

Crime Stoppers USA

Minutes of the May 18, 2011 Board Meeting

Present: Scott Abrams, Chris Cameron, James Chambers, Margaret Jones, Bob Mooney, Harvey Hilvitz, Jan Van Houten, Barb Bergin, James Taliaferro, Cindy Kilgore, Frank Boyd, Patrick Curran, Estela Quintanilla, Don Everson, Ken Kelly, Mike Blatman, Elaine Cloyd, Richard Carter, Kevin Anderson

Absent with Notice: John Lamb, Lisa Pisciotta

Absent without Notice: John Broad, Tim Stark

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Chairman K. Scott Abrams. The IRS dictates that we must disclose any conflict of interest that we may have with any agenda item. James Chambers said that from time to time he may have a conflict and will disclose it if that should occur.

James Chambers made a motion to approve the minutes and Frank Boyd seconded it and the motion passed.

Chairman's Report – Scott Abrams – Report Attached

- Scott attended the South Eastern Crime Stoppers Conference and felt he made some inroads there. Barb Bergin and Bob Mooney attended as well.
- Scott, John Lamb and Judge Carter spoke with the leadership of Crime Stoppers of MN and they seemed resistant about CSUSA approaching them about our concerns. They have been invoicing police agencies all of the state for their services even though they do not cover all the areas that are being invoiced. The final outcome was that CSUSA will initiate a meeting with all Crime Stoppers programs in MN to try to help them iron out their differences.
- The many emails CSUSA has received regarding Legacy Connections fortified and cemented our decision to end our relationship with them. John Lamb and Elaine Cloyd have been in contact with the insurance carriers and if a program has paid their premium, those carriers will honor it. Even though it was difficult because of the friendship we have had with Russ Handley, Scott sent a certified letter to Russ canceling our affiliation with them. Mike Blatman made a motion that CSUSA will no longer be providing referral services to Legacy Connections and Bob Mooney seconded it. The motion carried.

Vice Chairman's Report – Report Attached

- In John's report, he asked that we discuss and vote on using Pay Pal for dues and for selling CSUSA items. James Chambers said the cost is not that high and people can even make a donation to CSUSA using Pay Pal. Mike Blatman uses Pay Pal and for a non-profit, it doesn't cost that much. Mike said he has heard from other programs that they would prefer to pay their dues on Pay Pal. James made a motion to use Pay Pal for the 2011 year for dues and other alternative uses and at the end of the year, take a look at it to see if it was beneficial to us. Frank Boyd seconded it and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – James Chambers – Report Attached

- James Chambers moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and Frank Boyd seconded it. The motion passed.
- Scott wanted to make one point about the year to date profit and loss statement. Ninety percent of our program assessments come in within the first 4 months. We are 2/3rd of the way there. The mailing that recently went out will help remind programs to pay their dues but Scott is encouraging us all to look at CSIM to see who has not paid their dues and if we know someone in those programs, call them and encourage them to pay.

Regional Director's Report

- Scott Abrams asked Barb Bergin what happened with the Florida legislation dealing with funding for Crime Stoppers Organizations there. Barb explained that the legislation was sitting on the Governor's desk and she has heard that the bill will be signed.

Nominating Committee – Margaret Jones

- At this time Margaret has heard from Cindy Kilgore in Region 7 saying that she will serve until we find someone else to replace her. Margaret has not heard from any other regions and they have until May 31 to get their application in for Regional Director.

Development Committee – James Chambers

- James Chambers said the Development Committee is looking at different grant opportunities and encouraged the board to pass any grant opportunities they may hear about our way.

By-Laws Committee – Margaret Jones

- There is not a by-laws committee so if anyone is interested in serving on it, please contact Margaret.

Membership Committee- Margaret Jones

- Currently, CSUSA has 231 Paid Programs.
- Margaret is encouraging Regional Directors to follow up with the Programs in their regions that have not paid their dues.
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PR Marketing – Harvey Hilvitz

- The Committee discussed putting an ad in one of the Chiefs magazines but the deadlines are very tight because we have to develop our own graphics. Scott mentioned that we are trying to build a relationship with the International and US Chief of Police Associations along with the Sheriff's Association.

