



AFSA - IRS

NEWSLETTER



*A Publication of the Association of Former
Special Agents of the IRS*

Vol. XXII No. 1

Spring 2011

**2011 AFSA Convention
Asheville, North Carolina
Grove Park Inn
September 30-October 5, 2011**



AFSA-IRS Officers, Directors and Appointed Officials beginning January 1, 2011

President	Jose Marrero (FL)	Regional Directors	
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In Memoriam**James Ray Kelly**Lawrenceville, Ga.
December 27, 2010**Charles Spears, Jr.**Las Vegas, NV.
December 16, 2010**Manuel Godinez**Camarillo, CA.
January 12, 2011**Joseph A. "Mickey" Sadler**Washington, DC
February 22, 2011**Robert M. Schmus - New Regional Director – Region 2**

Robert Schmus was recently appointed the Regional Director for Region 2 of AFSA. Robert's career with IRS-CI spanned a period of 17 years, during which time he was a field agent for 11 years, a Centralized Case reviewer, SSA and DFO Analyst. He left CI for the US Postal Service, Office of the Inspector General as the ASAC in the Philadelphia Field Office. He states that at the time, this appeared to be a once in a lifetime opportunity as he was close to being eligible for retirement. He retired from the Postal Service in March, 2008 and has been an Asset Forfeiture Contractor with ATF since that time, a position he found through AFSA.

Robert says that he envisions the Regional Director keeping in touch with members in their respective area and possibly attempting to organize a local chapter of AFSA or at least getting members together for gatherings. He would also like to see former agents from his era getting more involved in the organization. That would include himself as he has not had the opportunity to attend an annual convention.

President's Message



On February 23, 2011 First Vice President Mary Frances Martin and I met with the Deputy Chief CI Rick Raven and his staff in Washington DC (the Chief was out of town that day). We wanted to continue a tradition of meeting with the IRS-CI headquarters staff to ensure a continuing and long-lasting relationship. I know we all recognize the importance of keeping the lines of communications open. This relationship has been instrumental in the past in helping AFSA-IRS members secure job opportunities, retired credentials, and

commemorative weapons to name a few things. Our presentation was well received with Rick and his staff being very complementary of AFSA as well as being genuinely pleased that we took the time to update them on AFSA-IRS.

We know that it will take all our efforts, from the AFSA Board to all its members, to ensure our continued growth. As of the end of March 2011, AFSA - IRS has over 1,200 paid members. We encourage each and every member to update his/her profile in the online directory to ensure all our mailings; announcements and newsletters can reach everyone without delay. In 2010 we converted to a website and lost some valid data during conversion. Which is why we encourage every member to take a few minutes to check your profiles and make sure it is current and correct. The approximate age grouping of the membership is as of February 13, 2011 was as follows:

Age Group	Number
100 and over	1
90 and over	10
80 and over	48
70 and over	130
60 and over	572
50 and over	419
40 and over	38
30 and over	1
Total members	1219

The most striking change in demographics in just 4 years since our last report to CI Headquarters is the shift to a younger membership. As the number of members in their 50s and 60s going from 795 in 2007 to 991 today. A shift of 71% to 81% of total membership, as the membership has gravitated toward a younger base. This is a direct result of all the hard work of the district and regional representatives as well as the board at large.

There are approximately 156 active special agents in AFS-IRS as associate non-voting members. We know that there are many members who joined AFSA-IRS while they were active special agents. As they retire we hope they also take the time to update their membership profile to help us keep our records as current as possible.

Approximately 435 of the current members expressed interest in post retirement investigative employment as shown in their online profile. At least 500 are actively working as an employee or have their own business. I know that many of those currently working reach out to the AFSA membership for job opportunities, which is another reason to keep your profiles current.

I also want to remind everyone about our upcoming convention for 2011 that will be held in Asheville, North Carolina September 30-October 5, 2011 at the Grove Park Inn. As this year's convention is being held at such a wonderful location with a great price, we are encouraging everyone to feel free to invite family and friends to share in this opportunity to enjoy a great vacation in one of the very special resorts in this country.

A Professional Seminar is scheduled for Sunday October 2, 2011 from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM, which includes a break for lunch. The seminar is a four-hour session that can be used by attendees to meet annual CPE requirements for the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Association of Certified Fraud Specialists and Enrolled Agents. You will find much more information and details in this newsletter; so check it out.

