



in PURSUIT

The Official Communication of The Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers

December 2014

President's Message

by K. Scott Abrams, CPA

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INSERTS INCLUDE

Conference Sponsorship Form

Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers conducted another successful training conference this past April at the Chula Vista Resort. The educational sessions provided some thought-provoking discussions encouraged by the presenters while providing the participants with timely and relevant training which could be shared with their local programs implementing immediate improvements. Thank you for all that participated in this year's conference in making it a successful event. Plans are well underway by your WSCS Board of Directors for next year's conference which will take place from April 23-25, 2015, once again at the Chula Vista Resort. Mark your calendars now!

A common theme that continues to be prevalent with almost every Crime Stoppers board is how to maintain significant interest in the organization while encouraging active participation from all board members. Certainly strong leadership plays a significant role in guiding the interest of the organization and its board members which can be bolstered by following

some simple principles.

First, do all board members understand the commitment of being a Crime Stoppers board member? Usually this can be best shared with a board member through a signed Board Member Commitment Form. This document will simply identify certain expectations from each board member including board attendance, preparing for board and committee

meetings, serving on required committees, personally contributing to the organization, remaining informed about the organization's mission, vision and operations, and suggesting new board members from the community. Without a

strong commitment from a board member, an individuals continued participation on the board may be questionable and action may be necessary.

Maintaining a board members interest is tangential to ensuring the board member feels valued. It is imperative to provide each board member meaningful activities in support of the organization. Obviously, this may be different for each board member as they bring different talents and resources to the

"Create an environment that will utilize each and every board member's talents and resources to help propel your organization to the next level in meeting the success and safety in your community!"

Crime Doesn't Pay. . Solving It Does!



We Want Your Information, Not Your Name!

President's Message Continued

board table. The leadership should identify these readily upon a board member joining the Crime Stoppers organization as to bring these talents to the forefront and use as quickly as possible. If you don't know, ask board member what makes them feel their time is meaningful to the board and ensure their talents and skills are put to use in active committees. Not surprisingly, the primary reason why board members become inactive on a board is that they didn't feel their time and/or talent was valued by the organization!

How does a Crime Stoppers board make the best use of its time? There are many time management strategies, but a few simple tips might be to: always have an agenda and purpose for each meeting; promptly start meetings on time and stick to the agenda; require written committee reports so as not to have the committee do its work while reporting in the board meeting; topics coming up during the board meeting requiring additional work should be delegated to a committee with the report back to the board; consistently create and keep clear and concise minutes for each meeting; and utilize Roberts Rules of Order. By following these few simple steps, board members will prepare for each board meeting based on the agenda topics and actively participate in the board meeting. Having committee reports sharing their findings and conclusions

leading to motions and approvals will assist the organization moving forward in a timely fashion.

Finally, to gain the pulse of the full board on whether the organization is achieving its expectations and value of the board members time and resources, an annual or bi-annual board member assessment is a helpful tool in identifying whether these needs are met. Based on this assessment information, the leadership may modify its approach and structure ensuring that organizational board needs are met going forward. There are simple documents that the WSCS has accumulated over the years which have been provided in the thumb drive provided to each participant at our annual conference. If this is a tool that you may be interested in utilizing, please contact me and I will share this information with you.

Everyone wants to feel that their time and talents are being utilized appropriately and to the best advantage of the organization. Sometimes the easiest way to find out if you are meeting these expectations is to ask the board. Create an environment that will utilize each and every board member's talents and resources to help propel your organization to the next level in meeting the success and safety in your community!



25 Years and Counting

Save the Dates!
**2015 Annual Wisconsin
State Crime Stoppers Conference**

Theme: 25 Years and Counting

April 23 - 25th 2015

Chula Vista Resort

www.chulavistaresort.com

Guarantee Room Reservation Deadline: April 19th

Conference Session Highlights include:

- Technology Tutoring Session
- "Smarter, Faster, Better: Using Data Visualization to Drive Intelligence-Led Policing"
- Motivating Boards, Diversity and Recruitment of Qualified Board Members
- "I'm Supposed To Do What?" – Coordinator Roles & Responsibilities
- Computer Crimes Overview
- How to Get Your Info Out! Social Media; Cam, Web, YouTube, Google Hangout
- What Should Happen When The Tip Phone Rings? How to Develop Tipster Info!



