

AFSA - IRS

NEWSLETTER



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

Vol. XXXIV No. 3 Winter, 2023

2023 AFSA Convention The Guy Harvey Resort St. Augustine Beach, Florida October 8-11, 2023



Sunrise in St. Augustine



that I will do as well and as much as George has.

President's Message

To my fellow members:

It is now time for me to hand the gavel over to Iris Bohannon, your incoming president. The past two years have certainly been my privilege to serve the AFSA as president, but I will remain active as the next treasurer. I want to, on behalf to the AFSA, thank George Meyer for his many years of dedicated service as treasurer. I hope

I want to thank Iris for her willingness to succeed me as president and to wish her all the best. I also want to thank the AFSA board members who greatly helped me during my term. Lastly, I need to thank all of my fellow AFSA members. There may have been more that I could have done, but I look forward to continuing to serve you in my new role as treasurer.

There are many challenges facing the AFSA. We are a relatively small organization and our future membership from the roles of active special agents is small as well. It is important to monitor congressional actions, OPM decisions, health insurance programs and the like. No one person can have eyes in all the necessary directions, but as an organization we can help each other.

The support that the AFSA membership has for each other is very clear. We only need to look at our scholarship funds as evidence. Every year the funds are willingly replenished. I am proud to be part of the AFSA and I am equally proud to have been its president. I know that Iris shares that same pride and will bring that pride to her administration.

To close, may good things come to all, with continued good health for all.

Sincerely, Gerard Dupczak







Executive Director Corner – Fall 2023

Greetings and salutations! Hope you are having a wonderful day and looking forward to the holidays with your loved ones.

During the Board of Directors Meeting and at the Annual Business Meeting the following board members were nominated and approved for 2024:

President – Iris Bohannon

1st Vice President – Beth Putman

2nd Vice President – Ismael Nevarez

Regional Director Region 1 – Phil Hall

Regional Director Region 5 – Cynthia Fish

Regional Director Region 7 – Robert Kuschel

Treasurer – Gerard Dupczak

Welcome to our new board members and welcome back to those who have previously served on the board. Thank you all for agreeing to serve AFSA-IRS. Thank you Gerard Dupczak, Past President and to all of the above for their service to AFSA-IRS.

2024 AFSA-IRS President IRIS BOHANNON



Iris began her career with the Internal Revenue Service as a Revenue Agent student trainee in 1980, her senior year of college in Little Rock, AR. After completing her BS/Accounting in 1981, she converted to full time Revenue Agent and then joined Criminal Investigation in 1984, completing her agent assignments in the Memphis, TN and Chattanooga, TN PODs. In 2004, Iris became the Supervisory Special Agent in the Phoenix Field Office. In 2007, she became a Senior Analyst in the Warrants and Forfeiture Section and retired in 2009.

We are always striving to do improve. If you have any suggestions please let us know. Additionally, if you are interested in serving AFSA-IRS please reach out to me or any of your board members. Please check our website {www.afsa-irs.org} for news, job postings and to update your contact information.

Looking forward to 2024, I have been blessed and thank you, for the opportunity to continue to serve as AFSA-IRS Executive Director. I pray 2024 will bring immeasurable blessings and excellent health to each of you and all of your loved ones.

Have a marvelous day. Adieu, ~ Mary~

AFSA-IRS Convention 2023 The Guy Harvey Resort St. Augustine Beach, Florida October 8th to October 11th, 2023

As we are now past the holidays and getting into full swing of going into yet another New Year, it seems hard to believe that it has already been three months since we held our 2023 Annual Business Meeting and Convention in St. Augustine Beach, Florida. For those of you who attended, we believe you will agree that it was another really good time. Thanks for attending and helping to make it so successful. For everyone else, we would like to tell you a little bit about what we did and hope to entice you to attend next year's convention (more will come out about that later). But for now, please allow us to share with you some of the highpoints of the five days that we spent in St. Augustine Beach, Florida, which is right alongside of historic St. Augustine, the oldest city in the United States.