Jose Marrero, AFSA-IRS President

From the Executive Director

Odds and Ends -

- Looks like we are firmly entrenched above a membership level of 1200! We had reached a high of 1223 but as dues come due we inevitably lose a few (sorry, couldn't resist). We lost 40 members this year that did not renew, about 5 fewer than last year, and with a bigger base.
- Scholarship applications – its time to start working on these. There may be some tweaking of rules, but references will not be adjusted and that is one of the toughest things to get in timely. And we do expect timeliness to be a factor this year. As it stands, complete packages are due at the AFSA PO Box by May 1! So work on those references. We may expect a little more involvement by the sponsor (member) this year, such as certifying they have reviewed the package and feel it is complete.
- Retired agent badges- AFSA has nothing to do with these. We merely got the word out on behalf of HQ to our members. Last word I heard from a member who spoke to HQ in mid-February was the company, V.H. Blackinton, was processing the orders. Some of you may have paid in November or December. However, this was a one-time offer and they could not process orders as they came in as that would be cost prohibitive with a product like this. In addition, they held back sending the orders to the company a bit, figuring some people would get their orders in late, and they did. In fact, I had about a half-dozen members contact me who wanted me to see if I could delay the processing further because they did not see the notifications in the email, website or newsletter. Sorry, I could not comply with those requests because I have had dozens of people contacting me about the delay. Latest word in mid-February was the orders would be completed and sent to HQ to send out. Estimated time of completion from mid-February was 60- 90 days.

- Check out our Forum/Discussions on the link. Good place for members to see if someone has something they may want or share information.
- We continue to add links to our website that may be of benefit to our members.
- Please, if you have information you'd like to share in narrative form to AFSA, send it in to me, or to our editor of the newsletter. If it comes to me, I can get it to Ross, our editor.
- If you have a contact that frequently hires people with our skills, encourage them to go to our website and post the openings. I review and approve them and then contact the poster if I see a problem. I normally attempt to email them out, or combine a few in an email.
- We are still looking for someone who takes an interest in politics, probably in the DC metro area but not necessarily so, who would volunteer to be our legislative liaison, to keep members posted on pertinent legislation via the web or newsletter, similar to what FLEOA does. Contact me if you are interested.
- Suggestions for the website and improvements or for AFSA in general? Send them to me and we'll see what we can do.
- **Convention 2012-** Do you want to sponsor a convention in your city next year? Does your city have many things to do, places to go etc., that you'd like to show off? Do you feel like you could present a package that could entice the Board and members to hold the convention and your city, then contact me about a proposal that you'd like to present as a sponsor/coordinator for our Convention. It is a lot of work, but it is also nice to sit back and see job you just completed and all the enjoyment it brought.. Finally, below are some redacted comments from last month about the convention- still apply and worth reading.
- **Convention kickoff.** The forms are here in the newsletter, and will be on the website. Expect it will be much fun, and should be beautiful. Remember our slogan "**Bring a Friend**". We've had some members stating that they would go if their friends were going. We have 1201 members. We don't know who you worked with, or who your friends are. We invite and encourage all members to attend. We agree with you, it would be fun to have a close friend, member or non-member attend with you. They don't have to be members. It would be a nice way for them to get acquainted with us if they are eligible. They don't even have to stay in your room. They can get our discounted rates as long as they register with our liaison discussed in the convention article. This year we are making an EARLY concerted effort to encourage you to invite and persuade that friend or two to attend, whether a member or not. Our tours are optional and our dinners are optional, and always have been. Golf and shooting are optional. We have received packages allowing our members to get the discounted rates 3 days prior to and 3 days after our convention, so that you can do even more events/golf/tours/relaxing than just during the convention. Speaking of the convention, there has been some discussion of the timing around religious holidays. We attempt to have two Board meeting per year, a teleconference in March and a meeting and Business meeting at the convention, along with elections, about 6 months later. To some extent, this affects our timing. We did check a calendar last September, and we specifically did not have anything planned during THE listed religious day on the calendar, which begins on Sundown on 9/28 through to sundown September 29th. I understand some people observe more than the main day. We can't please everyone. We hope you can hit the road for awhile after sundown on Friday if you are one of these, or very early Saturday. Official activities don't start until around noon on Saturday. Last year, we had the convention starting the

day after the noted religious days on the calendar. We recognize that everyone has different priorities, and hope that all will be able to make it for a couple days.

Remember, discounted rates apply 3 days before and 3 days after the official convention which is 9/30-10/4 (check out on the 5th).

