

# Quarterly Newsletter

Illinois State Crime Stoppers Association

First Quarter 2025



## A Message from the President

Afternoon Fellow Crime Stoppers,

I hope you are all surviving the winter weather and looking forward to the Spring and with that, our 2025 State training conference! This year's conference will be held in the Capital city, May 1-3, at the Hilton Garden Hotel in Springfield! Whether you're a board member or Coordinator, I assure you that there will be information you can take away and use. Keep watch in your e-mail when registration opens up. It will be soon!

I wish to talk to you about the status of our current state board.

\* We have lost some members recently and that has put us at a tremendous loss in serving existing programs and behind in our goal of bringing back programs in areas we have lost, and in developing new programs. Each state director is assigned three to four programs that he/she serves as a liaison, too. Currently there are 22 programs that are without a director, and that can't go on! We have been focusing on bringing back programs in Mclean and DuPage counties as well as developing new programs east of St Louis. That work has been stalled.

\* We would like to build our board of directors again to jump start the work that has been lying dormant. We are eager to meet with those that want to develop and strengthen a crime prevention program throughout the ENTIRE state! Directors from Northern & Southern Illinois are of special need.

\* The State Board does understand that taking an entire day to travel to Peoria for a two-hour meeting in today's work environment can be difficult for many, as it is for me, as well. With that said, we are proposing changes in our meeting structure.

Currently we are looking at holding our January, July, and November meetings electronically. Our March (pre-conference meeting) would be a mandatory in-person meeting in Peoria. The May conference, of course, would be mandatory, as well as a "retreat" in September, location TBA. We feel this would accommodate those traveling so often to Peoria but, still accomplish the work needed to complete our goals.

If this sounds like it would accommodate your schedule and you have the strong desire to rebuild Crime Stoppers throughout the state, please contact me ASAP at [president@illinoiscrimestoppers.org](mailto:president@illinoiscrimestoppers.org)

Original requirements to become a director are still in place. 1.) You must be a member of a certified program. That certification process is currently going on and you will read of that in this newsletter. 2.) You must have previously attended a state conference. That can be completed this May 1-3!

I have never regretted my decision to join the State Board, and I don't think you would either.

I hope to hear from you soon and to see you in Springfield!

Loren Hamilton  
Illinois State Crime Stoppers  
President

**Happy Valentine's  
Day**

**From the Cupids on  
the State Board**



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## 2025 Annual Conference Announced May 1-3, 2025



**Mark your calendars now because you won't want to miss out on the fun, great information, and networking at the 2025 Illinois State Crime Stoppers Association Conference!! There's lots to see and do at the Capital of our great state, so start planning now!**

**Conference registration is:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/illinois-state-crime-stoppers-36th-annual-training-conference-tickets-1250241167989?aff=oddtcreator>

**Room reservation link is:**

[https://www.IL Crime Stoppers Convention - Hilton Garden Inn Springfield - May 1-3 2025](https://www.ILCrimeStoppersConvention.com)

**Come for the information, stay for the FUN!!**

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## It's Time to Re-certify Your Program For 2025

**To all Crime Stoppers Programs,**

Every five years we ask the Crime Stopper Programs around the state to re-certify. It is even easier to do now. Go to our website [illinoiscrimestoppers.com](http://illinoiscrimestoppers.com). Under programs you will find the Certification. You can fill it out online, print it, scan it, and send it in an email to [statistician@illinoiscrimestoppers.org](mailto:statistician@illinoiscrimestoppers.org)

### Current 2025 Re-Certified Programs:

**Cook County Crime Stoppers Inc.  
Greater Peoria Area Crime Stoppers Inc  
Crime Stoppers of Pike County  
Effingham Area Crime Stoppers  
Rockford Area Crime Stoppers  
Mercer County Crime Stoppers  
Henderson County Crime Stoppers  
Jefferson County Crime Stoppers  
Lincoln/Logan County Crime Stoppers**

**Not on the list? Go to the website now to get current.**



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## Helpful Tips From Our President

### Facebook is Paying for Your Posts!!

Did you know you can get paid by Facebook for your posts?

