

New lottery TV game show gets a Pat and Vanna

By Toya Richards

Watch out Pat and Vanna, there's a new team in town.

Jeff Coopwood and Linda May Kollmeyer have been selected as cohosts of "\$100,000 Fortune Hunt," the Illinois State Lottery's new television game show.

The show, which will premiere Sept. 16 on WGN-TV, will feature the two hosts and contestants chosen from a pool of lottery instant ticket winners.

The show will be aired Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. and will offer cash and prizes up to \$100,000.

Coopwood and Kollmeyer, residents of Chicago, were selected as cohosts from hundreds of applicants, said Sharon Sharp, director of the Illinois State Lottery.

"They both have very sparkling personalities," she said. And they were also very quick to respond without much preparation, which is an essential element for a game show, Sharp said.

Coopwood is an actor and opera singer who has performed in various theater and opera productions, and Kollmeyer is a model and actress who has worked in television and appeared in several commercials.

"I felt that Jeff and Linda were going to be very good at this," Les Roberts, the executive producer, said Tuesday. They seemed to be two people whom both the home viewers and the contestants can feel comfortable with, he said.

Coopwood will be the main host for the program, in charge of keeping the general portion of the game running smoothly, while Kollmeyer will essentially handle the final round, Roberts said.

"I really see it as kind of an equal thing," he said. "I'm certainly trying to get away from that Vanna [White] image," which he terms as gorgeous, decorated and do-nothing.