

**Crime Stoppers USA**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**Conference At Sea**  
**August 29, 2009**

**Present:** Estela Quintanilla, Patrick Curran, Gary Potter, Jake Miles, Sally Ross, Carol Brown, Condell Brown, Bob Mooney, Mike Blatman, Nathan Nicholson, Jonathon Kirby, Rob Sarrantonio, Kevin Boehm, Deb Armanini, Carol Roundtree, Ted Barros, Manny Alvarez, Ed Thielen, Nick Luciano, Shelley Higdon, Chris Cameron, Bob Northley, Sid Newman, Myrle Carner, Melissa Schoop, Judi Fricks, Bob Dennistoun, Linda Beaty, Harvey Hilvitz, Richard Drysdale, Frank Boyd, Elaine Cloyd, Janet Toman, Randy Luffbeny, Brandi Gilbert, Tom Kern, Troy Daniels, Margaret Jones, Richard Carter.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Kern. Margaret Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting as written and Frank Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**President's Report – 2008 Report – Tom Kern**

- One of the Primary Objectives of CSUSA was the 1-800-222-TIPS phone number. As a national organization we need a national presence and having the 800 number which will drop those calls to existing Crime Stoppers programs phone numbers is a huge benefit. If we give people the ability to pick up the phone anywhere in the country we become a valuable tool to our partners, like the US Marshal Service. There are 110,000,000 people living in areas covered by 1-800-222 Tips. Warren Miller at Telecompute is offering this service to Crime Stoppers Programs at a better price than their competitors. Tom Kern explained that if CSUSA receives a tip from an area where there is not a local program, that tipster will not get a reward. People want to report information about crime, they don't necessarily care about receiving a reward. In the first few months of taking web tips on the CSUSA web site using Tipsoft, CSUSA received 3000 tips. When the reply goes back to the tipster CSUSA it states that if there is not a local program in that community where the crime is taking place, there may or may not be a reward.
- Another objective was offering affordable insurance programs for Crime Stoppers Programs. Thanks to Russ Handley from Legacy Insurance because he has helped Crime Stoppers Programs secure low cost insurance policies.
- CSUSA has formed a formal relationship with the US Marshal Service. In early 2009, Director Clark sent a letter to all of the US Marshals around the country telling them what Crime Stoppers can do for the Marshal Service. CSUSA assisted with Operation Falcon, an initiative to round up dangerous fugitives. Of the 35,000 fugitives apprehended, 400 were wanted for murder and 1000 were sexual predators. CSUSA was acknowledged by the Director for all that our local programs continue to do to assist them.

### **President's Report – 2009 Report – Chairman Tom Kern**

- Communications was a focus in 2009. The Informer Newsletter was one big accomplishment. This newsletter is professionally done and is loaded with great information CSUSA Programs can use. Members can opt-in by going to [subscribe@crimestoppersonline.com](mailto:subscribe@crimestoppersonline.com).
- CSUSA assisted CSI and Interpol with the launch of Operation Infra in June. This was a worldwide effort by law enforcement to apprehend felons operating in many countries.
- CSUSA has some competition. We Tips, Tip411 and a website called CrimeStoppers Online are all trying to compete with Crime Stoppers by offering tip lines and sometimes rewards for information about crime. After repeated contacts from Tom Kern and a letter from Richard Carter, CrimeStoppers Online did remove their website. Crime Stoppers has been operational for over 30 years and we are the experts in the field. We all must continue to keep our programs strong and effective because if we fail, there are others waiting to take over if the opportunity is given to them.
- CSUSA put a focus on strategic partnerships this year and have pursued partnerships with the US Marshal Service, National Association with Drug Diversion Investigators and National Association of Fugitive Investigators
- CSUSA is working to obtain funds to help grow the organization which will also help the local programs. Since we need to find ways other than membership dues to sustain us, we have grant requests in to Motorola and have written a Byrne Grant. We have also looked at partnering with Visa on a Debit Card which can be used as a fundraiser for the local programs. Tom is continuing to research this fundraising opportunity and more will be shared with the programs as soon as our research is complete. Additionally, we have been approached by Data Dots, a firm that markets micro dot technology as a way to help business and individuals in keeping their valuables from being stolen. We will talk further with the Data Dots folks about how we can partner with them, raise money for our local programs all the while helping citizens empower themselves from being victims of theft.
- CSUSA does face a few challenges which we are addressing as an organization. Regional Directors should be making contact with all members in their region and those that are not members should be given the reasons to join CSUSA. The organization will also work with Telecompute to see how we can cut our expenses for the national tip line, 1-800-222-TIPS.
- Crime Stoppers Month is in January, but in most of the country, January isn't a month conducive to outdoor activities. CSUSA would like to consider moving Crime Stoppers month to September.
- The Board is working on accrediting Crime Stoppers Programs to ensure that programs operating under that name are legitimate.

### **Treasurer's Report – K. Scott Abrams**

- Income \$6800

- Expenses \$60,541
- Profit: \$7,459
- For the first six months of 2009, we have seen a decrease in memberships by about 50 programs.

**New Business:**

- The 2010 Conference will be in San Antonio, Texas
- There was a lengthy discussion about the dues CSUSA is paying to CSI. Scott Abrams has explored this issue and said we are paying what other nation regions are paying but it is a sticky issue and contentious because there are so many more programs in the United States. Scott said he will take our message back to CSI to see what we can work out. About 30% of the dues paid to CSUSA goes back to CSI. Tom Kern said we all feel we need an international presence but has heard from our members that they are wondering what the return is from our investment in CSI. A motion was made by \*\*\*\*\* to have Crime Stoppers USA commission a study of the CSI dues and give the membership an answer on where the dues are going and what our local programs are getting back from that investment. \*\*\*\*\* seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Tami Lawlor made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Rob Sarrantonio seconded the motion. The motion passed.