

# The INFORMER



**CRIME**  

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**STOPPERS**  

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January 2011

# A Message from Crime Stoppers USA Chairman, K. Scott Abrams, CPA, FHFMA

## Crime Stoppers USA Website To Undergo Renovation

The CSUSA website is being upgraded to make it more user-friendly and easier to maintain. New areas will list upcoming events and provide tools to help you run your programs.

Also, there will be information available to members only. Your user name and password will be the same one you use for [www.csimdata.com](http://www.csimdata.com). If you do not have these, send a note to your Regional Director or contact a member of our board.

If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see on the site, please email us at [4info@crimestoppersusa.com](mailto:4info@crimestoppersusa.com). We value your input and thank you for your patience during this process.

**John Lamb**  
Vice-Chairman

With the holiday season just concluded, many of us have fond memories of recent family gatherings. I generally visit my sister on Christmas Eve, and then we travel back home to visit with family members there. It is usually a hectic but enjoyable couple of days. One thing that sticks out in my mind is the 24 hour marathon of the movie, *A Christmas Story*. We usually have it on in the background at some point during the holidays.

The story is set in the mid-1940s with a young boy, Ralphie, wishing to get his first Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Everyone he tells about his wish for Christmas all respond with, "You're gonna shoot your eye out!"

I use this story as an example of how Crime Stoppers local boards receive and perceive new ideas in operating their local programs. Every organization needs dreamers, those that have ideas that are outside-the-box. I encourage you to have these types of forward thinkers on your board and listen to what they have to say. Of course, not every idea should be acted upon, but developing these ideas and identifying the rewards while minimizing the risks can take your local Crime Stoppers organization to the next level.

When someone brings up an outside-the-box idea, don't immediately respond by saying, "You're gonna shoot your eye out," let the idea sink in, and then respond.

We live in a rapidly evolving and ever changing world with technology taking tremendous leaps in new ways of communication. Think back just a few years ago, we didn't have many of the social networks we have today such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. When they first started these networks, some may have found it far-fetched that they would ever catch on in our society. However, look at how common they are today. Many local Crime Stoppers organizations have adopted these social networks and have embedded them into their technology structure. What do you think one of those earlier Crime Stoppers board meetings must've been like when someone suggested they put their local program on Facebook? "You're gonna shoot your eye out!"

In *A Christmas Story* Ralphie does get his wish and receives a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas from his father, much to the amazement of his mother, who had no idea it had been purchased. However, she understands that Ralphie is growing up and can handle this new toy by minimizing the risks through safety instructions for its proper use. Ralphie immediately runs outside to try out his new BB gun, and low and behold the BB ricochets off the target and straight into his face! At least he didn't shoot his eye out...but he did break his glasses!

May the New Year provide you and your Crime Stoppers organization many new opportunities while meeting the ever increasing challenges head-on with great new ideas!



# Tackling Criminals Head-on in “Trans-National” Crime

Crime Stoppers International, (CSI), is an umbrella NGO that is operated by a board of directors representing over 1,200 Crime Stoppers programs in more than 20 countries. Its purpose is to establish operational guidelines to assure consistency and develop strategic partnerships that enhance the Crime Stoppers reputation and services in communities around the world.



**DOHA, Qatar—(November 8–11),** The 79th INTERPOL General Assembly (the world’s largest policing organization comprising 188 member countries) approved a resolution that will see INTERPOL and CSI enhance their joint efforts against transnational crime.

A cooperation agreement, signed by INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble and CSI President Michael Gordon-Gibson after the resolution's approval, follows support provided by CSI to INTERPOL over the past two years in Operation Infra-Red (International Fugitive Round-up and Arrest–Red Notices), a global operation seeking to track down and apprehend some of the world’s most wanted fugitives.

Speaking from Doha, CSI President Gordon-Gibson said of the cooperation agreement: “It is important for people living in local communities to understand that this decision will positively impact them in their communities. Transnational crime does exist where organized criminal networks participate in human trafficking, drug and gun smuggling and other activities. These activities eventually end up in our communities, and if CSI and INTERPOL can work closely to eliminate or reduce this, that’s better for all of us.”

