



# GEORGIA Amusement JOURNAL

Dedicated to serving the Georgia COAM industry  
Endorsed by the Georgia Amusement and Music Operators Association  
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## No luck needed

### Firms working hard to grow COAM market

By Paul Tash

Georgia Amusement Journal

Master License Holder Lucky Bucks Gaming Group and its publicly traded parent company Seven Aces continue to enhance their presence in the competitive Georgia Coin-Operated Amusement Machine (COAM) market.

Seven Aces entered the Georgia market in 2016 with its acquisition of Lucky Bucks. Since then, Seven Aces has closed

more than 13 acquisitions and remains focused on continued growth, said Jamie Boyden, who heads the companies' business development in Georgia.

"The Georgia market has proven to be very competitive with experienced operators," Boyden

told the *Georgia Amusement Journal* recently.

"We were fortunate to enter into the market with Anil Damani and Lucky Bucks our partner. Lucky Bucks' team was already strong and provided us an ideal platform to build with."



Now the largest COAM route operator in Georgia with over 300 locations, Seven Aces recently acquired three new locations in the state from A&R Entertainment, Inc. to add to its Lucky

See LUCKY Page 10



EMILY DUNN

## AMOA leader

### Dunn takes over as president of national group

Georgia Amusement Journal

Emily Dunn, owner of Tom's Amusement headquartered in Blue Ridge, will lead the national Amusement and Music Operators Association (AMOA) for the next year when she takes over as president during the 2019 Amusement Expo International in Las Vegas this month.

Dunn also serves her industry on the Georgia Amusement and Music Operators Association (GAMOA) and on the state's COAM Advisory Board. She was named Play Meter magazine's operator of the year in 2016.

Tom's Amusement is a Class A and B master licensee that operates two fully staffed offices – one in Blue Ridge and one in Marietta – with three

See DUNN Page 7



JAMIE BOYDEN

## Boyden on industry board

By Jorie Tash, Georgia Amusement Journal

Lucky Bucks Executive Vice President and Director Jamie Boyden was recently appointed to the COAM Advisory Board, comprised of industry representatives working with the Georgia Lottery Corp. on industry issues.

Boyden also sits on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Amusement and Music Operators Association (GAMOA). Boyden, who has more than a decade of experience in the gaming industry, told the *Georgia Amusement Journal* recently he is looking forward to serving on the state advisory board.

"There is a tremendous opportunity for the COAM Advisory

See BOYDEN Page 10

## Compliance office a first

By Jorie Tash, Georgia Amusement Journal

Lucky Bucks Gaming Group is the first Master License Holder in the Georgia market to create an in-house department dedicated solely to ensuring regulatory compliance.

The department provides compliance solutions for its own operation and helps with the compliance efforts of the more than 300 location licensees it has partnered with.

Leading the compliance office is Tauheedah Dewitt, who worked as a compliance inspector with the Georgia Lottery Corp's COAM Division for three years before joining the Lucky Bucks team in March 2018. She brings plenty of experience to help Lucky Bucks

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# GACS launches Lunch and Learn series

The Georgia Association of Convenience Stores (GACS) will launch its Lunch and Learn education series April 9 with a program that will feature a district agent from the Alcohol and Tobacco Division of the Georgia Department of Revenue discussing a variety of industry-specific topics.

GACS created the Lunch and Learn program to ensure education opportunities are more available to its members across the state. The meetings are designed to provide industry-relevant information to attendees in a setting that gives them access to experts on key subject matter.

At the first meeting in Jackson, GA, on April 9, an Alcohol and Tobacco agent will address what the department encounters in convenience stores. Participants will hear about current trends and hot issues that can impact their businesses, and they will learn from the agent what they

need to do to comply with state regulations and avoid costly penalties.

The Lunch and Learn programs include ample time for participants to ask questions about alcohol and tobacco sales. The Lunch and Learn format is short, making it easier to get away to attend. Meetings will start at 11:30 am; attendees will have time to grab lunch and network for a few minutes prior to the start of the speaker's presentation. All of the meetings are scheduled to wrap up no later than 1:30 pm.

Lunch and Learn meetings are free for GACS members; they're open to non-members for a small fee. Registration is available at [www.gacs.com/events](http://www.gacs.com/events). The April 9 meeting will be held at the Jones Petroleum offices, 264 Alabama Blvd, in Jackson.

