



# *in* PURSUIT

The Official Communication of The Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers

24th Annual Conference Edition

April 2015

## President's Message

by K. Scott Abrams, CPA

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Welcome to the Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Training Conference. The Board of Directors has worked diligently on providing a well-rounded conference sharing practical information, networking opportunities and hands-on training. We hope you're able to take advantage of everything the conference has to offer.

Can you recall what you are doing 25 years ago? That would've been back in 1990. This was the timeframe when what was known as the 'Cold War' came to an end between the United States and the Soviet Union. During that year, South Africa frees Nelson Mandela who had been imprisoned for over 27 ½ years. From the entertainment side, The Simpsons debuts on Fox network and becomes an instant hit!

How many of us were involved in Crime Stoppers back in 1990? Did you even have an awareness that Crime Stoppers existed? It was at this time that a group of forward thinking individuals came together to form the Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers. Although the incorporation papers were signed in 1989, formal operations seem to have started in

1990.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these individuals in the development of an organizational structure that didn't exist in many other states at that time. The focus at that time was to initiate and assist local Crime Stoppers programs, coordinate the statewide programmatic issues in

participate with Crime Stoppers organizations at the state, national and international levels. Although lofty goals even at that time, the Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers continues to reach for

this excellence.

At that time, the Crime Stoppers concept would have been in existence for almost 14 years, however, there were only a handful of state organizations. Wisconsin was at the forefront in the development of a coordinated statewide effort in bringing Crime Stoppers organizations together for the purposes of education and networking. Even today, there are approximately 15 states with active state Crime Stoppers organizations.

We are honored to have a number of our Past Presidents with us during

*For Crime Stoppers to succeed another 25 years we must be innovative in our approach to assisting law enforcement.*

## Welcome



## Anonymous Crime Reporting

### President's Message Continued

our conference this weekend. During the Friday evening banquet, we will recognize those in attendance and allow them an opportunity to share their experiences as a leader of the Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers: what was their most significant challenge and what was their most memorable achievement.

Similar to a building project, an organization is based on the foundation and built on over the years in establishing a solid structure. The Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers has been blessed with knowledgeable, unselfish and forward thinking leaders in building a good base for our foundation and we continue to build upon the structure

today. We think we are well positioned to take us to the next 25 years and beyond!

Please join the Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers Board of Directors by joining in the recognition and acknowledgement our past leaders have provided in making our organization one of the best in the country!

Enjoy your conference!

*Scott Abrams*

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# *Congratulations...*



Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers' President, Scott Abrams, was honored with the first Lifetime Achievement Award from Crime Stoppers U.S.A. We are proud of you Scott!



## *Congratulations...*

Green Bay Area Crime Stoppers President Hans Lux was presented with one of 10 Community Quarterback Awards on November 14, 2014. The recipients were recognized for their work in the community. Each Community Quarterback Award winner received a \$4,000 grant for his/her non-profit group and two tickets to the Dec. 28 Packers vs. Detroit Lions game, where they were recognized on the field.

## *Thank you...*

Adams County Crime Stoppers would like to thank the Tavern League of Adams County for their donation. This will help us continue to make our community a safer one. Thank you Tavern League!



Photo of Mike Core Vice President of Tavern League & Mike Baker President of Adams County Crime Stoppers



## *Congratulations...*

...to Sheriff Lukas and Greg Swan! Portage County Crimestoppers President Greg Swan and Sheriff Mike Lukas received a Community Service Recognition Award from the Stevens Point School District for their work with Crimestoppers and their relationship with the District. The two organizations work closely to make the District's schools a safer place, and we certainly appreciate their efforts as well.

# Update regarding proposed legislative changes on a case that was solved by Crime Stoppers

As many of you know, Jeff Kennedy's son John was killed by a hit & run driver in 2011. Mr. Kennedy was a speaker at our conference a few years ago, relating the events of his son's death and the importance of Crime Stoppers. With the assistance of Representative Jacque's has proposed changes in the Hit & Run law in Wisconsin. Below you will find a short note from Mr. Kennedy along with Representative Jacque's information and what he is asking for.

As many of you know my wife, Colleen, and I suffered every parent's nightmare when our oldest child John was killed by a hit and run driver on January 25, 2011. For the past two years we have been working with Andre Jacque, a State Representative from the Green Bay area, on making a change to the current law as noted below. In our opinion this change is necessary to help insure that no other parent has to see the person responsible for killing their child go free due to the loophole in current law. *By Jeff Kennedy*

*RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-1597/2: Duty to stop at the scene of a motor vehicle accident  
the John Michael "Mingo" Kennedy Act*

We will be introducing legislation to close a loophole and clarify the language in Wisconsin's Hit and Run statutes, similar to the reform enacted in the State of Minnesota last legislative session with strong, nearly unanimous, bi-partisan support. Convictions for vehicular homicide charges have been overturned in both Wisconsin and Minnesota due to higher court rulings that existing statute only required a driver to stay at the scene of an accident if it can be proven that they knew they hit a person or vehicle. As a result, defendants have frequently claimed that they were either asleep at the wheel, driving inattentively or drunk as a result of voluntary intoxication and therefore unable to determine exactly what they hit. This was the case with the 2011 hit and run death of John "Mingo" Kennedy, a wheelchair-bound young man from Green Bay, and the impetus for this legislation.

