



OCMA - STRAIGHT TALK

November/December, 2005

Volume 104 Issue 11

OCMA's Officers and Directors

As reported in your last issue of Straight Talk, the following individuals were installed as OCMA officers for 2005-06:

President:	Dewey S. Laughlin	Laughlin Music & Vending	Athens
1st Vice President:	Michael Y. Fowler	W-K Music & Vending, Inc.	Columbus
2nd Vice President:	James Bremer	Bremer Vending	Toledo
Secretary:	David A. George	Bell Music Co.	Akron
Treasurer:	Rodney L. Stebelton	Stebelton Music & Vending	Lancaster
Board Chair	Sean Richards	Hughes Music Co.	Springfield



Seated L-R) Treasurer Rodney Stebelton, Board Chair Sean Richards, President Dewey Laughlin, 1st Vice President Mike Fowler and Secretary David A. George. (Standing L-R) Exec. Vice President David Corey, and Directors Michael Zappa, Kerry Shaffer, and Andy Shaffer. Absent from photo are: 2nd Vice President James Bremer, and Directors James Comella, Phillip Elum, Larry Van Brackel and William Westerhaus.



(L-R) OCMA Exec. VP presents out-going president Sean Richards with OCMA's Past-President's plaque in honor of his years of service as president.



(L-R) Out-going president Sean Richards passes the gavel to newly installed president Dewey Laughlin

SERVICE

INTEGRITY

DEPENDABILITY

The Ultimate Investment

By Fred Koury

President and CEO of Small Business News, Inc.

Each day, we read about great business leaders and what they have achieved, and there's always someone topping what the last person accomplished.

Bill Gates rose from obscurity to create the world's most dominant software company. Michael Dell re-invented how computers are sold. And, Steve Jobs at Apple has changed the way people think about music with the iPod.

We are always reading lists of the wealthiest, greatest, biggest and best people in their industries. We have also all heard the expression, "Time is money." Day planners, Microsoft Outlook, Palm Pilots and even cell phones keep track of our time.

The problem with time is that, in the big scheme of life, the master clock is covered, so we don't know how much time we really have to achieve what we want.

Time is not only money. It should also be looked at as opportunity. The most precious commodity each of us has is time. As we approach the beginning of a new year, each of us should stop and reflect on what we are investing our time in. Consider the story of a father and son walking through a cemetery. The son was looking at the date of birth and date of death on the tombstones to see how long each person had lived. The father said to the son, "The most important thing is not how long they lived, but the dash in between the dates."

Every day we are, in a sense, writing our own epitaph. The question we should ask ourselves is, "What are we investing in that will outlive us?" The answer should be relationships, because everything else we do depreciates. Everyone wants to last longer than his or her life. People want to be remembered. Finding ways to make a difference in people's lives is what you should strive for, because in the end, relationships are what will be remembered, not your business accomplishments. The movie "It's a Wonderful Life" shows that even when you think you are living a life of significance, what is truly remembered and what truly makes a difference are the relationships you form with others.

So this holiday season, stop worrying about how big your buildings are, how high your profits are going to be and how you are going to leave your mark on the business world, and instead make sure your relationships are making a difference in people's lives.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Koury has granted permission to reprint this timely message.)

Governor Signs Forfeiture Bill

On November 17, Governor Taft signed legislation which will allow some liquor permit holders to pay a fine rather than suffer a permit revocation.

House Bill 140 allows the Liquor Control Commission to offer permit holders the option of paying a monetary forfeiture in lieu of a permit revocation. However, if the Commission determined the permit premises presented a "clear and present danger to the public health and safety" or if the violation for which the permit holder was cited involved a felony, a forfeiture would not be offered. Additionally, permit holders who failed to pay excise taxes or were convicted for the illegal use of food stamps or WIC benefits would not be eligible for forfeiture in lieu of revocation.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Jim Carmichael (R-3, Wooster), also authorizes manufacturers and distributors of beer or intoxicating liquor to provide consumer product instruction or sample servings of their products at certain retail permit holder premises without having to obtain a retail liquor permit.

The measure takes effect February 14, 2006 (i.e., 90 days from its November 17 signing).

Gift Show to Be Added to the Mix

The 2006 AMOA International Expo and Fun Expo may gain as many as 400 booths and up to 3,000 new showgoers through co-location with the Las Vegas Souvenir & Resort Gift Show.

The 2006 event is scheduled for September 27 through the 29th at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Nation's Toughest Smoking Ban Approved in Washington

On November 8, voters in Washington state approved a measure that would impose the country's toughest smoking ban. According to the Seattle Post Intelligencer, the proposal received "overwhelming" support. Passing by comfortable margins in all 39 counties.

The language of the initiative bans smoking in public places, including bars and restaurants, and also forbids outdoor smoking within 25 feet of doors, windows and air vents of any public place.

Local public health officials are saying they lack the budgets or staffs to enforce the measure, which takes effect in January.

Injunctions Block Video Violence Ban

Judges in Michigan, Illinois and now California have blocked state laws that criminalize the sale or rental of violent video games to minors.

Wednesday, November 9, Judge George Caram Steeh of the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, issued a ruling for a preliminary injunction, citing free speech concerns. Judge Steeh wrote, "Plaintiffs have demonstrated that the Act is unlikely to survive strict scrutiny, and that irreparable harm follows from the loss of First Amendment 'freedoms'. The law was due to take effect December 1.