Upcoming topics this year include information from the Food Division of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, and also from the USDA SNAP program.




## Sponsorships available

The newly launched Lunch and Learn program was conceived as an education opportunity primarily for retailers across the state who have limited time and ability to attend meetings away from their places of business. To maximize participants' opportunity to learn and engage with subject matter experts, GACS is limiting the number of sponsorships available for each event.

Only three companies may sponsor each meeting as a Level One sponsor, which includes key visibility and engagement opportunities. Additionally, up to five companies may sponsor at a lower level – these companies are able to attend the meeting, with a smaller visibility opportunity.

Meetings are closed to non-sponsoring industry supplier companies. More detailed information about sponsoring one or more of the Lunch and Learn meetings is available at [www.gacs.com/events](http://www.gacs.com/events).



## Connect, power up machines

To ensure accurate reporting of financial data to the Central Accounting System, the Georgia Lottery Corporation (GLC) says it is imperative the Location License Holders (LLHs) ensure all equipment remains connected to the site controller and powered up at all times.

The GLC maintains a record of those LLHs that are repeat offenders of failing to ensure the continuous connectivity and operation of Class B COAMs.

Failure to comply with these procedures may result in fines up to \$50,000, suspension and/or revocation of the license.



## 2019 COAM location sweep and master push calendar

ACCOUNTING WEEK START	ACCOUNTING WEEK END	LOCATION SWEEP DATE	MASTER PUSH DATE	ACCOUNTING WEEK START	ACCOUNTING WEEK END	LOCATION SWEEP DATE	MASTER PUSH DATE
30-Dec-18	05-Jan-19	09-Jan-19	15-Jan-19	30-Jun-19	06-Jul-19	10-Jul-19	16-Jul-19
06-Jan-19	12-Jan-19	16-Jan-19	23-Jan-19*	07-Jul-19	13-Jul-19	17-Jul-19	23-Jul-19
13-Jan-19	19-Jan-19	23-Jan-19	29-Jan-19	14-Jul-19	20-Jul-19	24-Jul-19	30-Jul-19
20-Jan-19	26-Jan-19	30-Jan-19	05-Feb-19	21-Jul-19	27-Jul-19	31-Jul-19	06-Aug-19
27-Jan-19	02-Feb-19	06-Feb-19	12-Feb-19	28-Jul-19	03-Aug-19	07-Aug-19	13-Aug-19
03-Feb-19	09-Feb-19	13-Feb-19	20-Feb-19*	04-Aug-19	10-Aug-19	14-Aug-19	20-Aug-19
10-Feb-19	16-Feb-19	20-Feb-19	26-Feb-19	11-Aug-19	17-Aug-19	21-Aug-19	27-Aug-19
17-Feb-19	23-Feb-19	27-Feb-19	05-Mar-19	18-Aug-19	24-Aug-19	28-Aug-19	04-Sep-19*
24-Feb-19	02-Mar-19	06-Mar-19	12-Mar-19	25-Aug-19	31-Aug-19	04-Sep-19	10-Sep-19
03-Mar-19	09-Mar-19	13-Mar-19	19-Mar-19	01-Sep-19	07-Sep-19	11-Sep-19	17-Sep-19
10-Mar-19	16-Mar-19	20-Mar-19	26-Mar-19	08-Sep-19	14-Sep-19	18-Sep-19	24-Sep-19
17-Mar-19	23-Mar-19	27-Mar-19	02-Apr-19	15-Sep-19	21-Sep-19	25-Sep-19	01-Oct-19
24-Mar-19	30-Mar-19	03-Apr-19	09-Apr-19	22-Sep-19	28-Sep-19	02-Oct-19	08-Oct-19
31-Mar-19	06-Apr-19	10-Apr-19	16-Apr-19	29-Sep-19	05-Oct-19	09-Oct-19	16-Oct-19*
07-Apr-19	13-Apr-19	17-Apr-19	23-Apr-19	06-Oct-19	12-Oct-19	16-Oct-19	22-Oct-19
14-Apr-19	20-Apr-19	24-Apr-19	30-Apr-19	13-Oct-19	19-Oct-19	23-Oct-19	29-Oct-19
21-Apr-19	27-Apr-19	01-May-19	07-May-19	20-Oct-19	26-Oct-19	30-Oct-19	05-Nov-19
28-Apr-19	04-May-19	08-May-19	14-May-19	27-Oct-19	02-Nov-19	06-Nov-19	13-Nov-19*
05-May-19	11-May-19	15-May-19	21-May-19	03-Nov-19	09-Nov-19	13-Nov-19	19-Nov-19
12-May-19	18-May-19	22-May-19	29-May-19*	10-Nov-19	16-Nov-19	20-Nov-19	26-Nov-19
19-May-19	25-May-19	29-May-19	04-Jun-19	17-Nov-19	23-Nov-19	27-Nov-19	04-Dec-19*
26-May-19	01-Jun-19	05-Jun-19	11-Jun-19	24-Nov-19	30-Nov-19	04-Dec-19	10-Dec-19
02-Jun-19	08-Jun-19	12-Jun-19	18-Jun-19	01-Dec-19	07-Dec-19	11-Dec-19	17-Dec-19
09-Jun-19	15-Jun-19	19-Jun-19	25-Jun-19	08-Dec-19	14-Dec-19	18-Dec-19	24-Dec-19*
16-Jun-19	22-Jun-19	26-Jun-19	02-Jul-19	15-Dec-19	21-Dec-19	26-Dec-19*	02-Jan-20*
23-Jun-19	29-Jun-19	03-Jul-19	09-Jul-19	22-Dec-19	28-Dec-19	02-Jan-20*	08-Jan-20*

