

# CHICAGO FINANCE exchange

Chicago's Premier Network for Senior Women in Finance

Edition 2 ~ March 2011

*A Message from the President...*

## CFE: STEPPING UP IN 2011



*From Chicago Finance Exchange  
President, Christine Edwards*

Greetings, everyone! With all the wintery weather in Chicago, I am sure you look forward to Spring as much as I do. But in the meantime, CFE members and committees are not standing still but have instead been doing great things and offering many activities to help carry out our theme this year of "STEPPING UP".

For example, CFE members **Kelly Grier** and **Dorri McWhorter** are being recognized for their "Stepping Up" leadership. Kelly is being recognized at this year's ADL "Women of Achievement" dinner. A tradition of recognition for over 18 years, ADL recognizes incredible women leaders. We are so proud that this year one of CFE's Board Members is being honored for all she has stepped up to do in her career and civic activities. And, Dorri was honored January 27, 2011 at the 2010 ATHENA Leadership Awards Luncheon. Dorri was presented with the ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award. Also a CFE Board Member, we are so proud. Congratulations, Kelly and Dorri!

It is also extremely gratifying when CFE Board members are recognized in national publications for their "stepping up" trail blazing. CFE Board Member **Eileen Kamerick** was featured in an article appearing in the March 2011 edition of US Banker entitled, "Women on Board". The article discusses the rather low percentage of women on the boards of all public companies in the US, but particularly on bank boards, and describes how other countries are tackling the problem head on with mandates for boards to add women directors. Eileen, a director of Associated Banc-Corp of Green Bay, Wisconsin, says the SEC's new rule and other recent reforms will help advance the cause. "The fact that you need someone who is a financial expert and can follow a five hour auditing committee report means you have to cast a broader net for directors. That gives women more opportunities." Keep it up, Eileen!

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Thursday, March 10 Board Access Workshop**

*Prior to Dinner Meeting*  
**"You are a Potential Board  
Candidate: Preparing for the  
Interview"**

The Standard Club  
320 S. Plymouth Court  
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
RSVP to: [admin@  
chicagofinanceexchange.org](mailto:admin@chicagofinanceexchange.org)

#### **Thursday, March 10 Dinner Meeting**

**"Evolution of the Role  
of the General Counsel in  
Corporate America"**

Speaker: Anastasia Kelly,  
Partner DLA Piper  
The Standard Club  
320 S. Plymouth Court  
5:30 p.m.; RSVP to:  
[admin@chicagofinanceexchange.org](mailto:admin@chicagofinanceexchange.org)

#### **Monday, April 11**

Board of Directors Meeting

#### **Wednesday, April 27 Book Club**

Details to be announced

#### **Thursday, May 12 Dinner Meeting**

**"Public vs Private Equity CFO  
Roles & Responsibilities"**

Speaker: Ann Ziegler  
Senior VP & CFO  
CDW Corporation  
The Standard Club  
320 S. Plymouth Court  
5:30 p.m.

CFE's **Board Access Committee** has continued to focus on helping our members understand what it means to be a good board member and how to know whether you are ready for the task. The Committee held a Workshop to help participants consider their "board readiness" and to rewrite their resumes to be suitable for Board Qualifications—as distinguished from Job Qualifications.

The **Program Committee** has really stepped up their game with an incredible line up of speakers for our events this year. We begin on March 10<sup>th</sup> with a nationally recognized speaker, Stacia Kelly, who no doubt will recount her experiences as a leader in various corporate roles—including as Chief Legal Officer of AIG--during very trying times. Stepping up takes all shapes and forms which Stacia will address in her remarks to CFE.

And, lastly, we began a new tradition this year. Each new CFE member will be invited to meet the CFE Board members in a casual

Reception before our Board meetings begin. Our Board members are excited about being able to greet each of our new members and share with them why CFE has been so special to them! So let's keep our Board busy with new members this year!

Thanks for all you do for the Chicago Finance Exchange!