In January of 2011, John Kennedy, 20, and his wheelchair were struck and sent airborne by a truck driver who had just come from having drinks at a Green Bay hotel. According to eyewitness testimony, the driver applied the brakes hard just before impact, drove around John where he landed after impact, stopped nearby for a brief period and observed those responding to the collision from a distance, and drove away as soon as an eyewitness approached the truck. An anonymous tip to the Green Bay police via Green Bay Area Crimes Stoppers that the driver was making repairs at his worksite consistent with damage at the scene of his collision with John Kennedy was key to apprehension of the driver.

The driver was convicted by a jury of his peers for both the hit and run and bail jumping after arrest. At sentencing, the trial judge stated, "You decided, 'It's him or me.' That's what happened that night. And you decided it was going to be you. And you drove off, and left that boy to die." The driver was sentenced to ten years in prison. Unfortunately, the driver was able to argue on appeal that his lawyer was ineffective because he never asserted to the jury that the driver thought he hit a garbage can, and the driver won a new trial. The driver then pleaded no contest in exchange for the prosecution not asking for more prison time than what he had already served (2 years), and is now free.

This bill requires that an operator of a vehicle involved in an accident must reasonably investigate what was struck and, if he or she knows or has reason to know that the accident resulted in personal injury or vehicle damage, must stop at the scene of the accident and provide the information and assistance already required in Wisconsin's hit and run statute. This bill also specifies that a prosecutor is not required to prove that a driver knew that he or she collided with a person or a vehicle driven or attended by a person in a prosecution for a violation of the provision described above, as modified in this bill. "Jacque, Andre"  
[Andre.Jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Andre.Jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov)>

## *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, if an operator of a vehicle is involved in an accident resulting in personal injury or damage to an occupied vehicle, the operator must immediately stop the vehicle at or near the scene of the accident, provide certain information, and render reasonable assistance to any injured person.

Under this bill, an operator of a vehicle involved in an accident must reasonably investigate what was struck and, if he or she knows or has reason to know that the accident resulted in personal injury or vehicle damage, must stop at the scene of the accident and provide the information and assistance described above. This bill also specifies that a prosecutor is not required to allege or prove that an operator knew that he or she collided with a person or a vehicle driven or attended by a person in a prosecution for a violation of the provision described above, as modified in this bill.

# SHEEP, WOLVES & SHEEPDOGS

By Lt. Col Dave Grossman

Most of the people in our society are sheep. They are kind, gentle, productive creatures who can only hurt one another by accident. This is true. Remember, the murder rate is six per 100,000 per year, and the aggravated assault rate is four per 1,000 per year. What this means is that the vast majority of Americans are not inclined to hurt one another.



We may well be in the most violent times in history, but violence is still remarkably rare. This is because most citizens are kind, decent



people who are not capable of hurting each other, except by accident or under extreme provocation. They are sheep.

Then there are the wolves and the wolves feed on the sheep without mercy. Do you believe there are wolves out there who will feed on the flock without mercy? You better believe it. There are evil men in this world and they are capable of evil deeds. The moment you forget that or pretend it is not so, you become a sheep. There is no safety in denial.

Then there are sheepdogs and I'm a sheepdog. I live to protect the flock and confront the wolf. Or, as a sign in one California law enforcement agency put it, We intimidate those who intimidate others.



If you have no capacity for violence then you are a healthy productive citizen: a sheep. If you have a capacity for violence and no empathy for your fellow citizens, then you have defined an aggressive sociopath—a wolf. But what if you have a capacity for violence, and a deep love for your fellow citizens? Then you are a sheepdog, a warrior, someone who is walking the hero's path. Someone who can walk into the heart of darkness, into the universal human phobia, and walk out unscathed.

We know that the sheep live in denial, that is what makes them sheep. They do not want to believe that there is evil in the world. They can accept the fact that fires can happen, which is why they want fire extinguishers, fire sprinklers, fire alarms and fire exits throughout their kids' schools. But many of them are outraged at the idea of putting an armed police officer in their kid's school. Our children are thousands of times more likely to be killed or seriously injured by school violence than fire, but the sheep's only response to the possibility of violence is denial. The idea of someone coming to kill or harm their child is just too hard, and so they chose the path of denial.