\*Indicates sweep or push date has been changed to accommodate holiday  
 Note: Holidays on a Thursday and Friday may delay the availability of the Location Period Accounting Report on the following Monday

# Journal Opinion

## Meeting heading north, social added

**By Shawn Fellows**  
**GAMOA President**

As president of Georgia Amusement and Music Operators Association, I have the distinct privilege of meeting with location owners, manufacturers, distributors, regulators and master licensees around the state. I am always appreciative of their input on industry issues and welcome the new perspectives.

GAMOA's leadership looks for every opportunity to educate the various tiers of the industry on recent changes in regulations, advancements in technology, legislative developments and statewide litigation that impacts all of us in the COAM industry. To this end, GAMOA is making several changes to improve our communications with the industry.

Our upcoming meeting will be held in Gwinnett County and will feature a social event the evening before the event.

**What: GAMOA membership meeting and product expo**

- Election of Board of Directors
- Legislative Update
- Legal Update

**Where:** Pleasant Hill Event Hall, 550 Pleasant Hill Rd. Ste A105, Lilburn, GA 30047.

**When:** Thursday, April 18.  
11 a.m. – Product expo (sponsors are SGS/IGT and Surfnote iCAGE Management System)  
12-2 p.m. – Membership meeting  
2 pm – Product expo



**Shawn Fellows**

**What: Industry Social Event** – Come meet industry leaders, friends, manufacturers

**Where:** Sonesta Gwinnett Place, 1775 Pleasant Hill Rd, Duluth, GA 30096

**When:** Wednesday April 17.  
6 pm – Social event

For hotel reservations, call 770-923-1775 (tell them you are with GAMOA). Room rate is \$104.

Please make plans to join

us at both the social event and the membership meeting in April. The April meeting is the annual membership meeting where we elect several new board members and Board of Director positions.

In addition, the lobbyist team

create our membership and provide additional content in a timely manner to our members and associate members. We have launched a new text message campaign and notification of important membership information through email links. If you are not currently signed up for the text alert system, please text your name and company name to 770-203-1135.

You do not have to be a member of GAMOA to receive important text! This service was a huge success when the Intralot system experienced statewide sporadic outages last month. GAMOA was able to reach more than 140 people with real-time updates over the four-hour period and significantly reduced the call demand on Intralot's Service line. As a member of GAMOA you should be receiving emails and text about legislative updates that you can access through the website [www.gamoa.org](http://www.gamoa.org).

As we move forward in 2019 and the coming years, GAMOA will continue to strive to provide relevant information to our members and promote educational events to reach everyone in the industry from retailers, master licensees, and manufacturers. GAMOA's mission is To

**See GAMOA Page 5**

**T**his (text) service was a huge success when the Intralot system experienced statewide sporadic outages last month.

from GAMOA will be making a presentation about what happened during the session and what changes you can expect for this year and as we look towards 2020. Legal counsel will be present to discuss current litigation and answer your questions. Everyone is welcome to attend the social, but the membership meeting is open to GAMOA members only.

