

## **Chapter of the Year South Florida Chapter**

### **How many chapter members does the nominee have?**

We currently have 311 Chapter members which are broken down into the following categories:

CFEs: 182

Associate Members: 49

Government & Law Enforcement Officers: 65

Educators: 5

Students: 10

### **Please provide the topic/title of each training opportunity provided in 2021.**

In 2021 our chapter hosted six events worth 21.5 CPE credits with a total of 1,446 attendees. Four were virtual, and two were delivered in a hybrid modality.

1. January 28th and 29th, 2021 – 11th Annual Joint Fraud Conference with IIA Miami Chapter (8hrs - Virtual)
  - a. 109 registered attendees
  - b. For this Joint Fraud Conference with the IIA Miami Chapter each respective chapter handled its own registration on its own platforms and issued CPE certificates to registered attendees. Each chapter handled half of the speaker selection. The South Florida Chapter hosted the joint event on its Zoom Webinar platform.
2. March 18th, 2021 – DCIS: Protecting our Nation’s Military. The event was delivered virtually, as a one-hour session. The event was free to ACFE South Florida Chapter members, \$20 to non-members. The event was also made available to the ACFE Charlotte Chapter, to reciprocate for the offering the Charlotte Chapter provided to our members on February 24th, 2021.
  - a. 96 registered attendees
3. May 5th, 2021 – Cinco De Mayo Fraud Conference in Partnership with IIA Space Coast Chapter (4 hours, delivered virtually)
  - a. 187 registered attendees
  - b. Event included eight ACFE local chapters obtaining a revenue allocation from the South Florida Chapter totaling \$3,762
  - c. For this partnership event with the IIA Space Coast Chapter each respective chapter handled its own registration on its platforms (this included eight ACFE Local Chapters registering on our website) and each issued CPE certificates to its

registered attendees. The South Florida Chapter performed the following activities exclusively:

- i. Created the event flyer materials
  - ii. Identified the speakers
  - iii. Hosted the webinar
  - iv. Disbursed revenue allocations to the participating ACFE Chapters
4. July 8th, 2021 – 6th Annual Ethics Seminar (2hrs - Hybrid)
  - a. 349 registered attendees
  - b. Event included twenty ACFE local chapters obtaining a revenue allocation from the South Florida Chapter totaling \$4,209
  - c. For this event the South Florida Chapter completely managed the webinar which includes the following:
    - i. Created the event flyer materials
    - ii. Managed the registration link
    - iii. Identified the speaker
    - iv. Hosted the webinar
    - v. Issued certificates to all participating attendees
    - vi. Disbursed revenue allocations to the participating chapters
5. September 24th, 2021 – The State of Forensic Accounting & Litigation Consulting in South Florida (1.5hrs - Hybrid)
  - a. 83 registered attendees
6. November 4th, 2021 – Joint ACFE Fraud Conference – Twin Cities & South Florida (5 hours, delivered virtually)
  - a. 622 registered attendees
  - b. Event included 60 ACFE local chapters obtaining a revenue allocation from the South Florida Chapter totaling \$27,272
  - c. For this partnership event with the ACFE Twin Cities Chapter each chapter handled 50% of the speaker selection. The South Florida Chapter performed the following activities exclusively:
    - i. Managed the registration link
    - ii. Hosted the webinar
    - iii. Issued certificates to all participating attendees
    - iv. Disbursed revenue allocations to the participating chapters

In 2021 the South Florida Chapter distributed \$35,243 in registration revenue back to 63 ACFE chapters in the U.S., Canada, Jamaica and Puerto Rico that participated in its webinars. This allocation is based on the chapter selections during the registration process. This distribution is larger than 2020's when \$20,340 were distributed to 23 ACFE chapters. This brings our 2-year revenue allocation total to \$55,583.

