



AFSA - IRS

NEWSLETTER



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

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Fall 2012

2012 Las Vegas 2013 South Florida



AFSA-IRS Officers and Appointed Officials beginning 1/1/2013

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Appointed</u>	
Mary Fran Martin (MD)	President	Mary Ruiz	Executive Director
Jim Meyers (SC)	VP/President Elect	Bob Armentrout	Parliamentarian
Daniel Pieschel (KY)	2 nd Vice President	A. Jack Fishman	Attorney
Peggy Thomas (MD)	Secretary	Ross Brown	Newsletter Editor
George Meyer (FL)	Treasurer		
Jose Marrero (FL)	Past President		

AFSA Regional Directors and Regional Representatives effective 1/1/2013

Region	Regional Director	Regional Representatives		
1	David Nicholson Dunstable, MA	Martin C. Lippe John Fahey Bruce R. Traina Robert Galbraith Charles Franssen	Westport, CT Providence, RI Duxbury, MA E. Amherst, NY Huntington, NY	
2	Robert Schmus 609.790.4627 Voorhees, NJ	Alan Fogel John Gagliardo Robert McDugall	Manalapan, NJ Lincoln Park, NJ Blue Bell, PA	732.900.2650 973.818.8680 610.275.9599
3	Gail Donaldson Upper Marlboro, MD	Jim Holloway	Ellicott City, MD	
4	Elizabeth Fleaher Cincinnati, OH	Lee Mohs Tom Brandon Ted Boomershine John Fettes	Carmel, IN Avon Lake, OH Kettering, OH Little Rock, AR	
5	Arthur A. Selby, Jr Charlotte, NC	Bill Ryan Terry O'Brien David W. Jansen	Birmingham, AL Raleigh, NC Tulsa, OK	919.523.3408 918.645.9218
6	Darrell G. Smith 904.825.0802 St. Augustine, FL	Dave Beitzel Orlan Smith Robert McLaughlin Jeff Karsh Larry Sands	Naples, FL Orlando, FL Ponce Inlet, FL Plantation, FL Keystone Heights, FL	239.417.0422 407.648.0989 386.761.9834 954.530.5464 352.473.0491
7	Gerard Dupczak Schererville, IN	Robert Schweitzer Inar "Smitty" Morics Ronald Cipolla Tom O'Halloran Diane L. Schuchardt	Des Moines, IA Eagan, MN St. Louis, MO West Fargo, ND Elkhorn, WI	
8	Swayzine Fields Las Vegas, NV	Georgia Taylor Ed Martin Joel Lanoux Iris Bohanon Dennis Carey Mike Mayott	Dallas, TX Austin, TX Richardson, TX Phoenix, AZ Glenwood Springs, CO Billings, MT	
9	Richard Malone Los Angeles, CA	Art Royce Alex Seddio Reginald Norberg	Boise, ID San Francisco, CA Seattle, WA	

Executive Director Corner – Fall 2012

The 2012 Convention is history and in reviewing our results. Overall, we are very pleased with the number of new faces and the financial results. The Convention paid for itself. We still would like to see more people attend these conferences. We realize that work, personal situations, health situations or financial situations may prevent a member from attending every year. However, we'd love to see our members attempt to at least attend every other year and that our numbers be in the 150-200 range of attendees. And there is no reason that could not and should not be possible. We offer something for everyone! That would only be about 9% of our members attending. In my opinion, the biggest obstacle, in most cases, is you taking the time out to make this a priority, and treating yourself to something nice. Try to focus on that next November when the conference is in South Florida.

News- with the elections being held, we had a number of people who have come forward to volunteer to serve terms that have not yet expired for some of our directors. Specifically, with Dan Pieschel being elected 2nd VP, we welcome, congratulate and thank Elizabeth "Beth" Fleaher for serving as Region 4 Director for the remainder of Dan's term. In addition, with Peg Thomas being elected to Secretary, Gail Donaldson of Upper Marlboro, MD is the new Region 3 Director and Gerard Dupczak is the new Region 7 Director. These appointments by the President become effective January 1, 2013. 2013 brings many new officers and directors to the organization.

As I leave, I look and see an organization that has expanded its scholarship program, both in terms of scholarships offered, mainly as a credit to our members and the reputation they have which has resulted in new benefactors, and in additional people being eligible. This is possible through your continued contributions.

I saw and enjoyed three successful conventions made possible by hard working volunteers and members willing to join their friends in three different and wonderful locales. We also expanded offerings tailored by the feedback of our members.

Our new website was released at the time I became executive director, the result of much hard work from volunteers as well as the previous Executive Director. Since then, it has been expanded and improved many times as a result of suggestions from you, our members. In addition, the number of people now accessing it through the internet, and subscribing to our email service, which is also less than three years old, has increased steadily to near 92% of membership (if you have email and have not indicated so on your profile, it's time!). The latest financials will be posted in the newsletter, per your request, as will minutes of Board meetings.

I thank all of you for providing suggestions to me, bearing with me when I have made mistakes, pointing out my mistakes, helping me learn this job, sharing stories with me, and becoming my friends. I am sure you will show the same cooperation with the very capable Mary Ruiz who succeeds me. I only ask that you consider getting involved in this organization. You do NOT have to have been a member of management to be a member, or a volunteer. All ideas and thoughts have value. Work to make this a better organization for you and for all, and have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and happy holiday season. See you in Florida, and remember, change comes with and from you! ~ Mark

New Executive Director Selected-

President José I. Marrero and 1st Vice President Mary Fran Martin are very pleased to announce the selection of **Mary Ruiz**, with the concurrence of the Board of Directors, as the next Executive Director of AFSA-IRS. AFSA was extremely pleased and appreciative to have two candidates who applied for the job of AFSA Executive Director. They both had outstanding qualities.

