



# AFSA - IRS

## NEWSLETTER



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

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Vol. XXVII No. 2

Summer, 2016

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### 2016 AFSA Convention

#### Milwaukee, Wisconsin

#### September 15 – September 18, 2016



## Executive Director Corner - Summer 2016



Greeting and salutations to all from San Antonio, TX. Summer just started and I am already looking forward to the cool September temperatures of high 70 and low 54 in Milwaukee, WI. But more importantly, I am looking forward to the camaraderie at Convention 2016.

Milwaukee on Lake Michigan's western shore is known for its breweries, many of which offer tours chronicling its role in the beer industry. Overlooking the Menomonee River, the Harley-Davidson Museum displays classic motorcycles, including one of Elvis Presley's. Nearby is the Milwaukee Public Museum, with its large-scale European Village and a recreation of old Milwaukee. Additionally, there are major new additions to the city which include the Milwaukee Riverwalk, the Wisconsin Center, Miller Park, an expansion to the Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, and Pier Wisconsin, as well as major renovations to the UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena.

I am especially looking forward to the Milwaukee Country Tour and the resort town of Lake Geneva.

### **HISTORY:**

The first Europeans to pass through the area were French Catholic missionaries and fur traders. In 1818, the French Canadian explorer Solomon Juneau settled in the area, and in 1846 Juneau's town combined with two neighboring towns to incorporate as the City of Milwaukee. Large numbers of German and other immigrants helped increase the city's population during the 1840s and the following decades.

### **CUISINE:**

Milwaukee's ethnic cuisines include German, Italian, Russian, Hmong, French, Serbian, Polish, Thai, Japanese, Chinese, Mexican, Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, Turkish, Middle Eastern and Ethiopian.

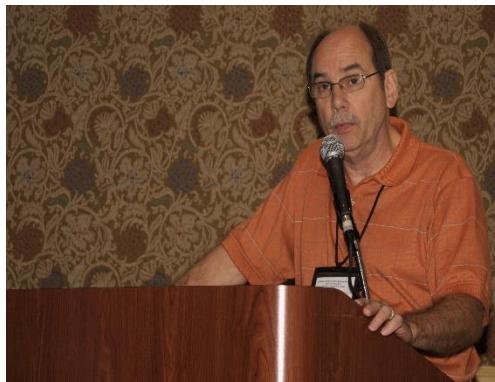
As we recall working for CI offered not only interesting, rewarding work but an opportunity to meet and work with many great people in different parts of the country. Going to convention is an excellent occasion to reconnect with old friends and meet new friends.

**Looking forward to seeing you and a friend in Milwaukee for Convention 2016.**

**Have a great day.**

**Adieu**

~ Mary~

**FALL 2015 AFSA PRESIDENTS MESSAGE****A Message from Your President**

Greetings and I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. It's hard for me to believe that we are already half way through 2016 and only have two more months before our Annual Business Meeting and Convention. As you know from my last message, one of my goals was to increase our attendance at our convention and we are well on our way to matching or exceeding our numbers from last year. From what I have heard and read, it is going to be a terrific convention. Gerard and Cindy Dupczak and Chuck and

Barb Taylor have worked countless hours to put together what I believe will prove to be one of our best conferences ever. There is a great write-up in this newsletter that walks you through the tours and events that are scheduled. Please consider coming...the hotel is exceptional and I am sure you will enjoy the sights that Milwaukee has to offer and even more important, the people that you will meet or might see again for the first time in quite a while.

**Annual Business Meeting**

One of the most important aspects of our convention is, of course, The Annual Business Meeting. In addition to the election of officers, it is at the annual business meeting for our general membership that we are responsible for voting on important issues that are passed by your Board of Directors during the year. One such task on this year's agenda is the vote regarding the revision of our Bylaws and the creation of our Policies and Procedures Handbook. Please take the time to read the article included in this newsletter by Treasurer George Meyer. It chronicles the efforts that were made over the past year and a half to bring this very important matter to a vote. As you will learn, the task was originally initiated by 2015 President Jim Meyers as he noted that after 27 years, our bylaws were in dire need of revision to bring them up-to-date. Through the hard work and coordination of the committee by former President and Chair Person Ron Line, the draft of the Bylaws revision was completed and many of the items in the original Bylaws were removed and placed into a totally separate Operating Policies and Procedures Handbook. These two documents were then presented to a second committee comprised of all Life Membership members being Bob Armentrout (current Parliamentarian and former President and Executive Director), Charlie Gibbs (former President and Parliamentarian), and John Jennings (former Executive Director and Secretary). This committee, chaired by Bob Armentrout, thoroughly reviewed the draft version and created the final version that will be presented for vote at the general membership annual meeting. Thanks to all of them for their hard work on this very important task. A great deal of thanks also goes to George Meyer for all of his efforts as the liaison for the original committee in coordinating with Chair Person Bob Armentrout. The revised documents were much needed and they will help to make our process much more effective. If you would like to review these documents, please go to the AFSA website. One final note...if you are unable to access the website, then contact Executive Director Mary Ruiz and she will mail a hard copy to you.

## **Kudos to You and Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipients**

You Responded...and the Board Responded. Thank You - Thank You - Thank You!!!

In the last newsletter, I asked for our members to consider making a donation to the Frank Smith Scholarship Fund. Thankfully, you responded and our 2016 donations soared to \$9,250...our highest annual donation total to date. When combined with the \$3,266.48 that we carried over from last year, we had a balance of \$12,534.28. Although we have always voted in the past to keep more of a reserve on hand for the next year's fund, we had an absolutely outstanding group of applicants, all of whom were worthy of winning. With those factors in mind, the Board voted to award six \$2,000 scholarships this year. We also awarded one \$2,000 James Howe Scholarship for that candidate that is interested in a career in law enforcement. Altogether, that amounts to \$14,000 that we awarded to your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. My plea again is now for you to please consider making another donation....no matter how small or large. Monies earmarked for the scholarship fund go exactly there....back to your family members. The more we receive, the more we can give back. As I said in the spring newsletter, awarding a scholarship to a student can have a HUGE impact on their life, given the financial burden that most of them face. Thanks so much to our Scholarship Committee Chair Person Peggy Thomas, and her committee for their deeply involved work. Please be sure to read the article by Peggy and the one by our Second Vice President Mark Krocynski in this newsletter and the profiles of each of the scholarship award winner. My thanks also go out to each and every one of the applicants who took the time to apply for the scholarships and especially to each of the scholarship recipients.

## **Our Membership**

Finally, one last comment about our membership. With IRS-CI now at the lowest number of special agents in the past 40 years and with hiring also still at record low numbers, it is important that we continue to spread the good word about your association. If you still have contact with former co-workers or you know of someone getting ready to retire, please consider mentioning to them the great benefits that we offer. Not only do we offer the great conventions and scholarships that I highlighted above, but we also have regular and frequent job opportunities that are posted on our website by Executive Director Mary Ruiz. With our current membership at 1,212, we have plenty of room to grow and will be able to provide the same great level of service to all of them.

Enjoy your summer and stay healthy,

Dan

## **AFSA-IRS BYLAWS REVISION**

### **(TO BE VOTED ON AT ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING IN MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016)**

One of the first things 2015 President Jim Meyers wanted to initiate was an update of the Bylaws so they were more modern and allowed for electronic notifications in lieu of regular mail and other updates that may be appropriate. He assigned this task to two committees. The first committee would draft the rewrite and the second committee would finalize the writing for presentation back to the Board and members.

The first rewrite committee consisted of former President Ron Line, as chair, former President Jose Marrero, First Vice President Dan Pieschel (now current President) and current Treasurer, George Meyer. In addition to updating the Bylaws for allowing electronic notifications, the committee noticed that many things in the Bylaws were actually operating policies, procedures and duties that would normally be under the control of the Board of Directors and not requiring approval of the entire membership since that was a long and inefficient process, so they moved many of these policies and procedures out of the Bylaws and into an Operating Policies and Procedures Handbook. In addition they developed some new duty descriptions and policies that were not covered in the original Bylaws.

The first rewrite committee presented their draft to the Board members at the annual board meeting in Annapolis, MD in September, 2015 and the Board was requested to submit any recommendations for changes, etc. back to the committee by December 31, 2015. Some recommended changes were made by Board members and incorporated into the draft. The draft was then submitted to the second committee for final drafting. That committee, consisting of all Life members, was comprised of Bob Armentrout, chair, current Parliamentarian and former President and Executive Director, Charlie Gibbs, former President and Parliamentarian, and John Jennings, former Executive Director and Secretary. This committee submitted the final rewrite back to the Board, which will hold a special meeting to approve the final version for presentation to the membership at the annual member meeting in Milwaukee.

