



January 2016

President's Notes

by Nathan Abbott, CFE, CISA, EA



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. The New Year has already brought new challenges and new opportunities! One of our speakers for the member benefit day had emergency surgery during the holidays. Please keep John Hall and his family in your prayers. John needs time to recover and will not be able to speak at our event. However, our Training Director Suzzie Singleton rose to the challenge and found us two great speakers! We only have 13 spots left for the member benefit day and registration is closing soon.

A great leadership team is vital to our chapter's success. Please welcome the newest member to our board, Andrew Hawkins. We are excited to have Andrew as part of our leadership team! Thank you to everyone who took time to vote and to all the candidates - there will be plenty of opportunities to serve in the future!

Just a reminder about the points contest for the free trip to the ACFE National Conference in Las Vegas. The chapter member with the most points will win a trip to the conference in Las Vegas in June 2016. The contest runs from January - December and is now closed but you have until February 15 to submit your points to Mark Ingram. Look in the newsletter for information about how to earn points.

Our next luncheon is on Monday, February 1, 2016. This will be a joint luncheon with AGA at the Double Tree Hotel in downtown Nashville. The luncheon cost is \$11 and a great opportunity for you to network with colleagues from different parts of government - make your reservations now!

Registration for our annual conference in March is now open. Spots fill up quickly so reserve your spot now.

Look forward to seeing you at training events and luncheons this year!

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Calendar of Events

Our 2015 – 2016 CFE luncheons will be held at the Scarritt-Bennett Center located at 1008 19th Avenue South in Nashville. You will find this year's calendar below. All luncheons will begin at 11:30 am. The event dates remaining for this year are:

Member Benefit Day – January 20, 2016
Joint Luncheon with AGA – February 1, 2016
Annual Conference – March 7 & 8, 2016
Luncheon – April 21, 2016
Luncheon – May 19, 2016
Social – June 9, 2016*

* member-only events



CFE Prep Courses and Scholarships

The Middle Tennessee Chapter, ACFE, has a drawing each year to give away a CFE Exam Prep Course, valued at \$745 (member price) to a chapter member who is not yet a CFE. For more information, contact us at info@middletennesseecfe.org.

We also give away thousands of dollars in scholarships each year to deserving students. Please see our website at <https://middletennesseecfe.wildapricot.org/Scholarships> for more information.

CPE Certificates

How do attendees to events get a CPE certificate? Certificates are emailed out after the event. If you did not get a certificate, it may be that you did not pay or gave a wrong email address. Please remember to update your information on the new chapter website to ensure that you will receive your certificate promptly.

Please email info@middletennesseecfe.org to request a copy of your CPE certificate.



Important Meeting Information

Luncheon Reservation/Cancellation Policy—Please Take Note!



Please be sure you make reservations for the luncheons prior to attending. We need the reservations to plan appropriately for our attendees and to eliminate confusion at the luncheons. You will receive a confirmation email after you submit your reservation.

Luncheons are \$10.00 for members who make their reservations by the reservation deadline, usually the COB one week prior to the luncheon. For members who make a reservation but do not attend or call to cancel, the cost is \$20.00. Individuals who attend without making a reservation will also be charged \$20.00.

To cancel your reservation and avoid being invoiced for the event, you must notify the reservationist, Mary Cole (mary.c.cole@cot.tn.gov), before the reservation deadline (usually one week prior to the date of the event). If you cancel after the deadline or fail to appear at the event, you will be invoiced for the full per-attendee cost, including other fees that apply as deemed appropriate by the Board. Any pre-paid fees that you have will be applied to the invoiced amount.

Any invoices that are unpaid after 60 days will result in the suspension of membership in the Middle Tennessee Chapter under the current Chapter Bylaws Section 3.09, Non-payment of Dues*. As a result of suspension, any reservations you make for future events will not be **ACCEPTED** and you will not be allowed to attend Chapter luncheons or take advantage of member benefits until your outstanding invoices are paid.

We typically have a waiting list for our events, so if you must cancel your reservation, **PLEASE** notify the reservationist, Mary Cole (mary.c.cole@cot.tn.gov), as soon as possible, or you may have someone attend in your place to avoid being invoiced for the luncheon. If you have someone take your place, you must notify the reservationist or have the substitution notify the reception/sign-in table at the luncheon when signing-in.

