

# AFSA - IRS

## **NEWSLETTER**



A Publication of the Association of Former Special Agents of the IRS

Vol. XXVIII No. 2 Summer, 2017

## **2017 AFSA Convention** The King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort St. Simons Island, Georgia October 29-November 2, 2017











#### Farewell Message from Chief Richard Weber

After five wonderful years at the reigns as Chief of CI, it has finally come time for me to move on to a new adventure. Being Chief of CI has truly been the greatest honor of my career. I woke up every single day excited about coming into work and tackling our many challenges. I always wanted to make CI a little better, fighting for our employees, our budget, our reputation and our relevance as a law enforcement agency. It was a privilege to represent the men and women, both past and present, of CI. Yes we've had numerous challenges as an agency during these past five years, some saying it has been the most challenging times in our 98 year history, but we've also been extremely successful simply because of the most dedicated

and mission focused agents and professional staff that I have had the privilege to lead.

Our first chief, Elmer Lincoln Irey, was appointed in 1919, almost 100 years ago. He foresaw a continual legacy of bringing to justice America's criminal elite and wanted us to always have a "profound sense of purpose." Chief Irey led a group of special agents who—back then—faced incredible challenges and had little resources. At the same time, his agents accomplished what others thought was impossible. Elmer's leadership is marked by unwavering character, courage, and commitment to country. I have tried hard during the past five years to live up to his standards.

When I reflect on the past five years I don't think too much about the budget or the congressional pressure or negative media, I think about our cases and about the work that we have done. I think about how CI always comes together as a family. Thanks to ASFA, the CI legacy remains strong today! Because of you, we have restored the original desk chair of Elmer Irey currently on display in the Chief's office. Because of you, the "Wall of Remembrance" stands proud in our hallways and I was extremely honored to dedicate it earlier this year. Because of you, I know our 100-year anniversary will be an occasion to celebrate and renew our faith in each other and our organization.

I am humbled to have been part of an agency with an amazing and rich legacy. For the past 98 years, we have often been the last line of defense bringing down America's criminal elite. This is why our agents and professional staff have a strong sense of purpose, dedication and passion. Our legacy is one of perseverance and taking on complex, sensitive investigations that many other agencies simply couldn't do.

I will never forget this experience and thank you for your dedication, support and friendship over the past five years. It has meant the world to me. I will miss this place – but the memories will last a lifetime.

Rich

Summer, 2017 AFSA-IRS Newsletter



#### Executive Director Corner – Summer 2017

Greeting and salutations to all from San Antonio, TX. It has been many years since I last spent time at Saint Simon's Island. I am looking forward to the camaraderie and the cool October temperatures of high 75.9 to low 60's for Convention 2017.

# The convention will be at beautiful the King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort

A little history:

The King and Prince is - Celebrating Over 80 Years of Hospitality

The King and Prince Club opened as a seaside dance club in 1935. Six years later, on July 2, 1941, the main hotel building opened to the public as the King and Prince Hotel and was

immediately praised for its modern features and magnificent ocean views.

During World War II, the hotel served as a naval coast-watching and training facility, reopening in 1947 to resume its popularity as a favorite island resort with its gracious Mediterranean architecture. The hotel enjoyed extensive renovation and expansions in 1972 and again in 1983, becoming a member of the prestigious Historic Hotels of America in 1996. In 2003, the Resort's cherished core—the historic main building—underwent a stunning restoration and enhancement project, resulting in 57 new guest rooms and signaling a new era in the guest experience. In 2005, the Resort was named to the National Register of Historic Places.

From 2010-2013, the Resort underwent a <u>Castle Makeover</u>, resulting in new culinary offerings and updated common areas. The new restaurant, ECHO, gives a nod to St. Simons' brief naval history during World War II - through its name and nautical decor. The lobby Atrium welcomes guests to sit by the fireplace and the ECHO bar open daily from morning til late night. The <u>oceanfront pool complex</u> was also redesigned, with a paver-style deck, pergolas, all new furnishings and umbrellas.

Throughout the many changes over our 82 years of service, one thing has remained the same: we provide our guests superior service, outstanding accommodations, and unrivaled Southern hospitality.

The best part of working for CI was not only interesting, rewarding work but an opportunity to meet and work with many great people in different parts of the country. Going to convention 2017 will be an excellent occasion to reconnect with old friends and meet new friends.

Looking forward to seeing you and a friend in the Georgia Golden Isles for Convention 2017. Have a great day.

Adieu

~ Mary~

#### CI- Headquarters Honors AFSA Executive Director Mary Ruiz



On May 23, 2017, Chief Richard Weber honored the AFSA-IRS and, in particular, Executive Director Mary Ruiz, at a special ceremony in Washington D.C. The ceremony was arranged and the invitation extended to Executive Director Ruiz by Chief Weber in order to show his appreciation for her involvement in the planning, design, construction, and funding of "The Wall of Remembrance". As I stated in my President's Message in our last newsletter (Spring 2017), First Vice President Peggy Thomas and I viewed "the wall" in January 2017 during our meeting in Washington D.C. with Chief Weber and Deputy Chief Don Fort. It had just been recently constructed in the hallway just outside of the Chief's office at 1111 Constitution Avenue and it was built as a memorial to all those men and women who died while serving the mission of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation. But this dedication, as stated by Chief Weber, was "all about" Mary Ruiz as the wall would not have been possible without her help.

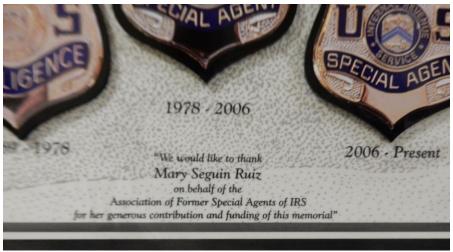
The ceremony was attended by the SACs and A-SACs from all 25 field offices across the country, all three Directors of Field

Operations, as well as other members of Chief Weber's staff. The AFSA was also well represented. In addition to Executive Director Ruiz, I attended as President of the AFSA, along with my wife, Janet, and together we were joined by First Vice President Thomas, Former Executive Director and President and Current Parliamentarian Bob Armentrout, and Former President Mary Fran Martin. It was a proud moment for the AFSA as Chief Weber spoke about the wall and its very personal and deep meaning to him.

The day however, belonged to Mary Ruiz. For over three years she served on a committee that was assembled by Chief Weber to plan and design the CI Wall of Remembrance. In his dedication, Chief Weber stated that this was perhaps the one project that was of most personal importance to him during his tenure as Chief of CI. That statement was supported by Deputy Chief Fort who noted that Chief Weber began his planning to construct a memorial to fallen employees during his first year as our Chief.

What is not known by most members is the amount of time spent on planning and designing the actual wall. Its original design began as construction of a wooden base cabinet with lighted glass panels mounted on it with the names of each fallen employee etched in the glass. The flags of the United States and Criminal Investigation were mounted behind the glass panels. However, the original design and its successors were all nixed by OSHA, who would only allow space **ON** the wall of the second floor area of CI to be utilized. For over three years, the committee toiled with different concepts, drawings, and proto-types, before finally receiving approval for construction of the "Wall of Remembrance". The final hurdle was funding, since no appropriated funds could be spent on its construction. It was only through the generosity of Executive Director Ruiz, who personally donated the funds for construction of the wall in the name of the AFSA, that Chief Weber's dream was made possible.

As President, I speak on behalf of First Vice President Thomas, Second Vice President Mark Kroczynski, Treasurer George Meyer, and Secretary Iris Bohannon in thanking Executive Director Ruiz on behalf of our entire organization for all of her efforts. In personal conversations I had with Chief Weber, Deputy Chief Fort, and others on the committee, I now know of their deep gratitude for Executive Director Ruiz making possible a tribute for fallen employees that will now live-on forever in our Nation's Capital.



Inscription at the Bottom of the Center Plaque

Thank you, Mary, for donating your time, talent, and treasure to this very worthy project.

Dan Pieschel, President



## A Message from Your President

Hello to everyone and I hope you are all enjoying Summer!!! I'm excited to fill you in on some of the things that have happened over the past couple of months. Also featured in this newsletter, you will find an extensive article about our upcoming convention that will be held in St. Simons Island, Georgia. The required registration form is attached to that article and it should include all the information you need to start making your plans for this year's Annual Meeting and Convention.

May was a busy month for both CI and the AFSA. First of all, after five years at the helm, Chief Richard Weber announced that he was leaving his position as Chief - Criminal Investigation. His farewell letter is included in this publication. However, before leaving, he invited our Executive Director Mary Ruiz and the AFSA to attend a special ceremony to honor Executive Director Ruiz at the Wall of Remembrance, which is in the hallway, just outside of his office at 1111 Constitution Avenue. There is an article about that trip also in the newsletter. As you will learn when reading it, Executive Director Ruiz both served on the committee for the memorial and she provided the funding necessary for construction of it.



L. to R.: Deputy Chief Don Fort, Vice President Peggy Thomas, Former President Mary Fran Martin, Executive Director Mary Ruiz, Parliamentarian Bob Armentrout, President Dan Pieschel, and Chief Richard Weber.

Because of Chief Weber's leadership of Criminal Investigation over the last five years and because of his interest in and support of the AFSA, I took the opportunity to present two awards to him during the above ceremony. The first was an Honorary Membership into the AFSA. Since he never actually served as a Special Agent, Chief Weber was technically not eligible to join our organization. However, he did lead the organization as the Chief and was actually issued and carried Badge #1 for over five years. He was incredibly proud to have led "our" agency and I could think of no one more deserving of receiving our first-ever Honorary Membership. By Special Act of the Board of Directors, the honor was approved and a plaque presented to Chief Weber. The second presentation was also a first for the AFSA. It was a President's Award that I presented to Chief Weber because of his continued support of the AFSA, especially over the past three years. He personally attended our Annapolis Convention and addressed the membership in 2015 and he verbally committed to personally attending our 2017 Convention. During the past year, he endorsed our organization to his entire senior staff, providing information to all of them about the AFSA, and he encouraged them to invite us to address their offices. He has also opened a line of communication with the AFSA that now includes a joint committee to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CI.



President Pieschel with Chief Weber

To commemorate Chief Weber's contributions to Criminal Investigation, a formal farewell celebration was held on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 in the first floor atrium lobby of 1111 Constitution Avenue. It was well attended and included presentations from several individuals, including Internal Revenue Service Commissioner John Koskinen. Following the formal afternoon Farewell Celebration, a more casual evening celebration was held after-hours at another downtown location. It too included presentation from individuals representing several federal agencies.



Dan and Janet Pieschel with IRS Commissioner John Koskinen

Now, I have one more order of business to address in this month's message. In looking over our list of Regional Representatives and in talking with some of our Regional Directors, it appears to me that we need some additional Regional Reps in some of our regions. If you'd like to become more involved...or even just learn more about our association...please call, write, or e-mail the Regional Director for your area or contact any Officer to get more information about the position. I promise it won't be any "heavy lifting" and your involvement is 100% directly proportionate to your desire to be involved. In the position of a Regional Rep, you are only there as support for your Regional Director and there's not much that they can't handle! What it will allow you to do is meet some fellow retirees and hopefully give you a better perspective on the organization. Please consider trying out...even if just on a trial basis.

In closing, there are several other topics of interest reported in this newsletter, so please take the time to read about all of them. Get the first word about the scholarships that were just awarded and be sure to check out the "Historian's Corner". As always, an application for membership is also enclosed. Feel free to pass it along to a retiree if you don't see his/her name in your Membership Directory. The year is going by quickly and it is hard for me to believe it is already July. My best wishes to everyone and I hope to see you in the fall at our 2017 Annual Business Meeting and Convention in Georgia. The agenda is aggressive and includes what should be a memorable opening ceremony for our business meeting that will be conducted inside of Building 912 at FLETC. There will also be two CPE courses that will be both informative and interesting, and a full agenda of informative and fun-filled tours and other events. Consider attending this year and bringing a friend with you. It looks to be a great way to celebrate the end of a prosperous business year for the AFSA.

Sincerely, Dan

### 2017 AFSA Convention The King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort St. Simons Island, Georgia October 29-November 2, 2017

Greetings to All...the time has come and I'm excited to announce that registration is now open for our Annual Business Meeting and Convention. As announced in the Spring Newsletter, our convention this year will be held in beautiful St. Simons Island, Georgia from October 29 – November 2, 2017. If you missed that announcement, don't worry...everything you need to know is included in this article. Also included is the official registration form. Just as we did last year, we encourage you to complete the registration form on-line and then mail your check to Gerard Dupczak (his address is listed on the bottom of the registration form). By completing the form on-line, your information is automatically downloaded directly into the program just as you input it. Your reservations, selections, and even your name badges are printed just as you want them. Now, if you don't have internet access or you just prefer not to input it yourself...No Fear!!!...Gerard will input it for you. Simply complete a hard copy of the attached form and send it to him with your check. He'll take care of the rest. To access the on-line registration form, simply go to the AFSA website at <a href="https://www.AFSA-IRS.org">www.AFSA-IRS.org</a>, click on the "Convention" tab and there you will find the link for the registration form.

One very special note...and I'm not just saying this to say it...Please get your reservations in as early as you can. There are two very good reasons.

First, the King and Prince is a very nice and very popular resort. They have no trouble filling rooms and they are generally sold out year-round. They have made us a very generous offer on our rooms starting at \$161.00 and they are allowing our group to stay at the convention rates for up to three additional days following our conference. However, your reservation MUST be received by them prior to the registration deadline in order to guarantee a room and to guarantee the AFSA rates. Please, think it over and make your King and Prince reservations by September 15, 2017. The toll-free number to call is listed near the top of the Registration Form.

Second, all four of the tours that we are offering have limited capacity in the tour busses and reservations are being accepted on a first come-first served basis. Once a bus is full, all I can do is add you to the "back-up reservation" list. If I have a cancelation, then I will go to the list and call the top name on the list. In the event you paid but end up on the back-up list and you don't make the trip…don't worry...the trip fee you paid will be refunded to you. You won't pay for anything you didn't receive.

The following is a day-by-day summary of what is planned for the convention.

#### Sunday – October 29, 2017

**Registration:** Sunday is your arrival and check-in day and there are some important things that you must know. First, and foremost, it is the day following October 28, 2017. Now, that might seem to be a tad bit basic, but it is very important to note if you are anywhere near Northern Florida or Southern Georgia. That is because October 28th is the Georgia/Florida game (or Florida/Georgia game) depending on which team you support. The game is being played in Jacksonville. That is important because every hotel within 80-100 miles of Jacksonville is full for the two nights immediately prior to our convention....including every hotel on St. Simons Island. It is a HUGE event. Because of that, the King and Prince cannot guarantee you

will get into your room before 4:00pm. You can check in and they will store your luggage, and they WILL make every attempt to get you into your room sooner...they just can't promise it.

**Trolley Tour:** So, in the meantime we've got some things for you to do. First of all, come on and check-in at the hotel's front desk. We will also have our registration table set up in the lobby starting at 1:00pm, so you can also check-in with us and pick up your registration bag. It will have brochures and some suggestions for things to do. The "Village" and the pier is less than a five minute drive. There are lots of shops there. Then at 2:45pm you can board the St. Simons Trolley for the 3:00pm trolley ride. Be sure to select the "Start-My-Trip-Out-Right" Trolley Tour on your registration form. You will tour the entire island in your first 90 minutes in St. Simons...all for only \$20. And don't forget...we are on the beach, so you always have the option to take a walk along the beach or just sit by the pool and watch it. When the trolley returns at 4:30pm, the 2017 AFSA Hospitality House will officially open and you can start meeting up with old friends or just sit back and have a snack and refreshment.



President's BBQ Meet-and-Greet: At 5:30pm the first annual President's Welcoming BBQ Meet-and-Greet will be held at our Hospitality House. You will be treated to what is arguably called the best BBQ on the Island. What a way to eat on your first day in town!!! It's a "Meet-and-Greet", so if you don't know anyone, this is your chance to meet them. It will be casual and fun. You can stick around if you wish...as the Hospitality House will be open until 10:30pm.

#### Monday - October 30, 2017

**Bob Manzi Memorial Golf Tournament:** At 9:00am the convention starts off Monday in traditional fashion. The Bob Manzi Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on neighboring Jekyll Island. Known for true Southern hospitality and legendary landscapes, Jekyll Island is home of Georgia's largest public golf resort. Your \$75 fee includes green fees, cart fee, a box lunch on the turn, cart staff gratuity, all sales tax, and prizes.



LOCAL MEMBER ALERT: If you reside in the Brunswick/St. Simons area...or anywhere near...and you can't make the convention this year, but you would like to golf with us, this is your lucky day!!! You can still golf in the Bob Manzi Memorial Tournament. We'd love to have you join us this year. Just call Jim Meyers (our golf expert and the Manzi event coordinator) on his cell at (843) 655-4625.

**Jekyll Island Tour:** If you are not a golfer, but want to see and enjoy Jekyll Island, this is the first of your "on-your-own" activities that you should consider. While the golfers are doing their thing, consider going over to Jekyll Island and visiting the Jekyll Island Museum where you can buy tickets for the "Passport to the Century" Tour for about \$16. The guided tram tours the entire 240 acre historic district and includes entry into two cottages. You can also visit the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, Georgia's only sea turtle education and rehabilitation facility, for only \$7. Then treat yourself to lunch at the Jekyll Island Club Resort....Victorian charm with all the modern conveniences!!! For information on these tours (and more) visit their website at <a href="https://www.jekyllisland.com">www.jekyllisland.com</a>.

**Dinner at Crabdaddy's:** After a full day out, you will want to enjoy some local dining, so why not consider joining us for a group dinner at Crabdaddy's. It's a one-block walk to the restaurant from the King and Prince and you will surely enjoy the food. I suggest the locally caught (not shipped in frozen from another part of the world) Georgia White Shrimp that is on their menu. The restaurant is giving us our own private dining room and you will order off the menu and pay on your own. Just be sure to reserve a seat on your registration form. Seats will be on a first come-first served basis. If not joining us at Crabdaddy's, there are plenty of other great restaurants to enjoy on the island.

#### Tuesday, October 31, 2017

This is our "Tour Day". You have two from which to choose and both will last all day and should be equally enjoyable. Both busses will depart from and return you to the lobby of the King and Prince. If you choose not to take one of the organized tours, then consider venturing out on your own or simply relaxing at the pool or on the beach. As always, the Hospitality House will be open in the evenings when you return. One thing to remember with all of our organized tours, is that the busses provided to us will likely not be equipped with any special type of wheelchair or similar accommodations. The Okefenokee tour also includes negotiating a wooden pier and stepping down into and back out of a boat. If you have any limitations in negotiating steps or considerable walking, then consider these factors before making your reservations. A brief description of today's tours is as follows:

Savannah Historic District Tour: Relax and enjoy the morning ride to Savannah where their beautiful squares date back to Colonial times and their restored building represent three centuries of history. You will pass the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Factor's Walk & Cotton Exchange buildings on the waterfront, The Pink House, Pirate's House, and homes of songwriter Johnny Mercer and Girl Scout founder Julliett Gordon Low. Your trip not only includes a guided motor coach tour, but also a visit inside of one of the lovely restored house museums. Lunch is on your own and you will have some time for shopping and browsing the downtown area.

**Okefenokee Swamp Tour:** Getting to the Okefenokee Swamp is half the fun!!! On the way, your guide will recount tales and history about some of the little towns along the way and discuss the geological formation of the swamp. This "Land of the Trembling Earth" has been home to trappers, traders, and outlaws, as well as unusual animals, flora and fauna, multitudes of birds, and, of course, alligators. Once accessible to only the stout hearted adventurer, today everyone can enjoy this magnificent wildlife sanctuary. While at the park, you will see a film about the Okefenokee, tour a swamp pioneer homestead,

and experience a beautiful one-hour boat ride into the waterways of the swamp. Depending on the time of year, you might even hear bull alligators bellowing or see unusual migrating birds and butterflies that inhabit the area. You will also enjoy an exceptional picnic lunch, cooked especially for you by the "swamp family" who provide the boat ride.





#### Wednesday, November 1, 2017

This is our "Big Day" and the primary reason we host the convention. This year will be different than all others because, for the first time, our opening ceremony with our traditional Color Guard ceremony, the presentation by Criminal Investigation Headquarters, CPE presentations, and our general membership meeting will all be held at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). All of these events will be conducted inside the new Building 912 Multi-Purpose Conference Center that was just constructed and dedicated in December 2016. Building 912 was built as a poignant reminder of the tragedy of 9/11 and it pays tribute to the nobility of the law enforcement profession through four memorials and historical displays, including FLETCs 9/11 Memorial and the Glynco Historical Display, which tells the story of Glynco's evolution from an operational naval air station during World War II to the headquarters for our Nation's largest law enforcement training facility.

Busses provided by FLETC will arrive at the King and Prince in the morning and transport everyone to Building 1 where credentials to enter will be issued. Because of the very high security requirements, everyone will be required to complete a Form FTC-SEM-17Z which is included in this newsletter. When completing the form, list the purpose of your visit as "Attending AFSA-IRS Conference on 11/1/17 and/or Tour on 11/2/17". Be sure to hand sign the form as electronic signatures are not accepted. Because the form includes your SSN, it must be sent directly to Brandie Murrell, the Public Affairs Specialist who is coordinating our visits. Once you complete the form, then you can scan and e-mail it to Ms. Murrell at her e-mail address, brandie.murrell@fletc.dhs.gov, or you can fax it to her attention at 912-267-2115. Vehicles are also permitted, but you will need to bring and show your driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance when you check into security. If it is a rental car, then bring your rental agreement.

While at FLETC, we will provide a coffee and donuts reception for everyone upon arrival. At the end of the morning session, the FLETC bus will return those to the King and Prince who will not be attending the afternoon session. Those that stay for the afternoon session (i.e. the General Membership Meeting, CPE Courses, etc.) will be transported to the base dining hall for lunch. At the end of the day, we are planning to host a reception for our members to meet with the Chief – CI, the training staff at the National Criminal Investigation Training Center at FLETC, and the students who are presently being trained. As of the printing of this newsletter, these arrangements are still in the planning stages and are subject to some changes.

At the end of the afternoon reception, the FLETC bus will return the remaining members back to the King and Prince where everyone will be on their own for dinner. The Hospitality House will, of course, be open from  $8:30 \, \text{pm} - 10:30 \, \text{pm}$ .

#### Thursday, November 2, 2017

**FLETC Tour:** As described in the Spring 2017 Newsletter, the highlight of this year's convention will likely be a tour of FLETC. If you haven't seen it lately, then forget all the stories you heard from other agents and wipe out all the past memories you have of what it was like. It is all totally different now. That's because FLETC has undergone massive changes since being taken over by the Department of Homeland Security in 2003. FLETC now provides training for 95 Federal Agencies, as well as State, Local, and Tribal Departments throughout the United States. The facility is state-of-the-art and it is the largest provider of law enforcement training in the nation. Since 1970, over a million agents and officers have been trained and FLETC has projected another 77,000 agents and officers to be trained in FY 2017. The numbers for FY 2018 will surely be similar based on the recent announcement by President Trump that an additional 5,000 Border Patrol agents and 5,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are to be hired.

Because of the substantial increase in training that is anticipated in FY 2018 and because the actual training schedule has not been announced, we cannot provide any details as to the extent of our tour. We do know that we cannot interrupt training that might be in progress by other agencies, so our access to many of the sites and buildings on base will be more limited than originally planned. However, we will have the opportunity to at least view many of the sites from the bus and there will be some stops included in the tour. Regardless, you will be treated to a once-in-a-lifetime tour that most citizens do not have the opportunity to experience.

**On-Your-Own Activities:** The afternoon is all yours to experience any other sites or activities that you wish to pursue. A list of suggestions will be included in your Welcome Bag that you will receive upon arrival.

**Banquet Dinner:** Our 2017 convention concludes with our annual Banquet Dinner which this year will be served buffet style. After carefully reviewing all of our options, we selected the "Golden Isles Buffet". It will offer three entrees from which you can choose. They are:

- 1. Pan Seared Salmon Medallions with Tomato Fresca
- 2. Cajun Pork Tenderloin Au Jus
- 3. Marinated Grilled Chicken Breast (atop Wilted Spinach with Whole Grain Mustard)

The buffet will also include "all the fixin's" including a choice of two deserts. There will also be a cash bar available for a half hour prior to dinner being served. If you have any food allergies, special dietary needs, or other concerns with the menu, please contact Dan Pieschel at 859-466-7677 so that other offerings for dinner can be arranged for you.

See you in October!!!

Dan Pieschel, President

Summer, 2017 AFSA-IRS Newsletter

#### 2017 AFSA-IRS ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

#### The King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort - October 29 - November 02, 2017

201 Arnold Road, St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522

#### To make your hotel reservation, call the following:

Toll Free Reservations: 1-800-342-0212 (Ask for AFSA Annual Conference Group Rate)

The reservationist will offer rooms at several rates including:

\$161.00 (Resort or Non-View Room); \$176 (Partial Ocean View Room): and \$191 (Ocean Front Room)

#### **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS September 15, 2017**

AFSA Mer	First Last:											
Guest: First : Last:												
(This will be the name that will be on your convention name badge.)												
Address:	Address: Phone				one:							
City:			ST:		ZIP:		Cell:					
E-Mail:					Arriva	l date:			Dep	arture da	te:	
Registration Fees (per perso						#	#	Amount				
AFSA Men	nber Registration	Fee					<u> </u>			\$		
Guest Regis								\$1	15			\$
	Room Non-Alco	holic Dri	nk Pref	erence Dis	scount			-\$1	10	\$		\$
	n fees include: S					Meet-an	d-Gree	et; We	ednesday	Opening	Cerei	nony and CPE
	ursday Evening l							,	,	1 0	,	,
		•		•								
# Att	Attending Wednesday AFSA Business Meeting # Attending Wednesday CPE											
# Eve Me (In	ending Sunday ening President's et-and-Greet cluded in gistration Fee)		# Attending Monday Evening Group Dinner at Crabdaddy's (Meal NOT Included in Registration Fee) #			Ban	Attending Thursday Evening Banquet Dinner (Included in Registration Fee)					
Please indicate the activities you wish to participate in: (See convention schedule for activity details)					р	Fees (per erson)	#	Amount				
Monday, O	ct. 30 Bob Manzi	i Memori	al Golf	Tourname	ent					\$75		\$
Player 1)	V .											
Player 2) Handicap/Avg:												
Sunday, Oct. 29 Start-My-Trip-Out-Right Trolley Tour of St. Simons Island						\$20		\$				
Tuesday, Oct 31 Savannah Bus Tour (Includes House Tour and All Tips)						\$92		\$				
Tuesday, Oct 31 Okefenokee Bus Tour (Includes Lunch and All Tips)						\$92		\$				
Thursday, November 2 FLETC Tour						\$0		\$				
Tot					Total A	mount I	Paid:	\$				

E-mail registration form to gdupczak@att.net and mail your check to:

Gerard Dupczak 1428 Charlevoix Way Schererville, IN 46375

For general CONVENTION INFO, please visit www.afsa-irs.org

# DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTERS NAME-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION CONSENT/INQUIRY FORM

I hereby give consent for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) to receive any State or Interstate Identification Index (III) criminal history record information pertaining to me, as authorized under state and tederal law for individuals seeking employment or access with a criminal justice agency. Information provided by those completing this form may be used to conduct background chocks on the applicant in accordance with FLETC Directive 71-01, Access Control.						
information is 5 L	ment: This information is p ISC 301, 5 USC 4101 of a Information is voluntary. I	exa., Executive Order I	No. 11348, and Departme	int of Homeland Sec	urily Delenation 7050	
Name:		20108-0-10				
		(Last, F	Firat, Middle)			
Aliases Used:		1707			1	
		(Nicknames, N	(aiden Names, etc.)			
Country of Birth (e.g. USA):		Date of Birth	:	SSN:		
United States Offizen?	Yes Residential Address:	House Number and	Street			
"If answer is "No" ; for required paper	you must contect SEMINS work'	City, State, and Zip	Code:			
Driver License St	ate:	D	river License Number:			
Race/Ethnicity: American Indian Native Alaskan Black or African American	- Islander	ian or Other Pagine	Asian Oth	her:	Genden Male Female	
Signature:				Detex		
Telephona Number:		77.77	Employer Name:			
Purpose of Visit to FLETC:			Pickup/Delivery/Work Location on FLETC (if applicable):	1990		
		AGENCY	/ USE ONLY			
Purposa code	sused: Civilian Employmen	with Criminal Justice A Information except juv	kgency (J) - Provides comp enile or restricted records.	lete State and III Crim	inal History Record	
Date Of Inquiry:		Time of Inquiry	770-4	Operator's Initials:		
Inquiry moulted in		If results found:		Final	Decision:	
☐ No Results Found ☐ State ID Number:			Approved.			
Results Found FBI Number. Denied				Perilad		
		Possible Active	e Warrent			
TC-SEM-17Z (5/1	16)		1		Page 1 of 1	

# Frank L. Smith AFSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

AFSA is proud to announce the 2017 winners of the Frank L. Smith and the James F. Howe Sr. scholarships. The scholarship committee Al Allison, Mark Kroczynski and I reviewed 21 applicants. The 2017 applicants had exceptional grades, participated in extracurricular activities, and were leaders in their communities. AFSA awarded one James F. Howe Sr. scholarship and four Frank L. Smith scholarships as follows:

#### James F. Howe Sr.

Allison Towey

#### Frank L. Smith

Avery Elliot

Kayley Hernandez

Naomia Kolb-Untinen

Avery Selby

The biographies and pictures of the above winners will be displayed in the AFSA fall newsletter.

AFSA would like to thank and compliment all of the applicants and wants to encourage everyone to not be discouraged and to apply again next year. AFSA wishes all of the applicants continued success in college and all of their future endeavors.

In order for AFSA to continue their important financial support to the families of AFSA members, it relies on the generosity of our membership. Lead by example and contribute to the AFSA scholarship program. Donations can be made any time online or by completing the information below.

Peggy Thomas
Scholarship Committee
DONATIONS: Anyone may make donations to the AFSA for the Scholarship Fund Name:
Enclosed is my check for \$10.00,\$50.00, \$100.00, or other
For the AFSA_IRS Scholarship Fund, Send donations to: George F. Meyer, Jr., AFSA Treasurer P.O. Box 2841, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

#### **Scholarship Donors Since the last Newsletter**

O. M. Benson Lawrence P. Brown Gabriel L. Grchan Mary Francis Martin James D. Meyers Walter J. Miles, Jr. David Nicholson Richard Renfro James Scales

George A. Scott Richard A. Woolf

The James F. Howe, Sr. Scholarship fund was initially started and funded through the generosity of William R. Schroeder, the President of Madison Associates, Inc. It was created in remembrance and dedication of James R. Howe Sr. as an educational endowment for those individuals interested in law enforcement careers. Mr. Schroeder has continued to fund this scholarship through his donations every year since its inception including a generous donation of \$5,000 this year. We certainly owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Schroeder for this fund. It is open to anyone interested in donating to the fund in addition to the Frank L. Smith Scholarship fund. Any donations without designation go to the Frank Smith fund so if you want your donation to go to the James Howe fund, please indicate that on your donation.

#### HISTORIAN'S CORNER BY AL SELBY

Believe it or not, the IRS-CID will be 100 YEARS old on July 1, 2019. While that is 2 years away, the IRS and the AFSA are already gearing up for a big celebration. As Historian, it is an opportune time for me to spread a little history around as I've heard they don't teach history anymore. Some of what I will be doing over the next 2 years will be "old news" to some of you, especially you older agents, but I hope that everyone gets a little something worthwhile in coming newsletters. I hope to take some of our history in little bites in each newsletter, and do a series of profiles on the 23 people who have served as our leader over the last 100 years. Our organization has changed names several times, the position title of our leader has changes several times, and there have been at least two major reorganizations. In spite of all this, our basic mission has never changed. We are, and always have been, the greatest financial investigators anywhere, and have enforced criminal income tax law since July 1, 1919. Our focus or emphasis has changed from time to take advantage of our expertise, but our basic mission has never changed.

First, a short story about the beginnings of our agency that almost everyone knows. Immediately before, during, and after World War I, (1916 – 1918) taxes were raised at breathtaking rates and failing to report enormous war profits almost became a national pastime. Finally, Daniel C. Roper, Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, got permission to set up a criminal investigation unit and authorization to select 6 Postal Inspectors to staff it. Naturally, he selected the best young men he could find. At the time the Postal Inspectors were recognized as the best Federal investigators, and Roper was a former Postmaster General who was well aware of their expertise. Originally our primary purpose was to investigate tax fraud and employee misconduct. (Employee misconduct was subsequently transferred to the Inspection Division.)

Roper selected **ELMER LINCOLN IREY**, a chief Postal Inspector in Lynchburg, VA, as the Chief of this new unit. Hugh McQuillan, agent in charge in New York, Arthur A. Nichols, Philadelphia, Frank Frayser, in charge in Richmond, Everett Partridge, Washington, and Herbert E. Lucas, Harrisburg, rounded out the 6 Postal Inspectors allowed Roper. The Special Intelligence Unit was set up July 1, 1919, with these 6 men. Shortly afterward (10/6/19), Irey brought in William H. Woolf from the Office of the Chief Postal Inspector in Washington by transfer to become his assistant chief. Woolf remained assistant chief until January 26, 1943, when he succeeded ELMER IREY and became our second Chief. ELMER IREY served as our chief

almost 24 years, the longest of any of our leaders by far. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a summary of some of the things ELMER IREY did and accomplished in his 23 + years.

Did you know that Federal Agents were authorized by Congress to carry guns on 5/17/1934? Did you know that the Bureau of Investigations became the F. B. I. on 3/22/1935?

#### **ELMER LINCOLN IREY, CHIEF**

**ELMER LINCOLN IREY** was our first and longest serving Chief. He was born in Kansas City, MO. in 1888, moved to Washington, DC, as a child where he was raised and went to school. He graduated from Business High School in Washington in 1906, and was later a student at Georgetown Law School. He had 2 brothers and 2 sisters. He married Marguerite WAGNER on 10/30/1912 and they had two sons, HUGH WAGNER IREY, and ROBERT BLAIR IREY. Both sons graduated from George Washington Medical School and became physicians and they shared a medical practice in Hyattsville, MD, for over 40 years. ELMER was a very quiet, humble type of individual and he guarded his privacy very jealously. Very little has been written about his personal life or family. He was a tee-toatler until very late in life and had no social life to speak of as he was working constantly. He and his family were life-long devout Lutherans and he was a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason. One thing is known for sure, he was an excellent criminal investigator, first for the US Postal Service, second for the Special Intelligence Unit of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and finally as chief coordinator of all Treasury Department enforcement agencies (IRS, USSS, CUSTOMS, BUREAU OF NARCOTICS, ATF, and COAST GUARD) from 1937 until his retirement on 8/31/1946. He was very close professionally with President Franklin Roosevelt and widely respected by the leaders and members of both parties in the Congress. NY Prosecutor Thomas E. Dewey was quoted as saying IREY was one of the best investigators he ever worked with. He was a shining example of Integrity that no one questioned.

IREY began his government career as a stenographer in the Post Office Department in Washington in 1906 right out of high school. He rose to chief stenographer to the Chief Postal Inspector. At the time (early 1900's), Postal Inspectors were almost universally acknowledged as the finest government investigative agency in the world. During and immediately following World War I, taxes were raised very steeply to pay for the war and tax fraud and evasion, and corruption by tax collectors, became epidemic. Secretary of the Treasury Daniel C. Roper (a former Postmaster General) convinced Congress to establish a criminal investigation unit within the Bureau of Internal Revenue to attack tax fraud, evasion, and corruption. Congress agreed and approved the Special Intelligence Unit of the Bureau of Internal Revenue effective July 1, 1919. Roper's special assistant, Joseph Callan, was a former fellow clerk with IREY at the Post Office and he recommended IREY be selected as the first Chief. IREY had become a Postal Inspector in 1917.

In 1919, ELMER was a 31 year old Postal Inspector in Lynchburg, VA, earning \$ 1,800 per year (newly married with 2 small sons) when he was selected as the first Chief of the newly formed Special Intelligence Unit at a salary of \$ 2,500 per year. By prior agreement, IREY and Roper were allowed to select six Postal Inspectors to transfer to the newly formed unit and they became the first Special Agents. IREY selected five of the best and youngest men he could find. These five men stuck with IREY and made for themselves a fantastic career. In October 1919, IREY hired William H. Woolf, Chief Postal Inspector in Washington, DC, as his Deputy Chief and Woolf served in that position until he succeeded IREY as Chief on 1/26/1943. IREY served as our Chief for almost 24 years and he served under six Presidents from Woodrow Wilson to Harry Truman.

In the beginning years of the Unit, IREY ran a very small, centralized, almost family type of organization. He hired and knew every man by his first name and in most cases knew about their wives and children. All reports, nationwide, went to IREY's desk for approval. He had the admiration and respect of every man who ever worked for him. By the late 1920's, Intelligence had grown to about 100 agents, and by the late 1930's it had grown to about 250 agents. ELMER worked extremely long hours, usually 7 days a week, and never/rarely used any of his 30 days of vacation. He was completely absorbed in his job. He never tooted his own horn, but bragged on his agents; and everyone in law enforcement knew him, respected him, admired his integrity, and recognized his accomplishments, which were many.

During the roaring 1920's with Prohibition, and the 1930's with the Depression, violent gangsters and bank robbers gathered a lot of newspaper headlines and a lot of attention of the F.B.I. and J. Edgar Hoover. While Hoover was making headlines, IREY and his men were quietly, almost stealthily, putting big time gangsters and tax evaders in jail. Many of these big time gangsters had escaped the clutches/charges by several other law enforcement agencies, including the F.B.I. before falling to IREY and his men. While Hoover was publicly denying the existence of any organized criminal element such as the Mafia, IREY and his men were quietly putting them in jail. When law enforcement in many large cities broke down and became overrun by corrupt lawmen and politicians, frequently it was IREY and his men that put the corrupt politicians and lawmen in prison. In 1939, 64 % of all Federal prisoners committed to prison that year were put there by Treasury Agents under IREY. He could have easily taken a job in the private sector at any time and made several times his salary. Capone allegedly put out a hit contract on the T-Men. When IREY learned of the contract, he sent word to Capone that if he didn't withdraw the contract, his men would start shooting Capone's men on sight. The contract was withdrawn and IREY turned down an offer from Al Capone of \$ 1 ½ million to drop his case. He was credited with returning \$ 30 to the Treasury for every \$ 1 in his budget.

In his book, THE TAX DODGERS, published in 1948 just after his death, IREY listed only 14 famous cases he supervised during his long career. This book only scratched the surface of his impact on Federal law enforcement and tax enforcement in particular. One of his first nationally publicized successes was the investigation into the Charles Lindbergh baby kidnapping and murder which everyone agreed would probably never have been solved if not for ELMER IREY. After almost every law enforcement agency in the country took a shot at trying to convict Al Capone, unsuccessfully, IREY and his T-men, particularly MIKE MALONE and FRANK WILSON, managed to put Capone away in prison for a long time. A couple of politicians were mentioned in his book, HUEY LONG of Louisiana and THOMAS PENDERGRAST of Missouri. When asked at about the time of his retirement to name his biggest or best case, he could not recall one that stood out.

