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WHAT IS NLETS?

NLETS is the International Justice and Public Safety Information Sharing Network

NLETS is an international, virtual, information-sharing network that links together state, local and federal law enforcement, justice and public safety agencies for the purpose of exchanging critical data. The primary goal of the NLETS system is to save lives and improve security for Americans. NLETS has been providing this service for nearly 40 continuous years.

More than 41 million messages are transacted each month between and among all US states/territories, all Federal agencies with a justice component, and selected international agencies. The types of data exchanged vary from motor vehicle and drivers' data, to Canadian "Hot File" records, to INS databases, to state criminal history records.

NLETS supports data communications links to state networks and federal and international systems using a private frame relay service. The primary NLETS operational site is located in Phoenix, Arizona, with a disaster recovery site co-located with the Idaho State Police for full continuity of operations.

NLETS is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and is owned and governed by the states. Representatives from each state elect a Board of Directors and Officers annually. They set policies and procedures, define standards, approve members, and establish fees.

Dear Members and Friends:

The NLETS vision is an ambitious one and, thanks to all of you, we are ON TARGET toward its realization. Over the past few years, NLETS has undergone tremendous and very necessary change. To achieve our goal of the standardization and integration of our system, we undertook the massive task of adopting and implementing the Global Justice XML Data Model. Undoubtedly, change may be disruptive and uncomfortable; fortunately, our membership has welcomed these changes and demonstrated a hunger for NLETS to remain at the forefront of innovation.

NLETS is here to serve our members who, in turn, serve the law enforcement and public safety needs of all Americans. To better understand and serve our constituents' needs and opinions, we engaged an independent market research firm to survey our membership in early 2005. What we learned has given us greater confidence that we're on target.

We learned that NLETS is important to our members—so important that nearly 80% of our membership took the time to speak in-depth with the researchers and provide valuable insights.

Some other important findings include:

- 86% rated NLETS between 8 and 10 (on a scale of 1-10) when asked how important NLETS is to their agency or department
- NLETS' greatest strengths are:
 - Functionality of the system—specifically its connectivity, reliability, availability and speed
 - Proactive and cooperative management team
 - NLETS is a trusted, dedicated network, available 24/7
 - Fostering shared experiences, solutions and issues through member network
- Respondents believe NLETS' greatest challenges in the future will be:
 - Funding for operations as states continue to undergo budget cuts
 - Standardization of information as the network grows to include more agencies and international organizations
 - Ability to stay at the forefront of technology and utilization
- Members want more education and training, more access to NLETS staff to assist with integration issues, and expanded information such as mug shots and fingerprints

As you will see from our President Brenda Owens' letter which follows, our strategic plan focuses on the issues and challenges brought forth in the survey.

As we move forward in 2005 we will continue to solicit your input as we carry on the work of saving lives and improving security for all Americans using the world's most advanced information sharing network. Thanks to you, it's working.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Steven E. Correll". The signature is written in a cursive, professional style.

Steven E. Correll
Executive Director

VISION STATEMENT

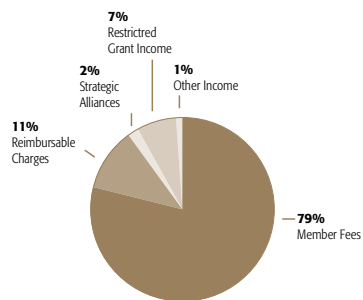
NLETS' vision is to continue to be the premier provider of the network, system, and services that will support and encourage a totally standardized, integrated, international justice system, primarily for the US, but internationally when appropriate. Acting primarily as a network provider, and to the degree required, a data warehouse, NLETS will endeavor to serve every stratum of the justice and public safety communities.

NLETS is a nonprofit organization that is owned equally by the 50 states, the District of Columbia and US Territories, each of which pays a monthly fee to support the NLETS network. Another source of income is generated through fees charged to non-member users, including all federal agencies involved in the justice arena. Consequently, NLETS has begun to explore new sources of revenue.

Also in 2004, the NLETS board of directors determined that the organization should establish an adequate reserve fund and began the work necessary to make that possible. The first two pie-charts below depict the revenue and expense allocations for 2004; the third chart indicates the expected allocations of the reserves accumulated in 2004. While these reserves are impressive, NLETS must continue to assess new ways to meet the ever-increasing demands of the current network while planning for its future needs. A priority is the acquisition of a dedicated facility, that will provide for necessary expansion and ensure the highest possible degree of security for the network.