Saturday, October 7, 2023

The early arrival of the hosts and our Executive Director, plus help from some local members on Friday, allowed for the set-up of the hospitality room and the filling of the registration gift bags that would be given to each attendee of this year's convention. That way, those chores were already completed before the first wave of attendees began arriving on Saturday. Included in each bag was a five-page list of on-your-own activities to help get their weekend started.

Although the official start of this year's convention was scheduled for Sunday, we decided that the best way to start off the week in a city that sits directly on the Atlantic Ocean, was to enjoy a group dinner at the appropriately named "Sunset Grille". Although our seating arrangements changed from our original plans, the food was delicious and gave everyone the opportunity to dine together. After dinner, the hospitality room was opened for its first "test" (Yes...it passed with flying colors!!!).

Sunday, October 8, 2023

Sunday was also a really good day for on-your-own activities for those who arrived early. It was also the planned day of arrival and registration for all others. In the evening, it featured our annual President's Meet-and-Greet that was held in their ballroom, that also had access to an outside patio. The awesome display of food was served for two hours, and it was one of the best spreads of food that we've ever offered. Our evening also included an open bar for the two hours. The night was topped off with a visit to our hospitality room which was open to our members all week long.

Monday, October 9, 2023

One of the best ways to see a city and learn all about it, is by taking an organized tour with a guide that knows and loves the city. This year, we organized a tour for our group, of historic downtown St. Augustine on the city's very popular Old Town Trolley Tour. Two private buses picked up our group at the hotel and transported everyone to the Old Town Trolley headquarters, where we transferred to a 76 passenger tram for our private one-hour guided tour. The tour included a narrated description of the sites along the way to 17 "hop on-hop off" stops that the trolleys makes all day long. After the narrated tour, members had the choice to return to any and all of the 17 stops that they passed during the guided tour.

Each member also had access to the "Beach Bus" that travels to the Guy Harvey Resort on an hourly basis. There were many interesting sites along the way and, of course, there is the very famous St. George Street, a pedestrian only mall in the heart of the city. St. Augustine is a nice walk-around-town with many choices of restaurants, entertainment sites, and shops to visit.



Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Because of the large number of sites to see, and the convenience of the Old Town Trolley that visits most of them, Tuesday was deemed to be another on-your-own activity day. Members were able to choose from the list of activities provided in their registration bag or go out and explore on their own. The other obvious choice that could be made was to spend some time at the hotel's very

nice pool or go to the ocean's beach, which had direct access and was just a short walk from the rear of the hotel. Of course, the hospitality room was open after dinner, as it was every night.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Wednesday is our big day and it started with the Presentation of Colors by the Honor Guard from the St. John's County Sheriff's Office. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Deputy Sheriff Deon Johnson, who is the Corrections Chaplain for the County, provided the invocation.

We were very fortunate to once again have Chief Jim Lee, Chief of Staff Denise Leuenberger and Director of Communications Justin Cole fly in from Washington DC to attend our convention and make a very informative presentation to our membership. It is obvious that CI is in good hands as the quality of investigations being carried out and prosecuted is still just as good as always. After the presentation, we then conducted our required annual business meeting for all of the membership who attended. The afternoon was left open for additional visits to nearby sights or towns or just for relaxing and enjoying the beautiful beach behind our hotel. Our evening banquet topped off the night with a delicious buffet dinner.

Once again, thanks to all who attended this year's convention. We look forward to seeing everyone next fall.

Dan and Janet Pieschel and George and Barbara Meyer 2023 Convention Co-Hosts

AFSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

College Scholarships Announced

AFSA-IRS administers the **AFSA-IRS Memorial Scholarship** in honor of founding members Frank L. Smith and Tom Clancy and the **James F. Howe, Sr. & Frank Fotinatos Scholarship**. The differences are as follows:

- 1. The **AFSA-IRS Memorial Scholarship** awards a \$2000.00 scholarship and is open to high school seniors and full-time college students with a GPA of 3.00 or better.
- 2. The **James F. Howe, Sr. & Frank Fotinatos Scholarship** awards a \$3000.00 scholarship and is open also to high school seniors and full-time students with a GPA of 2.5 or above. This scholarship is open to those students who are pursuing a career in law enforcement or law enforcement related careers.