- In summary, we received some great and interesting comments and we did as much as possible to accommodate a wide group of people while realizing we can't please everyone all of the time. We selected a great site this year. If you have never attended, you know the dates, if you're working, you have the business items on a weekend so you can attend, not miss work and maybe even get a tax deduction. If you aren't working and want to kick back, this is a great opportunity. If you want more networking, I can promise you that networking always occurs when you get a bunch of people together. I can promise you that you will get more networking about consultant work there than you will sitting on your couch. I don't expect people to make every convention, but give one a try. As I said, I was very impressed with my last (and first) one. Invite a friend, pass along the information, have them check the links and stick with it. Make this a priority with you and your spouse and enjoy some down time, and if you can actually accomplish some business, so much the better. Invite your friend(s), tell war stories, learn about how others are working, or where, make some contacts with some vendors and get tips on resumes from them, visit the luxurious Grove Park Inn, see beautiful, mountainous NC in the fall while the leaves are changing, see a play, treat yourself to a good meal, pamper yourself at the spa, shoot a round of golf or take a hike, try to enjoy life a little. Realizing there is a cost involved that many cannot afford on an annual basis, then try to make a convention every other year or two. I appreciate everyone's comments and time, I hope we have changed some minds, and hope we can continue to adapt to be what you want your organization to be. I hope to see you in Asheville in October. ~ Mark

From the Editor As usual, our President and Executive Director were a bit “wordy”, leaving little room for me so I'll be brief. First of all, I want to apologize for the Fall newsletter and the glaring mistakes. I guess it was close to the holidays and I got in a hurry to get the newsletter to you under my self-imposed deadline. I promise to be more careful in the future. I'll apologize in advance if I've misspelled names, etc., in this issue. Sometimes I have to retype submissions in order to make everything fit together.

This issue is our annual announcement and information regarding the upcoming convention, which this year will be in a 5-Star resort in Asheville, North Carolina. I know all of you that can attend this convention at the Grove Park Inn will be impressed, not only by the resort, but also by the Asheville area. The “bring a friend” feature is an outstanding opportunity for friends and family members to enjoy one of the best resorts in America for a reduced price. You can check online to see what it would normally cost.

Since this issue is for the convention announcement primarily, I wasn't able to use some items that were submitted so they will be included in the summer edition. Some members are preparing articles relating to past IRS history for the next edition so if you have any items you think are or would be interesting to the membership, please send them to me at my email address rbrown11@columbus.rr.com or call me at 614-595-8370. I always enjoy hearing from old friends and love to meet new ones. Until next time.....

Message from CI Chief Victor Song...



IRS Criminal Investigation has just launched an exciting workforce development pilot on behalf of the IRS. Known as the Accelerated Leadership Program, the ALP is designed to attract, develop, and retain high potential individuals by fast tracking them into management.

This pilot is a direct result of the recommendations of the IRS Workforce of Tomorrow initiative. Commissioner Shulman created the Workforce of Tomorrow Task Force in 2008 with a goal of making the IRS the best place to work in government and ensuring that within five years, it has the leadership and

workforce ready for the next 15 years.

The ALP is designed to take individuals who already have some leadership experience and accelerate development of their technical competencies so they are prepared to compete for front-line manager positions in far less time than the 16 – 20 years it now takes individuals to move into management.

The program was initially delayed a year due to budget considerations, but CI recently hired eight ALP special agents to launch the pilot. They are currently working with mentors in various posts of duty before beginning their training at the NCITA in April. The ALP will focus on accelerated development from GL-1811-7/9 Special Agent entry level technical positions to IR-1811-04 management level within three to five years. Each ALP special agent will participate in a formal leadership development plan that will require him or her to complete mandatory activities within an expedited timeframe including: On-the-Job-Instructor (OJI) directed technical assignments, the full spectrum of law enforcement activities, required reading, e-learning, and ALP seminars. The development plans can be personalized with “optional” task assignments in addition to “mandatory” tasks at each grade level. When they have finished their training at the NCITA, the ALP special agents will be assigned to posts of duty in either New York, NY or Los Angeles, CA.

The ALP will not replace the traditional IRS leadership path through the Frontline Leadership Readiness Program (FLRP); the two programs will continue side by side. However, if successful, the ALP pilot will validate a more rapid approach to cultivating the next generation of IRS leadership.

In addition, CI will also soon launch its own Accelerated Senior Leadership Program (ASLP). The ASLP will accelerate the development and advancement of GS-13 special agents and current leaders to senior and executive levels with an emphasis on leadership competencies. The ASLP will involve a multi-year commitment to a fast-paced, high workload program with a customized career development plan. The goal is to enhance the CI “leadership pipeline” so we have highly qualified individuals prepared to move into leadership positions. With these two initiatives, CI is taking the lead in finding and developing our leaders of tomorrow.

Frank L. Smith

AFSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

AFSA-IRS now offers an annual college scholarship for children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of its members. Each applicant can apply every year that they are eligible, whether they were awarded a scholarship in the past or not. The \$2,000 annual scholarship is available to those college students who are pursuing at least a 4-year degree. Applicants must submit the application form together with a personal letter outlining the career you plan to pursue after graduation and why you believe you should be awarded the AFSA Scholarship. Letters of reference and recommendation must also be provided with the application. The AFSA Scholarship Committee will review the applications and recommend the select of the annual scholarship recipient(s).

MEMBER DONATIONS SINCE FALL NEWSLETTER

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Many thanks to all of those contributing to the scholarship fund.

