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Illinois Lottery Awards more than \$1.1 Billion to Players

*Superintendent announces seventh consecutive sales record;
3rd consecutive year exceeding \$2 billion*

Springfield, Ill. – September 24, 2009 – The Illinois Lottery sold 102,491,802 winning tickets in fiscal year 2009. Players claimed more than \$1.1 billion in prizes from July 1, 2008, to June 31, 2009, with the highest single-year sales—more than \$2.09 billion—in the Lottery’s 35-year history. During FY09, the Illinois Lottery added 36 people to its millionaire list. Since 1974, the Illinois Lottery has created 1,244 millionaires.

“We are excited that our players have won so much by playing the Lottery,” said Jodie Winnett, acting superintendent for the Illinois Lottery. “During this tough economic time, it is so great to know that we are able to give Illinois residents the opportunity to have that extra cushion to help with finances.”

In FY09, the Lottery also improved games that players have enjoyed for years, such as their Bingo Suite. These enhancements increased average weekly Bingo sales by approximately 30% for the last half of the fiscal year as compared to the same period of time in FY08.

With an effort to “go green” the Lottery’s FY08 annual report was only available online, and in May 2009 the Lottery began accepting Mega Millions subscriptions online to cut down on the use of paper. In less than two months, more than 3,500 Mega Millions subscriptions have been activated for a total of \$496,574 in sales.

The organization also embraced social networking for the first time with the launch of a Twitter account and Facebook fan page to connect with those “tech-savvy” players. This allows the Lottery to inform players about big jackpots, new promotions and quickly let players know “real people, win real money” across the state.

“We’ve seen many successful promotions take place throughout the past year,” said Winnett. “And we look forward to more promotions that will increase sales for the Lottery and allow us to support public schools throughout the state by contributing to the Common School Fund.”

Transfers to the Common School Fund reached \$625 million. In addition, through the sale of cause-specific “specialty” instant games, in FY09 the Lottery raised \$1.28 million for Illinois veterans

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groups, \$1.125 million for the battle against breast cancer, \$345,000 to improve the lives of people living with AIDS and \$2.37 million to help create a world free of MS.

FY09 Unaudited Gross Game Sales Figures

Game	FY09 Sales
Pick Three	297,701,678.00
Pick Four	176,874,525.50
Lotto	122,766,018.00
Little Lotto	129,036,118.00
Mega Millions	204,593,078.00
Instant	1,137,925,993.00
Pick N Play	7,678,185.00
Raffle	18,930,660.00
Total	\$2,095,506,255.50

Lottery Revenue & Common School Fund Contributions (FY06 – FY09)

Year	Revenue	Common School Fund
2006	\$1,989,181,856	\$670,500,000
2007	\$2,021,258,246	\$622,444,200
2008	\$2,078,228,242	\$657,000,000
2009	\$2,095,506,255	\$625,000,000

Winnett attributes the Lottery's success in FY09 to several factors including; responding to player suggestions, improving service to retailers, and offering attractive products and promotions with strong player appeal.

Complete audited financial results for the 2009 fiscal year will be provided when the Lottery publishes its annual report later this year. Annual reports for fiscal 2007 and 2008 are posted on the Lottery's Web site at www.illinoislottery.com.

About the Illinois Lottery

Founded in 1974, the Illinois Lottery is a state agency with annual sales over \$2 billion. Since its inception, the Lottery has contributed more than \$14 billion to the state Common School Fund to assist K-12 public schools. Players must be at least 18 years old. For more information on the Illinois Lottery please visit our Web site at www.illinoislottery.com.