Mary worked most of her career in TX (primarily San Antonio area, along with South Florida, Washington DC (International), having 26 years experience with IRS. She retired in 2008 out of El Paso. During her career, she has been an instructor for firearms, Spanish for LEOs, Money Laundering, Asset Forfeiture and Undercover Ops. She has been a District Director's Representative, a Public Information Officer, a Supervisory Special Agent and was an acting Attaché for the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America. In addition she was the assistant director of Internal audit for the Northside Independent School District and developed a Handbook of Operating Procedures for them as a major duty, and provided guidance, training, technical assistance and oversight. Mary was also Manager of the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) where she was liaison between Homeland Security and the 76 jurisdictions of AACOG.

Mary is bilingual. In addition to being a member of AFSA for 6 years, she is an active member of FLEOA, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and was a member of HIRE when employed by the IRS, as well as other organizations. She is the recipient of numerous occupational awards during her career. She comes with a strong background of people skills, organizational skills and computer skills. She is also a golfer.

She is excited about working for AFSA, and will begin training soon, and will take the position over by the end of the year. She is planning on attending the AFSA Convention, so please introduce yourself, congratulate her, welcome her to the position and offer her every courtesy you have given this current executive director.

From the Editor: Much to my chagrin, I wasn't able to attend the convention this year. The week before leaving I visited a doctor (after attempting to snag a ground ball and hitting my head on the baseball field), who insisted he perform emergency surgery. Fortunately all is well. It certainly looked like I missed a fun convention but I'll look forward to South Florida next year and hope to see many more members there. It's always a great vacation, so save up and plan on attending.

I want to thank the many contributors to this newsletter including Mark Kroczyński, our Executive Director, Mary Ruiz, our incoming Executive Director, Ray Sherrard, and Peggy Thomas, our newly elected Secretary. Without them this publication wouldn't have nearly the content. Al Selby provided most of the photos that you see on the front page. The "Other Stuff" you see later in the newsletter came from items I received from various members of AFSA.

A special thanks goes to Mark K upon his departure as our Executive Director at the end of the year. Mark has been of tremendous assistance to me with this newsletter through his proofing, supplying information and generally being just a friend. Good luck to him in his future endeavors. Stay in touch. Until next time...

Frank L. Smith

AFSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

FRANK L. SMITH 2012 AFSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Frank L. Smith AFSA Scholarship program is so named to recognize the work of Frank L. Smith in establishing the AFSA Scholarship program. Frank first presented the idea of establishing a scholarship program in 1997. Through his research and perseverance the AFSA Scholarship Program became a reality and the first scholarship for \$1000 was awarded in 1999. Since then numerous children and grandchildren of AFSA members have benefited from these scholarships to further their college education. The program has been expanded to include nieces, nephews and high school seniors starting their college education. Donations to the fund in 2012 totaled \$6,080 with \$10,000 in scholarships being awarded.

AFSA-IRS Honors William Schroeder at Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada

On Saturday evening at the AFSA annual banquet, William Schroeder, the President of Madison Associates was honored for his generous contribution to the AFSA Scholarship Program. Last year and again this year, William Schroeder donated \$10,000.00 to the AFSA scholarship fund, specifically, the James F. Howe, Sr. scholarship fund founded by him and administered by AFSA. In addition to being a former IRS-CI special agent, Jim was a former employee of Madison Associates, Inc.

The James F. Howe Sr. Scholarship fund was created as an educational endowment in James Howe's name to highlight the integrity and character that Jim showed throughout his career to others interested in law enforcement careers. It is a means of honoring Jim, his family, and other IRS agents who have exhibited Jim's outstanding qualities. AFSA-IRS will again next year be administering the two scholarship programs, the original AFSA scholarship named in honor of member Frank L. Smith who thought of creating a fund, the Frank L. Smith College AFSA Scholarship, and the newer scholarship fund named in honor of James F. Howe, Sr.

While the two scholarships are similar, there are significant differences including qualifications and application procedures. Qualified applicants may apply for both scholarships, but may be awarded only one scholarship per year. Remember you can apply again, even if you have been awarded a scholarship previously.

The main differences between the two scholarships are the following:

The Frank L. Smith Scholarship - the applicant can be a graduating high school senior with no specified law enforcement career.

The James F. Howe Sr. Scholarship - the applicant must be enrolled in a two year or four year college or university and be in a declared law enforcement major or in a profession or in the major that can lead to a law enforcement career.

AFSA wants to give these scholarships to qualifying candidates. We encourage all members to reach out to your family members and inform them of this excellent opportunity for them to receive financial assistance. Don't feel that you do not have a chance. The AFSA awarded six scholarships this year, and this could have been your family member also! Scholarship applications will begin again next spring. Information will be provided at the AFSA website and via emails. More information is available in the open access portion of our website, which is available for viewing by the general public and members. This includes application guidelines and eligibility for both funds.

