

# **COMBATTING SWEEPSTAKES/LOTTERY IMPOSTER FRAUD**

Christopher L. Irving, Esq.

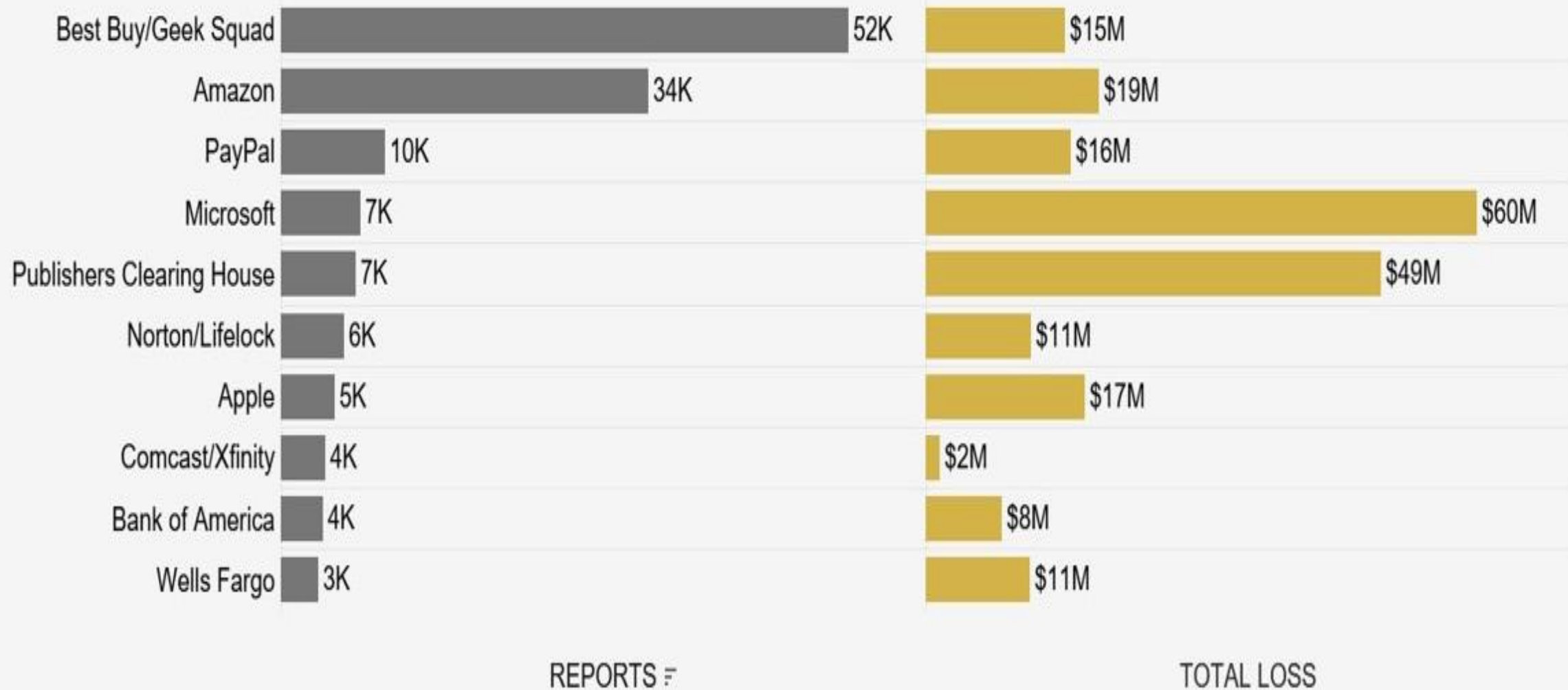
Assistant Vice President, Consumer &  
Legal Affairs

Publishers Clearing House

# Publishers Clearing House

- **Founded in 1953 in Long Island, New York**
  - **10,000 Mailings/20 Magazine Choices**
- **Sweepstakes Started in 1967**
- **Products introduced 1990**
- **Online introduced 1996**
- **Charitable Trust Ownership - ~40% Profits to Charity**
- **Ed McMahon Did Not Work for PCH!**
- **Today, Online Entertainment/Games Only**

Scammers impersonate some companies more than others. These top ten were the most reported in 2023.