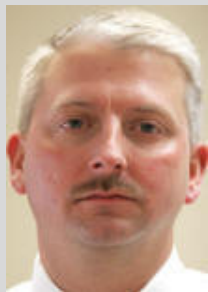
From May through July 2010, investigators from the participating countries and agencies, including CSI, worked together at the INTERPOL General Secretariat headquarters in Lyon, France to directly share case details on their suspects. Operation Infra-Red led to more than 130 fugitives being arrested or located in 32 countries and to new information on

almost 360 other fugitives targeted by the operation.

*“It is important for people living in local communities to understand that this decision will positively impact them in their communities”*

## Featured Regional Director,

### Det. Lt. Don Everson, Region 12 Director



Region 12 Director, Mitchell, SD Police Department Det. Lt. Don Everson was raised in Seneca, South Dakota, where his father owned and operated a gas station. He grew up fixing flat tires, and pumping gasoline in the family business. Det. Lt. Everson attended The University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, graduating in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

Lt. Everson began his law enforcement career with the Mitchell Police Department in November, 1993 when he was hired as a Patrolman. He was promoted to the rank of Detective in August, 1997. Lt. Everson worked in that capacity, investigating criminal activity until he was promoted to the rank of Detective Lieutenant in October, 2006. In this capacity he supervises five criminal investigators; including one drug investigator and one investigative secretary. At the Mitchell Police Department, he has served under four different Police Chiefs and two different investigative supervisors. Lt. Everson has been Coordinator for Mitchell Area Crime Stoppers, Inc. since 2006. Lt. Everson is also the Coordinator for the James Valley Drug Task Force. Lt. Everson is a past board member of t Davison County Court Appointed Special Advocate Group and a member of the Davison County Child Protection Team.

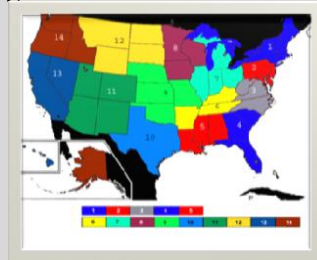
Lt. Everson and his family live in Mitchell, SD, home of the World’s Only Corn Palace. Lt. Everson is grateful to live and work in a great community such as Mitchell.

## Crime Stoppers USA Regional Directors

Each of the 14 Crime Stoppers USA Regions is led by a regional director as listed below and at [www.crimestoppersusa.com](http://www.crimestoppersusa.com).

If there is an opening, it will show, “Covered by Board” meaning that other board members have stepped up to take on that responsibility until a Regional Director can be placed.

Region 1: Covered by Board  
Region 2: Covered by Board  
Region 3: Covered by Board  
Region 4: Barb Bergin  
Region 5: Covered by Board  
Region 6: Frank Boyd  
Region 7: Cindy Kilgore  
Region 8: Covered by Board  
Region 9: Lisa Pisciotta  
Region 10: Estela Quintanilla  
Region 11: Patrick Curran  
Region 12: Don Everson  
Region 13: Ken Kelly  
Region 14: Michael Blatman



# CSUSA Copper Theft Program



## Overview of the Problem

Copper theft is a major problem across the USA. Currently, records of incidents are either not kept or, at best, are kept as written reports, and limited analysis has been completed on the issue. Due to the lack of records, very few of these incidents are reported to police. There has been a mindset in the business community that theft of copper is just another business expense, and businesses regularly replace the missing cable without reporting it.

The incidents vary in value; however, regardless of the quantity of cable/copper stolen, the thefts cause a risk to the safety of company staff and the public. Many incidents include the theft of grounding cable, which forms part of the safety system in the event of a fault or a lightning strike. The safety problem is also compounded when thieves cut the fence and leave the site exposed. Most substation sites have voltages that can be lethal if equipment is approached; a person does not have to physically touch the equipment to receive a lethal electric shock.

