



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BEA Changes and Administrative Rule Making

At the request of the BAC, we began the bingo administrative rulemaking process to address limiting how long a charity can defer rent.

This 86th Legislative session includes bills that will, if enacted, make some significant changes to the Bingo Enabling Act and will require changes to the administrative rules. These potential statutory changes will keep us busy addressing the subsequent required rule changes, upgrading our Bingo Operations Services System the Bingo Services Portal and our internal processes and procedures. All will require CBOD to provide training and guidance to our charitable bingo partners.

As you can see, we in CBOD have a lot of work ahead of us, but I am confident that as a team we will be successful and continue to provide licensed charities the opportunities to raise funds for their worthy causes.

Charitable Bingo Operations Division Team

As many of you know, we had to say goodbye to staff that had become familiar faces to the industry: They have retired, transferred and/or gone on to bigger and better things.

That means there are, and will be, new team members joining our seasoned staff. We are hiring, training and cross-training staff as quickly as we can to minimize the disruption to and better serve our industry teammates.

We will continue to do all those things we did before, just with some new faces (or voices) with whom you will be working.

HB 2578 License Fee Refunds

Beginning on Sept. 1, 2017, the Commission stopped collecting conductor license fees for applications or renewals.

With the elimination of the license fee to conduct charitable bingo effective Sept. 1, 2017, the agency completed a refund project in accordance with House Bill (HB) 2578. Per the HB, the Commission was required to refund all, or the prorated portion of conductor license fees collected in fiscal year 2017 for license periods that fall wholly or in part of fiscal year 2018 or later.



Policy Regarding Trade Organization Membership Fees as a Bingo Expense

We recently implemented a new policy relating to membership fees paid to bingo conductor trade organizations, such as Conservative Texans for Charitable Bingo and Texas Charity Advocates, from the conductor's bingo proceeds.

CBOD will allow conductors to pay membership fees to bingo conductor trade organizations as a reasonable expense from their bingo account. The policy was put into place to allow licensed conductors to pay a reasonable amount to trade organizations that promote bingo which could include providing advertising, legal services, advocacy and other services related to the conduct of bingo.

This policy includes explicit directives that:

- no charity/conductor shall be forced to pay a trade organization membership fee.
- the licensed organization must ensure that these fees are capable of being audited.

Important point to remember:

- Licensed authorized organizations are still prohibited from using bingo proceeds to support or oppose a candidate or slate of candidates for public office. Section 2001.456(1)

CBOD may be asking for information from conductors and trade organizations to assist us in monitoring the benefits and financial impacts associated with trade organization membership fees.



Bingo Website Content Planning and Modifications

We also plan to review and modify our website to make it more user-friendly. Our goal is to provide a high level of service to all bingo licensees and the general public. We are striving to make the website content easily accessible and informative. We are currently redesigning the flow of the website to help users easily locate bingo licensing instructions, forms, and other information related to charitable bingo operations.

Mind Your Expiration Dates



Stay vigilant!

Don't let your license or registry listing expire!

Workers, renew online via BSP at bsc.txbingo.org

All licenses and registry listings expire. It is the responsibility of the license holder or the individual listed on the Registry of Approved Bingo Workers to ensure that a renewal application is submitted to the CBOD prior to the expiration date printed on the license or worker registry badge.

The CBOD may notify licensees and worker registrants prior to license or registry listing expiration; however, the CBOD is not required to provide the notification. It is the licensee's or the worker's responsibility to reapply for licensure or to be listed on the Registry of Approved Bingo Workers. Failure to apply for renewal in accordance with the Bingo Enabling Act and Bingo Administrative Rules may cause a loss of licensure or removal from the worker registry.

Audit Message

Some of the most uplifting aspects of bingo audits is seeing the amount of money distributed for the charitable purposes of the organizations, how those funds are used and the number of people whose lives are improved by them. The conduct and accounting of your bingo games is very important. To ensure net proceeds for charitable purposes are being met and to avoid an audit finding that could result in owing prize fees remember to stay actively engaged in your charitable bingo operations.



Playing Bingo: Helping Your Community!

What motivates people to give? Charities have been grappling with that question for years. Playing bingo is one way you can give back and win! Bingo related charitable donations help those around your community and can include those organizations that offer relief for the poor, distressed or underserved, and those with religious, educational or scientific affiliations.

Some charitable organizations are engaged in the creation and management of monuments, buildings or facilities. Many charities work to enhance society by offering social services, lessening government burdens and combating community deterioration. The defense of public safety, children, animals, civil rights and the elimination of prejudice and discrimination are some other social-centric activities for which charities provide services, resources, education, training and information to people who are in need of support.

Organizations that make a difference will be spotlighted in future newsletters. If you would like to be featured in the next message send in your organization's story with photographs.

Giving back and having fun is all part of charitable bingo, but most importantly, you could walk away a winner! Bingo brings together people from different lifestyles in hopes of winning the top prize. All you have to do is match all the correct numbers and shout...



BINGO!

The word "BINGO!" is written in a large, bold, blue, bubbly font with a white outline and a yellow drop shadow. The text is set against a background of a white circle filled with a pattern of small, colorful dots in shades of blue, orange, and pink. The overall effect is festive and celebratory.