Peggy Thomas, Chairman Scholarship Committee

MEMBER DONATIONS SINCE SPRING NEWSLETTER

Frank Smith Scholarship Fund

James Howe Scholarship Fund

Al Allison William Parrish
Thomas E. Murphy

William Schroeder

Applications are available from our website www.afsa-irs.org, and by clicking on the "College Scholarship" selection on the left. This area is accessible by non-members (students). You may also get an application by emailing the Executive Director at execdir@afsa-irs.org, or lastly, by writing to the Executive Director of AFSA in late winter.

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

Donations will also be accepted for the James Howe Scholarship Fund.

Name: _____

Amount of Donation: _____

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

AFSA 2012 Convention – Las Vegas

By Mark Kroczyński

Well, the 2012 AFSA-IRS Convention held in Las Vegas is history. The 2012 convention held October 12-17 officially was successful in a number of ways. First off, we had 87 registrants, down about 19 people from last year, but 56 were members, an increase of 1 from last year. We had some health issues pop up with some regular attendees, and a couple conflicts that also depressed our numbers by about 10. On the other hand, host Howard Karsh did an incredible job of getting many new attendees to come to the convention. Many of these attendees were first time attendees and they indicated they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. More importantly, it was nice to see the half of the attendee list coming from west of the Mississippi River.

Our hosts did an incredible job. The lead host was Howard Karsh, who did most of the initial ground work, and as we got closer to the convention, Howard received some excellent assistance from Swayzine Fields. In addition, Jim Meyers, Ron Line, George Meyer provided much assistance in numerous areas, as did Al Selby. A convention is a major undertaking that takes patience, follow through, organization, a tough hide, communications skills, and a lot of time. It is a job where you never please everyone, yet at the same time, I think everyone was pleased. I want to recognize these people and thank them all for volunteering to help out. These members and spouses are the type of people, and the type of assistance we need in planning these conventions and making them successful, and enjoyable. In addition, we had additional assistance in the hospitality room which cannot be discounted, from set up, to clean up to registration from Diane Line, Barbara Meyer, Nancy Selby, Myrna Meyers, Virgie Marrero and others including people who helped with presentations as well. I apologize to those I have neglected to mention.

Our hospitality room opened Thursday, and provided camaraderie, conversation, new friendships, refreshed memories and old friendships. See incoming executive director Mary Ruiz's piece on the hospitality suite.

We again suggested to members they bring a friend, which was initiated by Jim Meyers last year. Unfortunately, this year there was some drop off in attendees in this category. This was either the third or fourth time the convention had been held in Las Vegas. This year it was held at the beautiful J.W. Marriott Resort and Spa in Summerlin. The resort's rooms were beautiful, the grounds spacious, exquisitely landscaped with numerous waterfalls and was home to a wonderful heated pool which I used, and beautiful golf course, which I wisely did not use, various restaurants on site, and many one armed bandits who provided entertainment, and in at least three cases, winners for our attendees (actually 4 but I lost a lot of money at the airport then to end up a loser).

Initially, the weather provided some difficulty with the convention. Thunderstorms unfortunately cancelled the golf tournament on Thursday. Some more bad weather returned on Friday (after my swim) and temps dropped down to about 65 during the storm, with strong winds, but after that, the weather warmed up continually for the rest of the convention. Overall, it was very pleasant weather.

Registration went very smoothly as a result of preparations and assistance from the volunteers and name tags provided by Jim Meyer's daughter. Thursday night, numerous groups of people went out together for dinner with each other. Friday was the first official day. That day was a

free day, for tours, to explore the grounds (I have never seen so many waterfalls in one location), to use the facilities provided by the beautiful spa, as well as the resort's fitness facilities.

The Board of Directors had their annual fall board meeting in the late afternoon. Discussions included reviewing the nomination committee's recommendations, next year's convention, discussion of proposed by-law changes regarding duties of regional directors and representative, review of financials and introduction of the incoming executive director, Mary Ruiz.

Later Friday night we had the Welcome Dinner in the Marabella room with special guest former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, who is a well known criminal defense attorney representing clients in some very high profile cases. He also has appeared in a number of movies and TV shows. Mr. Goodman opened up the dinner with martini in hand, appearing with two wonderful show girls in full elegant costumes and shared with us several war stories, covering both his tenure as mayor, and also as a criminal defense lawyer. One story surprisingly tied into my career, in that the case to which he referred resulted in a Federal Judge (Wood) being murdered and an AUSA assigned to the case taught for law and evidence for awhile at FLETC as he had been threatened. He was one of my instructors. Shows you how small of a world it is. The dinner was buffet style (three choices for main dishes), and everything was really quite delicious (well, maybe one dish in my opinion could have been better, but that was just a side). Then, the hospitality room opened afterwards.

Saturday was an early day, beginning at 8:30 AM with the presentation of colors by the UNLV ROTC Honor Guard under the command of SFC James E. Castillo to kick off the business meeting. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance and two invocations, one by guest Pastor Steve C. Beason International Church of Las Vegas in Summerlin. Despite these two invocations, my luck did not change at the slots, which ties in with the infamous words of Jim Morrison, of The Doors, "...you cannot petition the Lord with prayer!" Well, maybe you can, it's just that not all prayers were answered!

Next on the agenda was a quite interesting presentation by the Headquarters IRS - CI designee, local Special Agent in Charge Paul A. Camacho, who captivated his audience with his speech on IRS involvement in organized crime and potential direction regarding saving and capturing the history of the CI. This portion was open to non-members alike and unfortunately, many spouses left without hearing Paul. They probably would have heard more about the history and involvement of CI than many had heard in 30 years of marriage. *Please see the piece by member Ray Sherrard on Paul's presentation here in the newsletter.*

Regional Director and Scholarship Committee Chair Peg Thomas then provided an update on the AFSA scholarship programs that we administer, including expansion of eligibility and the addition of the James F. Howe, Sr. Scholarship to go along with the original Frank L. Smith Award. Peggy encouraged members to seek relatives to apply for these worthwhile \$2,000 awards.