GAMOA is working to in-

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## COAM calendar

### — REPORTING DATES —

**March 20:** Each monthly report should be submitted by Location License Holders in electronic format via the [www.gacoam.com](http://www.gacoam.com) website as required by the GLC by the 20th of each following month.

**May 1:** The COAM licensing application ([www.gacoam.com](http://www.gacoam.com)) opens for the 2019 licensing period (07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019) for the following:

- Master Class A - NEW and RENEWAL
- Master Class B - RENEWAL
- Location Class A - NEW and RENEWAL
- Location Class B - NEW and RENEWAL
- Manufacturers, Distributors - NEW and RENEWAL

**July 1:** Date a \$1,000 late fee will be assessed to Location Class A and Class B licenses, Master Class A and Class B licenses, and Manufacturer and Distributor licenses that have not RENEWED for the 2019 licensing period (07/01/2018 – 06/30/2019).

### — MEETINGS/OTHER —

**March 26-28:** Amusement Expo, Las Vegas Convention Center

**April 16:** GACS fundraising golf tourney, Jekyll Island GC

**April 18:** GAMOA meeting, Pleasant Hill Event Hall, Lilburn

# Journal Opinion

## AMOA ready to host Amusement Expo

**By Lori Schneider**  
**AMOA Executive VP**

The 10th edition of Amusement Expo International (AEI) takes place March 26-28 in Las Vegas. AEI 2019 kicks off with its Education Day on Tuesday,



**KINDRA HALL**

March 26, at the Westgate Las Vegas featuring keynote speaker, Kindra Hall, speaking on “The Irresistible

Power of Strategic Storytelling.”

Expo-goers will then have access to 16 different breakout sessions, a networking luncheon, closing session and access to the virtual reality education track. You won’t want to miss AEI’s trade show at the



**Lori Schneider**

**T**he trade show promises to be our biggest and best yet with a sold-out trade-show floor.



Las Vegas Convention Center, North Hall, Wednesday, March 27, and Thursday, March 28. It promises to be our biggest and

best yet with a sold-out trade-show floor.

At the close of the trade show, AMOA’s leadership team will transition to those officers and directors elected to serve during the 2019-2020 term. AMOA’s new principal officer team will be led by AMOA Presi-

dent Emily Dunn from Tom’s Amusement in Blue Ridge, GA; First Vice President Greg Trent from Beyer & Brown in South Daytona, FL; Treasurer Chi Babich with Game Exchange in Denver, CO; and Secretary Sam Westgate with J & J Ventures in Effingham, IL.

For more information on AMOA’s programs visit [www.amoa.com](http://www.amoa.com). To register for the show visit [www.amusement-expo.org](http://www.amusement-expo.org). And don’t forget, all AMOA members receive two free badges to the trade show.

**AMOA is a national trade association representing the interests of operators, distributors, manufacturers and suppliers in the amusement entertainment industry. GAMOA is an active participant in the AMOA State Council. For more information, visit [www.amoa.com](http://www.amoa.com).**

## GAMOA

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Promote and Serve Georgia’s Coin Operated Amusement and Music Industry. We are the single voice of the industry and provide educational seminars, bi-monthly meetings and feature an annual Expo in September. All events are open to our members and provide unique networking opportunities for master licensees to interact with their peers, manufacturers, distributors, and regulators.

GAMOA wants to hear from you. We are sending out surveys looking for your input and ideas. Please take the time to respond to these surveys when



you are notified. They provide an outline to our Board of Directors to the importance of many aspects of the association and will guide our future.

You will be receiving a list of this year’s nominations for the Board of Directors; the actual vote will take place at the upcoming meeting Thursday April 18. GAMOA holds an annual election every April and accepts nominations by committee until March of each year. If you desire to serve on the Board of Directors, please contact Christina Kaiser by email at [christina@gamoa.org](mailto:christina@gamoa.org) to be placed on the list for 2020 and future years. Our directors serve a three-year term after being elected by the general membership.

**GAMOA’s mission: “To Promote and Serve Georgia’s Coin Operated Amusement and Music Industry.”**

## Get new ‘Play Responsibly’ decals

Master License Holders (MLHs) must prominently display the "Play Responsibly" decals on each Class B machine. There is a new phone number for the Georgia Crisis and Access Hotline displayed on the "Play Responsibly" decals, which is 1-866-922-7369, and the decals are light blue in color (see image inset).

