

SEMCACFE Newsletter - September 2023

President's Message



Hello Fellow SEMCACFE Members,

We want to thank our speaker and fellow ACFE member, Joe Monticello, for his outstanding presentation on “Mortgage Fraud in America”. Joe presented an overview of how fraudsters perpetrate mortgage fraud, shared potential red flags to detect the fraud schemes, and shared several tips for executing a mortgage fraud investigation.

Thank you, Joe, for sharing your knowledge with us.



Student Night

We invite you to join us for our annual STUDENT NIGHT, Thursday October 5. Invitations have been extended to several local universities in the area. Similar to last year, we will feature a career panel discussion with local fraud professionals.

This year's panelists include:

- **Mike Bartolac**, CPA, CFE, CIA, Special Investigations Manager, GM Legal
- **Randi Watson**, IRS Criminal Investigations
- **Chelon Wilson**, CFE, Senior Forensic Auditor, Detroit Public Schools

Mike, Randi, and Chelon will share their experience and take questions from our students

Sign-up for student night at [SEMCACFE - Upcoming Events](#)

Chapter Administrator News

I want to take this opportunity to thank Mary Medonis for her 11 years of service to our SEMCACFE chapter. Mary is retiring and moving on to her next endeavor. On behalf of our Board and all our members, we extend our gratitude and appreciation to Mary for all she has done for our chapter through the years. From helping us to organize our annual conference, to supporting our monthly meetings, and helping our members whenever needed, Mary was always on top of it all. We will miss you and wish you all the best moving forward. Check out our interview with Mary as she reflects back and shares some words of wisdom for SEMCACFE members.

I want to take another opportunity to welcome, Debra R. Richardson, as our new SEMCACFE Chapter Administrator. Debra has been working closely with Mary to transition chapter administrator activities. Debra is doing an amazing job and has already hit the ground running. Debra brings several years of experience as a current president of the Institute of Finance and Management (IOFM) Central Atlantic Region Chapter and most recently, serving as a former SEMCACFE Board Director. We look forward to working with Debra. Check our interview with Debra to learn more about her.

A HUGE THANK YOU to our speakers, members, and guests for your ongoing support and engagement with the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners We look forward to continuing to serve you all throughout 2023 and 2024.

With gratitude,

Sheila

An Interview with Mary Medonis, SEMCACFE Administrator (2011 – 2023)

We thank Mary for her years of service as our chapter administrator. We sat down with her for a fireside chat as she reflects on her years of services with SEMCACFE.



How many years of service do you have as our Chapter Administrator?

11 years

How did you become our Chapter Administrator?

I was introduced and began working with the SEMCACFE in 2012 through a friend and SEMCACFE Board Member, Frank St. Onge.

What do you like best about being our Chapter Administrator?

I remember from an early age, I always enjoyed courses in high school (and I am dating myself!) around secretarial duties (typing, shorthand and accounting!). After high school, I began working as a legal secretary and went on to get an associates degree in Secretarial Science with a legal background. After my boys were born, I wanted more flexibility to be with them so I left the law firm and began working in association management which allowed me to work from home and spend more time with my growing boys! I enjoy the creativity that being a Chapter Administrator allows me through planning events, creating content for emails and websites, and working with people.

What advice do you want to share with new members and current SEMCACFE chapter members?

I have found the SEMCACFE members to be so pleasant to work with and they are always so appreciative and kind towards me.

What's next for you?

For those that do not know, besides working with the SEMCACFE, I am an employee of the Financial Planning Association of Michigan as their Chapter Administrator. Although I love working with the SEMCACFE, I find that my duties with the FPA of Michigan have grown over the past few years and find that I don't have the bandwidth to manage both Chapters. Although it was a very tough decision, I want to be sure the SEMCACFE has all the support they need and didn't feel I could give them all they need at this time.

Please share something (activity/hobby/fun fact) that our members may not know about you.

A fun fact is that I am hoping one day to live in a tiny house (but not sure my husband is on board though!).