Afterwards, the business meeting continued with a routine business meeting including the approval of streamlined bylaws shortening the time period of dropping members for non-payment of dues to about 60 days from over 90. The Board felt that members should be able to afford the \$50 dues and the number of contacts and time spent on this was inordinate, especially when compared with the end results, i.e. those members who still did not pay. Financials were reviewed. We also had discussion regarding proposed by-law changes to better define roles of Regional Directors and reps and to seek more involvement/participation from members.

Paul's presentation was followed by a presentation by member/region 9 Director Richard Malone relative to HR 218 provisions, what one can and cannot do, and some of the problems with the inconsistency as to how it relates to getting qualified from state to state. Rich was then followed by member Ray Sherrard. Ray, in addition to preparing a very interesting display of CI memorabilia, photos, badges, articles and more, is also working on a book of the history of CI, and is soliciting stories from former agents. Some of the material he had planned to discuss was unexpectedly covered by Paul Camacho, so his presentation was a bit shorter than planned.

The nominating committee presented their recommendations and Chair Jim Meyers opened the nominations from the floor. Elections were held and this is the end result of the entire process: Through normal progress, 1st VP Mary Fran Martin will move into the President's position. 2nd VP Jim Meyers will be the 1st VP. Regional Director (4) Dan Pieschel was elected to be 2nd VP. Regional Director Peggy Thomas (3), was elected to the position of Secretary. Outgoing President Jose" I. Marrero whose term expires becomes the immediate past president. Also, reelected were Board Regional Directors David Nicholson (1), and Al Selby (5). Gerard Dupczak was elected as Regional Director (7) replacing David Swire who declined to run and has served since 2006 in that position. Our thanks to Dave Swire and to Ron Line (outgoing secretary) who also served as past president, and cruise director as well as convention registrar for numerous years, and to all the officials elected who volunteered to run. Also, reappointed was F. Robert "Bob" Armentrout as parliamentarian by the President for another term.

The business meeting continued with discussion centering on next year's convention. Jose Marrero will be hosting this, and it will be held somewhere in South Florida (between West Palm and Miami) and will likely include a combination with a cruise with the business portion upfront, followed by perhaps a cruise for up to 5 days. An event planner will be hired for this. However, as noted, the event planner doesn't get paid by AFSA, but will be paid ultimately from the hotel or cruise company contracted with. It was presented to membership that the BOD had discussed this and wanted to give this a try. AFSA has a small group, and as such, with between 50-110 people routine attending our conventions, as an organization, we have extremely little negotiating power. In addition, negotiations have become much more complicated and much more expensive than as recently as 3 years ago and certainly compared to 10 years. Even internet charges, which for example run about \$10/day at the J.W. Marriott had to be included in negotiations. Additionally, AV equipment is very expensive and the cost of meals have skyrocketed at the hotels. It was felt by the BOD, and discussed with membership, that an event planner working with our host has more pull as they represent multiple clients throughout the year, and the hotels want that business. The planner knows the best deals that are available. In addition, we learned this year, and in previous, how onerous and time consuming these negotiations can become, and we are not expert in these negotiations. Planning a convention, finding locations etc. and negotiating can be very stressful, as the more recent planners and their respective spouses will attest. One small slip up can result in a huge financial deficit for AFSA. In addition, should anything arise with a AFSA planner, who usually has a severe learning curve on planning a convention, could lead to a catastrophic result. Such an event could be illness, work, illness of a family member and worse. Working with an event planner will help decrease some of these potential issues and consequently it was decided to give the event planner a trial this year. The convention will most likely be held in early November 2013.

AFSA does not attempt to make profits on these conventions, but it does seek to make them self-sustaining, even though the business meeting is mandated by the by-laws. This year, AFSA did

cover its' costs through convention revenues. AFSA in fact had a surplus of \$78. This is the first surplus in a few years. Congratulations to our planners for doing such a fine job on this.

President Marrero then took new business. An emotional discussion ensued which was initiated by a member who had lost a number of good friends in year's past, and righteously bemoaned the fact that so many members seemed to not be attending our conventions and staying in touch. The member wondered if it was because of the cost of the resorts used. It was pointed out that several years ago we attempted to find answers to this very same question by survey following a convention. Answers were split almost evenly between finding cheaper places, and maintaining the standards of the 4 star resorts we have been booking. It should be noted that the resort costs, while negotiations have tightened up, have remained within striking distance of reasonable inflation over the last 5 years. Some of the bigger culprits in the hotel costs include municipalities increasing a "tourism" tax that affects hotels and related prices (over and above sales taxes). It was also pointed out that the smaller, economical chains do not have the facilities for us to hold our business meetings, CPE, board meetings and retirement seminar, as well as the hospitality rooms. People are not aware that rental of these spaces somewhere would literally cost us thousands of dollars. That is why we strongly encourage members to stay at the host hotel so all costs can be equally borne by all attendees. In addition, with the cost of oil fluctuating wildly, the days of \$200 flights are gone and can run anywhere from \$275 - \$1000. This is the largest increase incurred by attendees, along with entertainment and meals.

