

Crime Stoppers USA

Minutes of the October 12, 2011 Board Meeting

Present: Scott Abrams, John Lamb, Elaine Cloyd, Chris Cameron, James Chambers, John Broad, Bob Mooney, Ron Conlin, Harvey Hilvitz, Jan Van Houten, Barb Bergin, Frank Boyd, Loren Hamilton, Lisa Pisciotta, Maxine Thomas, Sally Cox, Richard Carter, Troy Daniels, Kevin Anderson

Absent with Notice: Margaret Jones, Mike Blatman, Estela Quintanilla

Absent without Notice: Cindy Kilgore, James Taliaferro

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chairman K. Scott Abrams. Scott asked if anyone had a conflict of interest regarding any of the agenda items but no one had any conflicts.

Scott Abrams asked for a motion to approve the September 14, 2011 minutes. Frank Boyd made a motion to approve the minutes and Elaine Cloyd seconded them.

Chairman's Report – Scott Abrams-Report Attached

- Digital Witness – John Lamb, Richard Carter and Scott spoke with the television producers that are interested in producing this series. They would like to move quickly. They want to focus on solved crimes with security cameras and Crime Stoppers will be prominent. They want us to sign a non-disclosure agreement and review a letter of intent which we must sign if we want to proceed. This is not committing us but is required if we want to discuss this further. Scott made a motion that the Board allow the Executive Committee to work on this project so it can move forward quickly and Ron Conlin seconded it. The motion passed.
- A Wisconsin Crime Stoppers program that is not a member program received an open records request and asked for Judge Carter's services. Since Scott's affiliate program also received an open meetings request, he asked Judge Carter to advise them because there might be something afoot in Wisconsin. The non-member program told Scott they would join CSUSA in 2012 but then they wanted to make another request of Judge Carter, so Scott told them that since they are not members, Judge Carter could not provide them with any more help until they became members.
- Scott sent out certified letters to Tami Lawlor and Rob Sarrantonio, former board members of CSUSA, regarding expenses they incurred that appeared to be personal in nature during the 2010 conference. The request was made after an internal investigation and by our auditors. Rob immediately responded and Scott feels that his expenses were appropriate but Tami has not responded as of yet. If we don't hear back from Tami, we will have to go back and amend our 1099.
- Scott saw a banner at Miller Park that said "If you see something, say something" and it was sponsored by Homeland Security and Major League Baseball. Sally Cox said that the FBI is doing a big campaign around that. Scott will look further into this to see if this is something we can partner with Homeland Security and the FBI on. Kevin Anderson said there is no consistent way this is being deployed. Kevin said he will speak with the FBI about this later in the week.

Vice Chairman's Report – Report Attached

- John Lamb sent a sample web page for the 2012 conference to Elaine Cloyd
- John met with the Not For Profit Research Center to encourage them to look for grants
- We are revamping the web site.

Treasurer's Report – James Chambers – Report Attached

- \$81,942.63 – current assets – memberships are still coming in rather well
- Not much money is coming in from Data Dots. John sent James Mounce, their new rep, program addresses so they can market to CSUSA members.
- John Broad asked if we offered those programs that are having financial difficulties, help. The CSUSA Board could have a committee that gives advice and mentors programs in order to help these programs get stronger. Ron Conlin said that he knows of an organization that allows members having financial hardships to send them an affidavit stating such, which would allow them to continue to be full members for one year without paying dues. Scott asked that the Finance Committee take this on to see if this is something CSUSA could offer and asked James Chambers and John Broad to come up with a recommendation before the next board meeting.

Regional Director's Report

- Barb Bergin – Augusta Georgia Crime Stoppers is working to get their 501 (c) (3). Their coordinator states that he is now working with law enforcement. Barb has asked that coordinator for letters of support from law enforcement. At the time the organization applied for membership, the Sheriff Department said they would not work with them.
- Barb met with the US Postal Service about a direct mailing service that could benefit our membership. If you receive a non-profit rate at the post office, you can send a postcard for 6.2 cents and it will be mailed directly to a carrier route. So, if you want to send a postcard to an area of your city where a crime has taken place, the postal carrier will deliver it to every home. It's a fantastic way to reach a targeted audience. The post office would like to do some webinars for Crime Stoppers. The website is USPSEverydoor.com. They have an interactive map which will show you what the cost will be for any given carrier route. Scott asked Barb to write something up so we can send an email blast to all of our members.
- Elaine Cloyd – Elaine was at a Conference in Lawrence, Kansas and many of those programs have not updated their info in CSIM.
- Sally Cox – Sally has been working with the Baja California Attorney General's Office to form a Crime Stoppers Program that will work in Baja, CA and Baja, Mexico. She is working closely with Jim Shields with the US Marshal Service. They will focus on robbery because the Attorney General's office handles robbery.

Development Committee – John Lamb

- John has a list of 6 grants we will apply for.

- If John sees a grant that is state specific, he will forward that opportunity to the regional director who will then send it out to the appropriate members in that state.

Membership Vision Committee – John Lamb – Report Attached

- Has met one time and many great ideas came out of this.

Legal Services – Richard Carter - Report Attached

- Richard spoke about how it is unfair to Crime Stoppers members if he gives advice to non-members at no charge. Programs should remember that if they hire an attorney, it will cost them approximately \$350 per hour.
- A discussion took place about member benefits. Ron Conlin said that our dues application should be revised and our web site should be included on it. Richard asked Ron if he had any connections that could help us or give us ideas on what the dues application should look like.

Crime Stoppers USA 2012 Conference – Elaine Cloyd – Report Attached

- Will be kicking this off in Jamaica
- Contract is done and budget is being worked on
- Hotel is holding the costs to 2011 prices
- Web site is being developed now

Old Business

Newsletter – John Lamb

- Will go out this week

Legacy Insurance – Richard Carter

- The administrative aspect of the Legacy Insurance issue has been concluded although we don't know what the conclusion is. On the criminal side, the investigation is still on-going.
- Scott said that members are signing up with Lockton and the direct link to them our web site has been used.
- Elaine Cloyd thanked Richard for attending the Crime Stoppers Conference in Kansas and talking to the group about the insurance issue where some of the programs were victimized. He also talked to them about Large Rewards and Elaine said that Richard is a great advocate of CSUSA.
- John Broad wondered if Lockton Insurance Company and the policy were reviewed before we promoted it to our members. John Lamb and Richard Carter both said that they were reviewed and it's difficult to come up with a policy that fits the needs of each individual program. Any insurance company's policy can be reworked to meet each individual program's needs.
- Ron Conlin suggested that we include on our web site what the basic policy costs and what each additional rider costs. Elaine Cloyd said that Lockton may not be able to give prices for every kind of rider so the web site should encourage members to call them.

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At 1:32 p.m. John Broad made a motion to adjourn the meeting and John Lamb seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Cameron