Because of the number of pages in the proposed Bylaws revision and operating procedures, it would be too expensive to mail out the final version to all members. Therefore it will be posted to the AFSA website upon approval by the Board. If a member can't access the website and wants a hard copy of the final version they should contact the Executive Director.

## AFSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

AFSA is proud to announce the following students have been selected to receive \$2000.00 scholarships.  
**2016 FRANK L. SMITH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

### **Kelsey Conn (Sponsored by Anthony DiMatteo)**



Kelsey Conn is a sophomore attending Pennsylvania State University Berks Campus. She is majoring in biochemistry, in hopes to go to pharmacy school in the future. Throughout her first year of college she has been involved in various clubs and organizations. Some clubs she has been a part of are THON, Campus Activities Board, Berks Cares, and Lion Ambassadors. Besides those clubs Kelsey works on campus as a chemistry teaching assistant, where she helps her peers with various chemistry classes. Kelsey will also be an orientation leader, first year group leader, and first year mentor this upcoming fall semester. She will be assisting the incoming students as they adjust to the college life. She is very excited to start again in the fall as she takes on new roles as a student leader.

Thank you very much for this scholarship, I will keep working hard because it truly does pay off.

**Kayla Kroczyński** (Sponsored by her Uncle, Mark Kroczyński)

Kayla Kroczyński is entering her sophomore year at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) as a geology major. She intends to pursue a career in geology, ideally with NASA - studying planetary geology. She is a member of the Cook Honors College at IUP, is involved with the Geological Society of IUP, IUP Rock Climbing Club, and enjoys volunteering with the Indiana County Humane Society and Habitat for Humanity.

Kayla lives with her parents and younger brother in State College, Pennsylvania where she's lived ever since she was born. She enjoys spending time with her friends, family, pet rabbits and dog. Kayla loves reading, writing, drawing, painting and listening to music.

**Alexis Selby** (Sponsored by her grandfather, Al Selby)

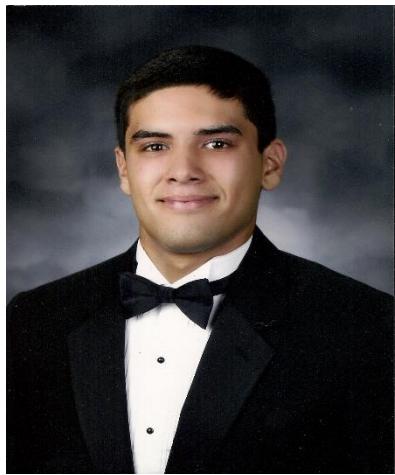
It is an honor to be a recipient of the Frank L. Smith scholarship this year. I graduated from Forest Hills High School in Marshville, North Carolina in the class of 2015. During my time as a high school student, I was involved in many academic-based clubs including the National Honor Society and the BETA Club. As a senior, I received the title of FFA Sweetheart, along with an FFA Scholarship, Second Amendment Scholarship, FLEOA Scholarship, the United States Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award, and the Miss Forest Hills Pageant Scholarship.

I volunteered at my church and participated in several small projects through different clubs at school. I graduated fourth in my class with a 4.92 GPA. In the fall, I will be starting my sophomore year at

Appalachian State University with a major in Finance and Banking. As a freshman, I was on the cheerleading team with a strict practice and workout schedule, while maintaining an overall 3.74 GPA for the year. I am currently working in the plant and the office of a wholesale print shop to pay for my college education. This scholarship is greatly appreciated and will be a big help toward graduating free of debt.

**Sean Spencer** (Sponsored by his aunt, Diane Tomasello)

Sean Spencer is a sophomore at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. He is working towards a bachelor's degree in computer science. Sean finished his freshman year with a 3.71 GPA and was on the Dean's List after the fall and winter semesters. In 2015 he graduated from Washington Township High School, where he played varsity lacrosse and was a member of the school's DECA chapter. Sean has been an active member of his community through his participation in events such as the Helping Hands Hoagie Sale, and the Laxers' for Life 5k Run.

**James Martinez** (Sponsored by his father, Jose M. Martinez)

James Martinez recently graduated with High Honors from Dougherty Valley High School and currently resides in San Ramon California. In the fall, James will be attending California State University at Fullerton, and will be majoring in Business Administration/Information Systems. James was able to graduate with a 4.0 GPA and passed the AP Exams in Biology, US History, European History and Spanish. James has lived in California for most of his life, with a brief three year stay in Maryland. Both of his parents work for the Federal Government and have spent the majority of their careers with the IRS. James' father recently retired as the IRS-CI Special Agent in Charge of the Oakland Field Office and is now working with another agency with the Department of Treasury. James owes most of his accomplishments to the lessons and advise that his parents taught him while growing up.

In addition to his academic success he was able to balance it with playing sports and earning the distinction of being a Student Athlete. He played both baseball and football all 4 years. In football James was chosen to be a varsity captain during his senior year and played the critical leadership position on the offensive line of Center, where he had to call the blocking schemes on every play. In baseball James was also one of the captains his senior year and he holds the school record for pitching the only "no hitter" in the school's history. Throughout high school and middle school James was active in the Boy Scouts of America, where he participated in and led many camping/hiking trips and outdoor outings over the span of 7 years. James attained the highest rank of scouting, Eagle Scout, and was elected to join the Boy Scouts' honors society called the Order of the Arrow. James has an interest in pursuing higher education and earning a law degree, once accomplishing this he would like to become a Federal Law Enforcement Agent like his father, and serve his country in this manner.

**Anna Attardi** (Sponsored by her father, Paul Attardi)

My name is Anna Attardi. I am 17 years old and have just graduated from the Health Sciences and Medicine Academy at the Atlantic County Institute of Technology. Through this academy I took a full year of Emergency Management Training. As a result I will be sitting for the NJ EMT Certification test this summer. I graduated with a GPA of 4.1 and was number 10 in my class of 312. This fall I will be attending Neumann University to study Athletic Training and play soccer for the women's team. I have been playing travel soccer since I was 7 years old. I was a three time 1st Team All-Conference defender for my high school, but I am going to be a goalkeeper for Neumann University since I played this position for my travel team. I am looking forward to the next four years of my life at Neumann University and upon graduation I hope to pursue a career in sports medicine.

Congratulations to Anna, Kelsey, Kayla, James, Alexis and Sean for all of their accomplishments and for being recipients of the Frank L. Smith AFSA Scholarship.

## 2016 JAMES F. HOWE SR. SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**Nicole Beranger** (Sponsored by Robert D. Beranger)



Nicole Beranger is a 19 year old, full-time student from Orange County, New York. She graduated from Valley Central High School in 2014 and is currently attending the University at Albany where she is majoring in Accounting and minoring in Criminal Justice, Sociology, and Business Administration. She plans on getting her Masters in Forensic Accounting from SUNY Albany and then hopes to begin a career in law enforcement. At school, she is a member of Beta Alpha Psi, an honorary organization for accounting students, and she also volunteers with the Midtown Neighborhood Watch in Albany, NY. Nicole is looking forward to starting her junior year of college and plans to study abroad in Europe during the spring semester. She was sponsored by her father, Robert Beranger, who recently retired from the IRS.

Congratulations to Nicole for all of her accomplishments and for being the recipient of the James F. Howe Sr. Scholarship.

AFSA would also like to thank all the other applicants who applied for the scholarships. All of the applicants were excellent candidates who all had outstanding qualifications which only made it more difficult to make the final selections. AFSA would hope that those eligible will apply again next year.

We would love to hear about our scholarship recipients and how they are progressing in their careers. Please send us information or articles regarding your family members such as the article we received regarding Sarah Woodruff. Sarah was a 2013 James F. Howe Sr. recipient who obtained her career goal and was accepted in the Hampton Roads Police Force.

The funding of these scholarships is made possible through the generous donations of our members. These students are family members of our members and could also be family members of former co-workers or friends. Why not consider making a donation to help a student with their career. Donations can be made any time or by completing the information below. To make a donation, please fill in, clip and mail the following with your check or other form of payment.

### **Eric Almon, 2014 Frank L. Smith Scholarship recipient.**

Eric is currently on an engineering Coop with GE Aviation this semester in Cincinnati, OH. Additionally, he went to Germany for three weeks, on a Virginia Paramedic/EMT Exchange Program and will be going back to Virginia Tech for summer classes. Eric will be graduating with a Mechanical Engineering degree from VT in spring, 2017. Mr. Almon thanks the AFSA-IRS for their generous contributions and helping making it possible.

