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## Thirteen People 'Find What's Theirs' At YWCA Money Conference for Women

One Claim Is For More than \$4,000

HARTFORD, CT – The recent YWCA Money Conference for Women not only helped attendees plan for a more secure financial future, it also led to 13 people learning that they had unclaimed property held by the State.

When one woman checked her name in the <u>www.CTBigList.com</u> database, she discovered an estate savings account of \$4,267 for her father's estate. The Greater Hartford Police Federal Credit Union turned over the money, which had lain dormant since 2010, to the State, and now the estate can claim and distribute it to his heirs, including her.

The other claims totaled approximately \$3,250. Types of properties located at the conference included savings accounts, wages, credit balances, a group benefit refund, an insurance refund, a state vendor check, and stock.

State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier was the Honorary Chair of the conference, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year. Interestingly, in her welcoming remarks, she proved correct when she said at least 10 people at the conference would find unclaimed property belonging to them.

Treasurer Nappier told the audience, "I would definitely encourage everyone to visit the unclaimed property booth. And if you do have money waiting for you, just remember to save some of it!"

About 375 people attended the October 25<sup>th</sup> event, from across the state and neighboring states. It encourages women to take charge of their financial futures.

The keynote speaker was financial journalist and news commentator Valerie Coleman Morris, author of *"It's Your Money So Take It Personally,"* who told the audience, "Build your wealth over a lifetime. You do that by paying yourself first."

Coleman Morris offered tips that the audience could implement immediately to improve their finances such as "Know where your money is going;" "Know how much you are saving;" "Schedule meetings with your partner to make sure you are on the same page;" and "Manage your own money."

"You work hard for your money so make sure your money works hard for you," Treasurer Nappier said at the conference. "Today's conference is all about taking stock. We know how important regular check-ups are when it comes to our physical well-being. Regular financial check-ups are just as important, especially for women," she added.

The conference featured workshops led by financial experts on topics such as budgeting, investing, retirement planning, and home ownership and featured a new workshop for women who are considering opening a small business.

## State Currently Holding \$607 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, <u>www.CTBigList.com</u>, includes roughly 1.2 million names of individuals and organizations that may be entitled to approximately \$607 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."

There are two ways to Find What's Yours:

- Go to the Treasury's web site, <u>www.CTBigList.com</u>, 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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