



**knoxville chapter**  
connecting financial executives

# Fall 2022 NEWSLETTER



## Message from the President

Fall is here and that means “It’s Football Time In Tennessee”. If FEI had a signature tag line, it would be “Financial Guru’s, Make Every Moment Count”. We are trained and programmed to maximize our time and money in both our companies and our personal lives. Whether it’s company deadlines, or sporting matches, or family obligations; we juggle schedules to be available and engaged. Finding balance can be a chore, but I’m amazed by the many schedules that both our Members and Partners juggle. Sports have always been a great unifier, and in a similar way we share a common bond in FEI with our link to helping manage the lifeblood of our organizations.

In the upcoming FEI meetings, I look forward to having conversations with fellow Members and Partners about the wisdom they’ve gleaned from having navigated through recent challenges. I’m always reminded that we all share in similar experiences, and it makes me that more grateful for the experiences I’ve encountered, even the most challenging ones.

We have planned an exciting line-up of speakers and we have a wonderful Board of Directors in place to see us through a successful year.

Make every moment count!



Alan Horton  
President, Knoxville Chapter  
Director of Finance | South College

*If a Member and/or Partner would like to contribute to an upcoming FEI Newsletter, please email Lance Weeden at [lweeden@khfh.com](mailto:lweeden@khfh.com). Thank you.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President:** Alan Horton
- Secretary:** Lance Weeden
- Treasurer:** Cecilia Petersen
- VP Membership:** Stephen Arnold
- VP Programs:** Jennifer Sheley
- Partner Chair:** Allen Grady
- Board Member at Large:** Greg Ashley
- Chapter Administrator:** Jill Green
- FEI Interns:** Amber Heatherly (UT), Luke Collins (UT), Liam Decker (UT), Colby Green (UT), and Annie Fowler (Maryville College)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

View all events and register [here](#).

### Fall Social Events

- **Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
*Bowling Social – Maple Hall*  
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
*Holiday Party - Flemings*

### 2022 Chapter Meetings

- All events held from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Bridgewater Place unless noted.*
- **Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**  
*Tiffany Kerns – Country Music Assoc.*
  - **Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**  
*Fall CPE ½ Day – South College*
  - **Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
*Aram Demirjian – Knoxville Symphony*
  - **Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**  
*Dr. Marianne Wanamaker – Economic Update*
  - **Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**  
*Doug Campbell – Covenant Health General Counsel*
  - **Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
*Melissa Walker – Dollywood Director of Finance*

## Partner Spotlight: TenHats

Since 2016, TenHats has been the area's leading IT management firm serving organizations in East Tennessee and the surrounding areas. They've supported organizations of all sizes with tech support, network management, cloud configurations, and more. In 2020, they opened Tennessee's first fully redundant data center, exceeding industry-standard requirements for colocation and disaster recovery.

FEI recently sat down with Brian Strong, TenHats Chief Executive Officer, to discuss the exciting opportunities his Company provides and also how FEI Members and Partners could benefit.



Tell us just a little bit about the history of TenHats and how your approach sets you apart from others?

TenHats was established by a core group of team members with a long history of building leading IT teams on both a regional and national level. So we started out with a rich history of expertise grounded with deep roots in Knoxville, TN. Our ability to deliver large enterprise solutions that are scalable to any company size, coupled with strong leadership that marries both business and IT acumen, and low employee turnover has positioned TenHats to be a one-stop shop for all IT needs.

Can you expand just a little about the meaning behind the name TenHats?

The name helps us communicate our broad range of capabilities and expertise. Many businesses owners and IT professionals have to wear the networking hat, the cybersecurity hat, the tech support hat, and so on. We want to wear some or all of those hats for our clients so they can focus on what matters most to them.

Being a relatively new Partner, what first interested TenHats in FEI?

The environment that FEI promotes in terms of the best peer group of financial experts trying to be the best financial officers, compliments some of the same themes at TenHats. We find value in knowledge sharing and strength in groups and look forward to building and sharing FEI relationships.

What are you looking forward to in the upcoming FEI year?

We're excited for all of it. The experience thus far has been great, and we can wait for the fall scheduling. We already work with so many financial professionals because they are often making decisions about IT within their organization. We're excited to learn how to improve our relationship with the clients we already serve and make new connections along the way.

*The Knoxville FEI Chapter's success reflects the diverse combination of skills and talents of our Partners. We look forward to sharing more of these stories with everyone in future newsletters.*

## Member Spotlight: David Youngblood

David Youngblood is a believer that if you're the smartest person in the room, then you're in the wrong room. That was one of the main reasons he decided to try out FEI Knoxville several years ago after encouragement by Greg Ashley and while transitioning back into finance after many years exploring different fields.

Currently the CFO of Strategic Acquisitions Group ("SAG"), David is responsible for both operational management as well as deal flow for the private investment company that focuses on real estate and operating business opportunities. SAG is owned by Raja Jubran of Denark Construction and former Governor Bill Haslam. As a big proponent of transparency and integrity, SAG has shown they live these values since the day David started the interview process.

Strategic Acquisition Group is always looking for new opportunities and prefers to focus in the East Tennessee area. They look for companies where the current ownership wants to keep a vested interest in the business and focus on evaluating deals based on long term cash flows.

In addition to his role as CFO of SAG, David is also an owner of E-Jay Thermo in Lenoir City. This company supports the metals industry with superior materials and tools for a multitude of casting processes.

According to David, Knoxville is an interesting market because there are a lot of big companies and industries here that folks do not even realize. This is one of the reasons FEI Knoxville is one of the best chapters in the US. He shares it's a great networking opportunity with like-minded professionals and has found a ton of value from the people he has met through FEI.

A fun fact about David is that he lives on a family farm in Athens, TN but doesn't mind the commute into Knoxville too much. He is currently enjoying the "golden" years with his two kids ages 5 and 4 where they are self-sufficient but still think parents are the greatest. David is also an avid Tennessee fan but does not get to the games much these days. If you are looking for some really interesting conversation look for David at the next Chapter meeting.

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### Interested in additional CPE credit opportunities?

Be sure to visit the FEI Knoxville Webpage [here](#) for CPE offerings from our talented Chapter Partners.

FEI National also provides professional development solutions for financial executives. Take your learning path to the next level, with continuing professional education credit opportunities through in-person courses and conferences, webinars, and on-demand learning.

IN-PERSON

WEBINARS

ON DEMAND

Looking for customized, on-site programs to further your accounting and finance team's careers? If so, FEI INSIDE can help by creating a culture of professional growth and change.

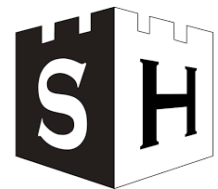
***Watch for free CPE offerings through the Knoxville and other FEI chapters.***

# Maple Hall Bowling Social

Thank you to our Members, Partners, and families who joined us for bowling at Maple Hall.



# THANK YOU TO OUR CHAPTER PARTNERS



Introducing **FEIconnect**, a private online community

created exclusively for FEI members to connect, learn and share online!

Join the conversation at  
[connect.financialexecutives.org](http://connect.financialexecutives.org)

