



AFSA - IRS

NEWSLETTER



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Special Agents of the IRS*

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Winter 2025

AFSA 2025 San Antonio Convention





Executive Director Corner – Fall 2025

Greetings and salutations! Hope you are having a enjoying good health and the beautiful fall days.

During the Board of Directors Meeting and at the Annual Business Meeting the following board members were nominated and approved for 2026:

President – Beth Putman

1st Vice President – Ismael Nevarez

Regional Director Region 3 – Mary Fran Martin

Regional Director Region 6 – Michael Stephens

Regional Director Region 8 – Calvim Puryear

Treasurer – Gerard Dupczak



A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Robert Kuschel for serving as Director for Region 7 since 2020 and
Chuck Cusick who is agreed to serve as Director Region 7.



Chuck Cusick

Chuck spent his entire 25-year career as a Special Agent in Chicago. After he retired, he worked as a contract investigator for DEA in Chicago. It was part time, so it was a very interesting, enjoyable semi-retirement position that lasted until age 71. Now he has all the time he needs to visit children and grandchildren in Chicago, California, and Australia. Another highlight is seeing friends and coworkers at the annual AFSA conventions each year. It's always a well-planned get away. See you next year!

Thank you to the Scholarship Chairs:

Mark Kroczyński Past Scholarship Chair
Debbie Steward New Scholarship Chair

Big welcome to our new Newsletter Editor George Villhard. Welcome back to those who have previously served on the board. Thank you all for agreeing to serve AFSA-IRS

Being of service to you the members of AFSA-IRS is a blessing, I am looking forward to 2026. Thank you, for the opportunity to continue to serve as AFSA-IRS Executive Director. I pray 2026 will bring each of you, abundant love, health and the time to enjoy it.

Have a magnificent day.

Adieu,
~ Mary~



Beth Putnam-President
Iris Bohannon-Past President

Iris and Beth

HELP WANTED:

AFSA-IRS is looking for members to be part of the Convention Committee. Following is a brief outline of the responsibilities.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

AFSA-IRS is looking for members willing to serve on the Convention Planning Committee. Below is an outline of the duties:

AFSA – IRS Annual Convention

January: Meeting Planners

Meet with hotels (Set up “Master Account”, Presidents Room etc.)

February: Convention and Visitors Bureau

March: Request CPE Topics

Compare cost for various convention gifts

Finalize registration form

Article for Spring Newsletter

April: Speakers for Opening and HQ Rep.

May: Order name badges

Check w/Hotel, Speakers etc. finalize tours and meals

If offsite dinner – prepare w/tablecloths, etc.

Certificate of Appreciation for speakers

June – October Confirm speakers, tours etc.

If interested please reach out to me. MaryRuizAFSA@gmail.com

Association of Former Special Agents (AFSA) Newsletter

Message from Chief Guy Ficco

December 2025

Hello IRS-CI family. We've had a lot of change in the federal space this year, but IRS-CI's dedication and commitment to combat tax and financial crimes hasn't wavered. When I look back on this past year, the agency continues to succeed due to the people—both the special agents and the professional staff—who remain steadfast in protecting taxpayers and safeguarding the integrity of the tax system. Even during the recent government shutdown, our team continued to deliver results to ensure that fraudsters are held responsible for their crimes.

Several hundred of our special agents have supported or are currently helping with new initiatives like Operation Safe and Beautiful in Washington, D.C., and the Restoring Law and Order task force in Memphis, Tennessee. Our agents have played a critical role in keeping the peace in these cities and ensuring that public safety threats are removed from the streets.

For several years, we have had special agents embedded with the nation's Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETFs). Those task forces sunsetted at the end of fiscal year 2025, and new Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTFs) have replaced them. We're continuing to work closely with our federal partners through the HSTFs, lending our financial expertise to assist with investigations ranging from narcotics trafficking to gang networks.

In early November, we began seeing HSTF successes. Thirty-eight defendants – eight of whom were members and associates of MS-13—were charged with drug offenses, as well carjacking, assault on law enforcement and the use of firearms during the commission of a violent crime.