Figures are based on fraud reports to the Consumer Sentinel Network classified as business imposters, tech support scams, and prizes, sweepstakes and lotteries. Reports that do not name an impersonated company and reports provided by Sentinel data contributors are excluded.



FROM: THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
INTERNATIONAL PROMOTIONS/PRIZE AWARD DEPT  
REF NO: AW/RE/90100/ILC

Claim Number: WAX-1062  
Batch: AZ/1019/UC  
Type of Entry: Credit Card Promo/Subscription

Date: July 29<sup>th</sup> 2024

Carol Cooper  
Po Box 324  
Cripple Creek CO 80813

### CONGRATULATIONS

We are pleased to inform you that you are one of our lucky winners! On behalf of members and staff of Publishers Clearing House, Association of North America lottery and provincial sweepstakes, we sincerely congratulate you on the grand prize winnings of **(\$750,000.00)** Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars. We have many post winning services such as financial and legal advisors that can assist you manage your winning.

Your entry into this sweepstakes/lottery was based on cross-promotion by marketing companies through Credit Card expenditures, past subscriptions and in-store rebates in North America

**Payment Arrangement:** Your payment will be processed and must be forwarded to you by the payout department office within five business days. Contact our branch office at(1-929-800-2429) and speak to your claims agent (**Mr. Glen Smith**) for method of payment.

#### IMPORTANT

You are required by the international Sweepstakes by law to pay towards taxes, handling and processing fees. Enclosed is your sponsorship check to assist you with out of **pocket expenses**. Please contact your agent for further details.

Please be advised, do not take any further action until you have contacted your claims agent (**Mr. Glen Smith**) Please keep this award letter strictly **confidential** until your cash prize winnings has been processed and remitted to your designated account. It is company policy to keep this letter and your cash prize winnings **confidential** to avoid double or false claims

Sincerely,

Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes  
Deborah Holland  
Executive Vice president

#### HOURS OF OPERATION:

Office Opened: Monday to Friday 9am-6pm  
Saturday 10am-3pm  
Closed Public Holiday and Sunday  
Tel: 1-929-800-2429



GLOBAL OFFICES: NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA, ASIA, & EUROPE



NATIONWIDE SETTLEMENT & TRUST  
CLAIM PROCESSING PARTNERS



The team at Publishers Clearing House is pleased to officially announce you, as a second Place winner in the **100 Million Dollars Super Cash Giveaway Promotion** sponsored by **Readers Digest, Mega Millions** and **Multi-State Lottery Association**.

The total amount to be claimed for your win is **\$2,500,000.00 (\$2.5 Million)**. Congratulations!

The Publishers Clearing House has made all necessary arrangements in order for you to receive your prize. Enclosed with this letter is a check to cover insurance and attorney fees.

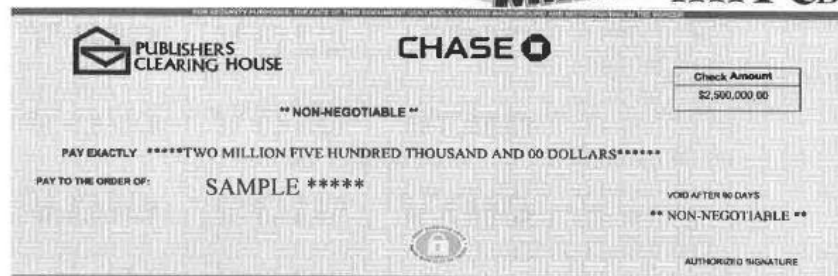
Please contact your Claim Manager without any delay **BEFORE** depositing this check at your Financial Institution and for further information on this prize.

