



THE OHIO LOTTERY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 12, 2025  
IN PERSON/VIA TELECONFERENCE

Members of the Commission

Matthew Blair, Chairman  
James Brady, Vice Chairman  
Caryn Candisky  
Nita Gupta  
Jonathan Hughes  
Angela Mingo  
Martin Sweeney  
Matthew Szollosi

Ohio Lottery Commission Attendance (In-Person & Remote)

Michelle Gillcrist, Director, Office of Executive  
Nicole Kostura, Assistant Director, Office of Executive  
Marilyn Berrios, Office of Executive  
Sy'Aire Toler, Student Intern, Office of Executive  
Nick Ciofani, Deputy Director, Office of Government and Community Relations  
Dan Carter, Acting Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Counsel  
Meg Rasmussen, Office of Legal Counsel  
Margaret Tomaro, Office of Legal Counsel  
Greg Beyer, Deputy Director, Office of Internal Audit  
Raymond Durant, Deputy Director, Office of Investigations & Security  
Ed Slyman, Deputy Director, Office of Finance  
Joan French, Office of Legal Counsel  
Marty Morrow, Deputy Director, Product Innovation  
Danielle Frizzi-Babb, Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
Rick Perk, Deputy Director, Office of Sales  
Ron Fornaro, Office of Product Innovation  
Pam Strickland, Office of Product Innovation  
Simeonia Mays, Deputy Director, Office of Racino Operations  
Percy Turner, Deputy Director, Office of General Services  
Jon Dillinger, Office of Sports Gaming  
Samantha Crites, Office of Internal Audit  
Valerie Murphy, Office of Internal Audit  
Alexander Snyder, Office of Sports Gaming  
Marni Santoro, Office of Legal Counsel  
Ricky Neal, Office of Racino Operations  
Carla Reeves, Office of Sports Gaming  
Richard Kline, Office of Sales  
Peter McGinty, Office of Internal Audit  
Bryan Robinson, Office of Communications  
Scott Basom, Office of Investigations & Security

Ken Dauenhauer, Office of Marketing  
Jacqueline Cunningham, Office of Communications  
Tom Spayd, Office of Racino Operations  
Rebecca Mclemore, Office of Marketing  
Brent Collier, Office of Internal Audit  
Angela McCracken, Office of Sports Gaming  
Marie Kilbane-Seckers, Office of Communications  
Mike Gonzalez, Deputy Director, Office of Data Analytics  
Terri Jones, Office of Marketing  
Sharisse Russell, Office of Racino Operations  
Susan Diamond, Office of Responsible Gambling

Additional Attendees

Gina Lawwill, Miami Valley Gaming  
Samantha Alonso, MGM Northfield Park  
Kevin Davis, Miami Valley Gaming  
Nick Monti, MGM Northfield Park  
Debbie Pirone, Marcus Thomas  
Scott Chapin, Marcus Thomas  
Elizabeth Abate, Marcus Thomas  
Emily Venditti, Marcus Thomas  
Ed Dick, JACK Entertainment  
Nichole Herrera, Success Group  
Carla Kuchta, Intralot  
Jess Panora, BetMGM  
Sarah O'Driscoll, Fahlgren  
Milan Karna, OMHAS  
Steve Ranere, IGT  
Sam Porter, Ice Miller  
Jennifer Park, Aftermath  
Matthew Becker, Penn Entertainment  
George Balajan, Intralot  
Joseph Schmansky, AGO  
Matt Eberwein, IGT  
Tim Kelley, Hollywood Gaming at Dayton  
Chris Volle, Jack Entertainment  
Matthew McDonnell, Dickinson-Wright  
Mark Basedow, Lotto.com Inc  
Ron Stokes, Three Leaf  
Duane Miller, Three Leaf  
Madi Warden, Marcus Thomas

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Matthew Blair called the meeting of the Ohio Lottery Commission to order at 12:00 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Sweeney moved to approve the January 8, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szollosi and was affirmatively voted upon by the Commissioners present.