The new "Play Responsibly" decals were included in the renewal packets sent to approved Class B MLHs that renewed for 2019 licensing year. If you did not receive your new "Play Responsibly" decals, contact our COAM Retailer Services Helpline at 1-800-746-8546 Option 6 and 2 or send an email to [COAMReporting@galottery.org](mailto:COAMReporting@galottery.org) with the subject line of "Play Responsibly decals."

A PDF version of the "Play Responsibly" decal is also available on the COAM website at [www.gacoam.com](http://www.gacoam.com).



### Write us

The *Georgia Amusement Journal* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must include the writer’s name and address. The word limit is 300. Mail to Georgia Amusement Journal, P.O. Box 4307, Butte MT 59702, or you can email us at [paul@tashcommunications.com](mailto:paul@tashcommunications.com). The *Journal* reserves the right not to print letters it finds objectionable.

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# Dunn

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remote offices throughout the Southeast. On the Class A side, Tom's carries a full line of equipment – including video games, pin-ball machines, pool tables, air-hockey tables, ATMs, juke-boxes, dartboards, sticker and capsule machines, and merchandise cranes – for locations such as bowling centers, sports bars, restaurants and skating rinks.

Dunn becomes the second person from Georgia to lead the AMOA in four years. Gaines Butler was president in 2015-16. The AMOA's mission "is to promote and strengthen the industry by providing education programs, legislative advocacy, purchasing discounts, networking opportunities, communication products and related services."

Joining Dunn on AMOA's leadership team for the upcoming year are First Vice President Greg Trent from Beyer & Brown in South Daytona, FL; Treasurer Chi Babich with Game Exchange in Denver, CO; and Secretary Sam Westgate with J & J Ventures in Effingham, IL.

The 2019 Amusement Expo International takes place March 26-28 in the North Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center. The Expo, the annual event for the coin-op and revenue-generating amusement, music and family entertainment industry, is a three-day program featuring one day of education and two days of exhibits. A focal point for the industry, the Expo serves as a showcase for the latest new equipment for the trade, provides hands-on information for buyers and sellers of the industry, and acts as the primary face-to-face conduit between trade partners in the coin-machine business.

Like many industry trade events, the Amusement Expo International is the annual business barometer for the marketplace it serves. For those who need to keep abreast of the latest developments

or want to maintain valuable contacts with fellow coin machine business men and women, the annually-conducted Expo is the place to be.

The AMOA and AAMA (American Amusement Machine Association) have teamed up as co-sponsors to develop a three-day program that brings new technologies, networking possibilities, and information education all under one roof.

The format will begin with a full day of education sessions beginning on Tuesday, March 26, including morning and afternoon operator roundtables. In addition, 14 breakout sessions presented by industry leaders are planned. The titles of those sessions are:

- *Escape Rooms;*
- *Operational Diversity: A Simple Key to Continued Success in your Park of FEC;*
- *Take Your Concessions from Bland to Grand!;*
- *Developing Cause Related Leagues & Tournaments;*
- *Don't Just Attract Customers...Attract the Best Customers!;*
- *E-Sports and How Out-of-Home Entertainment can Profit from In-Home Entertainment;*
- *Integrating Cashless/Card-Stored Systems for Results in Small Footprint Locations;*
- *ATMs 2019: Industry Update + Taking Advantage of Mobile Events;*
- *Discover Opportunity in Unattended Inline Spaces;*
- *Ferretting Out Personality... To Build the Perfect Employee Team;*
- *Top Tips for Optimum Connectivity in Your Location;*
- *Staying Relevant in Today's ever-Changing FEC Landscape;*
- *Dat@ CaN bE hArD t0 rE@d!, and;*
- *Make Bulk Vending a High Earner on Your Route.*

Two full days of exhibit time will follow on Wednesday, March 27, and Thursday, March 28. For more information on the Amusement Expo International, visit [www.amusementexpo.org](http://www.amusementexpo.org).



# From the regulators ... tips for licensees

## Update contact info on COAM website

Location License Holders (LLHs) should update and maintain contact information for their COAM account regularly, according to information provided by the Georgia Lottery Corp.'s COAM Division.