**Claims Manager: TEL #1-646-467-1647  
TEL #1-306-502-0775**

**SECURITY CODE -PCH-77717-WIN**

As required by Federal and State laws, your security code and prize information must be kept strictly confidential which means, you are precluded from discussing your win with third parties. This is to reduce risks of unauthorized access to your claims information. Accept our congratulations.

**Richie Jenkins**  
Chief Financial Officer



⑆003579⑆



FREE LOTTO PROMOTION

October 01st 2023

INT'L LOTTERY BOARD

FROM: THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
INTERNATIONAL PROMOTIONS/PRIZE AWARD DEPT

Ticket Number: F59052-98B  
Batch: PCH\R73015/NY  
Type of Entry: Credit Card Promo Subscription  
**Claim Number: WNY00N**

Dear Winner,

**{Final Notice without Prejudice}**

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

We are pleased to inform you that you are one of our lucky winners, on behalf of members and staff of Publishers Clearing House, / Free Lotto Association of North American lottery and provincial sweepstakes we sincerely congratulate you on the grand prize winnings of (US\$800,000.00) Eight Hundred Thousand US Dollars. We have many posts winning services such as financial and legal advisors that can assist you manage your winning.

Your entry into this sweepstakes/lottery was based on cross-promotion by marketing companies through Credit Card expenditures, past subscriptions and in-store and grocery store rebates in North America.

Your payment will be processed and must leave our office within three business days. Contact our branch office immediately at (347) 230-7251 and speak to your claims agent Dave Sayer for method of payment. Please discuss and advise your agent the most convenient payment arrangement. Do not delay as there is only a week (3-5 days) hold on your winnings. And if you would like our Prize Patrol Van to present your winnings with the camera crew to advertise you on TV and local news Papers, please advise your claim agent for specified time frame for media promotion.

**Please Note**

You are required by the international Sweepstakes and IRS by law to pay towards taxes and processing fees. Enclosed are funds to assist you with out-of-pocket expenses to enable you pay. Please contact your agent for further details. You can make deposit of your check through the ATM machine with your bank card or you walk inside the bank and make the deposit after the verification process. This is very important make sure you contact your agent immediately in order to start processing your winning.

Please be advised to contact your claims agent (Mr. Dave Sayer) who will be advising you on how to claim your cash prize winnings. Please keep this award letter strictly confidential until your cash prize winnings has been processed and remitted to your designated account. It is our company policy to keep this letter and your cash prize winnings confidential to avoid double or false claims, identity theft and impersonation. You should in no account give out your personal info on line or phone to anyone in regards to your winnings except agent Sayer. As soon as you receive this winning letter and the check enclosed kindly contact this number immediately (347) 230-7251 via text with your Full Name, claim number amount received via check and say you are ready for the verification process because without that you will not be able to receive your winning prize of US\$800,000.00 or deposit the check received. Once the verification process is complete you will receive your payment immediately. This is done because it is now a late claim and also to avoid double or false claim. Congratulations once again.

Best Regards,

Publishers Clearing House sweepstakes  
Deborah Holland  
Executive Vice President

Office: Monday to Friday 9:30am, 6:30pm E.S.T  
Saturday 9am-2pm  
E.S.T Closed  
Public Holiday and Sunday  
**(347) 230-7251 CALL.**

**PUBLISHERS CLEARING HOUSE USA/CANADA  
OFFICIAL DATE. 10/01/2023**

*Notice of Confidentiality: This communication is privileged and contains confidential information only for the person(s) named above. Any other distribution, copying, or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you have received this notice in error, please notify your agent immediately by intended telephone communication.*



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101 Pleasant view New York NY





Dear: Mr. Walter Hanko.