Through META your Crime Stopper group can receive monies electronically for your well performing posts. You can also receive "stars" and bonuses as donations from your audience. This, as well as direct donations.

Research "monetization" on your Facebook for more details and to sign up. You will be asked for your account information to receive payments .

I can tell you first-hand that Crime Stoppers of Morgan, Scott & Cass counties have changed its Facebook account to a professional dashboard and have received monthly payments since.

### For Those Departments Posting on Social Media

There possibly may have been a situation where an individual that was profiled on social media by a Crime Stoppers program, was rumored to have committed suicide after seeing the post himself. Judge Carter gave the following advice in this situation:

- 1.) Check with hospitals and first responders to ascertain if there was a death
- 2.) Ask the agency detective who obtained the warrant whether the warrant has been withdrawn or is still active.

If either effort shows the person is no longer alive or no longer wanted, remove the post from social media.

Additionally, if a family member or credible person can conclusively show a death, remove the post.

Lastly, deal only with whether the person is living or dead, and the arrest active or not. DO NOT use the word suicide as it puts you at risk if it was not a suicide but was a natural or accidental death.

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**Submitted by: Richard Endsley, President of Jefferson County Crime Stoppers (as requested by Jo Cramer)**

**Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman is hosting his first ever safety seminar for houses of worship:**

***Bulletproof House of Worship Safety Conference***

*April 24 - 26, 2025 - Mt. Vernon, Illinois*



Join me in Mount Vernon, Illinois for this inaugural event that I'm hosting on *April 24 - 26, 2025*. We'll come together and learn how to *Better protect our Congregations and Ensure their safety*.

I've invited some of the top experts and trainers to discuss the current threats to houses of worship and the essential measures we need to take to prevent acts of violence in our places of worship: Carl Chinn, Ken Alexandrow, Jimmy Meeks, Officer Greg Stevens (Officer Stevens stopped the first ISIS attack on American soil and received the Presidential Medal of Valor). Officer Hank Fahnert (Officer Fahnert was the first officer on scene at the massacre at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas: 26 worshipers were fatally wounded: 24 injured).

**Illinois Police Officers** will receive 8 hours credit toward Illinois mandates.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Church Safety Teams - Police Officers - Teachers - All Educators - Business Owners - Church Leaders - anyone and everyone *concerned about violence*.

**Col. Grossman** is a former US Army Ranger, paratrooper, and former West Point Psychology Professor.

He has a Black Belt in Hojutsu, the martial art of the firearm, and has been inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

Since his retirement in 1998, he has been on the road almost 300 days a year.

Colonel Grossman is one of our nation's leading trainers for military, law enforcement, mental health providers, and school safety organizations.

**ALL INFO IS ON WEBSITE: [WWW.BULLETPROOFWORSHIP.COM](http://WWW.BULLETPROOFWORSHIP.COM)**

- DATES: April 24 - 26, 2025 (Thursday Afternoon thru Saturday noon)
- TIMES: Details on website ([www.bulletproofworship.com](http://www.bulletproofworship.com))
- LOCATION: Central Church - 310 N 10th St. - Mt Vernon, Illinois 62864
- COST - \$75 (Register at [www.bulletproofworship.com](http://www.bulletproofworship.com))



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## More Information about the Seminar

Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman is hosting his first ever safety conference for houses of worship. He is calling it THE BULLETPROOF HOUSE OF WORSHIP SAFETY CONFERENCE.

Colonel Grossman is one of the nation's leading experts on causes of violence and is a regular speaker in police-related training seminars.

The conference will focus on how to prevent acts of violence from occurring at houses of worship and faith-based property. Speakers include.

- Carl Chinn, the founder and president of the Faith\_based Security Network. Carl has been tracking violence on faith-based property since 1999. On 2 occasions Carl was actually on faith-based property when confronted by an angry gunman. In the latter, the shooter shot 5 people at Carl's church and killed 2 sisters.

