

Lottery winners keep friends, jobs, homes

Become a Michigan Lottery millionaire, and the odds are good that you will stay pretty much the same person.

You will probably keep your regular friends, and they won't treat you much differently.

This was the consensus among the 128 winners of prizes worth \$1 million or more who responded to a questionnaire distributed prior to the Michigan Lottery Millionaire Reunion held in Grand Rapids.

"While elated over winning a large prize, many claiming first installments express concern that their new status might disrupt close ties to family and friends," said lottery commissioner Michael J. Carr.

"The survey indicates this doesn't happen in most cases.

"SEVERAL INDICATED they were broadening their circle of friends by meeting new people, but about one in five felt they might have lost a few since their big win. "About a third detected a bit of envy in some, but this was offset by celebrity treatment from others."

Carr said Michigan's automakers should be pleased that 57 percent of major prize winners spent part of

their first installment to buy a new vehicle.

Other popular uses for the first of their 20 annual payments included:

- Sharing with family, 54 percent.
- Paying bills, also 54 percent.
- Taking a trip, 34 percent.
- Buying a new home, 31 percent.
- Donations to charity, 29 percent.

"WE FOUND that 22 percent of respondents were retired at the time of winning," Carr said. "Of the remainder, about half continued working."

"Twenty-one percent decided upon immediate retirement, and about 13 percent moved up planned retirement dates. About 3 percent opened a business."

Michigan's Lottery millionaires remained loyal to their home communities and state. Of those who moved since winning, 79 percent stayed in the same city or nearby area, while 8 percent moved to another area. Only 3 percent left the state.

Nearly all (98 percent) said they were continuing to play the Lottery, with Super Lotto the most frequently

mentioned game. Some 42 percent reported winning additional prizes ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

MORE THAN 70 percent of respondents said they had sought professional counsel in planning long-term use of their winnings. About half the winners listed investments, followed by savings for retirement, trust funds for children

and savings accounts as among their plans.

"Worries about being pestered to make purchases or donations did not prove to be a big problem for most," Carr said. "About 73 percent rated their experiences with solicitation as 'none' or 'not too much,' with only 9 percent ranking the level of the solicitation 'very' high."

The survey also showed that only

about 27 percent of the winners sought to avoid this by leaving home for a few days after announcement of their prizes. About 76 percent kept the same phone number, and 9 percent obtained an unlisted number. Slightly more than one in 10 purchased telephone answering machines.

Carr said the information obtained in the surveys and gathered in session at the reunion will be passed on

to future Lottery millionaires. The Lottery had 54 millionaires in its first 10 years. That number has grown rapidly since the introduction of the Loto game in 1984.

The largest individual prize was a \$13 million Super Loto jackpot won by Clifford Nutto of St. Joseph on Aug. 15 of this year. He is receiving annual payments of \$650,000 through the year 2006.

Gubow's '86 foe tries recall again

AP — An Oakland County businessman who lost to Rep. David Gubow in last year's election has begun his second effort to recall the Huntington Woods Democrat.

Lowell Ruppenthal of Farmdale said Gubow should be recalled for his vote last June to increase spending in the 1986-87 budget by \$180 million.

The three-member Oakland Coun-

ty Elections Commission approved petition language for the recall.

Gubow defeated Ruppenthal by a ratio of 3-to-1 in 1986. Ruppenthal said his main gripe against Gubow is his role as one of Lansing's big spenders and his willingness to support fee and tax increases.

GUBOW, A second-term lawmaker,

er, said he's not sure whether to take Ruppenthal seriously because he started a recall drive last year that never panned out. He questioned whether the recall effort was a publicity stunt.

Four Republicans from Oakland County voted for the same supplemental spending bill that Ruppenthal cited in his recall petitions, Gubow said.

Ruppenthal said he has a network of friends committed to collecting the 5,981 signatures he needs to force a recall vote.

Ruppenthal, an independent sales representative, said he is good friends with Grosse Pointe Woods tax activist John Laue, who headed a citizens committee that unsuccessfully tried to recall Gov. James Blanchard.

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