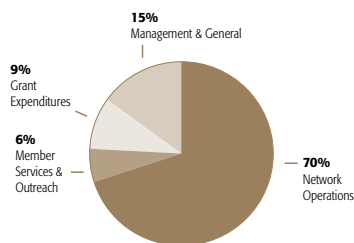
2004 Revenues

Member Fees	\$3,486,400	79%
Reimbursable Charges	\$493,380	11%
Strategic Alliances	\$96,000	2%
Restricted Grant Income	\$300,131	7%
Non-operating Activities	\$36,640	1%
Total Revenues	\$4,412,551	100%



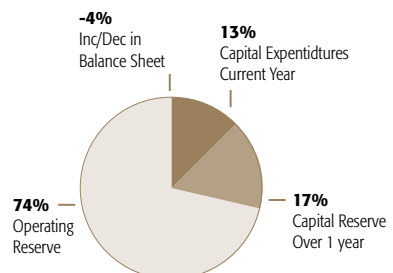
2004 Functional Expenses

Network Operations.....	\$2,234,141	70%
Member Services & Outreach	\$195,330	6%
Grant Expenditures.....	\$288,598	9%
Management & General.....	\$484,997	15%
Total Expenses	\$3,203,066	100%



2004 Excess Revenues over Expenses

Capital Expenditures Current Year	\$158,495	13%
Capital Reserve-Over 1 year	\$200,000	17%
Operating Reserve	\$900,000	74%
Inc/Dec in Bal Sheet Accts.....	\$(49,010)	-4%
Total Excess.....	\$1,209,485	100%



We operate in a world where information is king. The more, the better. The faster, the better. The cheaper, the better. It's also a world where the landscape keeps evolving.

So, it is no small challenge for NLETS to simultaneously improve our core competencies while developing new services to better meet the challenges that lie ahead of us.

In 2004 the Board of Directors focused on creating a logical plan for the future of NLETS. We see 2005 as an opportune time for NLETS to continue to implement these four key strategies on a whole new level.

- *Providing high-quality, secure network services and information exchange across the national and international communities, with primary emphasis on law enforcement, criminal justice and public safety issues.* Our core competency is in providing services to our members. While our track record is excellent, we know we have to be vigilant and responsive to new technologies, new needs, new players and new threats.
- *Expanding NLETS' user and membership base. Focusing on our core membership is of paramount importance.* In addition, we know that expanding our user base serves our core membership two-fold: it encompasses and allows access to more information, and spreads the costs of NLETS' operation over a greater number of users.
- *Recruiting, developing and retaining an efficient, high-quality workforce.* As part of our commitment to provide world-class service, we must ensure that we have a world-class workforce that is knowledgeable, flexible and capable. NLETS operates on a very efficient budget, considering the breadth and scope of critical services it provides to law enforcement and public safety agencies. While we strive to maintain a lean and extremely cost-effective operation, we must also balance this with the importance of top-quality staff members who can ensure the security and continuous service that is vital to our mission.
- *Ensuring stable funding for long-term operations and growth.* All of the advancements and improvements we envision cost money. We're sensitive to the budgetary challenges faced by our members, so we're committed to finding appropriate outside funding to underwrite pilot programs that will benefit members, fund technology updates and foster NLETS as a leader in the information technology revolution.

In total, we are fully committed to meeting the ever-changing needs of our members and stakeholders. By thoughtfully and strategically growing NLETS, we can continue to be the premier information exchange provider—ultimately saving lives and improving security—a target we can't afford to miss.



Brenda O. Owens

Brenda O. Owens
NLETS President

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WHEN YOU LOOK AT WHAT IT COSTS TO PROVIDE REAL-TIME INFORMATION THAT IS SAVING LIVES IT'S ASTOUNDING – IT'S ONLY 8/100 OF A CENT PER TRANSMISSION OF CRITICAL DATA. THAT MAY WELL BE THE BEST ANTI-DRUG, ANTI-CRIME, ANTI-TERRORISM BUY IN AMERICA.
”

BRENDA OWENS
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
FLORIDA DEPT. OF LAW
ENFORCEMENT

“

PROTECTING AMERICA'S BORDER COMES WITH ITS OWN SET OF CHALLENGES. HAVING REAL-TIME ACCESS THROUGH NLETS TO CRUCIAL INFORMATION LIKE CRIMINAL HISTORIES, SAVES LIVES. IT'S IMPERATIVE TO OUR ABILITY TO SERVE AND PROTECT.