## AFSA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

A few weeks ago, the AFSA Board of Directors again awarded a number of scholarships to a group of extremely qualified individuals. Six Frank L. Smith Scholarships were awarded and one James Howe Scholarship was awarded. These scholarships are completely funded by contributions and is one of the most worthwhile benefits (if you are the parent of an awardee) or satisfying (if you are a contributor) of this organization.

We have two scholarship programs:

Frank L. Smith- named in honor of member Frank L. Smith who initiated AFSA's scholarship program in 1999 with a \$1000 scholarship open to any qualifying full time college student and graduating senior with any major, or undeclared major.

James F. Howe Sr. was established and funded by William R Shroeder , President of Madison Associates, Inc. in 2012. The scholarship was created in memory and honor of James F. Howe Sr. and was created to help students who are pursuing careers in law enforcement.

These scholarships are currently at \$2000 each. While this is not going to pay for a year's tuition, it has been raised and is currently a larger amount than many comparable scholarships.

I am writing this because I feel a number of members must still be unaware of these scholarships based upon the number of applicants the committee has received; or, our members are not publicizing this to potential applicants that they may sponsor.

Complete rules for the scholarships are listed on the website, and that section is open to be viewed by the public. In a nutshell, the people applicants who can be sponsored by a member (limit of one sponsorship per member per year) are **children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and nieces and nephews**. This has opened up the pool of potential applicants since the first Frank L. Smith scholarship in 1999 which was limited to children.

However, and most disconcerting are the number of applicants for the James F. Howe Sr. Scholarship. This is a scholarship awarded to qualified individuals who have entered college, are attending full time and have a law enforcement major declared (law, criminal justice, and accounting) and have every intention of becoming a law enforcement officer. This scholarship is funded by the CEO Madison Associates, William R. Schroeder. It was named after James F. Howe Sr., a former IRS CI special agent who upon retirement from CI worked for Madison Associates. Jim was an outstanding special agent and also an outstanding employee of Madison Associates who passed away in 2011. After his passing, Mr. Schroeder initiated this program to not only honor Jim, and to encourage young people to consider law enforcement as a career.

Now that being said, I realize that the events in the news in the last couple years have probably dissuaded many people from entering law enforcement. However, we had a low number of applicants for this award in the last few years, and in one year, only had one applicant. With eligibility including such a large group of extended family members, and with a historical tendency of many to follow a relative's footsteps (I know I did this with the IRS), and with a membership of almost 1,200 members, I would expect more applicants to the James Howe Scholarship. Are you thinking about your grandkids, great grandkids, or nieces and nephews? Even if you sponsored one winner for the Frank L. Smith or James F. Howe Sr. Scholarship, nothing precludes you from sponsoring another applicant, in a different year.

We need good people in law enforcement and I feel our membership is comprised of such members. We should be encouraging our family members who show such bright potential, to enter law enforcement, as it is when times are tough that our country needs its brightest and finest people enforcing our laws and leading our country.

Both of these scholarships consider college attendees. The James F. Howe Sr. scholarship requires that the applicant be enrolled in college, the Frank L. Smith scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors. **However, we have had a big drop off of applicants who are sophomores and juniors in college, and also a recent drop off of male applicants!** Please, look at your relatives, if you have extended family that qualifies, and are well rounded, smart and willing to do a little work, I urge you to encourage them to apply. Groom your relatives as well. When they are entering their sophomore year in high school, encourage them and praise them for their achievements, suggest community service and outside activities and individual initiative. These are the candidates we want.

The scholarship applications are NOT overbearing. We require four reference letters, a certified transcript (of grades), a completed application and an essay of about 2 pages. This is not a lot of work for a very good chance of winning a \$2000 scholarship. If you know a member who has a qualifying scholarship applicant, remind him or her, as they may have forgotten about this. And also, you are advocating that people enter civil service, which should be an honorable position, and a position that can be very rewarding and challenging, but also one which we do want the best and the brightest.

A reminder, that full qualifications are listed on the application on the website for both awards. Also, remember that these scholarships are funded entirely through your contributions. Our members have been very generous in the past. I hope you continue this trend. Contributions are tax deductible.

Mark Kroczyński  
Second Vice President

Peggy Thomas  
Chairman Scholarship Committee

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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

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## Scholarship Donors Since the last Newsletter

Anthony Cesare

### **HISTORIAN'S CORNER – BY AL SELBY**

Continuing our profiles of AFSA Executive Directors, **GREGORY SZCZESZEK** followed Dave Ackley and became our fourth Executive Director in June 2007 and served until December 2009. In addition to normal day to day operations, Greg came along at a time when our current website was just getting started and he invested a lot of time and effort into making it workable and successful. He counts this as one of his most significant achievements at AFSA. He spent a lot of time and effort trying to recruit businesses to attend our conventions and offer jobs to our members. Greg was Ex-Dir during our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration year and was primarily responsible for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary coins and other special events.

Greg grew up in South Baltimore by Fort McHenry National Monument which is the home of the Star-Spangled Banner. In 1972 he graduated from Southern High School in Baltimore which is the same high school attended by Baseball Hall of Famer Al Kaline of the Detroit Tigers. Greg graduated with a BA Degree in Accounting from Loyola College in Baltimore in 1976 and served as Assistant Business Manager for Loyola from June 1976 – October 1978. He became a CPA in Maryland in 1979.

Greg was a Revenue Agent for 4 years (1978 – 1982) and became a Special Agent in Baltimore in 1982. He worked his way up into more complex cases including a lot of interaction with other Federal law enforcement agencies in the Baltimore area. He was a SSA in Baltimore from 1988-1991, he was a Senior Analyst/Team Leader in HQ Special Investigative Techniques Section from 1991-1996, he was ASAC in Hartford, CT, from 1996 – 2000, he was Director of Narcotics & Counterterrorism at HQ in DC from 2000-2003, and finished his career in Baltimore as SAC from 2003 – 2004. He retired in June 2004 and joined AFSA in October 2004.

After retiring in 2004, Greg and his wife of 43 years Darlene moved to Ocean City, MD, with hopes of living a quiet life at the beach. Full retirement eluded Greg as he was soon working for the Maryland General Assembly in the Office of Legislative Audits during its 2006 Session. Greg did a lot of volunteer work during 2005 – 2007, including a mission trip to Biloxi, MS, right after Hurricane Katrina. In June 2007 he became Executive Director of AFSA and in July 2007 he began a second career with Dominion Advisory Group as a consultant on anti-money laundering issues. Greg is still working part time for Dominion, but more important, he and Darlene are enjoying life at the beach with their grandson, Mason and two sons Greg Jr., who is a Music Director for a church in Baltimore County and Jeff, who is a Narcotics Detective with the Anne Arundel County Police Department and a U.S. Marine.

## **In Memoriam**

### **Richard Neier** **Butte, Mt**

## New Members

Malia Dougan	Kailua	HI 96734	<a href="mailto:mbdsmile@hawaii.rr.com">mbdsmile@hawaii.rr.com</a>
Monica Richardson	Stafford	TX 77477	<a href="mailto:monirich74@gmail.com">monirich74@gmail.com</a>
Tracy G. Wong	Santa Clara	CA 95050	<a href="mailto:tdubs99@gmail.com">tdubs99@gmail.com</a>
Gerard Ricciardi	Saint James	NY 11780	<a href="mailto:gjricc13@optonline.net">gjricc13@optonline.net</a>
Richard H. Miller	Fullerton	CA 92831	<a href="mailto:Smart20ca@gmail.com">Smart20ca@gmail.com</a>
Dan J. Schleyer	East Meadow	NY 11554	<a href="mailto:dan.Schleyer@ci.irs.gov">dan.Schleyer@ci.irs.gov</a>
Suzanne M. Poschedley	Brecksville	OH 44141	<a href="mailto:suepo@hotmail.com">suepo@hotmail.com</a>
Stephen Boyd	Castle Rock	CO 80109	<a href="mailto:tayjos11@gmail.com">tayjos11@gmail.com</a>
James F. Biegger	Madrid	IA 50156	<a href="mailto:beegspc@iowatelecom.net">beegspc@iowatelecom.net</a>
Richard Dan Elliott	Cabot	AR 72023	<a href="mailto:rdelli5669@gmail.com">rdelli5669@gmail.com</a>
Joanne C. Haarstick	Richmond	VA 23225	<a href="mailto:Joanne.Haarstick@gmail.com">Joanne.Haarstick@gmail.com</a>
Anthony W. DiMatteo	Barto	PA 19505	<a href="mailto:dimatteoaw@gmail.com">dimatteoaw@gmail.com</a>
Ann Petterson	Patchogue	NY 11772	<a href="mailto:ann.petterson@bakertilly.com">ann.petterson@bakertilly.com</a>
Joseph K. Roberts	Acworth	GA 30101	<a href="mailto:3321jkr@gmail.com">3321jkr@gmail.com</a>
Jill St. Clair Webb	Rockville	MD20852	<a href="mailto:jsjt14@gmail.com">jsjt14@gmail.com</a>
Patricia Nevin	Tinley Park	IL 60477	<a href="mailto:nevpsc@sbcglobal.net">nevpsc@sbcglobal.net</a>
Brian Kemp	Ramsey	NJ 07446	<a href="mailto:bkbok7391@gmail.com">bkbok7391@gmail.com</a>
Bradley Bennett Buresh	Edmond	Ok 73034	<a href="mailto:buresh1959@sbcglobal.net">buresh1959@sbcglobal.net</a>
Darryl Williams	Olney	MD20832	<a href="mailto:Willco98@bellsouth.net">Willco98@bellsouth.net</a>
Ronald J. Gideon	Northfield	NJ 08225	<a href="mailto:rjid1213@hotmail.com">rjid1213@hotmail.com</a>
Janet Brown	Moore	SC 29369	<a href="mailto:jbrown_4@charter.net">jbrown_4@charter.net</a>
Kirk Peifer	Washington	DC 20002	<a href="mailto:fleatmen@gmail.com">fleatmen@gmail.com</a>

