

Austin Area Chapter Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

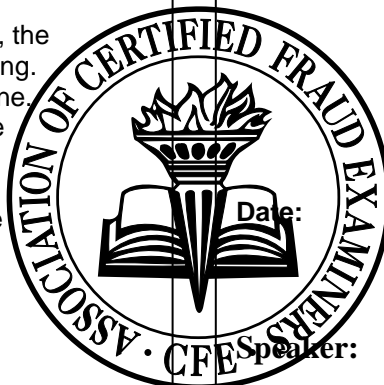
President's Corner

Shari Daffern, CFE, CIA, CPA

We've been having great turnouts for our luncheon meetings this fall. Hope you have been enjoying our topics.

The Board would like to assure our members that our Chapter funds have proper oversight. Linda Newsom, one of our members, audited the records for Fiscal Year 2006-2007. She indicated that the accounts appear to be properly maintained. Since we are Certified Fraud Examiners, the Board wanted to demonstrate that we are practicing due diligence.

Our fall seminar is planned for December 3rd, the day of our regular scheduled luncheon meeting. It will be held in the front room of Nueva Leone. The details of the topics and speakers will be sent to you soon. Because of the location, the seminar will be starting later in the day than in the past. We will offer 6 hours for the whole day or one hour for the luncheon only. Details will also be on the web site soon.



Chapter Meeting Schedule

Time: 12:00 to 12:50 p.m.
Lunch served promptly at 11:45 a.m.

Location: Nuevo Leon Restaurant
1501 East, 6th Street

Cost: \$11.00 – Chapter Member
\$13.00 – Non-Chapter Member

This Month's Meeting

November 5, 2007

Speaker: Grahame Jones, Major
Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
Internal Affairs Unit

Topic: Homeland Security

register on line: www.austinacfe.com
or
call 512/389-4813

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What You Missed

Mike Garner, CFE, CIA

If you were not able to attend the October 1, 2007 chapter meeting, you missed a presentation on the Role of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) in Complex Criminal Investigations by Cpt. Forrest Mitchell, Supervising Criminal Investigator, Special Investigations Unit, OAG and Sgt. Paul Aleman, Investigator, Criminal Investigations Division, Cyber Crimes Unit.

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) was started with a grand from the Governor's Criminal Justice Division. Cpt. Mitchell supervises ten investigators and they investigate a variety of white color crimes including election code violations. Through training they help police departments, sheriff's offices, and district and county attorneys successfully identify, investigate and prosecute various types of voter fraud offenses. Investigating voter fraud allegations is one of SIU's primary responsibilities

Cpt. Mitchell discussed the case of Debra M. Briseno, a former Port Lavaca Councilwoman who was sentenced to five years in prison for voter fraud during the March 2006 primary election. She was convicted of helping non-citizens to vote in the election.

Another voter fraud case in Starr count involved false addresses and the names of nonexistent Starr County voters were used to illegally obtain voter registration cards. The addresses that appeared on those cards were not actual voters' residences, but rather were vacant lots and condemned buildings.

Fraudulently obtained registration cards enabled the defendants to complete mail-in ballot applications, which instructed the Starr County elections office to send mail-in ballots to Hidalgo County addresses, presumably where the "voters" would be present during the March 2006 Starr County Democratic primary election. The four defendants picked up the ballots at the Hidalgo County addresses. The ballots were then filled out and mailed them to the Starr County elections office.

During the March 2006 primary election, Starr County Elections Administrator noticed a large number of irregularities with both voter registration applications and applications for mail-in ballots with Hidalgo County destinations. Many of these "voters" provided abandoned properties and vacant lots as their primary residences in Starr County. While canvassing the ballots, the administrator also detected that one of the defendants cast two votes, one in each of two polling locations. The

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AUSTIN AREA CHAPTER OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINERS
PO Box 13462, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FISCAL YEAR 2006

Shari Daffern, President
Texas Water Development Board
shari.daffern@twdb.state.tx.us
512 463-7978

Andrew Prough, Vice-President
Medical Fraud Reviews LLC
andyprough@austin.rr.com
512 262-8760

David Heater, Treasurer
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
david.heater@tpwd.state.tx.us
512 389-4813

Mike Garner, Secretary
Adjutant General's Department
Mike.D.Garner@tx.ngb.army.mil
512 782-5640

Tracy Bohmer, Director
Health & Human Services Commission
tracy@tracybohmercpa.com
512 303-3880

Marci Sundbeck, Director
Employees Retirement System
marci.sundbeck@ers.state.tx.us
512 867-7302

Glyn Rogers, Director
Office of the City Auditor
glyn.rogers@ci.austin.tx.us
512 974-2081

Patty Vela, Newsletter
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
patricia.vela@tpwd.state.tx.us
512 389-4458

administrator subsequently referred the matter to the Secretary of State, who certified a complaint to the Office of the Attorney General.

Sgt. Aleman discussed the mission of the Cyber Crimes Unit which is to provide a safe electronic environment for the communication of information and ideas, and for the transaction of commerce. The Office of the Attorney General is committed to protecting the Internet for children and families, as a safe place to learn and shop. The Cyber Crimes Unit brings together police officers and prosecutors with expertise in investigating and prosecuting high-tech crimes. They investigate and help prosecute predator cases, child pornography, children's privacy, and breach of computer security.

Sgt. Alman provided a few statistics. They have investigated 85 child pornography cases and received 70 convictions; they investigated 95 predator cases and received 75 convictions; and the fugitive unit has arrested 363 child sex offenders and parole violators since 2003. There are 563,000 registered sex offenders in the nation and the use of the internet is the faster growing criminal method for these offenders. Be vigilant about protecting your privacy; don't talk to strangers; don't volunteer your name, phone number, user ID, or computer address; and communicate with your children so they know how to avoid risks.

Speaker's Biography

Grahame Jones, Major

Grahame Jones graduated from Stephen F. State University in 1992 with a Bachelor in Criminal Justice. The following year, in 1993, he graduated from the Texas Game Warden Academy. Since then he's obtained certification as a Peace Officer, Certified Fraud Examiner, and most recently this past March, graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA.

Presently, Grahame supervises the Internal Affairs Unit at Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. His unit investigates formal criminal and administrative cases involving allegations against TPWD employees. These allegations include; fraud, theft, false reports, conflicts of interest, physical assaults, tampering with evidence, sexual misconduct, bribery, and major TPWD policy violations.

Grahame lives here in Austin, Texas along with his wife, Julie and two daughters.

The Spotlight's On You!

A special feature focusing on members of the Austin Area Chapter of ACFEs



Tina Cannon has been a member of the Chapter
for the past 3 years.

But maybe you didn't know...

Job Description:

Director of Business Training

What I'm working on now:

I work with new business owners and assist them in setting up aspects of running a new franchised business

Best part of my job:

Working with new people that have a real fire in their bellies!

Ambition and/or Goals:

Work where I am inspired to go outside the lines

Years of State service:

Zero.

My first job:

Lifeguard! That was back when I HAD a figure!

Hobbies:

Golf, tennis, and yelling at my TV during Red Sox games

Favorite Movie:

Arthur

Last book I Read:

Echo Park

Favorite foods:

Well we are in Texas...Mexican food of course!

Favorite Restaurants:

Enchiladas Y Mas

My pet(s):

Cutest dog in the world and two cats.

It's a good day when:

I can escape early and get 9 holes in the afternoon

Pet Peeves:

People who are late

What I would do with a surprise afternoon off:

Look for me on the links

I'm most proud of:

My kids

Most people probably don't realize: I am a huge fan of America's Funniest Videos! I even set my DVR! Great, now my secret is out! 😊