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MATTHEW HARRIS
SENIOR PATROL AGENT
UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL



In order to protect the American public and help defend against terrorism, criminal justice and law enforcement organizations must be able to share data and exchange intelligence efficiently, securely and accurately across jurisdictional and technological boundaries.

While the information age is making borders more transparent, paradoxically, this shrinking global society makes it increasingly important to vigorously protect our physical borders. Information sharing is routinely accepted as the essential mission-critical requirement to achieve homeland security – whether that's fundamental license plate information across the US/Mexico border or improving access to intelligence information halfway around the world.

NLETS recognizes the need to foster working relationships internationally that will benefit our stakeholders, while maintaining the highest level of security.

2004 Accomplishments:

- Improved border protection by establishing the License Plate Reader project with US Customs and the National Insurance Crime Bureau, providing NLETS network users access to digital records of license plates of vehicles that have crossed into the US through both Canada and Mexico.
- Enhanced access to Mexican commercial drivers license databases by establishing direct link to Mexican databases rather than relying on US sources.
- Began exploring opportunities to share information with international justice organizations, particularly in Europe.



The need to improve information sharing and build information management infrastructures that give law enforcement officers access to vital information has never been more acute. Officers on the street and intelligence analysts in the office must have instant access to critical data – whether it’s from the tens of thousands of state and local police agencies and record systems, or from the FBI and other federal agencies.

Similarly, individual federal, state, county, city and tribal law enforcement organizations must be able to communicate in a very timely, secure and accurate manner, despite variations in technology and modernization cycles. The more accessible the information, the more flexible its format, the more lives will be saved.

That’s why NLETS has been a pioneer in adopting XML (Extensible Mark-up Language) and Web Services. These standards-based technologies and open architecture will allow a more pervasive and efficient flow of information at a lower cost.

2004 Accomplishments:

- Adopted Global Justice Data Model 3.0 internet protocols to enhance standardization and integration with other networks. Transformed all NLETS transactions to XML for both inquiry and response, and created the associate schemas.
- Established link with Operation Respond to provide officers in the field with live database of hazardous materials information in commercial trucks; working to add live database of materials carried in railcars.
- Adopted new data platform to better leverage use of off-the-shelf software, saving time and cost in connecting databases.
- Worked with the US Drug Enforcement Agency to create a national drug pointer index whereby different agencies involved in various drug investigations can determine if conflicts exist that might compromise a drug-related investigation or endanger officers or the public.



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IN JUNE 2004, THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION OF THE FBI BEGAN SENDING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION TO NLETS IN THE GLOBAL JUSTICE XML DATA MODEL. THAT’S A VERY IMPORTANT STEP AS WE WORK TOGETHER TOWARD THE GOAL OF STANDARDIZING RAP SHEETS.

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ROY WEISE
SENIOR CJIS ADVISOR
FBI/CJIS

NLETS is committed to staying at the forefront of critical efforts to develop and enhance secure information-sharing capabilities with new partners along lines of mutual concern. In particular, NLETS is committed to enabling timely and accurate information sharing among and with the public safety sector, particularly police, fire and emergency (EMS) services.

For first responders, a few seconds can mean the difference between life and death. For example, an innovative pilot program with the National Weather Service, which leverages NLETS' existing infrastructure, can surgically deliver crucial information about tornadoes, floods and hurricanes to the right place at the right time.

2004 Accomplishments:

- Connected with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (an agency of the US Department of Commerce) to provide National Weather Wire Service information to NLETS users to improve public safety through improved dissemination of weather forecasts and warnings.
- Piloted project with the ComCare Alliance (a national non-profit network committed to improving communications in times of individual and mass emergencies) to extend NLETS connectivity to fire and emergency medical service personnel.
- Committed NLETS resources allowing AMBER Alert organizations to reach NLETS users more quickly and efficiently.



