



# IN PURSUIT



## The Official Communication of The Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers



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### President's Message by K. Scott Abrams, CPA, CGMA

The Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers Board of Directors welcomes everyone to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and Training Conference! We trust you will find that the information, networking and experiences you encounter during the next several days will allow you and your organization to propel to success.

An issue confronting many of our local Crime Stoppers programs, including my own, involves whether the Crime Stoppers organization is still relevant within our community. By that I mean, is your local Crime Stoppers program having a significant and demonstrable bearing on the success and safety within your community. Certainly, our statistics have a bearing on our relevancy, but is our information getting out to those that need to know?

With that in mind, the WSCS Board of Directors prepared an agenda with topics around the theme of '#R We Thr Yet?' Of course, this shares the technological and social media wave that many of our Crime Stoppers programs are experiencing. In addition, how do we maintain our board integrity while meeting the needs of our board members and community? Therefore, we attempted to provide topics at this year's conference to assist with your local boards needs in terms of board members and coordinators while emphasizing the current culture and trends of social media.

A question you might ask is, how do we know when we are there in meeting the needs of the community and being relevant (#R We Thr Yet?)? Obviously, planning and goal setting is a very critical process that each Crime Stoppers program should undertake from time to time, perhaps every two years, to make sure they are staying the appropriate course.

One easy way to determine whether you are on course is through the use of an acronym that I have utilized throughout my professional career, which is RUMBA. This acronym stands for: Relevant, Understandable, Manageable, Behavioral and Achievable. Goals and objectives should be created and monitored utilizing the elements around this acronym.

**Relevant:** Relates the goals and objectives to the identified needs, mission and goals of the organization.

**Understandable:** Make sure everyone reading the objectives can relate to what is to be accomplished.

**Manageable:** Ensure the indicators identified as easily measureable. Have systems in place to easily measure them.

**Behavioral:** Associating a objectives with appropriate action words to describe the desired behavioral outcome. (Continued on Page 2)

Crime Doesn't Pay. . .  
Solving It Does



We Want Your  
Information,  
Not Your Name!

**President's Message  
(continued)**

Achievable: Make sure the goal is realistic and that it can be successfully accomplished.

Finally, make sure the goal is written with enough specificity and has a timeline that a committee or an individual can be held accountable for the accomplishment of the goal and/or objective. If there is no accountability attached to a goal, there is less likelihood of it being accomplished. Of course, following up at the expected timeframe should be undertaken by the board. See the 'Figure 1' at the bottom of this page for a suggested manner in formatting the goals.

By following this simple method, your organization can produce effective and meaningful goals to keep your organization on track, make sure remain relevant in your community and achieve success and safety in your community!

**WSCS BIG Raffle**

The Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers is conducting a **BIG** raffle at the conclusion of the conference. The first prize is a 55" RCA HDTV! The second prize will be a Kindle Fire HDX 7" with 32 GB of memory. Finally, third place will consist of \$100 Cash.

Tickets have been on sale through several local Crime Stoppers programs since the middle of March, however, we made sure to hold back a good quantity of tickets to be sold during the conference for those attending.

Tickets are available for \$10 each or three for \$25, as long as tickets last. We have only printed 500 tickets and the winner need not be present to win.

Please contact a Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers board member for more information or to acquire tickets before the raffle takes place at the closing ceremony of the conference! Again, proceeds of the raffle will fund the Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers.

License Number R0014738A-11301  
Crime Stoppers of Racine County

**Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers  
Conference Auction Items**

The Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers invites you to participate in the voice auctions being conducted during the conference. Remember, these activities are the only fund raising events WSCS conducts during the year, so we encourage you to assist your organization.

There will be a commemorative 2013 Green Bay Packers autographed football on the auction block, auctioned just prior to the Friday lunch. (Photo to the right is not the actual football). Value: Priceless! This item has been popular in past conferences.



We will have a number of other items available for auction on Friday during the banquet. First, we have a Harley Davidson 110th Anniversary commemorative plaque with the value of \$150 (no picture available).



Next we have a Harley Davidson 110th Anniversary commemorative collage of 13 Harley Davidson motorcycle images from 1903 thru 2013, a great value at \$300.

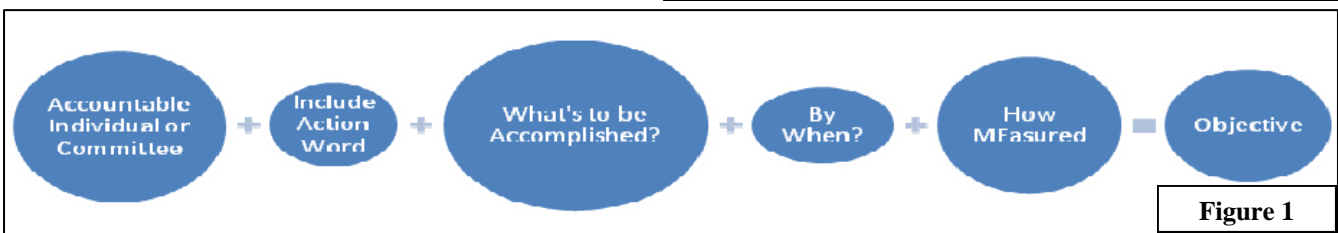
Also available for auction by artist/crafter Max Thompson is a Canvas-back Duck Decoy, No. 341/500. You might be fooled and think this is real! This carries a value of \$250.