### An Active Approach to a Healthy Heart

Physical activity and exercising can improve your heart health. Besides lowering your risk for heart disease and stroke, it can reduce stress and give you an energy boost. Combine your exercise routine with a healthy, low-calorie diet, and you will help your heart stay healthy.

Stay FITT (frequency, intensity, type, time). To benefit from regular exercise, apply the acronym FITT to your activity program. Frequency - try to exercise at least 5 days a week to stay healthy to make the most of all the healthy benefits of caloric expenditure, conditioning and risk reduction of developing heart disease. Intensity – the key to intensity is moderation – as your conditioning improves, so should your speed and absolute effort. Type – the best activity for you is one that you'll enjoy and will do regularly. Time – aerobic exercise should be performed for at least 30 – 60 minutes or longer each time you exercise. Similar benefits can be achieved if you exercise in several intervals of 10 to 15 minutes each that add up over the entire day.

REMEMBER: Check with your doctor before embarking on a new exercise regimen, especially if you've been inactive or have other medical conditions. To learn more, go to [www.clevelandclinic.org/wellness](http://www.clevelandclinic.org/wellness)

## AFSA-IRS Convention 2016



**Thursday, September 15 (9:00am start):** The Convention kicks off in our traditional fashion. The Bob Manzi Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at the Milwaukee County Park District Currie Park Golf Course. The \$60 per person fee covers: green fee, cart fee, a box lunch on the turn, cart staff gratuity, all sales taxes and prizes. The course was designed by George Hansen and founded in 1927. Having wide inviting fairways, low roughs, and smooth greens, you won't have to bring your "A" game to enjoy the day.

**Thursday, September 15 (evening):** You cannot come to Milwaukee and

### **Currie Park Golf Course**

not stop at the uniquely American institution – Harley-Davidson! Even non-bikers will marvel at this manufactured wonder. Two tours are offered. The Highlights Tour (\$18 per person) includes the Museum and a guided tour covering over 110 years of H-D history. The rebels in the group will want to go on the Behind-the-Scenes Tour (\$32 per person). This guided tour gets you into the Museum and takes you into the "Off Limits" areas, including the Museum Archives and Motorcycle Storage room containing over 600 bikes. You'll see farm-fresh finds to never-produced prototypes.



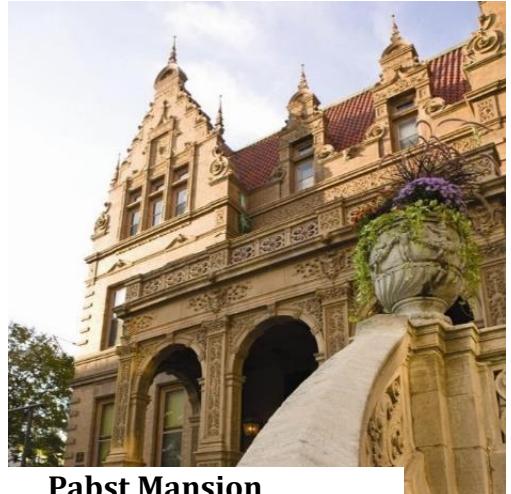
**THE ONLY ONE.**

[http://www.harley-davidson.com/content/h-d/en\\_US/home/museum/visit/visitor-information.html](http://www.harley-davidson.com/content/h-d/en_US/home/museum/visit/visitor-information.html)

**Friday, September 16:** We are offering two tours of the Milwaukee area. You can travel out to the majestic Wisconsin landscape or see what the metropolitan area has to offer.

### **Milwaukee City Tour**

Enjoy a guided tour of the city of Milwaukee! Starting at 9:00am, you will go on a narrated tour while traveling aboard an air-conditioned motor coach. We'll leave the hotel at 9:00am, touring past notable landmarks such as City Hall, the Art Museum, Frank Lloyd Wright's Bogk House, as well as the Lake Michigan shoreline. We'll have a one-hour tour of the Frederick Pabst mansion (<http://www.pabstmansion.com>), a definite "Blue Ribbon" stop. From there we'll go past Miller Park, home of the Brewers, and on to our next stop, historic St. Josaphat's Basilica (<http://thebasilica.org>).



**Pabst Mansion**

After about 45 minutes at this magnificently restored wonder, we'll leave the Basilica and go through the Walker Point District and into the Third Ward District. Lunch is on your own, and there are plenty of options! Leaving the Third Ward, we'll head for Sprecher Brewing Company (<http://www.sprecherbrewery.com/index.php>), which is Milwaukee's original microbrewery. It's also well known for its gourmet sodas. Our last stop will be a shopping stop in the Old World Third Street Historic District. There you can visit Mader's Tower Gallery with the largest Hummel Store in the U.S. (<http://www.madersrestaurant.com/home.html>), sample cheese at the Cheese Haus, or grab some brats and sausage at Usinger's (<https://www.usinger.com/visit-our-store>), Milwaukee's oldest German sausage company. Then it's back to the hotel at approximately 4:00pm.

Package Price is \$65 per person, which includes the motor coach, local tour guide, all admission fees, tax and tip.

### **Milwaukee Country Tour**

Enjoy the beautiful southeastern Wisconsin countryside! We leave the hotel about 8:30am via motor coach. Our first stop will be the small resort town of Lake Geneva (located, where else, on the shore of 5,400 acre Geneva Lake!) where we will experience a unique narrated tour of the lake and its mansions aboard the Lake Geneva Cruise Lines' mail boat. And, yes, they do actually deliver U.S. mail to the lake's residents. You'll be amazed at how they do it! Snacks and beverages are available for purchase on the boat. And there are restrooms...

<http://www.cruiselakegeneva.com>

Following the cruise, it will be on to the Elegant Farmer in Mukwonago for lunch. (*Please be sure to make your sandwich selection when booking this tour.*) In addition to lunch, you'll find many other delectable treats such as Wisconsin cheeses and apple pie "baked in a paper bag." <http://www.elegantfarmer.com>



### **Old World Wisconsin**

The Country Tour price is \$75 per person, including travel by air conditioned motor coach with restroom, tour guides and transportation at Geneva Lake and Old World Wisconsin, box lunch with beverage, and all taxes and gratuities.

**Lodging:** We have selected the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, 333 W. Kilbourn Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53203, as our convention base. A portal has been set up to facilitate making your reservations, including extra days before and after the convention. Please go to <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/FormerSpecialAgents2016>. You can also call 1-888-421-1442 (ask for the AFSA Group Rate). Room rate is \$155 per night, plus 15.1% tax (\$178.41 total). Discounted valet parking is \$10 per day with in-and-out privileges.

The Hyatt is the location for our annual business meeting on **Saturday, September 17**, as well as for our banquet that evening. Menu options are Top Sirloin Steak with peppercorn sauce, Salmon with roasted red pepper and toasted pine nuts, or Herb Crusted Chicken Breast with marjoram and Syrah sauce. A vegetarian option is also available. The banquet meal is included in your convention registration fee.