The people on the contact list are typically those who are part of a licensee's management team or other trusted employees. These individuals would likely have access to the licensee's place of business and be able to make decisions in case of an emergency. Don't forget to let your contacts know they are on the business contact list. Steps for LLHs to update business contact information on the COAM website follow:



- STEP 1: Log into your COAM account [www.gacoam.com](http://www.gacoam.com) by using your username and password and click the "LOG IN" button;
- STEP 2: Click on "LICENSES" in the navigation bar at the top of the screen for the License page;
- STEP 3: Select the business from the business drop down list;
- STEP 4: Verify the business name, address and license type in the business information section;
- STEP 5: Click on the "Account Info" button for the Update Business Contact Info page;
- STEP 6: Click on the "Edit" or "Add" button to update business contact information;
- STEP 7: If the "Edit" or "Add" button are clicked on, the Add/Edit Contact screen appears, and the user may update or add business contact information and click on the "Update Contact" button.

## Check info with Intralot before connectivity



Before the connection of COAMs to the Central Accounting System can occur, Master License Holders (MLHs) must confirm assignment of their Location License Holders (LLHs) with Intralot, according to the Georgia Lottery Corp.'s COAM Division. MLHs can verify the information by accessing the Intralot portal site.

MLHs also must ensure their location owners are displaying a copy of the original location license and a copy of the master license prominently in the business during the placement and operation of machines no earlier than two days prior to scheduled connectivity. Failure to display both of these required licenses may result in a delay in connectivity of the COAMs, trip fee charges, fines up to \$50,000, suspension, and/or revocation of the license, and criminal penalty may apply.







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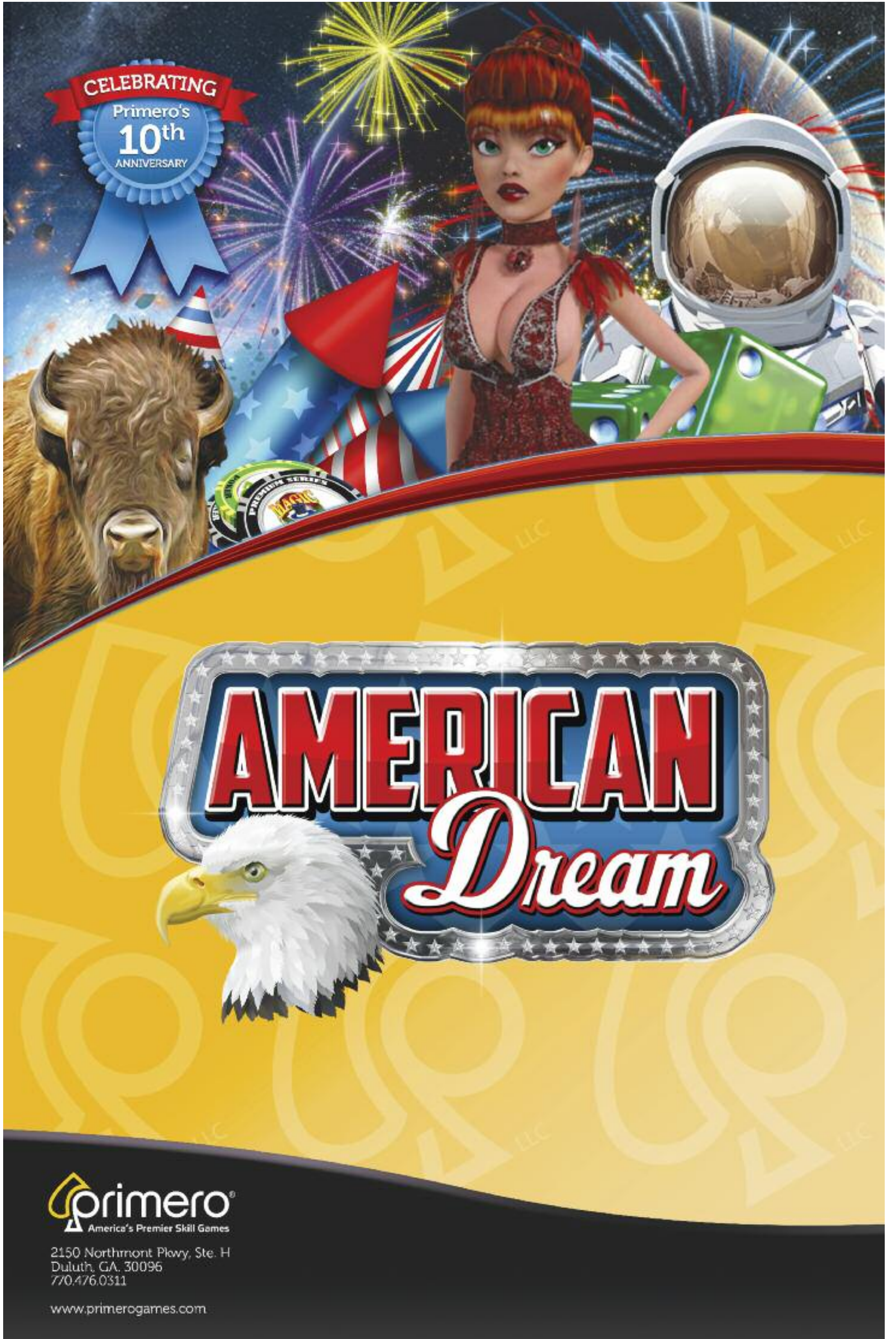



