



February 9, 2011

## Chair Report



**Milwaukee Brewers Fantasy Baseball Camp**

**K. Scott Abrams, #13**

K. Scott Abrams, CPA, FHFMA  
Chairperson  
Crime Stoppers USA

I. Ongoing Operational Issues

- A. **Mississippi State Crime Stoppers Conference.** Participated in the Mississippi State Crime Stoppers Conference in Biloxi Mississippi on January 18-21, 2011. I presented an update on 'What's Happening in CSUSA' to the attendees. Judge Carter also presented at the conference from a legal perspective.
- B. **Absolute Software.** Continued development discussions are ongoing. Currently, we have involved David Barnes, Presently, DataDots USA do to some of this current relationships with these firms. Absolute Software is a firm that offers a product that provides security to laptop computers that works in conjunction with Lo-Jack. We are exploring whether this is a viable organization in which to associate. There have been others expressing interest in this type of venture with Crime Stoppers USA. **No additional update at this time.**
- C. **Provident Travel.** Correspondence was e-mailed to representatives at Provident Travel on January 29, 2011, requesting additional documentation in support of the expenditures made on behalf of Crime Stoppers USA. Very little documentation was provided in the final financial reporting of the conference conducted in San Antonio. We have requested the supporting documentation in order to ascertain whether all expenditures were appropriate. Feedback from Provident Travel representatives indicated they would provide this information as soon as practical. We will keep you up-to-date on these activities.
- D. **Dues Statements.** 2011 dues statements have been e-mailed to all known e-mail addresses within the database. Those without valid e-mail addresses are receiving a hard copy sent by U.S. Postal Services. A follow-up will be mailed to those we do not hear back from within 60 days. Some local programs have paid their dues so the information is getting out to the local programs.
- E. **McHenry County (IL) Crime Stoppers.** A citizen contacted Crime Stoppers USA challenging whether this organization is a bona fide Crime Stoppers program. The individual does not believe this organization is incorporated and is not a tax-exempt organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3). I have made contact with the local program and apparently the individual contacting us had been a candidate for sheriff in their county, but had suffered a staggering loss. Apparently he is out to discredit the current elected sheriff and is trying to utilize Crime Stoppers to do it. He has demanded the board minutes and tip information under the freedom of information act, according to the local Crime Stoppers program. He had also asked for the McHenry County Crime Stoppers most recently filed Form 990, and was rejected. I informed the local program that by law they must produce this information for inspection and provide a copy, for a reasonable fee, if requested. More to follow as these discussions just started today.

II. Upcoming Events.

- A. **Southeastern Crime Stoppers Conference.** I plan to participate in this conference in order to re-establish a better working relationship with this organization. I am making myself available to participate in their board meeting as well as any social or networking opportunities that may avail during the conference. Bob Mooney is coordinating the dates and times for our participation.

III. Executive Committee

A. January 27, 2011 Meeting

- 1. CSUSA 2011 Conference. Chris Cameron and Silent Observer shared the proposed registration fee per delegate and spouse program. Also, it was

decided that we would conduct one of our board meetings on late Wednesday afternoon and therefore would not meet on Thursday post conference.

2. Crime Stoppers International 2012 Conference. The Conference Committee asked the executive committee to explore a new option in hosting the Crime Stoppers International conference in Las Vegas. The Las Vegas Crime Stoppers indicated they did not have the resources and wherewithal to conduct this on their own. Las Vegas CS would like to assist us with this conference, but at a greatly reduced involvement. The conference committee will explain further at the board meeting of the option we are currently exploring.
3. Minnesota Crime Stoppers. There appears to be conflicting reports regarding the expansion of this program overlapping other local Crime Stoppers programs in Minnesota. Also, there seems to be a conflict of interest with an individual associated with the Minnesota Crime Stoppers where he is utilizing his personal business card information on one side and the Crime Stoppers information on the other. Judge Carter will have an update on this topic at our board meeting.
4. DuPage County (IL) Crime Stoppers. This would be considered one of the largest programs in the state of Illinois in terms of population. I received a call from their coordinator indicating they are disbanding the program due to financial shortfalls. In the past, they were receiving significant financial contributions from the court system based on legislation. However, those funds have been diverted to other law enforcement activities and no longer directed to the DuPage County Crime Stoppers. The program has not been paying rewards for some time and the coordinator indicated he has been paying for the phone line out of his personal funds for some time now. I connected with the president of the Illinois State Crime Stoppers Association, William Nation, and they are aware of this situation. They are hoping to perhaps combine or incorporate the DuPage County Crime Stoppers organization with the Naperville Crime Stoppers program. More to follow when information becomes available.
5. SE Crime Stoppers Conference. Crime Stoppers USA would like to have a presence at this conference participating in their board meeting as well as some social and networking opportunities. It is incumbent that we have delineated our main talking points prior to arriving at the meeting. Bob Mooney is participating in their conference call on February 19 and will provide feedback on our requests.
6. LA Crime Stoppers. James Chambers met with the LA Crime Stoppers coordinators from the city's police department and the Sheriff's Department. It appears they need some assistance in organizing and coordinating Crime Stoppers activities between the city and the county. Since there are many programs around the country that incorporate city and county law enforcement agencies together, the Executive Committee felt it was important that we incorporate this into our Crime Stoppers 101 track at the upcoming 2011 conference.
7. National Insurance Crime Bureau – NICB. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Crime Stoppers USA and NCIB signed last year, we recently received an e-mail discussing the expansion by NCIB ventures they are pursuing which involve local Crime Stoppers programs. The Executive Committee was unaware of what these ventures might entail

and directed the CSUSA Chairman to initiate a conversation to better understand the current situation and expectations from Crime Stoppers USA and its local programs. It is incumbent and prudent for Crime Stoppers USA to understand what is being undertaken in case we are contacted by local programs asking for insight or references.

8. Provident Travel. See item I. C. above.
9. 2011 CSUSA Budget. James Chambers indicated the budget proposal will be ready for the upcoming board meeting in February.