If you live in the United States, you are required by law to pay sweepstakes taxes on all of your prize winnings. Legally, this includes everything from grand prize wins like; money, cars and dream houses to smaller prizes like t-shirts and baseball caps. Find out what to expect from sweepstakes taxes and what you should do to prepare for them. File Form W-2G IRS stamp of approval to report gambling winnings and any federal income tax withheld on those winnings. The requirements for reporting and withholding depend on the type of gambling, the amount of the gambling winnings, and generally the ratio of the winnings to the wager. File W-2G IRS stamp of approval with the IRS. An Agent must provide a statement to the winner. A total sum of one Percent is due for coverage of processing, certifying, and registration of the taxpaying W-2G IRS stamp of approval. A certified check will be sent in your mail of refundable funds sent towards receiving this jackpot. We accept payments through: *Mailing or Money transfer* Agency receipts must be kept for proof of payments.

Vice president:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hanko".





## CONTESTANT BILLING STATEMENT

Main Branch, Las Vegas, NV, Zip code: 11213-0098, [www.pch.sweepstakes.com](http://www.pch.sweepstakes.com)

ACCOUNT NO: 7415-2508-9603  
29019924000 – BANK NUMBER  
026009593 – ROUTING NUMBER

CURRENCY: USD TYPE OF A/C: CHECKING

Name: Mr. Walter Hanko

ALL EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO HAVE THE PROCESSING COMPLETED WITHIN FORTY - EIGHT HOURS (48 HRS) AFTER PAYMENT OF FEES. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE at : ( 585-373-8820) EXTENSION 101 FOR FUTHER INFORMATION.

	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT	BALANCE
	PCH Sweepstakes Winnings	\$2,500,000.00	
	Registration Claims Stamp of Approval	\$285.00	PENDING
	Golden Seal Stamp of Approval Fees	\$18,508.39	
	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	\$24,925.00	
	W-2G IRS stamp of approval		
	TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDITS / DEBITS	SERVICE CHARGE & OTHER LEGALITY STAMP DUTY WITHHOLDING TAX	No. OF ENCLOSURES



Main Branch, Las Vegas, NV, Zip code: 11213-0098, [www.pch.sweepstakes.com](http://www.pch.sweepstakes.com)

RESULTS FOR First (1<sup>st</sup>) CATEGORY DRAWS

**Dave Sayer (General Manager)**  
Publisher's clearing house Sweepstakes Company  
Main Branch,  
NY, NY

**Congratulations!!!!**

Dear: Mr. Walter Hanko

The PUBLISHERS CLEARING HOUSE (P.C.H) is pleased to inform Walter Hanko about this month's Sweepstakes Draw. Our Sweepstakes entry was drawn (for citizens of the state of Hawaii, Alabama, Alaska, New York, , Guam, Maine, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Washington, Florida, Missouri, Texas, Illinois, North Carolina, Oregon, California, Utah, Michigan, Mississippi and Louisiana that have been continuously shopping at Supermarkets, Convenient Grocery Stores and the Wal-Mart) and your name WALTER HANKO was selected as 1<sup>st</sup> category winner of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollar U.S.D (US\$2,500,000.00), Plus Seven Thousand Dollar (7,000.00) a week for LIFE Congratulations! This letter is solely to inform you from our office at the fraud investigations unit that your file was transferred to this department and there was a red flag placed on your account as there was no payment on file for your Golden Seal Stamp of Approval Fees. Therefore, you are being advised to act with urgency in regards to dealing with the matter of your tax files in order to receive this check.



**WINNER**  
**\$2,500,000.00**

Walter Hanko PS. Code #: K6189US  
Batch #:445580-DC

This prize money will be sent to you in the form of a certified check made out to Walter Hanko and can only be cashed by this individual who must provide proper US identification. All matters of legality will be handled by a certified lawyer assigned to be your agent. Check will be delivered to you at a time specified by your agent. **Note:** Agents are assigned as required by the federal laws for security purposes, prize winners are required to follow instructions given by this individual in order to ensure that your check are delivered safely.

**NB.** After the amount that is requested by the PCH is paid, immediately within 24 hrs the prize will be delivered to the recipient's home. Payable with certified cashier's check.

