

Texas Crime Stoppers

Volume I, Issue III

April 28, 1999

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Council Meeting

The Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council met at the 4th Annual Campus Crime Stoppers Conference in Mesquite, Texas on April 14, 1999. In an effort to enhance available training, the Crime Stoppers Advisory Council has approved a training strategy which will provide training and technical assistance across the state.

The training and technical assistance strategies include the following:

- Develop an annual training plan.
 - Conduct a needs assessment surveying all crime stoppers programs to determine the training areas that should be emphasized.
 - Develop a system of regional volunteer crime stoppers trainers.
 - Continue to hold at least two statewide training events on an annual basis.
 - Conduct a series of regional one day training events to promote network opportunities between programs and address training deficiencies.
 - Additional training initiatives the Council approved are new training videos, a resource manual and the exploration of the internet as a training tool.
- Further details are forthcoming.

The Council also approved contracting out the functions of the state crime stoppers program to a third party. In the near future, the Governor's Office will post a request for grant application in the Texas Register for nonprofit organizations and state agencies interested in

assuming the duties of the state office.

The Advisory Council has made tremendous progress in the past four months as summed up by Council Member, Tom Dunn:

"....I just sit here in amazement, back in December when the work group began to try to revamp everything and get the legislation in order and so on, so forth. I didn't believe that by this date that I'd be sitting here looking at an agenda approving the things that we are doing, and it is extremely pleasing given the recent history of the Advisory Council and Crime Stoppers in general. I think kudos go to, certainly, to Mr. Nedelkoff and his office for the efforts they have put forward, and the input that we have gotten from the [Crime Stoppers] Association and all the interested parties that are here. I don't think I've ever seen a bunch of folks come together as quickly as they have to an end to perpetuate something that has probably been one of the best programs around for years and years and years, and I'm just extremely excited and glad to be a part of it. And I think we need to give a round of applause to everybody here, including us."



4th Annual Campus Crime Stoppers Conference

The 4th Annual Campus Crime Stoppers Conference was held last week in Mesquite, Texas and was hosted by North Mesquite Campus

Crime Stoppers, Inc. Approximately 425 students, sponsors and coordinators were in attendance.

Many of the speakers were veteran crime stoppers members from around the state that once again proved to be an outstanding source in communicating lessons on how to operate a campus crime stoppers program. One guest speaker that made an impression on students was Robert Pickle. Students eagerly listened as he taught the lessons and consequences of a hard life followed by questions regarding his criminal demise and how he arrived at his recovery. Mr. Pickle applauded the students for doing the right thing by striving to keep their schools safe.

Conference Awards

Each year, students from around the state enter the 1998 Campus Crime Stoppers' competitions held at each Conference. We would like to thank all that entered the competitions and would like to congratulate the winners below:

Campus Crime Stoppers

Coordinator of the Year: B.R. Ray of Harrell A.L.C. Campus Crime Stoppers

Campus Crime Stopper Board

Member of the Year: Kristen Howard of Harrell A.L.C. Campus Crime Stoppers.

Television Competition

Best Crime of the Week, University High School Campus Crime Stoppers; Best Special Production/PSA, Marshall High School Crime Stoppers.

Radio Competition

Best Crime of the Week, Central High School, in association with Crime Stoppers of San Angelo, Inc.; Best Special Production/PSA,

Lakeview High School, in association with Crime Stoppers of San Angelo, Inc.

Newsprint Competition

Best General Newsprint, Lamar County Student Crime Stoppers.

Innovative Publicity

Stephen F. Austin Crime Stoppers. This program established the Crime Stoppers' Junior Academy, which offers a 10-hour course designed to educate students about their responsibility to prevent crime on campus and in the community. A graduation ceremony follows the completion of the academy and each cadet receives a T-shirt with the crime stoppers logo.

Productivity Awards, Most Cases Cleared

Independent Programs: Small School: University High School; Medium School: Marshall High School; Large School: Student Crime Stoppers of Amarillo

Most Cases Cleared - Umbrella Programs: Small Program: Kennedale High School; Medium School: Mesquite Schools Crime Stoppers; Large School: Tarrant County Campus Crime Stoppers.

Productivity Awards, Greatest Dollar Recovery

Independent Programs: Small School: University High School; Medium School: Marshall High School Crime Stoppers; Large School: Student Crime Stoppers of Amarillo.

Umbrella Programs: Small School: Armstrong Campus Crime Stoppers; Medium School: Odessa Student Crime Stoppers; Large School: Tarrant County Campus Crime Stoppers.

Legislative Update

The legislature is scheduled to adjourn on May 31, 1999. Currently,

crime stoppers legislation that was recommended by the Crime Stoppers Advisory Council HB 3728 and SB 1789 (companion bills) are moving right along. We will keep everyone updated on the progress that is made.

Future Conferences

The 11th Annual Crime Stoppers Conference will be held in Addison, Texas at the Crown Royal Hotel on August 22 – 25, 1999. Registration packets will be sent out soon.

The Governor's Crime Stoppers Advisory Council is accepting bids from certified crime stoppers programs interested in hosting a conference. Please submit letters of support from the local Board of Directors and the local Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Texas Crime Stoppers will contract with a professional conference planner to work with local representatives and coordinate the bidding process. The meeting planner will contact hotels and vendors directly. All bids will be presented to the Crime Stoppers Advisory Council who will make a selection. The available conferences are as follows: Campus Conference 2000 and 2001; Annual Conference 2001.

The next scheduled council meeting is July 9, 1999 in Austin, Texas. The meeting site will be announced at a later date.

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