

**A HISTORY OF
THE ILLINOIS STATE
CRIME STOPPERS ASSOCIATION**



BY

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Charter State Board Member

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In the spring of 1983, the President, Vice-President and Coordinator of the Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers met at Illinois Central College to discuss the possible establishment of a State Crime Stoppers organization. Eugene Holmes, Ken Camp and Joe Pasquesi discussed at some length what procedures should be followed.

In the fall of 1983, after invitations had been mailed to all known State Crime Stoppers programs, representatives consisting of both civilian and law agency Crime Stoppers met at an all-day meeting held at the Pere Marquette Hotel in Peoria, Illinois. Approximately forty individuals were present. After unanimously voting to organize, a planning committee consisting of ten individuals was elected. Officer Roger Sether, Coordinator of Crystal Lake Crime Stoppers, was elected committee chair.

During the first meeting of the planning committee, Ken Camp was asked to write Bylaws for the State Association. The proposed Bylaws were approved at a later meeting of the planning committee. The committee completed the necessary papers requesting incorporation status, and at the same time prepared all materials required for 501-©-3 status; i.e. non-profit organization as recognized by the State and Federal IRS departments.

At later meetings of the planning committee, State Board members were elected. The Association's Bylaws require a total of eighteen Board members. These members consisted of members of the planning committee as well as other elected members from Crime Stoppers programs throughout the State. The Bylaws, also, require

- Officer William Nation.....Christian County Crime Stoppers
- Officer William NealeSangamon/Menard County Crime Stoppers
- Gene Novack.....Kankakee County Crime Stoppers
- Officer Joe Pasequesi.....Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers
- Trooper Michael Pigg...State Police-Quincy Regional Crime Stoppers
- *Nora Powell.....Henry County Crime Stoppers
- Michael Predmore.....Quincy Regional Crime Stoppers
- Det. Dennis Reese.....Crime Stoppers of Quad Cities
- Officer Ann Ruggles.....Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers
- Det. Rick Ryckeghem.....Crime Stoppers of Quad Cities
- Officer Jay Sauer.....Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers
- Sheriff Randy Sims.....Shelby County Crime Stoppers
- Officer Roberta Steffa.....Pike County Crime Stoppers
- Officer Brenda Thompson...Sangamon/Menard County Crime Stoppers
- Mark Tieman.....Morgan/Scott County Crime Stoppers
- Officer Keith Ushman.....Sangamon/Menard County Crime Stoppers
- Sgt. Fred VanBebber.....Morgan/Scott County Crime Stoppers
- Office Kelly Vandermaiden.....Quincy Regional Crime Stoppers
- John Wade.....
- Richard White.....
- Officer Larry Wight.....Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers
- Det. Scott Willams.....Crime Stoppers of Quad Cities
- Officer Neil Williamson....Sangamon/Menard County Crime Stoppers
- Lt. Randy Witko.....Bureau/Putnam County Crime Stoppers
- *Howard Wurster.....DesPlaines Crime Stoppers
- Augie Yount.....Pike County Crime Stoppers
- Director Bill Zander.....Lake County Crime Stoppers
- Donald Zierke.....Rockford County Crime Stoppers
- Sheriff James Zirkelbach.....Macoupin/Montgomery County Crime Stoppers

