

# CHICAGO Finance Exchange

Chicago's Premier Network for Accomplished Women in Finance

Chicago Finance Exchange  
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Edition 3 ~ May 2012

*A Message from the President...*

## “Turn Up the Heat – One Degree More”



As I mentioned in the last newsletter, your board is “turning up the heat.” Committees are meeting and setting up a variety of interesting ways you can get more from your membership and build your network!

✓ The Program Committee brought you Barbara Gaines' presentation on Shakespeare's Home in Chicago on March 8 where members were able to learn more about the intersection of finance and the arts.

- ✓ Member-to-Member sponsored another successful evening of neighborhood dinners on April 26 with over 30 CFE colleagues attending at various locations in the Chicagoland area.
- ✓ The Board Access Committee is planning another great meeting on board service with an Advisory Board session coming up June 12.

The Membership Committee has been hard at work as well and we are excited to welcome four new members to CFE.

And, individual members continue to turn up the heat professionally!

- ✓ CFE board members **Chris Edwards** and **Eileen Kamerick** both served as panelists for Dominican University's Edward A. Brennan Forum on Corporate Governance panel on "The \$10 Million Question: A Discussion on Executive Compensation."
- ✓ **Kay McCurdy** will be on the Governance Update panel at the 31st Annual Conference on Not-For-Profit Organizations, ITT Chicago-Kent College of Law, on June 7, 2012.

So, why are you a member of CFE? Think back to when you joined the organization. When you pay the dues each year and make a decision to renew your membership. Why are you a part of this organization? For over 30 years CFE has provided networking opportunities, support and friendship for accomplished women in finance. As a group we have evolved and matured, and those same basic qualities still remain very much a part of the organization. When I moved to Chicago approximately 10 years ago I searched for an organization where I could share just those qualities with my peers. I was looking for a group of accomplished women like myself, who throughout their career more often than not found themselves to be the only woman in a room full of men.

## Upcoming Events

### Thursday, May 24

*“Pension Reform: Today's Challenges and Tomorrow's Success”*

**Speaker:** Stephanie D. Neely,  
Treasurer, City of Chicago

The Standard Club  
320 S. Plymouth Court  
5:15 – Networking  
5:50 – Program  
6:30 – Dinner

Register online by May 22

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### Wednesday, June 27

Lunch & Learn: Tour Chicago  
Public Media WBEZ 91.5 FM  
12:00 noon – 1:15 pm  
Space Limited—watch for more  
details.

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## Upcoming Dinner & Networking Programs

Be sure to mark your calendar.  
Note September's date has  
changed.

- May 24 (registration open)
- July 12 Summer Social
- September 27 (new date)
- November 8

(President's Message continued)

When Carla Eyre was kind enough to bring me to a CFE dinner and introduce me to the organization some years back I knew I finally found the one group in Chicago where I truly wanted to be a member. It felt right. It's more to me than a place to have dinner and hear an interesting speaker several times a year. Through this organization I've met some wonderful women. Women I can call on when I have a problem who listen and, as necessary, advise and for whom I do the same. I've found friends and business associates within a tightly knit community called Chicago. They are not people I work with, although I have with some. They are people I call friends, advisors/mentors and in some cases mentees. This year I lost one of those friends and I miss her very much. Cyndi LaFuente always had a smile on her face to greet me. I met Cyndi at my first dinner as a member of CFE. She told me that one of the things she loved about CFE was that "if a member calls, you always returned that call. CFE members are always there for one another." I do my best to call back within 24 hours anyone who calls. I make time for coffee to discuss job transitions with fellow members who are looking for new

opportunities and I try to connect them, when needed, to my network of non-CFE friends and associates. Ralph Waldo Emerson said it best, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations in life....we can never help another without helping ourselves." This is **"My CFE."** Sure it's dinner meetings, but it's so much more.

How much can just one more degree do for you and CFE in 2012? Increase your network by joining a committee this year. Not sure which committee might be the right fit? We've made it easy to check them out! A bit further in the newsletter you will see something about committees. Simply click on the committee title and it will take you to their area on the website so you can learn more.