## Formation of the Committee

Each state Crime Stoppers program can form a committee to work with the electric companies and cellular companies to deal with copper theft. Committees can include Crime Stoppers programs; energy companies; police, cellular companies; electric co-op; plumbing, heating, and cooling associations; scrap metal associations; and any other organization experiencing copper theft.

Once the committee participants have agreed on the vision, mission, and goals, the first tasks are to gather statistics from all of the member organizations to ascertain the extent of the problem across the state and to develop a strategy for implementing the campaign. The three main objectives are to initiate behavior change, to deter copper and related metal theft, and to encourage people to anonymously report the thieves and the recipients of stolen metal.

The proposed strategy is an integrated approach using a mix of communication tools including public relations, media relations, direct marketing, and advertising. The strategy will have two major initiatives: a public relations program and a mass media relations program. Television, radio, print media, community groups, professional associations, private sector companies, and the Internet will be the primary channels used to communicate the strategy to key stakeholders. Primary target audiences of the proposed strategy are taxpayers; companies that may be at risk due to a loss of power, water, or gas; and the general community. We will also work to raise awareness through the law enforcement networks.

## State Media Launch

You can use a variety of media materials, some of which have already been developed for the program. These include community service television and radio advertisements, posters, and vehicle stickers. Also, a television commercial has been produced for your use. All participating companies are requested to provide case studies to enable local media stories within their own areas. You will also want to have politicians and state media personalities involved to get the word out to the public.

## Funding and program management

The next question is, "How are we going to pay for all of this?" The answer is simple. The participating companies contribute to this program. For example, in Oklahoma, the \$125,000 required to produce the materials and fund the program was received from participating companies. This is a relatively small amount of money for companies that may be losing million dollar transformers due to copper theft.

## DataDot Initiative

The use of DataDot products will continue to increase, thereby increasing the revenue of your local and state Crime Stoppers programs. This is done with the installation of signage warning persons that property is marked and identifiable.

## Program Results

Your state will see incidents of copper theft decrease over time. However, the problem continues, and, due to the copper program, will move away from substations. The main problem then becomes the theft of copper from street equipment, such as grounding cables on street poles.

For more information, contact a CSUSA board member or Ken Vernon at DataDots at 208-571-1070.

# 2011 Training Opportunities

## **CSUSA 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CSUSA Training Conference August 7-11, 2011**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Training Conference will be hosted by the Kent County Silent Observer (a Crime Stoppers Program), at the beautiful Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI August 7-11, 2011. The conference room rate is \$81 per night.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The three day conference will feature Crime Stoppers 101 track, which will include classes for both newcomers to Crime Stoppers and seasoned Crime Stoppers members. Details are being finalized now, and registration information will be sent out shortly. For more information about Grand Rapids, visit [www.grandrapids.org](http://www.grandrapids.org).



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## **32nd Crime Stoppers International Training Conference Ritz-Carlton Golf and Spa Resort, Rose Hall, Jamaica Dates: October 23-26, 2011 Travel Days: October 22 and 27, 2011**

The 2011 Crime Stoppers International (CSI) Training Conference will be held at the all-inclusive Ritz Carlton Rose Hall Resort in magical Montego Bay, Jamaica. CSI and your Caribbean/Bermuda and Latin American hosts invite you to paradise to maintain and further the international cooperation that has been developed over the last several years.

Fittingly, the theme of the 2011 Conference will be "CRIME HAS NO BORDERS" a fact of which we are very much aware in our region, which consists of many different countries. CSI's training conferences have real value in bringing our different communities together where we quickly discover that although we are culturally different we face many of the same problems. Sharing these problems and the technology and solutions used to fight them is why these conferences are a MUST for the people who operate Crime Stoppers programs.

The 32nd CSI Training Conference is being co-chaired by the Chairman of the Bermuda Conference David Carruthers, and our Caribbean/Bermuda Regional Director Prudence Gentles.

