



Chris Christie, Governor  
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor  
Carole Hedinger, Executive Director  
Benefits Education and Institutions

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Jersey Lottery Celebrates a Lucky Lottery Player Winning Big on a Scratch-Off Game, Again**

**TRENTON, N.J. (January 19, 2016)** – Each day lucky Lottery players scratch and win cash prizes playing instant games from the New Jersey Lottery. Mike Ducker is one such player. Carole Hedinger, Lottery executive director, presented Ducker with a ceremonial check for \$200,000 commemorating his recent and largest prize win. Ducker won playing the five dollar \$500 Frenzy game. The celebration was held at the Wine O Land retail store in Howell, the store at which the winning ticket was sold. The retail store owner received a \$5,000 bonus commission for selling the winning ticket.



**L-R Mike Ducker, winner, Carole Hedinger, Lottery executive director, Sarath Mandabati, retailer**

“Congratulations to Mike Ducker and to the thousands of instant game prizewinners throughout the state,” Hedinger said. “In addition to our game playing winners, residents benefit from Lottery through its revenue which supports vital educational programs and institutions, tuition aid grants, school nutrition programs, veterans’ homes, and other programs across the state.” A minimum of 30 percent of game revenue is contributed to the state on behalf of these recipients.

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Ducker has been playing scratch off games since 2013 and has had a steady record of winning with instant games. He has won \$1,000 on games more than twenty times over the years. The Lottery celebrated Ducker once before when he claimed two \$20,000 20X Cash game prizes purchasing the tickets one week apart with both tickets being purchased at the same store, Singin Oil on 300 Hurley Avenue in Lakewood.

Ducker says that he finds playing Lottery relaxing and it offers a level of excitement and anticipation. "It's a hobby for me." When asked about his playing strategy, Ducker responded, "Sometimes I buy a full pack and other times I just buy a single ticket. If I find a winning ticket, like \$500, I stop playing."

"I get great pleasure in knowing that players don't need multi-million dollar prize wins to change their lives in positive ways," Hedinger said. As for Ducker, "I am going to buy a new vehicle and after renting for many years, it will help with a down payment on a house - when the time is right." This big win, he said, "provides a bit of financial security during our unpredictable economy."

Ducker says that he keeps track of his ticket purchases in a log. He notes where he purchases the tickets and the pack and ticket numbers. He says he is a responsible Lottery player and only plays as much as he can afford to lose. "There are days that I don't have good results but I don't let it upset me. I know that it is a part of the game." If he's not lucky for a while he stops playing. "Yes, I spend a lot of money playing but I enjoy it. It's my hobby." Ducker shoots videos of himself scratching off the instant tickets and posts the videos online. He enjoys sharing the excitement of seeing a winning ticket and reading the comments that the public post.

"The Lottery is dedicated to its responsible play message and upholds it through a steady commitment to daily Lottery practices," Hedinger said. "We want everyone to enjoy playing the lottery as entertainment and remind our players to play responsibly."

Since June 1999, the Lottery has participated on the Council of Compulsive Gambling's Board of Directors. The Council's 1-800-GAMBLER helpline number is printed on every Lottery ticket, and on all brochures and signage, and it also appears as a tag line on all of the Lottery's radio and television advertisements. The Lottery's website directs visitors to the Council's site, where members of the public can get free information and help.

The New Jersey Lottery has the distinct designation of being awarded a Level III Certification by the World Lottery Association, one of the world's most respected industry authorities on responsible gaming practices. This award recognizes the Lottery's planning, development and implementation of responsible gambling programs and initiatives.

Since the Lottery's inception more than 45 years ago, it has contributed nearly \$24 billion in revenue to fund programs that benefit millions of New Jersey residents. Community Colleges, Universities, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the School Nutrition Program, and the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf are just a few of the organizations and programs whose constituencies benefit from Lottery proceeds.