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LAW ENFORCEMENT IS TYPICALLY THE FIRST ON THE SCENE AT A TRUCK OR RAIL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT. WITH THE HELP OF NLETS' COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION SHARING NETWORK, OPERATION RESPOND CAN ENSURE THAT THOSE FIRST RESPONDERS ARE NOT THE FIRST VICTIMS.

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DANIEL COLLINS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD & PRESIDENT
OPERATION RESPOND

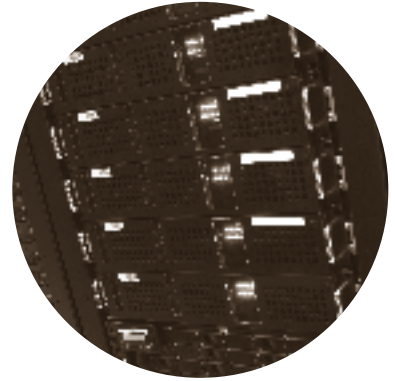


Today, more than ever, information is the linchpin for heightened safety and security for Americans. Whether an officer on patrol, a DEA agent at the border or a first responder at a tanker truck accident, it is of paramount importance that information is delivered instantly, accurately and securely.

NLETS is responding to this ever-increasing demand for instant access to critical information by significantly increasing the networks' sharing capacity and potential. The intelligent exploitation of technology is the driving force behind NLETS' leadership in the adoption of off-the-shelf internet protocols such as Web Services. By broadening the horizon of membership, aligned agencies and service providers can both benefit from, and contribute to, the information pool.

2004 Accomplishments:

- Transmitted an average of more than 41 million messages between and among users each month for a total of nearly 500 million critical transmissions in 2004.
- Provided interstate information exchange for over 500,000 devices in the US and Canada. Connected over 20,000 agencies with over 1 million users.
- Awarded \$1.3 million in federal funding to assist NLETS and its members in expanding systems, resulting in increased access to information for all. Of the funding received, over 65% went directly to member states for this purpose.



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FOR YEARS, THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY HAS RECOGNIZED THAT INFORMATION IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT TOOL IN THE WAR ON CRIME AND TERRORISM. AND FOR YEARS, LAW ENFORCEMENT HAS CONFIDENTLY RELIED UPON THE ROBUST SUPPORT THAT NLETS PROVIDES BY FACILITATING SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION SHARING.

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KELLY HARRIS
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SEARCH-THE NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR JUSTICE
INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

“

I FULLY SUPPORT AND APPRECIATE THE WORK OF NLETS AND IN PARTICULAR, ITS EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING STANDARDS TO FACILITATE DATA INTEGRATION. I LOOK FORWARD TO EXPANDING THIS COLLABORATION, AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD BOTH OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE CAPABILITIES.

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MATT MISZEWSKI
 WISCONSIN CIO
 VICE PRESIDENT
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE CIOS



NLETS technology is unparalleled in supporting the needs of its stakeholders using a state-of-the-art, high-speed, secure frame relay network. Information is 100% encrypted and fire walled to ensure that it is safely and securely passed to the men and women of law enforcement and public safety. The NLETS network is a 24/7/365 operation with a sterling record of dependability, with a system uptime of 99.97% of the time. Recent investments in additional technology have insured complete redundancy.

Each month the system handles more than 41 million messages at sub-second response times. Among the 80 types of NLETS messages are interstate criminal histories, AMBER alerts, INS deportation files, concealed weapons carry permits, probation/parole/corrections information, and sex offender queries. Homeland security messages and all points bulletins.

NLETS continues to anticipate the needs of users and invest in infrastructure to provide the highest possible level of support. The network operations center is proactively monitored by highly trained, certified professionals, who troubleshoot, isolate and correct potential problems before they affect the delivery of critical information.

2004 Accomplishments:

- Hired highly experienced professionals with needed skills in system security and XML design and implementation.
- Enhanced system connectivity and executed redundancy strategies to protect the critical nature of information and transmission-readiness.
- Completed the implementation of the CISCO router back-up system.
- Established training programs to assist members in implementing Global Justice XML Data Model in furtherance of our standardization goal, extended to all NLETS transactions.



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