

FRAUD FOCUS QUARTERLY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Spring is here!" as Jared said in the Winter/Spring 2014 President's Message. He went on to say "the cold temperatures and string of back to back snowstorms provided for a lot of shoveling". Looking back to last winter, we can now say we have surpassed what we originally thought was a difficult winter of snowfall. I really didn't need to, nor want to, learn as much as I did about ice dams. Let's hope the spring surpasses our expectations as a reward for surviving this winter.

Amidst all the weather chaos we held two exceptional training sessions. Many of us received tips on how to modify our old resumes to a more up-to-date version, taking into consideration key factors that resume reviewers focus on. This was followed up with an exceptional seminar on investigating on the internet. It is always prudent to take all security measures to safeguard your privacy on the internet, but it was eye-opening to see that there are back doors that may expose us even with security measures in place. Fortunately, the internet is a useful tool in our profession that helps us to gather more information in fraud investigations.

Attendees of our last event brought some wonderful new ideas for training to our attention. We will be looking further into these topics and greatly appreciate the input. If anyone has areas of interest that they would like addressed at future training sessions, or know of any good speakers, please forward the information along so we can provide you with the tools you need to fulfill the requirements of all successful CFEs.

Now, looking forward, we have a national conference to attend. It will be my first experience attending, and I am looking forward to being mesmerized based on former attendees' acclaims. As we have mentioned before, we have team registration pricing as a chapter that can help defray the cost of the conference for our chapter members. To register, we will need to collect and submit each individual's [Group Supplemental Form](#) (click link for form) by March 23rd. Attendees can provide payment individually with their registration form, or choose to be billed by the ACFE. Once the forms are collected and aggregated, the RI ACFE Chapter will complete and submit them

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with the [Group Registration Form](#). *Registrations must be sent to ACFE from the RI Chapter to be eligible for the discount.* I hope to see many of you there to enjoy the experience with me.

Looking out the window at a clear blue sky, I am hoping to put away the shovels, salt, roof shovels, and snow blowers and start to see the crocuses peeking through the snow (once it gets below 1-1/2 feet). I hope everyone savors the snow melting and the anticipation of things to come.

*Laura Da Fonseca, CPA, CFE, CFF, CDF, MST
President, ACFE RI Chapter #33*

RECAP: MARCH TRAINING

For our March quarterly training session, we were fortunate enough to have the ACFE's own Education Manager, Allan Bachman, present to our Chapter. On March 2nd, Allan presented "*Hidden in Plain Sight: Investigating on the Internet*" to 68 attendees, at 1149 Restaurant in Warwick. This was one of our most highly attended (aside from our full-day Excellence Awards) and most highly rated events in the past few years.

Allan utilized live searches to demonstrate a variety of tools and resources that can be used by anyone to assist in an investigation. It was eye-opening to see how you can reveal someone's identity despite hiding behind so-called privacy settings.

Here are a few of the comments we received on the evaluation forms:

- "Great session, can apply to everyday job responsibilities"
- "Will definitely utilize some of the examples shown"
- "Presenter very knowledgeable of material and presents well"
- "Excellent, what I've come to expect from the ACFE-RI"
- "Location and venue great"

RI ACFE \$2,500 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Once again this year, our Chapter will be awarding one **\$2,500** scholarship to a qualified student. Scholarship criteria includes that the applicant must be a matriculating full-time undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a degree at an accredited Rhode Island college or university, with a declared major in accounting, criminal justice, criminology, law or law enforcement. Other majors will be considered on a case-by-case basis as they relate to the anti-fraud profession. High school students and past scholarship recipients are not eligible to apply. These scholarships are awarded by the Chapter's Educational Outreach and Scholarship Committee on the basis of academic achievement, application essay and references. The application deadline is **June 30, 2015**. Complete scholarship details and criteria can be found on the scholarship application.

To request a copy of the scholarship application, please email RICFE33@gmail.com. Also, please pass this scholarship opportunity along to others who might be interested.

EARN 10 CPEs FOR ONLY \$69.00

And as easy as 1, 2, 3...

For only \$69.00, you can receive 10 of the 20 CPE hours required annually to maintain the CFE credential! Just:

1. Complete the ACFE Fraud Magazine Quiz at the end of any five issues of the Magazine published within the previous 24 months;
2. Complete the required form; and
3. Submit the \$69.00 fee.

Pass all five quizzes (with a score of 70 or above on each quiz) and the ACFE will email you a certificate of completion. For more information, go to: <http://www.fraud-magazine.com/cpe-quiz-archive.aspx>

RI ACFE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



TODD GRAHAM, CFE, FCLS

Job Description: I am a Claims Investigator with the Beacon Mutual Insurance Company responsible for obtaining statements, records (i.e. police reports & other public records, ISO index reports, etc....), as part of the claims handling process, to assist Claim Representatives in making decisions on their claims. Referrals for Field Assignments in the department are forwarded to me which I either handle, or have assigned to an outside vendor. I also handle the Fraud Referrals to the Workers' Compensation Fraud and Compliance Unit, and deal directly with them as well as the Attorney General's office. In addition, I am responsible for writing Success Stories that appear on our company's internal website and for providing statistical information to management.