The central location of the Hyatt is perfect for on-your-own tours of downtown Milwaukee. Consider a trip to the Art Museum, spend more time at Old World Third Street, or get your cheese fix at the Third Ward District. <http://milwaukee.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/our-hotel.html>



**Lake Geneva**

Our final stop will be Old World Wisconsin where we journey back to Wisconsin's past as we visit a vivid re-creation of the working farmsteads and settlements established by European immigrants in America's heartland. Old World is not your "standard" historic re-creation; it is the world's largest museum dedicated to the history of rural life with working farms and even a blacksmith shop. The museum includes more than 60 historic structures from around the state painstakingly dismantled and moved piece by piece to the site. Since Old World Wisconsin encompasses nearly 600 acres, we'll be enjoying the museum on a narrated tram tour with several stops. We will arrive back at the hotel about 6:00pm.

<http://oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org>

The Country Tour price is \$75 per person, including travel by air conditioned motor coach with restroom, tour guides and transportation at Geneva Lake and Old World Wisconsin, box lunch with beverage, and all taxes and gratuities.

## 2016 AFSA-IRS ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, WI – September 15-18, 2016

333 West Kilbourn Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203

**To make your hotel reservation you may do either of the following:**

A: Reservations Toll Free: 1-888-421-1442 (Ask for AFSA Group Rate)

B: Make your reservations on the AFSA-IRS Reservations Link website:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/FormerSpecialAgents2016>

<b>AFSA Member:</b>								
<b>Guest:</b>		(This will be the name that will be on your convention name badge.)						
Address:				Phone:				
City:		ST:		ZIP:		Cell:		
E-Mail:				Arrival date:			Departure date:	
<b>Registration</b>						<b>Fees (per person)</b>	#	<b>Amount</b>
AFSA Member Registration Fee						\$100		\$
Guest Registration Fee						\$90		\$
Hospitality room non-alcoholic drink preference discount						-\$10		\$
<b>Registration fees include:</b> Saturday Night Banquet, Saturday Professional Development CPE and all Hospitality Suite Sessions.								
#	Attending Saturday AFSA Business Meeting				#	Attending Saturday CPE		
<b>Saturday Night Banquet Entrée Selection:</b>								
#	Top Sirloin Steak with Peppercorn Sauce	#	Salmon with Roasted Red Pepper and Toasted Pine Nuts	#	Herb Crusted Chicken Breast with marjoram and Syrah sauce	#	Vegetarian (multiple options will be offered)	
<b>Please indicate the activities you wish to participate in: (See convention schedule for activity details)</b>						<b>Fees (per person)</b>	#	<b>Amount</b>
Thursday, Sept 15 Bob Manzi Memorial Golf Tournament						\$60		\$
Player 1)				Handicap/Avg:				
Player 2)				Handicap/Avg:				
Thursday, Sept. 15 Harley-Davidson Museum and Highlights Tour						\$18		\$
Thursday, Sept. 15 Harley-Davidson Museum and Behind-the-Scenes Tour						\$32		\$
Friday, Sept 16 Milwaukee City Tour						\$65		\$
Friday, Sept 16 Milwaukee Country Tour (select your lunch option)						\$75		\$
Turkey #		Beef #		Ham #		Veggie #		
<b>Total Amount Paid:</b>								\$

<b>I/We need wheelchair accommodation on the:</b>				City Tour <input type="checkbox"/>	Country Tour <input type="checkbox"/>
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**E-mail registration form to  
gdupczak@att.net and mail  
your check to:**

Gerard Dupczak  
1428 Charlevoix Way  
Schererville, IN 46375

For general CONVENTION INFORMATION, please  
visit [www.afsa-irs.org](http://www.afsa-irs.org)

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 15, 2016**

## **This and That**

### **Bid to Impeach IRS Chief Moves to New Phase**

Nearly seven months after the House [oversight panel moved](#) to impeach the Internal Revenue commissioner, the Judiciary Committee has announced two hearings on “misconduct” by John Koskinen, though the IRS has not confirmed that he will appear.

On May 24, the panel led by Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., will hear witnesses presenting the findings of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on “the targeting of conservative groups for several years.” The panel noted in a statement that “many of the committee’s members have found that Commissioner Koskinen failed to comply with a congressional subpoena which resulted in destruction of key evidence, made false statements during his sworn congressional testimony, and did not notify Congress that [former IRS Exempt Organizations division head] Lois Lerner’s emails were missing.”

A second hearing in June will feature still unnamed outside experts “on the findings presented in the first hearing and whether further congressional action is warranted,” the Judiciary Committee said in a Friday announcement noting that Koskinen will be invited.

“The fact that officials at the IRS wielded their power to target certain Americans for their political views is both outrageous and contrary to our nation’s values,” Goodlatte said. “As a result of the IRS’ targeting, conservative groups were singled out across the nation, resulting in lengthy paperwork requirements, overly burdensome information requests, and lengthy, unwarranted delays in their applications.”

Between now and the hearings, he added, the Judiciary panel will examine Koskinen’s “misconduct and the implications of his actions” that, the statement said, “have consistently undermined the investigation.”

Asked whether impeachment is on the agenda, a committee spokeswoman told *Government Executive*, “These are simply two hearings to methodically examine the allegations made against the IRS commissioner and whether additional congressional action is needed.”

The IRS has not committed to having the commissioner appear. “Commissioner Koskinen and the IRS workforce remain focused on serving the nation’s taxpayers,” the agency said in a statement late Friday. “In addition to completing a successful filing season this spring, we continue making progress on a number of important issues involving taxpayer service, tax enforcement and cybersecurity.”

Republicans [appear divided](#) on whether to proceed with the impeachment articles drafted by Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, with House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., having suggested last month that the matter might be better addressed next year. Koskinen was sworn in in December 2013—after a year with acting commissioners—for what by statute is a five-year term.

Source: Government Executive Magazine

### **House Passes Legislation to Prohibit IRS Bonuses and Awards**

On April 21, 2016, the House passed legislation to prohibit the Department of the Treasury from paying a bonus, award, or similar cash payment to any Internal Revenue Service (IRS) employee until Treasury develops and submits to Congress a comprehensive customer service strategy that has been reviewed and approved by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. The strategy must include: (1) appropriate telephone and correspondence levels of service; (2) a thorough assessment of which services the IRS can shift to self-service options; and (3) proposals to improve customer service over the short-term, the

medium-term, and the long-term. The legislation does not provide additional funding to implement the strategy.

Source: FCIA

### **Long-term Care Premiums will Increase in 2016**

Premiums in the long-term care insurance program for federal employees and retirees are expected to increase later this year for most enrollees, but exactly when and by how much is yet to be determined. The Office of Personnel Management has awarded a new seven-year contract to the John Hancock Life and Health Insurance Company to administer the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program. The program provides in-home, assisted living and nursing home benefits for those unable to fully care for themselves due to physical or mental conditions. The new rate change will take effect no earlier than fall 2016. Those who are approved may choose among different maximum daily payment amounts, length of coverage and inflation protection, all of which affect the premiums, as does the person's age at enrollment. Enrollees pay the full cost of the premiums with no government contribution.

### **Miami FO case featured on American Greed on July 7**

Miami Field Office case will be featured on CNBC's American Greed on Thursday, July 7 at 10 pm EDT. "Pain Killer Profits" will explain Operation Oxy Alley where defendants Christopher and Jeffrey George, twin brothers, operated, managed and financed four pain management clinics in Broward and Palm Beach Counties. From 2008 to early 2010, these pill mills distributed approximately 20 million oxycodone pills and made more than \$40 million from the illegal sales of controlled substances. Thirteen of the thirty-two defendants were doctors. Miami FO SA **David Keyes** was interviewed by American Greed for this story.

Ed Note: I know it is past the date for this show, but hopefully some of you can find it on your computers somewhere!!

### **LVFO Participates in 2nd Annual Special Agents of Summer at The Mob Museum**

On June 8, 2016 Special Agents of the Las Vegas field office gave camp participants of the Special Agents of Summer, at The Mob Museum the opportunity to be IRS Criminal Investigators for a day

The campers, ages 10-13, were sworn in, underwent special agent training, received their badges, handcuffs, "red" guns, and received their first tax evasion case from an informant. The campers conducted an undercover operation, surveillance, search warrants, and a trash run, culminating in an arrest.

This is the second year The Mob Museum has hosted this camp where kids are educated on the history, tools and techniques used by law enforcement to tackle organized crime.

Las Vegas FO will also participate during the second camp of the summer this July.

And if you're ever in the Las Vegas area, the legacy of IRS Criminal Investigation can also be seen through an exhibit at The Mob Museum.

## House Committee on Ways and Means Amends HR 5523 (pending civil asset forfeiture legislation)

On Thursday, July 7th, the House Committee on Ways and Means held a markup (discussion of the bill and potential amendments) of HR 5523, “Clyde-Hirsch-Sowers RESPECT Act.” The proposed bill, among other items, would statutorily limit IRS authority in civil asset forfeiture cases by requiring proof of illegal source of structured funds prior to seizure.

