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State Treasurer Dawn Marie Sass Announces Results of Fourth Unclaimed Property EBay Auction

Madison, May, 5, 2008 - Treasurer Dawn Marie Sass announced today the results of the fourth Unclaimed Property Auction on eBay. "I am extremely happy with the results of our fourth eBay auction. Based on the overwhelming response to our auctions we are going to increase the frequency with which they are held," said Sass. "The vaults of the State Treasury contain a wide variety of valuable items that we believe will be of interest to the public, we want to get people into the habit of making visits to the Treasury's eBay site where they know they can purchase unique items from a reliable source."

The auction concluded on Thursday at 6:00 pm with bids from locations in Wisconsin, Texas, Minnesota, Nebraska and Maryland. All of the 37 items up for bid sold totaling \$10,119.02. The highest bid item was for a diamond engagement ring which sold for \$4,383.33.

Under Wisconsin Statute, after 5 years of inactivity, Wisconsin financial institutions are mandated to turn over all the contents of safe deposit boxes to the State Treasurer's office for safekeeping. The Treasurer's Office has 3 years to try and find the owner, then puts the items up for auction. "There is NO time limit for collecting the unclaimed property, so if an heir comes forward, even 10 years from now, and can prove that the pocket watch we auctioned off belonged to their relative, we will give them the money from the sale," said Treasurer Sass.

Currently, the State Treasurer's office has approximately **\$312 million dollars** and **\$43.5 million in securities** that belong to the citizens and businesses of Wisconsin. Unclaimed Property consists of uncashed utility deposits and paychecks, stock certificates, and forgotten bank accounts. There are roughly over one million people in the state who are owed Unclaimed Property. In 2007, the Unclaimed Property program returned **\$24,750,582** and **353,259** shares of stock to Wisconsin businesses and citizens.

To check if you have unclaimed property please go to www.ost.state.wi.us. For more information on the EBay auction results, please contact the Office of the State Treasurer.