Getting to Know Debra R. Richardson, SEMCACFE Administrator (2023 -)

Debra joined our SEMCACFE team as our chapter administrator in 2023. We sat down with Debra for a coffee chat to learn more about her.



Please take a moment to share your background with us.

I have over 20 years of experience in accounts payable, accounts receivable, general ledger, and financial reporting for Fortune 500 companies including Verizon, General Motors, and Aramark. I have worked in the Telecommunications, Automotive, Healthcare, and Oil & Gas industries. In my last role as an Accounts Payable Sr Manager at Verizon's Shared Services Center, I led a team of 33 and managed both Global Vendor Setup and Maintenance and Payments. For the last 6 years I have worked independently as an Accounts Payable Consultant, Trainer and Speaker helping organizations avoid fraud, compliance fines and bad vendor data by auditing and improving their vendor onboarding process. I am a lifelong learner and have a BA in English, an MBA in Financial Management, several Accounts Payable certifications, and I am currently working towards my CFE.

What are you looking forward to doing as our Chapter Administrator?

Well, I have some pretty big shoes to fill! My goals for this first year are to work with the Board on initiatives to help grow the membership and to continue to provide engaging experiences for our members at our monthly chapter dinner meetings and annual fraud conference.

What advice do you want to share with new members and current SEMCACFE chapter members?

Come to the Chapter Dinner Meetings! Not only is the food great, but the topics are relevant, interesting and speakers are very interactive with the members. There is also time to network before and after the meeting to get to know your fellow team members, which is the best part when we get together in person. Also, don't miss out and join the [ACFE Southeastern Michigan Chapter](#) LinkedIn group to engage with members in-between meetings and be sure to follow the [ACFE Southeastern Michigan Chapter](#) LinkedIn Page be alerted of meeting events and other announcements.

Please share something (activity/hobby/fun fact) that our members may not know about you.

My best Friday night? A 1,000 piece puzzle, bowl of popcorn and a marathon of Snapped 😊

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Welcome New Members

We welcome our new members!

Alexis Bailey

Jacqueline Holt

Mary Matchel

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A Thank You To Our Renewing Members

Thank you to our members who have renewed their membership. We appreciate your support for our SEMCACFE Chapter and service to the fraud profession!

Sandra B. Allen

Tom P. Frattini

Raymond Orzel

Michael Bartolac

Blair R. Headrick

Debra R Richardson

Cheryl Belesky

Jillian Helsom

Vicki Riley

Jenifer Bielski

Judith L. Hess

Jerrold Rubin

Robert W. Bowles

Ruth E. Holmes

Marie R Sayer

Timothy C. Boyle

Gerald R. Humes

Kelly S. Schimmoeller

Doyle J. Burke

Bernadette A. Kakooza

Reese Scripture

Michael P. Carr

Donna J. Kischuk

Nicole Marie Smith

Steven R. Chapski

Cedric Knott

David Soubly

Eric M. Conforti

Donna Larner

Martin L. Sviland

Marlowe Crawford

Lorna Margaret Macfarlane

Gary P. Szokowski

Adreath Crisovan

Cara McConnell

Yvette M. Thrush

Daniel Crowell

Michele McDermott

Jennifer Vitale

Sean Crupper

Terri A. Meiers

Luke Voldahl

Elizabeth Cunningham

Brian Moore

Michael D. Wynn

Mary Anne Donley

Fannie Moore

Margaret Zangara

Sheila M. Flanagan

Fumio Narita

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Next Chapter Dinner Meeting



October Chapter Dinner Meeting

STUDENT NIGHT:

Career Panel Discussion with our SEMCACFE Members

Panelists will share their experience working in the fraud profession, how a certified fraud examiner certification has been helpful, and offer tips for students that may be interested in learning more about the professions.

Panelists:

- **Mike Bartolac**, Manager, Special Investigations, GM Legal
- **Randi Watson**, IRS, Criminal Investigations
- **Chelon Wilson**, CFE, Senior Forensic Auditor, Detroit Public Schools.

