



Middle Tennessee Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

November 2017

President's Notes By Kesha Thomas, CFE, MCJ

The Examiner



Time truly waits for nothing--it is November already! A few days ago, the nation celebrated all of those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. To all the veterans who are members of the chapter, we take this time to thank you for your service!

The holidays are fast approaching with Thanksgiving being just a couple weeks away. It is my hope that during this time you get to enjoy family and friends. While this is the season to give thanks, let us stay mindful throughout the year of all the things we have to be thankful for.

Thursday November 16th is the date of the next chapter luncheon. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you there!

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2017-2018 Calendar of Events

We will hold our 2017-2018 CFE luncheons at the Scarritt-Bennett Center located at 1008 19th Avenue South in Nashville. You will find the calendar below. All luncheons will begin at 11:30 am.

11/16/2017	Luncheon
12/14/2017	Member Social *
1/18/2018	Luncheon
February 2018	<i>Potential joint with AGA</i>
3/5-6/2018	Annual Conference
4/19/2018	Luncheon
5/17/2018	Luncheon
June 2018	Member Social *

* member-only events

CFE Prep Course Giveaway

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. To be eligible:

1. Contestant must be a member of the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the ACFE, in good standing for at least six (6) months (prior to the date of the drawing).
2. The Contestant must have not yet earned their CFE certification.
3. The Contestant must be eligible and willing to meet all requirements to become a Certified Fraud Examiner and sit for the CFE exam by December 31st of the year in which the contestant is determined to be the winner of the contest and receives the prep course.
4. Should it be determined the winning Contestant has not met the requirements set forth above, the winning contestant must reimburse the Chapter for the cost of the prep course by January 31st in the year following the drawing (i.e. Contestant wins the prep course in June 2017; reimbursement would be due January 2018).



To Enter:

All those who are eligible and agree to the terms of the drawing should contact Mark.Ingram@tn.gov to enter the drawing and submit the *CFE Exam Prep Course Giveaway Contest, Agreement to Terms and Conditions* form no later than June 1st.

Chapter Scholarships

Our chapter gives away thousands of dollars in scholarships each year to deserving students. Please see our chapter 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, failed to sign in at the event, 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.



Event Sign-In Sheets



Remember to complete the sign-in sheet at the event registration table to be eligible to receive your CPE credits and certificate. The Chapter will email your CPE certificate to you after the event. Once the event has ended, the sign-in sheets are completed. Signatures of the attendees on the sign-in sheet will be the only valid evidence of attendance. If you do not sign in, you waive your right to receive CPE credits.

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 at nicolette.hudson@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 at nicolette.hudson@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 member to our chapter!

Melanie Barber

TN Dept. of Revenue

New CFEs

Congratulations to Heather Reidinger and Emad Kaldas, who received their framed CFE certificates at the October luncheon!



And, congratulations to Jimmy Stewart (right), who received his framed CFE certificate at the Member Benefit Day!

October Meeting Minutes



On Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 11:30 a.m., in the Raintree Room, the monthly meeting for the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners convened. A luncheon buffet was offered and enjoyed by members and several guests. Chicken Cacciatore and Oven Baked Salmon were the entrees.

Chapter President Kesha Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. President Thomas welcomed everyone and made a few quick announcements (i.e. sign-in sheet and parking.) She commented on another successful Chapter Member Benefit Day held in September and thanked those who assisted in organizing the event.

President Thomas called on Chapter Board Member, Barry Pruitt, to introduce the guest speaker. Pruitt introduced William Sweeten, a Securities Examiner with the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, Financial Services Investigative Unit, (FSIU). Mr. Sweeten's presentation was titled "Securities Frauds, 2000 years of Investment Fraud and still going strong".



After Mr. Sweeten's presentation, President Thomas welcomed all guests and had them stand and introduce themselves. Two Chapter Members, Heather Reidinger and Emad Kaldas were recognized and presented with their Chapter framed CFE certificate.

The monthly door prize winner was Emad Kalkas, who received \$25.00.

President Thomas closed the meeting and invited everyone back on November 16th for the next monthly luncheon.

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.

November Luncheon Information



We will hold our October luncheon on Thursday, November 16, 2017, at 11:30 am in the Raintree Room at the Scarritt-Bennett Center. Scarritt-Bennett is located at 1008 19th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212. Directions are available at <http://www.scarrittbennett.org/about/maps-directions/>

Important Parking Information

Due to issues with unauthorized parking by Vanderbilt students, **Scarritt-Bennett requires parking passes for those attending events on its campus.** Scarritt-Bennett asked that our luncheon attendees place the parking pass at the end of this newsletter on their dashboard when parking at Scarritt-Bennett Center. You can also download the parking pass at

<http://www.middletennesseecfe.org/resources/Documents/Luncheon%20parking%20pass%20PDF.pdf>.

You can use the same pass for subsequent luncheons. Please note that this pass does not guarantee parking will be available. Scarritt-Bennett staff will record license plates and tow repeat offenders without an identifiable pass.