*-Deceased

ILLINOIS STATE CRIME STOPPERS ASSOCIATION
 BOARD MEMBERS
 1984-2004

<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Scott Abrams.....	Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers
Karin Betzer-Grady.....	Decatur/Macon County Crime Stoppers
Dr. Kenneth L. Camp.....	Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers
Jo Cramer.....	Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers
Dr. Stanley Cunningham.....	Macomb Area Crime Stoppers
Officer Troy Daniels.....	Champaign County Crime Stoppers
James DePoorter.....	Crime Stoppers of Quad Cities
Joe DePorter.....	Crime Stoppers of Quad Cities
Trooper Shad Edwards.....	State Police
Bemis Eshbaugh.....	Crime Stoppers of Quad Cities
Officer Gil Feld.....	Quincy Regional Crime Stoppers
*John Giavaris.....	Sangamon/Menard County Crime Stoppers
Donald Gustin.....	Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers
Brian Hamon.....	Stephenson County Crime Stoppers
Larry Hayes.....	Macoupin/Montgomery County Crime Stoppers
Officer Wayne Hughes...	Decatur/Macon County Crime Stoppers
Tim Hungate.....	Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers
Advisor Charles Jackson.....	Rockford-Past President of Crime Stoppers International
Don Kaye.....	Naperville Crime Stoppers
Officer Scott Kedizor.....	Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers
David Lawrence.....	Champaign County Crime Stoppers
Janice Logan.....	Sangamon/Menard County Crime Stoppers
Sandy S. Long.....	Mercer County Crime Stoppers
Carolyn Maddox.....	Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers
Officer Richard Maier.....	Naperville Crime Stoppers
Chief Ron Massey.....	Jefferson County Crime Stoppers
Officer Ron Mauri.....	Cook County Crime Stoppers
Captain Lindsey May.....	Galesburg Area Crime Stoppers
Det. Mary Mazzuchi.....	Kankakee County Crime Stoppers
Advisor Harold Miller.....	Will County Crime Stoppers
Janet Mollohan.....	Will County Crime Stoppers

That the board members be evenly divided so that an equal number of civilian and law agency program coordinators serve on the Board. In addition, the Bylaws require the Board to meet every two months. Later, Officer Bill Nation would assume the Bylaws chairmanship, and worked diligently and continuously to “fine-tune” the Association’s Bylaws. He and his Bylaws Committee are to be congratulated!

This newly composed State Board elected officers, with Officer Roger Sether of Crystal Lake elected as the Organization’s first president. President Sether, a dedicated Crime Stopper, did much to enhance the State Organization’s efforts to become a successful entity. Later, President Sether found it necessary to resign his position, and Vice-President Bemis Eshbaugh of the Quad Cities Crime Stoppers assumed presidency.

The Bylaws later established each term of office as being two years in length. Historically, the State presidents and years served are:

- Coordinator Roger Sether, Crystal Lake.....1 1/2 years
- Mr. Bemis Eshbaugh, Quad Cities.....2 years
- Officer Jay Sauer, Greater Peoria.....2 years
- Dr. Ken Camp, Greater Peoria.....6 years
- Det. Rick Ryckeghem, Quad Cities.....3 years
- Mr. Tim Hungate, Greater Peoria.....2 years
- Mrs. Karin Betzer-Grady, Decatur/Macon County.
current president

Roger Sether, Bemis Eshbaugh, and Jay Sauer deserve State recognition for the superior work they did during their presidencies. They definitely assisted in establishing the State Association as a powerful crime prevention instrument.

Detective Ryckeghem, an outstanding Board member, found it necessary to resign the presidency due to assuming a new position-a great loss for the Association!

Mr. Hungate, after successfully completing the last year of Detective Ryckeghem's term, and one two-year term of his own, decided to return to the Board as a member. His contributions as president were many, and he continues to serve on the State Board in a most exemplary manner.

Ken Camp's six years as president occurred during a time when the need for funding and Association growth became paramount. His Boards of Directors, during those six years, are to be forever thanked for those successes achieved.

In May of 1988, the Association held its first Annual Meeting and Conference. The Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers planned and hosted it in Peoria, Illinois. Many State Crime Stoppers programs had representatives at this first meeting. It was at this initial meeting that the NewComers School was established as an integral part of every Annual Meeting held throughout the State.

May the Illinois State Crime Stoppers Association continue throughout the foreseeable future, to serve all local, state, and national crime prevention efforts.

May God Bless the efforts of every Crime Stoppers program in the State of Illinois-and yes, may God continue to bless each of our volunteers who serve on our Board of Directors!

Please note: Due to the Association's loss of important records, it has been necessary to approximate from memory some dates such as founding years and the length of terms served by our presidents.

I want to thank Janet Mollohan and Bill Nation for their assistance in recalling information used in this history.

I believe the dates and terms of office appearing in this history are correct. Should errors exist, however, corrections will be made and distributed to all parties concerned.

OUR MISSION: The Illinois State Crime Stoppers Association is a broad-based crime fighting program whose mission is to develop and facilitate Crime Stoppers programs throughout the State of Illinois.

