

The Fraud Prevention NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 / SUMMER, 2024

From the Board

Expanding Efforts to Combat Fraud

Fraud Aware is pleased to announce its expansion into Indiana, bringing its fraud prevention efforts to a broader audience within our conservative Anabaptist communities. This expansion is part of a larger initiative to establish Fraud Aware boards within our conservative Anabaptist circles across the United States.

As part of our unwavering commitment to raising awareness, Fraud Aware is excited to announce a new book set to be released by the end of the year. This book and our shared stories and resources will serve as helpful tools in our ongoing fight against fraud.

We invite you to play an active role in fraud prevention by sharing your scam experiences with Fraud Aware. These stories, shared anonymously, are crucial in educating and protecting others from fraud.

By working together, we can promote informed, fraud-aware communities.

— Rodger L Weaver



The Phone Scam

A woman received a call from an individual claiming to be from the US Postal Service at the Canadian border. They asked if she had mailed a package to Canada, which she denied. The scammers then falsely claimed there was a package containing drugs in her name at the Canadian border, and a warrant was out for her arrest. To sound official, they even provided fake case and agent numbers.

The scammers threatened that a government agency would seize her assets unless she cooperated. They instructed

her to keep the matter secret, telling no one, and to withdraw a large amount of cash from her checking account to give to them, promising they would provide a cashier's check as reimbursement at a later date. Fearful, she followed the steps and agreed to meet the "driver" at a Dollar General parking lot to give him the money.

Days later, the scammers tried to set up another payment. Thankfully, the bank president became suspicious and called her husband, who confronted his wife. She then opened up and

continued inside



**Fraud
AWARE**

Fraud Aware, P.O. Box 34, Ephrata, PA 17522 **Phone or Text:** (717) 740-2790
Fax: (717) 222-5266 **Email:** info@FraudAware.us **Web:** www.FraudAware.us
Fraud Aware is a conservative Anabaptist 501(c)(3) organization

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" — 1 Corinthians 4:2



**Fraud
AWARE**

a 501(c)(3) organization

Fraud Aware, P.O. Box 34,
Ephrata, PA 17522

Phone or Text: (717) 740-2790

Email: info@FraudAware.us

Web: www.FraudAware.us

Board of Directors

- **Rodger L Weaver** | Denver, PA
Weaverland Conference
- **Darryl L Weaver** | Fredericksburg, PA
Weaverland Conference
- **Arlin E Martin** | Chambersburg, PA
Nationwide Fellowship
- **Kenneth R Weaver** | Milton, PA
Eastern Conference
- **Nelson G Martin** | Myerstown, PA
Living Faith Mennonite Church
- **Leon B Martin** | Ephrata, PA
Groffdale Conference
- **Sam S Blank** | Bird-In-Hand, PA
Old Order Amish

There are currently an additional fifteen brethren from nine different conservative Amish and Mennonite church groups serving as an advisory board. A long term goal is to connect and share resources with more plain communities.

The Phone Scam (cont.)

shared with her husband what was going on. Together, they went for advice on how to work through the situation.

The authorities were notified, and they advised her to continue playing along for a second money drop, where an arrest could be made. She met the “driver” and handed over the cash, only for him to be arrested. The sad part is he was simply someone local who was working for a large ring from India. He spent a few days in jail and was released with a small fine, and the authorities have little if any recourse on the main ring, which works across seas.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Government agencies do not typically initiate phone calls. If they do, they will not demand cash payments or secrecy. If you receive such a call, it is a scam.
- Never make decisions in isolation. Seek advice from a trusted friend, family member, or authority figure before acting.
- Refuse to withdraw cash or make any form of payment to strangers. No matter the threat, it's never a legitimate solution.

If you find yourself in a similar situation:

- Hang up the phone.
- Seek advice from a trusted friend, family member, or authority figure before acting.



Is Your Email a Fraudster's Playground?

Email Fraud: The Threat to Your Business

Email has long been a cornerstone of communication, but it has become a tool for sophisticated fraud in recent years. The Fraud Aware board has witnessed this alarming trend firsthand, with numerous cases of email fraud reported just in the past year.

