

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



BILL SCHUETTE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. Box 30214
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

May 9, 2012

John E. Grenke
Monaghan, P.C.
33 Bloomfield Hills Parkway, Suite 260
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2946

Dear Mr. Grenke:

Re: Veterans of America VOA Foundation – T 46883

The Charitable Trust Section received the Initial Solicitation Registration Form for Veterans of America VOA Foundation on November 22, 2011. The registration form also provided the name “Michigan VOA Foundation” as another name under which the organization intended to solicit. The registration form identified your clients Neil Thrasher and Robert Poulock as trustees—the third trustee was identified as Alexander Doods.

The Charitable Organizations and Solicitations Act (Solicitations Act), MCL 400.271 *et seq.*, provides the charitable solicitation registration requirements in Michigan. MCL 400.275 authorizes the attorney general to examine the registration statement and to register organizations that comply with the Solicitations Act. It states:

(1) The attorney general shall examine the registration statement of a charitable organization that is submitted in proper form and is supported by material information required under this act. If the registration statement and supporting information conforms to the requirements of this act and any rules promulgated under this act, the attorney general shall register the charitable organization, ***unless*** the organization has materially misrepresented or omitted information required or ***the organization has acted or is acting in violation of this act or rules promulgated hereunder.*** [MCL 400.275 (emphasis added)]

Since receiving the registration form, the Charitable Trust Section has received multiple complaints against the Michigan Veterans of America Foundation alleging that it has acted in violation of the Solicitations Act. Specifically, the complaints allege violation of MCL 400.288(m) and (n), which prohibit the following:

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(m) Falsely represent or imply that a person being solicited, or a family member or associate of a person being solicited, has previously made or agreed to make a contribution.

(n) Employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud or obtain money or property from a person by means of a false, deceptive, or misleading pretense, representation, or promise.

We are satisfied with the veracity of the complaints and find that the Veterans of America VOA Foundation “has acted or is acting in violation of [the Solicitations Act].” We **hereby deny** the Veterans of America VOA Foundation’s registration. Veterans of America VOA Foundation—and any other similarly named organizations, such as Michigan VOA Foundation—are **hereby ordered to cease and desist** soliciting in Michigan.

Lastly, your clients have another organization with a pending registration under the Solicitations Act—Children’s Cancer Network. Though we are not now ordering your clients to cease and desist soliciting on behalf of this organization, it may be in your client’s best interests to cease all solicitations in Michigan and refrain from registering any new organizations. If your clients continue soliciting, they may be exposing themselves to possible criminal and civil penalties under the Solicitations Act; penalties include fines and/or jail time.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

William R. Bloomfield
Assistant Attorney General
Charitable Trust Section
Consumer Protection Division
(517) 373-1152

cc: Neil Thrasher
Robert Poulock