Finally, there is a stunning Loon Print, No. 28/600, by artist Sharon Manka. This Loon Print has a value of over \$400. You have to see this to realize its beauty.



Please assist the WSCS in bidding on these auction items!



**Figure 1**

## Conference Silver Sponsors

# Janesville Area CRIME STOPPERS



Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization operated by a volunteer community board of directors. Crime Stoppers encourages the reporting of information or leads which can assist law enforcement with solving crimes. Our goal is to help in the fight against crime but it is not part of the local police or sheriff's department. Generally a law enforcement coordinator participates as an advisor to the board but is a non-voting

member. The citizen's board is responsible for operations of the program, fund raising, public relations, and approval of rewards.

All funds used by local Crime Stoppers organizations to pay rewards or to cover operating expenses are raised in the local community. Most of the funds raised come through donations from citizens and businesses in the community. Crime Stoppers also uses a variety of fund raising events (golf outings, ad sales, etc.) to help raise funds. Volunteers run the program and there are no wage related expenses. When they are available, law enforcement grants are also utilized to assist each program for such needs as a computer purchase or to pay rewards.

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**24/7 TIP LINE**

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**Modine generously donated the printed program packet and newsletter for this conference, as it has done for the past several years!**

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# Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers



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The Wisconsin State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police was chartered in 2002, and is comprised of active and retired law enforcement officers at the Federal, State and Local levels.

The FOP speaks out on the behalf of our fellow officers, the men and the women who serve our Wisconsin communities and protect our Nation's Freedoms.

Our mission is to improve the working conditions of the law enforcement officers of this great state. We do this through legislation, education and involvement in community affairs.

**IRS Tax Exempt Filing Requirements****K. Scott Abrams, CPA, CGMA, FHFMA**

Everyone is familiar with the date...April 15<sup>th</sup>! Of course, that is commonly referred to as tax day when individuals must file their income tax returns to the Internal Revenue Service. Now that I have your attention, let's discuss some of the annual reporting responsibilities each Crime Stoppers organization must follow with the Internal Revenue Service, as well.

Changes in requirements for small tax-exempt organizations went into effect several years ago requiring every tax-exempt organization to file an annual information return with the Internal Revenue Service. The table below identifies the guidelines of which form to file based on an organization's gross receipts and total assets:

<i>2010 Tax Year and later (Filed in 2011 and later)</i>	<i>Form to File</i>
Gross receipts normally $\leq$ \$50,000 <b>Note:</b> Organizations eligible to file the <i>e-Postcard</i> may choose to file a full return	990-N
Gross receipts $<$ \$200,000, and Total assets $<$ \$500,000	990-EZ or 990
Gross receipts $\geq$ \$200,000, or Total assets $\geq$ \$500,000	990
Private foundation	990-PF

So, when are these annual information returns due? The technical definition from the Internal Revenue Service is: The return is due on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month after the end of an organization's fiscal year. To better understand this, let's use an example. Let's say your fiscal year ends on December 31, 2013; the 2013 annual information return would be due on May 15, 2014.

Another question you may ask, what is our fiscal year? Generally, the fiscal tax year will follow your accounting year, which is usually found in your organization's bylaws. It is a period of 12 consecutive months ending on the last day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month.

What if our organization is unable to complete our annual information return on time? The due date for any of the Form 990's may be extended for three months, without showing any cause, by filing Form 8868 before the due date. Should the organization need additional time after that, an additional three-month extension may be requested on Form 8868 if the organization can show reasonable cause why the return cannot be filed by the extended due date.

It is the responsibility of each local Crime Stoppers program to remain in compliance with any and all Internal Revenue Service requirements. This is important for several reasons. One, tax-exempt organizations are not required to pay income taxes on any excess funds it may earn during the year allowing it to reinvest these funds into the organization. Secondly, and most importantly, it allows your organization to receive tax-deductible donations to businesses and individuals in supporting your local Crime Stoppers organization.

Tax-exempt organizations that fail to file their annual information returns (Form 990's) may be subject to having their tax-exempt organization status revoked. The Internal Revenue Service has been focusing on this revocation process heavily over the last several years. Once your tax-exempt status is revoked, it is an arduous task to get it reinstated or in some cases must begin the application process altogether.

Be compliant... File on time!

**WISCONSIN STATE CRIME STOPPERS, INC.**

**WISCONSIN STATE CRIME STOPPERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Vacant Board Member Position (LE)



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