A Close Call: *The Case of the Equipment Dealer*

A recent incident with a local equipment dealer illustrates just how dangerous these scams can be. The dealer completed a sale and contacted a familiar finance company to secure funding for the buyer. After sending an invoice and wire instructions, the dealer assumed all was in order.

Disclaimer: The information included in this newsletter is only a guide, and we are not investment advisors. You must seek advice from qualified advisors before investing your funds.

Email Fraud (cont.)

However, the finance company seemingly received a follow-up email from the dealer, changing the payment instructions and routing funds



to a fraudulent company named “Eli Construction.” Fortunately, having previously worked with the dealer, the finance company noticed the suspicious change in wire information and reached out. Only then did both parties realize the dealer’s email had been compromised.

The Fraudster’s Tactics

Fraudsters often create email addresses that closely mimic legitimate ones, sometimes with a single letter or punctuation mark changed. They rely on their victims not noticing these subtle differences, being tricked by subtle technical nuances.

Protecting Yourself

- Never rely solely on email for wire instructions. Always verify changes by phone or in person.
- Scrutinize email addresses. Look for slight misspellings or unusual domains.
- Trust your instincts. If anything feels off, stop and investigate.

KEY TAKEAWAY: In today’s digital world, even trusted communication channels like email can be compromised. Vigilance is your best defense. *Remember, when in doubt, always verify!*

Financial Report

	10-1-23 5-20-24
Opening balance 10-1-22	\$7,565.61
Total contributions	\$68,817.00
Disbursements	
Ads, newsletter, mailing, etc.	\$10,575.70
EXPO: Booth rental, set up & travel	\$16,198.80
Literature design & printing	\$1,638.55
Book – The Village: publishing & distribution	\$36,950.00
Book- Scams: writing, design	\$1,373.75
Other expense	\$837.55
Total Expenses	\$67,574.35
Ending Balance 9-30-23	\$8,808.26

Donations will make it possible for Fraud Aware to continue printing and offering free books and literature. To those who are interested in helping with printing, mailing and other costs, contributions can be sent to:

Fraud Aware
c/o Kenneth R Weaver, treasurer
432 Frederick Rd,
Milton, PA 17847

So, You Think You’re Immune to SCAMS?

Think again. Scammers are getting more sophisticated every day, and their latest trick is targeting people just like you.

DON’T BE THEIR NEXT VICTIM!

In our latest exclusive story, we share a shocking method a scammer uses to lure their victim into paying a large amount of money.

**REQUEST
your copy today:**

- To listen to the 30-minute story, call the Fraud Aware Listen Library at 717.562.0872
- Request a Copy of this story - or to be added to our next newsletter mailing:

Contact us at -

EMAIL:
info@fraudaware.us

PHONE: (717) 740-2790

FAX: (717) 222-5266

MAIL: PO Box 34,
Ephrata, PA, 17522

FRAUD

- ▶ Identification
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Prevention



*A conservative
Anabaptist resource for
fraud identification,
education, and
prevention.*

**We are a 501(c)(3)
non-profit organization.**



Fraud AWARE

Fraud Aware, P.O. Box 34
Ephrata, PA 17522
(717) 740-2790

Our Event Schedule

Stop by and meet some of the Fraud Aware members and pick up FREE LITERATURE at these events. We look forward to connecting.

- HORSE PROGRESS DAYS
Leola PA [Lanc Co.] - July 5 & 6
- FAMILY FARM FIELD DAYS
Sugar creek OH - July 19 & 20
- FRAUD & SCAMS TOPIC
Harrison School, Goshen IN - August 8
7:30 pm - questions Ron (574)596-8836
- SHED BUILDER EXPO
Grand Rapids MI - Sept 25 & 26
- EASTOOL AUCTION & EXPO
Quarryville PA [Lanc Co.] - Sept 27 & 28

**Contact Us for More Information
or Newsletter Reprints**

Phone or Text: (717) 740-2790 Fax: (717) 222-5266
Email: info@FraudAware.us

Another New Book!

Fraud Aware is currently working at writing a second book to provide scam and fraud Identification, Education and Prevention. *A late 2024 release is anticipated.*

The book "The Village that Burned \$3 Million" is now being distributed by Christian Light Publications. Please contact Christian Light Publications or check with a local bookstore to purchase a copy or visit the Fraud Aware booth at one of our upcoming events for a free copy.