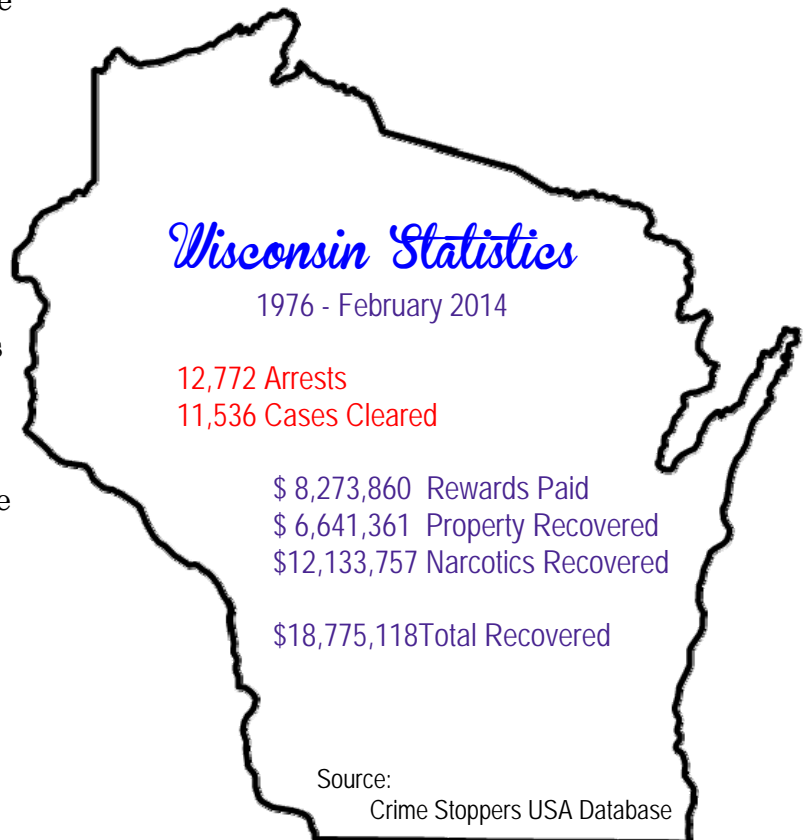
Text-A-Tip Goes to School

By Lynee Lamson

Students will see a new campaign at Adams-Friendship High School this year, one that encourages them to help make their community a safer place. Students Stopping Crime represents a partnership between the school and Adams County Crime Stoppers, Inc., with the primary goal of giving students the tools to take responsibility for their school and community. “Kids know what’s going on,” said Jeff Wiessinger, Associate Principal at A-F High School. “I have found that when students take ownership of their school, they take responsibility.” “This is a new partnership,” explained Mike Baker, President of Adams County Crime Stoppers. “We are offering a subtle approach, we want to make text-a-tip familiar.” Teaching the value of being a good citizen, a solid member of the community is the emphasis, according to both Wiessinger and Baker.

The program will be rolled out in several different ways, including posters, labels on concessions at sporting events and possibly a video contest. “We may look at putting together a core group of students interested in law enforcement,” Wiessinger noted. Students are encouraged to approach a trusted teacher or school staff member with concerns or information about criminal or unacceptable behavior, such as bullying. Through the Crime Stoppers-A-F High School partnership, teachers and staff should respond in a safe, consistent manner when approached by students with concerns.