- Ken Alexandrow will also speak. Ken is a 26-year (retired) police officer out of Nashville, Tennessee Metro Police Dept. He is the founder of Agape Tactical. Ken regularly travels the country training different organizations (including houses of worship) on how to create safer atmospheres.

- Jimmy Meeks will also speak. Jimmy is a 35 year registered police officer and 52 year minister. He has conducted about 500 church safety seminars in 40 states. Jimmy and his wife Julie were married at the First Baptist Church of Daingerfield. Three years after their marriage, an angry entered the same church, shouted "This is War," and shot 15 worshippers - killing 5.

- Texas Police Officer Greg Stevens will also speak. Officers Stevens stopped the first known ISIS attack on American soil on May 3, 2015. Two terrorists had driven from Arizona to Garland, Texas (Dallas area) to commit mass murder at a convention center. Officer Stevens confronted both men as they exited their vehicle with rifles in hand. He fatally wounded both. Officer Stevens was summoned to the White House whereupon he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Valor (from President Obama).

- Officer Hank Fahnert will also speak. Officer Fahnert was the first officer to enter the sanctuary of First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas on Sunday morning, November 5, 2017. An angry gunman had entered the church and shot 48 worshipers - killing 26. The church is the site of the worst massacre in the history of the state of Texas.

All info is on the website. The admission price is \$75. Thus far people have registered from all over Illinois and 25 other states (and 2 foreign countries)

the website is <https://bulletproofworship.com>.

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## Crime Stoppers of Sangamon and Menard Counties



Crime Stoppers of Sangamon and Menard Counties' board members enjoyed Springfield's annual Christmas Parade. This year, our entry consisted of a mobile jail cell with the Grinch having just been arrested. It is always fun to see the kids and adults enjoy the season and to see that we are very active putting criminals behind bars, even if we have a little fun doing it.



Crime Stoppers of Sangamon and Menard Counties held its 14th annual Trivia Night at the Springfield Convention Center on February 1st. There were some 116 tables of excited participants who enjoyed the competition and the challenge to take home the trophy. When it was all over three teams tied for first place each answering 99 of the 100 questions. A tie breaker was implemented to determine the winner, but in reality, everyone was a winner as Crime Stoppers received tremendous community support at this annual event.

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## Rockford Area Crime Stoppers

# Congratulations!!!

Rockford Area Crime Stoppers was awarded a Community Foundation of Northern Illinois grant through their Communities Grant Program. They applied for this grant in August and were awarded the grant in November. This grant allows them to modernize their website. They will be starting the process of this project In January 2025.

## *Exciting News!*

Rockford Area Crime Stoppers is thrilled to announce that we have received an \$8,050 grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, made possible through the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund!

This generous grant will allow us to upgrade our website to improve user experience, accessibility, and the overall effectiveness of our crime-stopping initiatives. With this update, we aim to better serve our community throughout Winnebago County.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois for their continued support and dedication to improving lives in our region.

W E A P P R E C I A T E Y O U R S U P P O R T



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS



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## Naperville Crime Stoppers

# TEXT 630-420-6006

**NAPERVILLE  
CRIME**



Crime **DOESN'T** Pay . . .

Crime Stoppers **DOES.**

**TEXT us today!**

The power to stop crime  
is at your fingertips.

CALL or TEXT to provide a tip.

*In an emergency,  
dial 9-1-1.*

## **Good Job, Naperville! Another way to receive those tips!!**

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## Cook County Crime Stoppers



**COOK COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS** ends 2024 strong as always. We have completed 100 out of 108 requested cases by going to the crime scene and passing out flyers about the incidents. In addition to these cases, that does not include the many calls and emails that were tips that we provided to Law Enforcement. As we enter into 2025, we look forward to continuing to have great partnerships with our federal, state, and local law enforcement.

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CENTER

**Chicago Police Department** has invited us to be part of the Emergency Assistance Center (EAC). Whenever there is a major incident such as a mass shooting or a murder of children, the city has these “pop-up” emergency centers to provide resources to the community.