Applications are available through the Office of the Executive Director, AFSA-IRS, P.O. Box 451148, Sunrise FL 33345-1148 and must be received by the AFSA-IRS, Executive Director by May 1 of the year the scholarship is to be awarded. The award recipient will be notified and the award will be mailed directly to the institution on the recipient's behalf.

To make a donation, please fill in, clip and mail the following with your check or other form of payment.

DONATIONS: Anyone may make donations to the AFSA for the Scholarship Fund

Name: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$10.00 ____, \$50.00 ____, \$100.00 ____, or other ____ for the

AFSA_IRS Scholarship Fund

Send donations to: George F. Meyer, Jr., AFSA Treasurer
 P.O. Box 2841
 Ponte Vedra Beach. FL 32004

AFSA-IRS Convention 2011

Friday, September 30

10:00AM-Noon-Grove Park Inn (GPI)-Early bird registration begins in the Great Hall lobby area next to the North wall fireplace.

3:00 PM is the Grove Park Inn's official check in time however they'll gladly provide early check in opportunities on a space available basis. If your room is not ready, proceed with your convention registration in the GPI lobby and consider starting your Asheville orientation via the Asheville Historic Trolley pass. **(The Grove Park Inn is an official Historic Trolley tour stop).**

10:00 AM-GPI Historic Tour is offered daily.

Lunch suggestions are: The GPI's Sunset Terrace, the Grovewood Café-a short walk from the GPI or the Biltmore Village's Corner Kitchen Café, reachable via the Asheville Historic Trolley Tour.

Several downtown eateries are also located in the **GROVE ARCADE**, the 1st indoor shopping mall in the US (Also on the Trolley Tour).

12:20 First tee time-Bob Manzi AFSA Memorial Golf Tournament GPI Country Club (100 year old Donald Ross Course)

2:00-6:15 PM-Hospitality Suite (HS) located in the Bob Timberlake Suite is available (6th floor of the Vanderbilt Wing) where convention registration continues.

6:30 PM-Welcoming Reception & optional/casual group supper buffet-7th floor Sammon's wing Balcony.

8:00-11:00 PM Hospitality Suite (HS) is available.

Saturday, October 1

7:00-9:00 AM-Hospitality Suite (HS)-**Optional** continental breakfast. Registration continues

8:30-11:30 AM-AFSA Board Meeting, Coolidge DE

9:00-AM Explore Asheville via your Trolley Tour pass

10:00 AM-Historic Tour of the GPI if you missed it on Friday

11:30-12:30 PM-**Optional** lunch in the HS for Board Meeting attendees-Helpful RSVP's required.

12:30-2:00 PM-Annual Business Meeting-Part I for everyone, &

2:15-4:00 PM-Business Meeting Part II for AFSA members.

4:00-5:15 PM-HS is available-registration continues.

4:45 PM-Chartered Motor Coaches depart for the Grove Arcade and supper at the historic Tingle's Café and an **Optional** group supper that includes an Asheville mountain music entertainment program. Following supper we'll experience an Asheville at night guided motor coach tour. Coach returns to the GPI @ 8:00 PM

8:00-11:00 PM-HS is open and registration continues.

Sunday, October 2

Sunrise Worship Service-7th fl. Sammons' wing Skyline Room

7:30-9:00 HS **Optional** continental breakfast

8:45 AM-5:00 PM-**Optional** Fall color foliage motor coach via the Blue Ridge Parkway, a shopping visit to historic Bryson City NC, mid AM snack provided in route, a box lunch with beverage, a 4 hour R/T Smokey Mountain Railroad tour with a 1 hour mid-point stop featuring beautiful North Carolina high country Fall colors

10:00 AM-3:30 PM-Annual AFSA CPE and Consultant's Summit

11:30 AM HS **Optional HS** lunch for CPE attendees-Advance RSVP's required and appreciated.

4:00 to 6:30 PM Hospitality Suite (HS) is available

6:30-8:30 PM-**AFSA Convention Banquet-7th floor Sammons wing Mountain View Terrace**

8:00-11:00 PM-HS is available.

Monday, October 3

7:00-9:00 AM-HS **Optional** Continental Breakfast.

8:45-11:15 AM-Retirement Info & Issues Presentations-CSC, FERS, Thrift Savings, SSA , Medicare News and developing legislation.

11:30 AM-Motor Coach departs-**Optional** Biltmore Estate Tour-Part I that includes a group lunch buffet at Deer Park Center. We tour the Biltmore Estate Mansion after lunch followed by time to explore the Mansion gardens and the Stable Arcade Shops. We

return to the GPI @ 5:00 PM. **THIS IS THE PRIMARY ESTATE TOUR OFFERING.**

Open night for your choice of a supper venue and a possible stage entertainment performance October 2011 performance schedules are not available at this time. We'll provide several dining recommendations.

