Dec 10, 2012

Texas Lottery Commission
Mr. Gary Grief, Executive Director
P. O. Box 16630
Austin, Texas 78761-6630

Dear Gary,

I would like to submit four (4) separate scratch tickets to the Texas Lottery Commission for payment. I realize my writing this letter of request is unusual but then, so are the circumstances surrounding my assertion that I actually possess four “winning” tickets. To a consumer or a legislator, my vision that the below ticket is a winning ticket would most likely be viewed that I am either “crazy” or “a lunatic.”

But to a lottery official who is familiar with the rules and who should be familiar with past media reports concerning lotteries who have refused to pay prizes claiming tickets were “misprints,” this claim is far from “crazy.” This is because we all know that other lotteries - including Texas - is on the record stating that for a scratch ticket to be a winning ticket, the caption under the winning symbol must match a caption under the players symbol.

Please note on my winning Money Multiplier ticket - the winning symbol (bottom - far left) is a “15” and the caption (type) under the symbol 15 is FFN. Then notice on row 5 - 4th number down - is a “51” but the caption is the same as the winning caption - FFN.

Can one caption represent two totally different symbols?
Why would one caption represent two different symbols?
15 vs 51 - FFN for both symbols? It Must Be A WINNER!!!
The game rule which was posted in the Oct 14, 2011 edition of the Texas Register, Section D states, “Play Symbol Caption - The printed material appearing below each Play Symbol which explains the Play Symbol. One caption appears under each Play Symbol and is printed in caption font in black ink in positive. The Play Symbol Caption which corresponds with and verifies each Play Symbol is as follows:”

The attachment included in the rule shows all captions for all symbols found on these tickets. Interestingly, the caption shown for the symbol “51” is also FFN which clearly should not be. One can’t have ONE caption to represent two different symbols. Or perhaps I should say, one “shouldn’t” have one caption to represent two different symbols.

In late April, I asked the Texas Lottery - can one caption represent two symbols on a scratch ticket - but received no direct answer to the question.

I do not think nor do I believe the FFN caption was an oversight nor do I believe it is a typo. I say this because there is another scratch ticket that also has the same identical caption issue. These two games were done months apart and signed off by two different executives (Grief & Fernandez). There are too many people on staff and printers who are suppose to proof, sign off and approve scratch tickets, art, rules etc.

Personally, I believe the same caption was intentionally used in hopes that players would discard winning tickets - on BOTH games - so as to increase the Unclaimed Prize Fund.

My tickets may or may not validate as winners per the validation process but how many tickets would have paid had the players known to submit such tickets as winners? It is unimportant to me as to what the computer says they are worth - I am hoping or have FAITH that the State of Texas will honor my tickets at face value per the rule.

How many tickets were suppose to have a symbol of “15” where there was a symbol of “51” or visa versa? How many printing errors were there in this game? How many winning tickets were discarded by players? I’m certain many were discarded because the Money Multiplier was also a “deceptive” ticket - meaning it was not clearly marked on where to scratch it off. Much like those I gave to the Commissioners to scratch off several years ago.

My tickets have never been scanned - they still have latex covering the digits as well as latex covering the area to scan with the ticket checkers. Michael Anger actually saw them when I came to the November Commission meeting and he can tell you that these tickets are real and have not been altered in any way.

The Texas Lottery has used the caption “FTON” to represent the symbol 51 on previous tickets bearing the symbol 51 (Powerball & 20X The Money). Why was FTON not used to represent “51” in Money Multiplier? There have been few tickets that contains numbers this high - most go only to 40. BINGO tickets have no captions.
I believe my 4 tickets are winning tickets at FACE VALUE - as per the rule and previous lottery officials quotes that have verbally defined winning scratch tickets. I am requesting that you tell me that the Texas Lottery will honor the face value of my tickets so I can submit them for payment.

I am also requesting acknowledgment that you have received my request prior to the deadline - which is midnight Dec 11, 2012 - for submitting my tickets for payment. If you need more time to decide, perhaps you can place them in the “disputed tickets file” until the issue of whether Texas will honor the face value and rules for funding the prizes. If you can decide quickly, I can be at the Dallas Claim Center before 5 pm tomorrow.

If the Texas Lottery can overpay Lotto Texas winners (<$52 million> since 2006) and Texas 2 Step winners to honor the amount advertised and as stated in the rule even though sales do not support the amounts advertised, then it stands to reason that the Texas Lottery would/should honor scratch tickets prizes in the same exact manner - by honoring face value of the ticket and as defined in the rule.

The rule states, “The Executive Director makes all final decisions” so I want to thank you in advance for any consideration given to my request. While you have refused to communicate with me in other issues this year, I do hope you will communicate directly with me regarding my pending claim. I’m simply asking the Texas Lottery ... will my tickets be honored at FACE VALUE as per the rule. The prize amounts should not matter in this case - what matters is the FFN to FFN as shown on my tickets - type that is there to specifically describe what is suppose to be printed above the type as per the rule.

Sincerely,

Dawn Nettles

bcc: