



Pacific Northwest Chapter #45

ACFE PNW **Fraud Examiner** Newsletter

Q1 2021 V.2 Issue 1

Membership News

If you haven't had a chance to renew your membership, NOW is the time to do so!

Memberships are at the following levels:

Dues & Seminars Package **\$94**

Includes Chapter Membership AND all regular monthly training seminars throughout the year.

Chapter Member **\$24**

Chapter Members are required to be a Certified Fraud Examiner, and are eligible to vote and hold any office in the Chapter.

Chapter Associate Member **\$30**

A Chapter Associate is not required to be a Certified Fraud Examiner, but you must be a member-in-good-standing with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (National)

Chapter Affiliate (Non-Member) **\$36**

Affiliates of the Chapter are not required to meet the qualifications and requirements for membership in the Chapter or Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

Student Member **No Cost**

Undergraduates must be enrolled in at least nine semester hours, and graduate students must be enrolled in at least six semester hours

Retired Member **No Cost**

Must hold a valid CFE-Retired Credential

Message From the President

Greetings from the PNW Chapter of the ACFE!



It is hard to believe that it has been over a year since the COVID-19 pandemic started spreading across the nation. Obviously this has brought many challenges, including potential food and security issues, learning to pivot to a work-from-home environment, and lack of uncertainty about the future.

On behalf of the Chapter Board, I would like to express our appreciation for your continued membership and activity in the Chapter, despite all of these challenges.

We look forward to continued success in 2021, and are working hard to continue our monthly online training seminars, yearly fraud conference in May, and continued networking opportunities with the Board, speakers and other members.

Please let any member of the Board know if you are interested in speaking at one of our monthly seminars, or if you would like to contribute to the Newsletter. We encourage your feedback, assistance, and participation to make this the best ACFE Chapter it can be.

Also, please feel free to contact me directly if you would like to provide feedback, or just want to talk about fraud!

-Mike Nurse





Local Fraud in the News

The following press release was issued on Friday, February 5, 2021 at justice.gov

Seattle contract bookkeeper and accountant indicted for wire fraud, aggravated identity theft, and destruction of records

Defendant used a variety of fraudulent schemes to steal approximately \$200,000 from Seattle mountain bike shop

Seattle - A Seattle woman who was employed as a contract bookkeeper and accountant for a high-end mountain bike company appeared in federal court today, indicted for her embezzlement of at least \$188,000 from the company, announced U.S. Attorney Brian T. Moran. Joan C. Trower, 50, is charged with nine counts of wire fraud, four counts of aggravated identify theft, and one count of destruction of records. Trial before Chief U.S. District Judge Ricardo S. Martinez is scheduled for April 12, 2021.

According to the indictment, Trower worked as a contract bookkeeper and accountant for the mountain bike company from July 2015 to May 2018. Her contract was terminated when the embezzlement was discovered. Trower used a variety of schemes to steal from the company accounts: creating checks using the company software system, forging signatures, claiming expenses and compensation she did not earn, and making transfers from company accounts to accounts she controlled in the names of phony tax accounting businesses. For example, while most employees received at most three checks per month (two for salary, one for expenses), Trower wrote as many as thirteen checks to herself in one month. Trower put false descriptions in the memo line, sometimes falsely claiming the funds were to reimburse her for an outside tax accounting firm she claimed to have hired. Trower transferred money from company accounts to accounts she controlled - transferring more than \$26,000 to her account in the span of just a few months in 2015. Trower and her boyfriend used the money, to among other things, gamble at area casinos. The indictment alleges that Trower committed aggravated identity theft when she forged the signature of company executives on fraudulent checks and when she submitted false invoices in the name of a third-party tax accountant to justify reimbursements to Trower.

Finally, Trower allegedly attempted to destroy and alter company records in the company's accounting software to hide her embezzlement from law enforcement.

The charges contained in the indictment are only allegations. A person is presumed innocent unless or until he or she is proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The case is being investigated by the FBI. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney William Dreher.

PNW ACFE Board of Directors



Mike Nurse
President



Kari Overson
Vice-President



Victoria Kitts
Treasurer-Secretary



James Peet
Training Director



Robert Goehring
Member-at-Large

Attention Students!

FREE MONEY

for your education expenses!

Did you know that there are two scholarship opportunities for full-time students seeking a major or minor in accounting, business administration, finance or criminal justice programs in the Pacific Northwest?

The **Joseph R. Dervaes Scholarship** is unique to the PNW Chapter. It grants one \$1,500 award per year. You must be attending a qualifying four-year college or university in the state of Washington.

The **ACFE Foundation Ritchie-Jennings Memorial Scholarship** Program grants 20 to 30 scholarships each year, ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Application deadline is March 31, 2021

More details can be found at www.pnwacfe/scholarships

Upcoming Training

Wednesday March 17, 2021

Topic: Exploding ATM's

Speaker: John Fick, MLS, CFE, CFCI, Columbia Bank

The presentation will focus on ATM fraud committed by explosive and chemical materials

Wednesday April 22, 2021

Topic: A Play Book for Fraud Analytics

Speaker: James Ruotolo, Senior Manager, Fraud and Financial Crimes, Grant Thornton

James will speak about the Anti-Fraud Playbook, a comprehensive guide co-authored by Grant Thornton and ACFE. The Playbook provides a roadmap for organizations looking to begin, advance or benchmark their anti-fraud programs against industry best practices

Register at www.pnwacfe.org/training. All trainings occur via Zoom until further notice

Monday May 17, 2021

PNW ACFE Fraud Conference via Zoom

Details coming soon!

Board Member Spotlight

Mike Nurse, CPA, CFE, MBA is a Principal in the Accounting and Consulting Services department at Clark Nuber, P.S. Mike's work focuses primarily on fraud and forensic accounting, internal control consulting, policy and procedure development, and performing COSO-based risk assessments.

Mike's prior career was in radio broadcasting, where he dee-jayed and produced cultural programming from radio station KNOM in Nome, AK

Mike enjoys adventure travel, roller-coasters and great food. When asked about the best part of being President of PNW ACFE Chapter, Mike said:

"My passion is to try and make our members feel a sense of ownership and empowerment within the Chapter – I want members to have a voice in shaping what the Chapter has to offer and how we get there. Ultimately, I want the Chapter to serve as a beacon, tool and resource for all fraud fighters in the PNW region."



Mike summitting Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2016.



Welcome New Members!

New Chapter Members

Jason Boss
Amanda Bowen
Becky Carnell
Ted Furr
Maryam Jacobs
Mitch Hansen
Bill Oliver
Steve Roberts
Lorri Salmon
Julie Saville
Keila Tugwell-Core
Darla Wagner
Tyson Wilson
Ginalyn Yap
Todd Young

New Associate Members

Angela Clark
Byron Garcia
Lael Henterly
Jill Kershaw
Craig Tom
Julie Sheridan

New Retired Members

Ron Conlin

New Student Members

Toya Bold
Jason Chou
Kelsey Coke-Churchill
Basma Ellafi
Yun Gao
Nicholas Haynie
Lisa Rookaird





ACFE®

Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

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