8:00-11:00 PM HS opens-Monday night football viewing with modest pizza, snacks and deserts served @ 9:00 PM & halftime.

Tuesday, October 4

7:00-9:00 AM-HS **Optional** Continental Breakfast

8:30-10:30 AM-AFSA Pistol Match-On Target indoor range

11:00 AM Motor Coach departs the GPI for day II of touring at the Biltmore Estates. We start our day on the Estate with a Dutch treat lunch at your choice of 7 different eateries located in the Estate's Antler Hill Village. After lunch we begin the guided motor coach tour titled "Legacy of the Land". The day ends with a return visit to Antler Hill and time to explore the very special Estate Winery where endless wine sampling is offered. We return to the GPI @ 5:00 PM.

An optional casual group supper venue will be announced.

8:00-11:00 PM-HS opens

Wednesday, October 5

7:00-9:00 AM HS **Optional** Continental Breakfast

Check out & depart the GPI

During Convention Registration, attendees will be provided with a variety of after convention recommended activities, which include mountain oriented attractions like Chimney Rock State Park, Grandfather Mountain and the NC Arboretum.

Several outstanding highlands golf courses are short drives from downtown Asheville as well as the sister cities of Hendersonville and Flat Rock NC which are great central locations that offer very affordable lodging.

Asheville and vicinity offers no less than 13 stage performance venues as well as Fall seasonal festivals in many neighboring communities.

The Blue Ridge Parkway Folk Art Center and the "Sanctuary of Stuff" are must visit venues for anyone interested in hand crafted products that make unique and interesting gifts.

The Canopy Park is a high adventure attraction that features 10 exhilarating zip lines that elevate you more than 200 feet or over valley gaps. One zip line extends more than 4 football fields in length.

**2011 AFSA-IRS ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION
Asheville, NC—September 30-October 5, 2011**

AFSA Member _____ **Guest** _____
(Please furnish the name that you want on the convention name badge.)

Address _____ City & State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone () _____ Cell () _____

E-mail _____ Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Please check the respective programs you wish to participate in:

- Saturday AFSA Business meeting Sunday Sunrise Worship Service
 Sunday CPE Monday Retirement Issues Conference Tuesday Pistol Match
 Yes, I'll have my POA/rental car in the Grove Park Inn's free indoor parking garage.

Registration fees include: Sunday night banquet, Sunday Professional Development CPE, 15 Hospitality Suite sessions, Monday Retirement issues conference and your "Asheville 2011" convention gift.

(See convention schedule for activity details)	Fees (pp)	#	Amount
AFSA Member Registration Fee	\$ 120.00		
Guest Registration Fee	115.00		
Hospitality room non-alcoholic drink preference discount.	(10.00)		
Saturday-Wednesday Hospitality Suite Cont'l breakfast # of Days ____ @	6.00		
5 day pass-Historic trolley boarding pass (Highly Recommended)	10.00		
Grove Park Inn historic tour offered daily @ 10:00AM	15.00		
Friday Bob Manzi Memorial Golf Tournament	89.00		
Friday evening Skyline View Terrace welcoming reception/supper	40.00		
Saturday night group supper @ Tingles Historic Cafe, R/T motor coach including Asheville @ night tour, all inclusive	40.00		
Sunday Blue Ridge Parkway foliage tour, coach transportation & R/T train ride 1 st class superior seating, lunch and SMRR souvenirs	92.00		
Monday Biltmore Estate tour Part I, Mansion, coach & lunch included	82.00		
Tuesday Biltmore Estate tour Part II, Estate tour, lunch & motor coach	69.00		
Timely registration appreciation discount for fully paid registrations received by 8/1/11- Only available if your lodging choice is the GPI	(20.00)		
	Total Amount Paid		

Mail registration form and full payment payable to AFSA-IRS to:
Ron Line 942 Shireton Ct.
Cincinnati, OH 45245

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

For general CONVENTION INFO, please visit WWW.AFSA-IRS.org

For any additional information or questions contact Jim Meyers (843) 446-2006 or Al Selby (704) 545-7543

AFSA 2011 Convention-Asheville NC
Grove Park Inn Lodging Reservation Procedures

AFSA Convention attendees have been assigned a VIP Group Reservations

Coordinator; Carol Lindstrom can be reached by calling Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The Grove Park Inn has set aside all 6th floor rooms in the Vanderbilt Wing for AFSA Convention attendees. Our AFSA Hospitality Suite is also located on that floor.

The great majority of our social, banquet and scheduled meetings will take place on the Lobby level and in The Sammons Wing. You'll find 1st floor lodging in the Sammons Wing will minimize steps and elevator needs for the entire convention. Either wing of the GPI provides identical, free and covered vehicle parking. If for some reason you wish to use the Grove Park Inn's standard call-in or web based reservation system, you'll need to obtain and complete a required reservation information form, which can be obtained from Ms. Lindstrom (clindstrom@grovetparkin.com).

