



# CHAPTER CONNECTIONS

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

SEPTEMBER 2019

## President's Message



Fellow FEI Pittsburgh Chapter Members and Sponsors,

I'm excited about the opportunity to serve as FEI President. Our fall speaker lineup has been set and we are close to finalizing our chapter meeting schedule for the remainder of the 2019/20 season. The Board is focused on bringing our members more opportunities to engage and realize value from FEI membership.

Stay tuned for expanded CPE offerings and other programming announcements as the year progresses.

I'm also excited to report that the FEI Pittsburgh Chapter added 30 new members this past year, bringing our membership total to 152. You can expect to see some new faces in the crowd at our monthly meetings. Our goal is to continue to strengthen our membership base again this year. Please help us to grow by recruiting a qualified colleague or a friend to attend a monthly meeting as our guest.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Parker, President, FEI Pittsburgh Chapter

### Save the Date!

#### Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, 9/17**

Duquesne Club

Keynote Speaker:

Brayman

Construction CEO,  
Stephen Muck

CPE presented by  
Robert Half

#### Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, 10/15**

Duquesne Club

Keynote Speaker: Civil &

Environmental

Consultants CEO, Ken  
Miller

CPE presented by  
Schneider Downs

#### Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, 11/12**

Tower at PNC Plaza

Keynote Speaker:

PNC Financial Corp.

CEO, Bill Demchak

CPE presented by  
PNC Financial Corp.

## New Chapter Members

New FEI Pittsburgh  
Members

*June 1 – August 31*

**Nancy Golembiewski,  
Evoqua Water Technologies**

**Jim Caruso,  
South University**

**John Barsic,  
Red Valve Co.**

**Mark Romito  
Upper St. Clair SD**

**Mark Stropkaj  
Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP**

Clear the way for new members:  
this year, new members -  
recognized by their **gold name**  
**tags** - receive priority access to  
the bar at chapter meetings.



# Calling All Leaders



Did you know that FEI Pittsburgh is the third-oldest FEI chapter in the US? It's been continuously active since 1934. Our organization has withstood wars, economic downturns, and occasional thin sponsorship years, due largely to the dedication of its volunteer leadership.

The 2019-20 chapter board is working to expand its committees. If you've ever taken a moment to introduce yourself to a new member, or to tell someone about

FEI, then you are qualified for a committee. The more members – and sponsors – who are involved in making decisions that affect the whole group, the more likely the organization will continue to serve the whole group.

Help ensure that FEI Pittsburgh's next 85 years are as robust as the past 85: volunteer for board and/or committee service today. Contact chapter president Ryan Parker at [r\\_parker@brayman.com](mailto:r_parker@brayman.com) to get involved.

## 2019-20 Committee Chairs

Academic Liaison: Karen Shastri  
 Career Management: Frank Lazzaro  
 Golf Outing: John Yokim  
 Membership, Recruitment & Retention:  
 John Lemmex  
 Nominating: Ricardo Iriart  
 Professional Development: Phil Petraglia  
 Programs: Ryan Parker  
 Strategic Partnerships: John Yokim

### Additional Chapter Board Directors

Tom Fleury, Bob Funderlich, Mark Gibbons  
 Bob Hook, Ed Hughes, Ray Lombardi  
 Roberta Meinzer, Pat Newingham  
 Chris Pascuzzi, Barry Williams  
 Greg Yochum

## NATIONAL EVENTS

### CFRI 2019

NOVEMBER 11 – 12 | NEW YORK

Discover how finance executives can promote change and innovation to lead their companies. At the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Corporate Financial Reporting Insights Conference, learn how connecting technology and people can optimize the accounting and finance reporting environments.

### CFO Series

DECEMBER 2 – 6 | PHILADELPHIA

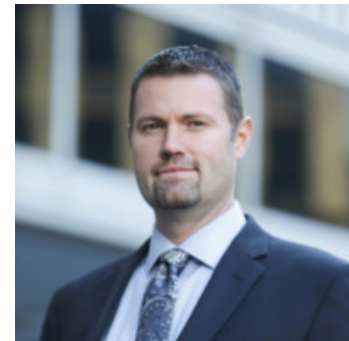
The CFO Series provides a convenient path for current and aspiring CFOs to build effective organizational leadership skills and add strategic value to their businesses. The series consists of five eight-hour courses, presented by three different financial management veterans. Each course highlights four topics through presentations and executive-level, colleague-to-colleague interactions.

# SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

## Identifying AI Use Cases for the Finance Function

PRESENTED BY ANDREW SASSAMAN, METRO MARKET MANAGER,  
ROBERT HALF

Accounting and finance departments have been automating processes such as invoicing, data collection, financial report generation, and documentation storage and compliance for some time. Now, many organizations are turning their attention to the artificial intelligence (AI) revolution — and trying to identify appropriate AI use cases for the finance function.



As finance organizations undergo digital transformation, they often consider implementing AI. [Research](#) from Robert Half found that about one-quarter (24%) of accounting and finance functions in the United States are already using the technology. Twenty-nine percent expect to use AI within the next three years. Only 26% of respondents said they don't expect to use AI in the next five years.

Companies can gain a huge competitive advantage when they can use advanced tools like AI to improve their efficiency and performance. The challenge is figuring out where to start. For tips on how finance managers can incorporate AI into their processes, click [here](#), or navigate via [https://www.roberthalf.com/blog/the-future-of-work/identifying-ai-use-cases-for-the-finance-function?utm\\_source=FEI&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=Content\\_Sharing](https://www.roberthalf.com/blog/the-future-of-work/identifying-ai-use-cases-for-the-finance-function?utm_source=FEI&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=Content_Sharing)

*Andrew Sassaman has been helping Pittsburgh companies find Pittsburgh talent for more than 15 years. Contact him at [Andrew.Sassaman@roberthalf.com](mailto:Andrew.Sassaman@roberthalf.com) for all of your full-time and contract hiring needs.*



**rh**

**WE BELIEVE  
IN BUSINESS  
NOT AS USUAL.**

You need more than a seat-filler. You need people who fit your company, truly enjoy what they do, and can hit the ground running. It's time to let Robert Half help you build the productive and energized workforce that can make your company even better.

**IT'S TIME WE ALL WORK HAPPY.\***

1.800.803.8367  
roberthalf.com

**rh Robert Half®**

# FEI September Calendar

Events Open to Members of FEI Pittsburgh

## Wednesday, September 11

***Improve Bottom Line Results: How Companies are Mitigating Complex Tax Risks by Deploying Insurance Capital***

8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Duquesne Club | [Click here for details](#)

Presented by Aon Risk Services

## Tuesday, September 17

***FEI Pittsburgh September Chapter Meeting, featuring keynote address by Brayman Construction CEO, Stephen Muck***

4:30 p.m. Professional Development | 5:15 p.m. Networking

Duquesne Club | [Click here for details](#)

## Thursday, September 19

***Import Tariffs and Surety Bonds: What They Mean to Your Organization***

3:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Duquesne Club | [Click here for details](#)

Presented by Aon Risk Services

FEI Sponsors: Contact Christina Coulter at [feipgh@financialexecutives.org](mailto:feipgh@financialexecutives.org) to promote events open to members of FEI Pittsburgh. *Subject to chapter approval.*

## Save the Date!

### Joint Holiday Party

December 5, 2019

Fairmont Hotel

Gather with all of Pittsburgh's finance pros at the annual joint gala.

*Professional development by PwC.*

### February Meeting

February 13, 2020

Duquesne Club

Keynote address by CMU Swartz Center for Entrepreneurship EIR, Craig Markovitz

*Scholarship Night*

## FEI Pittsburgh on LinkedIn

### FEI Pittsburgh Expanding Online Presence

Following the lead of several other FEI chapters, FEI Pittsburgh has launched its own LinkedIn company page.

From it, followers may:

- Connect with new members
- Receive event announcements
- Stay current on national conferences and events
- Learn about professional development opportunities
- Share industry updates
- Enjoy event photo galleries

**Follow FEI Pittsburgh on LinkedIn today to maximize your member and sponsor benefits!**

[linkedin.com/company/fei-pittsburgh-chapter](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fei-pittsburgh-chapter)