Chairman Brady stated, “Before the agency can seize the assets of any taxpayer, the Roskam bill requires the IRS to show probable cause that funds were derived from an illegal source. And if a person or small business owner’s assets are seized, the bill institutes a post-seizure hearing to ensure there is transparency and accountability.”

Ranking Member Sander Levin noted that H.R. 5523 is now current policy at the IRS and that the bill would codify that policy. He emphasized that the IRS changed its policy about a year and a half ago and should be given credit for being proactive.

The [amended version of HR 5523](#) was adopted by voice vote and the Committee ordered favorably reported. The bill is now out of Committee and the next step is submission to full House for debate and vote.

## Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay - 2016

On March 19th and 20th, IRS - Criminal Investigation [participated](#) in the 32nd Los Angeles Police Department’s Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup relay race. This marked IRS-CI’s 27th year participating against over 280 teams and 8,000 law enforcement personnel including squads from the NYPD, Belize, and Canada. Agents and support staff from 14 different CI field offices completed the 120 mile relay run through Death Valley. CI entered two teams this year, each comprised of 20 runners who ran through 93 degree temperatures during the day and freezing air at night over the 5400’ Mt. Springs Pass. The Baker to Vegas awards ceremony capped off the race weekend where the CI Los Angeles team was awarded a championship plaque for their 2st place division finish. A special thanks to team captains **Kyli Harmon**, Midstates, and **Brad Silcox**, Los Angeles FO. Mark your calendars for next year’s race, March 25th and 26th, 2017!

## Outlook for 2017 COLA Will Get a Bit Clearer Later This Week

On Friday, July 15, federal retirees will receive the latest data point in the calculation of the much-anticipated 2017 cost-of-living adjustment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will release the Consumer Price Index for June. While the numbers for July, August and September are the most important figures in the COLA calculation, June’s figure will indicate where the trend is heading going into the third quarter. It’s not clear yet if retirees will receive a modest boost, or [nothing, as was the case for 2016](#). A lot can change over the next three months.

The annual COLA for all retirees is based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which measures price changes in food, housing, gas and other goods and

services. The CPI-W [rose 0.4 percent in May](#), and the index has increased 0.7 percent over the last 12 months to an average index of 234.444.

Why does that matter? Because it's slightly more than the average for the third quarter of 2014 (234.242), which is an important component in the COLA equation. The July, August and September 2016 numbers could bring up that 234.444 average more, but it's too soon to tell. The exact cost-of-living adjustment for next year won't be known until October when all the numbers are in.

The average of the July, August and September 2016 consumer price numbers, along with the average figure from the third quarter of 2014, will be used to calculate the 2017 COLA. The annual COLAs are based on the percentage increase (if any) in the average CPI-W for the third quarter of the current year over the average for the third quarter of the last year in which a COLA became effective. The last time a COLA became effective was in October 2014. If there's no percentage increase, there's no COLA, which was what happened in late 2015, affecting 2016.

Retirees received a 1.7 percent COLA increase for 2015, a 1.5 percent boost for 2014, a 1.7 percent increase for 2013 and a 3.6 percent bump for 2012. The 2012 COLA increase was the first since October 2008 (which took effect in 2009).

According to the [formula](#), if there is an increase, here's how it plays out:

If the full COLA increase is 3 percent or higher, as it was for 2012, then retirees under the Federal Employees Retirement System receive 1 percentage point less than the full increase. So FERS retirees received a 2.6 percent bump for 2012. If the COLA falls between 2 percent and 3 percent, then FERS retirees would receive 2 percent. If the increase is less than 2 percent, as it was for 2015, FERS retirees receive the same as retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System.

Employees still working for the federal government do not receive a COLA, but they may end up doing better than retirees. Federal workers at the moment are [on track to receive a 1.6 percent pay raise in 2017](#). For a history of COLAs and federal employee pay raises going back to 1970, review this [Retirement Planning column](#) from Tammy Flanagan, the senior benefits director for the National Institute of Transition Planning Inc. (Source, Government Executive)

**Ex-FBI agent: 'We are totally off our war-fighting game'**

***'Americans have got to wake up immediately, because this is going to go downhill rapidly'***

A former FBI agent who created the bureau's first counter-terrorism training program says the FBI and many others in the federal government have lost their way and have no idea how to stop terrorism, a problem that he expects to get much worse in the coming months.

He now works to train others in counter-terrorism through his website, "Understanding the Threat." "Since 9/11, we have actually failed to identify the threat in any professional manner at the national security level. We have yet to identify the real threat, either in our strategic planning documents or our national security documents," Guandolo told WND and Radio America.

He said the consequences of failing to identify the threat have been ghastly.

"What that leads to is what we've seen in the last 15 years. We lost Iraq and Afghanistan. We have an incoherent domestic counter-terrorism strategy and our foreign policy is upside-down to where we're literally, to the tune of more than \$100 billion, the largest state sponsor of terrorism – Iran – on the planet," Guandolo said.

Thrift Savings Plan Returns:  
 Monthly and Annual - G, F, C, S, I and L Funds  
 Updated: July 5, 2016

Average Annual Returns (As of December 2015)										
	L Income	L 2020	L 2030	L 2040	L 2050	G Fund	F Fund	C Fund	S Fund	I Fund
1-Year	1.85%	1.35%	1.04%	0.73%	0.45%	2.04%	0.91%	1.46%	(2.92%)	(0.51%)
3-Year	4.18%	7.30%	8.68%	9.65%	10.48%	2.08%	1.93%	15.21%	13.13%	4.80%
5-Year	3.90%	6.50%	7.58%	8.33%	-	2.03%	3.57%	12.63%	10.65%	3.79%
10-Year	4.13%	5.41%	5.90%	6.19%	-	2.94%	4.74%	7.36%	8.03%	3.20%
Since Inception	4.14%	5.48%	5.97%	6.27%	3.95%	5.29%	6.45%	10.09%	8.37%	4.23%
Inception Date	08/01/05	08/01/05	08/01/05	08/01/05	01/31/11	04/01/87	01/29/88	01/29/88	05/01/01	05/01/01
Calendar Year Returns										
	L Income	L 2020	L 2030	L 2040	L 2050	G Fund	F Fund	C Fund	S Fund	I Fund
2011	2.23%	0.41%	(0.31%)	(0.96%)	-	2.45%	7.89%	2.11%	(3.38%)	(11.81%)
2012	4.77%	10.42%	12.61%	14.27%	15.85%	1.47%	4.29%	16.07%	18.57%	18.62%
2013	6.97%	16.03%	20.16%	23.23%	26.20%	1.89%	(1.68%)	32.45%	38.35%	22.13%
2014	3.77%	5.06%	5.74%	6.22%	6.37%	2.31%	6.73%	13.78%	7.80%	(5.27%)
2015	1.85%	1.35%	1.04%	0.73%	0.45%	2.04%	0.91%	1.46%	(2.92%)	(0.51%)
YTD	1.46%	1.63%	1.75%	1.76%	1.68%	0.93%	5.50%	3.87%	2.71%	(3.44%)
Monthly Returns (Past 12 Months)										
	L Income	L 2020	L 2030	L 2040	L 2050	G Fund	F Fund	C Fund	S Fund	I Fund
2015										
Jul	0.55%	1.03%	1.22%	1.33%	1.46%	0.19%	0.74%	2.10%	(0.12%)	2.08%
Aug	(1.10%)	(3.06%)	(4.04%)	(4.69%)	(5.37%)	0.18%	(0.11%)	(6.03%)	(5.80%)	(7.36%)
Sep	(0.51%)	(1.67%)	(2.26%)	(2.67%)	(3.09%)	0.18%	0.75%	(2.47%)	(4.80%)	(5.02%)
Oct	1.64%	3.72%	4.88%	5.58%	6.31%	0.17%	0.02%	8.45%	5.61%	7.07%
Nov	0.17%	0.17%	0.20%	0.24%	0.24%	0.17%	(0.24%)	0.31%	1.75%	(0.86%)
Dec	(0.28%)	(0.92%)	(1.32%)	(1.61%)	(1.85%)	0.18%	(0.30%)	(1.57%)	(3.91%)	(2.03%)
2016										
Jan	(0.91%)	(2.55%)	(3.58%)	(4.21%)	(4.86%)	0.19%	1.49%	(4.96%)	(8.72%)	(5.62%)
Feb	0.01%	(0.24%)	(0.41%)	(0.51%)	(0.63%)	0.15%	0.68%	(0.12%)	0.50%	(2.82%)
Mar	1.53%	3.35%	4.54%	5.25%	5.94%	0.15%	0.93%	6.79%	8.24%	6.59%
Apr	0.34%	0.58%	0.75%	0.85%	0.95%	0.14%	0.41%	0.39%	1.73%	1.89%
May	0.38%	0.69%	0.91%	1.03%	1.15%	0.15%	0.08%	1.80%	1.81%	0.27%
Jun	0.11%	(0.12%)	(0.31%)	(0.43%)	(0.58%)	0.15%	1.80%	0.26%	(0.13%)	(3.33%)
Last 12 mo	1.92%	0.74%	0.16%	(0.39%)	(1.05%)	2.02%	6.41%	4.07%	(5.00%)	(9.81%)