In addition, the South Florida Chapter provided four additional training events worth 22.5 CPE credits that were hosted by other organizations:

1. February 24th, 2021 – Cyber Fraud: Trends and Issues for Fraud Professionals (2.5hrs – Free to Chapter Members, \$20 to non-members)

- a. 106 registered attendees
  - b. Hosted by the ACFE Charlotte Chapter
2. September 14th, 2021 – Virtual Inaugural Miami/South Florida Cyber Security Summit (8 hours, offered free to our chapter members)
  - a. 12 registered attendees from the South Florida area
  - b. Hosted by Cyber Security Summit
3. October 27th, 2021 – Houston ACFE Chapter Virtual Pre-Conference (8 hours)
  - a. 12 registered attendees from the South Florida area
  - b. Hosted by ACFE Houston Chapter
4. December 2nd, 2021 – Georgia Chapter December Seminar (4 hours)
  - a. 16 registered attendees from the South Florida area
  - b. Hosted by ACFE Georgia Chapter

In 2021, the South Florida Chapter offered events with a total of 44 CPE credit hours to its chapter members and affiliates.

**How does the nominee share information with members and/or the public? Please provide an example to the website, newsletter, etc.**

The South Florida Chapter migrated from StarChapter to WildApricot in July 2020 (ACFE South Florida Chapter #11) and won the ACFE Chapter Website of the Year in 2021. This is the main channel for sharing information with our members. We are constantly making tweaks and updates to the website to ensure a smooth and coherent message to our audience. We also issued three newsletters in 2021 to share relevant information to both our members and the public. Previous newsletters can also be found on our website.

We routinely use mass emails to communicate with our members and the public about upcoming events, activities and continuing education opportunities. In addition to communicating to our members through the website, we actively use our chapter's LinkedIn account to provide event updates, release of newsletters, board accomplishments, community service efforts, job board postings and unique raffle opportunities. This LinkedIn account was established in August 2019 and currently has 650 followers.

The South Florida Chapter board is comprised of a variety of professionals in public and private industry practices, where a continuous effort is always made to communicate chapter events to colleagues, encourage ACFE engagement and request feedback for improvement.

**Briefly describe the outreach/community service projects in which the nominee has been involved.**

In December 2021 we provided a \$2,500 donation to His House Children's Home. His House Children's Home is a private, faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to restoring joy to the lives of children from newborn to 21 years of age. In addition to the donation, several members of our Board and their significant others went to His House Children's Home and transformed a room on campus for children to use as a quiet relaxing room and a space for their 1:1 therapy session. A [video](#) of the project can be found on both the ACFE South Florida Chapters and His House Children's Home LinkedIn account.

We created a Professional Scholarship Program at the end of 2020 in which our chapter issues a quarterly CFE Exam Prep Course to qualified individual. We have provided 5 CFE Exam Prep Courses in 2021. We also give prominence to previous CFE Exam Prep Course recipients who obtain their CFE by including a picture of them with their certificate on our website.

**What has the nominee done to promote the CFE credential to ACFE members in the chapter's geographic area?**

One of our board members is an Accounting Professor, and the Director of the University of Miami Herbert Business School Graduate Accounting Program. Several Board Members continue to participate as guest lecturers in his classes to expose students to a variety of ways one may utilize their CFE credential.

As described above, we created a Professional Scholarship program awarding a quarterly scholarship (CFE Exam Course) to a worthy candidate based on an application and review process. To date we have issued five CFE Exam Prep Courses and one individual has obtained the CFE credential.

We send regular and recurring emails and LinkedIn postings inviting the community to join the South Florida Chapter or apply for the Professional Scholarship Program.

Chapter board members and affiliated professionals are actively engaged in association activities, speaking opportunities and networks which promote the CFE credential. Examples of said activities in 2021, include, but are not limited to:

- Yoshua Garfinkel (past Vice President) various speaking engagements throughout the local community, colleges, universities and affiliated ACFE chapters.
- Joseph Palmar (current Sponsorships Director) speaking engagement with the FICPA (Orlando).

**What has the nominee done to promote the CFE credential to the next generation of fraud fighters?**

The South Florida Chapter has provided a \$10,000 donation to the Ritchie Jennings Memorial Scholarship Program for the second year in a row. Our chapter provides students free membership dues and deeply discounted event registration rates to make it accessible and affordable to participate in the events; especially during the recent pandemic that affected our industry financially.

