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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Minnesota Racing Commission Pays out Record Standardbred Breeders' Fund Awards Thanks to New ADW Legislation

SHAKOPEE, Minn. (December 5, 2017) – The Minnesota Racing Commission has authorized the payment of over \$59,000 in breeder awards to Standardbred breeders. This record payout is a tenfold increase over 2016 payments and is due, in part, to Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW) legislation passed last year. Since the legislative initiative to license ADW providers, a portion of the revenues generated from Minnesota residents wagering on horse racing is being returned to Minnesota's horse racing industry, providing increased funding for purses, breeders' awards, and expanded regulatory oversight.

"The Minnesota Standardbred Breeders' Fund program is loaded with opportunity. Since it is a Stallion based program, you can breed your horse to a vastly improving Minnesota stallion roster and foal in your own state allowing breeders to basically double up on awards and eligibility," stated Minnesota Racing Commission Deputy Director, Joe Scurto. "Additionally, the \$350,000 Minnesota Night of Champions program is fully funded by Running Aces and the Minnesota Breeders' Fund, and currently requires no stake payments. There has never been a better time to breed to a Minnesota stallion than now."

Minnesota Standardbreds earned just shy of \$1.75 million in Minnesota alone in 2017. 154 Minnesota (MN) bred horses earned qualifying purses at the 2017 Running Aces meet for their breeders. 111 individual mares earned awards for their owners. Wisconsin resident Alvin Martin was the top breeder in 2017 and will be receiving \$8,458 in awards this year.

For more information on how to be a part of the Minnesota Breeders' Fund contact Stephanie Neises at [SNeises@state.mn.us](mailto:SNeises@state.mn.us) or 651-925-3955.

*The Minnesota Racing Commission was established to regulate horse racing and card playing in Minnesota; to ensure that it is conducted in the public interest, and to take all necessary steps in ensuring the integrity of racing and card playing in Minnesota thus promoting the breeding of race horses in order to stimulate agriculture and rural agribusiness. More information can be found at [www.mrc.state.mn.us](http://www.mrc.state.mn.us)*

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