In addition to all his other accomplishments, IREY was a Major in military intelligence of the US Army Reserve from 1922 to 1931. As Treasury Department coordinator from 1937 to 1946, IREY encouraged, and all but demanded, all Treasury Agents to cooperate with each other, support each other, and share information with each other. This was something new and had never been done before. IREY established the first Treasury Law Enforcement Training Center. That's right, ELMER started the academy that later became FLETC in Georgia. He died of a heart attack on July 19, 1948, at the age of 60, at his summer home on the Potomac River in Shady Side, MD. Without a doubt he left us a legacy in which everyone can by proud.

#### WILLIAM H. WOOLF - CHIEF INTELLIGENCE UNIT

WILLIAM H. WOOLF (Harry) was born in Alderson, West VA, on May 8, 1886, and graduated from high school in Washington, DC. He attended Georgetown University and received an LLB Degree. On October 6, 1919, he transferred from the Office of the Chief Postal Inspector to the Bureau of Internal Revenue where he became Assistant Chief of the Special Intelligence Unit. Mr. Woolf was recruited by Elmer Irey specifically to be his assistant chief. Some say he was the 7<sup>th</sup> Postal Inspector that began the Special Intelligence Unit.

In 1924, the name of the organization was changed when the "Special" was dropped and it became the Intelligence Unit. Woolf worked for and with Elmer Irey very closely until he succeeded Irey as our 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief on January 26, 1943. Irey was in poor health and at that time was supervising all of the Treasury Agencies and the war was into its second year. Everything up until this point was very centralized and Irey was said to have read and approved almost every recommendation made by his agents.

Mr. Woolf served as our 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief from January 26, 1943, until December 31, 1951. At the time he stepped down as Chief there was a massive reorganization being considered by the Congress and he remained on into 1952 as special advisor to Frank W. Lohn, his successor and our 3<sup>rd</sup> chief. Mr. Woolf retired in 1952.

#### FRANK W. LOHN - CHIEF/DIRECTOR

**FRANK W. LOHN** became our 3<sup>rd</sup> leader when he was named Chief of the Intelligence Unit on January 20, 1952. He came in at a time when IRS and Intelligence were undergoing a major reorganization. The reorganization was effective August 11, 1952, and he was named Director of the Intelligence Division at that time. At that time, Lohn's title changed from Chief, Intelligence Unit to Director of the Intelligence Division. He served as Director until November 25, 1952, when he left to become District Commissioner of the Denver Region. While he only served about 11 months, he oversaw a tremendous change and became the first Director of the newly named Intelligence Division. This was the first position title change for our leader

Mr. Lohn was born and raised in Lohn, Texas, He attended West Texas State College and was a high school superintendent for four years. He served in the Artillery during World War I. He joined the Intelligence Unit as a Special Agent in Dallas in February 1927. After several moves, he became SAIC in Seattle and Kansas City.

#### **GARLAND H. WILLIAMS - DIRECTOR**

GARLAND H. WILLIAMS became our 4<sup>th</sup> leader when he was named Director of the Intelligence Division on January 1, 1953, where he served until August 31, 1953. Mr. Williams was born and raised in Prentiss, Mississippi, and graduated from the University of Mississippi with a degree in engineering. Mr. Williams became an agent in the Bureau of Customs in 1929, and in 1936 he transferred to the Bureau of Narcotics as an agent. World War II found him being recalled to the army where he distinguished himself in several areas. One of his achievements was organizing and becoming the first Chief of the Counter Intelligence Corp for the U. S. Army.

After his discharge from the army, Mr. Williams returned to the Bureau of Narcotics for a brief period of civilian life before being recalled to the Army for a period of two years. Mr. Williams served as our Director only 8 months and little is known about his life after he left IRS.

#### **OPM Warns Federal Retirees of Scam: Cash Offers to Buy Their Pension Annuities**

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has recently learned of an aggressive marketing push targeting federal annuitants. According to a June 15 blog <u>post</u> on OPM.gov, "companies are offering a cash payment in exchange for a portion, or all, of your future annuity payments generally much less than their long-term worth, and typically charging high interest rates and fees. We have specifically received numerous phone calls from one company in particular asking us to not just verify annuity amounts, but also banking information, including routing numbers and account numbers. Our suspicions were confirmed by our Inspector General's office who discovered this company is currently under investigation by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)."

OPM did not identify the name of the company in their statement.

The CFPB lists three things retirees can do to protect their retirement annuity:

- 1. Avoid loans with high fees and interest. Pension advance companies may not always advertise their fees and interest rates, but you will certainly feel them in your bottom line. Before you sign anything, learn what you are getting and how much you are giving up.
- 2. Don't sign over control of your benefits. Companies sometimes arrange for monthly payments to be automatically deposited in a newly created bank account so the company can withdraw payments, fees and interest charges from the account. This leaves you with little control.
- 3. Don't buy life insurance that you don't want or need. Pension advance companies sometimes require consumers to sign up for life insurance with the company as the consumer's beneficiary. If you sign up for life insurance with the pension advance company as your beneficiary, you could end up footing the bill, whether you know it or not. Go to <a href="https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/consumer-advisory-3-pension-advance-traps-to-avoid/">https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/consumer-advisory-3-pension-advance-traps-to-avoid/</a> for more information.

#### **Letters to the Editor**

The following letter was written by Darrell Smith to his Senators and Representatives in the House outlining the ramifications of the budget cuts to CI over the past several years and highlights the types of cases CI works on a consistent basis. It's a letter we may consider sending to our own Congressmen and Senators. Cases represented in this email had to be edited due to space limitations.

#### SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN:

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY AND CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS REGARDING OUR NATION'S FINANCIAL SECURITY RELATIVE TO THESE CRIMES OF "GREED" AND CORRUPTION.

UNDER THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION, FUNDING FOR THE C.I.D.(CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION) WAS REDUCED TO THE EXTENT THAT THIS FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION STAFFING OF "SPECIAL AGENTS" HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM APPROXIMATELY 3,400 SPECIAL AGENTS TO 2,100. IN COMPARISON, THE FBI HAS ABOUT 35,000 EMPLOYEES.

C.I.D. SPECIAL AGENTS ARE THE ONLY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATORS WITH THE TRAINING AND EXPERTICE TO IDENTIFY, INVESTIGATE,
AND AID IN THE PROSECUTION OF THE VARIETY OF FINANCIAL (+OTHER) TYPES OF

# <u>CRIMES MANY OF WHICH ARE REFLECTED IN THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIES</u> OF "WEEKLY" PROSECUTIONS.

EACH TRAINED SPECIAL AGENT PRODUCES ON AVERAGE MORE THAN TWENTY (20) TIMES THEIR SALARY PER ANNUM REGARDING THESE TYPES OF INVESTIGATIONS. AND, OF COURSE, THE POSITIVE IMPACT REGARDING FEDERAL INCOME TAX COMPLIANCE IS IMMESURABLE. NO OTHER FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS THE TRAINING AND EXPERTICE TO INVESTIGATE THESE TYPES OF FINANCIAL CRIMES.

FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIAL AGENT STAFFING NEEDS TO BE INCREASED.

SINCERELY, DARRELL G. SMITH

**Field Office Highlights** 

#### Detroit FO: Corrupt Pakistani doctor sentenced to 23 years in prison, could be deported

On June 15, 2017, Dr. Sardar Ashrafkhan, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, was sentenced to 23 years in prison following his conviction on felony counts of conspiracy to illegally distribute prescription drugs, conspiracy to commit health care fraud and two counts of 1957 money laundering.

The convictions arose from the operation of the defendant's fraudulent medical practice known as Compassionate Doctors, a purported visiting physician's practice. His success flowed from paying marketers for fraudulent patients, using unlicensed employees to see the fake patients and create the charts, using licensed doctors simply to sign charts and prescriptions, and billing Medicare and Medicaid under the "G" code for a substitute physician to disguise the identity of the doctor providing the purported medical services. The marketers would bring paid "patients" to residences to obtain fraudulent prescriptions for controlled substances. Medicare was billed for medical examinations and tests that were not conducted properly or were not conducted at all. Marketers filled the controlled substance prescriptions at cooperating pharmacies and sold the drugs on the street market.

Ashrafkhan was responsible for participating in illegally distributing over 200,000 dosage units of oxycodone (including Oxycontin) and opana, powerful Schedule II opiates. He was responsible for over 1 million dosage units of another opiate, hydrocodone (Vicodin, lortab) and over 3 million dosage units of controlled substances of all kinds.

**SA Kris Nichols** 

# Boston FO: Two Men Who Defrauded Banks in Connection With USDA Export Financing Program Sentenced

On June 13th, in New Haven, Connecticut, BRETT C. LILLEMOE and PABLO CALDERON were sentenced for a conspiracy to defraud banks participating in a USDA-backed export financing program. LILLEMOE, 47, of Minneapolis, Minn., was sentenced to **15 months in prison**; PABLO CALDERON, 61, of Darien, Conn., was sentenced to five months in prison and five months of home confinement. Both were also ordered to serve three years of supervised release **and pay restitution in the amount of \$18 million**; **and, forfeit more than \$1.5 million of ill-gotten gains.** In November, a federal jury convicted LILLEMOE and CALDERON of conspiracy and fraud offenses for defrauding the USDA's Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM-102).

The GSM-102 program guarantees credit extended by the private banks in the U.S. to approved foreign banks using irrevocable letters of credit for purchases of U.S. food and agricultural products by foreign buyers. The program permits U.S. exporters to receive the value of the export contract from a U.S. bank up front, minus a fee, while the foreign bank pays the U.S. bank for a period of up to two years. The investigation revealed that LILLEMOE and CALDERON willfully presented to Deutsche Bank false shipping documents, including bills of lading, to obtain funding backed by a foreign letter of credit and guaranteed by the GSM-102 program. This caused Deutsche Bank to wire transfer over \$4.4 million to a business account maintained by CALDERON in Connecticut.

