



Two Coon Rapids Police Detectives Named Investigator of the Year



January 28, 2010

Coon Rapids Police Department detectives John Stahnke and Daren Keasling were honored by their peers and named Investigator of the Year by the Tri-County Investigators Association at their annual banquet at Fort Snelling on January 28, 2010. The Tri-County Investigators Association is an organization of criminal investigators from around the state that share information and collaborate on cases. The detectives were nominated for the honor for their phenomenal work in solving numerous armed robberies in the summer and fall of 2009.

On 9/30/2009, Massage Envy, located in the Riverdale Shopping Center, was robbed by two men. This began an investigation that was later connected to the armed robbery of Klein Bank in Coon Rapids on 11/17/2009. Detectives Stahnke and Keasling worked these cases following various leads and evidence, utilizing contacts from other agencies and sharing information with the Tri-County Investigators Association. The detectives were able to connect these two Coon Rapids robberies with a total of sixteen armed robberies of businesses in Anoka County, Ramsey County, Dakota County, Hennepin County and in Superior Wisconsin – some earlier than the Coon Rapids robberies, and resulted in the arrest of four individuals responsible for the robberies. These cases are now being combined and charged federally by the US Attorneys Office.

The Board of Directors of the Tri-County Investigators Association received numerous nominations for this award and were unanimous in their decision that the work of these two detectives was outstanding and worthy of the Association's highest honor.

Detective Stahnke is a 15-year veteran of the Coon Rapids Police Department and Detective Daren Keasling is a 12-year veteran of the Department.

Reward money was paid out in this case as well. Reward funds are provided by the Coon Rapids Crime Prevention Association, an IRS 501c3 tax-deductible organization that accepts public donations and assists the Coon Rapids Police Department with equipment, buy funds and reward money to assist the Department.