#### Approval of four (4) Scratch-Off Games in Proposed and Final Form

Ron Fornaro, Scratch-Off Product Manager, presented four (4) Scratch-Off Games in Proposed and Final Form:

- OLC Operating Procedure 1029:
  - 1029\_GameRule, *Lucky Gems Multiplier* (\$2.00)
- OLC Operating Procedure 1030:
  - 1030\_GameRule, *Joker's Wild* (\$5.00)
- OLC Operating Procedure 1031:
  - 1031\_GameRule, *\$500,000 Bankroll* (\$10.00)
- OLC Operating Procedure 1032:
  - 1032\_GameRule, *\$1,000,000 Cash Payout* (\$20.00)

Chairman Blair moved to approve four (4) Scratch-Off Games in Proposed and Final Form, with Commissioner Mingo offering a second to the Motion. The Motion was affirmatively voted upon by the Commissioners present.

#### Approval of seven (7) Scratch-Off Game Rules available for Rescission presented in Proposed and Final Form

Daniel Carter, Acting Chief Legal Counsel, presented seven (7) Scratch-Off Game Rules available for Rescission presented in Proposed and Final Form:

- 3770:1-9-625, Game rule number six hundred twenty-five, *Millions* (\$30.00)
- 3770:1-9-627, Game rule number six hundred twenty-seven, *\$25, \$50 or \$250* (\$5.00)
- 3770:1-9-670, Game rule number six hundred seventy, *Cash Explosion Cashword* (\$2.00)
- 3770:1-9-740, Game rule number seven hundred forty, *Bingo Times 50* (\$10.00)
- 3770:1-9-766, Game rule number seven hundred sixty-six, *\$2,500,000 Make My Year* (\$10.00)
- 3770:1-9-798, Game rule number seven hundred ninety-eight, *Fistful of \$500* (\$5.00)
- 3770:1-9-799, Game rule number seven hundred ninety-nine, *Red Hot Riches* (\$10.00)

Director Michelle Gillcrist noted that the correct Game Rule number was 766 not 756 as presented. Acting Chief Legal Counsel, Daniel Carter, reiterated the Game Rule number as 766.

Chairman Blair moved to approve seven (7) Scratch-Off Game Rules available for Rescission presented in Proposed and Final Form, with Commissioner Gupta offering a second to the Motion. The Motion was affirmatively voted upon by the Commissioners present.

#### Approval of twelve (12) Administrative Rules in Final Form

Daniel Carter, Acting Chief Legal Counsel, presented twelve (12) Administrative Rules in Final Form:

- 3770:2-3-03, Video Lottery Licenses; issuance of a license (Amended)
- 3770:2-8-01, Scope and purpose of the Ohio voluntary exclusion program (Rescission)
- 3770:2-8-01, Scope and purpose of the Ohio voluntary exclusion program (New rule)
- 3770:2-8-02, Application to participate in the Ohio voluntary exclusion program (Rescission)
- 3770:2-8-02, Application to participate in the Ohio voluntary exclusion program (New rule)
- 3770: 2-8-03, Responsibilities of voluntarily excluded individuals (Rescission)
- 3770:2-8-03, Responsibilities of voluntarily excluded individuals (New rule)
- 3770:2-8-04, Responsibilities of excluded facilities and excluded entities under the jurisdiction of the Ohio lottery commission (Rescission)

- 3770:2-8-04, Responsibilities of excluded facilities and excluded entities under the jurisdiction of the Ohio lottery commission (New rule)
- 3770:2-8-05, Removal from the Ohio voluntary exclusion program (Amended)
- 3770:2-8-07, Prior voluntary exclusions (Amended)
- 3770:2-11-01, Licensing fees (Amended)

Director Michelle Gillcrist noted that Administrative Rule 3770:2-8-07 was missed when the rules were presented. Acting Chief Legal Counsel, Daniel Carter, apologized and presented Administrative Rule 3770:2-8-07.

Chairman Blair moved to approve twelve (12) Administrative Rules in Final Form, with Commissioner Candisky offering a second to the Motion. The Motion was affirmatively voted upon by the Commissioners present.

#### Resolution to Approve forty-two (42) new Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) Game Themes

Daniel Carter, Acting Chief Legal Counsel, presented a Resolution to approve forty-two (42) VLT game themes.

Chairman Blair moved to approve the Resolution with forty-two (42) VLT game themes with Commissioner Brady offering a second to the Motion and the Motion was approved by all Commissioners present.