# The Tax Sleuth Who Took Down a Drug Lord

It ultimately took Gary Alford more than three months to gather enough evidence for colleagues to take his suspect seriously. Gary L. Alford was running on adrenaline when he arrived for work on a Monday in June 2013, at the [Drug Enforcement Administration](#) office in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. A tax investigator, he had spent much of the weekend in the living room of his New Jersey townhouse, scrolling through arcane chat rooms and old blog posts, reading on well after his fiancée had gone to sleep. The work had given Mr. Alford what he believed was the answer to a mystery that had confounded investigators for nearly two years: the identity of the mastermind behind the online drug bazaar known as Silk Road — a criminal known only by his screen name, Dread Pirate Roberts.

When Mr. Alford showed up for work that Monday, he had a real name and a location. He assumed the news would be greeted with excitement. Instead, he says, he got the brushoff.

He recalls asking the prosecutor on the case, out of frustration, “What about what I said is not compelling?”

Mr. Alford, a young special agent with the [Internal Revenue Service](#) assigned to work with the D.E.A., isn’t the first person to feel unappreciated at the office. In his case, though, the information he had was crucial to solving one of the most vexing criminal cases of the last few years. While Silk Road by mid-2013 had grown into a juggernaut, selling \$300,000 in heroin and other illegal goods each day, federal agents hadn’t been able to figure out the most basic detail: the identity of the person running the site.

It ultimately took Mr. Alford, 38, more than three months to gather enough evidence to prevail upon his colleagues to take his suspect seriously. After he convinced them, though, the man he identified, Ross W. Ulbricht, was arrested and Silk Road shuttered. The night of the arrest, Mr. Alford got an email from one of the other special agents at the center of the case: “Congrats Gary, you were right,” it said.

Mr. Alford’s experience, and the lag between his discovery and Mr. Ulbricht’s arrest, were largely left out of the documents and proceedings that led to Mr. Ulbricht’s [conviction and life sentence](#) this year.

Previous examinations of the Silk Road investigation have generally focused on the role played by special agents with the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) and the [Department of Homeland Security](#), who infiltrated the website, arrested important deputies and gathered reams of crucial information, but not enough to find Mr. Ulbricht — until Mr. Alford came along.

The other agencies involved in the investigation declined to comment on Mr. Alford’s work, but several people briefed on the investigation, who were not authorized to speak about it publicly, confirmed the basic outlines of Mr. Alford’s story.

Back in the summer of 2013, it was not hard, even for Mr. Alford, to understand why it took him time to win over the others on the case. He had joined the investigation relatively late and was on a team that hadn’t previously found much of value. He also lacked the sophisticated technological experience of colleagues at the F.B.I. On a more personal level, Mr. Alford could come across as overeager.

But Mr. Alford also detected the sort of organizational frictions that have hindered communication between law enforcement agencies in the past. Within the I.R.S., Mr. Alford had heard tales of his agency being ignored and overshadowed by more prominent organizations like the F.B.I. The story that resonated with Mr. Alford most strongly was that of the tax agent Frank J. Wilson, who brought down the gangster Al Capone, but who was forgotten in the movie versions of the investigation, which tended to focus on Eliot Ness, the flashier Bureau of Prohibition agent.

“They don’t write movies about Frank Wilson building the tax case,” Mr. Alford said in an interview at the I.R.S.’s Manhattan headquarters. “That’s just how it is.”

Mr. Alford grew up in the Marlboro public housing projects of Brooklyn in the 1980s, a short, half-black, half-Filipino kid in a tough neighborhood. His father, a math teacher, would cite the power of the subject to teach his son how to prevail over difficulties. “If you get the right answer, the teacher can’t tell you anything,” Mr. Alford remembers his father saying. That attitude led Mr. Alford to study accounting at Baruch College and then to the I.R.S., where his skeptical, lone-wolf approach worked well.

It was Mr. Alford’s supervisors at the I.R.S. who assigned him in February 2013 to a D.E.A. task force working the Silk Road case. The Strike Force, as it was known, had so far had little luck finding meaningful leads. Mr. Alford’s superiors hoped he could bring his youthful energy and doggedness to the project.

Mr. Alford started by chasing down leads on low-level Silk Road vendors selling Bitcoin, but he was too ambitious to keep his attention focused on small-time criminals. Whenever he had a free moment, he would read up on the origins of Silk Road and its nearly mythical leader, Dread Pirate Roberts, who ran the business and espoused his radical free-market ideology on the site’s message boards.

“I’m not high-tech, but I’m like, ‘This isn’t that complicated. This is just some guy behind a computer,’ ” he recalled saying to himself. “In these technical investigations, people think they are too good to do the stupid old-school stuff. But I’m like, ‘Well, that stuff still works.’ ”

Mr. Alford’s preferred tool was Google. He used the advanced search option to look for material posted within specific date ranges. That brought him, during the last weekend of May 2013, to a chat room posting made just before Silk Road had gone online, in early 2011, by someone with the screen name “altoid.”

“Has anyone seen Silk Road yet?” altoid asked. “It’s kind of like an anonymous [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).”

The early date of the posting suggested that altoid might have inside knowledge about Silk Road.

During the first weekend of June 2013, Mr. Alford went through everything altoid had written, the online equivalent of sifting through trash cans near the scene of a crime. Mr. Alford eventually turned up a message that altoid had apparently deleted — but that had been preserved in the response of another user.

In that post, altoid asked for some programming help and gave his email address: [rossulbricht@gmail.com](mailto:rossulbricht@gmail.com). Doing a Google search for Ross Ulbricht, Mr. Alford found a young man from Texas who, just like Dread Pirate Roberts, admired the free-market economist Ludwig von Mises and the libertarian politician Ron Paul — the first of many striking parallels Mr. Alford discovered that weekend.

When Mr. Alford took his findings to his supervisors and failed to generate any interest, he initially assumed that other agents had already found Mr. Ulbricht and ruled him out.

But he continued accumulating evidence, which emboldened Mr. Alford to put Mr. Ulbricht's name on the D.E.A. database of potential suspects, next to the aliases altoid and Dread Pirate Roberts.

At the same time, though, Mr. Alford realized that he was not being told by the prosecutors about other significant developments in the case — a reminder, to Mr. Alford, of the lower status that the I.R.S. had in the eyes of other agencies. And when Mr. Alford tried to get more resources to track down Mr. Ulbricht, he wasn't able to get the surveillance and the subpoenas he wanted.

Mr. Alford said the Manhattan federal prosecutor overseeing the investigation, Serrin Turner, seemed to want to find Dread Pirate Roberts more than anyone. But Mr. Alford said that Mr. Turner was working with multiple agencies on the case and did not seem to put much weight in the evidence that Mr. Alford was finding — leading to heated conversations.

"I'm not saying I'm right; we just need to look into this guy fully," Mr. Alford remembers telling Mr. Turner.

A spokesman for the United States attorney's office in Manhattan, where Mr. Turner works, declined to comment.

When Mr. Alford visited the main F.B.I. team on the case, later in the summer, it became clear that the team wasn't aware of Mr. Ulbricht as a suspect — and also had no serious candidates of their own. Mr. Alford mentioned that he had a suspect in San Francisco, but no one followed up.

One of the other agents present for that meeting, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that he and the others in the room had little reason to ask for further information from Mr. Alford, given the lack of progress made by the D.E.A. Strike Force to which he was assigned. "No one was taking them seriously," the agent said. "I obviously wished we had asked more."

When Mr. Alford went back to the D.E.A. office in Chelsea and complained about the meeting, a fellow I.R.S. agent in the group suggested it was time for Mr. Alford to give it up. "You've told them what you know. They didn't do anything," the agent told him, according to a person briefed on the conversation. "Forget it."

Instead, Mr. Alford decided to review his findings again. In early September, he asked a colleague to run another background check on Mr. Ulbricht, in case he had missed something.

The colleague typed in the name and immediately looked up from her computer: "Hey, there is a case on this guy from July."

