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warn thousands of consumers about two leading "imposter scams" that last year victimized more than 10,000 New Yorkers.

Sep. 18, 2015



The AARP Fraud Watch Network lit up the phone lines today as part of an effort to warn thousands of consumers about two leading "imposter scams" that last year victimized more than 10,000 New Yorkers.

Borrowing a favorite tactic of con artists, AARP Fraud Watch Network staff and volunteers from New York and New England states joined to operate their own telephone call bank today in Boston. But instead of hearing from crooks, local residents received tips and information on how to protect themselves from "imposter scams." Impersonating police officers, federal agents or financial service companies,

scammers use their “authority” to scare a person into paying them. Or, they pretend

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said Beth Finkel, State Director for AARP in New York State. “That’s why today, we’re turning the tables on them, arming Americans with the information they need so they know what to watch out for.”

In the IRS scam, you receive a phone call from an IRS official ordering you to pay back taxes or face arrest. In the tech support scam, you’re told your computer has a virus and they need remote access to your computer to fix it.

“We’re giving people the facts: The IRS will never call you over the phone and demand payment. Any initial communication will come through the mail,” said Leo Asen, AARP New York State President. “And, Microsoft or other large computer companies will not call you unsolicited asking for access to your computer and demand payment.”

The outbound call effort, sometimes known as a “reverse boiler room” operation, is part of a partnership between the AARP Fraud Watch Network and state Attorney General’s Offices and brings together volunteers from across New York and New England trained in coaching people how to spot and avoid scams.

New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman will be contacting New Yorkers to warn them of the danger of scams and provide both the AARP Fraud Watch Network toll free telephone number to receive scam alerts, 877-908-3360, and his office’s toll-free number to report them, 800-771-7755.

The Fraud Watch Network arms people with the information they need to spot and avoid scams so they can protect themselves and their families. By signing up for the Fraud Watch Network, consumers get access to:

The latest scam alerts, delivered right to your inbox. A scam tracking map featuring warnings from local law enforcement and first-hand accounts of breaking scams from people in your state. The Con Artist Playbook – interviews with con artists who

reveal how they steal your hard-earned money. A fraud hotline you can call to talk to

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