**This conference will take place entirely within the Ritz Carlton Resort and all attendees MUST stay at the resort hotel. Please make your hotel reservations before registering for the conference as you will need to provide your hotel confirmation number in order to register**



## **16th Annual Texas Campus Crime Stoppers Conference**

**February 21-23, 2011 Odessa, TX.**

Registration will be open February 20 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm and February 21 from 8:45 am to 11:45 pm. Opening Ceremonies will be at 12:00 pm February 21. Sessions will include Introduction to Campus Crime Stoppers, Campus Program Operations, Sexting, Bullying, date rape, recordkeeping, club sponsor's duties, gangs, ID Theft, Independent/Umbrella/School Safety programs, and law enforcement and public safety careers. Credit for peace officers is offered. Students are treated to a fun night on Monday and an awards dinner and dance on Tuesday night.

For information contact:  
Estela Quintanilla  
Laredo ISD Coordinator  
Campus Crime Stoppers  
Teens in the Driver Seat  
Cell: 956-744-0083  
Fax: 956-725-5707

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## **Welcome to the Nonprofit Resource Center**

Effective January 15, 2011, the Nonprofit Resource Center (NRC) is the Back Office for Crime Stoppers USA. The term back office relates to all accounting, grant writing, and clerical work for the organization. The NRC is a membership organization focused on nonprofit training, grant writing, technical assistance and back office work. A professional office of ten staff assists the national organization in many ways. If you choose to join, the NRC can assist your program as well.

Your primary contact is Lindsey Roberts at [lroberts@thenonprofitresourcecenter.org](mailto:lroberts@thenonprofitresourcecenter.org), or 918.683-4600. Additional information is available at [www.thenonprofitresourcecenter.org](http://www.thenonprofitresourcecenter.org)





**Crime Stoppers & the Law**  
**Judge Richard W. Carter (Ret.)**  
**CSUSA Director of Legal Services**



**Protecting and Defending Crime Stoppers**

Crime Stoppers helps others by assisting governmental law enforcement agencies in offering and paying rewards for solicited information that will help solve crimes and apprehend criminals. Crime Stoppers helps the community make itself a safer place in which to live and is a friend to crime victims and their families.

But who watches over Crime Stoppers? Sure, some states have statutes that provide opportunities to obtain court-generated funding, and there are a few statutes that create commissions, councils, and boards tasked with aiding Crime Stoppers. When it comes down to it, Crime Stoppers must fend for itself in order to protect and defend its good name and to ensure that the program's operations are successful

**Corporate Legality**

A Crime Stoppers organization should periodically check the status of the corporation with the state in which it was created. Is the corporation in good standing? Have all corporate reports and filings been made in a timely manner? Does the agency that oversees corporations have the correct mailing address for the Crime Stoppers Corporation? If Crime Stoppers is not current on filings or failed to send change of address information, the corporation could have its charter suspended or revoked. Without good standing, those who work with Crime Stoppers may not be protected from exposure to liability. Without good standing, there is no authority to act as a corporation.

Crime Stoppers organizations should also periodically check their 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status with the IRS. Several Crime Stoppers boards found that they had actually never received such status. Others found that tax returns had not been filed, and the exemption had been lost.

**Unauthorized Use of Crime Stoppers' Name and Identity Theft**

The name of your Crime Stoppers organization should be protected when it is approved or accepted by the Secretary of State or comparable official/agency overseeing corporations. However, much more is needed. The organization should use its correct legal name in contracts, register any assumed names that it may also use in the course of doing business, and send cease and desist letters warning anyone who uses the Crime Stoppers name without authority.

***When it comes down to it, Crime Stoppers must fend for itself in order to protect and defend its good name and to ensure that the program's operations are successful.***

Do not acquiesce when third parties unilaterally use your program's name and contact information when they choose to publicize an unsolved crime. It is YOUR charitable corporation and YOUR charitable dollars. They have no right to speak for Crime Stoppers or to offer your charity's money. To do so is tantamount to identify theft.