We were involved in the first community EAC which pulled hundreds of citizens together where the community spoke to detectives and learned how anonymous tips could be given on the case through crime stoppers. This program was so successful that Chicago Police are active in certain community violent crimes and Cook County Crime Stoppers now has a table at these events. The new EAC program originated from the horrific violent murder of Ariana Molina.

As a result, a man was charged in the mass shooting. <https://abc7chicago.com/post/octaviano-romero-charged-back-yards-chicago-mass-shooting-killed-9-year-old-ariana-molina-wounded-10-others-cpd/15260670/>



Adriana Molina  
Victim

### 39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AWARD DINNER

**On November 14, 2024, Cook County Crime Stoppers held its 39<sup>th</sup> annual award dinner at the Mayfield Banquet Hall in Chicago. Over 490 people attended the event. Over 280 awardees in 17 groups/categories. Many awardees are recognized for their roles in various task forces in Federal, State, County, and Municipal agencies. Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling provided the keynote address. Cook County Sheriff Police Chief Leo Schmitz was recognized at this year's Distinguish Service Award.**



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Ben Bradley, an Investigative Reporter from WGN TV was honored with the Media Award for his investigation of the unethical violations of Dolton Mayor, Tiffany Henyard. That investigation led to the FBI securing indictments for village employees and putting the Dolton Mayor under continued investigations. See his full report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Du25nPREgk>



The team of Detectives worked hard to solve this cold case. In the photo is also the driver.

The **Citizen's Award for Bravery** was given to Glenda Schaller. Glenda worked as a driver for a waste service provider. On June 3, 2003, the driver noticed when the garbage bin lifted it seemed light, maybe empty. The driver proceeded to look at the garbage and saw something that did not seem right. She discovered two bodies of newborn infants. She called 911. If it was not for this driver, the babies' deaths would never have been known. The Cook County Sheriff's Police reopened the case in 2018 and confirmed the identity of the birth mother after obtaining DNA evidence from a cigarette butt and it matched with the twins' DNA. An arrest was made and on May 7, 2024, the birth mother pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. <https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/woman-sentenced-after-pleading-guilty-in-2003-murder-of-newborn-twins-in-cook-county>

Partnerships are the key to success. We want to thank our Law Enforcement leaders for supporting Cook County Crime Stoppers in allowing us to assist them in bringing justice to the victims.



**Standing from left to right:** Chicago Police Superintendent **Larry Snelling**, Cook County Sheriff Police Chief **Leo Schmitz**, Acting Special Agent in Charge IRS Criminal Investigations **Ramsey Covington**, Chairman **George McDade**, WGN Reporter and Master of Ceremonies **Angelica Sanchez**, Special Agent in Charge of the United State Marshalls for the Northern District of Illinois **LaDon Reynolds**, Special Agent in Charge of DHS Investigation **Richard Fitzgerald**, Special Agent in Charge of ATF **Christopher Amon**, Special Agent in Charge of DEA **Shelia Lyons**, and Vice Chairman **Paul Rutherford**.

**SAVE THE DATE:** As we prepare for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award Dinner, we would like you all to attend to celebrate. November of 2025. The exact date, time, and location is TBD. We will keep you posted.

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## Cook County Crime Stoppers

### 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Vice Chairman Paul Rutherford and Board Member Edward Gutierrez hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual toy drive in partnership with the Chicago Police Department and US Federal Reserve Police Department. In total, they were able to collect over 1000 toys which were delivered to Lurie's Children's Hospital with five squad cars led by Santa with lights and sirens.