**Special Agent Sean Darling** 

#### Philadelphia FO: Used Car Dealership Owner Sentenced

On June 14, 2017, JAWAD M. ALAMIRI (hereinafter ALAMIRI) was sentenced to 18 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release. ALAMIRI owned and operated a used car dealership, Ameri Motors Inc. In operating Ameri Motors, ALAMIRI sold vehicles to individuals in exchange for funds that he knew were the proceeds of unlawful activity.

In order to avoid federal reporting requirements, ALAMIRI conducted 30 transactions at multiple bank branches to deposit sums under \$10,000. The total deposited during that time period was approximately \$128,250. ALAMIRI structured his financial transactions by regularly making cash deposits ranging from approximately \$200 to \$9,000, which he would deposit at several different Santander Bank branches in and around Philadelphia, PA.

Special Agent: Jon DiFrancesco

\*\*Please be advised that the USAO asked for no external publicity on this case.

# Miami FO: Doctor Sentenced for Unlawfully Dispensing Prescription Medication Used in Drug Addiction Treatment Centers

On June 13, 2017, Donald Willems, O.D., was sentenced to ten years in prison for his involvement in a multi-million dollar health care fraud and money laundering scheme that involved the filing of fraudulent insurance claim forms and defrauding of health care benefit programs. Willems served as the Medical Director at an alcohol and drug addiction treatment center, where he unlawfully dispensed buprenorphine and other controlled substances through the use of forged prescriptions because he no longer had a valid DEA number. Willems also continued unlawfully dispensing prescription narcotics, including oxycodone, through the use of forged prescriptions. Willems previously pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud. After entering his guilty plea, Willems surrendered his medical license.

Special Agents Pam Martin (retired) and Jo Ann Wright

**Chicago FO: Former Deere Employee Sentenced for Wire Fraud, Money Laundering Crimes** 

On June 14, 2017, in Rock Island, Illinois, Harvey Ulfers, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, was sentenced to 33 months in prison for wire fraud and money laundering. In addition, Ulfers was ordered pay a fine of \$111,602 and restitution of \$259,132 to his former employer, Deere & Company. On Nov. 17, 2016, Ulfers pled guilty to the eight counts of the indictment which charged him with wire fraud, money laundering, and money laundering conspiracy. From about 2004 to January 2013, Ulfers defrauded his former employer, Deere & Company, headquartered in Moline, of at least \$250,000. Using his position at

Deere's foundry facility in Waterloo, Iowa, Ulfers caused the creation and approval of fraudulent internal documents that allowed significantly undervalued scrap metal to leave the facility. Ulfers conspired with others to obtain the excess value of the scrap after it was sold at scrap yards like Alter Metal Recycling, using a third entity to launder the fraudulent proceeds and provide cash payments to Ulfers. Ulfers's coconspirator, Patrick Williams, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, a former employee of Alter Metal Recycling, was sentenced to 27 months in prison on April 13, 2017, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$259,132 to Deere & Company, jointly and severally with Ulfers.

Special Agent Michael Thole

Washington D.C. FO: <u>Russian</u> Man Sentenced in Relation to Stolen Identify Refund Fraud Scheme On June 9, Alexey Petrov was sentenced to 57 months of imprisonment after pleading guilty to device fraud and aggravated identity theft for his role in a sophisticated, large-scale stolen identity refund fraud (SIRF) scheme.

During the investigation, agents discovered that cybercriminals had accessed a computerized IRS database, stolen genuine taxpayers' personal identifying information (PII), and filed false and fraudulent tax returns using the stolen taxpayer information causing the IRS to issue refunds to individuals not entitled to receive them.

Petrov was identified by two coconspirators as the person who recruited them and directed them to create bank accounts using the names of individuals from Russia, Kazakhstan and other Eastern European and Central Asian countries. At Petrov's direction, coconspirators used these bank accounts to receive and further transfer fraudulently obtained tax refund money.

**Special Agent Michael Wheeler** 

#### **Houston FO: Nigerian Immigrant Sentenced for Tax Fraud**

On June 15, 2017, Oriola Samuel Odulate, a Nigerian residing in Houston, was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$268,017 in restitution to the IRS. Odulate pleaded guilty Jan. 26, 2017, to conspiracy to steal public money. Odulate and other unknown co-conspirators defrauded the government by filing false and fraudulent income tax returns. Co-conspirators unlawfully acquired the personal identifying information (PII) of others such as names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers and addresses. They then used the unlawfully acquired PII to file fraudulent tax returns that requested refunds in the names of the victims. The IRS sent refunds to bank accounts that Odulate opened and controlled. He received the money from the unlawful refunds, withdrew it from his bank account and then distributed the funds to co-conspirators.

Special Agent Logan McCarthy

#### Newark FO: New York Men Sentenced in \$1M phony tax return scheme

On June 8, 2017, two New York men were each sentenced to 61 months in prison after pleading guilty to an identity theft scheme. Jhan Luis Mejia Marcelino and Odanys Orlando Rojas, known as "El Fuerte," both of the Bronx, N.Y., were sentenced for their roles in the scheme, according to an announcement from Acting U.S. Attorney William Fitzpatrick. The two had previously admitted to stealing personal information like names, Social Security numbers, and other information from people in New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and elsewhere, between January 2013 and May 2014, authorities said. The duo used the information to file phony federal tax returns, and receive fraudulent tax return checks, officials said. They pleaded guilty to theft of government funds, aggravated identity theft, and conspiracy, authorities said. The scam cost the government about \$1 million, Fitzpatrick said. In addition to the prison time, the two were also each

sentenced to three years of supervised release, and were ordered to pay back \$1,109,938 in restitution, officials said.

Special Agents Jon Helmstetter and Leo Rovensky

#### Newark FO: Pottersville Man Sentenced for Filing False Tax Returns

On June 13, 2017, a Pottersville man was sentenced to 19 months in prison for filing a false tax return and evading corporate taxes. James Wegeler was sentenced for his connection to American Tutor Inc., a company that offered supplemental educational services to New Jersey school districts. Wegeler previously pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Anne Thompson to one count of corporate tax evasion and one count of aiding and assisting in the filing of a false tax return, according to a news release. Wegeler was a certified public accountant who served as the vice president and chief financial officer of American Tutor, according to documents referenced in the release. In 2013, Wegeler filed a return on behalf of American Tutor that contained materially false information in order to reduce American Tutor's tax liability. Wegeler admitted that his actions resulted in a total tax loss of \$1.49 million to the Internal Revenue Service. In addition to the prison term, the judge sentenced Wegeler to three years of supervised release. Special Agent Steve Cline

#### Phoenix FO: Mexican National Sentenced for Role in Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization

On June 13, 2017, in Las Cruces, New Mexico, Carlos Adrian Ortega-Aceves was sentenced to 12 months and one day of imprisonment after pleading guilty to conspiracy and international money laundering charges on March 3, 2017. According to the plea agreement, Ortega-Aceves and a codefendant were attempting to transport \$174,290 of drug proceeds to Mexico when they were stopped by police in Las Cruces. The money was partial proceeds from the sale of 10 kilograms of cocaine, which had earlier been transported from Mexico to Albuquerque. During the investigation, federal agents seized and purchased 6.2 kilograms of cocaine, 2.9 kilograms of methamphetamine, 1039.9 kilograms of marijuana, and 351 grams of heroin. They also seized \$267,030 in drug proceeds and other assets valued at approximately \$153,000.

**Special Agent Greg Hand** 

#### <u>Houston FO: Local Man Hammered with 600-Month Prison Sentence for Sexual Exploitation of</u> Children and Tax Fraud

On June 14, 2017, in Galveston, Texas, Benjamin Douglas Guidry was sentenced to 600 months in prison following his conviction of sexual exploitation of children and for knowingly making a false claim in the nature of preparing and filing a false tax return. Guidry received 270 months for each count of production of child pornography in addition to another 60 months for the tax fraud. The sentences were all ordered to run consecutively for a total 600-month-term of federal imprisonment. Guidry was further ordered to pay \$201,454 in restitution to the IRS. He will be on supervised release for the rest of life following completion of the prison term, during which time he will have to comply with numerous requirements designed to restrict his access to children and the Internet. He will also be ordered to register as a sex offender. The IRS had been investigating Guidry for possible tax offenses. In May 2015, authorities executed a search warrant at Guidry's place of business, Financial Precision Group, at which time they seized several computers and boxes of documents. Agents noticed, among other things, that several files on Guidry's external hard drive had titles that led the IRS to believe they may contain child pornography. Authorities also noticed text messages on his cell phone that appeared to be inappropriate communications with a minor and a video of a minor. The FBI joined the investigation and later executed a search warrant at Guidry's residence. During that search, authorities found items present in the video on Guidry's cell phone,

including clothes worn by one of identified minor victims in the video. They also seized a cell phone and multiple computers. On two of Guidry's external hard drives, authorities ultimately discovered a total of at least 164 images and 28 videos of child pornography. Additionally, a cell phone contained at least three videos of child pornography. As to the tax offense, **Guidry also agreed the intended income tax loss was between \$250,000 and \$550,000.** 

Special Agent Jason Webb

#### Los Angeles FO: Glendale Tax Return Preparer Sentenced for Defrauding Clients

On June 12, 2017, in Los Angeles, Michael Joseph Calalang Cabuhat, operator of a Glendale tax preparation, was sentenced to 46 months in prison and ordered to pay \$1,496,416 in restitution to his victims and the IRS. Cabuhat admitted that, from 2010 through 2016, he defrauded his clients in two ways. In some instances, the client was given a copy of a tax return that showed a much smaller refund amount than on the tax return that Cabuhat actually filed with the IRS. Sometimes, Cabuhat would simply increase the amount of tax owed on the taxpaver's copy of the return, thereby decreasing the refund; and sometimes he would manipulate the expenses reported on the filed returns to increase the refund. Without the taxpayer's knowledge. Cabuhat filed paperwork that directed the IRS to deposit the small amount reflected on the taxpayer's copy of the tax return into the taxpayer's bank account, and to deposit the remainder into a bank account that Cabuhat controlled. In other instances, Cabuhat gave the client a copy of a tax return that falsely showed a tax due, but Cabuhat would file with the IRS a tax return that sought a refund. In these instances, Cabuhat would tell the taxpayer to make the "tax payment" directly to him so he could remit the payment to the IRS. In fact, Cabuhat kept the "tax payment" and directed the IRS to deposit the refund that the client should have received into a bank account that he controlled. Using these fraudulent means, Cabuhat stole more than \$1.2 million that belonged to over 150 of his clients. In addition Cabuhat failed to report this money on his own tax returns, which allowed him to evade the payment of approximately \$268,000 owed to the IRS. Special Agent Sammy Chan

