



## **President's Message**

Hello Fellow SEMCAFE Members. It's hard to believe that we had our year end meeting on June 1, 2023. What a year it has been! This past year we resumed our in-person meetings and held our **29th Annual Fraud Conference** in person at Schoolcraft College since 2019. Throughout the year, I really enjoyed connecting with new members and re-connecting with our fellow members that I have not seen in quite some time. I hope you all did, too. We had outstanding presenters during our monthly meetings. I want express my appreciation and gratitude to all our speakers during our April, May, and June 2023 meetings. We hope everyone has an enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing you all back at our first meeting for the new chapter year in September 2023.

*Sheila Flanagan, CPA, CFE, CRMA, Chapter President*

## **SEMCAFE BOARD ELECTION RESULTS**

Elections for the SEMCAFE board were during the June 1, 2023 meeting. The following members were elected to the board and will each serve a two-year term:

- ◇ **President:** Sheila Flanagan, CPA, CFE, CRMA
- ◇ **Vice President:** Fannie Moore, CFE, CFCI, CICA
- ◇ **Secretary:** Luke Voldahl
- ◇ **Treasurer:** Gary Szokowski, CFE
- ◇ **Director:** Donna Larner, DBA, CFE
- ◇ **Director:** Tim Boyle, CPA, CFE

***Congratulations, and thank you for your service to our chapter.***

### **Call for Speakers!**

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 SEMCAFE [Speaker Submission Form](#). If you have any questions please reach out to **Debra R Richardson** at [info@semcacf.org](mailto:info@semcacf.org).

**April 2023**



**Ketra Lewis, Business Control and Risk Manager  
US Card, Discover, Financial Services**

**Topic:**

***“Current State of Fraud and Cybersecurity in the Credit Card Industry”***

Ketra shared best practices and measures that credit card companies and financial institutions can take to prevent and mitigate fraud and cyber threats; discussed real-world examples of fraud and cybersecurity incidents in the credit card industry and the lessons learned; the latest technologies and solutions that can be used to improve fraud and cybersecurity in the credit card industry; how credit card companies, financial institutions, and other stakeholders can collaborate and share information to better address fraud and cybersecurity challenges, and action plan for implementing the best practices, technologies, and solutions.

**May 2023**



**John Vadalabene, Director**

**IT Audit and Tools, Analytics and Professional Practices**

**Topic:**

***“Using Analytics to Prevent and Detect Fraud”***

John shared information about the significant losses on travel/expense and purchasing fraud businesses experience, reviewed several types of analytics and analyses a fraud investigator may utilize to detect T&E, purchasing fraud, or other fraud schemes, the importance of understanding your data sources and making sure your data is “cleaned” and formatted for analysis.

**June 2023**



**Charles Miller**  
**Special Agent in Charge**  
**IRS Criminal Division, Detroit Office**

**Topic:**  
***“Emerging Trends and Careers in IRS CI”***

Charles shared information about several emerging trends and highlights of his career within the IRS Criminal Division. He also provided tips on how one may get started and pursue a career within the IRS and Criminal Division.

## SEMCAFE 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Fraud Conference

Thank you to all who attended our **29<sup>th</sup> Annual Fraud Conference** on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at VistaTech at Schoolcraft College. A total of 89 participants and speakers came together for our first in-person conference since 2019. What a wonderful opportunity to connect, reconnect, and network with professionals dedicated to fighting fraud. The Chapter wishes to express a **HUGE THANK YOU** to our outstanding line-up of speakers! We appreciate you being part of this year's conference.



**Raymond Orzel , Retired Special Agent**  
**U.S. Treasury and Homeland Security**  
**Topic:**  
***Commercial Investigations & Value of Corporate Relationships***





**Donna Larner, DBA, CFE,  
Cornerstone University**  
**Topic:**  
**“Ethics & Rationalization”**

**David Soubly, CISA,  
Principal of Information and  
Cyber Security  
ty at ICEX**  
**Topic:**  
***“Fraud, Leadership and Ethics  
Story of Two Triangles”***





**EssiAlani Hollier, MPA, CFCI**  
**United States Postal Inspector**  
**United States Post Office**  
**Topic:**  
***“Postal Fraud”***





**Dan Dibardino**  
**The Recon Group**

**President of Crime Stoppers of Michigan**

**Topic:**

***“Fraud Committed Against Individuals”***



**Dolores Sturdivant, AARP Volunteer**

**Topic:**

***“An Insider’s Look at Fraud”***

**Robert (Bob) Stewart,**  
**After Market Service Support and Brand**  
**Protection**

**Topic:**

***“Brand Protection/Counterfeit Goods***  
***Overview”***



## September 2023 Speaker :

**Joe Monticello**

### Topic:

## **Mortgage Fraud in Today's America**

Joe Monticello is a dedicated professional with a passion for continuous growth and a diverse range of interests. Graduating from Central Michigan University in 2016, he embarked on a journey that has allowed him to develop valuable skills and experiences.

Joe's career began at United Wholesale Mortgage, where he started in the underwriting department. Over four years, he worked diligently to ensure mortgage applications met the necessary standards, contributing to the realization of many homeowners' dreams.

Recognizing the importance of risk management, Joe transitioned to the risk department, where he dedicated three years to specializing in fraud investigation. During this time, he focused diligently on meticulous case examinations to safeguard the company's assets. Joe's experiences in navigating challenging and intricate scenarios have contributed to his ongoing professional growth.

In December 2022, Joe achieved certification as a Fraud Examiner, reflecting his commitment to continually improving his expertise in the field.

In his personal life, Joe is eagerly anticipating an important life event in 2024 – he's getting married. Beyond this, he enjoys spending time outdoors, particularly cycling. In his free time, he explores his culinary talents, enjoying the art of cooking, winemaking, and breadmaking.

Joe Monticello's career journey and diverse experiences reflect his dedication to personal and professional development. He continues to contribute positively to the mortgage industry while embracing life's multifaceted experiences.

**Next Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 7, 2023**

**Registration starts at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Buffet Dinner at 6:15 p.m.**  
**Speaker at 7:00 p.m.**

### Location:

St. John Banquet & Conference Center  
22001 Northwestern Highway  
Southfield, MI

### \*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: Complimentary

*\*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 those who register after Friday, September 1st and 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.  
**Reminder: To help minimize costs to our chapter, please notify us of any cancelations, prior to the meeting date.**

### **REGISTER TODAY**

***Questions? Debra Richardson at [info@semcacf.org](mailto:info@semcacf.org)***

**JOIN OUR NEW SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINERS GROUP & PAGE ON LINKEDIN**

**[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)**

**[Join Our LinkedIn Page](#)**

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!



ACFE Southeastern Michigan Chapter