Streamlining efficiencies has also been a focus for IRS-CI this year. We've made great strides rolling out new initiatives and tools to help the workforce do their jobs more efficiently and effectively than ever. CI-FIRST (Feedback in Response to Strategic Threats) not only modernizes how IRS-CI works with financial institutions but also addresses Bank Secrecy Act challenges by helping banks understand what is most helpful to investigators. Beginning in late summer and through the fall, we hosted a series of CI-FIRST events with financial institutions and regulators in Washington, D.C.; Tampa, Florida; and Los Angeles, California; to further discussions about what's working and what's not, and how we can fix outstanding issues together.

We've also launched a program called Optimizing Financial Records Requests (OFRR) to complement the work of CI-FIRST. This program accelerates investigative timelines by streamlining and standardizing how IRS-CI requests information and how financial institutions respond to legal orders and subpoenas. I look forward to sharing more on this program and its successes soon.

As we close out 2025, make sure to stay tuned to our social media channels for the Top 10 Cases of the Year. This collection of cases highlights the most impactful sentencing of the year. Previous years' countdowns have featured tax schemes furthered by professional enablers, crypto-related fraud, and the exploitation of COVID-era programs for personal gain.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy start to 2026.

Guy Ficco
IRS-CI Chief

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I complete my term as President of this great organization, I say thank you for a tenure that experienced items that have hopefully put us in a good position. But the work is not completed and there are a couple of items to conquer.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers and appointments who are listed in this newsletter. I am confident they will serve us well. I also extend a heartfelt thank you for those who are completing their tenure and have served AFSA with dedication and professionalism.

While we have made significant accomplishments, we have suffered great losses and they will be missed. A major change that resulted in one of these losses is moving to committee-based planning for the Annual Convention and Business Meeting with a CPE component. It will replace the standing CPE Committee that was established by the Bylaws.

The 2nd Vice President position has been eliminated. This decision was made to better reflect the current make up of the organization and lessen our budget constraints.

Changes will be made to the Bylaws to reflect the above changes. Also the Guidelines, Policies and Procedures will be updated and posted to the website.

Of immediate concern is the establishment of the Convention Planning Committee. This committee will serve an integral and very important role in planning future conventions. If you are interested in working in this committee or have suggestions, please reach out to me or Executive Director Mary Ruiz.

If I can be of any assistance now, or in the future please let me know.

President Iris Bohannon





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

In Memoriam

**“Duke” William J. Desmond
Chicago, IL**

**Daniel J. Pieschel
Union KY**

**A Life Well-Lived
Author unknown**

In each laugh shared and every old tale.
We cherish these moments where love could prevail.
Through trials and triumphs, their story shines.
A life well-lived leaves lasting designs.

Though they may depart, their light remains bright in the hearts of the loved.
With gratitude tender, we honor their grace, for life’s vibrant journey finds its
own place.



Timothy Greene
Union, NJ

Rita Adam
Roanoke, VA

Brian Siemons
Loveland, OH

Chris Seymour
Grand Terrace, CA



NEWS FROM REGION 9



About 30 retirees from the Los Angeles District getting together for the annual LEOSA shoot at Firearms Training Associates in Norco, Ca. We call it the Frank Fotinatos Shoot in honor of Frank. He assisted FTA and set up the first qualification. Frank passed away several years ago

A STORY WORTH RE-TELLING: This interview was included in the AFSA / IRS Newsletter Vol. VI, No. 2, Summer 1994

An Interview with Frank W. Lohn
by Joan Brazzale-Lohn, Special Agent
December 29, 1993

The most interesting interview I've ever conducted occurred due to my interest in genealogy. Through it, I found Frank W. Lohn who was born in 1898, became a Special Agent in the Intelligence Unit in 1927 and its Director in 1952. He graciously agreed to talk to me at his home in Texas, although I can find no family connection between us. Many words describing Mr. Lohn came to mind while we talked. Self-reliant was one such word. There was no school of instruction to train him in procedures when he began as a Special Agent. Often, there

wasn't even anybody to tell him how to do it, since "it" had never been done before. He got on the job training about what worked and what didn't. Ethical was another such word. He lived the word before there was an I.R.S. definition of it.

