

# Greater Pittsburgh Chapter

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The ACFE is the professional organization for fraud examiners. The mission of the ACFE is to reduce the incidence of fraud and white-collar crime, and to assist the membership in its detection and deterrence.



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**Due to Veterans Day, the November meeting is being moved back a week to November 18, 2009**

## Patrick Donnelly, Special Agent, Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General

Patrick Donnelly, Special Agent, Social Security Administration, graduated from Washington & Jefferson College. After graduating, Mr. Donnelly spent four years in the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division at Fort Meade, Maryland as a Special Agent.

He worked Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) cases involving general crimes working thefts, robberies, deaths & homicides, and personal assaults. He was the Economic Crimes Team Chief the last year in service.

Mr. Donnelly then joined the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service as a Special Agent for 4 years and became the Baltimore office subject matter expert on environmental crimes. He was the case agent on one of the first environmental crimes to test new MARPOL regulations for polluting.



## Upcoming Chapter Events

**Note different date!**

**November 18, 2009**

Patrick Donnelly, Special Agent,  
Social Security Administration,  
Office of the Inspector General

**December 9, 2009**

Speaker invited

**Upcoming ACFE Events**

[www.acfe.com](http://www.acfe.com)



**November 8-14, 2009**

International Fraud Awareness Week is Nov. 8-14, 2009. Intense financial pressures during the economic crisis have led to an increase of fraud, according to a survey of fraud experts conducted by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE). It is against this backdrop that the ACFE urges organizations worldwide to participate in International Fraud Awareness Week, November 8-14, 2009 to help cast a spotlight on this urgent problem.

This weeklong campaign encourages business leaders and employees to proactively take steps to minimize the impact of fraud by promoting anti-fraud awareness and education.

**Visit the special ACFE website for International Fraud Week for Information**

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After September 11, he was a Federal Air Marshal for several months to augment their force. He has been with the Social Security Administration for the past 7 years as a Special Investigator. Mr. Donnelly will speak about fraud and the Social Security System.

**October 14, 2009 Meeting**

**William A. Penrod, Esq.**

**The Use of Private Investigation Firms in Conducting Fraud Investigations Matters, President, Corporate Security & Investigations, LLC**

William A. Penrod has an extensive history as a risk manager, lawyer, consultant and advisor to corporations, law firms and investment funds. Bill currently is a President at Corporate Security & Investigations, LLC and manages and assists in the operation of the offices in Pittsburgh, Columbus, Denver and Wilmington, DE.

Mr. Penrod stated that fraud cases can be catastrophic for a client. However these cases can be managed. In fraud, the fraudsters are usually ahead of the game. To be successful in a fraud investigation you need a unique set of skills. Lawyers may be trained in litigation, but they are not trained in identifying fraud. In an investigation it is important to conduct a thorough background check on the subject and their related business entities. This can help identify facts important to the investigation.

Mr. Penrod talked about cases he worked on in the past. By conducting interviews of employees of a business the investigators learned about controls not being used, lack of physical security for the business and theft by an employee.

Mr. Penrod talked about the main mistakes in a fraud case.

- The investigation cannot have an unstructured approach.
- Investigators must recognize the limits of their own abilities.
- Evidence overlooked by investigator
- Technophobia or overconfidence in technology.

## and Resources

<http://www.fraudweek.com/resources.aspx>

### Ritchie-Jennings Memorial Scholarship Deadline Change

The new deadline for the [Ritchie-Jennings Memorial Scholarship](#) application is **January 15, 2010**. Please encourage accounting, business, finance and criminal justice majors to apply.

Through the scholarship program, the ACFE Foundation supports the education of collegiate accounting, business, finance and criminal justice students around the globe.

The mission of the ACFE Foundation is to increase the body of anti-fraud knowledge and support future anti-fraud professionals worldwide through the funding of scholarships, endowments, research, and other educational projects. The ACFE Foundation works to encourage students to pursue careers in fraud examination and provide resources for research on the detection and deterrence of fraud.

If you have any questions about the scholarship program, please email Keely Miers at [scholarships@ACFE.com](mailto:scholarships@ACFE.com).

