

Crime Stoppers USA

Minutes of the November 9, 2011 Board Meeting

Present: Scott Abrams, John Lamb, Elaine Cloyd, Chris Cameron, James Chambers, John Broad, Margaret Jones, Bob Mooney, Harvey Hilvitz, Jan Van Houten, Barb Bergin, Cindy Kilgore, Frank Boyd, Lisa Pisciotta, Don Everson, Richard Carter, Troy Daniels, Kevin Anderson, Mike Blatman

Absent with Notice: Estela Quintanilla, Loren Hamilton

Absent without Notice: James Taliaferro Ron Conlin, Maxine Thomas, Sally Cox,

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 October 12, 2011 minutes. James Chambers made a motion to approve the minutes and John Lamb seconded it and the motion passed.

Chairman's Report – Scott Abrams-Report Attached

- Scott received a phone call from a representative from Central Ohio Crime Stoppers who was upset about TipSoft pricing and blamed CSUSA for allowing TipSoft to raise their price, although they have not raised their rates. He thought for his \$250 membership dues CSUSA should provide TipSoft to his program and all programs at no charge.
- National Tipster is located in California and it looks like they have big plans in being a nationwide tip taking organization. Scott said we need to be aware of our competition out there. Lisa Pisciotta said that her program receive tips from WeTips all the time. Scott said the fees WeTip charges goes to pay the four officers of their organization to the tune of about \$700,000. Richard Carter said that WeTip is not in good standing with the Better Business Bureau. Richard said they sell what we give away for free. Richard said that when Lisa receives the tips, she should treat the tips as anonymous tip and we owe them no feedback.

Vice Chairman's Report – Report Attached

- The Target Grant has been submitted and Scott is checking on the Motorola Grant. Scott said he has made repeated attempts to contact Motorola with no response.
- John made a motion for an increase in the budget for the web site for \$2,000 and Cindy Kilgore seconded it and the motion passed.
- We have a Facebook account and we need several administrators. Scott Abrams, Cindy Kilgore, Chris Cameron, Frank Boyd, Margaret Jones and John Lamb all volunteered to be administrators.
- CSI has an initiative regarding Human Trafficking and John felt that CSUSA should have something on the web site regarding this issue. Also John and Scott Abrams spoke to Jim Schields with the US Marshal Service and Jim said they

would like us to partner with them on a gun initiative along in the southern states that border Mexico. Scott and John also spoke to Jim about the Human Trafficking problem and we may roll out an awareness campaign on that issue first in large strategic cities, then nationwide.

Treasurer's Report – James Chambers – Report Attached

- CSUSA has \$71,942.63 in current assets.
- Not much money is coming in from Data Dots.
- The 2011 CSUSA conference brought in over \$5,000 to CSUSA and if you add the silent auction income the amount totaled \$6200. However, to date we have \$25,000 less in income than what we budgeted so we will be looking to submit some grant applications. James made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and Frank Boyd seconded it and the motion carried.
- Chris Cameron asked what the Advertising line item was and James said it was the marketing materials like the banners and table cloths. Elaine Cloyd asked for more detail and much discussion took place. James will look further into this line-item and report back as to what that money was spent on.
- The Audit looks good but the Finance Committee has not discussed it as of yet. Once they do, James will present it to the Board.

At-Large Director's Report

- Chris Cameron wanted to let the Board know about legislation the Crime Stoppers Programs in the State of Michigan are pursuing. They have looked at funding legislation from around the country and have written language that would earmark fines in District and Circuit Court for Crime Stoppers. To be eligible for this money, Crime Stoppers organizations would be required to be a member of CSUSA. A group of CS organizations met on Monday and they all thought that being a member of CSUSA would validate and legitimize our Michigan Programs. Hopefully within a year there will be 30 more CSUSA members coming from Michigan. Richard Carter said that there are a number of examples of legislation as well as a PowerPoint on the subject of legislation on the Crime Stoppers CD that he has distributed.
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Nominating Committee – Margaret Jones

- Margaret sent Regional Director applications to a couple of people at the Nassau County Crime Stoppers in New York in the hopes to find a Region 1 Regional Director. There are 290 programs that are members to CSUSA.

Membership Vision Committee – John Lamb – Report Attached

- Two meetings are scheduled plus a sub-committee meeting shortly.

Legal Services – Richard Carter - Report Attached

- Richard called the State of Texas Dept of Insurance about the Legacy Insurance criminal investigation but he has not heard back yet.
- MCA Foundation is not planning any training in 2012 right now

Crime Stoppers USA 2012 Conference – Elaine Cloyd – Report Attached

- We are working on the Spring Board Meeting Contract
- There will be a Conference committee meeting next Wednesday at Noon
- Still researching what the credit card fees will be
- Submitted a grant to Target for \$25,000 for the 2012 Conference

Old Business

Newsletter – John Lamb

- The next issue will go out December 15. John encouraged the Board to submit articles. Scott asked if any of us have received feedback on the newsletter and Chris said she has received positive feedback on the CSUSA newsletter.
- John has the online membership form done and it's set up through PayPal. John thought perhaps we should add a \$5 fee if people wanted to pay online because of the costs that CSUSA will incur from PayPal. Mike Blatman said that his program uses PayPal but does not charge a convenience charge. Chris Cameron thought this \$5 fee was appropriate. Elaine Cloyd made a motion that we don't charge a convenience fee to those using PayPal for membership dues or for the 2012 conference and Mike Blatman seconded it and the motion passed.

New Business

Assistance to Financially Distressed CS Programs – John Broad & James Chambers

- John Broad and James Chambers would like Scott to send a letter to all programs advising them that there is a small committee within CSUSA that would mentor and advise those programs having financial difficulty. It is important to let these programs know that we are available. John explained that we would try to help them foster a relationship between their Crime Stoppers Program and their Chamber of Commerce. We would ask the Chamber to help them build a board of directors that could assist them in raising funds. Scott said the Regional Directors should know who is experiencing financial difficulties and what assistance is needed. Chris suggested that this offer of assistance be headlined in our next newsletter, on the Member's Only section of our newsletter and in Regional Directors communication to our members. Scott asked John Broad to write an article about this for our next publication.

Crime Stoppers International Training Conference

- Chris Cameron said she found this conference very valuable and learned a lot about social media and human trafficking. She loved the international training.
- Margaret Jones said it was one of the better conferences she has attended and she applauds Jamaica's efforts.
- John Broad felt that the communication that came out of South Africa was awesome. He also said the networking was extremely valuable.
- Scott Abrams said that he ran one of the sessions entitled "How Valuable Is Crime Stoppers" and participants in his class were from all over the world. Scott said 4 people came up to him and said it was one of the most valuable sessions they had attended.

- Elaine Cloyd thought the speakers were great and felt that the notes from the 4 breakout sessions would be helpful to all board members.

CSUSA Mid-Year Meeting – Scott Abrams

- May 1st and 2nd is the CSUSA Mid-Year Board Meeting in Las Vegas. We will start around Noon on the 1st and have meetings all day on the 2nd. The Meet and Greet with CSI will be Wednesday night, May 2nd.

Legal Hotline – Richard Carter

- Richard would like to phase out the phone line, known as the Legal Hotline, because calls to that landline are rare and far between. Most people contact Richard by email or they call his cell phone. John Lamb asked Richard if he would like to have on the web site a form where members could ask legal questions and when they hit submit, it would go directly to Richard. The form would ask if they were members and if they checked no, the user would then be directed to the CSUSA membership form. Richard was all in favor of this idea.

Since there was no further business, John Lamb made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chris Cameron seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Cameron
CSUSA Secretary

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Cameron