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The Official Communication of The Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers

April 2018

President's Message

by K. Scott Abrams, CPA, CGMA

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Crime Stoppers has been an effective crime-fighting tool assisting law enforcement agencies since 1976. This success can be evaluated by looking at the statistics from around the United States and in Wisconsin. During that time, there have been 716,000 arrests and over 1,062,000 cleared cases in the United States while here in Wisconsin, local Crime Stoppers programs have been involved in over 13,800 arrests and 14,700 cleared cases!

other law enforcement officers not associated or familiar with Crime Stoppers.

This is a serious breach in the basic tenets and Crime Stoppers operations and potentially violating the integrity for all Crime Stoppers organizations! Best practices call for Crime Stoppers organizations acquire and maintain a separate Crime Stoppers phone line that has no identifying information included, such as caller ID or an answering machine. The Crime Stoppers organization should be receiving and paying the associated phone bill for the tip taking line. Since we want to accept anonymous tips on a 24/7 basis, the organization should look into acquiring a service that answers Crime Stoppers tip calls, such as Alternative Answers or Crime Scene Information, which are reasonably priced. If that is unacceptable, leaving an outgoing message to inform the tipster what hours of operation are available to call in anonymous tips.

With the advent of electronic services, text messaging, web tips and smart phone tip applications, the ability to keep the tipster anonymous is extremely viable and cost-effective. With these means of two-way communications and maintaining the anonymity of the tipster, there should be no reason a Crime Stoppers program should be seeking a name from an informant. Ever!

In many cases, when we reached out to these local programs currently seeking a tipsters name, it is being done based on lack of knowledge of how Crime Stoppers operates. For example, there may have been staffing changes over the years with different program Coordinators and the best practice of not asking for a name from the tipster just wasn't passed along to the new Coordinator. This exemplifies the need to maintain appropriate job descriptions, checklists and the standard operating procedures so this information can be handed down upon transition from one Coordinator to another.

Crime Stoppers has been successful for over 40 years. Please maintain the appropriate standards and best practices so Crime Stoppers will be here for generations to come making our communities safe and secure for everyone!

These are astounding results. The success has been predicated upon maintaining the anonymity of the tipster and offering rewards to eligible tipsters. As you may recall, Crime Stoppers has been so successful in obtaining information through anonymous means appealing to the public where once there was apathy, fear of reprisals and lack of confidence in law enforcement. Therefore, the integrity of the program is focused primarily on the anonymity of individuals providing information to Crime Stoppers. This has been the cornerstone of Crime Stoppers!

Recently, Crime Stoppers USA has received complaints and comments involving breach of that anonymity. There have been reports that some Crime Stoppers organizations are now asking for the tipster's name. Another common complaint is that some Crime Stoppers programs are using answering devices during off hours or when no one is in the Crime Stoppers office. In other cases, some tipsters have mentioned that the Crime Stoppers tip line is being answered by the law enforcement agencies dispatch or

Crime Stoppers has been successful for over 40 years.



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Crime Stoppers Program Spotlight

Wood County Crime Stoppers

Founded: 1999
Population Served: 74,000
Average Monthly Tips: 35 (Includes Quick 50)
Tip Methods: Text / Web / Telephone

Wood County Crime Stoppers partners with seven different law enforcement agencies to serve its community which includes the cities of Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids. The program has come up with some unique ways of letting the community know about them beyond the limited newspaper and radio coverage. Some of these opportunities come in developing partnerships with other organizations such as the Marshfield Area Coalition of Youth (MACY) to spread information about both organizations.

This past year Wood County Crime Stoppers purchased some promotional items that included water bottles, Frisbees, can coolers, fly swatters, mini sewing kits and beach balls...all items that would be useful to campers. The Wood County Reserve Deputies each have a box with these promotional items in their vehicles and as they drive through the county parks during the summer months, the items are distributed. We have found that giving out the items is a great opportunity for reserve deputies to interact with people in the local parks/campgrounds.

The organization continues to enjoy the success of their popcorn bags. Wood County Crime Stoppers (WCCS) purchases the popcorn bags with our logo on them and then they are given to the schools and other local organizations to use at their sporting or other community events. They have expanded the reach of their bags by recently partnering with MACY. MACY purchased some logo stickers (this was more cost effective than having the bags printed with two different colored logos) and they placed their stickers on the opposite side of the popcorn bags and then MACY gave out free popcorn at the Central Wisconsin State Fair. Another local organization also partnered with WCCS to use the popcorn bags at a Labor Day event.



WCCS also helps to distribute educational coloring books through the schools and youth groups. The books cover many different topics from how to deal with bullying, drugs, alcohol, bus and bicycle safety. Their latest topic of "When to Call 911" will be handed out to school tours of the new central dispatch facility.



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The most recent accomplishment of the organization is receiving approval to post magnetic signage in their local buses, which took multiple attempts to accomplish. WCCS is hoping to expand this in the future to local cab companies or possibly utility companies.

"They Don't Make Board Members Like They Use To" *Thank You to John Janquet*

Green Bay Area Crime Stoppers

The Green Bay Area Crime Stoppers said good bye to John Janquet on December 31, 2017. It was hard to think that after 30 years of service to the GBACS we would not see John's face at our monthly meetings.

John was involved in starting the Green Bay Area Crime Stopper organization in 1987. He and several other community members worked with the Director of Crime Prevention from the Green Bay Police department to establish the program. Together they brought citizens, media, and law enforcement together to help solve and prevent future crimes by supporting a 24 tip line and paying rewards for information which lead to an arrest. John has served as the president, VP, treasurer and secretary for the organization.

John is the only original member left of those who started the program in 1987. During the past 30 years the tip line

has resulted in hundreds of arrests from warrants to homicides. Thousands of dollars have been rewarded to individuals that have given information the police didn't have to solve a crime.

As time went on, John was instrumental in moving beyond the 24 hour tip line, supporting a website, purchasing tip software and moving to a call center away from the police dispatch center.

John has done it all; by holding all the offices at one time or another, securing reward money from the community, making many presentations to local organizations, and meeting with the heads of area Law Enforcement. John will be missed for his history of the program, his ability to mediate discussions, and his true commitment to making his community a safer one. We wish John and his wife Kathy many wonderful years of retirement as they bike down the many bike trails in the USA. Thanks John!

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