



**NATION/REGION REPORT – UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING
CALGARY – AUGUST 16, 2005**

Membership continues to grow monthly in the United States, and the good news is that 31 programs that were not members of CSI in 2004 have joined the Nation/Region. Contacting the programs in our initial target group has been a slow process as contact information continues to be validated. As previously stated, the information imported from CSI was quite outdated and many programs had not been contacted in quite some time, especially in areas where there were not active Regional Directors. The development of the CSIM Data Base has been a great tool to help in correcting the problem, but considerable time is still being spent to update the information. Reorganization has been a challenge this first year in the United States for several reasons:

- ✓ The reorganization took many years, and US membership in CSI has been eroding for each of the last several years. (High of 394 members in 1998; low of 348 members in 2004.)
- ✓ A large number of US programs did not vote for or understand the changes and they are still confused. There are individuals that opposed the change or had disagreements with CSI that are giving some programs the incorrect information.
- ✓ Programs still want proof that the system is going to work.
- ✓ **A number of programs in various parts of the US, including ones that have been very strong and quite financially solvent in the past, have been having funding and resource issues this past year.**

One of our goals this year was to pursue a better working relationship and communication with the CSI Foundation due to some initial confusion with CSIF marketing initiatives, and I am happy to say that the two corporations have been working toward that end.

Crime Stoppers USA is very excited about the future and looks at 2005 as a building year. Programs, the national media, and the general public are beginning to become more acquainted with Crime Stoppers USA. Board Members continue to have many conversations with a broad cross-section of USA programs with good results. Presentations have gone very well at State and Regional meetings and programs are very interested when they receive the complete information. The response from programs that have not been members of CSI for many years has been especially encouraging, and new communities are asking for Crime Stoppers information. The end of May, several Crime Stoppers USA Board Members attended the Texas State Conference and were well received. As an example, there are 218 community programs in the state of Texas, and the most that have ever been CSI members in any one year since 1999 are forty programs.

In addition to program services already known such as access to the leading legal counsel on Crime Stoppers issues, networking, affiliate membership with CSI and the Caller, the launching of our national Liability Insurance package lets programs know that becoming a member of Crime Stoppers USA does continue to build value. Considering the rising costs of insurance premiums, I am very pleased with the significant reduction in insurance rates achieved and hope it proves to be very beneficial to our membership. We ARE continuing to approach projects that provide tools for success to our member programs, and seek information from our members as to their needs. Of course, funding to reach those goals is being targeted as well.

For the future, identifying all community and school Crime Stoppers programs along with developing credible contact information, will precipitate membership growth in Crime Stoppers USA and must still be a priority. The continued expansion of the national 800 number will also allow Crime Stoppers USA to work on increasing national visibility and future funding for "Crime Stoppers", and aid in our ongoing relationship with other national crime fighting organizations.

Respectively submitted,
Elaine Cloyd
President, Crime Stoppers USA