Before beginning his career with the Internal Revenue Service, he served in the Army, enlisting shortly after World War I began. While in San Diego, he applied to the Army training school for which he met all the qualifications but age, which he therefore exaggerated on his application. After six weeks, the Commander called him in, gave him a "real going over," and I said, "don't ever lie to Uncle Sam again!" He followed that advice from then on.

After the war, Frank Lohn taught school and was the principal of two country schools for four years. He took the Civil Service examination in Abilene, Texas and was hired as a Special Agent assigned to Memphis, Tennessee in 1927. Mr. Lohn said he never asked for a promotion or a raise, but they came right along. He said he wasn't better qualified than others. Instead, he made it a point to get help from people who knew more about certain phases of the assignment than he did. He said that they "made me look good." Thirty-five years after retirement, he said he wasn't free to tell many things about his work in the I.R.S. He said he would tell us about cases that went to court because "Anything that went through the courts is public information."

Most assignments were criminal investigations of income tax violations or complaints against employees of the I.R.S. Mr. Lohn received a few assignments from the Secretary of the Treasury himself. He worked in every state except New Hampshire. His wife came with him a few times when he traveled, particularly if he got an assignment that would last several weeks. One of his first assignments was in Chicago. He listened in on tapped telephones making notes, first in the back of a mortuary and sometime later in an office building. He became convinced that the case related to a Chicago city official. After several weeks a man broke down the door and wanted to know what Mr. Lohn was doing. Mr. Lohn told him he thought he was listening for information on a big divorce case, whereupon this man told him to get out. Mr. Lohn contacted the agent who had been picking up his notes and told him what had happened. He was told to "Get the Hell out of Chicago!" He found out later that the real "job" had been Al Capone.

Another of his assignments was to investigate a complaint made by an official of the University of Texas against a prohibition agent. This official said that students could get all the booze they wanted from a bootlegger in Austin. Mr. Lohn decided to contact a Captain Hammer of the Texas Rangers to find out if he had heard or had any knowledge about these complaints. Captain Hammer had a reputation for being absolutely honest and trustworthy. The Captain listened to Mr. Lohn without saying much until he was through. He then said he would make some inquiries and that Mr. Lohn should come back in a couple of days. When Mr. Lohn returned and asked the Captain if he learned anything about the prohibition agent, the Captain said, "Hell, I wasn't checking him, I was checking you!" The Captain's stepdaughter, her husband, and a young female neighbor of the Captain's drove with Frank Lohn to the bootlegger's one night. He, dressed as a student and wearing dark glasses and seated next to the young female in the rumble seat, wanted to see if he could buy "some booze." He did and the next day got a search warrant with which the Rangers raided the

bootlegger that same night. Two days later, Frank Lohn contacted the bootlegger and told him the Federal Government was taking over criminal prosecution. The bootlegger didn't recognize him and implied he wanted "help" and asked the whereabouts of the prohibition agent. Later, he attempted to bribe Mr. Lohn by placing twenty \$20 gold pieces in his pocket at which time he was arrested. When the bootlegger entered his plea of guilty in court, the judge asked if Mr. Lohn had done anything to lead the bootlegger to believe he was going to accept the money. The bootlegger said, "Judge, he did everything but spit in my face."

His first management position with the Intelligence Unit occurred sometime before World War II. His boss was called to Washington on a special extended assignment and Mr. Lohn was left as Assistant Special Agent In Charge of Dallas, Texas. Shortly after, there were some rumors concerning the activities of the President of Louisiana State University. Frank Lohn had several agents helping him and they found that the subject had used two million dollars of Louisiana State University bonds to purchase wheat futures. Sometime after that, Mr. Lohn discovered that the bonds were counterfeit and the President of L.S.U. headed for Canada. It seems that people in some important State government service positions in Louisiana were involved and "the thing just spread all over." It became called "The 2nd Louisiana Purchase." Mr. Irey, then Chief of the Intelligence Unit, asked Frank Lohn to write a general report tying everything together. He did and Mr. Irey included it in a book he wrote.

