



THE FRAUD AWARE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4
SUMMER 2025

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

FROM THE BOARD

And Caleb stilled the people...

Fraud Aware’s mission is like the story many years ago, when the Bible tells us that “Caleb stilled the people before Moses.” Caleb countered the paralyzing reports about Canaan and urged the Israelites to believe and act rather than fear.

Similarly, stories about fraud create a certain level of fear, apprehension, and distrust. While this fear is a reality, it is not our goal. Stories of fraud loss can be painful and bring feelings of shame. We are thankful to those who share their experiences, allowing others to learn and avoid making the same mistakes.

By providing timely insights, practical suggestions, and reliable resources, Fraud Aware hopes to follow Caleb’s example. We envision conservative Anabaptist communities facing fraud with knowledge and awareness—a future where individuals seek help and reassurance from their community rather than experiencing merciless isolation at the hands of a fraudster.

-Lorin Strite



Fraud Aware, P.O. Box 34,
Ephrata, PA 17522
Phone/Text: (844) 740-2790
Fax: (717) 222-5266
Email: info@FraudAware.us
Web: www.FraudAware.us
Fraud Aware is a conservative
Anabaptist 501(c)(3) organization

Stop, Disconnect, Reconsider Your Anti-Fraud Reflex

Remember learning “Stop, Drop, and Roll” for fire safety? That simple sequence saves lives by replacing panic with action. We need a similar reflex when facing potential fraud. Let’s call it: Stop, Disconnect, Reconsider.

When confronted by an urgent demand for money or information - whether via phone, email, or text - the first crucial step is to STOP. Don’t click links, don’t provide data, and don’t follow immediate instructions. Fraudsters create fear and false urgency to rush you into mistakes.

Next DISCONNECT. Hang up the phone. Power down the computer, tablet, or phone involved. Just as importantly, disconnect emotionally. Step back from the fear, intimidation, or even excitement the scammer is pushing. Create physical and mental distance.

Finally, RECONSIDER. Before doing anything else, discuss the situation with a trusted source. Contact a family member, your financial advisor, your CPA, or local law enforcement. Explain what happened and get objective advice before taking any action urged by the potential scammer.

Practicing “Stop, Disconnect, Reconsider” breaks the fraudster’s script and gives you the control needed to stay safe. Stay aware and protect yourself!

Stay vigilant and remember that staying informed is our best defense.

-Rodger L Weaver



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Over twenty-three additional members from different states, representing over ten different Amish and Mennonite church groups, currently serve on an advisory board.



Disclaimer: This story is inspired by an actual event. In accordance with Fraud Aware's policy, certain names and details have been altered for privacy and clarity.

He is a Scammer - not a Helper

Stay Alert: Don't Fall Victim to Sophisticated Scams!

We're bringing you an important real-life story to highlight the increasingly clever tactics used by scammers. By understanding how these modern frauds work, we can all become better at protecting ourselves from financial harm.

This cautionary tale begins with Elias, who receives an unexpected phone call. The caller claimed to be from the Citi-Bank credit card fraud department. This immediately shows how convincingly scammers can mimic trusted institutions. They inquired about unusual charges, a common tactic to appear legitimate.

Believing the call was genuine, Elias was persuaded to verify his identity. Tragically, he shared sensitive information, including his credit card number, security code, Social Security number, and bank account details. Elias now understands the critical mistake of divulging such information during an unsolicited call.

The scam escalated when Elias's cell phone was compromised. When his son attempted to call him, a Google voice message was heard. His phone company confirmed that call forwarding had been activated on Elias's phone. This indicates that the scammers likely gained access to Elias's phone account using his stolen personal information. This allowed them to intercept and redirect his calls, hindering his ability to seek help.

A particularly deceptive tactic involved the 800 number on the back of Elias's Citi-Bank credit card. The scammers asked for this seemingly harmless number, which they then used to manipulate the call-forwarding settings. Consequently, when Elias tried to call the real Citi-Bank 800 number, his calls were routed directly to the scammers.

To further enhance their credibility, the scammers used fake emails and text messages that appeared to be from Citi-Bank card. This multi-pronged approach aimed to prevent Elias from suspecting any wrongdoing.



Armed with the stolen information, the scammers attempted to inflict


Is that you Grandma?!

**A 5-min audio showing how scammers steal
thousands from a grandma!**

Listen Library, **option #12!**

To listen to educational stories call the **Listen Library**

  **(717) 562-0872**



Disclaimer: The information included in this newsletter is only a guide. We are not investment advisors or legal advisors. You must seek advice from qualified advisors before making decisions.

