

CHICAGO Finance Exchange

Chicago's Premier Network for Senior Women in Finance

Edition 5 ~ September 2011

A Message from the President...



CFE: Stepping up in 2011

CFE Members! I have a big smile on my face as I sit down to write my President's Message. In one of our boldest "**Stepping Up**" moves, Chicago Finance Exchange launched its new Website! And the reason for my smile has everything to do with the diligence and efforts of our Members, our Board and our Administrative Staff to make the launch as seamless as possible. After the first test of the website, your Board of Directors and the Committees of CFE reviewed the test site, came up with over 100 comments and modifications, and nearly all of those changes have been completed. We will continue to refine and adjust the site based on our needs. That's a wonderful position for us.

Another reason for my smile? I just signed up for the CFE September dinner event—and several others for the rest of the year—using our *online reservation system*. It is so easy! If you haven't been to the website, please visit. By the way, if you see things that should be corrected, or made better, please send your suggestions to me or Chris Glatz.

Here are some **comments** we received **from our Members** just after the launch:

Congrats, Chris, on the launch of the new website! Looks fabulous. I'm sure you'll find some glitches, but at least you're a go!

Good luck with everything, and congratulations to you and the team!

I had to use it last night to send out an email and found it quite nice to navigate!

Chris & Team - the new website looks fantastic! Thank you!

Our **July Social** was a wonderful event; judging by the tremendous attendance and the noise level of the room, we really needed to reconnect and network with one another! Our Membership Committee also took advantage of the occasion to schedule an early reception with our new members, their sponsors and our Board members to visit with our newest Members and forge a connection with them—so they can get immediate benefits of CFE Membership. We had over 24 new members, sponsors and Board members come early to the July Social to visit with one another.

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Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 15 Dinner Event

"The White House Project"
Speaker: Cheryle Jackson
The Standard Club
320 S. Plymouth Court
5:30 p.m. ~ [RSVP](#)

Tuesday, September 20 Networking Lunch N Learn

"Why Women Don't Close the Deal"
Valorem Law Group LLC
35 E. Wacker Drive
29th Floor
11:45 a.m. ~ [RSVP](#)

Thursday, October 13 YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Leader Luncheon

Swissôtel Chicago
323 East Wacker Drive
12:00 p.m. ~ [RSVP](#)
(See related article on page 2)

Friday, October 14 Networking Lunch N Learn

Marsh Private Client Offices
500 W. Monroe
11:30 a.m. ~ [RSVP](#)

Tuesday, October 25 Lunch N Learn

Tour of Sipi Metals
Elston Ave.
11:30 a.m. ~ [RSVP](#)

September 15th is the date for our next Dinner Program. Cheryle Jackson, who is Vice President, Government Affairs and Corporate Development for AAR Corp., a leading provider of products and services to the commercial aerospace and defense industries, will talk about "Stepping Up—Women in Politics: **The White House Project**". If you have never heard of this project, you really should come and bring a friend. The Project is all about empowering women to take on Leadership roles of all sorts...even the White House. I am so pleased we will have this as our topic since the White

House Project closely aligns with CFE's Board of Directors' initiative, women in leadership positions.

Our **Fall schedule** is quite full with interesting events from the Board Access Committee, Member to Member and others. I look forward to seeing all of you at those events.

Chris Edwards
CFE President

JOIN YOUR FELLOW CFE MEMBERS FOR LUNCH AT THE HYATT REGENCY ON OCTOBER 13TH AT THE CFE TABLE!

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Leader Luncheon is one of the largest events celebrating the empowerment of women in the entire Midwest. The luncheon is a very public opportunity to honor some of the most accomplished and dynamic leaders in Chicago. The 39th Annual Outstanding Achievement Award honorees are:

Business: **Patricia Hemmingway Hall**, President & CEO, Health Care Service Corp.

Arts & Culture – **Jackie Taylor**, Founding Executive Director of the Black Ensemble Theater

Communications: **Dolores Kunda**, President and CEO of Lapiz, a premier Hispanic marketing communications company

Promise: **Lindsay Avner**, Founder of Bright Pink, an organization that provides education and support for women with /high risk for breast & ovarian cancer

Racial Justice: **Gloria Castello**, President of Chicago United

Recognizing the importance CFE places on women in the workplace, we urge you to support the YWCA by attending this event. Not only is Leader Luncheon an occasion to celebrate the accomplishments of working women in Chicago, it is also an important part of the YWCA's mission to economically empower women. By making attending and/or making a gift to the YWCA, you contribute to that mission.

You can be confident that the YWCA will make good use of your donation. **Eighty-five cents of every dollar of your contribution directly provides women and girls with the opportunity to become economically self-sufficient, stabilize their families, and contribute to their communities.** Sponsorship of the Leader Luncheon supports the YWCA's many innovative initiatives from the Economic Empowerment program to the Center for Racial Justice and Activism. By making a gift to the YWCA, you distinguish yourself as a committed leader and partner in our efforts.

For several years CFE has supported this event as a part of our philanthropic outreach by placing members together at a table. If you would like to attend and sit at the "**CFE member table**" register on line ([CLICK HERE](#)) and indicate in your reservation that you'd like to be seated at our table. We hope you will join us in attending or contributing to this event.

YWCA CFE Circle of Friends Members for 2011

Dorothy Bossung	Deborah Stevens	JoAnn Lilek	Dorri McWhorter
Emilia DiMenco	Kim Rice	Teresa McMahon	Catherine Kelly
Lynn Rosinsky	Donna Smith		

Member News

Laurel Bellows was elected President Elect at the American Bar Association's (ABA) annual meeting on August 9th. Laurel will ultimately take office as President of the (ABA) in Chicago August 2012. Laurel is the first officer of the ABA from Illinois since 1975.

