



### Note from the President

In a few weeks we begin the summer months and while we are presently busy meeting with donors, or winding down from a busy fundraising season, or planning for the upcoming season, we are all looking forward to relaxing, traveling and enjoying time with family and friends.

I am thrilled to announce that the Fairfield Chapter earned both the Ten Star and IDEA Champion designations! These recognitions are given to chapters who perform specific activities designed to enhance professionalism within fundraising, incorporate IDEA principles, and

increase public awareness of the importance of philanthropy.

This year as we continue to navigate the new normal resulting from the pandemic, the AFP Chapter's events have been well attended. We began in January with guests, Kathryn Van Sickle and her father, Fred, both seasoned fundraisers. Kathryn hosts The Development Debrief podcast and she and Fred presented on the changes in fundraising due to the pandemic. Additionally, we met three major foundation and corporate funders who shared their best practices and tips on providing grants to the community and non-profits; Craig Shelly, from the Orr Group, presented a seminar on strategic planning, and much more from other guests. Stay tuned for CFRE training offered this summer and upcoming Fall programs.

Several of our board members attended AFP ICON, and I had the chance to attend AFP Lead last October. Both events were packed with educational seminars, a chance to learn and network from other Chapter members and make new friends.

Our Board of Directors are working behind the scenes to continue to meet AFP's mission and standards and provide top programming and information to assist our members and constituents; I cannot thank them enough for their tireless efforts.

Thank you for your dedication and perseverance to the non-profit field and the work you do with your individual organizations in an effort to serve others.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you.

Pamela Rittman, CFRE  
President, AFP, Fairfield County Chapter



Committees are a great way to learn new skills, meet people from different backgrounds, and collaborate within the field we all care about.

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## 2023 AFP ICON – An Exciting Time for Fairfield County Board Members

Two AFP, Fairfield County Chapter board members attended AFP ICON in April and found it rewarding, informative, and engaging: Caroline Owens, Associate Director, Parent Engagement & Philanthropy, Sacred University and Shaye Anne McCormick, Senior Development Office, Catholic Charities of Fairfield County. Caroline attended as a Chamberlain Scholarship recipient for the Chapter. It was a time of learning, inspiration, networking and a celebration of fundraising.



[Link to full article](#)

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## Board Member Spotlight

### [Mary Arconti Gregory, CFRE](#)

*Chief Development Officer, Girl Scouts of Connecticut*

**Chapter involvement:** It has been my privilege to be a member of AFP Fairfield County for close to a decade, currently serving on the Board of Directors. My membership began with a desire to expand my professional development but has given me so much more than I could've ever expected. In addition to providing endless opportunities to stay connected and up to date on best practices and trends in our nuanced industry, I have developed a strong network of colleagues who I can turn to for advice, support, and collaboration. Additionally, thanks to AFP Fairfield County's CFRE study group, I recently accomplished my professional goal of earning this esteemed accreditation. Our AFP chapter continues to be a strong resource for me as personally as well as a fantastic resource for the talented fundraising staff I lead.



**Fun fact:** I took up Pickleball during COVID summer of 2020. Our local community group started with about 8 players at that time which has now grown to an astounding 300+ network! If anyone has an interest in learning about this fun & social fitness activity, give me a call anytime – Pickleball is a blast and I encourage anyone who will listen to give it a try!

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## Professional Development

Looking to earn your CFRE credential? Stay tuned for information on upcoming CFRE Review training in the coming months.

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## Member Spotlight

### [Emily Carriero](#)

*Assistant Director of Development, Foundations in Education*

**Chapter Involvement:** I have been a member of AFP since 2021 and seek to become CFRE certified and more involved with the Fairfield Chapter. I think it's critical for employees of nonprofit



organizations to become involved with AFP, as we discuss important topics which foster our development and growth, such as ethics and capital campaign planning. I enjoy using the countless resources available for members, such as participating in webinars, luncheons, round table discussions, and reading the AFP newsletters, just to name a few.

**Fun Fact:** In my spare time, I enjoy walking my dog Islah, spending time with friends, family, cooking, and volunteering at my Church.

## Why Become a Member? [Here's](#) Why!



**June 7** – [AFP Webinar: High-Reliability Fundraising: Safeguard Philanthropy by Understanding Individual Donor Motivation](#)

**June 8** – [AFP Fairfield Educational Luncheon: Feasibility Study in Preparation for a Capital Campaign](#)

**June 8** – [AFP Complimentary Webinar \(Sponsored\): Summer Ease: Implementing Personalized Donor Communications At Scale The Easy \(And Effective\) Way](#)

**June 8** – [Complimentary Members-Only Webinar: Creating Inclusive and Anti-Racist Workplace Cultures Where Women of Color Can Thrive](#)

**June 14** – [AFP Webinar: Capital Campaigns - The Five Essentials You Need for Success](#)

**June 15** – [Complimentary Members-Only Webinar: Achieving Your CFRE: Tips, Hacks and Creating A Great Study Plan](#)

**June 16** – [AFP NY, New York City Chapter Event: Fundraising Day New York 2023!](#)

**June 22** – [AFP Complimentary Webinar: Long-Term Strategy Versus Short-Term Fundraising Plan: Understanding the Differences to Maximize Success](#)

## Thank you for participating in our Chapter and Global programs!





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*AFP Fairfield County Chapter recognizes that Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access (IDEA) are central to its mission and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, class, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. AFP Fairfield County Chapter commits to developing and maintaining a diverse organization that reflects, is responsive to, and embraces the diversity of the communities we serve; respecting and valuing all people.*

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