



NONPROFIT NEWS

From the Charitable Law Section at the Office of Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray

GOOD GIVING PRACTICES ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR YEAR-END GIFTS

Because many nonprofits hope potential donors will consider the tax implications of making a donation prior to Dec. 31, the end of the year is a common time to receive charitable solicitations.

There are countless great causes to support, but potential donors need to do their homework – scammers also see this

as a good time to take advantage of Ohioans’ generosity.

Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray’s office recently uncovered one: scammers soliciting donations in the name of the Buckeye Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. The scam artists are believed to

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BREAK-INS AT VETERANS AND FRATERNAL CLUBS CREATE REMINDERS ABOUT SAFETY

There have been several thefts recently at veterans and fraternal clubs around Ohio. These crimes can happen anywhere: Recently, thieves have targeted clubs in Erie, Lorain and Harrison counties; in Cincinnati, an American Legion post was burglarized on Veterans Day.

These incidents serve as a reminder of the

importance of reviewing your organization’s safety procedures. Veterans and fraternal organizations, like many charitable organizations, may have cash on-hand from bingo, liquor sales and other fundraising efforts. It is important take steps to protect the safety of the proceeds and volunteers or clients. Here are some

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CORDRAY PRAISES WORK OF OHIO’S FOUNDATIONS

Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray addressed the Ohio Grantmakers Forum during its annual meeting on Nov. 13 in Columbus.

Although these are tough times for Ohio’s charities, Cordray said, foundations are important in promoting good governance and strategic thinking. “The quality of life here would be vastly poorer without the nonprofit community,” he said.

Cordray’s office offers several resources online to support nonprofits. These include:

Nonprofit News
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/NonprofitNews

Nonprofit handbook
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/NonprofitHandbook

Find a background check location
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Webcheck

Non-profit Board Member Resources
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BoardMemberResources

BINGO LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE DEC. 31

Nonprofit organizations with bingo licenses must renew by Dec. 31.

Find application instructions and materials at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Bingo.

The Ohio Attorney General’s Office offers free trainings, also known as “Bingo School” for 501(c)(3) groups and veteran, fraternal and sporting organizations that host bingo games. To register, call (800) 282-0515; to see January’s Bingo School training schedule, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BingoSchool

Frequently asked questions about charitable law
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CharitableLawFAQ

File a complaint about a product or service
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Complaint

To sign up for updates from the office, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/SignUp

GOOD GIVING PRACTICES ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR YEAR-END GIFTS, CONTINUED

be former employees of Benefit Systems of America, a professional solicitation company based in Powell.

Crooks employ a wide variety of tactics to elicit funds. Some use names similar to larger, respected organizations. Some solicit in counties where they do not do any work, while others open and close strings of charities, pocketing funds along the way. Consumers can help verify a real campaign or organization by asking for written information or calling the organization's proper office. A legitimate charity will be happy to provide information

The Ohio Attorney General's office can take action against fraudulent fundraising schemes. Call the Attorney General's office at (800) 282-0515 to find out if a specific professional solicitor campaign is properly registered or to report fraudulent or questionable fundraising efforts.

For more information about good giving habits, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/GoodGiving

BREAK-INS AT VETERANS AND FRATERNAL CLUBS CREATE REMINDERS ABOUT SAFETY, CONTINUED

ways to do that:

- Keep as little money (particularly cash) on-hand as possible. Have a process in place to make regular bank deposits. (Some police departments provide escorts for bank deposits.)
- Install an alarm system. Check the system daily and run a test when closing.
- Make sure all outside entrances and inside security doors have deadbolt locks.
- Light the inside and outside of your building, especially around doors and windows.
- Consider installing a video surveillance system. This can serve as a deterrent as well as provide evidence in the event of a break-in.

For more information about services the office provides to charities, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Charities

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Meeting of Charitable Advisory Council — Dec. 17

WANT UPDATES?

- Receive an electronic version of Nonprofit News by signing up at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/NonprofitNews