### IRS CI Recognizes CFE Designation

The CFE credential has gained another supporter: The Criminal Investigations Division of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS CI) recently recognized the CFE credential for hiring and promotional purposes. This division has plans to work toward having all current agents achieve the credential. The IRS CI joins the ranks of government agencies such as the FBI, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Government Accountability Office and the Department of Defense, among others in the

- Evidence recovery issues.
- Poorly conducted interviews. A good fraud investigation includes speed and patience; get evidence quickly, work methodically, and know how evidence will play out in court.

### Thirteen Networking Mistakes By Dan Woog, Monster Contributing Writer

The following recently appeared on Monster.com: You wouldn't wear jeans to a job interview, but do you pay as much attention to job-hunting etiquette when networking? If you're approaching potential contacts in an offhand way, you may be putting them off entirely. Learn what the most common networking mistakes are so you don't have to make them.

Waiting. Many people start networking only after they've lost their jobs. Effective networking means creating contacts and relationships while you're still employed.

Being Clueless. If you're heading to a networking event, make sure you know why you're going. Do you want a job? If so, are you seeking something specific, or will anything do? Are you looking for contacts or a mentor to provide guidance? As soon as someone starts talking with you, you have to hold up your end of the conversation. If you don't know what you want, you can't do that.

Being Unprepared. Thinking you know what you want is not the same as knowing it. Treat networking the same way you would an appearance at Carnegie Hall. Practice your pitch as well as your answers to questions about your career goals that might arise.

Forgetting Business Cards. There is nothing more embarrassing than establishing a good relationship with someone, extracting a pledge of help and then searching around for a cocktail napkin to write on. Spend a few extra bucks to print professional-looking cards on good-quality paper.

ACFE Law Enforcement Partnership program. The continued growth of the program shows that the ACFE is regarded as the foremost authority in the global fight against fraud.

## Membership Renewal Time

In this challenging economy, success depends on staying up-to-date, being relevant and providing value. Your ACFE Pittsburgh Chapter membership enables you to remain a vital resource to your company. Chapter membership also enables you to maintain your CFE designation and provides networking opportunities through our monthly meetings.

Renew your membership now to continue the benefit of membership. To renew, bring your invoice with payment to the August meeting or return it via postal mail as indicated in the invoice. Not a member, complete the attached membership form today.

Please contact Kelvin Pier at [kpier@acfe-pgh.org](mailto:kpier@acfe-pgh.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your support of the Pittsburgh Chapter

International  
**FRAUD  
AWARENESS**  
Week

Using a Silly-Sounding Email Name. Sure, your friends know you as "SexyMama4U" or "TimeForHemp," but when looking for work, stick to a serious email address, such as your real name.

Being Pompous. While you're networking, you need to listen to what everyone else is saying. People help by offering advice. They are not interested in hearing how much you already know.

Monopolizing Someone's Time. At a networking event, everyone wants to mingle. And if you're networking over the phone or by email, understand that the person you're speaking with has a life that extends beyond you.

Dressing Down. Look sharp at networking events. Mind your manners, shake hands firmly, stand up straight, make eye contact and show respect in any way you can. A networking event can be a dress rehearsal for a job interview, but no one will help you get your foot in the door if you give the impression that you'll slouch through it once it's open.

Being a Wallflower. Men and women with contacts and power meet many people; they remember only those who stand out from the crowd. Be assertive, and act like a leader. But don't go overboard. You want to convey self-assurance, not obnoxiousness.

Being Passive. If someone says, "Sorry, we don't have anything right now," take a minute or two to ask follow-up questions: "Well, what's the outlook for future possibilities? Do you know anyone else in the industry who might have something? Any thoughts on what my next step should be?" Persistence shows true interest on your part and may help the person you're networking with come up with ideas he might otherwise overlook.

Lying. It's tempting to say, "So-and-So gave me your name and told me to call." It might even get you a meeting. But eventually Such-and-Such will learn that So-and-So did not tell you to call. And you'll have burned not one, but two bridges.

Treating Your Networking Relationships as Short-Term Flings. No one likes to be used. Follow up every conversation with a thank-you note, email or call. Let your contact know whether his suggestions panned out or not. When your job search ends --for whatever reason --inform the person who has helped you. You may think your networking is over, but your paths may cross again.