Scholarship Donors not included in the last Newsletter

Calvin Boyer F Mark Kroczynski V Carlos Tropea F

Brian Bruh Victor Lessoff Fred Borakove James Houlihan John O'Connor

Scholarships Awarded

The following people were awarded scholarships for 2023 in the AFSA Memorial Scholarship category:



Brianna Giangrasso (Sponsor Karen Flanagan)

Thank you so much for selecting me to be a recipient of your scholarship.

I recently graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie, NY. During my time there I enjoyed participating in the school newspaper, wind ensemble, clubs, and sports such as cross-country, crew, and softball. Outside of school I have been a member of the Civil Air Patrol for over three years, where I attained the rank of Flight Sergeant and completed two orientation flights. Along with my squadron, we provide regular and ongoing community service and outreach, as well as learning more about aerospace, military customs and courtesies, and character building. I was also a member of

the FEMA Region II Youth Preparedness Council for two years to assist the community with disaster preparedness. In addition I participated in the U.S. Coast Guard's Academy Introduction Mission, an intensive summer immersion program focused on discipline, teamwork, endurance, and leadership development.

I am looking forward to attending Emmanuel College in Boston, MA this fall, where I have been accepted

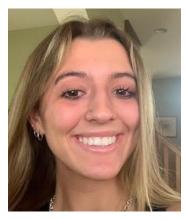
to the Honors Program. I will be a Chemistry major, with a concentration in Forensic Science. I am also interested in Pre-Law and would like to take courses in this area as well. My family is in the process of adopting a little girl from Taiwan, so I am very excited to be a big sister soon!



Caroline Lubbe (Sponsor Dennis Lubbe)

My name is Caroline Lubbe and I am the granddaughter of Dennis Lubbe. I am a recent graduate of Blue Valley Northwest High school in Overland Park, Kansas. While in high school I enjoyed volunteering in my community, specifically through adaptive sports leagues. I was also involved in National Honor society, diversity club and band. This fall I will be a freshman at Washington University in St.Louis where I plan to peruse a degree in

neuroscience. While in St.Louis I hope to find ways to volunteer in the community. After graduation I plan to become a pediatric occupational therapist. Thank you to AFSA-IRS for helping me to fund my education so I can reach my dreams.



Anna Ollendick (Sponsor Kevin Ollendick)

Anna Ollendick is the daughter of member Kevin Ollendick and his wife, Jenelle Ollendick. Anna is currently enrolled as a junior undergraduate at Winona State University (WSU) in Winona, MN. She plans to pursue a career in Therapeutic Recreation upon earning her bachelor's degree. She has always been someone that cares for other people and possesses a deep sense of fulfillment through the process of service to others. Anna recently completed her Therapeutic Recreation practicum at Gigi's Playhouse in Madison, WI. Gigi's Playhouse provides free educational, therapeutic, and career-based development programs for individuals with Down Syndrome through a replicable playhouse model.

Anna has always been a leader in school and in her community. Leadership, hard work, and service to community molded Anna into the person she is today. During her time at Mount Horeb High School she was a three-sport athlete. She earned 12 varsity letters, one for each sport for all four years. Anna qualified for the Wisconsin State Cross Country meet all four years of her high school career. Anna graduated high school with a GPA of 3.96 and her current WSU GPA is also 3.96. Anna volunteered over 350 hours while in high school and now volunteers at the Dream Closet organization, Winona Food Pantry, and Warriors for Kids Health while attending WSU.



Jonathan Vogt (Sponsor James Houlihan)

I am Johnathan Vogt of West Dundee, IL. I am entering my second year at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a major in Electrical Engineering and a minor in Computer Science. I involve myself actively in my interests, and I spent my first year at school working on the electronics team of our university's Solar Car team, building a car that runs primarily off a built-in solar panel. This summer, I had the opportunity to work in engineering as a Research & Development intern at IDEAL Industries, where I was able to learn while working with full-time engineers. I'm also an avid chess player and reader on top of my school and work.