We surveyed and listened to members, and moved our business to the weekend so those who worked, or whose spouses worked, could attend and not lose money. We have maintained CPE to allow deductibility for members. We have expanded our program to include retirement seminars which is open to members and spouses addressing issues like Medicare, donut holes, when to take a Social Security pension, IRAs, wills and other topics suggested by, yes, you the members. About 4 years ago, we included the Consultant Summit, and that first summit had over 12 companies with only about 20 some invited. During the past three years, I have used the traditional original companies, as well as companies that hired our employees to invite to our convention. However, we have such a small group of people attending our summit, if you were in business, you need to ask this of yourself if you would spend \$1500 to send a rep to a group of only about between 15 - 25 attendees? We have planned around religious holidays to not exclude members. The bottom line, there is no one answer. It all comes down to each individual's priority. Some member's priority, years after retirement, continue to be earnings and work. We have no control over that. Part of the issue that affects our attendance is that unlike, Customs, Secret Service DEA or the FBI, our members do not ever have to move if they do not enter management, and consequently, many do not have as wide a circle of friends, geographically speaking as do members in other agencies who must move even as non-supervisory agents. Finally, it was discussed that there is still a perception that AFSA is strictly HQ personnel. This was and has been addressed before as well, this is incorrect. We actively seek volunteers and officers and anyone can run for such, or volunteer. We try to make this an organization for all members, though the organization will NEVER fit the needs of all members due to varied interests of members. The adoption of bringing a friend to the convention is still the best way to get your friends to attend and to revisit old times. However, it is incumbent upon the member to reach out and convince HIS/HER friends to attend.

We then had CPE which included a session on working with excel taught by the knowledgeable Chuck Taylor and IRAs, including effects with potential tax law changes as to Roth and

traditional IRA taught by the equally knowledgeable Jacque Riordon Nichols and preceded by the Consultant's summit.

The business meeting ended with the traditional turning over of the gavel to incoming president Mary Fran Martin, who will be the president effective January 1.

Later, we had an excellent banquet provided by the J.W. Marriott. The meals were really excellent as was the service. Howard Karsh introduced our guest of honor and explained his motivation for founding and contributing to the James F. Howe, Sr. Scholarship fund. That guest of honor was William Schroeder and his wife. While Mr. Schroeder did not speak, Howard spoke for him, and in this person's opinion who has heard Howard speak at numerous retirements and functions, Howard produced his best speech ever in a very eloquent and gracious manner.

Sunday was a free day. Rev. Beason had invited our membership to visit the International Church of Las Vegas for Sunday service after providing an invocation. Then later that day, at 2 PM, we departed by bus for a fascinating tour of the Mob Museum, that included a city tour. We met up with Paul Camacho who snapped a group photo of us in front of the museum (see our website and the newsletter for this picture.)The mob museum had so many exhibits to see that a number of us did not even make it to one of the floors, as the tour had to proceed. We stopped at the Welcome to Las Vegas sign for pictures where several of our party encountered "Elvis" packing his car and getting ready to leave, but who did pose for several pictures with the members of our party. The tour continued with some insights into the city, as well as a stop at the Fremont Street area where members were able to choose from a variety of restaurants from which to have to dinner. We also viewed the Fremont Street Light Show on the ceiling which was fascinating, as well as the many street performers. Others attended various shows that evening, and Monday evening as well.

Monday morning began with an incredible and informative retirement seminar. The first guest was Social Security Public Affairs Specialist Rita Meier from the Las Vegas office and followed by the returning Michael J. Feeley, president of Pension Advisory Services (www.pensionadvisoryservices.com) of Brewton, AL. This seminar far exceeded last year's in the relevant topics covered and the answers given as these two experts answered the questions of those in attendance, and was not redundant to what was covered last year, to say the least. Sadly, over 30 people signed up for this event, but only 8 attended. I am still five years from even considering social security, but I felt the discussion led by these two was outstanding and extremely beneficial. Valuable information covered included Medicare, government pension offsets, Windfall Elimination Provision penalties as they pertain to delayed purchase of supplemental Medicare insurance, survivor benefits, and options on when to draw Social Security. Thanks Al Selby, Rita and Mike.

Various trips were taken, in addition by members. I know some went to numerous Vegas shows and on tours to the Red Rock area as well as to the overlook. Unfortunately I did not attend these. Perhaps those who did will share their experiences.

In summary, I again thoroughly enjoyed this convention, my third, and my last as executive director. Meeting new friends and seeing old friends and seeing a new area. I encourage you to consider these conventions for these reasons alone. We were blessed to have had a job that not only paid reasonably well, and was interesting and challenging but also allowed us to retire early. Many of us have pursued and continued very profitable employment. However, as the sands of

time run out, I encourage all to seek balance in their lives, and spend that time seeing people and places, and just taking a little time off from work.

On Tuesday, a number of us took a tour to Hoover Dam which included an entertaining and knowledgeable tour guide/driver. Then hitting the Dam itself was fascinating, not only the actual inside and outside of the structure, but the exhibits, tour and history. Our bus then diverted to a quick unplanned trip to overlook Lake Mead. We all enjoyed this trip and ran into several other members at the Dam.

