



The Office Of State Treasurer
Denise L. Nappier

News

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Twenty-Four People ‘Find What’s Theirs’ At 14th Annual YWCA Money Conference for Women *One Claim Is For Almost \$29,000*

HARTFORD, CT – At the recent YWCA Money Conference for Women, State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier spoke of becoming financially savvy and applying that knowledge wisely when it comes to money matters. Take advantage of all the conference has to offer, she said, because “understanding money -- how to save it, invest it, use it wisely and make it grow – that is empowering.”

For 24 people, the conference also provided a welcome bonus – they learned they had unclaimed property held by the state. One person filed a claim for \$28,905 in stock and dividends.

The 24 claims totaled approximately \$35,332, with the second largest involving money in an estate valued at \$2,662.

Types of properties located at the conference included old paychecks, insurance proceeds, stock, and refunds from group benefits.

Interestingly, in her welcoming remarks, Treasurer Nappier said, “There has never been a time at this annual conference when a handful of folks did not find money that was waiting for them to claim.” She noted that 11 people had found unclaimed money at the 2014 Conference and said she would not be surprised if the number doubled this year. That is what happened, plus two more.

Treasurer Nappier was the Honorary Chair of the conference, now in its 14th year. Since inception, the conference, led by the YWCA Hartford Region, has drawn more than 5,000 people. It encourages women to take charge of their financial futures and features a comprehensive personal finance overview with renowned financial experts, workshops, and a vendor exposition.

“The Money Conference for Women was a powerful day for women in our community. 350 women joined us this year to begin the process of understanding and controlling their finances. This year’s attendees were particularly enthusiastic, engaged and motivated to gain as much knowledge as possible. The YWCA along with the State Treasurer’s Office is

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proud to continue offering this free conference. We are already looking forward to the 15th conference next year,” said Deborah Ullman, Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA Hartford Region.

The keynote speaker was financial journalist and news commentator Valerie Coleman Morris, author of *“It’s Your Money So Take It Personally,”* who stressed the importance of women of all ages actively preparing for retirement and for women to start saving for retirement in their 20s. “Get in the habit of saving and paying yourself first,” Morris told the women in attendance. “If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change,” she added.

After the conference, a participant wrote, “This conference is awesome. It improves every year and is equally appreciated by all the people I talk to.”

The conference workshops covered topics such as budgeting, investing, retirement planning, and home ownership.

State Currently Holding \$784 Million in Unclaimed Property – Find What’s Yours!

The assets commonly referred to as “unclaimed property” include dormant balances in savings and checking accounts; uncashed checks for insurance benefits, commissions or wages; and other financial assets, such as securities. Financial institutions and other businesses turn these assets over annually to the State Treasury, after they have gone unclaimed for a period of generally three years.

The Treasury’s interactive website, www.CTBigList.com, includes roughly 1.4 million names of individuals and organizations that may be entitled to approximately \$784 million in unclaimed property. The website features a searchable database -- updated with new names weekly -- that makes it easy for claimants to find their names.

Owners of abandoned property may claim their property at any time without charge.

Treasurer Nappier emphasized, “Searching the Treasury’s unclaimed property website is free, and it is not necessary to hire outside consultants, sometimes called ‘finders,’ to pursue a search or claim.”

On the website are 45 owners who have property valued at greater than \$250,000, including 10 with properties over \$500,000.

There are two ways to Find What’s Yours:

- Go to the Treasury’s web site, www.CTBigList.com, print a claim form and follow the instructions; or
- Call 1-800-833-7318, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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