The sheep generally do not like the sheepdog. He looks a lot like the wolf. He has fangs and the capacity for violence. The difference, though, is that the sheepdog must not, cannot and will not ever harm the sheep. Any sheep dog who intentionally harms the lowliest little lamb will be punished and removed. The world cannot work any other way, at least not in a representative democracy or a republic such as ours.

Still, the sheepdog disturbs the sheep. He is a constant reminder that there are wolves in the land. They would prefer that he didn't tell them where to go, or give them traffic tickets, or stand at the ready in our

airports, in camouflage fatigues, holding an M-16. The sheep would much rather have the sheepdog cash in his fangs, spray paint himself white, and go, "Baa." Until the wolf shows up. Then the entire flock tries desperately to hide behind one lonely sheepdog.



The students, the victims, at Columbine High School were big, tough high school students, and under ordinary circumstances they would not have had the time of day for a police officer. They were not bad kids; they just had nothing to say to a cop. When the school was under attack, however, and SWAT teams

were clearing the rooms and hallways, the officers had to physically peel those clinging, sobbing kids off of them. This is how the little lambs feel about their sheepdog when the wolf is at the door.

Look at what happened after September 11, 2001 when the wolf pounded hard on the door. Remember how America, more than ever before, felt differently about their law enforcement officers and military personnel? Remember how many times you heard the word hero?

Understand that there is nothing morally superior about being a sheepdog; it is just what you choose to be. Also understand that a sheepdog is a funny critter: He is always sniffing around out on the perimeter, checking the breeze, barking at things that go bump in the night, and yearning for a righteous battle. That is, the young sheepdogs yearn for a righteous battle. The old sheepdogs are a little older and wiser, but they move to the sound of the guns when needed, right along with the young ones.

Here is how the sheep and the sheepdog think differently. The sheep pretend the wolf will never come, but the sheepdog lives for that day. After the attacks on September 11, 2001, most of the sheep, that is, most citizens in America said, "Thank God I wasn't on one of those planes." The sheepdogs, the warriors, said, "Dear God, I wish I could have been on one of those planes. Maybe I could have made a difference." When you are truly transformed into a warrior and have truly invested yourself into warrior-hood, you want to be there. You want to be able to make a difference.

There is nothing morally superior about the sheepdog, the warrior, but he does have one real advantage. Only one. And that is that he is able to survive and thrive in an environment that destroys 98 percent of the population.

There was research conducted a few years ago with individuals convicted of violent crimes. These cons were in prison for serious, predatory crimes of violence: assaults, murders and killing law enforcement officers. The vast majority said that they specifically targeted victims by body language: Slumped walk, passive behavior and lack of awareness. They chose their victims like big cats do in Africa, when they select one out of the herd that is least able to protect itself.

Some people may be destined to be sheep and others might be genetically primed to be wolves or sheepdogs. But I believe that most people can choose which one they want to be, and I'm proud to say that more and more Americans are choosing to become sheepdogs...

Here is the point I like to emphasize, especially to the thousands of police officers and soldiers I speak to each year. In nature the sheep, real sheep, are born as sheep. Sheepdogs are born that way, and so are wolves. They didn't have a choice. But you are not a critter. As a human being, you can be whatever you want to be. It is a conscious, moral decision.

If you want to be a sheep, then you can be a sheep and that is okay, but you must understand the price you pay. When the wolf comes, you and your loved ones are going to die if there is not a sheepdog there to protect you. If you want to be a wolf, you can be one, but the sheepdogs are going to hunt you down and you will never have rest, safety, trust or love. But if you want to be a sheepdog and walk the warrior's path, then you must make a conscious and moral decision every day to dedicate, equip and prepare yourself to thrive in that toxic, corrosive moment when the wolf comes knocking at the door.

This business of being a sheep or a sheep dog is not a yes-no dichotomy. It is not an all-or-nothing, either-or choice. It is a matter of degrees, a continuum. On one end is an abject, head-in-the-sand-sheep and on the other end is the ultimate warrior. Few people exist completely on one end or the other. Most of us live somewhere in between.



Since 9-11 almost everyone in America took a step up that continuum, away from denial. The sheep took a few steps toward accepting and appreciating their warriors, and the warriors started taking their job more seriously. It's okay to be a sheep, but do not kick the sheepdog. Indeed, the sheep dog may just run a little harder, strive to protect a little better and be fully prepared to pay an ultimate price in battle and spirit with the sheep moving from "baa" to "thanks". The degree to which you move up that continuum, away from sheep-hood and denial, is the degree to which you and your loved ones will survive, physically and psychologically at your moment of truth.

We do not call for gifts or freedoms beyond our lot. We just need a small pat on the head, a smile and a thank you to fill the emotional tank which is drained protecting the sheep. And when our number is called by the Almighty, and day retreats into night, a small prayer before the heavens just may be in order to say thanks for letting you continue to be a sheep. And be grateful for the thousands, millions of American sheepdogs who permit you the freedom to express even bad ideas.

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