AFSA Convention – The Hospitality Suite

By Mary Ruiz



I found the hospitality room at the JW Marriott and I found a place to kick-back, unwind, and take a break from the convention schedule of the Association of Former Special Agents –Internal Revenue Service held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The warm and comfortable atmosphere of the suite, with its picturesque mountain-view, plush decor, and spacious common area rendered the idyllic rendezvous/space for us to relax, reconnect, reminisce, & make new friends. Conveniently located on the 1st floor of our bustling resort it was only a matter of minutes before our day's hard work agenda or tourism, gave way to our evening's good times agenda. 'Work Hard, Play Hard' has always been my philosophy and that we did. Night after night we reunited, following the conference, for libations, bottomless snack bowls, and light-hearted banter/fun.

The atypical wet weather initially that we experienced was incidental to our time in Las Vegas. As promised, Sin City delivered luxury accommodations, state-of-the-art gambling, world-class food, and non-stop entertainment. However, for me, it was the reunion with colleagues and friends, the introduction of people I now call friends, the laughter, the collaboration, the socializing, the support, the encouragement, and the implicit understanding that can only come from those 'who know.'

We are a minute special group of people with a unique commonality that can only be truly appreciated, without explanation, by those who have lived it. Its events like these that remind me how fortunate I am to have enjoyed such a fruitful and fascinating career and a retirement that allows me to remain connected. Thank you to everyone who attended!! I am already looking forward to next year!!



CI AS BATMAN!

By Ray Sherrard

PAUL CAMACHO was designated by Headquarters to speak at the AFSA convention. Paul is the Special Agent In Charge of CI in Las Vegas. He began his career with IRS as an RA from 1987-1992, and then became a Special Agent. He has held progressively higher positions including Analyst in DC, ASAC in Seattle, and took up

his current position as SAC here in Las Vegas in May of 2009. He is also a CPA.

Mr. Camacho has worked to obtain positive media coverage for our LV office and has established good contacts with the local media, resulting in very positive publicity for our office.

He is very interested in preserving and protecting our legacy, and works closely with SSA Chris Gerhart, the head of our Academy Staff at Glynco, Ga. (NCITA). They have worked to assure that each new CI Special Agent learns about our history and understands what their predecessors accomplished, going where other agencies couldn't or wouldn't, bringing gangsters, organized crime syndicate leaders and corrupt politicians and officials to justice. Paul stated that retired SAs with stories to tell should contact SSA Gerhart at 912 261 4114.

Paul presented a PowerPoint outline of what CI accomplished in the 20th Century, when IRS-Intelligence/CID/CI, in effect, saved the Nation!!

Now I know many of you who did not attend Paul's presentation will say that is a pretty strong claim and you will have strong doubts as to the validity of such a claim. However, Paul presented the evidence to back it up. Some of what Paul discussed was set forth in a book that every active and retired Special Agent should read, THE TAX DODGERS, a 1948 book published by Elmer Irey, Chief of the IRS Special Intelligence Unit for nearly a quarter-century, a man that President Franklin D. Roosevelt called "efficient and incorruptible".

In 1929, leaders of Organized Crime met in Atlantic City, NJ, to 'divvy up' the Nation, to assign various areas to various leaders. They assigned territories to mob leaders in all parts of the country, and agreed to rules to avoid conflict and bloodshed (which they promptly broke-being criminals! You know the saying there is no honor among thieves).

Prohibition was put into effect shortly thereafter and organized crime was ready for it. Traditional law enforcement was paralyzed due to lack of resources, lack of will, fear of retribution, corrupt officials, payoffs and ignorance on the part of officials and the public as to what was happening.

Non-Organized crime gangs also roamed the nation, killing both citizens and police officers, robbing banks and other institutions and generally getting away with it. Films came out glorifying criminals and Al Capone made the cover of TIME magazine!

At the same time, ideologies such as National Socialism and Communism, Imperialism, and Fascism, were spreading worldwide, with Americans joining their ranks. The onset of the Depression frightened and cowed Americans into thinking that our Society was failing. We needed someone to come along and take action. And that someone was, as Paul said....."BATMAN!"

Yes, IRS Special Agents took on the role of the caped crusader and went after the bad guys. That may be an oversimplification, but that's basically what happened. We didn't wear capes, just small gold shields.

At the urging of the President, Elmer Irey was directed to take down Al Capone, something no other agency had been able to do. One of the best undercover operators in history, an IRS Special Agent named Mike Malone, soon penetrated Capone's inner circle and kept the case agents, headed by an outstanding SA named Frank Wilson, informed of what was happening on the inside.

Wilson and his team did a masterful job of putting together strong evidence of Capone's massive income, and Big Al went away for a long prison term, ending his hold on Chicago. The year after his imprisonment, tax collections doubled!

This began a continuing tradition inside CI. An incredibly long list of top gangsters and corrupt political officials ended up broke and in prison. Space does not permit a detailed list, but it has been said that what CI accomplished in the 30s 40s, 50s and 60s was the equivalent of taking down EVERY cartel.

While the Capone case was our "Apollo" moment, we also went after the 'Lord High Executioner'- Albert Anastasia, Meyer Lansky, Johnny Dio, Johnny Torrio, Dutch Schultz, Murray Humphries, Waxey Gordon, Nucky Johnson (for those of you who watch BOARDWALK EMPIRE-its true), Frank Costello, Mickey Cohen (twice-slow learner) Willie Bioff, etc. Forty (40) special agents were sent to New York to assist Prosecutor Thomas Dewey, and 47 indictments resulted-clearing out the top rank of mobsters in NY. In more recent times, IRS SAs participated in the John Gotti, and Whitey Bulger cases.