If you have any questions re your Grove Park Inn lodging reservation, feel free to contact Jim Meyers; (843) 399-1627 or jmeyers7@sc.rr.com.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES RECENTLY BEGAN NATIONWIDE SERVICE INTO THE SPARTANBURG/GREENVILLE SC AIRPORT

(GSP) WHICH IS A ONE HOUR DRIVE TO THE GROVE PARK INN. USE OF A RENTAL CAR WILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS VS THE COST OF THE AVAILABLE SHUTLE SERVICE.

Your standard, one or two person AFSA discounted room rate will be \$174 + 12% tax until close of business on SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 AFTER WHICH THE RATE INCREASES TO \$325 PLUS TAX

PLEASE REMBER TO "BRING A BUDDY" TO ASHEVILLE 2001. NON-AFSA MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN THE FUN

Michael J. Feeley will present retirement information during the convention and has a BBA from the University of Georgia, Terry College of Business in Risk Management.

CSRS/FERS Retirement Issues (Calculations, WEP/GPO, Annuity Supplement, Re-employed Annuitant, Re-hired Annuitant, etc...)

- Risk Management Issues (Risk Tolerance Issues, Survivor Benefits, FEGLI, Long-Term Care, FEHB-HSA, etc...)
- TSP investments (Costs, Funds, Roth Options, etc...)
- TSP Payout Options
- TSP Financial Planning Strategies (TSP Rollovers, Private vs. Gov. Options, Stretch IRAs, annuities options, etc...)

AROUND THE NATION

Connie Maki - 2010 Recipient of the Lois Higgins-Grote Heritage

Recognition Award. Excerpted from Women's Police Magazine, Sept. – Nov., 2010.

Former IRS-CI Special Agent and retired Police Chief Connie Maki, who was told during initial training, “We don’t want women here”, has been recognized for her contributions to women police and the International Association of Women Police (IAWP). The Heritage Recognition, the highest tribute given by the IAWP, is meant to ensure the legacy of IAWP members for their outstanding and dedicated service to the association. Maki started her law enforcement career at the Chicago Branch of the Internal Revenue Service. In her initial training, she was the only female in the class during a difficult time for women entering the law enforcement field. Maki believed she endured because she knew women could do the job if just given the chance. By challenging herself and those who would throw stones in her path, Maki was a mentor from the start. She did, as Margaret Meed said, “go where there is no path and leave a trail.” She left a trail, modeling the way for women to succeed in all facets of law enforcement.

Congratulations to Chief Connie Maki for being honored with this very prestigious recognition.

1st Annual AFSA Cruise by Ron Line



On January 30, 2011, the Liberty of the Seas cruise ship sailed from the Port of Miami for a trip to the Western Caribbean. On board for the cruise were AFSA members, Dave Nowak, Jim Meyers, Ron Line and their wives, along with AFSA member Lennis Brinson. The weather was cold and snowy in many parts of the country, and everyone was looking forward to some fun and relaxation in the sun. The weather was great with 80-degree sunny days and no rain.

The Liberty of the Seas is part of Royal Caribbean Cruise Line’s Freedom Class of ships, and was in dry-dock the week before we sailed getting completely renovated with many state-of-the-art upgrades. The staterooms were spacious with large balconies, which enabled us to enjoy the fresh ocean air right from our staterooms. The first day we were cruising on the open seas and getting ourselves acclimated to all the amenities on Board. This included an abundance of

shopping in the Royal Promenade, lounging by the pools, enjoying the hot tubs, working out in the fitness center or just watching people enjoy surfing and water boarding in the wave runner on board. And of course there was the popular Casino Royale and various piano bars providing evening entertainment. The ship also featured an ice rink where we saw a fabulous ice show.

The second day we were in Belize City, Belize, and several of us took a city tour. What surprised us most were the poor living conditions of the people who reside there. Next we cruised overnight to Puerto Costa Maya, Mexico where we took an excursion to the Kohunlich Mayan Ruins in a secluded jungle, and the third day we were in Cozumel for a day of sightseeing and shopping.

There was unlimited food for our consumption, and it was scrumptious to say the least. The Windjammer Café featured open buffets with various foods from around the world, and was usually where people ate breakfast and lunch. However, for a more leisurely breakfast we often ate in the main dining room. Speaking of the main dining room that was a wonderful dining experience for dinner every night. The dining room was an elaborately decorated venue that consisted of three levels. Our dining table was located right in the center of the first level in front of an eloquent staircase. Close by was the Captain's table, although we never saw the Captain eating dinner. After dinner each evening there was a show in the theater featuring comedians, singers and dancers, and the Liberty of the Seas orchestra. They were excellent, and the shows were a great ending to fun filled days.