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## ENDING 2024 WITH A BIG CASE

We ended 2024 by assisting Chicago Police and ATF with a Mass shooting that killed three men and wounded five others. In addition to the reward Crime Stoppers has offered, the ATF has increased the reward to a total of \$20,000. For more details on the mass shooting and our involvement, please click on the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqraTfnMC6Y>



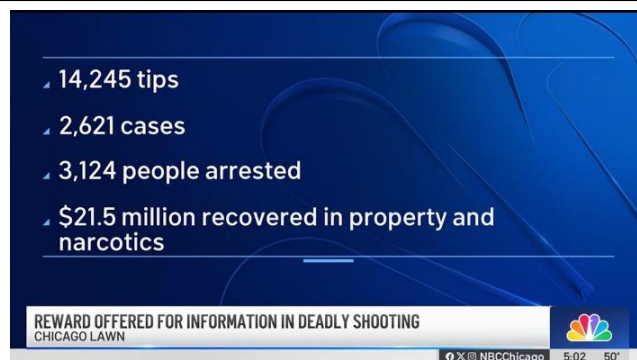
GAGE PARK, CHICAGO

### \$20,000 REWARD

**ATF, Chicago Police Department, and Cook County CrimeStoppers Offer Reward for Information Regarding December 2 Mass Shooting**

ATF, in coordination with the Chicago Police Department and the Cook County CrimeStoppers, is seeking the public's assistance in locating person(s) of interest involved in a mass shooting that occurred on Monday, December 2 at approximately 2:10 p.m. in Gage Park, Chicago. Nine people were shot, all between the ages of 20 and 35; three of the men succumbed to their injuries.

Anyone with information should contact the Cook County CrimeStoppers at 1-800-535-STOP (7867).



Please Share This  
Newsletter with Your  
Board Members!!

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## Email Address for Submissions

# Newsletter

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We would love to know what is happening with your Crime Stopper's Program. Next Newsletter Deadline **April 30, 2025!** Send your success stories, articles, fundraising ideas to [basketbude@aol.com](mailto:basketbude@aol.com)



Don't forget to send pictures!

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## Don't Forget About this Great Opportunity!!



