

Hughes' Relative Named Chairman of Summa Corp.

Las Vegas

William Lummis, cousin of the late Howard Hughes, on Wednesday was named chairman of the board of the Summa Corp., the far-reaching conglomerate built by the reclusive billionaire.

The move merged the interests of Hughes executives with Hughes' aunt, Annette Gano Lummis, the billionaire's closest living relative.

Frank W. (Bill) Gay, Summa executive vice president and one of three persons who have directed the operation since the April death of Hughes, was elected president and chairman of the firm's executive committee.

William E. Rankin, vice president and treasurer of Summa, and Milton H. West, a Houston attorney, were elected to the Summa board. West has been a counsel to Hughes interests for many years. The election of Lummis, Rankin and West added three new members to the board, giving it eight members.

Lummis' addition to the board seems to indicate that Hughes' closest relatives and top executives of his empire are attempting to present a united front on disposition of the Hughes estate.

Hughes had been the firm's only stockholder. Recently a Delaware court gave temporary control of the firm's stock to Lummis.

Summa is a holding company for Hughes properties that range from mines, casinos and real estate to aircraft and communications interests. Most of the properties are in Nevada and California.

Hughes died April 5 of a kidney ailment en route from Acapulco to a Houston hospital. Since his death, more than 30 alleged Hughes wills have been filed, but Summa sources insist Hughes' real will has still not been located and say an intensive search is continuing.

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