*Sincerely Yours,*

**Dave Sayer (General Manager)**

**CC: Mary Lee (Attorney)**

**Victor Smith (Deputy Chief Director of Accounts.)**

**Bob Green (Merchant Banker/Account Manager.)**

**Andrew Goldberg (Agent/Company Prize Delivery Manager).**

**(Recipient) Walter Hanko**



Jon Carpenter (Chief Financial Officer)



International



# Bank of America



[www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com)



PUBLISHERS CLEARING HOUSE  
*Do it because that*  
**Walter Hanko**  
*could become the winner of*  
**\$2,500,000.00**  
*in the*  
**PUBLISHERS CLEARING HOUSE SWEEPSTAKES**  
pch.com

After the amount that is requested by the PCH is paid, immediately within 24 hrs the prize will be delivered to Walter Hanko home.

# EDUCATION

All PCH public facing sites underscore the critical education messages

- **Never pay any tax, fee, gift card, customs fee or any amount to claim a prize.**
- **If it is not free it not from PCH or any legitimate sweepstakes.**

Communicated in mail, in PCH blogs, PCH Social Media, Online, and in every phone call received by our customer service group

# PCH FRAUD PROTECTION/EDUCATION SITE

<https://info.pch.com/fraud-protection>

## FRAUD PROTECTION

*Welcome to the Fraud Protection section of our website. We hope you will take the time to read these valuable consumer education and protection messages that are intended to help you, the consumer, stay safe and protected from fraudulent scammers.*

*MEDIA: If you are a member of the Media gathering information for a story you are covering on fraud protection, please be sure to see our Media Notice posted at the bottom of this page.*

### At PCH the Winning is Always Free!

At PCH the winning is always free and you NEVER have to pay to claim a prize. Recognizing the difference between legitimate sweepstakes and other types of offers that may not be legitimate will help you protect yourself and your family if someone contacts you claiming to be from PCH, and tells you that you've won a prize — then asks you to send a payment or money card in order to claim the prize — STOP! You have not heard from the real PCH.

### Publishers Clearing House Scam Alert Update: Beware of Fraudsters Pretending to be real PCH Employees!

At Publishers Clearing House we care about consumers and want to be sure you stay protected from SCAMMERS fraudulently pretending to be associated with our well-recognized PCH name! As a company that has been in business for over 50 years, PCH is an iconic brand, recognized and welcomed into households all across the country. And, if you are familiar with the PCH name, you can be sure the scammers know us, as well.

Recently we've been hearing reports that scammers are accessing and using the names of our real PCH employees in their criminal



**Consumer Protection**



**The Prize Patrol  
Delivers Big Prizes  
In Person!**

**PCH Does NOT Call Winners**



**Consumer Protection**

**At PCH, It's...**

**FREE To Play**

**FREE To Win**





## Consumer Protection

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# Know How To Spot A Scammer?

**Scammers Play  
Tricks Like These:**



Ask For  
Money Or  
Personal Info



Call And  
Pretend To  
Be PCH



Contact You  
On Fake Social  
Media Accounts

# WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

## Florida sheriff's message to scam suspect: 'I hope and pray there's a special place in hell for you'

By FOX 35 Digital Staff | Published February 25, 2025 6:21pm EST | Volusia County | FOX 35 Orlando | [➔](#)



**Publishers Clearing House scam suspect arrested: Sheriff**

Ad covered content

Not interested in this ad

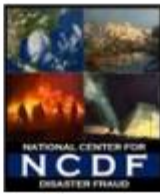
Seen this ad multiple times

Ad was inappropriate



# ENFORCEMENT

## CONSUMER SENTINEL NETWORK



# ENFORCEMENT

- PCH can offer law enforcement:
  - Slice and Dice Anti- Scam Database
  - Witness Testimony
  - Documentation
  - Victims

# Wish List

- Increased Phone Take Downs/Phone Policing by Carriers
- Social Media Sites STEP UP!!!!
- Better Cooperation by All Enforcement Agencies and Companies
- Better Education at all Money Transfer Sites
- Source Information