Crime Stoppers, with support from a few area businesses, launched the text-a-tip program approximately two years ago. The program, which has been very successful, allows anyone in the community, including the students, to provide information about suspected non-urgent criminal activity, while remaining anonymous. Tips submitted online or via text are routed out of state through a secure server to provide the confidentiality of the reporting party. The system is used by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Tips may be submitted online through the Adams County Sheriff’s Department website, adamsso.com or by texting “CRIMES” (274637) with the keyword “ADAMS”.



WSCS \$FINANCIALS\$ COMPLIANCE

K. Scott Abrams, CPA, CGMA, FHFMA

During our most recently conducted Crime Stoppers USA annual meeting and training conference, a simple tip was shared that may save your organization from losing its tax-exempt, charitable status. In previous issues of *'In Pursuit'* it has been reported identifying certain requirements and deadlines with respect to filing the annual informational return, more commonly referred to as Form 990, Form 990-EZ or Form 990-N. Every board member of the local Crime Stoppers organization has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure it meets all local, state and federal requirements. So how can you check to see if your local program is in compliance with the Internal Revenue Service?

Here is a simple way to check and see if your local program is in compliance and eligible to hold itself out as a tax-exempt, charitable organization able to receive donations from the public. Follow these simple steps to check on the status of your organization:

Go to the Internal Revenue Service website at www.irs.gov.

In the search box in the upper right-hand corner of the IRS homepage, type in: EO Select Check and enter.

The search results should list at the top 'EO Select Check', so click on this item.

This will take you to the IRS EO Select Check page. At the bottom of the page you will see a blue box with the title 'Exempt Organizations Select Check Tool.' Click on the blue box.

Now, you want to select one of the search options available. If you want to choose whether the organization is up-to-date and able to accept tax-deductible charitable contributions, click on the radio dial check box where it states 'Are eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions.' (We will discuss the other options a little later).

Once you click on this check box, a drop-down box requesting additional information will appear. It is not necessary to fill out the entire list of information, but type in 'Crime Stoppers' (or Crime Solvers, Silent Witness as the case may be for your organization) in the organization name, your city and state should provide you with the information you need. Once entered, click on the 'Search' in the bottom left-hand corner of the page.

On the next page, you should be able to locate your local Crime Stoppers program. On the far right-hand side of that page, it lists the Deductibility Status. If you are a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization, you should see the initials 'PC' which indicates you are a public charity and able to accept tax-deductible contributions. If your organization was registered as a foundation, you may see the initials 'PF', which still allows for public donations, but there are different restrictions on how much an individual can claim on their tax return.

So if you got this far and you found your organization has a 'PC' or 'PF' status, your organization is currently allowed to accept tax-deductible donations from the public. What if you can't find your organization under this method? Go back to the Exempt Organiza-

tions Select Check page and you may want to select the radio dial of 'Were Automatically Revoked' and then type in your Crime Stoppers name, city and state and then click on 'Select.' If your organization comes up under this listing, these are tax exempt organizations that neglected to file a tax information return, either the Form 990, Form 990 EZ or Form 990-N, for three consecutive years. If this is the case, you need to take immediate steps to regain your tax exempt charitable status in order to legally accept tax-deductible donations. Unfortunately, in some cases, this may require an organization to complete a new Form 1023 - Application for Tax-Exempt Charitable Status.

In researching this topic for the conference, it appears there are over 900 organizations that utilize the name of Crime Stoppers in their title throughout the US. In conducting a tangential search of Crime Stoppers programs that were automatically revoked due to the non-filing of the annual 990 informational returns, the number totaled approximately 275, or 30% of the Crime Stoppers programs in the United States. **In Wisconsin, it appears that 13 programs may not be in compliance!** However, within that number are numerous organizations that may have changed their name or had discontinued operations within their community for one reason or another. Unfortunately, there are a number of programs within the list that have had their tax exempt, charitable status revoked that are currently in operation. Please make sure that your organization is not one of those programs on the revocation list.

Again, what does it mean to lose your tax-exempt, charitable status?

The organization may be subject to federal and state corporate taxation.

Loss of the state sales tax exemption.

Unable to accept donations from individuals or businesses were expecting to take a deduction on their tax returns.

