



knoxville chapter
connecting financial executives

Spring 2023 NEWSLETTER



Message from the President

I recently saw a catchy commercial that showed a man sleeping on his back while his child rested on his chest and the slogan was, “don’t do your taxes, so you can do more important things”. The commercial resonated with me and I must admit, for the first time ever, I’ve paid someone else to do my taxes.

As a CPA and a finance professional, I’m reluctant to give up control, but the truth is I’ve had more important things to do in my free time; kids sports, scout outings and yard work, lots and lots of yard work. I joked with a colleague that I missed my calling as an outdoor laborer, as I find peace and solace in manual labor that is more physically demanding.

During my solitude, I had the opportunity to self-reflect and think about all the influences that formed my career in accounting and finance. Yes, the obvious influences are ever present as my father was an accountant. But it goes back even further to his father, my grandfather, who in 1942 narrowly avoided marching in the Baton Death March. While serving in the US Army and waiting to depart for the Pacific Ocean, at the last minute he was reassigned to a different platoon because he had gone to officer training school, learned how to use a typewriter and perform basic accounting functions. This small skill became a large and fortunate asset as he would eventually learn the fate of the platoon he was originally assigned; they were captured in the Baton Death March. It was a very tragic and sad occurrence and from that day forward, my grandfather was adamant about teaching his children the trade that saved his life.

It is outside influences and inherited gifts that shape our career paths. Take the time to reflect on your own journey to your career path and whether you did your taxes this year, or you paid someone else to do them, realize that you may inspire others to a successful career path as you toil in labor.



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. Thank you.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Summer Social Events

- **Friday, June 8th**
FEI-esta Summer Social
Zoo Knoxville, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Friday, July 14th**
FEI Happy Hour
TBD, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

2022 Chapter Meetings

All events held from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Bridgewater Place unless noted.

- **Tuesday, May 16th**
Jason Jarnagin & Kristy Norris – Recent Trends in Cybersecurity

Partner Spotlight: Coulter & Justus, P.C.

Coulter & Justus, P.C. is a certified public accounting and business advisory firm that provides a wide range of services including assurance, tax planning and compliance, forensic, and business consulting to clients in various industries locally and across the United States. The firm was founded in 1993 and has since grown to become one of the largest accounting firms in East Tennessee with over 70 employees.



Coulter & Justus prides itself on providing personalized service and building lasting relationships with clients to help them achieve their financial goals. The firm has received various awards and recognition including being named one of Knoxville's Top Workplaces and nationally by Accounting Today as one of the Best Accounting Firms to Work for and Best Accounting Firms for Women.

FEI recently sat down with Mike Parton, Managing Principal at Coulter & Justus, P.C., to discuss the mutual benefits both Coulter & Justus, P.C. and the Knoxville Chapter share.

Being a long-standing Partner, what first interested Coulter & Justus, P.C. in FEI?

Coulter & Justus believes in supporting our clients, our people, and the community. We originally joined FEI because our clients and friends were members, but we have remained an active Partner because of how FEI supports the community. We want to be part of the endeavor and continue to support the financial professionals that are involved in our community.

What are some facts people do not realize about Coulter & Justus, P.C.?

We are excited about how our long standing work life balance focus has now resulted in women comprising half of our executive leadership team. When Accounting Today first recognized us as a Best Accounting Firm for Women, one of our interview quotes was "I just think it's a great place to work for everyone" which I believe says what we are truly about from an employee perspective. With regard to our client service niches, few people realize we have a very large, and national in scope, Employee Benefit Plan (EBP) audit practice based right here in Knoxville.

What value have you seen as a Partner?

First, it allows us to stay connected to clients, friends, and to meet new people active in the community. Second, we value FEI's choice in partners and will often go to the people we have met at FEI for referrals when needed. Third, FEI does a great job finding speakers who are active and involved in the community. And fourth, the CPE offerings are also helpful as it can be hard for some people to find the hours they need each year.

What is your favorite FEI memory?

Every Christmas party has great memories, but I also value the people I have met through FEI.

Member Spotlight: Janet Jentilet

For the Spring 2023 FEI Newsletter, we were thrilled to catch-up with long-time and very active FEI member Janet Jentilet. After 30+ years in corporate finance, Janet is now a directorate group leader for the Project Management Office at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). During her time at ORNL, she's leveraged her technical PMP background to create business process efficiencies through leadership and staffing and/or creation of new tools. Needless to say, her work stories are much more exciting as compared to the typical accounting fare. But that's just the tip of the iceberg for interesting factoids.



Janet's approach to life very much reflects her diverse interests and heart. She sits on the Board for one of the Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocates groups (CASA of the TN Heartland) – a community based program that recruits, trains, and supports citizen volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children. She's been seen around the Knoxville Habitat for Humanity office helping implement business process improvements and leveraging her extensive background of project management and Excel. An avid dog lover and Mom to Trigger, Janet explores a lot of the local dog parks and has been known to help with maintaining hiking trails. And when she does find time to rest, she's been known to enjoy a very relaxing cross-fit class.

Janet sees such diversity and warmth of heart in FEI Knoxville as well. The wide array of speakers and multitude of topics has been a constant draw. Plus the deep network of business professionals and partners helps infuse her current and future roles. She truly enjoys relationships and the monthly meetings are great way to experience FEI.

Janet's heart and nature truly exemplify the volunteer spirit. If you are looking to further engage at FEI or the Knoxville Community, let Janet be your guide.

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



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

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.

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