One of the accompanying pictures is the group posing on the staircase in the dining room in our "formal" attire, and the other is a casual picture taken overlooking the Royal Promenade.

Our thanks to Kathy Collins of Cruise Planners Unlimited for making all the arrangements for our cruise. Kathy is the wife of AFSA member Omer Collins. All in all it was a wonderful experience, and hopefully more members will join us on future cruises.

What they said....

" This was our first cruise. EVERYTHING EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS. The mix of group gatherings and personal free time was perfect. The endless quality entertainment, the immaculate conditions on the ship, the fabulous food and outstanding service provided by all ship staff made the total experience a tremendous bargain."

Jim & Myrna Meyers

"This was our first cruise. It was a great time and a great winter break. I especially enjoyed traveling with the group of former agents. It was nice to have instant friends I had something in common with."

Dave & Kathy Nowak

New Members

Following are the new AFSA members who joined since the publication of the last Newsletter. Please welcome these new members to our organization. The AFSA Website Directory contains more current information for not only each new member but also all current members.

NAME	HOME CITY	STATE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Harlan Carter	San Antonio	TX	harlan.carter@sbcglobal.net
Henry Ho	Concord	CA	henry870ho@yahoo.com
Thomas C. Daniel, Jr.	Pensacola	FL	perdidotcd@aol.com
Raymond Greene	Swedesboro	NJ	raymond1171@yahoo.com
Scott Ashlock	Valencia	CA	sra031@yahoo.com
David M. Landrum	Mustang	OK	roninresources@gmail.com
Philip S. Zizzo	Lake Ridge	VA	pszizzo@verizon.net
Alan K. Schacht	Vero Beach	FL	Ryanisready@hotmail.com
Phillip A. Barnett	Kingsport	TN	lbarnett30@yahoo.com
Grace Gale	Arnold	MD	instateofgrace@verizon.net
Norm Meadows	Sarasota	FL	normmeadows@aol.com
Alan Drucker	Manalapan	NJ	mashed1983@aol.com
Joseph J. Commisso	Cary	NC	jjcommisso@hotmail.com
Andre Noisette	Port St. Lucie	FL	andrenoisette@gmail.com
Caroline Truesdale	New York	NY	ctruesdale@hotmail.com
Trevor W. Bolden	Decatur	GA	Ltctrev@yahoo.com
Virginia Gregg	Fullerton	CA	cgcis@sbcglobal.net
Laurie Harmon	Miami	FL	Laurie.Harmon@hotmail.com
Cynthia L. Homuth	Nederland	TX	cindyhomuth@yahoo.com
Stephen D. Rowley	Hurricane	WV	srowley@suddenlink.net
Phillip G. Paige	Stanley	NC	popsamus@aol.com
Mike Barbery	Manassas	VA	mikebarb@comcast.net
Rich Zagotta	Wheaton	IL	Zagbird@aol.com
Scott A. Marshall	Stafford	VA	marshalls2@verizon.net
Charles Meixner	McKinney	TX	c.meix@hotmail.com
David E. Zuniga	Huntsville	TX	dezlaredo@hotmail.com
Jana Balonick	Ventura	CA	goldshieldinvestigation@gmail.com
Karen Wilkerson	Cedar Hill	TX	Wilkersonwears@sbcglobal.net
Guy Petrillo	Laurel	MD	guy.petrillo@fhfa.gov
Michael D. Anderson	Decatur	GA	gacis@bellsouth.net
Carol Palmer	Manalapan	NJ	palmerca@msn.com
Anthony A. Brooks	Alexandria	VA	aabrooks1957@gmail.com
William G. Gilligan	Ahakista Durrus	Ireland	wggill@yahoo.com
Steve Baker	Lake Ridge	VA	bake1820@comcast.net
Jackie Zisterer	Jackson	MS	zeistera@aol.com
Karen A. Bjorkman-DiPiazza	Knoxville	TN	Karen.Bjorkman@ci.irs.gov
Laurence L. Schmidt	Lenexa	KS	lboy620@aol.com
John Voinovich	Ogden	UT	skyhawk474@msn.com
Rita A. Gousman	Indianapolis	IN	rgousman@indy.rr.com