In 2010, an individual used the name Crime Stoppers in a community that had a Crime Stoppers program with an almost identical name; rented a post office box; and solicited tips and donations. Until stopped by a cease and desist letter and state and federal law enforcement officials, the individual was receiving criminal information charitable donations that were intended for the legitimate Crime Stoppers organization. The bogus Crime Stoppers program was not a corporation or a non-profit and failed to forward any of the tips that might have otherwise contributed to the solution of crimes and the apprehension of criminals.

**Engage in Practices That Protect and Enhance the Good Name of Crime Stoppers**

Crime Stoppers organizations should follow the philosophy and guidelines of the Crime Stoppers program and not engage in practices that could tarnish the reputation and threaten the continued success of Crime Stoppers.

File legal responses to attempts to subpoena or compel disclosure of Crime Stoppers files and records. Obtain background/criminal history checks on board members. Don't offer or agree to facilitate outrageously large rewards. Be prepared to recognize any attempts to funnel rewards to persons who are not entitled to them and any improper use of funds by anyone in the Crime Stoppers system including law enforcement officers.

## **The Sarbanes-Oxley Act**

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act is a federal law that stems from the Enron scandals of 2002. It was passed primarily to rebuild public trust in America's corporations, and primarily targets publicly traded for-profit companies. This act sets new standards for financial transactions and audit procedures for for-profit corporations. There are two provisions, in particular, with which nonprofits must comply.

**Whistle-Blower Protection.** A nonprofit organization should have a written whistle-blower policy to address complaints (especially complaints of financial wrongdoing). This policy should protect individuals from retaliation if they have a reasonable belief that misconduct is taking place and complain about it.

**Document Destruction.** "Don't destroy any document with intent to obstruct justice." All nonprofits should have a written retention and document destruction policy for all board members and staff that covers electronic files and voicemail messages, as well as paper documents.

While most other requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act do not apply to nonprofit organizations, they would be well-advised to follow the lead of this legislation because many states (California is a prime example) are enacting new and mandatory regulations for nonprofit organizations that mirror the intent of Sarbanes-Oxley (such as independent and competent audit committee, certified financial statements, and transparency).

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## **Does Your Program need to be bonded?**

**By Elaine Cloyd**

Have you ever stopped at a red light and sitting next to you is a panel truck displaying an advertisement such as Able & Willing Plumbing - Bonded & Insured? If it made any impression at all I bet you thought, "Probably a pretty good plumber because at least they are bonded and insured." Why should or would a plumber be bonded? For two reasons: trust and creditability. Why should any Crime Stoppers Program be bonded? For the same two reasons: trust and creditability.



**Elaine Cloyd**

Consider offering your community and supporters a guarantee that their tax dollars and/or contributions are kept safe. You can have your program bonded for less than \$100 annually. Don't make your WORD your BOND; make your BOND your BOND. Call your local insurance broker or contact our Crime Stoppers USA broker at [www.legacyconnections.com](http://www.legacyconnections.com) for more information on bonding and other types of insurance policies for your program.

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## **Board Member Training and Job Description: A Helpful Start!**

**By John Lamb**

Crime Stoppers boards of directors are often criticized for taking too little interest in their organizations or for micro-managing. Particular nonprofit cultures contribute to these problems. The personalities of the members of the board and the staff can play a role that encourages either extreme, and the organization suffers because the board is not focused on what it should be doing

**What can be done in these situations?** First, everyone involved with the organization should have a clear understanding about each person's roles and responsibilities and what procedures are necessary to carry out the organization's mission and purpose. Board members must be informed of their responsibilities right from the start. While such tutoring will not change a long history and culture of indifference or meddling, it will set the stage for doing things right.

**Where does the process of educating the board begin?** The recruitment package should include a job description for each potential board member. Telling prospective board members that financial contributions are expected during recruitment is far easier than springing the news on them a year after they've joined. Responsibilities like reviewing minutes and agendas prior to coming to the board meeting, attending board meetings, and participating in committee work and the annual planning retreat all should be included in the description. If you don't have a board member job description, be sure to include its development as a topic at your next board meeting.

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