Many other benefits extended to tax-exempt charitable organizations on the federal and state level.

It is every board members fiduciary responsibility to make sure that the organization is in compliance with all local, state and federal requirements. In addition to asking questions at the board meeting of the treasurer or others responsible for these functions, you may utilize the information above to check on your organization's tax-exempt, charitable status. The charitable status and receiving tax-deductible donations is usually the primary funding mechanism for many local Crime Stoppers organizations. Don't lose your tax-exempt, charitable status!

An Incentive for Tips Leading to an Arrest:

Racine Officials Hoping to Put an End to Rash of Robberies

Giving cash...to fight crooks. Racine business owners are reaching into their own pockets — hoping it will extend the long arm of the law. There's an effort underway to advertise an anonymous tip line to combat a rash of robberies. It's an effort that has been going on for more than a week, but in order for it to work, a group needs to get the word out — and they're doing it, one slip of paper at a time. Over the past 10 days or so, a Racine grocery store has been giving something to its customers for free. Businesses are passing out thousands of flyers advertising cash for people willing to help police solve a rash of robberies. "Store owners and tavern owners alike have provided some donations. Up to \$7,000 for this particular rash of crime going on," Scott Abrams said. Abrams, with Crime Stoppers of Racine County hopes the additional money offered for tips leading to an arrest will help solve the 12 tavern robberies since March. "I believe seven convenience store robberies in that time. (Business owners) are really getting the word out on their own, which really helps us," Racine Police Sgt. Jessie Metoyer said. Sgt. Metoyer says there are a handful of other crimes targeting local businesses as well. Police have made arrests on some — but not all. "We will take any assistance we can get," Sgt. Metoyer said.

The most serious robbery was the one that took the life of 47-year-old Joseph Walker. A bullet hole could be seen inside the American Legion Tavern where it happened. Walker's killer has yet to be found. This campaign to help police is called "Stop the Madness." "We do think it's madness. There are people not going out at night to taverns so the Tavern League got involved," Abrams said. The hope of business owners and police is that cash incentives will ring up tips that will lead to arrests. "We'll get these bad guys off the street. That's what it's all about," Abrams said.

By Jeremy Ross, Fox 6 Now

Adams County

MOST WANTED

Facebook Page

Social media makes it easy to connect with people all around the world. Now, it's also making it easier for local law enforcement to connect with the public, connect with other officers, and connect with criminals; nabbing some of the "Most Wanted."

"Traditionally, what we had here set up for CrimeStoppers was an answering machine in our administration office. We were averaging probably two to three messages a year" says Adams County Sheriff Sam Wollin. "We didn't have a lot of public awareness."

Digital-age technology means officers are no longer confined to posting in courthouses. Sites like Facebook and Twitter provide a fast and larger audience than ever before.

"I was in college when Facebook took a boom and I never thought law enforcement would be using it or to connect to the community or using it in investigations" says Adams County Deputy Joe LeBreck, fights crime, daily, in front of a computer.

"Our Facebook page is reaching over 33 countries, 23 languages, almost every state in the U.S." says LeBreck.

The Adams County Sheriff's Department is among many local law enforcement agencies boosting its social media presence to make streets and neighborhoods a little bit safer.

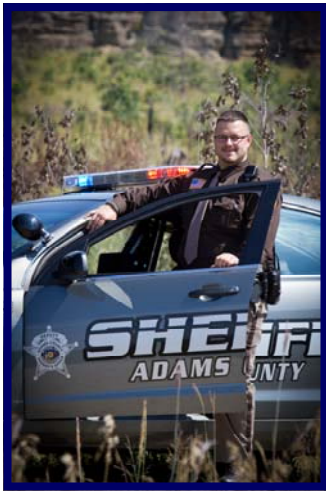
"I think the change in technology and taking advantage of that technology has taken a significant role" says Sheriff Wollin. "People don't want their face out there. They don't want their image out there on Facebook. Some have said in the past, 'hey I'm going to report in, just take my picture off your website.'"