William L. Beerman	Saint Simons Island	GA	mbeerman@bellsouth.net
Sara Brana	San Diego	CA	sarabrana1@gmail.com
Sadie G. Towler	Carson	CA	stowler@ca.rr.com
Paul Mesh	Hutchinson	KS	meshclan@sbcglobal.net
Phillip S. Brown	Knoxville	TN	psbones@yahoo.com
Deborah Robertson	Harwood	MD	drobotson2011@live.com
Robert P. Romano	Westfield	NJ	romanor@comcast.net
Georgia Taylor	Dallas	TX	tigerlily4954@yahoo.com
Janette K. Lochowski	East Haddam	CT	jklochowski@sbcglobal.net
Walt Banit	Fairfax	VA	wbanit@verizon.net
Vita Paukstelis	Racine	WI	vitap3737@gmail.com
Keith Rodgers	Rockwood	TN	rodgers4769@bellsouth.net
Gary G. Ploetz	San Antonio	TX	gary.ploetz@ci.irs.gov
Paula Lipski	Sun City Center	FL	clubmanor@tampabay.rr.com
Victor Lessoff	Voorhees	NJ	loriandvic@yahoo.com
Robert Bruce Coleman	Savannah	GA	rbc003@aol.com

Letters to the Editor

I do not have a computer. Why not a reduced annual charge for old members like me (88), unable to attend anything for physical reasons. Please respond in next newsletter. Thanks.
Member from Missouri

Response from Executive Director: This has been brought up before. First, we are the Association of Former Special Agents, so our primary focus is former agents, and consequently, this is primarily concentrated on retired members from IRS-CI who constitute about 85% of our membership, and couple percent (included in the 15% are agents who have not retired from Government service, but have left to work at another agency.

We are unlike FLEOA which does offer reduced rates to retired members, because their focus is active Law Enforcement Officers. I may also add, that their membership is much greater than ours going across all agencies, and their fee for retired members is still \$40 I believe, and much more for active agents. An *a'la carte* menu, would be cost prohibitive, and there is no way of verifying information.

Age itself is not a precursor for hardship, some of our wealthiest members are also some of our oldest. As far as why a person opts to not attend a convention (which is basically paid by the attendee (less than \$1.75/member was used to cover costs at the convention last year)), or chooses to not utilize on line services, well, we have fixed costs, and diversified interests of our members which include social gatherings, retirement news, sporting events, shooting events, job listings, networking, cpe, etc. We hope to provide as much to members as we can for our cost, and the cost to the member.

While I sympathize with your case, and recognize there may be others out there in similar situations, I hope you can understand why we cannot make this accommodation, along with my apology.



AFSA – IRS Membership Application

Mail completed application with \$50 check payable to AFSA for first year dues to:

AFSA-IRS
P.O. Box 451148
Sunrise, FL 33345-1148

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: () _____

Home Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

IRS-CI Special Agent Service Dates: From: _____; To: _____ Are you a current Special Agent? _____

Retirement Date: _____; Spouse's Name: _____

Current or Last Post of Duty: _____ Current or last Supervisor & Ph #: _____

Current Employment (type of work): _____

Business Name: _____

Address: City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: () _____ FAX: () _____

Business Email address: _____ Cell Phone () _____

As an AFSA member, I am interested in:

Doing investigative work _____ Yes _____ No

Serving AFSA in other positions _____ Yes _____ No

Being a member of an AFSA committee _____ Yes _____ No

Being an AFSA Representative _____ Yes _____ No

(Representatives assist Regional Directors)

Place a check mark in the blank for the items that apply to your skills, training, accreditation, or interest:

A. Attorney _____

B. Certified Public Accountant _____

C. Certified Fraud Examiner _____

D. Enrolled Agent _____

E. Foreign languages _____

Specify:

Language(s) _____

F. Instructor training experience _____

G. Foreign: _____

Teaching experience _____

Consulting assignments: _____

H. Computer forensics _____

I. Investigative equipment training experience _____

J. Licensed or certified private investigator _____

K. Management training experience _____

L. Other skills or investigative interest: _____

Specify _____

AFSA receives requests from various sources for members who may be interested in performing different types of work. If you desire to have this type of information available for AFSA to assist in matching your skills, expertise and abilities to a particular request, please complete this part of the membership form.

Membership is open to all retired, former and current IRS special agents with at least five years IRS special agent service. Current special agents are admitted as non-voting associate members. I am applying (or submitting changes) for membership in the Association of Former Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service. I am either a retired special agent, a former special agent, or a current special agent. I have neither been convicted of a felony nor left the IRS under any adverse circumstances.

Signed: _____ Date _____

AFSA REGIONS AND AREAS OF COVERAGE

Region	Area of Coverage
1	Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island
2	Pennsylvania, New Jersey
3	Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, U.S. Territories and International
4	Arkansas, Indiana West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Michigan
5	North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, Oklahoma,
6	Florida
7	Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas Wisconsin and Minnesota
8	Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah
9	Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California, and Hawaii

AFSA Regional Directors are listed on page 2 of this Newsletter

**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS
OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (AFSA)
P.O. Box 451148
Sunrise, FL 33345-1148**

1,219 AFSA members as of March 31, 2011. Help recruit new members for AFSA