Kate Bensen has been elected to the Board of the Hyde Park Alliance for Arts and Culture (HyPa), a nonprofit dedicated to promoting Chicago's mid-South Side (the "Culture Coast") as one of Chicago's premier cultural destinations.

Chris Edwards is featured in the book, "Courageous Counsel Conversations with Women General Counsel in the Fortune 500". The book will be released this month.

Lydia Fisher, Founder and President of Galyda Media, continues to blog weekly for *Huffington Post* and her blogs are often featured on the *Huffington Post Front Page*. Her articles have appeared on *Forbes.com*. Lydia is now a repeat guest on *Relevant Radio* speaking about current financial issues and the economy."

Kate Gaynor has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Central Zone Leader of the Private Client Services practice, responsible for our business in the Midwest as well as states in the Central South U.S. Kate has been with Marsh since 2007 directing the consultative personal insurance services we provide to our clients in the Midwest. Kate has a strong background in personal insurance and financial services and is very active philanthropically. For more about Kate's experience, please see the enclosed biography.

Ginger Gorden received the award for Finance Executive of the Year at the Golden Bridge Awards hosted in New York on August 10, 2011.

Maria Henry is pleased to inform the group that she was appointed Chief Financial Officer of Sara Lee's North American operations, effective July 18, 2011. She will serve as the chief financial officer for Sara Lee after the spin-off of the International Coffee and Tea business is complete in spring 2012.

Michelle Moreno is pleased to share that her firm was recently retained in the sale of a private company that provides technologies and database solutions for the recovery of property. Separately, Michelle has been named to the Board of the Economics Development Council for the Department of Economics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign campus. In

addition, the CFA Society of Chicago is developing a local program to work with area universities to enter the Global Investment Research Challenge for public security analysis and has asked Michelle to co-chair the committee. Your interest in any of these activities is most welcome and Michelle can be reached at 312/258-7194.

Jo Jackson's firm is proud to announce that for the fifth consecutive year, Chicago-based Integrated Project Management Company Inc. (IPM) has been named on the annual *Inc. 5000* list of fastest-growing private companies in America. IPM is a project management consulting firm that serves the life sciences, ag science and nutrition, healthcare, consumer goods and industrial sectors. These honors have covered the years 2006 through 2010.

Additionally, in support of its Mission & Beliefs and culture, IPM has created the IPM Leadership Education Grant. This Grant will be awarded to a high school teacher from the Chicago Public Schools who demonstrates outstanding leadership, honesty, and integrity, and presents a plan that will instill these traits in his/her students. The purpose of the Grant is to provide funds for a classroom teacher who has an innovative, meritorious idea that will advance leadership, citizenship, and service. A qualifying project would make creative use of teaching aids or activities and approach the subject matter from an imaginative angle. The applicant must be a grade 9-12 certified teacher working at a Chicago school. The Grant amount will be \$5,000. Additional information about the grant can be found at www.ipmcinc.com/educational_grant

JoAnn Lilek recently joined the Board of Directors at Midwest Bank, a subsidiary of Chicago-based Wintrust Financial.

Chris Rashid Chris Rashid is pleased to announce that one of her portfolio companies has been appointed to offer a unique reverse auction tool that can significantly lower annual Life and Disability Insurance costs for large companies. The reverse auction process has been in existence for nearly a decade, but until just recently, no one has been able to harness the technology in the insurance world. The tool creates a competitive bidding process with the country's largest Life and Disability carriers and with very little friction or time sink. It also provides companies with typical savings of 15% to 30%. A company's CFO and/or HR Director obtain online access to the process as the carriers compete and lower bids over a defined period.

New Member Spotlight

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

Cheryl Duffy-Geiger is a results oriented finance executive with extensive global experience, having worked and lived in Europe, Asia Pacific and American geographies. A proven business partner, who through strategic insights and execution has enabled and delivered bottom line, P/L shape improvements and working capital reductions. Cheryl is currently the Vice President of Finance North America for Wrigley North America. She received her Bachelor of Business from the University of Technology in Sydney. She also has her CPA.

Pam Smith is the Finance Vice President-Corporate Planning and Analysis for Sara Lee. She is a visionary leader with integrity, passion for winning and the ability to build high-performance work teams and offers 20+ years of successful financial management specializing in strategic and financial planning. Pam received her Bachelor's degree from McIntire School of Commerce, University of Virginia.

CFE Member Nominations Process Streamlined!

Sponsor a New Member Today

The Membership Committee encourages everyone to consider sponsoring an executive-level colleague in a finance-related position for CFE membership. New members are an important part of any organization's lifeblood, and we welcome qualified candidates to contribute to CFE's vibrancy.

Good news, the nominations process has been streamlined:

1. The Prequalification and Nomination forms have been combined and include step-by-step instructions for sponsors regarding the nomination process.
2. The combined form means you only have one document to complete instead of the separate Prequalification and Nomination forms that previously existed.
3. Only one seconding letter is needed when the sponsor, candidate and seconding individual are all from different organizations.

For more details on membership qualifications and to access the new Prequalification/Nomination Form, please visit our website at www.chicagofinanceexchange.org.

If you have any questions on the process, please feel free to contact Kate Bowers in the [CFE office](#) or one of the Committee's Co-Chairs, [Lynn McHugh](#) and [Donna Moore](#).

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Be sure to visit our new website!



www.chicagofinanceexchange.org

Should you experience any problems navigating the site or logging in to the member-only areas, please contact the [CFE office](#) or call 815-464-0105