With over 800 million daily active users on Facebook, it's a dual effort between the public and officer.

"As law enforcement, we can only be in some many places at one time. But, the more people we have working with us and the more information we have out there for people to help us, the more successful we're going to be" says Sheriff Wollin.

Welcome

New Board Members



Deputy Joe LeBreck

has been employed by the Adams County Sheriff's Office for 5 (1/2) years. Prior to working in Adams County, Joe worked for the City of Pittsville, WI Police Department and U.S. Department of Homeland Security as a Community Relations Officer with FEMA.

Since Sheriff Wollin has taken office in 2011, Joe has received training in community oriented policing and problem solving. Joe has worked with community programs such as Adams County Crime Stoppers and Adams County Neighborhood Watch. Joe is on the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers and the End of Watch Memorial Golf

Outing and a Member of the Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association.

As of March of 2014, Joe was selected for the newly created dual assignment serving as Court Security / Community Policing Officer for the Sheriff's Office. Joe now works with County leaders to deployment and implementation of new security plans. Joe also oversees the sheriff's office social media and Community Police and Crime Prevention Programs.

Deputy Joe Nichols

has been in Law Enforcement over 20 years. He began in Menomonee Falls and is currently working in Oshkosh. Joe has been a crash reconstructionist, federal motor carrier inspector, firearms instructor, field technician and currently holds the position of Crime Prevention Officer and Public Information Officer at Oshkosh PD. Joe has been married for 27 years! He has three daughters, two grandchildren (third on the way this month) and two dogs.



END BULLYING IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY

By Maria Reuter

Winnebago CountyWide Crime Stoppers saw a need to get involved and help our young people, as too many are being bullied and too many have committed suicide due to being bullied. This is a big problem and has reached epidemic proportions, especially with the use of electronic technologies. The use of social media, which is faceless, is taking a lead role to bully the victim by Texting, E-mail, Facebook, U-tube, Snapchat, Instagram, to mention a few, this is known as Cyber-bullying. Bullying and Cyber-bullying is a crime. Words hurt deeply, and, affects the victim mentally and emotionally throughout their life. The use of the internet brings a lot of power to the abuser. It is very easy to lose empathy when the bully does not see or look at the face of the person they are writing about or sending the message to. Growing up is tough enough without being bullied. Being bullied overwhelms the child and they cannot deal with the pressure.

Therefore, Winnebago CountyWide Crime Stoppers took on this challenge to find a way to help our young people, to help them feel safe and have a safe environment in their school. We also wanted to help our PSLO's, Law Enforcement and school administration with additional tools to do their job to help the victims of bullying/cyberbullying as well as work with the bully.

We met with the School Administration and PSLO's to discuss what Crime Stoppers would like to do to help them and our children. We received support from everyone and from that point we worked on an Anti-bully/cyberbully program. After developing a program, it was decided to attach it to the Quick 50 Program currently in the schools, as the students and Administration are familiar with the program. We implemented the new Anti-bully/cyberbully program into five pilot schools to test the program and monitor it. The five pilot schools embraced this program and introduced the program to the students, by having a day set aside to address and inform the students about the program, and the effects of bullying and cyberbullying. This program is also an awareness program, for the students to look out for their peers. If they witness or know about a bully/cyberbully situation, we ask them to be the hero, do not walk away, and do not join in, to stand up, report it, to do something.

While working on the Student program, we also worked with the Cities of Menasha, Neenah, Oshkosh and Winnebago County on an AntiBully/cyberbully Ordinance. Now, all of Winnebago County has the Anti-bully/cyberbully Ordinance. This Ordinance gives the Law Enforcement another tool to work with to curb bullying.