Illinois Crimestoppers

April 30 at 9:50 AM · 🌐

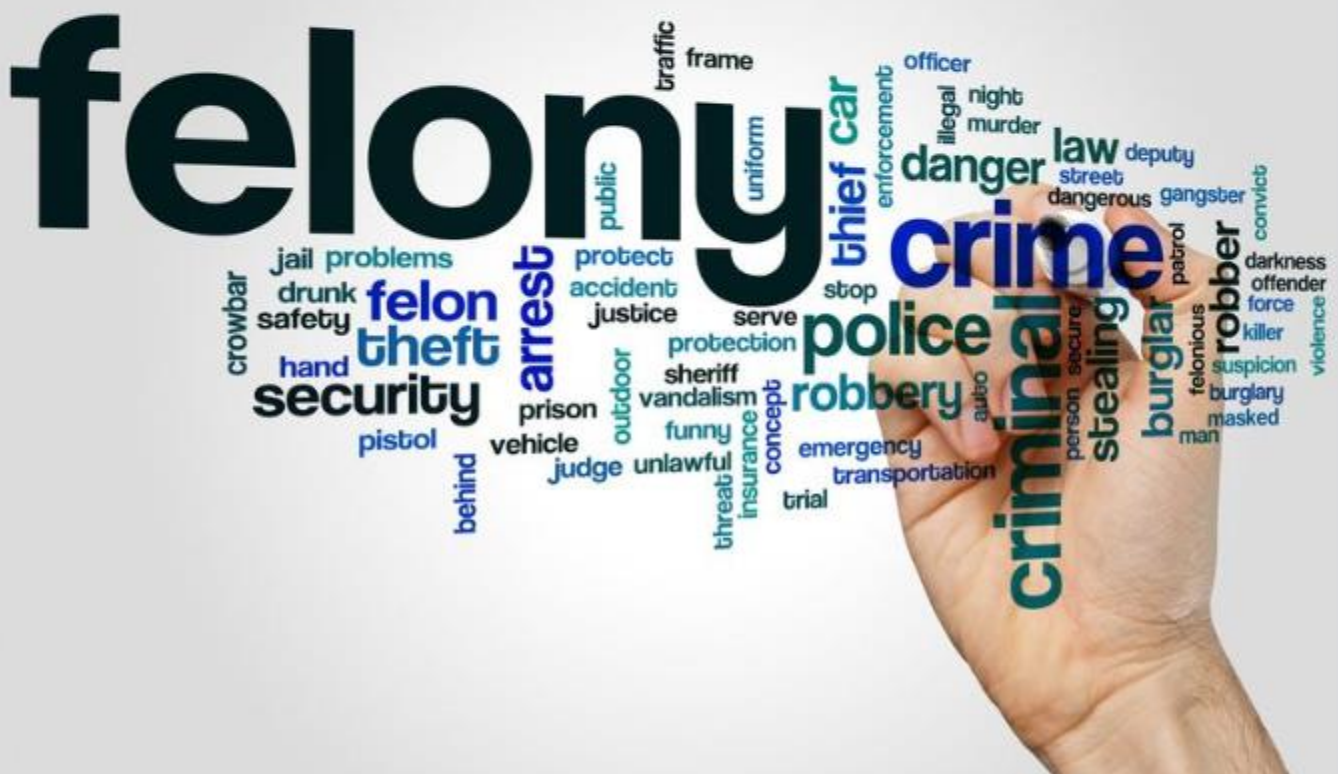


Certified Crime Stopper Programs in Illinois, You can Now Share Your Felony Crimes and/or Warrants on this Page!

Rules are:

- 1- You Must be a Certified Program of the Illinois State Crime Stopper Program
- 2- Felony Crimes and/or Warrants Only
- 3- The Posting MUST be on your Facebook Page in order to share

Message us here with the Information, it's that simple!



Fellow Crime Stoppers!

We hope you **All** have visited and 'liked' our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/illinoiscrimestoppers>

If not, we encourage you to do so.

We have added another benefit to certified programs. You can now 'share' felonies on the State Facebook page!

Rules are as follows:

- 1- Your Program must be certified.
- 2- Felony crimes and/or warrants only
- 3- They MUST be Posted on your Facebook page first to share.

Just e-mail Loren the information and we will get it shared! It's that Simple.

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## We Want You!!!

Want to help make a difference at the State level?

Our board is accepting applications to become a director on our board. An application can be downloaded from this link.

<http://www.illinoiscrimestoppers.org/forms/2010%20ISCA%20Board%20of%20Directors%20app.pdf>

A completed application or any questions can be emailed to Nominations Chair, Jo Cramer at [howdyocs@gmail.com](mailto:howdyocs@gmail.com)

Currently we have openings for Civilian Board Members from a Certified Crime Stoppers Program, and Law Enforcement Openings for active or retired Law Enforcement Officers from a Certified Crime Stoppers program.



## And Your Stats, Too!!!

### Send Us Your Stats

#### We Need Your Stats! Login to the state website and update your stats!

**Codes Issued-** This is the collective number of tips you receive (Phone, Web, Text, App)

**Cases Solved-** This is actual number of different cases solved with information provided by a Crime Stopper tip only or the recovery of property and or illegal drugs with information from a Crime Stopper tip. Example- One Residential Burglary =1 Cases Solved, Five Car Burglaries solved with one arrest through a CS tip =5 cases solved.

NOTE: FTA and Probation Warrants should NOT be counted in this column. That case has previously been solved weather through a CS tip or not.

**Arrests Made-** This is for arrests made either from a case solved and or a Warrant/Probation arrest.

Again same as above; arrests means number of actual people arrested. The same person arrested for five cases would only count as 1 arrest, not 5.

**Property Recovered-** Is the 4 values of the stolen items and or street value of the drugs recovered with information received from a CS tip. Here as in Arrests and cases solved; we only want numbers when a CS tip was used. We do NOT want the total number of cases/arrests your Law Agencies make. Only the ones where a CS tip was used.

**Rewards Paid-** This is the Total Amount of Reward approved, weather it was picked up or not. Doesn't matter, only that it was awarded.

**Final Reminder** –These are quarterly numbers only, they are NOT cumulative. This DOES differ from Crime Stoppers USA. They do ask for Cumulative numbers, we at the State Board do NOT

Did you read the entire Newsletter? Have you gotten to the end? If so, be the first to email me at [basketbude@aol.com](mailto:basketbude@aol.com) to win a special surprise!



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