December 2nd, U.S. District Judge Matthew Kennelly issued a permanent injunction against the Illinois law attacking its basic rationale, saying: "In this country, the state lacks the authority to ban protected speech on grounds that it affects the listener's or observer's thoughts and attitudes."

And, on December 22nd, U. S. District Judge Ronald Whyte cited constitutional grounds as he imposed a preliminary injunction against the California law which was to have taken effect on January 1, 2006.

2006 Membership Roll of Honor

The strength of any organization is gauged by the Q & Q (Quality & Quantity) of its members. As OCMA continues into its fourth decade of service to Ohio's operators and the general public we are proud to recognize these firms who've already remitted their 2006 dues and to enter their names on the 2006 Membership Roll of Honor:

Alexander Music Co. (Dave Alexander, Youngstown)
Bremer Vending (Jim & John Bremer, Toledo)
Buckeye Valley Music & Games (Joe Dobkin, Bellaire)
Castle Music (Dennis R. Winchell, Barberton)
City Amusement Enterprise, LLC (Richard Webb, Ironton)
Coin-Operated Vending (Ron Jones & Duane McCoy, Columbus)
Horizon Music & Games (Dennis R. Hilligan, Cincinnati)
Hughes Music Co. (Sean Richards, Springfield)
J & S Electronics (Mike Musser, St. Marys)
Playtronics, Inc. (Armonda Nannicola, Youngstown)
M & G Vending, LLC (Mel Cohen, Toledo)
Pioneer Vending (Bill Westerhaus, Cincinnati)
Union Vending (Martin Sarcyk, Cleveland)



OCMA Supports "Coin-Op Cares"



OCMA President Dewey Laughlin (L) presents Ohio's AMOA Directors (L-R) Mike Zappa (Lorain Music, Crestline), Kerry Shaffer (Shaffer Amusement Co., Dayton), and Andy Shaffer (Shaffer Services, Columbus), with a check for \$1,000 for the AMOA sponsored Katrina/Rita Hurricane relief effort—"Coin-Op Cares". Funds raised will be used to help gulf state operators, some who lost everything, who were victims of Katrina and Rita rebuild their businesses and their lives. Contributions still may be made to this tax-deductible fund. Call AMOA at 1-800-937-2662 for more information.



Have You Returned Your 2005-06 Pool and Dart Registrations ?



IF you are planning to participate in the 2005-06 Pool and/or Dart programs and have NOT submitted your registration forms Time is running out.

BOTH the Pool Charterholder Application/Survey and Dart Charterholder Application/Survey, along with your check were due in the OCMA office no later than October 15th.

The OCMA Dart Tournament will be held March 31—April 2. The OCMA Pool Team Tournament will be held April 27-30.

Remember, your teams will not be eligible to participate in any tournament if your 2006 OCMA Membership Dues and your league fees are not paid in full prior to March 15, 2006. If you have questions, call David or Kim Corey at 614-784-9772.

RIAA Will Not Enforce Copyrights

The Recording Industry Association of America has announced that it will not seek to defend its members' copyrights against possible infringement by public performance of MP3 music in taverns (known as I-Pod Nights). Association officials have stated they do not believe the effort is worth the money.

"We do not stop playing because we grow old.

We grow old because we stop playing."

- Anonymous

Chicago Approves Smoking Ban

On December 8, the Chicago City Council voted 45-1 to ban smoking in most indoor public spaces, specifically including arcades. The Chicago Clean Indoor Air Ordinance will take effect January 16, 2006 for most venues; however, restaurant bars and taverns do not have to comply until July 1, 2008. Also exempted were retail tobacco stores, private clubs or lodges, designated hotel rooms and private residences. "Bars, taverns and other public areas or workplaces that install air purification devices that ensure the same air quality inside as outside can seek an exemption from the smoking ban. Otherwise, smokers must stand outdoors, or at least 15 feet away from building entrances. Indoor smokers can be fined up to \$100; businesses that repeatedly allow violations can be fined up to \$2,500 and lose their licenses.

Elsewhere, in Washington, DC city council voted by a margin of 12-1 to give preliminary approval for a smoking ban in bars and restaurants, but certain businesses can qualify for exemptions based on economic hardship. A final vote is expected in the next few weeks.



OCMA - STRAIGHT TALK

OHIO COIN MACHINE ASSOCIATION
3757 Indianola Ave.
Columbus, OH 43214-3753
614/784-9772 * FAX 614/784-9771

E-mail ocma@the-ocma.org
Web site www.the-ocma.org

STRAIGHT TALK

Official Publication of the
Ohio Coin Machine Association

Executive Committee

Dewey Laughlin	President
Michael Fowler	1st Vice President
James Bremer	2nd Vice President
David A. George	Secretary
Rodney Stebelton	Treasurer
Sean Richards	Board Chair

Directors

James Comella	Phillip Elum
Andy Shaffer	Kerry Shaffer
Larry Van Brackel	William Westerhaus
Michael Zappa	

Staff

David Corey	Executive Vice President
Judith Martin	Executive Director
Kimberly Corey	Administrative Assistant

2006 Calendar of Events

March 31-April 2	OCMA Dart Tourney	Canton
April 27-30	OCMA/VNEA Pool Tourney	Canton
May 25-June 3	VNEA Pool Championships	Las Vegas
June 30	Deadline for submitting Scholarship Applications	
TBD	OCMA 32nd Annual Meeting and Dinner	Columbus
Sept. 27-29	AMOA Expo	Las Vegas

Have a Healthy and Happy 2006!

SERVICE

INTEGRITY

DEPENDABILITY