Legal Update – Richard Carter

- It's been busy time in particular with our concerns with insurance problems relating to Legacy Connections and Crime Stoppers of MN. Additionally, Citizen Observer has been saying things about CSUSA that are not correct. We may want

to consider an all in one brochure that outlines what CSUSA is all about in the hopes that it will dispel the rumors and other non-factual information. . Chris Cameron said that we should take an immediate stand and draft a communication to all programs. It would be a promotion piece, dispel the rumors and hopefully our member programs would send it out to their local law enforcement agencies since many police agencies are being solicited by Citizen Observer. Scott thought it should be a multiple topic bulletin that gives the advantages and the disadvantages of Crime Stoppers and Citizen Observer. Scott would like the PR and Marketing Committee to work on this as well.

2011 Conference – Chris Cameron

- Almost all of the training classes are lined up. The US Marshal's will present a general session on Sexual Predator Targeting Center and the FBI will be giving a general session on Terrorism. So far we have 69 participants and have received \$43,250 in sponsorships which includes the \$15,000 Target Grant.
- The Kent County Silent Observer Program is starting to have expenses so Chris Cameron asked if CSUSA would send over the \$15,000 Target Grant that was designated for the 2011 Conference. Bob Mooney made a motion that we transfer the funds and Cindy Kilgore seconded it and the motion passed.
- Chris asked the Regional Directors to encourage the programs in their regions to attend. As of now, Chris has not heard from Data Dots, Crime Scene Information or Alternative Answers as to their participation.
- Chris asked said the Board to determine now if CSUSA will have a silent auction because if we are, board members should start soliciting items. Scott Abrams said that the Finance and Development Committees should make that call.

Crime Stoppers International Conference 2012

- Elaine Cloyd reported that CSI said Las Vegas would be a fine place to host the 2012 conference. They did not, however, like the hotel because they would much rather have it on the strip. The Orleans is close to the strip and has undergone major renovations to the rooms. Elaine talked to the President of Phoenix Homicide that has held 3 conferences there and only had glowing remarks about The Orleans.
- Elaine is very concerned that CS of Nevada won't participate if we change the venue. Elaine plans on going out there to check it out herself.
- James Chambers said that we have to be mindful of the costs because many of the participants have to pay their own way. To go to the hotels in the strip, the costs could go much higher. Harvey Hilvitz, Mike Blatman and Pat Curran all said that the costs do matter and may be a reason why people do not attend CSI conferences. Elaine said that she believes that since the prices of the rooms are low CSI believes that the rooms will be substandard.
- Scott Abrams said that CSI Board Members looked at Trip Advisor and some other sights and found that the reviews were not complimentary. James said those reviews were a couple of years old. Scott said that CSI said No to the Orleans and unless we change, we will not have a conference in 2012. If we want to have an international conference, we cannot hold it at the Orleans. Scott asked that this

issue go back to the Conference Committee and ask the committee to come up with some other alternatives. Kevin Anderson said that CSI asked us to get other proposals from the mainstream hotels so we can make a more informed decision. Elaine said the committee will come back with further recommendations.

New Business

Proposed Policies & Procedures

- Mike Blatman suggested that we approve the Proposed Policies and Procedures as submitted by Scott Abrams and Jan Van Houten seconded it. The motion passed.

Financial Review – Scott Abrams

- Scott Abrams forwarded this to all Board Members and the company that performed this review for 2008-2009 did so at no charge to CSUSA. Scott made a motion to accept this review and Chris Cameron seconded it and the motion passed.

IRS Form 990 – James Chambers

- The Board was sent a copy of this

Scott Abrams said that since this meeting has lasted so long, we'll finish the rest of the agenda at next month's meeting.

Estela made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m. and Chris Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Cameron