



July 2012

## Chair Report



Gabrielle 'Gabby' Douglas – 2012 Olympic Gold Medalist

Go Team USA!

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

I. Ongoing Operational Issues

A. **Program and External Contacts.**

- a. **Tri-County Crime Stoppers of Aransas Pass TX.** Local program was inquiring about providing large rewards, potentially up to \$15,000, and maintaining anonymity through the Crime Stoppers tip program. Followed up with ideas and suggestions.
- b. **Pinellas County Crime Stoppers.** Bill McCann, President, contacted me about the benefits of joining CSUSA versus that of CSI. First, I corrected the misperception of membership in CSUSA and CSI and then went on to explain the various benefits of being a member of Crime Stoppers USA. I had an opportunity to talk with members of this organization while I was attending the Florida Association of Crime Stoppers in June, which later led to a good board discussion on becoming members in Crime Stoppers USA. We need to follow up on their membership.
- c. **Deming-Luna Crime Stoppers.** Received an e-mail inquiry from Lt. John Mooradian with the Luna County Sheriffs (NM) Department seeking information on how to have Crime Stoppers tips routed to a call center and then sent to the local police department or sheriff departments. However, Deming-Luna Crime Stoppers has not been a member of Crime Stoppers USA since 2009 and I indicated we are unable to provide assistance to nonmember programs. I provided a copy of the e-mail to Maxine Thomas to follow-up as well.

B. **Crime Stoppers USA Insurance Program.** **Summary:** Crime Stoppers USA terminated its working relationship with Legacy Connections in May 2011. All references to Crime Stoppers USA were to be removed from the Legacy Connections website by June 20, 2011. **Update:** CSUSA was recently informed that the Texas Department of Insurance is seeking to revoke Russ Handley's insurance license after he refused to voluntarily surrender his license. Apparently Russ Handley has been avoiding the insurance investigator which has delayed filing of any charges against him up to this point. It is still expected that criminal charges will be filed and the information will be turned over to the Tarrant County district attorney for his disposition.

C. **Website Inquiries.** **Summary:** CSUSA has been receiving an inordinate amount of website inquiries that have related to individual citizens providing information about crimes and criminals, even though this is not an anonymous tip submission area. We have strengthened the language at both the beginning and the end of this inquiry area indicating this communication is primarily for Crime Stoppers USA members and membership activities. **Update:** There has been a noticeable decrease in the amount of website inquiries coming from individuals wanting to report a crime or criminal. The emphasis on the membership organization language seems to have cut down inappropriate website inquiry traffic.

D. **DataDot.** **Summary:** Crime Stoppers USA has not seen much benefit in participating in the agreement with DataDot since the inception several years ago. As we discussed previously, we were looking to disengage ourselves on this agreement altogether. However, a new management team has taken on the United States operations and has asked us to participate in a face-to-face meeting at their US corporate headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina, at DataDot expense. K. Scott Abrams, John Lamb and Chris Cameron will be meeting with these representatives on August 15-16, 2012 and will report back to the board on these deliberations. We are looking at a different approach in that a

sponsorship or fixed-rate licensing fee be received in advance of each year of the agreement. We have received some advice and counsel from the Crime Stoppers of Australia which were initially involved with DataDot. **Update:** Meeting is presently scheduled for next week with CSUSA representatives and Data Dot. An update will be provided following our meeting.

- E. i-Pal Network. Received an e-mail from Felix Petitt, CEO of Petitt Enterprises, requesting Crime Stoppers USA support regarding a patent on a product called i-Pal, a network that empowers family members to protect other family members while providing educational, informative, and entertainment programs. Apparently, their firm needs written support documentation from other organizations in order to finalize the patent on their product. I responded that Crime Stoppers USA is not in a position to fully evaluate, test and provide a letter of support on your service/product. I indicated we have endorsed or identified preferred vendors for our membership in the past, but this is usually after a long-standing relationship or extensive experience with a particular product or service. I shared this information through an e-mail with the Executive Committee and heard no dissent. I mentioned we could visit this at a later date when the product/service is available and marketed to the public.
- F. Received an e-mail from an individual identified as Michael Lyon. In his e-mail, he asked how he could become a partner with Crime Stoppers and send a donation. I referred this e-mail to John Lamb, Vice Chairman for follow-up and disposition.
- G. E-mail Request. An e-mail received from a Mark Tosoni, where he would like to work together with our organization in spreading our mission and vision. He is located in the Orlando, Florida area, so I forwarded the e-mail to Barb Bergin seeking any information she may have on this individual or their organization.
- H. Non-Member Request. The police chief from Metter, Georgia asked how his police agency could get information posted and a reward for a hit-and-run fatality accident that occurred in his city. There is a non-member Crime Stoppers USA program in a nearby community in Dublin, Georgia. I referred to Barb Bergin to follow up and resolve as Regional Director.
- I. Mesa County Crime Stoppers - Grand Junction Colorado. I received an e-mail from Officer Chip McIntyre wondering if Crime Stoppers USA would be interested in working with Meadow Gold in putting advertising on milk cartons. There program was contacted by Meadow Gold, but Officer McIntyre recognized that they distribute milk cartons beyond just his particular geographic area. The Executive Committee is undertaking an evaluation of this potential marketing and advertising venture.

## **II. Upcoming Events.**

- A. **DataDot Meeting with senior management and CSUSA.** August 15-16, 2012.
- B. **Crime Stoppers International Leadership Institute.** October 2-4, 2012.
- C. **Crime Stoppers USA Annual Meeting.** October 2, 2012 (Tentative).
- D. **Central Ohio Crime Stoppers Annual Meeting.** October 17, 2012.

## **III. Executive Committee – Monday, July 16, 2012.**

- A. Lightspeed VT Agreement.
  - a. The System License and Hosting Agreement along with were discussed in detail. Numerous areas were identified for potential change which will be negotiated by Scott Abrams and John Lamb. In addition, the Executive Committee requested a bullet point listed business plan regarding our

intent in undertaking this agreement, our risks and rewards, financial responsibilities and an exit strategy. The Executive Committee will reconvene after sufficient progress has been made on the business plan.

B. Strategic Plan.

a. The Executive Committee identified measurable objectives with respect to the strategic plan points B.1., C.1., C.3., D.2., and D.1.

b. Discussion on succession plan for legal services is being undertaken.

C. Marketing Opportunity - Meadow Gold Milk. Discussed an opportunity that was presented to CSUSA by Mesa County Crime Stoppers in Grand Junction, Colorado. Meadow Gold would like to work on advertising Crime Stoppers, but further information needs to be acquired with respect to the geographic location of Meadow Gold and where it reaches. Further discussion will ensue at a future Executive Committee meeting at the information was just provided to CSUSA.