

# From Forgotten to Found

Help local VFWs find their lost funds, plus reminders on how we keep your money safe.

## A Note from the Treasurer

With planting underway across our great state, it's a fitting time to highlight another kind of growth – lost money being found and put back to use in meaningful ways. In this issue of the Iowa Unclaimed Property newsletter, we talk about local VFWs with money to claim and how real claimants have put their money to use. Plus, tips on how to stay safe from scammers.

Sincerely,

Roby Smith  
Iowa State Treasurer

## Memorial Day: Returning Lost Money to Local VFWs

In recognition of Memorial Day, we're spotlighting Iowa Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) posts with money to claim in Great Iowa Treasure Hunt. Here's a few:

Name	City	Amount
VFW Local 22	Cherokee	\$81.00
VFW Post 5487	Des Moines	\$733.02
VFW Post 3607	Ida Grove	\$260.30
VFW Post 1683	Monticello	\$4,060.28
VFW Post 9001	Moravia	\$355.67
VFW Post 8142	Winterset	\$50.00

Does your town have a VFW post with money waiting? All it takes is a quick search at [GreatIowaTreasureHunt.gov](http://GreatIowaTreasureHunt.gov)! Simply type "VFW" in the Last or Business Name field to see all results.

## Don't Fall for a Scam

Great Iowa Treasure Hunt protects unclaimed money, but it's also our priority to protect Iowans from scams. Here are a few reminders:

- The funds in Great Iowa Treasure Hunt never expire.
- We will never charge a fee to help you claim your money.
- Make sure you're on our official website (look for the .gov) when searching and making claims
- Use MissingMoney.com when searching nationally. This is the only national site endorsed by the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA) and the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST).

## What Happens Next?

Over the years, people have shared all kinds of plans for their unclaimed property funds, and they range from practical to playful to genuinely heartwarming. However it's used, there's a common thread: it's money that comes back at just the right time, and it often brings a little relief—and joy—with it.

*Thank you!! I was able to repair my car!!  
I plan to pay down a little debt.  
I am going to put it in my checking account for bills.  
Will probably use it for groceries, and maybe buy some nice cheese :)  
It was a \$50 cash refund so spent it on a gift for a friend! Thanks!*

## Reporting Season

Each year, businesses and financial institutions have to report unclaimed property to the State Treasurer's Office. But before they do that, Iowa law requires them to take a final effort to locate the owners. This process is called due diligence, a fancy term for "giving you a heads up."

Usually, these businesses will send letters to the owner's last known address. Here's what it could look like:

**Dear Customer,**

**According to our records, we have had no contact with you regarding (type of property) for more than (#) years. Under Iowa law, if there is a period of (#) years without contact, we may be required to transfer these funds to the custody of the Iowa State Treasurer's Office as unclaimed property. You may prevent this by taking some action, such as a deposit or withdrawal, contacting us or completing and returning this form to us.**

**If we do not hear from you before (date), the law requires us to submit this obligation to the Iowa State Treasurer's Office.**

**Sincerely,**

**Reporting Business Name**

If you are unsure at the legitimacy of the letter, it's always a good idea to contact the company directly. For more information on how to avoid scams, check out the [Federal Trade Commission's website](#).