Scarritt-Bennett visitor parking is available in Parking Lot A or Parking Lot B. Please be aware that parking can be limited due to other events held on the same day as ours. Other parking options include the Wesley Place Garage on Scarritt Place between 19th and 21st Avenues or the meters along 19th Avenue. Approximate prices are \$1.00 per half hour and the parking meters are \$1.50 per hour in the Central Business District. Members may want to consider carpooling or bringing cash or change to pay for parking if necessary.

November Speaker Information

Our November luncheon speaker is Rick Morrell, a retired agent with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. He will be speaking about situational awareness.

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.

Member Spotlight

Kesha Thomas, CFE, MCJ



There she was, a newly graduated student with her mind set to attend Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Let me guess, many of you didn't know there were any other schools in that city, huh? Well it turned out not to matter because Kesha Thomas would end up not attending Stillman after all. For reasons beyond my control, things did not work out as planned and I trekked down the street and attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Being a native of the city, it felt like a death sentence. But hey, school was school, and I could always transfer, right? Or maybe not.

I initially signed on to the School of Education and sought to be a high school history teacher. As you can see, that did not go as planned, thankfully! By happenstance, I took a criminal justice class as an elective. I took more of the criminal justice classes and eventually changed my major. When I **FINALLY** graduated, I worked full-time and went to school full-time, so it took me a tad longer than four years, but I was bound and determined not to stay in Birmingham. I continued to work as

a Fraud Analyst for Regions Bank, but never stopped seeking opportunities to better myself.

In 2005, I made an extremely long (LOL) journey to Nashville, Tennessee...and yep, I have been here ever since! I moved here and started my investigative career with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), with the thought that I would be here three to five years and then I'd be on to Dallas, Texas (don't ask, I don't remember why I wanted to go there!). Again, things did not work out as planned. In 2009, the economy was shaky and even governmental entities were entertaining furloughs. I put on my thinking cap and said to myself, "make the most of your time here." That translated to going to graduate school. In the Fall of 2010, I enrolled at Tennessee State University and began my quest for a Master of Criminal Justice degree. This time, it took me about three years to complete my program. The next year, I moved

within state government and joined the Comptroller's Office, Division of Investigations.



Kesha and her godparents

Enough about work and school, on to my Five F's: Faith, Family, Friends, Fun, and Football!!



Kesha and her mom

I love God and am most grateful for Him leading me through every step of the way, even when things don't work out as planned. I absolutely love my family, with an unwavering love. I am the eldest of two daughters and my Mom is the world to me! Yes, both sides of my family have family reunions every other summer and yes, I attend them both, religiously. I would be remiss not to mention that I have the best Godparents, ever. When I moved from Birmingham, I left my family and friends there. The last 12 years has really shown me what it means to have friends and how important they are. Life has shown me that the few and true are really all you need when it comes to friends.

I am here for fun anytime, all the time. With God, family, and friends, fun is inevitable! And yes, to my favorite pastime: are you ready for some football?! UAB, my alma mater and the school that shut down its football program and restarted it two years later, is having a great season so far. To date, they have a 7-3 record. It doesn't hurt a bit to have my cousin coaching there, too!



Kesha and her friends

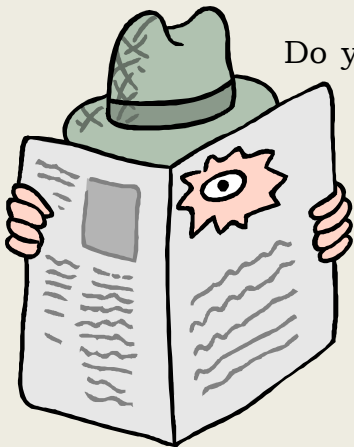
I have been a member of the Middle Tennessee ACFE Chapter a little over 10 years now. In 2015, I took and passed the test to become a Certified Fraud Examiner. After declining a nomination for the special election, board member-at-large special position, I was nominated to be Vice-President the next year. I accepted the nomination and am currently the President of the Chapter. I am honored to serve in this position and am always just a phone call away.

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!



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.



Global ACFE Conference Points Contest



Congratulations to Barry Pruitt, who won an all-expense paid trip to the 2017 global conference! Start compiling your points for the 2018 global 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 2017 and December 2017 to mark.ingram@tn.gov by February 15, 2018. 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 Annual Fraud Conference	2 points
Service on Chapter Committee	2 points



ACFE Middle Tennessee Chapter 2017- 2018 Chapter Officers, Board Members, and Committee Members

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President	Kesha Thomas, CFE, MCJ	747-5397	kesha.thomas@cot.tn.gov
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Social Media			
Website			

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

Contact Us



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Follow MTACFE in social media:



www.facebook.com/ACFENashville



www.twitter.com/acfenashville

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



Scarritt-Bennett Center



Scarritt-Bennett Parking Pass

Valid Day of Event Only

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