Best part of my job: Interacting with people (both internal and external) and gathering information that will best assist my co-workers. The flexibility between road and office work I am given to do my job is the best part. It is most gratifying when an investigation leads to a successful outcome. This is easier said than done in the world of Workers Compensation. I work with a tremendous group of people in the claims department to the point we consider ourselves family. This is what drives me to do what I do - to help them in the claims process.

Years in the investigative field (insurance): 23 - I also have 5 years of experience with the Federal Government, where I was a Social Insurance Claim Representative, with the Social Security Administration handling SSI claims.

ACFE Benefits: I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such a great organization such as ACFE, and the RI Chapter 33 in particular. I have been a member of both for several years now. My experience within this organization, as far as networking and interaction with everyone, has been the greatest benefit, for which I am truly thankful. As a new board member, I will do my best to serve our chapter well.

Ambition and Goals: When it is all said and done, I would like to know I made a difference in my career to those who I have come across in the investigative process. Of course, I would like to be able to relax when my career winds down to the point I can travel as much as possible. This is a passion of mine.

Pet Peeves: People with lack of consideration of others

It's a good day when: I feel like I've been productive and accomplished as much as possible

I am most proud of: My good friends and family

Thank you, Todd, for participating in the RI ACFE Member Spotlight!

BENEFIT OF THE CFE CREDENTIAL

According to the ACFE's 2013/2014 *Compensation Guide for Anti-Fraud Professionals*, Certified Fraud Examiners (CFEs) earn 25% more than their non-certified peers. A Robert Half International study cites that the CFE is the most marketable credential.

CFEs work in a variety of industries, including: law enforcement, banking, insurance, non-profits, public accounting, local/state/federal government, and higher education. Some job titles include:

- Fraud Investigator
- Information Systems Auditor
- External Auditor
- Internal Auditor
- Private Investigator
- Risk Manager
- Forensic Accountant
- Director of Loss Prevention
- Compliance Officer

If you are not already a CFE, learn more about it! Go to: <http://www.acfe.com/cfe-credential.aspx?gclid=CNWe8Yf-mcQCFYGUfgodangAtw>



RESOURCES: ANTI-FRAUD COLLABORATION

The Anti-Fraud Collaboration has issued a new report: *The Fraud-Resistant Organization: Tools, Traits, and Techniques to Deter and Detect Financial Reporting Fraud*.

The report offers valuable information about conditions that may make an organization more susceptible to fraud, and how to mitigate them. Download the report at: <http://www.thecaq.org/docs/anti-fraud-collaboration-report/the-fraud-resistant-organization.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

UPCOMING ACFE TRAINING

<u>Course</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>CPEs</u>
• Professional Interviewing Skills	New York, NY	5/4-5/5	16 CPEs
• Using Data Analytics to Detect Fraud	New York, NY	5/6-5/7	16 CPEs
• 26 th Annual ACFE Global Fraud Conference	Baltimore, MD	6/14-6/17	24 CPEs
• 26 th Annual ACFE Global Fraud Post Conference	Baltimore, MD	6/18-6/19	16 CPEs
• Presentation Skills for Fraud Examiners	Nashville, TN	7/15	8 CPEs
• Interviewing Techniques for Auditors	Nashville, TN	7/16-7/17	16 CPEs
• CFE Review Course	Los Angeles, CA	7/20-7/23	30 CPEs

For the complete list of ACFE training, go to: <http://www.acfe.com/events-calendar.aspx>

RI ACFE CHAPTER MISSION AND HISTORY

Our Purpose: The Rhode Island Chapter #33 of the ACFE (RI ACFE) is a not-for-profit entity organized for the primary purpose of promotion of fraud deterrence and detection, and the fostering of skills in the disciplines of accounting, auditing, criminology, investigation, law, and ethics.

Our Mission: The mission of the RI ACFE is to promote the education of individuals for the improvement and development of their capabilities relating to the investigation of potential fraud and illegal acts, and auditing of and management consulting in the fields of fraud detection, auditing, and investigations, through the expansion of knowledge and the interaction of its members.

About the Rhode Island Chapter: The RI ACFE was formed in late 1991, and is one of more than 100 Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) chapters located around the world. Our chapter membership consists of over 100 Associate, Affiliate, and Student Members. Chapter meetings are held quarterly.

About the ACFE: Founded in 1988, the ACFE is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together with nearly 75,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud world-wide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession.

The ACFE offers its members the unique opportunity for professional certification (Certified Fraud Examiner – CFE). The CFE credential is globally preferred by businesses and government entities around the world and indicates expertise in all areas of fraud prevention and detection.

RI ACFE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<i>President:</i>	Laura Da Fonseca, CFE, CPA, MST, CDFA, CFF
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for your support!



THINK SPRING!!!