

Chapter Website:
www.acfe-pgh.org

Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter

February 2026
Newsletter



Greater Pittsburgh Chapter

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February 11, 2026 – ACFE Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter presents – Virtual Meeting

“Understanding Telegram”

Speaker: Keven Hendricks, Adjunct Instructor,
National White Collar Crime Center

Location: Virtual Event (Zoom)

10:00 am – 11:00 am: Presentation – NOTE TIME CHANGE

Please register [here](#).

Registration deadline: February 10th at 3:00 pm

Cost: Members & Associates of the Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter: \$10
All others: \$20

CPE: Qualifies for 1 credit hour of continuing professional education. Attendance certificates will be emailed after the event.

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Our Sponsors:



February 11, 2026

ACFE Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter presents - Virtual Meeting

“Understanding Telegram”

Speaker: Keven Hendricks, Adjunct Instructor, National White Collar Crime Center

This session will be a deep dive into one of the most talked about and misunderstood end-to-end encryption platforms, **Telegram**. While many harbor their own opinions about Telegram and its founder Pavel Durov, Telegram has significantly expanded and evolved since its inception in August 2013. Today, Telegram is much more than just messaging. It has evolved to become a social media platform, as well as its own payment ecosystem with The Open Network blockchain. The core functionality of Telegram will be covered, specifically the proprietary MTProto protocol, and how Telegram evolved to the “Secret Chat” feature. Exploits in Telegram will be covered, as well as open-source investigative tools to help unmask criminal actors that utilize the platform. From Channels, to Bots...the key features that make Telegram stand apart from other E2EE competitors will be explained. With over 1 billion users, it is time for all of us to put aside our animus and understand what Telegram actually is, and what it has the potential to become!

Keven Hendricks is an adjunct instructor for the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C). He began his law enforcement career in 2007 and has previously served as a task force officer for FBI and DEA cyber crime task forces during his tenure. He is a contributing author with the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, American Police Beat, and The Blue Magazine and is recognized as a Subject Matter Expert in dark web investigations by the Department of Defense – DTIC, contributing to analytic journals and technical reports. His expertise has been quoted in The Washington Post, NPR, The Economist, NY Magazine – Intelligencer, and Wired. He speaks at conferences all over the world and instructs to law enforcement in both the United States and internationally.

He is a Certified Cyber Crime Examiner (3CE) and Certified Cyber Crime Investigator (3CI) by NW3C, a Certified Cryptocurrency Investigator through the Blockchain Intelligence Group, and a Certified Digital Asset Professional through the Global Digital Asset & Cryptocurrency Alliance. He is the founder of the Ubivis Project – StopDarkwebDrugs.com and currently sits on the advisory council for the Anti-Human Trafficking Intelligence Initiative.

Please join us for this interesting and relevant presentation.

Register [here!](#)

Ritchie-Jennings Memorial Scholarship

The Ritchie-Jennings Memorial Scholarship was named for two members of the ACFE, Larry Jennings and Tracy Ritchie, who were killed while working in Karachi, Pakistan in 1997. The scholarship is administered by the ACFE Foundation and largely funded through donations of chapters and members of the ACFE.

The Chapter encourages any undergraduate or graduate student who meets the eligibility requirements found [here](#) to consider applying for the scholarships, which range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. A recommendation from a CFE is preferred to applications – the Chapter is happy to connect students to CFEs in the area. The application deadline this year is February 2, 2026, so there is still time to complete your application and essays.

Private Detectives and Investigators

Private detectives and investigators gather, analyze, and report information to clients regarding legal or personal matters. Their services include verifying people's backgrounds, finding missing persons, and investigating crimes.

According to the [U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), private detectives and investigators held about 43,600 jobs in 2024. The largest employers of private detectives and investigators include retail trade, administrative and support services, finance and insurance, government, and professional/scientific/technical services.

Employment of private detectives and investigators is projected to grow 6 percent from 2024 to 2034, faster than the average for all occupations. About 3,900 openings for private detectives and investigators are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Continued lawsuits, fraud and other crimes, and interpersonal mistrust are expected to create demand for investigative services. In addition, background checks will continue to be a source of work for some investigators, as online investigations are not always sufficient.



2 Pittsburgh Business Owners Charged in EBT Fraud Scheme

Two Pittsburgh business owners have been charged after an investigation by Attorney General Dave Sunday's office found that they purchased electronic benefit transfer cards at a discounted rate and used them to purchase food for their businesses. [Read More](#)

Massive Fraud Scheme That Fleeced Thousands of People Had Ties to Pittsburgh Area

Before he was freed from prison by President Donald Trump, David Gentile was a power player in the world of private equity companies, amassing a fortune that included car dealerships, waste hauling firms and storage facilities. [Read More](#)

Pittsburgh Investment Manager Pleads Guilty to \$3.7M Wire Fraud

A Pittsburgh investment manager pleaded guilty to a single count of wire fraud to resolve accusations he diverted more than \$3.7 million from a family's investment fund. [Read More](#)

Washington County Officials Working to ID Person Related to Credit Card Fraud Incident

Washington County officials are seeking help in identifying an individual believed to be involved in a credit card fraud incident. [Read More](#)

AG Sunday's Medicaid Fraud Control Section Secures Prison Sentence for Office Manager in Montgomery County-Based Company's \$1.76 Million Fraud Scheme

Attorney General Dave Sunday announced that the former office manager of a Montgomery County-based home care agency, ComfortZone Home Health Care, will serve a prison sentence for her role in a \$1.76 million Medicaid Fraud scheme. [Read More](#)

Western Pa. Predatory Tow Truck Operator Ordered to Pay \$379K Restitution or Go To Jail; Prohibited From Working in Towing Industry

Attorney General Dave Sunday announced that the owner of Pittsburgh-based Vince's Towing has pleaded guilty to felony charges regarding tow costs inflated by charging "accident services" fees and other deceptive practices. [Read More](#)

Microsoft Disrupts Global Cybercrime Subscription Service Responsible for Millions in Fraud Losses

Microsoft is announcing a coordinated legal action in the United States and, for the first time, the United Kingdom to disrupt RedVDS, a global cybercrime subscription service fueling millions in fraud losses. [Read More](#)

Chattanooga Pastor Sentenced After Pleading Guilty to \$1.8 Million COVID-19 Fraud Scheme

A Chattanooga pastor has been sentenced after pleading guilty to a \$1.8 million COVID-19 employment fraud scheme, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. [Read More](#)

Connect on LinkedIn and Facebook

Did you know the ACFE Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter has a LinkedIn account and Facebook page?
Visit [ACFE Greater Pittsburgh LinkedIn Page](#) and [ACFE Greater Pittsburgh Facebook Page](#)

Your Officers and Directors

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About the ACFE

The ACFE is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together with more than 95,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud worldwide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession. Visit www.acfe.com for more details.

ACFE Women's Summit

Attend the 2026 ACFE Women's Summit in Austin, TX, or online, March 6, 2026. The summit is open to all professionals, no matter your gender and no matter if your role is in compliance, risk, auditing, accounting or the many more areas we know you all work in. To learn more about the event and to register, visit: <https://www.fraudconference.com/womenssummit2026.aspx>

Upcoming Events

- [Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – Meeting](#)
- [Wednesday, April 8, 2026 – Meeting](#)
- [Tuesday, May 19, 2026 – Fraud and Corruption Awareness Seminar \(Co-Sponsored with the IIA and Schneider Downs\)](#)
- [Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – Meeting](#)
- [June 2026 – Officer and Director Elections](#)

[Watch for more information on upcoming events!](#)