OUR GOALS: In order to accomplish this MISSION, we have established Organizational GOALS, which require the Illinois State Crime Stoppers Association to strive:

1. To promote, through marketing and awareness, the concepts of Crime Stoppers by facilitating the partnership between the community, media, and law enforcement for the purpose of crime fighting and crime prevention.
2. To promote the creation of local and scholastic Crime Stoppers programs throughout the state.
3. To provide leadership through the use of an Annual State Conference, continuing education, resources, statistics, and mentoring, as well as maintaining, improving, and expanding training programs.
4. To maintain a high level of program standards through a system of certification.
5. To communicate through networking and publications and to provide representation at the local, state, national and international levels.
6. To secure and provide funding to meet Association goals.

Historically, all Annual Meetings of the Association have been held in May. Annual Meetings have been hosted by the following Crime Stoppers programs:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Annual Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hosting Crime Stoppers Programs</u>
1988	#1	Peoria	Greater Peoria Area
1989	#2	Moline	Quad Cities
1990	#3	Macomb	Macomb Area
1991	#4	Jacksonville	Morgan/Scott County
1992	#5	Joliet	Will County Area
1993	#6	Springfield	Sangamon/Menard County
1994	#7	Gurnee	Lake County
1995	#8	Decatur	Decatur/Macon County
1996	#9	Carlinville	Macoupin/Montgomery County
1997	#10	Peoria	Greater Peoria Area
1998	#11	Moline	Quad Cities
1999	#12	Itasca	Cook County
2000	#13	Rockford	Rockford Area
2001	#14	Champaign	Champaign
2002	#15	Quincy	Quincy Area
2003	#16	Decatur	Decatur/Macon County
2004	#17	Springfield	Sangamon/Menard County
2005	#18	Peoria	Greater Peoria Area

During Detective Rick Ryckeghem’s presidency, the State Board approved a plan to implement a Certification of State Programs project. The Certification Committee was charged with outlining a process and procedure wherein certain criteria for evaluating the merit of a Crime Stoppers program could be used for certifying said programs. The

Board determined that all State Crime Stoppers programs would be “grand-fathered-in” for one year. This would allow all programs one year to organize the required materials and implement any necessary changes in operation for gaining a status of FULL CERTIFICATION—an acknowledgment of EXCELLENCE!

Today, January, 2004, there are more than sixty-five Crime Stoppers programs in the State. As of January, 2004, forty-one of the programs have been granted FULL Certification for a period of five years. These forty-one programs are to be congratulated for seeking and implementing EXCELLENCE!

For several years, special advisors have been appointed to the Board. These special advisors have made many valuable contributions to the State Organization. An example, Mr. Charles Jackson of Rockford, Illinois past president of Crime Stoppers International, was appointed by Ken Camp to the Board. This gentleman and others worked diligently and brilliantly to assist the Board and membership in efforts to solidify the permanency of the State Association. Mr. Charles Jackson is most praiseworthy and deserves the Association’s acclaim!

At the same time, in order to assist the State Crime Stopper program hosting the following year’s Annual Meeting, Janet Mollohan was appointed and advisor of the Board. As a result, the Board was constantly informed as to Will County’s planning process. Janet was later elected to

active Board status, and replaced a great lady and Board member, Nora Powell, as Board secretary—a position in which she continues to outstandingly serve the Association.

Sincere efforts have been made to secure the necessary finances to adequately fund State-wide projects of the Organization. Fund-raising letters have been sent by various presidents to every Crime Stoppers program in the State. Several thousand dollars have been realized, with contributions from \$100 to \$1000. As a result, the Organization has been able to grant up to \$1000 in seed money to each Crime Stoppers program hosting an Annual Meeting!

Funds have been used exclusively for projects of the Organization. No funds have been used for unrelated purposes. THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM! Continuous financial support by all of the State Crime Stoppers programs is essential!

In Summary, although a lack of adequate funding continues to plague the Organization, the Illinois State Crime Stoppers Association today is a viable and maturing Organization—one that exists as an umbrella Organization seeking to better serve each Crime Stoppers program in the State. The Illinois State Crime Stoppers Association seeks the day when the entire State of Illinois shall have at least one active Crime Stoppers program in every county in the State.