[Click here to review Panelist's Bios](#)

Date/Time:

Thursday, October 5, 2023

5:30 pm: Registration and Networking

6:15 pm: Buffet Dinner

7:00 pm: Speaker

Location:

St. John's Banquet & Conference Center

22001 Northwestern Highway

Southfield, MI 48075

(248) 569-3446

*Dinner Meeting Costs:

- Members: \$38.00
- Non-Members (1st and 2nd time attending): \$38.00
- Non-Members (3rd or more times attending): \$43.00
- Students: First 10 students from universities listed below may attend for free! *Afterwards, \$19/per student. Enter code as indicated for your University on the "Tickets and Products" page.*

Eastern Michigan University Students Enter Coupon Code **EMUStudent**

Wayne State University Students Enter Coupon Code **WSUStudent**

Oakland University Students Enter Coupon Code **OU Student**

Davenport University Students Enter Coupon Code **DUStudent**

Baker College Students Enter Coupon Code **BCStudent**

Walsh College Students Enter Coupon Code **WCStudent**

Oakland Community College Students Enter Coupon Code **OCCStudent**

Macomb Community College Students Enter Coupon Code **MCCStudent**

Wayne Community College Students Enter Coupon Code **WCCStudent**

Cleary University Students Enter Coupon Code **CUStudent**

**Note: Due to the increase in food costs, we have increased our meeting costs slightly.*

New: In order that we have the correct amount of food for dinner, advance registration is requested. *Please note that walk-ins will be charged an additional \$5.00 to their registration fee.*

****Notice:** Our monthly meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. However, after two meetings, you will be asked to join our Chapter. Chapter Dues are \$50.00 per year. If you choose not to join our Chapter, you are still welcome to attend, but the Chapter Dinner Meeting cost will be \$43.00.

Sign-up for student night at [SEMCACFE - Upcoming Events](#)

Questions? Contact Debra at info@semcacfe.org

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Call for Speakers

<https://semcacfe.org/>

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Speakers to Present at our Chapter Dinner Meetings

If you have a topic you would like considered for a Chapter Dinner Meeting please submit your speaker form today!

Questions? Email: info@semcacfe.org

We are looking for speakers to present at our Chapter Dinner Meetings and Annual Conference.

If you have a topic you would like considered for a Chapter Dinner Meeting, complete our new SEMCACFE [Speaker Submission Form](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Debra R Richardson at info@semcacfe.org.

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Join SEMCACFE on LinkedIn!



ACFE Southeast Michigan Chapter

The SEMCACFE is an anti-fraud organization. We provide continuing professional education, networking & fraud awareness.

Join our chapter group and chapter page on LinkedIn to get up to date information on chapter events, connect with local fraud professionals, and information about the latest fraud trends. Share the group with other local fraud professionals in your network, and if they need CFEs, we'd love to have them at our next event!

Join Our [LinkedIn Group](#)

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- **Half Page** \$25.00 / \$50.00
- **Quarter Page** \$15.00 / \$30.00
- **Business Card** Free / \$20.00

Please submit all articles in MS Word format

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Other ACFE Chapter Events

Twin Cities and Central Ohio ACFE Chapter's Virtual Training Session - Wirecard Fraud Scandal - November 8th 2023



Seena Ghaznavi, Justin Williams, and Ariel Leaty host Frausters and cover every flavor of fraud you can imagine from fake psychic hotlines to corporations cookin’ the books. Frausters is an all-you-can-eat podcast buffet of liars, cheaters, and scammers.

[Click here to find out more information and register.](#)

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This is your newsletter. If you have suggestions regarding content or if you would like to submit an article please contact Fannie Moore. Email: fanniemmoore@aol.com

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The ACFE

The ACFE is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together with more than 75,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud worldwide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession. Take advantage of networking and educational opportunities in your own back yard by joining your local ACFE Chapter.

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