As mentioned previously, we created a Professional Scholarship program that provides a CFE Exam Prep Course to qualified candidate on a quarterly basis to increase the opportunity of passing the CFE Exam and to develop the skills and knowledge of professionals in our industry.

Many of the board members and affiliation professionals are actively engaged in the local community, providing opportunities to promote the CFE credential.

### **What kind of networking opportunities does the nominee provide for members?**

We were limited by COVID, as was the case with many other chapters and organizations; however, we were able to safely hold two hybrid events in 2021 that offered attendees a chance to participate in networking opportunities:

- July 2021 at Miami Marlins ballpark in which we hosted a 2-hour webinar and rented a suite with food and beverage for attendees to watch the Miami Marlins take on the Los Angeles Dodgers.
- September 2021 at Hilton Miami Airport we hosted a 1.5- hour panel discussion with well-respected litigation consulting leaders followed by a lunch, giving the audience an opportunity to network with board members and panelists.

It is our goal to get back to hosting more networking opportunities in 2022 while we continue to host our training events in the virtual or hybrid space. In addition, we plan to promote and create a more personal rapport with our members; we have a happy hour scheduled for March 2022 after a virtual webinar event.

### **What unique benefits does the nominee offer to the members?**

- Speaking opportunities at chapter conferences, universities, and the community at large
- CFE Exam Prep Course scholarship packages
- Actively identifying World class speakers from corporate, law enforcement and non-profit organizations
- 1-year complimentary membership to the Chapter upon obtaining their CFE credential within the South Florida market. In 2021, we have had 75 new Certified Fraud Examiners in South Florida.
- Creation of Chapter Member of the Year in 2021 which provides one chapter member a plaque and a free registration to the following year's ACFE Global Fraud Conference
- Opportunities for raffle prizes which in 2021 have consisted of the following:
  - o 2021 ACFE Global Fraud Conference registration
  - o Apple Air Pods – three winners
  - o Complimentary future event registrations – seven winners
  - o Four signed Michael Bret Hood books as part of 11/4 event
  - o Eight signed Man Hunters books as part of 11/4 event
  - o One signed Man Hunters poster as part of 11/4 event

### **Has the nominee been of any help to other chapters?**

During 2021, we helped over 60 ACFE local chapters provide their members with both quality training events and revenue opportunities. For the events that we provide chapter allocations we allow participating chapters to offer the same chapter member rate obtainable for the South Florida Chapter members to members of their chapter. This rate is discounted against non-members.

We have also provided consulting to various Chapters throughout 2021 which include the Gulf Coast Chapter, Northern Colorado Chapter, Greater Fort Myers Chapter, Tampa Bay Chapter,

Georgia Area Chapter, New Orleans Chapter, Upstate New York Chapter, NE Ohio Chapter and Knoxville Chapter.

Upon request we have also provided two board members to speak at the ACFE Houston Virtual Conference for their October 2021 Conference.

Over the past two years, our chapter has provided financial assistance of \$55,583 to over 60 ACFE chapters.

**Based on your responses above, what qualifies the nominee for the Chapter of the Year award?**

The financial assistance that our chapter has provided to other ACFE chapters over the past two years and the top-notch training opportunities we have provided to other ACFE chapters qualify us for the nominee of the year award. The non-financial assistance that our chapter has provided to other ACFE chapters includes identifying/sharing speakers, general chapter discussions, Zoom webinar issues, and transitioning websites from StarChapter to Wild Apricot.

- Membership growth since 2019 when our chapter had 72 chapter members to currently having 311 chapter members
- Support of ACFE national initiatives, including board member participation in Chapter Leaders Committee meetings and Corporate Alliance Roundtables
- Local Community service efforts
- Further enhanced our Corporate Sponsorship Program which raised \$14,000 in 2021. This program provides significant exposure to the sponsors as well as to the ACFE.