MacKenszie "Kenzie" Connelly (Sponsor Timothy Connelly)

Mackenzie Connelly graduated in 2023 from Triton Regional High School in NJ. She is now attending Louisiana State University and majoring in Psychology. Mackenzie aspires to open her very own psychology practice in the future. She hopes to speak out against the stigma surrounding mental health in order to help those suffering in silence. She also aims to bridge the gap between mental health and the criminal justice system, advocating for more informed and compassionate approaches in law enforcement.



Justin Ronald Line (Sponsor Ronald Norman Line)

I am attending The Ohio State University's School of Health and Rehabilitation. I am on a pre-med path in pursuit of a Doctorate in Orthopedic Medicine. I am a recent graduate of West Clermont High School in the Cincinnati, Ohio area. I graduated in the top 5% of my class with a GPA of 4.43. While I attended high school, I was dual enrolled with the University of Cincinnati where I graduated high school with 32 college credits.

During my high school years, I participated in many activities in and out of school. Some of the activities I participated in are as follows: National Honors Society, varsity soccer, club soccer, Alpha (competition Acapella Ensemble), competition Percussion Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Advanced Concert choir and Young Life. On top of school, sports, work and activities I volunteered as well. Two of the most enjoyable times spent volunteering were helping with a special need, percussion/guard ensemble and my school's youth soccer camps.

In the category of the Howe - Fotinatos Scholarship:



Isabella Jankowski (Sponsor Thomas Janknowski)

Isabella Jankowski is a junior at James Madison University and is currently pursuing a BS in IA and has an intended minor in a language. She currently works as a Research Assistant Intern at JMU's Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR). She has maintained a 3.44 GPA and is involved in Phi Mu at JMU. Isabella hopes to provide linguistic services and work in a government field post-graduation. She is extremely grateful to the AFSA organization for providing her with the opportunity to continue her education and pursue a minor degree.

Congratulations to all the awardees and their sponsors. We had 23 individuals apply this year. Remember, applicants are allowed two scholarships per lifetime. If an applicant was not awarded a scholarship this year, there is nothing to preclude eligible candidates from reapplying next year.

A total of \$15,000 was awarded this year thanks to the generous donations of our members and the sponsor of the Howe-Fotinatos scholarship.

Mark Kroczynsli, Scholarship Committee



There are special people in our lives who never leave us, even after they are gone.

Deacon Walter Miles Jr.Concord, MA

James Meyers Niantic, CT



AFSA-IRS is delighted to have you join.

Veroinica Kyriakides Amy LaCour Avery Brett Cleggitt Bryant Jackson Troy Francisco Tom Czerski Canton, Michigan Kingwood, Texas New Orleans, Louisiana Fairfield Township, Ohio West Chester, Pennsylvania Gibsonia, Pennsykvania





Special Agent PATRICK BAUER

United States Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, U.S. Government

EOW: Thursday, August 17, 2023

Special Agent Patrick Bauer was inadvertently shot and killed while participating in departmental firearms training in Phoenix, Arizona.

Members of IRS Criminal Investigation and other federal agencies were using the shooting range at Federal Correctional Institute Phoenix when Special Bauer was inadvertently shot by another agent.

He was transported to HonorHealth Deer Valley Medical Center where he succumbed to his wounds.

Special Agent Bauer was a veteran of the Arizona Air National Guard. He is survived by his wife and four children.

Around the Nation

Cryptocurrency founder "Bruno Block" sentenced to four years in prison

In September and October 2017, Elmaani began promoting online a new cryptocurrency known as Pearl tokens. Using a variation of his online pseudonym "Bruno Block," Elmaani stated that he planned to develop an online data-storage platform, known as Oyster Protocol, which would allow users to purchase online data storage with Pearl tokens. Instead of using his real name, Elmaani operated almost exclusively online under the pseudonym "Bruno Block." Elmaani concealed his true identity from his prospective employees and business associates and never met them in person.

