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12/27/2015

Brothers and Sisters,

We have finally worked out a deal with the Sunset Hotel/Casino and I feel you need an explanation that caused the confusion about the preparations.

As you know, we had an agreement in place with Gold Coast Hotel/Casino (GC) and members were making their reservations. The GC was chosen by the International Committee because we were there the last time in Vegas and everyone was pleased with their hospitality.

As is protocol, I contacted my Business Manager at Local 26, Chuck Graham, and asked him to introduce me to the BM at Local 357, Las Vegas, Al Davis, to let him know of our plans to host the Tournament in his jurisdiction. Chuck contacted Al and he immediately called me to inform me that he could not sanction our Tournament at the GC or any other Boyd Gaming Casino in Vegas. No explanation was given, and in shock, I accepted his position. As you are all aware, we could not hold our Tournament in a venue not approved by the home Local.

I went back to Al and asked him to provide me with alternate hotels he would sanction. In the three hotels he gave me from Stations Gaming, one was too small, one did not have lanes available from March thru July, and the third was ridiculously expensive. I went back to Al and asked him to put me in touch with the VP for Stations Gaming, with the thought that we may be able to combine two venues to meet our needs.

That's how we have arrived with our host, Sunset Station Hotel/Casino. We were able to negotiate a favorable agreement with Sunset. Is it perfect, no, but Larry and I feel we, with your help, will have a wonderful Tournament.

I blocked rooms based on our previous Tournaments. I blocked a few rooms before the Tournament and after the weekend. I didn't have the stats from the last Vegas to make a commitment with the guarantees the Hotel required. There are no guaranteed rates above those blocks. There are only 150 DBL Queens in the Hotel. **IT IS IMPARITIVE THAT YOU MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!** I believe I can negotiate the guarantee if I know the numbers now.

We are restricted to a 200 max for the banquet. Normally we require all bowlers to purchase a banquet ticket. I need Locals to make commitments early so I can reach our minimum number so we won't have to have members who don't want to attend purchase a ticket. There will not be enough room for entertainment.

WE NEED YOU TO SELL ADS FOR THE PROGRAM. Larry will have ad contracts available on our website. We will have shipping costs we wouldn't normally have. We agreed to make this a group effort because none of us live in Vegas. If you can get there early, we can find something you can do to help.

But, there is good news too. We have 72 lanes in the Hotel. There are a bunch of nice restaurants and shows available in house. We have no restrictions on bringing in provisions for our complimentary hospitality suite. And we are going to Vegas.

Larry will post all the hotel reservation info on our website. If you have any questions, please contact Larry or me.

Ken Hunt

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