He Is A Scammer - Not A Helper (cont.)

significant financial damage. They established a \$27,000 loan transaction linked to withdraw from Elias's credit card and bank accounts. Fortunately, Elias detected this suspicious activity and intervened to stop it before they accomplished the transaction.

Following this alarming experience, Elias promptly closed all his bank accounts and canceled his credit cards. Although it was a hassle and time-consuming, this was recommended to ensure the scammers were no longer connected.

Protect Yourself: Key Takeaways from Elias's Experience

- Be extremely cautious with unsolicited calls or messages: Be suspicious of any unexpected calls, emails, or texts, even if they appear genuine. Scammers invest considerable effort in making their fake communications look and sound authentic.
- Safeguard your private information: Never provide personal or financial details over the phone unless you initiated the call to a known and trusted number. Legitimate companies will not proactively call you requesting sensitive information like your Social Security number or full credit card details.
- Think twice about sharing the 800 number: Be wary if someone on the phone asks for the 800 number on your credit or debit card. If they truly represent your credit card fraud department, they would not need this information from you.
- Verify independently: If you receive a suspicious message, do not engage with the sender or reply. Instead, independently find the official phone number or website for the company. Look up the contact information yourself and avoid using any details provided by the suspicious contact.
- Monitor your accounts diligently: Regularly review your bank and credit card statements for any unauthorized transactions or unusual activity. Report any discrepancies to your banks and credit card companies immediately.
- Consider proactive protection measures: Explore options such as freezing your credit with all three credit reporting agencies and investigating identity theft protection services.
- Stay vigilant for unusual phone activity: Be alert to any strange behavior on your phone, such as calls being forwarded without your authorization. This could indicate a compromised account.

Elias's difficult experience offers valuable lessons for everyone. By remaining vigilant and informed about evolving scam tactics, we can significantly improve our ability to protect ourselves and our finances. Stay informed and be careful.

Take care,
From the Fraud Aware
Team

Financial Report - PAST SEVEN MONTHS

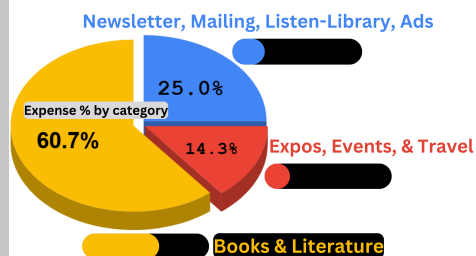
| | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| Opening Balance: | (10-01-2024) | \$20,756.86 |
| Total contributions | 73,559.00 | |
| Total borrowed funds | 15,000.00 | |
| Book sales | 4,585.50 | |
| Balance & Deposit Total | | \$ 113,901.36 |
| Disbursements | | |
| Ads, newsletters, mailing, etc. | 27,706.67 | |
| Expos, events, & travel | 10,081.95 | |
| New book, writing & design (2025 release) | 10,384.74 | |
| Book- The Village: reprint & distribution | 24,900.00 | |
| Book- The Widow: printing & distribution | 33,095.93 | |
| Other expense | 4,420.23 | |
| Total Expenses | | \$ 110,589.52 |
| Ending Balance: | (04-30-2025) | \$3,311.84 |
| Borrowed Funds | | \$ 15,000.00 |

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
PO Box 34 Ephrata, PA 17522
- ▶ FRAUD AWARE
PO Box 574 Goshen, IN 46528

ESTIMATED EXPENSES

May 01, 2025 - Oct 31, 2025 **\$140,000**



FRAUD

Identification
Education
Prevention

—

A conservative
Anabaptist
resource helping
our communities
be fraud aware.

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



Fraud Aware, P.O. Box 34,
Ephrata, PA 17522
(844) 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
Clare MI - July 4 & 5
- SHED BUILDER EXPO
Knoxville TN - September 24 & 25
- EASTOOL AUCTION & EXPO
Quarryville PA - September 26 & 27
- MIDWEST TOOL EXPO & AUCTION
Shipshewana IN - January 29, 30 & 31
- MT HOPE SHOWCASE & AIR WORKS AUCTION
Mt Hope OH - February 19, 20 & 21

For smaller events, call 844-740-2790. Choose PA, OH, or IN to reach your local State Committee.

*Contact Us for More Information
or to order bulk newsletters*

Phone or text: (844) 740-2790 Fax: (717) 222-5266

Email: info@FraudAware.us

Coming Soon!



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our exhibits!