In the fall of 2017 and thereafter, Elmaani sold Pearl tokens to the investing public through an "initial coin offering" and on cryptocurrency market platforms. Elmaani announced that he intended to take a "founder's share" of Pearl tokens for his own personal use. Elmaani owned and controlled the subsequently established company Oyster Protocol Inc. through a shell company not associated with his true name.

In a statement issued under Elmaani's online pseudonym on June 7, 2018, Elmaani stated that he was retaining millions of Pearl tokens as his "ownership stake" in Oyster Protocol, but that he had to move the tokens to a different cryptocurrency wallet "in order to avoid being double-taxed." In truth, Elmaani did not report or pay tax on any of his cryptocurrency proceeds. At various points, Elmaani used friends and family as nominees to receive cryptocurrency proceeds and transfer them or U.S. currency to his own accounts.

Elmaani dealt substantially in precious metals, kept gold bars in a safe on a yacht he owned, and used large amounts of cash to pay personal expenses.

In late October 2018, although the number of Pearl tokens was purportedly fixed, Elmaani used his access to the blockchain technology used to create Pearl tokens to mint new tokens, which he took for his own personal use (the "Exit Scheme"). Elmaani thereby increased the total volume of Pearl tokens. Shortly after creating the new tokens, Elmaani converted the Pearl tokens he had obtained to other types of cryptocurrency on an online marketplace or exchange. As a result of Elmaani's conduct, trading in Pearl tokens halted on that exchange and the price of Pearl tokens held by investors dropped substantially. Pearl tokens were subsequently de-listed from the primary exchange where they were traded. Subsequent to the Exit Scheme, Elmaani used his friends and family to receive cryptocurrency and to transfer funds to a bank account in his name.

While Elmaani initially attempted to hide even "Bruno Block's" involvement in the Exit Scheme, he later effectively admitted to the conduct online under his "Bruno Block" pseudonym. In a recorded call with the then-chief executive officer ("CEO") of Oyster Protocol Inc. after the Exit Scheme, the CEO asked Elmaani why he had to take the additional new Pearl tokens if he had already cashed out millions of dollars' worth of Pearl tokens in the past. Elmaani responded, in part, that "taxes are pretty nasty." Elmaani carried out the Exit Scheme only days before the exchange he had used to cash out his Pearl tokens was set to require "know your customer" personal identifying information from its users.

In connection with his plea, Elmaani admitted in the plea agreement that:

In or about 2017, using the alias "Bruno Block," I began an online project called the "Oyster Protocol." In support of this project, an initial coin offering ("ICO") was held in or about October 2017, in which a token named "Pearl" ("PRL") was issued. I stated in public forums that after the ICO, the supply of PRL would not increase, and that the smart contract that created PRL would be "locked." Contrary to these statements, on or about October 29, 2018, I used the smart contract to mint new PRL, without telling anyone, including others who worked on the Oyster Protocol project. I then sold these newly minted PRL on a digital trading

platform. I was aware that the counterparties who were buying these newly-minted PRL likely were not aware of my reopening of the smart contract and did not know that I had just substantially increased the total supply of PRL. After Oyster management learned of my reopening of the smart contract and alerted the public, the price of PRL plummeted.

Elmaani filed a false 2017 tax return stating that he had only approximately \$15,000 of income from a "patent design" business, and he filed no return and reported no income to the IRS in 2018. Nevertheless, Elmaani spent, in 2018, over \$10 million for the purchase of multiple yachts, \$1.6 million at a carbon-fiber composite company, hundreds of thousands of dollars at a home improvement store, and over \$700,000 for the purchase of two homes, one of which was titled in the name of a shell company and the other in the name of two of his associates. The tax loss to the United States from Elmaani's conduct was approximately \$5,523,794.

In addition to the prison term, Elmaani of Martinsburg, West Virginia, was sentenced to one year of supervised release and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$5,523,794.