In the 1960s Organized Crime Strike Forces incorporated by then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy used IRS SAs to put mobsters and corrupt Union and other officials in prison for tax evasion and related offenses. At one time, two-thirds of all top gangsters in federal prisons were there due to IRS investigations. In the 1970s and 1980s, CI became very active in the War On Drugs, with dedicated groups of SAs taking on drug lords sometimes in task forces such as NTP, HLDLTEP, OCDETF, and HIDTA.

Corrupt politicians also faced investigation, and such prominent figures as Tom Pendergast, Moe Annenberg, Joe Schenck -head of 20th Century Fox, Governor Huey Long, Teamster Head Dave Beck, etc.

CI also put our own (former) IRS Commissioner in prison for financial hanky-panky! Much later, the Vice President of the United States pled out after an IRS CI investigation.

CI also assisted in the famous Lindbergh kidnapping case, and was responsible for the break in the case that led to the arrest of the kidnapper, as noted in a letter from Colonel Lindbergh to Elmer Irey.

With the outbreak of WW2, Special Agents assisted in seizing and securing enemy alien assets. With these successes came a change in public attitudes, movies such as T-MEN and THE UNDERCOVER MAN were successful at the box office, and covered IRS Special Agents cases.

Today, IRS SAs are active, both at home and abroad, investigating Terrorism funding. As always, our motto is "follow the money". CI has new management at the top, Chief Robert

Webber, a former Prosecutor, who enjoys this job, and is interested in our history. Changes in time of the Disclosure Staff have resulted in a new attitude toward preserving our legacy is taking place, yet still providing the limitations required by Disclosure laws.

The Director of the new Mob Museum in Las Vegas, is willing to expand the IRS footprint at the Museum. He was surprised to learn how many of the featured OC figures were actually taken down by IRS SAs, not the Bureau. CI staffing is way down from a high of about 3400+ agents in the mid-90s to less than 2700 now, despite a larger population and more business and more international commitment. Budgets have taken a hit, or been increased much slower than some of the other law enforcement and non-revenue producing budgets. However, CI will survive, and continue going where other agencies can't, and taking down the criminals who profit from their crimes.

In closing, this was probably most of the enjoyable presentations by a HQ rep or designee in years based upon comments and reaction from our members.

Other Stuff

Peter S. Alvarado Named New FinCEN Deputy Director

VIENNA, Va. – The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) Director James H. Freis, Jr. this week named Peter S. Alvarado as FinCEN's new Deputy Director. Alvarado comes to FinCEN from the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations Division (IRS-CI) where he served for 27 years, most recently as the Deputy Director of Strategy.

“Peter brings with him extensive experience as an investigator, working closely with local, State and Federal law enforcement on a wide range of financial crimes as well as strong leadership in strategic planning, policy management, and international operations,” said Director Freis. “I'm extremely pleased to welcome Peter to FinCEN and look forward to the benefits of his continuing commitment to public service.”

As Deputy Director, Alvarado is responsible for working with the law enforcement, intelligence, financial, and regulatory communities to ensure the effective coordination of anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing initiatives. Alvarado also provides operational leadership and performs the full range of supervisory and managerial functions for FinCEN including planning, coordinating, allocating and assessing tools, capabilities, and resources to best enable FinCEN to continue to efficiently execute its mission.

Alvarado began his career at the IRS-CI as a Special Agent investigating tax fraud, money laundering and currency violations of the Bank Secrecy Act. In 1998, Mr. Alvarado was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent and led a team of agents involved in a variety of investigations relating to corporate fraud, tax shelters, investment schemes, insurance fraud, bankruptcy fraud, embezzlement, and narcotics.

In 2001, Alvarado was appointed as Senior Analyst at IRS-CI's headquarters in Washington, D.C. Assigned to the Financial Crimes Section, he had oversight over programs including those relating to offshore tax evasion. He was subsequently promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Office where, among other responsibilities, he oversaw the

investigations of large sophisticated tax shelters. He also directed the activities of a group dedicated to asset forfeiture investigations.

JENSEN BEACH NATIVE EARNS TOP “KEEP MARTIN BEAUTIFUL” HONOR FOR REVIVING PARK

PALM CITY — What began as a seed of an idea grew in about a year into a community-supported garden in the Mars Hill section of Jensen Beach in a park that had fallen into disrepair.

For germinating the idea that became Friendly Hearts Community Gardens Park, Jensen Beach native Robert Delancy received the President's Award on Wednesday night at the Keep Martin Beautiful annual banquet at Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club. "The Mars Hill project, spearheaded by Mr. Delancy, personifies the mission of KMB," said board President Rhonda Irons. "This grassroots effort is helping to transform the community.

Delancy, now a 60-year-old Port St. Lucie resident who retired from the criminal investigations division of the Internal Revenue Service, said he was inspired after he drove past the little-used park in August 2010. He remembered that when he was a child a group of women, the Friendly Hearts Club, bought the property and developed it into a park for children, with playground equipment and a basketball court.

Now there are few children in Mars Hill. Delancy said he wanted to "do something for those women who bought that land so long ago, and do something for the community." He mentioned the idea of a community garden to landscape architect Mike Flaugh, who quickly created a layout. Word spread and soon Delancy was receiving donations from all parts of the community, in the form of money, labor and supplies. Delancy said he put in about \$10,000 on his own as the donations grew to almost \$80,000 worth, about one-third in cash.

With vendors discounting their work, landscaping, 56 wooden planters, a well and an automatic sprinkler system were installed. People from all over Martin County have cultivated plants, mostly vegetables, in the planters, though 10 are still uncommitted, Delancy said. "It's a very diverse cross-section of the community and always very inspiring to see the work that's being done," Delancy said.