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# Lucky

from Page 1

Bucks license.

“We are excited to continue adding high-quality locations to our existing platform,” said Manu K. Sekhri, CEO of Seven Aces, said in announcing the March 11 acquisition.

Boyden said the company identified in Georgia “an opportunity driven by some key factors.” Those factors, he said, included:

- Solid underlying growth potential;
- A market transitioning from its historical roots to a fully regulated market;
- Upside in revenue growth from improved game delivery, and;
- A fractured market with the opportunity for consolidation.

Given these factors, Boyden said, “Seven Aces and Lucky Bucks believe its team’s experience and knowledge in regulated markets and industries, combined with the ability to bring professional investment and operational transparency into the COAM market, will be value added and help the COAM market evolve as a regulated market.”

Boyden said he believes the Georgia COAM market has a solid future, not just for Seven Aces and

Lucky Bucks, but for other operators, manufacturers and locations, as well.

“We see a market with tremendous opportunity, driven by continued game development, increasing player sophistication, and enhanced regulation,” he said. “These dynamics will support the HOPE scholarship program, which we see as an integral part of Georgia’s social fabric.”

Operators in Georgia, he added, have shown a “remarkable ability to adapt and change” and “will need to continue to do so in the coming years.”

Lucky Bucks is growing as a Master License Holder in Georgia for several reasons, Boyden said.

“Lucky Bucks continues to be a leader in service as we significantly grow our footprint, and we have the ability to deliver top-performing games to our locations,” he said. “We are also an innovator in the use of technology to enhance our relationships with our locations, and for those locations to better interact with their players.”

Lucky Bucks, he added, will be launching a series of products and services “unique to our footprint” in 2019. The company provides skill-based machines developed by a variety of top manufacturers, IGT (through Southern Gaming Solutions), Banilla, Zydexo, and Primero.

# Retail Matters

## C-store news

### Trade publications offer ad incentives

The Georgia Association of Convenience Stores (GACS) and the *Georgia Amusement Journal* have agreed to offer incentives for advertisers who want to run in both the *Georgia Amusement Journal* and *GACS Today*, the industry’s main trade publications.

The *Journal* is the COAM (coin-operated amusement machine) industry’s trade journal that is distributed free of charge to every convenience store in Georgia, as well as COAM operators, distributors and manufacturers.

Those advertisers currently running in *GACS Today* can run their first ad in the *Journal* at half off, with additional discounts available for additional advertising. In addition, *Journal* advertisers are eligible for a discount in *GACS Today*, with those discounts based on volume.

“This is a cost-effective way to reach the right audience in the two related industries,” said Paul Tash, editor and publisher of the *Georgia Amusement Journal*. “It’s a value-added benefit for both *GACS Today* and *Journal* advertisers.”

### Beware of ‘slider crimes’ at c-stores

In the wake of an officer-involved shooting in southwest Atlanta earlier this year, the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores (GACS) reminds gas customers to lock their cars when pumping gas.

The shooting occurred Jan. 15 on Whitehall Street at around 7:30 p.m. The incident began as a “slider crime,” according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. A police officer was pumping gas when the suspect slid into the driver’s seat of his unmarked car and drove away. The officer opened fire, and the suspect was dead on the scene.

“Slider crimes” occur when a thief approaches an unlocked parked vehicle, slides into the vehicle, and either drives away or steals the vehicle’s contents. These crimes happen quickly.