Maryland man charged with committing \$11.5 million in COVID-19 pandemic fraud

According to United States Attorney Gerard M. Karam, the information alleges that White owned Aluminum Alloys MFG, LLC, an aluminum smelting and processing business located in Yoe, York County, Pennsylvania, and additionally owned or controlled 18 other sham corporate entities that did not have any employees or business operations. The information alleges that White, conspiring with others, including several of his employees, filed more than 120 applications on behalf of White's non-operational businesses for pandemic stimulus funds, including under the Payment Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury and Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. The information alleges that 42 of these loan applications were approved and funded with more than \$11.5 million into bank accounts that White controlled.

The information also alleges that the applications White and his co-conspirators filed contained numerous material misrepresentations about who controlled and operated the non-operational businesses. It is alleged that the PPP and EIDL applications included fraudulent supporting documentation, including false information about the number of employees who purportedly worked at the non-operational businesses, fabricated bank records and financial statements, forged and falsified IRS documents, and material misrepresentations regarding wages paid, taxes withheld and paid, gross receipts, and other expenses allegedly incurred by the applicant businesses.

White and his co-conspirators allegedly obtained more than \$11.5 million in PPP and EIDL funds through filing the fraudulent applications. It is also alleged that White misused the loan proceeds to make unauthorized expenditures for his benefit and the benefit of his businesses.

"Fraudulently obtaining over \$11.5 million in federal pandemic relief funds that are meant to provide assistance to eligible small businesses will not be tolerated as shown by today's charging of Defendant White," said U.S. Attorney Karam. "My office will continue to diligently work with our law enforcement partners to pursue fraud against federal relief programs."

"The charges announced today show IRS Criminal Investigation's ongoing commitment to defend the integrity of the pandemic relief programs," said Yury Kruty, Special Agent in Charge of IRS Criminal Investigation (CI). "CI along with our law enforcement partners will continue to aggressively investigate those who schemed to defraud these programs that were intended to help struggling individuals and businesses."

AFSA-IRS Officers and Appointed Officials Officers

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Appointed</u>			
Iris Bohannon (AR)	President	Mary Ruiz	Executive Director		
Beth Putmam (MD)	VP/President	Bob Armentrout	Parliamentarian		
Ismael Nevarez (AZ)	2 nd Vice President	A. Jack Fishman	Attorney		
Gail Donaldson (DE)	Secretary	Ross Brown	Newsletter Editor		
Gerald Dupczak (IN)	Treasurer	Vacant	Tech Advisor		
Gerald Dupczak (IN)	Past President	Vacant	Historian		
		Mark Kroczynski	Scholarship Chair		

AFSA Regional Directors and Regional Representatives

Region 1	Regional Director Phil Hall (MA)	Regional Representative Matthew Cola Robert Galbraith Charles Franssen	s Babylon, NY E. Amherst, NY Huntington, NY
2	Robert Schmus Voorhees, NJ	Alan Fogel John Gagliardo Robert McDugall	Manalapan, NJ Lincoln Park, NJ Blue Bell, PA
3	Mary Fran Martin (MD)	Kathy Montemora	(MD)
4	Elizabeth Fleaher (OH)	Ted Boomershine David W. Jansen	Kettering, OH Kettering, OH
5	Cynthia Fish (NC)		
6	Michael Stephens (FL)	Angelo Troncoso Dave Beitzel Orlan Smith Robert McLaughlin Jeff Karsh Larry Sands	Clearwater, FL Naples, FL Orlando, FL Ponce Inlet, FL Plantation, FL Keystone Heights, Fl
7	Robert Kuschel (IL)	Inar "Smitty" Morics Ronald Cipolla Tom O'Halloran	Des Moines, IA Eagan, MN St. Louis, MO
8	Calvin Puryear (TX)	Ed Martin Robert Schweitzer Dennis Carey Mike Mayott	Austin, TX Sun City West, AZ Glenwood Springs, CO Billings, MT
9	Richard Malone (CA)	Alex Seddio Reginald Norberg	San Francisco, CA Seattle, WA



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 1187 Helotes, TX 78023

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AFSA REGIONS AND AREAS OF COVERAGE

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

ASSOCIATION OF FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (AFSA) P.O. Box 1187

Helotes, TX 78023

Help recruit new members for AFSA