

MONTANA TAVERN TIMES

Investigations Bureau - December 1, 2012

By Angela Nunn

Operations Bureau Chief, Gambling Control Division

In order to effectively regulate gambling in Montana, the Gambling Control Division is organized into the Operations Bureau, the Investigations Bureau, the Technical Services Section, and the Legal Section. While each play an important role, this article will focus on the Investigations Bureau which has experienced significant change in personnel over the last year and a half.

The Investigations Bureau is made up of 27 FTE (of which 21 are sworn law enforcement officers). The responsibilities of the Investigations Bureau include duties such as:

- investigating illegal gambling activity
- investigating video gambling machine tampering, theft, and burglary
- conducting background checks of applicants for a gambling or liquor license
- investigating any violations of laws related to tobacco taxes or the types of tobacco that can be sold
- conducting routine inspections of licensed establishments
- processing applications for temporary card dealer licenses
- inspecting newly constructed or remodeled establishments that sell liquor or allow gambling
- evaluating variations of legal gambling activities submitted for approval
- providing local law enforcement training
- assisting in licensing applicants by conducting financial background reviews
- interpreting and analyzing financial documents related to suspected illegal gambling activities

After the tragic loss of Investigations Bureau Chief Jeff Bryson almost one year ago, then District Supervisor, Larry Renman, was appointed to the position. Larry stepped up and did an excellent job in his new role and served as an incredible resource to the division. After receiving notice of Larry's intent to retire in December 2012, we posted the Investigations Bureau Chief position and are happy to announce that Dave Jeseritz was selected for the position. Dave is coming to us from Helena Police Department where he retired as Assistant Police Chief. Dave started with the division on November 13, 2012 and is sure to be a great asset. His office is located in Helena and he can be reached by calling the main phone line at 406-444-1971.

The Investigations Bureau consists of eight regional offices, which are organized into two Districts, each managed by a District Supervisor. Field offices are located in Billings, Butte, Bozeman, Glasgow, Glendive, Great Falls, Kalispell, and Missoula.

The retirement of another employee a year and a half ago opened the opportunity for the Eastern District Supervisor position. Joe Bryce was selected for the position and now manages the Eastern District from the Billings office. He is responsible for activity in the eastern part of Montana and the field offices located in Billings, Bozeman, Glasgow, and Glendive. Joe can be reached by calling 406-896-4300.

When Larry Renman moved into the Investigations Bureau Chief position, Rocky Harris was selected to replace him as the Western District Supervisor. Rocky manages the Western District from Missoula. He is responsible for the activity in the western part of Montana and the field offices located in Missoula, Kalispell, Great Falls, and Butte. Rocky can be reached by calling 406-329-1475.

While the bureau has experienced some change over the last year and a half, the division feels we have excellent staff in place and are prepared to move forward and respond to any issues or changes 2013 will bring.