

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Arkansas Scholarship Lottery

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### **Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Sells \$25 Million Winning Powerball® Ticket**

(Little Rock) The Arkansas Scholarship Lottery (ASL) rang in the New Year in style Saturday when one winning Powerball® ticket was sold at the Crackerbox in Mayflower, Arkansas. Store owner Lewis M. Gardner joined ASL officials and Commissioners at a press conference at the store location on Highway 365 in Mayflower.

“This is just another first for a lottery known for firsts; in fact, we have a Powerball® winner before most people thought the Arkansas Lottery would even startup.” said Ernie Passailaigue, ASL Executive Director. “The owner of the winning ticket is not known yet, but what is known are the real winners of the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery, the over nineteen hundred retailers who sell the tickets and the tens of thousands of Arkansans who will receive the lottery financial aid this fall.”

Passailaigue recognized Lewis M. Gardner, his wife Rhonda and son Lewis R. Gardner, owners of the twenty-nine store Crackerbox chain, as an example of a model retail agent. “The Gardners represent the strength of our business: our loyal agent base. They will not only receive our standard base commission, but a \$50,000 selling commission once the grand prize winning ticket is validated. Finally, it is noteworthy that the Gardners have deep roots in Arkansas and are excited about helping to provide scholarship money for future generations of Arkansans.”

The Gardners said that after tithing, they would use the \$50,000 selling commission just like any other revenue, to pay bills and take care of their families. L.R. Gardner, who has four children, said his three high-school aged children already were looking ahead toward the Lottery Scholarships that will be available when they start college.

#### **About Powerball® and the Arkansas scholarship Lottery:**

Arkansas became the 31st state, along with the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, to offer the Powerball® game when ticket sales began on Saturday, October 31, 2009. For more information on Powerball, visit [www.powerball.com](http://www.powerball.com).

The purpose of the ASL is to provide scholarships and grants to Arkansas residents enrolled in public and private nonprofit two-year and four-year colleges and universities within the state.

Photo below: Lottery Executive Director Ernie Passailaigue with both Lewis M. (left) and Lewis R. Gardner (son), owners of the Crackerbox 25 where the \$25 Million ticket was sold.