Agents with Homeland Security had seized a package with nine fake IDs at the Canadian border, addressed to Mr. Ulbricht's apartment in San Francisco. When the agents visited the apartment in mid-July, Mr. Ulbricht answered the door, and the agents identified him as the face on the IDs, without having any idea of his potential links to Silk Road.

Mr. Alford's colleague asked him, "Is this stuff interesting to you?"

"You are making my day," he said.

As she read out the details, the report grew more intriguing. Without the agents mentioning Silk Road, Mr. Ulbricht told them that "hypothetically" anyone could go on a site called Silk Road and buy fake IDs.

Armed with these new findings, Mr. Alford phoned the prosecutor, Mr. Turner. There was a pause in the conversation while Mr. Turner typed Mr. Ulbricht's address into his own computer. Then Mr. Alford heard a shouted profanity from the other end of the line — the clearest sign of interest he had heard yet, he says.

Mr. Ulbricht's home address, it turned out, was a few hundred feet from an address that the F.B.I. had turned up in its investigation: a cafe from which Dread Pirate Roberts had signed in to Silk Road.

Mr. Turner arranged a conference call the same day with Mr. Alford and two agents on the case — an F.B.I. agent, Christopher Tarbell, and a Homeland Security agent, Jared Der-Yeghiayan.

Both agents declined to comment for this article, but according to two people briefed on the investigation, the crucial moment in that conference call came when Mr. Alford described some of Mr. Ulbricht's interactions on message boards for programmers, while using the screen name "Frosty." Mr. Tarbell stopped Mr. Alford and explained that Frosty was the name of the computer from which Dread Pirate Roberts had been logging in to the Silk Road.

"Oh, that's interesting," Mr. Turner deadpanned.

"That's the guy," Mr. Tarbell said.

The agreement among the agents on the phone that day allowed Mr. Alford to get his wish to put Mr. Ulbricht under full surveillance. Within days, the agents had established that Dread Pirate Roberts was logging into the Silk Road just moments after Mr. Ulbricht was going online in his apartment.

In New York, Mr. Turner and Mr. Tarbell began writing up the complaint against Mr. Ulbricht. In it, they referred to Mr. Alford as Agent 1.

On Oct. 2, Mr. Tarbell and Mr. Der-Yeghiayan helped apprehend Mr. Ulbricht at a public library in San Francisco. Mr. Alford could not be there because of travel-budget restrictions that applied to him but not other investigators on the team.

After the arrest, though, his role in the case was recognized with a plaque from his superiors featuring a quotation from Sherlock Holmes: "The world is full of obvious things which nobody by chance ever observes." (From the NY Times, Nathaniel Popovich)

## A Couple of Current Cases

### **Former Veterans Services Organization Bookkeeper Sentenced**

On April 29, 2016, in New Haven, Connecticut, Cynthia Tanner, formerly of Darien, was sentenced to 24 months in prison and three years of supervised release. Tanner was also ordered to pay full restitution to a national veterans' service fund and back taxes, interest and penalties of more than \$500,000. On Dec. 15, 2015, Tanner pleaded guilty to wire fraud and tax evasion. According to court documents, Tanner worked as a bookkeeper for the service fund. From approximately January 2009 through June 2014, Tanner used nearly \$800,000 of the fund's money to pay various personal expenses for her and her family members. She altered records to conceal her scheme and by falsely claiming that the stolen monies were being paid to veterans in need. Tanner failed to report \$794,768 in embezzled income on her 2009 through 2013 federal tax returns, resulting in a tax loss of \$270,026.

## **Former U.S House Speaker John Hastert Sentenced**

On April 27, 2016, in Chicago, Illinois, John Dennis Hastert, of Plano, was sentenced to 15 months in prison. Hastert previously pleaded guilty to illegally structuring cash withdrawals in order to evade financial reporting requirements. According to court documents, in 2010 Hastert agreed to pay another individual \$3.5 million to compensate for and conceal his prior misconduct against the other individual. From approximately 2010 to 2014, Hastert withdrew a total of approximately \$1.7 million in cash from various bank accounts he controlled and provided it to the other individual. In July 2012, Hastert began withdrawing cash in increments less than \$10,000 to evade currency transaction reporting requirements. Hastert withdrew \$952,000 in amounts under \$10,000 in separate transactions on at least 106 occasions.

## **Five Florida Residents Sentenced for Participating in Stolen Identity Tax Refund Fraud Scheme**

On March 30, 2016, in Miami, Florida, Lawrence Bernadel, of Tallahassee, was sentenced to 42 months in prison and three years of supervised release. Previously, Bernadel's co-conspirators, John Mackenley Cesar, Chedlor Dorilus, Lubens Inalien and Ariel Ronet Walker, were sentenced to terms ranging from 70 months in prison to five years of probation. Cesar, Bernadel, Dorilus and Inalien were ordered to jointly pay restitution of \$580,584. Walker was ordered to pay restitution of \$124,631. According to court documents, from January 2014 through April 2014, the defendants used the same Electronic Filing Identification Number (EFIN) to file approximately 158 fraudulent tax returns with the IRS using stolen personal identifying information ("PII") of other individuals. The defendants' residences contained PII for over 1,800 other individuals. The defendants arranged to have the tax refunds deposited onto pre-paid debit cards and then used the funds to purchase personal items or withdrew the funds from ATMs. total intended loss amount from the unauthorized tax filings and PII was between \$1 million and \$2.5 million dollars.

## **Former Tax Preparer, Elected Public Official Sentenced for Tax Fraud Schemes**

On April 5, 2016, in Providence, Rhode Island, Leon F. Tejada was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison and three years of supervised release. Tejada was also ordered to pay full restitution totaling \$78,548 to 76 individuals whose tax refund monies he stole and to the IRS. Tejada pleaded guilty on Dec. 18, 2015, to one count of tax fraud and four counts of wire fraud. According to court documents, Tejada was the former owner of El Centro Multiservices, a tax preparation service, and a former member of the Providence City Council and Rhode Island General Assembly. During tax years 2009 through 2012, without the knowledge of his clients, Tejada devised a scheme to create and falsify clients' dependents, exemptions, tax credits, deductions, and expenses in order to increase the amount of tax refund due to some of the clients creating a loss to the United States of \$54,440. Additionally, Tejada devised a scheme to divert a portion of tax refunds some of his clients' received into his own bank account for his own personal use. Tejada diverted \$24,987 in tax refund monies skimmed from the tax refunds of at least 76 individuals.

**AFSA-IRS Officers and Appointed Officials**

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Appointed</b>		
Daniel Pieschel (KY)	President	Mary Ruiz	Executive Director
Peggy Thomas (MD)	VP/President Elect	Bob Armentrout	Parliamentarian
Mark Kroczyński (FL)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	A. Jack Fishman	Attorney
Iris Bonannos (AZ)	Secretary	Ross Brown	Newsletter Editor
George Meyer (FL)	Treasurer	Chuck Taylor	Tech Advisor
Jim Meyers (SC)	Past President		

**AFSA Regional Directors and Regional Representatives**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Regional Director</b>	<b>Regional Representatives</b>	
1	David Nicholson Dunstable, MA	Steven Hickey John Fahey Matthew Cola Robert Galbraith Charles Franssen	Gloucester, RI Providence, RI Babylon, NY 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 Ellicott City, MD
3	Gail Donaldson Upper Marlboro, MD	Jim Holloway	
4	Elizabeth Fleaher Cincinnati, OH	Lee Mohs Tom Brandon Ted Boomershine John Fettes	Carmel, IN Avon Lake, OH Kettering, OH Little Rock, AR
5	Cynthia Fish Charlotte, NC	Bill Ryan Terry O'Brien David W. Jansen	Birmingham, AL Raleigh, NC Tulsa, OK
6	Darrell G. Smith 904.825.0802 St. Augustine, FL	Angelo Troncoso Michael Stephens Dave Beitzel Orlan Smith Robert McLaughlin Jeff Karsh Larry Sands	Clearwater, FL Melbourne, FL Naples, FL Orlando, FL Ponce Inlet, FL Plantation, FL Keystone Heights, FL
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	Jacque Riordon Denver, CO	Georgia Taylor Ed Martin Joel Lanoux Iris Bohannon 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



## AFSA – IRS Membership Application

We STRONGLY encourage members to apply on line: [www.afsa-irs.org](http://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 761869  
San Antonio, TX 78245**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**AFSA REGIONS AND AREAS OF COVERAGE**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Area of Coverage</b>
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**

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**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS  
OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (AFSA)****P.O. Box 761869****San Antonio, TX 78245****1,214 AFSA members as of July 17, 2016. Help recruit new members for AFSA**