Other exceptions may apply in extreme situations (i.e. death of a family member) and will be reviewed on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Chapter Board at the member's request.

Members, if you are inviting nonmembers to attend who are not first time attendees, please be sure that they are fully aware of their costs and our cancellation and invoicing policy. First-time guests eat free. After a guest's first visit, he or she will be charged \$20.00 according to the non-member fee schedule. No Free Guests are allowed at joint luncheons, due to elevated costs, or Member Benefits Events, such as the December Luncheon or January Member Benefit Training Day.

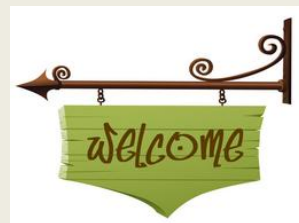
If you have any questions concerning the luncheon costs or the Chapter's cancellation policy, please feel free to contact Mark Ingram, Chapter Treasurer at mark.ingram@tn.gov.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to our chapter:

Robin Bates
 Bryan Chriske
 Jonathan Cornelius
 Laura Cowan
 Robert Fox
 Patricia Garrison
 Susan Hickman
 Crystal Hinshaw
 Lisa Patterson
 Mary Anne Queen
 Joshua Remke
 Amy Schuler
 Erica Smith

TN Comptroller
 TN Department of Revenue
 TN Dept. of Health
 TN Comptroller
 TN Dept of Safety & Homeland Security
 TN Department of Revenue
 Deloitte
 Patterson Hardee & Ballentine, PC
 TN Comptroller
 State of Tennessee
 Metro Nashville Public Works
 Columbia State Community College



February Luncheon

We will hold our February luncheon on Monday, February 1, 2016, at 11:30 am at the Doubletree Hotel. The hotel is located at 315 4th Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee 37219. Directions are available at <http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/tennessee/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-nashville-downtown-BNADUDT/maps-directions/index.html>.

For parking in the downtown Nashville area, see <http://www.parkitdowntown.com/>.

February Luncheon – Joint Luncheon with Nashville AGA

We will not have a luncheon in January due to the Member Benefit Day. Our next luncheon will take place on February 1, 2016, at 11:30 am. This will be a joint luncheon with the Nashville Association of Government Accountants. Our speaker will be Brian Fazenbaker, FBI Special Agent. See <https://middletennesseecfe.wildapricot.org/event-2053645> for more information.

Member Benefit Day



bios.

The chapter's annual Member Benefit Day will take place on January 20, 2016, at the Williamson County AgExpo Park. The event is free to current chapter members and \$40 for non-members. Please see <https://middletennesseecfe.wildapricot.org/event-2054299> for more information, including the agenda and speaker

Annual Fraud Conference

Our 20th Annual Fraud Conference will take place on March 7-8, 2016, at One Century Place! Registration is now open. See <https://middletennesseecfe.wildapricot.org/event-2049465> for more information, including the conference brochure and details on how to register.

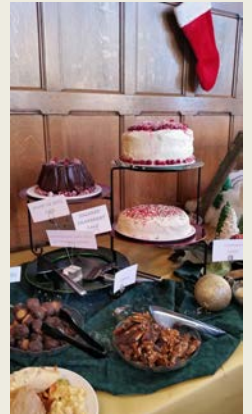


December 17, 2015 Luncheon Minutes and Photos



food to prepare. He reminded everyone to pick up some wrapping paper before leaving. The meeting was then adjourned.

President Nathan Abbott called the meeting to order. He reminded everyone that the Member Benefit Day would take place on January 20, 2016. He also noted that registration was open for the annual conference. He asked the attendees to please remember to register ahead of time for luncheons to help with determining how much



Middle Tennessee ACFE Chapter Library

Did you know that the Middle Tennessee Chapter has a library of fraud-related books that are available to members? To check out books, contact Suzanne Smotherman, chair of the Library Committee, at (615) 253-2020 or Suzanne.Smotherman@tn.gov. The library is currently housed on the 16th floor of the James K. Polk building.