#### Seattle FO: Co-Conspirators Sentenced for Roles in Drug and Money Laundering Conspiracy

On May 24, 2017, in Anchorage Alaska, Hakim Giddins, 36, was sentenced to serve 16 years in prison, for his role in a drug trafficking conspiracy that brought heroin and methamphetamine into Alaska. Hakim Giddins was indicted with multiple co-conspirators that have been sentenced to the following prison terms in the past month:

- Shakin Giddins, sentenced to 6 years in prison on May 25, 2017
- Markin Giddins, sentenced to 5 years in prison on May 16, 2017
- Tara McNutt, sentenced to 42 months in prison on June 8, 2017
- Kourtney Davis, sentenced to 18 months in prison on May 16, 2017
- Briana Herndon, sentenced to 9 months in prison on May 24, 2017

From 2014 to 2016, McNutt, Davis, and Herndon opened various mailboxes with Alaska addresses for the purpose of receiving heroin from California. This heroin was received and distributed in Alaska by Hakim Giddins and his co-conspirators. During this same time frame, Hakim Giddins and others also entered into an agreement to launder the proceeds obtained from the distribution of drugs brought into Alaska by the conspiracy. The cash proceeds from the sale of these drugs was laundered by making deposits into bank accounts located in Alaska in other people's names. This money was then withdrawn in California. Cash was also shipped in bulk from Alaska to California. Hakim Giddins believed that by having the deposit made that way it would conceal his connection to the money as well as to the true source of the money. **Special Agent Kyle Pudge** 

#### San Antonio FO: Del Rio Man Sentenced for Conspiring to File Fraudulent Income Tax Returns

On June 12, 2017, in Del Rio, TX, Gregorio Garza was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment followed by 3 years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$182,517 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service. From approximately January 2010 to March 2013, Garza and others, operating under the business name Garza Tax Service (GTS) engaged in a scheme to defraud the United States government of millions of dollars by filing false income tax returns. Garza would falsify information and forms at GTS regarding employee expenses, charitable gifts, car, truck and feed expenses related to farming, mortgage interest, and other details relevant to deductions and/or credits including information found in 1040 form's Schedule A and Schedule F. In March 2016, Garza was charged in a thirty-six count indictment for his role in conspiring to prepare false and fraudulent income tax returns and subsequently Garza pled guilty in May 2016.

Special Agent Stephen (Ward) Tyczka

#### St Paul FO: Milwaukee Man Sentenced for ITIN Tax Fraud Scheme

On June 8, 2017, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Javier Zarate-Flores, of Milwaukee, was sentenced to 28 months in prison and ordered to pay \$1,201,935 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service. Zarate-Flores additionally agreed to be voluntarily deported from the United States and return to Mexico due to his lack of legal status in the United States. According to the plea agreement, Zarate-Flores fraudulently obtained Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs) from the IRS. An ITIN is what the IRS issues to individuals who cannot, due to their immigration status, obtain a Social Security number. Individuals who obtain an ITIN use it to file their income tax returns. To obtain an ITIN, an applicant has to provide the IRS certain personal identifying documents. Zarate-Flores obtained personal identifying documents from citizens of Mexico, fraudulently applied for ITINs in their names, and then filed fraudulent tax returns using the ITINs he obtained. In the fraudulent tax returns that he filed, Zarate-Flores claimed the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC). The ACTC reduces tax liability dollar for dollar, and the unused portion of a refundable credit is still payable to the taxpayer. So, when an individual has no income tax liability, a person may still file a tax return and receive a refund for the ACTC. Zarate-Flores falsely claimed dependents in the tax returns that he filed to receive the ACTC. From February 2013 through June 2014, Zarate-Flores received \$1,201,935 in U.S. Treasury refund checks from his scheme. **Special Agents Park Jones and Pat Debbink** 

#### **Denver FO: East Helena Woman Sentenced for Health Care Fraud and Tax Evasion**

On June 13, 2017, Elizabeth Jones Powell, of East Helena, Montana was sentenced to 60 months in prison and three years of supervised release for health care fraud and tax evasion. She was ordered to pay \$420,891 to four insurance companies and \$43,514 to the Internal Revenue Service. In 2012, the Montana Surveillance and Utilization Unit noticed irregularities in physical therapist Gordon Jones practice's Medicaid billing. In particular, from June 2009 through July 2012, Medicaid received claims only for five Medicaid beneficiaries: Powell, her husband, and their three children. The practice was also billing for services nearly seven days a week. Among other investigative steps, an agent interviewed the family members for which the practice billed Medicaid. Claims for one of Powell's children were billed for 233 days in 2009 and 2010 when in reality she had been to physical therapy approximately five times in her entire life. Powell also filed several false tax returns during her health care fraud scheme. From 2010 through 2012, Powell filed false IRS Forms 1099 that substantially understated her income from the physical therapy practice.

**Special Agent Brett Seamons** 

#### Cincinnati FO: Financial Advisor Sentenced in \$1.1 Million Investment Fraud Scheme

On June 2, 2017, Mark Speakman was sentenced to 60 months in prison for an investment fraud scheme that defrauded his clients out of more than \$1.1 million. Between 2000 and 2015, Speakman was a financial advisor at Ameriprise Financial, and he defrauded his clients by misappropriating their funds. Speakman persuaded his clients to remove their funds from their Ameriprise Financial accounts and invest them in Centrax, a fraudulent real estate investment trust. Rather than investing the funds in real estate, he stole the money. Speakman persuaded one victim to move \$125,000 outside of her normal Ameriprise account and invest instead in Centrax. He did not invest the funds in Centrax, but instead used them for his personal benefit. The victim later developed terminal cancer, and she detailed her physical decline in emails to Speakman and instructed him to write checks to an estate-planning attorney and to a "local crematorium and burial society" where she was pre-purchasing cremation services. The dying victim told Speakman she counted on the Centrax trust to avoid placing a burden on her family members when she died and intended to use her Centrax investment in order to pay off the mortgage on her home. Because the Centrax trust did not in fact exist, Speakman convinced the victim not to liquidate her purported Centrax investment and upon her death tried to convince the victim's family to do the same. When he could no longer postpone their wishes to liquidate, he avoided communication with the family altogether. In addition, Speakman filed a false income tax return for the 2014 income tax year on which he omitted \$275,000 in income generated by his illegal conduct. The total tax loss to the IRS for 2002 through 2014 was \$300,000.

**Special Agent Shawn Mincks** 

#### Cincinnati FO: Grammy Nominated Producer "DJ Xplosive" sentenced in Marijuana Case

On June 5, 2017, Stuart Pflaum, also known as DJ Xplosive, was sentenced to 70 months for laundering approximately \$1.5 million in proceeds from marijuana trafficking. Pflaum worked as a music producer and was nominated for a Grammy Award. James Sorgi operated a drug trafficking and money laundering organization that shipped marijuana from California to Cleveland. He grew the marijuana in California and obtained marijuana from other growers. Sorgi then worked with Pflaum and Robert Serina to direct others to receive multi-pound shipments of marijuana in Ohio and sell it there. Pflaum, Sorgi, Serina and others directed people to collect the drug proceeds and make cash deposits into various bank accounts. Sorgi, through Pflaum and Serina, then directed people to convert the cash into money orders and send the money to California. Eight people have now been sentenced for their crimes related to the conspiracy. Sorgi was sentenced to 80 months in prison.

**Special Agent Mike Fatula** 

#### Cincinnati FO: Attorney Sentenced for Wire Fraud Related to \$70 Million Ponzi Scheme

On June 9, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio, Steven Scudder was sentenced to 14 months in prison and three years of supervised release on one count of wire fraud relative to his role in a fraudulent investment scheme. Scudder admitted that he used his position as an attorney to facilitate the fraudulent investment scheme operated by someone else. Between July 2013 and July 2014, Scudder served as trustee of the WMA Trust, a land trust that purported to secure investments that individuals had made with William Apostelos. Scudder ultimately resigned from this position during mid-summer 2014. Scudder said Apostelos instructed him to continue to falsely hold himself out as the trustee of the WMA Trust until September 2014. Based on Scudder's false representations, an investment group of approximately 10 people in another state invested more than \$1 million with Apostelos. Apostelos used the funds to pay earlier investors rather than investing the money as promised. Apostelos pleaded guilty to conducting the \$70 million Ponzi scheme that defrauded nearly 500 victims and is awaiting sentencing.

Special Agent Laurel Vant

#### Cincinnati FO: Interior Designer Sentenced in Tax Evasion Case

On June 7, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio, Connie Christy was sentenced to four months in prison, four months community confinement, and three months home confinement for attempting to evade the IRS of more than \$124,000. Christy solely owned and operated Christy Collections, Inc., a custom interior design firm. In 2011, Christy received nearly \$1.6 million from two clients for design services. Of that, approximately \$637,000 was taxable income, yet Christy only reported \$205,771. Christy failed to report all of her income to her tax return preparer – instead claiming that some of the income she received had been business expenses – and thus, she attempted to evade an additional tax due and owing of \$124,864. Christy earned the income while working on a design project for a couple who suffered from medical and physical conditions. Their conditions required specific types of materials used in furnishing their home, which Christy told her clients she could purchase at discounted rates. The clients grew suspicious when Christy began to bill at a higher rate, claiming that contractors had forgotten to include items in their quotes or that retailers had gone out of business after Christy had paid them but before supplying the materials. After the couple confronted Christy, she tried to cover up her activity by attempting to convince retailers to provide her with fake invoices for services. Additionally, Christy submitted documentation of personal expenditures on her beach home and business expenses from a fictitious vendor to try to justify the overpayment she had requested from her clients. During the time of the project, Christy was also receiving government benefits monthly after falsely claiming on her application that she did not receive child support, was not self-employed, did not have a vehicle, checking account, credit union account or stocks/bonds and did not file a tax return in the previous five years.

