

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As my term as OCMA's President nears its end, I hope to have achieved the principle goal I set; namely, to uphold and continue the proud traditions of OCMA's past presidents in leading one of the greatest trade associations in the country.

OCMA has a highly regarded record of accomplishments that goes back to the year we were founded - 1974. The "teamwork" tradition that has been OCMA's trademark and that has made us a trade group that is widely admired and emulated in Ohio and in many other states, I am proud to report, is alive and well. As state and national issues continue to "challenge" our businesses, you and I have an opportunity to "control our own destiny" by being an active OCMA member.

Over the past months, we have seen tremendous changes (and will continue to see changes) here in Ohio:

- We now have a statewide smoking ban with no exemptions for any businesses.
- Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann has established a protocol to certify "games of skill". But, as we learned last week, he may rescind this protocol policy. Stay tuned . . .
- The Ohio General Assembly is poised to once again strengthen the state's DUI laws; however, avoiding mandating that all vehicles are equipped with lock-out devices.
- "Instant Racing" may be approved for Ohio's seven racetracks by the Ohio General Assembly. Governor's position is unknown as of today.
- The Ohio Lottery will unveil its precursor to "KENO in bars" when they introduce their new "Pick 10" Lottery Game later this summer.

Your officers, directors and staff have spent countless hours furthering the many causes and programs that OCMA continues to promote/advance on your behalf. It is up to all of us to change the public debate when it comes to many of these issues. For example, by creating the protocol for certifying skill games, the Ohio Attorney General has stated that he wants to aid law enforcement and protect consumers. **This is the message!** Another part of the message is: The coin machine industry is responding to the changes in consumer demand. There is a whole new group of consumers that have been "raised on technology". There are young adults that are technologically savvy who demand to be entertained in this manner. Technology has changed, and continues to change, that's why we need a fluid legislature - a legislature and elected officials who will respond and anticipate socioeconomic issues and create positive solutions. **This is OUR message!**

As my term in office comes to a close, I would like to thank the officers, directors, staff, and you - the members - for the support given me. Without everyone's assistance and guidance (especially from my father and Paul Corey), these last two years would not have been as rewarding as they have been. I also suggest to anyone who is interested in becoming a director to submit their name. It has been one of the most beneficial experiences that I have ever had - I highly recommend it.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve you as your OCMA President these past two years.

Sincerely,

Dewey

Dewey S. Laughlin
President