With one more degree you can make 2012 a terrific year for yourself and you can maximize **"Your CFE."**

Sincerely,



Dorothy Bossung  
CFE President

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## Strengthen Your CFE Investment Today

Take your membership in the CFE to the next level and consider joining a committee. A small investment of time can pay dividends in the form of a stronger professional network and new friendships. The CFE has a wide variety of committees to participate on, including:

[Board Access](#) | [Membership Recruitment](#) | [Networking](#) | [Lunch N Learn](#) | [Philanthropy](#) | [Programs](#) | [Branding & Communications](#) | [Member-to-Member](#)

Click on the committee name to be taken to the committee website page where you can learn more, view current committee members, and contact a co-chair today.

## Membership Committee News

### 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. Visit the CFE website to see the membership guidelines and access the Prequalification-Nomination Form. If you have any questions on the process, please feel free to contact Kathy Tinker in the [CFE Administrative Office](#) or one of the Committee's Co-Chairs, [Lynn McHugh](#) and [Donna Moore](#).

### Know a Former Member Who Wants to Rejoin CFE?

If you know of a former member who would like to rejoin CFE, it is a very easy process. A simple one-page Reinstatement Form should be completed and submitted to the CFE Administrative office. This form is accessible to everyone by clicking on the Membership Tab at the top of the [CFE website](#).



## Keep Your CFE Profile Current

One of CFE's goals is to understand the professional composition of the association. To that end, we ask that you periodically check and update your profile. Our data is only as good as what members provide via their profile. If you would like personal assistance navigating the form, feel free to contact the [CFE Office](#). Thank you for your assistance with this ongoing Membership Committee initiative.

## Welcome New Chicago Finance Exchange Members

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



### **Janet Gibbs, CFO, Feeding America**

Janet Gibbs has been Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Feeding America since early 2009. Gibbs guides on a broad range of strategic, operational and financial issues, and also ensures the financial well-being of the organization via budgeting, accounting, financial reporting and treasury. Prior to joining Feeding America, Janet was CFO of the American Bar Association and Loyola University. Janet is a CPA and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Cincinnati.



### **Kathleen Hechinger, CAO and CFO, The Joffrey Ballet**

As a member of the executive management team of the world-renowned classical ballet company and dance company, Kathleen's focus includes strategic planning, development of financial and administrative policies, and improved internal controls. Prior to joining The Joffrey Ballet, Kathleen was CFO and Executive Vice President of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago where she had oversight of multiple departments and functions, including accounting, risk management, treasurer, government contracts and grants, and more. Kathleen is a CPA and holds a bachelor's in Accounting from Southern Illinois University.



### **Ann Simms, COO and CFO, American Planning Association (APA)**

As COO/CFO, Ann is responsible for budgeting and finance, as well as overseeing the accounting, membership, customer service and IT departments. Simms works closely with APA's Chief Executive Officer W. Paul Farmer, FAICP, on both strategic initiatives that support products and services and in providing support to the Board of Directors, APA's volunteer governance board. Ann has been COO/CFO of APA, a membership and education organization with more than 40,000 members in 85 countries, since March 2011. She came to APA with more than 35 years of experience in the corporate industry, 25 of those years at Motorola, a Fortune 500 global communications company. Ann is a Certified Public Accountant. She earned her MBA from the University of Chicago and her bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Kansas.



### **Diana Tsai, Partner, Dykema**

Diana is a member and Co-Leader of the Firm's Corporate Finance Practice Group. She represents a wide range of institutional and non-institutional lenders and is experienced in structuring, documenting, negotiating and closing secured and unsecured loan transactions, including asset-based and cash-flow financing. Ms. Tsai has considerable experience in representing both banks in single-lender loan transactions, as well as administrative agents and participating lenders in large multi-bank syndicated credit facilities. Diana holds a bachelor's from the University of Chicago and earned her J.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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## Member News

Are you up to date with your colleagues? Check out what they've been up to and be sure to congratulate them!