*Chris Edwards*

## New Member Spotlight

*The CFE Board of Directors is pleased to welcome the following new members to the organization*

**Laurel Bellows** is principal of The Bellows Law Group, P.C., she represents executives in the United States and internationally. Laurel is an experienced business lawyer counseling senior executives and corporations on employment matters, employment and severance agreements, executive compensation and workplace disputes. Her expertise in executive compensation matters also includes mid-level management compensation and benefit plans and matters involving incentives, pension, retirement and workforce restructuring. Laurel is currently unopposed to be nominated as President-elect of the America Bar Association. She is highly regarded for her many contributions to the Chicago and National Community. Laurel is admitted and qualified as an Attorney and Counselor of the Supreme Court of the United States. She received her law degree from Loyola University, School of Law J.D., and went to University of Pennsylvania as an undergrad.

**Jan Promer** joined the Adler Planetarium in March 2010 as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, after serving for six years as Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for finance at The Erikson Institute in Chicago. Both the Adler and Erikson are non-profits that focus on academics, research and education. Prior to Erikson, Jan spent twenty years at Amoco Corporation in various roles. She has also served as controller/chief administrative officer at the Great Books Foundation and as chief financial officer and board member of Success Lab, Inc. in Chicago. Ms. Promer holds a BA in Chemistry from Northwestern University and an MBA from the Wharton School of The University of Pennsylvania.

**Valentine Yien** is currently the Vice President and Treasurer at Abbott Laboratories where she is leading initiatives to modernize and update the treasury function. Prior to Abbot, she was the Corporate Vice President Finance for Hospira Inc. She was a key member of the financial team that negotiated the framework for the financial transition from Abbott Laboratories and was responsible for all financial aspects of the company except for tax, treasury and audit during the spin-off. Ms. Valentine received her BS from Nebraska Wesleyan University and her MBA from Northwestern University.

# Member News

**Chris Edwards** was quoted in a February 4 article of *Mortgage Finance* regarding the challenges faced by the new Federal agency—the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—and Special Adviser to the President, Elizabeth Warren in drafting new, clearer and understandable mortgage disclosures. Edwards is a frequent speaker and author on developments and rule writing stemming from the passage of the historic Dodd Frank legislation.

**Roselyn Friedman** is pleased to announce the expansion of Roselyn Friedman Mediation Services ([www.rfmediation.com](http://www.rfmediation.com)). Roselyn has practiced law concentrating on trusts, estates, and family businesses for many years. In 1998 she also began a mediation practice to help parties resolve disputes related to those same areas, and since then has had extensive mediation training and experience. During the past year Roselyn has taken additional advanced trainings for "elder decision-making" which is included among her services. Sometimes called "elder mediation", this important work helps families to have constructive conversations about the difficult issues facing senior family members, and to find creative options to address these.

**Sara Hays** has been asked to chair the Board search committee to replace the CEO of Apogee Enterprises, Inc., the NASDAQ-listed public company where she serves on the Board, as the current CEO will be retiring at the end of the fiscal year.

**Cyndi Lafuente** recently left her position with Congress and joined the IRS as the Senior Advisor to the Deputy Commissioner (International) of the Large Business & International Division (LB&I). LB&I is the enforcement arm of Treasury, and my section of the Division handles international enforcement. This includes the U.S. Competent Authority, which resolves disputes under the "mutual agreement procedures" of double tax treaties. In this role, she has a leadership role in developing new training and knowledge management programs, as well as other tools for international examiners. Cyndi also has a hands-on role in the UTP program, which is the new

disclosure program for uncertain tax positions based on financial reporting disclosures under FIN 48. She still lives in Wilmette and works full time in DC, so call her for dinner if you happen to be in DC for business!

**Dorri McWhorter** was honored January 27, 2011 at the 2010 ATHENA Leadership Awards Luncheon. Dorri was presented with the ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award.

**Mary Noonan** was invited to join the Board of Trustees of Delta Dental of Colorado in January of this year and will also serve on the Audit, Investment & Finance and the Governance Committees. Mary moved to Denver in the fall of 2008 and adds the Delta Dental Board responsibilities to her service on the Human Services Advisory Committee of The Denver Foundation and the Board of Trustees of Warren Village.

**Karin O'Connor** participated in Hyde Park Angels' recent investment in IT security management software company HoneyApps. HoneyApps' solutions track and manage vulnerabilities detected by a wide variety of third party applications and are gaining strong traction among its enterprise clients. The company, founded by former Orbitz of Information Security Ed Bellis, raised \$1 MM in the round, which was led by Tugboat Ventures of San Francisco. This is Karin's fifth investment with the group.

**Leanne Ono** currently VP – Tax at Illinois Tool Works will assume the new position of VP, Tax & Treasury.