

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - May 26, 2004

Contact:

Kristina Tirloni, 512-344-5144
Media Relations, 512-344-5131

\$11,414,893,108

(Austin, May 26) - It's a big number - \$11,414,893,108. No idea what it stands for? Need a hint? For Texans and retailers across the state, it epitomizes the 12-year relationship with the Texas Lottery Commission, which began May 29, 1992, with the first scratch-off game, *Lone Star Millions*.

"We're about to mark the twelve-year anniversary of when we started generating revenue for the State of Texas," said Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Reagan E. Greer. "Tack onto that number all the happy smiles from our winners and retailers, all the prizes we've given out and all the exciting games we've created, and you have one big reason to celebrate."

Through April 30, 2004, the Texas Lottery Commission has paid out \$19,590,973,761 in prizes to winners statewide, sent more than \$6.2 billion to the Foundation School Fund, and handed out more than 100 keys for brand new pickup trucks and motorcycles to instant ticket winners. Lottery retailers have earned more than \$57 million in bonuses for selling jackpot/top-prize winning on-line tickets and some instant tickets.

"Over the past several years, the Texas Lottery Commission has really had a lot to boast about," Greer noted. "We've seen a steady increase in total sales for the past four years, and we believe the rest of this fiscal year will prove to be just as rewarding. Our goal is to exceed last year's sales of \$3.1 billion."

Last year marked a historical one for the Lottery as Texas joined the multi-state *Mega Millions*[™] game. In addition to the chance at winning huge jackpots, players were given the opportunity to double, triple or quadruple non-grand/jackpot prizes by playing Texas' little twist on the game - the Megaplier[™].

Since December 2003, the Megaplier feature alone has generated more than \$27 million in total sales.

Listed below are 12 additional Lottery highlights that have taken place since startup in 1992:

- The earliest independent retailer assigned a lottery retailer number that is still active today is Coy's Discount Foods located in Vernon
- 1995 - The first time transfers to the state exceed \$1 billion
- 1996 - One of the most famous *Lotto Texas*[™] winners - the Roby 43 Trust - collects a \$46.6 million jackpot
- 1997 - The Cash Value Option premieres, allowing players the choice, at the time of purchase, of collecting their *Lotto Texas* jackpot prize all at once or in annual installments
- Beginning September 1, 1997, revenue from Texas Lottery[®] games is transferred to the Foundation School Fund
- 1997 - Marks the year of the Lottery's highest sales total, \$3.7 billion
- Eleven Texas Lottery retailers have sold, not one, but two *Lotto Texas* jackpot-winning tickets
- To date, there are four unclaimed *Lotto Texas* jackpots
- 2002 - Through a Texas Lottery Commission rule change, Claim Centers are allowed to pay a top-prize amount up to \$999,999
- 2003 - Texas Lottery joins the Texas Amber Alert Network, bringing lottery retailers into the state's effort to find missing and abducted children
- 2003 - Sales exceed \$3 billion, a mark not seen since 1998
- 2004 - Texas Lottery transfers to the Foundation School Fund exceed \$6 billion

Friday's jackpot for *Mega Millions* is an estimated \$42 million and the *Texas Two Step*[®] jackpot is worth \$325,000. Tonight's *Lotto Texas* jackpot is worth an estimated \$65 million.

For more information about the Texas Lottery, please visit the official Texas Lottery Commission Web site at <http://www>.

txlottery.org