We shared back in December that **Christine Edwards** was awarded the Mary Ann Hynes Pioneer Award by InsideCounsel magazine, the leading monthly business publication for general counsel and in-house legal executives. The award presentation was held April 24. The Hynes Award honors the recipient for transforming the status quo and being a catalyst for change by advancing the cause of women in law. When she was promoted to executive vice president and general counsel of Dean Witter in 1990, Edwards became the first female general counsel on Wall Street. Chris was quoted, "There are so many other pioneers in this room, and we need to help them." Congratulations Chris.

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**Kay McCurdy** is pleased to share with members that she will be participating in the Governance Update panel at the 31st Annual Conference on Not-For-Profit Organizations, ITT Chicago-Kent College of Law, June 7, 2012. This is an excellent annual seminar on nonprofit issues which is reasonably priced (\$215 before May 17) and is very helpful to NFP executives, lawyers and accountants. There are both CLE and CPE credits available. [View the event program.](#)

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Congratulations to **Cathy Jaros** who has accepted a position as Managing Partner with First Chicago Advisors, Inc.

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### In Memoriam

It was with great sadness that we announced the passing of CFE member, **Cyndi Lafuente**. Cyndi had been a member of CFE since 2003, and was currently working in Washington D.C. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made to CFE. If you would like to donate, visit the CFE home page to access the online form.

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**Cindy Baier**, Executive Vice President, CFO & CAO with Central Parking, is pleased to announce that Central Parking has signed a definitive Agreement and Plan of Merger with Standard Parking Corporation (NASDAQ:STAN). When completed, the combined company will have over 25,000 employees and will manage over 4,400 facilities comprised of more than two million parking spaces throughout North America. [Read the full press release.](#)

**Member news is posted onto the website as it is received.  
Visit the Member News page anytime for the most current news.**

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## Stature & Visibility Committee Changes Its Name

At its March committee meeting, the Stature & Visibility Committee discussed and approved changing its name to **Branding and Communications**. It was decided the new name provides a better description of the committee's objectives. The committee also updated its mission statement:

*"The Branding and Communication Committee's objective is to provide value to the membership by raising the visibility of the CFE brand and the individual members. The Committee will promote brand identification and ensure communications are in alignment."*

## Save the Date—July 12 2012 Summer Social

### Quartino Ristorante & Wine Bar



Quartino is a bustling downtown Chicago restaurant and wine bar noted for its distinctive Italian small-plates menu, vintage decor, and attentive, personable service staff. Join us July 12 (members only) for summer networking and socializing with fellow CFE colleagues. Watch for more information.

## Event Reminder

Your membership dues covers the cost of your dinner programs. Guests are \$75 per person for dinner programs and must be paid no later than the day of the event. **Help us control costs—if your schedule changes after you register** and you cannot attend, please let the office know so we can avoid unnecessary food costs. A 48-hour notice is very helpful. Cancellations received for guests within 48 hours of the event are non-refundable.

## Earn CPE Credit

Illinois requires 120 hours of Continuing Professional Education (C.P.E.) for the renewal of Public Accountant licenses. The Chicago Finance Exchange is registered with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Professional Regulation. Members will be notified when a program qualifies for CPE credit prior to the program date.

## CFE Website News and Tips



### This Month's Tip: Password Re-set

There are two ways to re-set your password:

1. Call the admin office and we will re-set your password to a temporary password: CFE (all upper case). Once you log in, you will be prompted to change this temporary password to something more secure. Be sure to write down your new password for future use by you or your administrative assistant.

2. Use the automated re-set feature, found directly next to where you enter your password. Then follow the prompts to re-set your password.

Please Login

Member Log-In Required

If you are a member of CFE your login should be your **[email address in all lowercase]** and your temporary default password is **CFE** (uppercase).

When you login, you will be prompted to change your password to something more secure. Be sure to write your new password down.

If you still have trouble logging in, please email [admin@chicagofinanceexchange.org](mailto:admin@chicagofinanceexchange.org) or call 312-833-8782.

User Name:  [Forgot your User Name?](#)

Password:  [Forgot your Password?](#)

## Next CFE Newsletter

The next CFE Newsletter will be published July 2012. News submissions are due by June 22, 2012.