#### Office of Finance Report

Chief Fiscal Officer Ed Slyman provided the financial update for the month of January. The total traditional lottery games sales for the month of January were \$346.2 million, which is \$0.4 million or 0.1% less than the sales generated last year. Draw-based game sales for January were \$153.2 million, which was \$5.7 million or 3.6% lower than the same month last year. Pick 3, 4, and 5 combined, generated sales of \$61.3 million, down \$1.9 million or 3.1%. Multistate sales were \$20.4 million, down \$5.5 million or 21.2% when compared to last January. Mr. Slyman stated that the negative variance is primarily due to the higher jackpots offered last year.

Monitor games, which include Keno and Lucky One were \$52.5 million, up \$1.6 million or 3.2%. Mr. Slyman informed the Commission that January represents the first positive variance for Keno since December of 2023. Quick play games sales increased by 3.9% or \$0.5 million, compared to January of the previous year, reaching \$13.2 million in sales. Scratch sales for January were \$192.9 million, \$5.4 million or 2.9% higher than the same month last year. Mr. Slyman reported that the \$30 and \$50 games were the primary reason for the increase. Gross revenue from VLTs equaled \$103.3 million, which represents an increase of \$2.5 million or 2.4%.

Additionally, total prize expense for January was \$255 million, or 73.7% of total sales. Mr. Slyman stated that this is normally around 66%. Prize expenses in January were \$15.1 million or 6.3% higher than last year. Pick 3 prize expense was \$23.3 million or close to 70% of draw sales. Pick 4 prize expense was \$12.8 million or 59% of draw sales. Prize expense for Scratch-Off tickets equaled \$158.8 million or 82.3% of scratch-off ticket sales. Mr. Slyman informed the Commission that January is normally a higher payout for prizes since many of the tickets given as gifts in December get cashed weeks after they are purchased. Mr. Slyman noted that even after accounting for this, there were several high-tier scratch-off prizes claimed, of which cannot be timed nor predicted.

Lastly, CFO Slyman reported that operating expenses were \$18.8 million for the month, which was \$4.4 million higher than last year. Mr. Slyman informed the Commission that this is primarily due to the timing of the Gaming Service invoices.

#### Director's Update

Director Michelle Gillcrist reported that the Lottery's transfer to the Lottery Profit's Education Fund (LPEF) for the month of January was approximately \$108.4 million. This is \$10.3 million lower than the lottery's commitment.

Fiscal year-to-date the Lottery has transferred approximately \$876.9 million to the LPEF, which is \$11.2 million ahead of its fiscal year-to-date commitment.

The Commission was informed that Lottery staff members attended the annual Ohio Problem Gambling Conference, which is put on by Problem Gambling Network of Ohio and sponsored by the Lottery, OMHAS, and Casino Control Commission. This conference gave gambling industry operators, regulators, problem gambling prevention specialists and clinicians from across Ohio an opportunity to engage and learn from each other. In addition to attending the sessions, Director Gillcrist had the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion with OMHAS Chief Advisor, Tia Moretti, and OCCC Executive Director, Matt Schuler, to share their collective work to help prevent problem gambling and reach the at-risk population in Ohio.

Director Gillcrist thanked Commissioner Hughes for attending the conference and moderating one of the sessions, and thanked Deputy Director of Responsible Gambling, Jimmie Hicks, and Susan Diamond for their work in planning a great conference. Lastly, Director Gillcrist noted that PGNO awarded former Lottery Deputy Director of Responsible Gambling, Karen Russo, with the 2025 Award of Excellence, which honors significant impacts made on strengthening Ohio's gambling support services.

On February 11, 2025, Director Gillcrist testified on behalf of the agency before the House Education Committee on the Lottery's biennial budget. Director Gillcrist reviewed the agency's appropriation request, revenue projections, economic impact, and the proposed LPEF commitment for FY '26 and '27. Director Gillcrist stated that the Lottery is offering to commit approximately \$2.9 billion over the biennium to the Lottery Profit Education Fund (LPEF).

Lastly, Director Gillcrist informed the Commission that in collaboration with our Partner's in Education (PIE) program, the Lottery is conducting an employee drive to collect books for Cleveland Kids' Book Bank.


#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Ohio Lottery Commission, Chairman Blair informed Commissioners that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. via teleconferencing and in person. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

p.p. Nicole Kostura

Michelle Gillcrist  
Director



Matthew Blair  
Commission Chair