Member Spotlight

Monica Meeks, CFE, MCJ



A native of Salemburg, North Carolina, Monica has spent most of her adult life in military service. During her senior year of high school, she made the decision to join the United States Army. Her 20 year career has spanned the globe, with assignments in South Korea, Fort Bragg, NC, Fort Eustis, VA, Cleveland Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), Fort Lee, VA, and Wiesbaden Airbase, Germany. Monica has also served in humanitarian & combat operations in Haiti, Bahrain, Iraq, and Kuwait.

The selection as an Army Inspector General was the catalyst that propelled her from a career in the Human Resource field to that of Criminal Justice. While being a full time service member as an Inspector General, wife, and mother, Monica completed her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Troy University in 2011. She finished her military career at Fort Campbell, KY.

Transitioning from military service to public service, Monica began working as a Uniformed Police Officer at the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) in 2012. While working at the TBI she completed her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. Looking for greater opportunity and increased responsibility, Monica began working as a Legislative Investigative Auditor at the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury in the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) in August 2014. Ten months later she completed her CFE certification on June 1, 2015.

Investigative field work has always been a calling for Monica, which affords her the opportunity to travel all over the great state of Tennessee. She loves calling Tennessee her home and has lived here for 6 years, the longest span of time in the same location since her childhood.



She has worked as a volunteer mentor at the Montgomery County Veterans Treatment Court, which mentors at risk service members. Monica is also very active with Women Veterans Chapter 20, where fellow female veterans of past wars can come together to socialize and share information. She has been able to assist other women veterans successfully transition into the civilian workforce. Monica has a passion for enriching the lives of other veterans.



Monica recently joined the James K. Polk Toastmasters Club Number 6548, where she has given two speeches so far and has also taken on the role of table topics host. Stepping outside of her comfort zone, Monica is striving to become a more competent and effective communicator.



Wanting to maintain physical fitness taught from her time in the service, Monica completed her first half marathon in May 2014, and later completed her second half marathon in September 2015 with the Women of Steel. Monica is currently training for the Rock 'n' Roll Nashville Half Marathon in April 2016. Monica plans on completing her first full marathon in September with the Women of Steel.



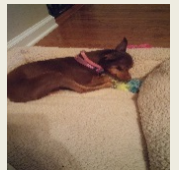
Every September, Monica takes an annual trip with her aunts and first cousins, as they have travelled to New York, Black Mountain, Atlanta, and Asheville. She is super excited that this year they will be going to Gatlinburg, as one of Monica's aunts is a huge Dolly Parton fan so she's hoping she runs into her during their vacation this year.

Monica has a serious shoe habit. However, due to a recent STRONG recommendation from her physician she has been forced to incorporate flats into her daily wardrobe. Monica is working through this extremely emotional process of donating her high heel shoes to Soles for Souls. But, she has not been able to fully commit to donating just yet.



Monica has been married to Tramayne Meeks, whom she jokingly refers to as MISTER for over 14 years. Tramayne is an Education Counselor on Fort Campbell. MISTER loves talking to Soldiers about the importance of completing their college education. They have a one and done 10 year old son named Jared, who loves to play basketball, soccer, and the piano. Jared is also a huge Avengers fan.

In November 2015, the Meeks family brought home their first four-legged pet. They now have a miniature pinscher named KoCo. The Meeks have officially become annoying pet owners and dress up KoCo in various "pet clothes". They are quite adamant about bringing KoCo to all outdoor outings with their friends. They were very upset and recently made alternate travel plans when they discovered all hotels aren't pet friendly.



Monica initiated a fitness challenge for the SIU in 2015. Monica and other Special Investigations Unit employees were able to collectively complete the 2,015 miles in 2015 challenge. In fact they exceeded their goal by over 200 miles.

Monica failed to complete her personal goal for 2015 and still does not know how to swim. Monica strongly believes that sharing this with the Middle Tennessee ACFE will motivate her to sign up for overdue swim lessons at the YMCA.

She loves to be challenged and refuses to quit or accept defeat. Monica loves being a part of this chapter. She is looking forward to continual growth in her investigative skills.

