

**ALERT!! ALERT!! ALERT!!**

**New scam affecting West Michigan businesses**

We've recently been informed of an old scam using a few new twists. Much like the Nigerian e-mail scam where you are prompted to wire funds overseas to a stranger in order to secure a large deposit into your bank account, this scam preys on individuals perhaps not as knowledgeable as you and I about this kind of fraud.

The scam works like this: a private citizen receives a letter in the mail congratulating him on winning a \$100,000 cash prize in a bogus contest of some kind. Attached to one of these recent letters was an actual (counterfeit) check of a legitimate Grand Rapids company complete with bank routing numbers and its account number. The recipient of the letter was asked by the scam artist to consider the check as a good faith gesture on the part of the (bogus) contest operator.

The check was in the amount of \$2,980.00 and dozens of them were mailed out by the scam artists who perpetrated this theft. Each "winner" was asked to contact a "Claims Agent" who would assist him in paying \$2,150.00 in "applicable Government taxes" from proceeds of the check, leaving each recipient with \$830.00 in the transaction, plus the promise of the additional six-figure winnings.

The unsuspecting recipients of the letter and check were unaware they were part of a scam when they deposited the checks into their account and sent funds of their own to the crooks in question.

If your company had been unknowingly victimized in this instance, you'd have lost \$2,980.00 for every check that was cashed.

How do you prevent your business from being defrauded in this manner? We recommend using Positive Pay, a service provided by your bank that matches check amounts, and payee names before they honor any checks presented to them. If something doesn't match, your bank will contact you for further instructions.

If you'd like more information about Positive Pay or other fraud prevention techniques, please contact Paul Spindler, CPA, CFE at 616.458.1835 or e-mail him at [pspindler@bshcpa.com](mailto:pspindler@bshcpa.com).

See the next page for an example of a fraudulent letter.



**SUNLIFE BROKERS INC.**  
561 COLUMBUS AVE,  
NEWYORK, NY 10024  
PHONE 1- 647-831-4870

BROKERAGE SERVICES, UNDERWRITING, DEBT MANAGEMENT, DEBT RECOVERY AND RESTRUCTURING,  
LEVERAGING, LOANS, FINANCIAL ADVISERS AND ASSISTANCE, MORTGAGE BAILOUT AND REFINANCING.

CLAIM No.BBL/009/JB2

26<sup>TH</sup> JAN 2010

**FINAL COMPENSATION/ AWARDS NOTIFICATION**

ATTENTION:LYNNE MOHLER,

**Congratulations!!** We are pleased to inform you that you are one of the lucky winners in the **CUSTOMER COMPENSATION AND APPRECIATION BONANZA** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> category, held on Wednesday December 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 for all customers of major stores in U.S and Canada e.g. J.C Penny, Walgreen's, Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Kmart, Best Buy etc. A ticket with serial number **001665** attached to your name drew the lucky winning numbers.

We have made many unsuccessful attempts to contact you regarding this winning. You have therefore been approved for a lump sum pay of One Hundred Thousand U.S Dollars (**US\$100,000.00**). All winners were selected through a random computer ballot system, random names pulled electronically from over five hundred thousand [500,000] names. To claim your total winning prize, you must call your claim agent assigned to your winning, **ATTORNEY PETER LAWSON**, at Tel: **1-647-831-4870**. Enclosed is a check of **US\$2,980.00**[Two thousand nine hundred and eighty] us dollars deducted from your total winning amount to assist you in paying the necessary Government applicable taxes on your winning.

The tax amount on your winning is **US\$2,150.00** [Two thousand one hundred and fifty] us dollars which you will pay through the Western Union to a Government tax agent assigned to process your taxes on your winning. Your claim agent will assist you further on how to pay the money to the Government Tax agent. When all taxes are paid and confirmed, your balance will then be sent to you.

The balance of your winning which is **US\$97,020.00** [Ninety seven thousand and twenty] us dollars will be paid to you in a cashiers check and will be delivered by FED – EX [ FEDERAL EXPRESS] upon the tax agent confirmation of your tax payment and you will also received a copy of your tax certificate.

You are therefore to contact your claims disbursement agent immediately for further directives on claiming your winning.

**Caution:** your claim number is the key to your winning prize; therefore you are advised to keep this winning notification confidential until your claim has been processed and your winning prize have been sent to you as this is part of our security measures to avoid double claiming. Remember to quote your claim number in each of your correspondences with your claim agents.

Congratulations, once again!!!

Best regards,

Mr. Jonas J. Olsen.  
President

Office hours;[ Mon to Friday 9am-7pm][ Sat 10am-2pm] EST.