After testing the program in the Pilot Schools for a year, it was determined that our program is having an impact in the schools. An awareness, by the students, that "Bullying" is unacceptable, has started to make an impact. Based on this information, we decided to move forward and place our program in all Public Middle and High Schools throughout Winnebago County. New Quick 50 Posters, including No Bullying info, were developed for the schools. Along with this, we also developed a new Quick 50 and AntiBully/ CyberBully brochure for the students, PSLO's and School Administration. This brochure has been distributed to all students, approximately 14,000, in the schools. We are also meeting with the private schools in the County to bring them on board with our program, which looks promising. Lourdes Middle and High School in Oshkosh and St. Mary Middle and High School in Neenah are interested in joining. Additional School Bus Companies have come on board with our training for their drivers relating with handling bullying on the buses. The classes are conducted for the school bus drivers by Crime Prevention Officers.

Winnebago CountyWide Crime Stoppers is pleased with the results of our program and, will continue to move forward to make all students aware that bullying is unacceptable.



2014 State Conference

at



Photos by Lloyd Brueggeman



Big Thanks to our 2014 State Conference Sponsors



Encore
Productions



About



Board of Directors

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Committees:

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Committees: In Pursuit Newsletter

Board Member

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Board Member

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Board Member

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Committees:

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Madison, WI 53701-0964

www.WICrimeStoppers.org

www.Facebook.com/WiCrimeStop

Send Articles to:

Lt. David Livingston
Altoona Police Department
1904 Spooner Avenue
Altoona, WI 54720
Email: davidl@ci.altoona.wi.us



**WISCONSIN STATE
CRIMESTOPPERS CONFERENCE**

**Chula Vista Resort
Wisconsin Dells**

APRIL (23) 24 & 25, 2015

**“25 Years...and Counting!”
Celebrating 25 Years**

PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$2500

Recognition at all conference events, including but not limited to:

- Technology training session, Thursday evening
- Networking event, Thursday evening
- Opening ceremony Friday morning
- Banquet Friday night
- Business meeting Saturday morning

Recognition on WSCS website (business name, address, logo, with link to your website for all of 2015)

Full page article and/or ad in WSCS newsletter (conference edition and early bird edition)

Recognition on conference agenda (full business name and logo in header of each page)

Signage in general session meeting room for the entire conference to include the banquet

May address group at conference (5 minutes) or send script for the President to read, at opening ceremony or the banquet

Opportunity to include materials/gifts in the conference tote bag

Receive WSCS newsletter (In Pursuit) for 2015

Complimentary vendor table for entire conference (includes all conference meals for one person and one extra guest ticket for banquet)

GOLD SPONSOR - \$1000

- Recognition at opening ceremony
- Recognition on website (business name and logo for 6 months)
- Half page ad in conference edition of WSCS newsletter
- Recognition on conference agenda (full business name and logo in footer of second and subsequent pages)
- Signage in the general session room
- Complimentary vendor table for entire conference
- Conference registration which includes all meals and banquet for one

SILVER SPONSOR - \$500

- Listed as break sponsor on WSCS website for six months
- Quarter page ad in conference edition of WSCS newsletter
- Recognition as a "break sponsor" at all conference breaks, to include signage

BRONZE SPONSOR - \$250

- Recognition on sponsorship page of the conference edition WSCS newsletter
- Donations will go towards offsetting costs of: lanyards, conference folders, printing and other miscellaneous conference expenses

SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

- PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORSHIP - \$2500
- GOLD LEVEL SPONSORSHIP - \$1000
- SILVER LEVEL SPONSORSHIP - \$500
- BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORSHIP - \$250

Logo **MUST** be provided by March 23, 2015

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____
Company Name: _____
Billing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____ Website: _____

Make Checks Out to "Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers"

Mail registration and check to:

Treasurer Bob Berndt
2613 Hoeschler Drive
Lacrosse, Wisconsin 54601

If Paying by Credit Card

Card number: _____
Verification Code or value: _____
Expiration date: _____
Card holder's billing ZIP code: _____

If you have any questions you can contact either:

Joseph Lebreck at: joseph.lebreck@co.adams.wi.us
Beverly Ghiloni at: dghil@charter.net