



knoxville chapter
connecting financial executives

Fall 2023 NEWSLETTER



Message from the President

What If I told you, that you could have access to innumerable insights and information about the world of business and finance while also networking and gaining knowledge in a fun setting. You can, and FEI Knoxville continues to offer a diverse range of events and opportunities for finance professionals in the Knoxville community.

In September, we kicked off the year by hosting the Knoxville Chamber and we gleaned a deeper understanding about the efforts to create a better Knoxville. In October, our platinum partners presented CPE topics ranging from trends in our profession to data tips in mergers and acquisitions. We also had the opportunity to present our four interns with scholarships. In November, we'll learn about the philanthropic efforts around East Tennessee and in December will take some time to enjoy the annual Fleming's holiday party. In January, everyone's favorite economist will present an economic update and in February we'll gain some insight into the world of NIL deals in sports. We will then take some time away from speakers and resume our bowling matches from last year at Maple Hall. In March, we plan to host the first ever mayoral roundtable to include both Knoxville City Mayor Kincannon and Knox County Mayor Jacobs. The spring CPE will be at South College, and in the May meeting we'll learn about the healthcare industry with the president of UT Medical Center. In June we'll conclude the year at the zoo with everyone's favorite outdoor event, FEI Esta.

We have a variety of events that should cater to everyone's interests, and I hope you take the time to get to know your colleagues and attend our meetings. In addition, don't forget to utilize our partners, they are great at what they do.

If you know any finance professional that would like to join FEI, please invite them to a meeting; we'd love to help them expand their network. I look forward to networking with you and serving as your president.



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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FEI Interns: Luke Collins (UT), Liam Decker (UT), Annie McCormick (Maryville College), and Colby Vesser (Maryville College).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Winter Social Events

- **Thursday, December 7th**
*FEI Knoxville Holiday Party
Flemings, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.*
- **Thursday, February 22nd**
Social at Maple Hall, 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, November 14th**
*Keith Barber and Angela Nystrom –
East Tennessee Foundation*
- **Tuesday, January 16th**
*Marianne Wanamaker – Economic
Update*
- **Tuesday, February 20th**
Hunter Baddour – Spvr Sports

Partner Spotlight: Pinnacle Financial Partners

Pinnacle Financial Partners is a Tennessee-based bank serving the Southeast and known for its commitment to excellence in banking and financial services. With a focus on personalized solutions, Pinnacle serves individuals and businesses who want a banking relationship that goes beyond transactions. The firm offers a full range of banking, investment, trust, mortgage and insurance services, all delivered locally.

This focus on people and local decision making has made Pinnacle a prominent financial institution in the Knoxville market with a reputation for unwavering excellence and personalized service. The firm has become a trusted and integral part of the local community because Pinnacle is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the communities it serves. That's not just corporate responsibility. It's a fundamental part of their success.



FEI recently sat down with one of its newest partners, Pinnacle Financial Partners' Andy Beam, Executive Vice Present and Senior Lending Officer for Knoxville, to discuss the benefits of the partnership with the Knoxville FEI Chapter.

What interested Pinnacle Financial Partners in becoming a Partner with FEI?

FEI is an excellent forum for finance and accounting professionals in Knoxville. It offers this community a place to network and collaborate in a safe environment so they can share their opportunities and challenges. We're longtime fans of what FEI provides and had to be part of this conversation.

What are some facts people do not realize about Pinnacle Financial Partners?

The banking industry has changed a lot in my career, but running consistently through that change is a serious degradation of service. Having been in a big corporate environment for the last several years, I was really looking for a locally focused company that put an emphasis on the happiness of its employees while creating a space for them to truly serve their clients with the levels of service and advice they're capable of. That's something that surprises a lot of people who work with us at Pinnacle. It's not just talk, we are fundamentally focused on the happiness of our associates because we know it greatly affects the success of our clients. We have an amazing culture with a truly flat operating model and local decision making, all of which makes it easier to be responsive to our clients. We've succeeded at keeping a community bank culture while growing to a size that allows us to serve individuals and businesses at any level.

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

We are looking forward as a partner to continuing to build relationships with members. The programming we've seen so far has been strong, and we look forward to attending more.

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

Member Spotlight: Susan Gennoe

Susan Gennoe has over 30 years of experience in finance and accounting, 20 of those spent serving local government (Blount, Alcoa, and Knoxville). Her newest role includes serving as Vice President of Finance for the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority (“MKAA”) which oversees operations at Downtown Island (“DKX”) and McGhee Tyson (“TYS”) Airports. She sits in a very unique position that allows her to see the growth of Knoxville and its impact upon businesses.

Knoxville FEI rushed at the opportunity to sit down with Susan to learn more about herself and the MKAA plans for the future.

What are some of the upcoming plans for expansion at TYS?

There’s a lot of energy and enthusiasm surrounding growth in Knoxville. The airport is working hard to meet the current and future air transportation needs created by this growth. In June 2023, TYS reported its busiest month in the airport’s 86-year history and is seeing larger airplanes in the market with an increase in the demand for airport parking. This year, TYS is averaging 90% full on its airplanes and in the parking areas.

To offset this growth and increased demand, the airport has completed projects at the facility and are planning additional construction in the years to come. For example, we just replaced the turnstile exit at the security checkpoint to make it easier for returning passengers to leave the concourse and we added a fourth lane to the security checkpoint. Another large project on the horizon will be the parking garage expansion that will ultimately deliver another 3,500 parking spots in front of the airport terminal building. In addition, we are currently working on a plan to add 4-6 new gates to the airport, and working to add a bus service to help passengers traverse this growing footprint. The future looks extremely bright for TYS, and we hope the Knoxville community shares this enthusiasm and passion.

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

Continuing her long-standing community involvement, Susan also sits on 2 Boards (Zoo Knoxville and Crime Stoppers). If her busy schedule allows, she also enjoys camping and riding e-bikes on local trails with her husband.

Susan has dedicated her career to supporting local communities and her leadership at MKAA will ensure Knoxville’s future remains bright.



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