Then County Commissioner Doug Smith kicked in a \$35,000 grant from the county that paid for construction of a pavilion over the basketball court, with benches, picnic tables and two barbecue grills. Because of the success of the Friendly Hearts Community Garden, Delancy said, other groups in Martin County are interested in starting similar projects and have asked for his guidance.

Former Special Agent receives award for distinguished service to the U. S. Tax Court.

On April 27, 2012, Judge Robert P. Ruwe received the J. Edgar Murdock Award for distinguished service to the United States Tax Court.

The award commemorates John Edgar Murdock, who served on the Court for 42 years, from 1926 to 1968. Appointed as a member of the Board of Tax Appeals only two years after its' creation in 1924, he became Chairman of the Board of Tax Appeals and later Chief Judge of the Tax Court of the United States, as the Court was called from 1942 to 1969. Noted for his management skills and his terse judicial opinions, Judge Murdock has been described by Harold Dubroff in "The United States Tax Court: An Historical Analysis" (1979), as probably the most influential person to serve on the Court. This is the tenth time the award has been presented since its' creation in 1973.

Judge Ruwe graduated from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio in 1963 and received his J.D. from the Salmon Chase College of Law in 1970, graduating first in his class. Judge Ruwe served as a Special Agent with the Internal Revenue Service, Intelligence Division from 1963 to 1970. He joined the Office of Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service, in 1970, and, over the course of his time there, held the following positions: Trial Attorney (Indianapolis); Assistant to the Deputy Chief Counsel; Director, Criminal Tax Division; Deputy Associate Chief Counsel (Litigation); and Director, Tax Litigation Division. He was appointed a Charter member of the Senior Executive Services of the United States on July 13, 1979. Judge Ruwe was appointed to the United States Tax Court by President Ronald Reagan on November 20, 1987. Although Judge Ruwe retired on November 19, 2002, he continues to perform judicial duties as a Senior Judge on recall.

Letters to the Editor

From Al and Nancy Selby

Nancy and I and Lennis and Barbara Brinson went to see the Rat Pack show at the Rio on Monday Night after the convention and we really enjoyed a very great show. The performers looked, acted, and sang just like the originals (Sinatra, Martin, Davis, Jr). We had a great buffet before the show. I think you saw the picture with Marilyn and me.

On Tuesday night, Nancy and I went to the Legends in Concert at Harrah's Casino followed by a great buffet dinner. All the performers were great and looked and acted and sang like the originals. The guy who did Michael Jackson looked very much like him and had all the dance moves. Elvis was great as usual. But the show stopper was the girl who did Whitney Houston. She got a standing ovation before she even finished. She looked like Whitney and sang just like her.

We really enjoyed the Mob Museum and the city tour, too.

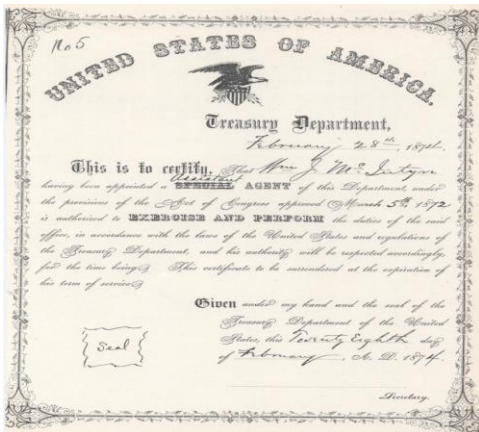
We drove out to Las Vegas and back by way of several National Parks, Monuments, and Sites by going out I - 40 and coming back on I - 10 and I - 20. Took us a week out, and a week there, and a week back for a total of 20 days and 6,154 miles. Bet no one else can top that. Only paid over \$ 4.00 for gas twice the whole trip. Just for the record, the gas station in Death Valley next to the Furnace Creek Visitors Center had regular unleaded for \$ 6.42 per gallon. That's right, \$ 6.42 per gallon. The gas station at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley was only \$ 6.05 per gallon. Except for those two spots, we did not see any \$ 5.00 + per gallon gas, even in California. The cheapest we found was in Las Cruces, NM, at \$ 3.21 per gallon.

ED Note: Well, it's doubtful, but can anyone top that??

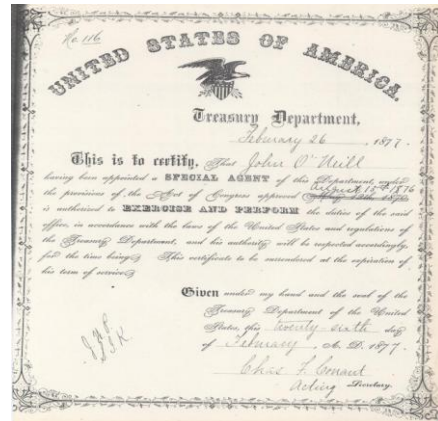
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From the Ray Sherrard Collection



1874 Asst Agt Treas



1877 SA Cred Treas



AFSA – IRS Membership Application

We STRONGLY encourage members to apply on line: www.afsa-irs.org, however you may 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 | Being a member of an AFSA committee | _____ Yes _____ No |
| Serving AFSA in other positions | _____ 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: _____

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.

Specify _____ 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 _____

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

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**

1,261 AFSA members as of November 7, 2012. Help recruit new members for AFSA