His next assignment was as Special Agent In Charge of Seattle, Washington where "We had to sack up the head man of the Teamsters Union." He was in Seattle for about a year and was there when World War II began.

For the next ten years he was Special Agent In Charge of Kansas City. While there, he sometimes needed stenographic help in the field. He had a very good clerical employee appointed as a Special Agent and believes she may have been the first "lady" Special Agent. He was assigned to investigate a complaint made by a Federal Judge that a Collector of Internal Revenue was stealing tax money. Mr. Lohn interviewed the judge and asked him for further information about his allegation. The judge said told Mr. Lohn that, "If you're as smart as you're supposed to be, you'll find it." Mr. Lohn brought with him two agents qualified as C.P.A.s, and other agents to perform a complete audit of the office and found that the Collector hadn't taken a dime. The judge accused Mr. Lohn of whitewashing the investigation and impaneled a Grand Jury, but nothing came of it.

While serving in Kansas City, Mr. Lohn was called to Washington by the Commissioner who told him that there was a reorganization "in the air," there would be many changes. He wanted Mr. Lohn to come to Washington as Chief of the Intelligence Unit. Mr. Lohn didn't want the job since Mr. Woolf, the Chief at that time, was one of his best friends and "one of the most decent people I ever worked with or under." He didn't want to take his job. Mr. Lohn was eligible to retire and told the Commissioner he was going to do so upon which the Commissioner asked him to think about it overnight. He then went to Mr. Woolf's office where together they decided that Mr. Woolf would continue as he had been. Mr. Lohn would be "sort of an Acting Chief" and would finish several things in which he was then involved, along with working on the reorganization. Harold Woolf continued to actually "run the outfit" until the reorganization when he retired.

Until the reorganization, the political party in power appointed the Collectors of the Internal Revenue. Most of them were decent, good men, but a few were not. After the reorganization, all collectors became Civil Service employees. There were plans for 12 districts originally, but the politicians got in and enlarged it to 17. The Secretary of the Treasury formed a committee, of which Frank Lohn was a member, to check the background and qualifications of each division head. The Secretary of the Treasury instructed the committee to skip Denver and the committee thought the politicians were getting in again. When they completed their report, the Secretary turned and said, "Lohn, you're going to be the new District Commissioner of Denver." Mr. Lohn said you could have "knocked me down. I was so happy to get out of Washington! My wife was so happy to get out of Washington!" He remained in Denver for about a year when all the District Commissioners were called to Washington and told there was another reorganization taking place. The number of districts was reduced to nine and instead of Districts, they would be called Regions. Frank Lohn became the new Regional Commissioner in charge of Omaha. He was told to get to Omaha the next Monday and open up. Sometime just before that, a big airbase had opened up and there wasn't any office space available. There was plenty of office space down in Kansas City where the government owned a 29-story office building. So Mr. Lohn suggested that they go down to Kansas City. Washington informed him that it had to be Omaha. If necessary, he was told, they would condemn one of the best office buildings in Omaha, kick the people out and take over their space. He told them he would not have anything to do with that because "we don't have to." So they finally settled on 2 1/2 floors of a hotel in which they had to work while walls were being torn out and the space was remodeled.

The Federal judge at Fort Worth asked him to immediately investigate the West Texas murder of a narcotic agent by a West Texas sheriff. Mr. Lohn declined, telling him it was a case for the F.B.I. He felt the F.B.I. didn't want to do it because they got much of their information from sheriffs, and in this case a sheriff was involved. Thirty minutes later Mr. Lohn got a telegram from his boss telling him to proceed with the investigation, which took about three months including the trial. Four or five months after it was over, the Comptroller General ruled that there were no funds available in the appropriation "Collecting the Internal Revenue" to pay an Internal Revenue agent to do an F.B.I. job. They started taking \$50 a month out of his salary. After four or five payments had been made, a very kindly congressman from Dallas sponsored a bill for "The Relief of Frank W. Lohn" which provided that the money taken would be repaid to Mr. Lohn and the balance would be forgiven. It passed. Frank W. Lohn retired in approximately 1958 and moved back to Texas where he's surrounded by friends and family. They know what a gem they have.