“This incident is a wake-up call that this type of crime can happen to anyone, anywhere and anytime,” GACS President Angela Holland said. “Locking your car door at the gas pump should be part of your routine just like wearing a seat belt or locking your front door.”

GACS asks convenience store retailers to post Park Protect Pump decal signs at their pumps. The signs are a way to remind customers to lock their vehicles and add another layer of security support at convenience store locations. They are available at [www.gacs.com](http://www.gacs.com).

Convenience stores typically have security measures in place, including exterior security cameras, illuminated parking lots, unobstructed views from cash register to the outside, silent alarms, uniforms and name badges for employees, as well as other measures for customers and employees.

“Our members want customers to feel at home when they shop with us,” Holland said. “Naturally and routinely, when we are at home, we lock our doors.”

# Dewitt

from Page 1

ensure their location licensees have access to the resources they need to best comply with GLC rules. She started with the Department of Revenue in 2011 and became an advanced special agent.

“With DOR being the oversight agency (for the COAM industry) during that time, I gained a tremendous amount of industry knowledge,” she told the *Georgia Amusement Journal* recently.

In 2013 when COAM oversight became the Georgia Lottery Corporation’s responsibility, Dewitt’s “working knowledge of the laws surrounding COAM” helped her transition into the first group of inspectors hired by the GLC in 2014.

“My background has provided me with the skills to assist Lucky Bucks in developing a department dedicated to compliance within the organization,” Dewitt said.

That background, she added, will help her execute and expand the company’s compliance efforts.

Dewitt spent her first months at Lucky Bucks assessing the existing compliance program and looking for ways to improve it, she said, “to



TAUHEEDA DEWITT

make it the leader in Georgia.”

Since COAM regulation was developed and authorized in 2013, she said licensees have become more educated on COAM laws and regulation, though contracts remain one of most challenging issues she faces.

“Innovation and efficiency are at the top of my priority list,” Dewitt added. “Whether it’s in-house efficiency, helping Lucky Bucks’ customers with compliance matters or keeping abreast of changing laws, my goal is to keep Lucky Bucks’ compliance division moving forward.”

# Boyden

from Page 1

Board to act as an agent of positive change for the COAM industry,” he said, “while working to ensure the industry continues to help the Hope scholarship and pre-K education programs meet their needs.”

The COAM Advisory Board, he said, represents all stakeholders in the COAM industry, including operators, location owners, regulators and independents.

“As such, it is the ideal entity to work with industry and govern-

ment to provide stewardship for the COAM industry as it addresses broad current issues, such as regulatory challenges, player protection, and other pertinent issues.”

What does Boyden see as his role as a member of the board?

“First and foremost is to work with the other members of the board to address current and potential industry challenges, thereby ensuring ongoing viability of the COAM industry and the programs it supports,” he said. “There is also an opportunity for the Advisory Board to help the industry evolve and provide more value to Georgia and its citizens.”

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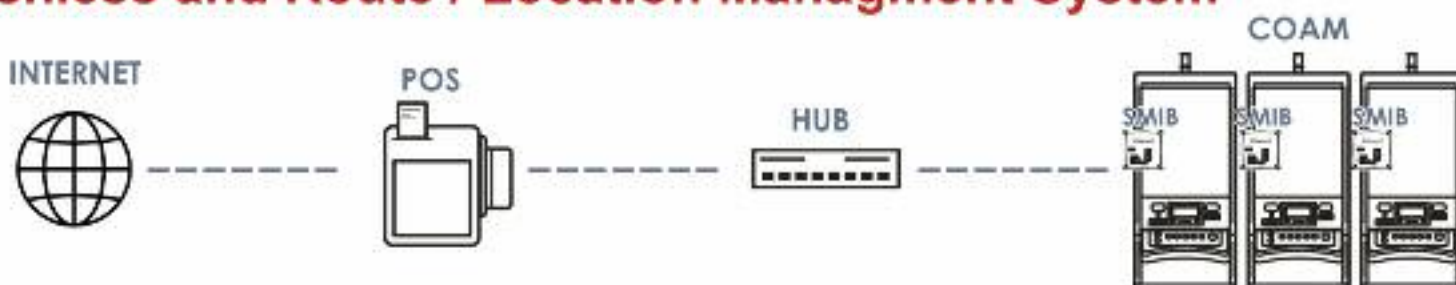
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