Member Spotlight Volunteers Needed



The Newsletter Committee is looking for volunteers to be featured in the Member Spotlight! If you would like to volunteer, please contact a member of the Newsletter Committee. It's a great way to introduce yourself to the chapter!

Speaker Search

Our chapter is always on the lookout for speakers for luncheons, the Member Benefit Day, and the Annual Fraud Conference. If you know of someone who might be willing to speak, please contact the chapter Training Director, Suzzie Singleton, at Suzzie.Singleton@cot.tn.gov.



Important Information Regarding CPE Suspensions



According to <http://www.acfe.com/myannouncements.aspx>, beginning January 1, 2015, CFEs with five or more years of CPE suspensions will be placed into Associate member status. Should these individuals want to reinstate the CFE credential they will be required to take the CFE Exam. If you have any questions about this new requirement, contact the ACFE at 1-800-245-3321. If a CFE does not certify compliance on an annual basis, their credential will be placed into suspension. Suspended status prohibits

individuals from representing themselves as CFEs to the general public and using the credential in any form.



National Conference Contest Points System



Congratulations to Melinda Weir, who won an all-expense paid trip to the 2015 national conference, which was held in Baltimore, Maryland. Start compiling your points for the 2016 national conference, which will be held in Las Vegas! To be eligible for the contest, you must be a member of MTACFE, in good standing, for at least 12 months, and you must have attended a prior MTACFE annual fraud conference. Submit a breakdown of your total points earned between January 2015 and December 2015 to mark.ingram@tn.gov by February 15, 2016. Please have supporting documentation available for your points.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Points</u>
Attending Monthly Chapter Meeting	1 point per meeting
Publish Article in Chapter Newsletter	2 points
Sponsoring a New Member	2 points per new member
Publish member profile in Chapter Newsletter	1 point
Contribution to "Been There, Said That, Done That"	1 point/contribution/month
Publication of Case Results	2 points
Participating as a speaker in the Chapter Speaker's Bureau	2 points per engagement
Publication of an article in the Association's <i>Fraud Magazine</i>	3 points
Attending the Chapter's 19 th Annual Conference	2 points
Service on Chapter Committee	2 points





ACFE Middle Tennessee Chapter 2015- 2016 Chapter Officers, Board Members, and Committee Members

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President	Nathan Abbott, CFE, CISA, EA	401-7841	nathan.abbott@cot.tn.gov
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Member at Large	Sharon Matheny, CGFM	330-6302	sharonmatheny@hotmail.com

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	Melissa DeBerry, CFE	747-5214	melissa.b.deberry@cot.tn.gov
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	Cindy Vaughn, CFE	428-0969	cynthia.r.vaughn@tn.gov
	Vincent Finamore	401-7898	vincent.finamore@cot.tn.gov
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	Britt Wood, CFE, CPA, CGFM, CISA, ACDA	532-6076	britt.wood@tn.gov
	Andrew Hawkins, CFE	401-7743	andrew.hawkins@cot.tn.gov
Conference	Bob McCloud, CFE, CGFM	747-5210	bob.mccloud@cot.tn.gov
	Mary Cole, CFE, CPA, CGFM	747-5252	mary.cole@cot.tn.gov

NOTE: Chapter officers and board members comprise the Annual Fraud Conference Committee

Contact Us



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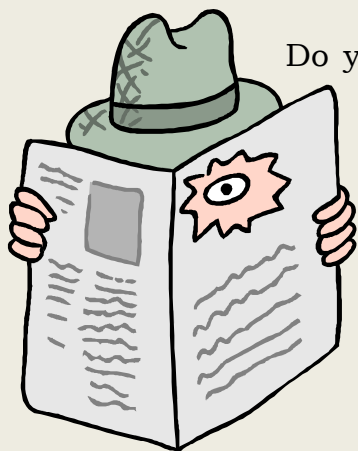
<https://twitter.com/TheACFE>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheACFE>



Newsletter Articles



Do you have a great article to contribute to the Middle Tennessee Chapter, ACFE newsletter? If so, we would love to hear from you! Please contact a member of the Newsletter Committee with your ideas and articles. Remember, you receive points for your articles that count toward the trip to the National ACFE conference! Also, if you note any corrections that need to be made, please contact one of us.