



IN PURSUIT



The Official
Communication of
the Wisconsin State
Crime Stoppers



April 2012 Issue

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www.wicrimestoppers.org

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President's Message by K. Scott Abrams, CPA, FHFMA

Greetings fellow Crime Stoppers to the 21st Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers Annual Meeting and Training Conference! The Conference Committee has been working very hard throughout the year to provide you with the highest quality and most effective training in order for your program In Making a Difference - Generating Success! Take advantage of the training sessions provided during this conference that will help propel your organization to the next level.

One of the areas I find fascinating about Crime Stoppers is that the local boards are always regenerating board members on a continual basis. No board is static, and as someone may have to leave the board for a personal or professional reason, it is incumbent upon the local board to find a satisfactory replacement. It is necessary for each local board to have an adequate nominating committee and qualification process in order to screen appropriate candidates to fill these board positions, considering your local boards skill set needs and your communities demographics and ethnicity.

However, my focus is on this continual rotation we have in board members throughout our local programs. As we look at our registration list for our Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers training conference, we see approximately 60% of the same people from the year before. That means we have over 40% turnover of new people each year. Considering the math, that means we have a completely new audience every three years! I'm assuming you're seeing a 30% to 40% turnover on your local community boards as well. How does this affect your local program?

It means that if you want to continue having productive and effective board meetings while meeting your organizational goals, you must continually educate your board members on what Crime Stoppers is and what you're trying to accomplish. In order to have a successful organization, everyone must be in line with the organizational vision, mission, values and organizational objectives. Does your organization provide some type of orientation program as new board members join your local Crime Stoppers organization? This is a simple way to engage new board members and have them be key participants beginning with

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Crime Doesn't Pay...
Solving It Does



We Want Your
Information,
Not Your Name

President's Message (continued)

their first board meeting! And it doesn't have to be something long or elaborate. I have seen very effective orientation sessions conducted over a breakfast or lunch in sharing the basic concept of Crime Stoppers and how it works.

Our Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers annual training conference offers a wide variety of training that will fit the needs for individuals attending their first conference or those that have been here for many years. Take it from someone that has been attending Crime Stoppers conferences for almost 30 years, I have learned something from each and every conference I attend! Please take home and share what you have learned during this conference.

Visit their website at:

www.c-s-i.org/index2.html



www.crimestoppersusa.com



Chairman's Message - K. Scott Abrams, CPA, FHFMA **Reprinted from the Crime Stoppers USA – The Informer**

Recently, there was an article written about Crime Stoppers that appeared in an online publication called *The Daily*. The article was not necessarily complimentary to all the wonderful work and value that all of our local Crime Stoppers provides in their communities. If you have not seen the article as of yet, you may look at it from this website link:

<http://www.thedaily.com/page/2012/03/05/030512-news-crimestoppers-1-3/>

Apparently, numerous Crime Stoppers programs were contacted by their local media to provide their perspective on the article and seeking a response. Some local programs contacted Crime Stoppers USA for our perspective. The way I look at it, from every adversity comes an opportunity. The opportunity in this case is that media is coming to us and asking for our message! How often do we have this opportunity where the media comes to us and we can share our message!

Here are a few points to keep in mind when you talk to the media about your local Crime Stoppers program. First, focus on your long-standing charitable organization that partners with law enforcement agencies in resolving outstanding crimes and apprehending criminals. This is also an excellent opportunity to share your statistics with the media discussing how many crimes may have solved and the types of crimes solved.

A lot of focus in the above referenced article centered on the relationship between fundraising and the amount of rewards paid by the local Crime Stoppers organizations. It is important to pull out your bylaws and look at your stated purpose for your organization. In almost all the Crime Stoppers organizations, crime prevention, scholastic programs as well as resolving outstanding crimes are the main purposes of our organizations. Again, more great information to share with the media! The majority of expenses your organization undertakes most likely directly relate to these key purposes in your bylaws, which are allowable charitable expenses for a tax exempt organization. Rewards are a big focus of Crime Stoppers organizations, but it is not our only focus. One caution, however, is when your organization undertakes fundraising events, state that the event is funding all the various activities your organization supports through its efforts and expenses.

Finally, don't forget to mention all the wonderful work that is done by the many volunteers that govern and operate your local Crime stoppers organization. It is only through their the time, talent and treasures that these individuals provide to the organization allowing it to continue and meet its goals and objectives.

Remember, you can look at talking to the media as a curse or an opportunity. I would advocate that this is your best opportunity to talk about and get your Crime Stoppers name in front of the public. When you talk with the media, share with them what you do, how you've done, and who's doing it!

Hans Lux, Jr. Elected State Crime Stoppers Board Member

Hans was elected as a Civilian member of the Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers Board at the April 2011 conference. He has spent most of his life in Law Enforcement, starting out as a Police Aide with the Wauwatosa Police Department in 1974. His career also included time with the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department and with the Eagle Police Department, where he retired after serving 21 years as its Police Chief in 2004. Later that year, he became Communications Supervisor for Brown County Public Safety, a position he held until his second retirement in June of 2011. He has since returned to that position on a part-time basis, as they have been unable to fill the position. In September of 2008, Hans was asked to serve on the board of Green Bay Area Crime Stoppers. He was elected as its President in 2010 and also serves as the Tip Soft Coordinator for crime tips coming into Brown County.

Hans is a Past President and life member of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association and also a life member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Management of Criminal Justice from Concordia University and is also a graduate of the Southern Police Institute's Command Officers Development Course at the University of Louisville. He also served as Lead Supervisor of ground security for the Summerfest grounds in Milwaukee from 2000 to 2006, and part of the Emergency Response Team for the grounds from 1996 to 2006. He presently lives in Green Bay with his wife Beth and their six adopted children from China, ages 7 to 12 years of age.



**Stay involved with Crime Stoppers as much as you
expect your communities to stay involved!**



WANTED!

GOLFERS!

FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL WINNEBAGO COUNTYWIDE
CRIME STOPPERS GOLF TOURNAMENT
18 HOLE FOUR-PERSON SCRAMBLE
LAKE BREEZE GOLF COURSE IN WINNECONNE
SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2012
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 1 PM
SHOTGUN START AT 2PM

\$250 FOR FOUR GOLFERS
INCLUDES 18 HOLES, CART, FOOD, AND THE CHANCE TO WIN MANY GREAT PRIZES
RAFFLE TO FOLLOW TOURNAMENT

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
www.winnebagocrimestoppers.org

OR CALL (920) 236-5742

P.O Box 1130 Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54903-1130 (920) 236-5742 Fax: (920) 236-5743

ANONYMOUS CRIME LINE • (920) 231-TIPS (8477) or TEXT: IGOTYA "plus your message" to 274637 (CRIMES)

WISCONSIN STATE CRIME STOPPERS, INC.

WISCONSIN STATE CRIME STOPPERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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