**Special Agent Kevin Doyle** 

#### **Denver FO: Billings contractor's corruption case ends with \$4M restitution, prison time**

On June 8, 2017, Billings businessman and former owner of CMG and MC Equipment was sentenced to 24 months in prison and 2,000 hours of community service for conspiracy, wire fraud, and bribery, all of which was associated with a pay-to-play scheme on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation. Additionally McGovern and his businesses were ordered to pay total restitution of \$4.58 million. McGovern and his business CMG Construction received contracts on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation without being required to submit bids to the Chippewa Cree Construction Corporation. McGovern received preferential treatment because he and his businesses funneled almost \$1 million to co-conspirator Tony Belcourt. McGovern also made a \$25,000 donation to the Chippewa Cree Events committee, which was used as a slush fund for a tribal councilman previously convicted for accepting bribes.

**Special Agent Brian Anderson** 

# <u>Los Angeles FO: Former Orange County Income Tax Return Preparer Sentenced for Falsifying Deductions on Clients' Returns</u>

On June 8, 2017, in Los Angeles, California, Thomas P. Butcher, of Rancho Santa Margarita, was sentenced to one year and one day in federal prison for preparing and filing fraudulent federal income tax returns claiming false deductions for his clients. In addition to the prison term, Butcher was ordered to pay \$197,549 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service. During the course of the scheme, Butcher prepared and filed with the IRS hundreds of false federal income tax returns that resulted in tax losses to the United States of at least \$1,045,956. The IRS was able to recoup much of that money through audits of Butcher's clients. These clients "are victims of his scheme, as many of them underwent lengthy and costly IRS audits to not only pay back the refund to which they were not entitled, but interest and additional penalties," according to the sentencing memo.

Special Agent Lauren Pulaski

#### **New Members**

Barry Alan Untinen	Eagan	MN	55123	
David Sousa	Wells	ME	04090	Dsousa@maine.rr.com
Mike Sanders	Granbury	TX	76049	fmikesanders@yahoo.com
Marc Frey	Naperville	IL	60565	frey0525@comcast.net
Kim Bettistea-Berry	Katy	TX	77494	k.b.berry0401@gmail.com
Wilfred Castro	Glendale	CA	91208	WXcast95@gmail.com
John Ricupero	Miami Beach	FL	33140	jfricupero@gmail.com
Patrick Brown	Henrico	VA	23231	pbrown2191@gmail.com
Mark Young	Pittston	PA	18640	mark.young@ci.irs.gov
	Hoffman			
David Talcott	Estates	IL	60192	detalc39@gmail.com

#### In Memoriam

Allen R.Brown
Ormond Beach, FL

**David Kurash**Wellesley Hills, MA

Robert W. "Steamboat" Jones
Alexandria. VA

Norman Edward "Ed" Calhoun Martinsburg, WV

## IRS CI initiated fewer investigations in 2016

By Jeff Stimpson, AccountingToday

Published February 28 2017, 5:12pm EST

Budgetary constraints led the Criminal Investigation unit of the Internal Revenue Service to initiate fewer investigations in fiscal 2016 than in 2015, according to its annual report. IRS CI initiated 3,395 cases in FY 2016, against 3,853 in FY 2015. The cases focused on tax related ID theft, money laundering, public corruption, cybercrime and terrorist financing.

Citing budget challenges, division chief Richard Weber said that the total number of cases has dropped for the third consecutive year due to fewer agents and professional staff. "We have continued to find ways to become even more efficient and the quality of our cases has never been greater," he added.

CI again boasted a conviction rate of 92.1 percent. CI is called upon by prosecutors to lead financial investigations on a wide variety of financial crimes including international tax evasion, ID theft, terrorist financing and transnational organized crime. CI investigates potential criminal violations of the IRC and related financial crimes.

## **AFSA-IRS Officers and Appointed Officials**

<u>Officers</u>		Appo	<u>inted</u>
Daniel Pieschel (KY)	President	Mary Ruiz	<b>Executive Director</b>
Peggy Thomas (MD)	VP/President Elect	Bob Armentrout	Parliamentarian
Mark Kroczynski (FL)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	<ul> <li>A. Jack Fishman</li> </ul>	Attorney
Iris Bonannos (AZ)	Secretary	Ross Brown	Newsletter Editor
George Meyer (FL)	Treasurer	Chuck Taylor	Tech Advisor
Jim Meyers (SC)	Past President	Arthur A. Selby, Jr.	Historian

### **AFSA Regional Directors and Regional Representatives**

Dagion	Degional Divertor	Dogional Danuagantativas	
Region 1	Regional Director  David Nicholson  Dunstable, MA	Regional Representatives Steven Hickey John Fahey Matthew Cola Robert Galbraith Charles Franssen	Gloucester, RI Providence, RI Babylon, NY E. Amherst, NY Huntington, NY
2	Robert Schmus 609.790.4627 Voorhees, NJ	Alan Fogel John Gagliardo Robert McDugall	Manalapan, NJ Lincoln Park, NJ Blue Bell, PA Ellicott City, MD
3	Gail Donaldson Upper Marlboro, MD	Jim Holloway	Emedit Ony, Ind
4	Elizabeth Fleaher Cincinnati, OH	Lee Mohs Tom Brandon Ted Boomershine John Fettes	Carmel, IN Avon Lake, OH Kettering, OH Little Rock, AR
5	Cynthia Fish Charlotte, NC	Bill Ryan Terry O'Brien David W. Jansen	Birmingham, AL Raleigh, NC Tulsa, OK
6	Darrell G. Smith 904.825.0802 St. Augustine, FL	Angelo Troncoso Michael Stephens Dave Beitzel Orlan Smith Robert McLaughlin Jeff Karsh Larry Sands	Clearwater, FL Melbourne, FL Naples, FL Orlando, FL Ponce Inlet, FL Plantation, FL Keystone Heights, Fl
7	Gerard Dupczak Schererville, IN	Robert Schweitzer Inar "Smitty" Morics Ronald Cipolla Tom O'Halloran Diane L. Schuchardt	Des Moines, IA Eagan, MN St. Louis, MO West Fargo, ND Elkhorn, WI
8	Jacque Riordon Denver, CO	Georgia Taylor Ed Martin Joel Lanoux Iris Bohannon Dennis Carey Mike Mayott	Dallas, TX Austin, TX Richardson, TX Phoenix, AZ Glenwood Springs, CO Billings, MT
9	Richard Malone Los Angeles, CA	Art Royce Alex Seddio Reginald Norberg	Boise, ID San Francisco, CA Seattle, WA



## **AFSA – IRS Membership Application**

We STRONGLY encourage members to apply on line: <a href="www.afsa-irs.org">www.afsa-irs.org</a>, however you may mail completed application with \$50 check payable to AFSA for first year dues to:

AFSA-IRS

P.O. Box 761869 San Antonio, TX 78245

Name:

Home Address:				
City: State: Home Email Address:	Zip	Code:	Telephone: ( )	
Home Email Address:			• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
Date of Birth:		Place of Bir	th:	
Date of Birth: IRS-CI Special Agent Service Dates: From:		_; To:	Are you a current Special	l Agent?
Retirement Date:; Spouse's Nam	e:			
Current or Last Post of Duty:	Current or	last Supervisor	& Ph #:	
Current Employment (type of work):				
Business Name:				
Address: City: Telephone: ( ) Business Email address: As an AFSA member, I am interested in:	State:	Zip	Code:	
Telephone: ( )	FA	X:()		
Business Email address:		_ Cell Phone (	)	
As an AFSA member, I am interested in:	3.7	D : 1	C AEGA :	
Doing investigative work Yes Serving AFSA in other positions Yes	No	Being a member	er of an AFSA committee	$-\frac{\text{Yes}}{\text{No}}$
Serving AFSA in other positions Yes_	No	Being an AFSA	A Representative assist Regional Directors)	Y es No
Place a check mark in the blank for the items th	nat apply to you		,	
A. Attorney	iat appiy to you	ar sittiis, training	, accreation, or merest.	
B. Certified Public Accountant				
C. Certified Fraud Examiner		AFSA receiv	ves requests from various sour	ces
D. Enrolled Agent			rs who may be interested in	
E. Foreign languages			different types of work. If you	
Specify:			eve this type of information	
Language(s)		available fo	r AFSA to assist in matching yo	ur
F. Instructor training experience		skills, exper	rtise and abilities to a particular	r
G. Foreign: Teaching experience		request, ple	ease complete this part of the	
Consulting assignments:		membershi	p form.	
H. Computer forensics				
I. Investigative equipment training experience				
J. Licensed or certified private investigator				
K. Management training experience				
L. Other skills or investigative interest:  Specify				
Specify			nip is open to all retired, former a	
special agents with at least five years IRS speci	al agent servic			
members. I am applying (or submitting change				
Revenue Service. I am either a retired special a			r a current special agent. I have r	neither been
convicted of a felony nor left the IRS under any	y adverse circu	mstances.		
G' 1		ъ.		
Signed:		Date		

#### AFSA REGIONS AND AREAS OF COVERAGE

Region	Area of Coverage
1	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont
2	New Jersey and New Jersey
3	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, U.S. Territories and International
4	Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia
5	Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, North Carolina and South Carolina,
6	Florida
7	Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin
8	Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming
9	Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

#### AFSA Regional Directors are listed on page 2 of this Newsletter

ASSOCIATION OF FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (AFSA) P.O. Box 761869

San Antonio, TX 78245

1,235 AFSA members as of March 24, 2017. Help recruit new members for AFSA