



AITP

The Printout

The Nashville Chapter
Of
The Association Of Information
Technology Professionals

December 2007
Chapter Newsletter

Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theater

This year your board is planning a very special December AITP meeting. We are going to Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre for dinner and a play. The play is "The Game Show Show" which will be in the backstage theater of the facility. Dinner is served buffet style with waiters available to get your drinks.

The play is described as a hilarious evening where audience members join 'celebrities' to play all-time favorite game shows with a holiday theme. It should be a very festive evening with an opportunity to win some 'fabulous prizes'.

What makes this evening even more special is the prices.

AITP members and spouse/significant other will pay \$20.00 each.

AITP guests will pay \$40.00 each.

The normal pricing at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre is \$45.00 per person, so this is a bargain any way you look at it. The prices include the cost of the meal, play, and taxes. A small gratuity is also included, but you may want to leave your waiter or waitress a little extra gratuity if they have done a really good job. Soft drinks, tea, and coffee are included in the price, but alcoholic beverages are not. You may order them from your waiter/waitress.

The doors open at Chaffin's at 6:00. Dinner is available until 7:30. The play begins at 8:00. When you arrive, check in at the Prepaid Reservations Desk in the lobby under group name (AITP). You will be escorted to your table by a host or hostess. It would probably be best to

Mapquest the directions from where you are coming, but general directions are:

Take I-40 West toward Memphis.

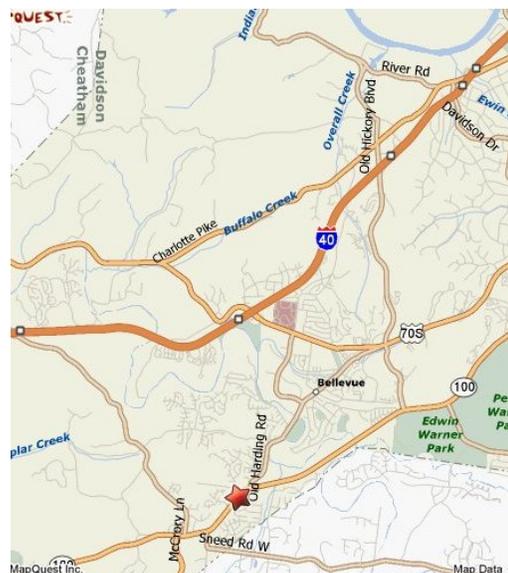
Get off on Old Hickory Blvd., exit 199.

Turn left and go until it dead ends.

Turn right on Highway 100. It is just under 3 miles to Chaffin's Barn.

It is on the right side of the road. The address of Chaffin's Barn is 8204 Highway 100, Nashville, TN 37221. In case you do get lost, the phone number is 646-9977.

See you there!



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AITP Nashville Roster

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Internet Information —	Web Sites
Chapter:	http://www.aitpnashville.org
Headquarters:	http://www.aitp.org
Region 7:	http://members.tripod.com/aitpregion7
AITP P. O. Box 22038 Nashville TN 37202	

**Dinner Reservation
and
Cancellation Policy**

AITP members will be notified by electronic mail one week prior to the Chapter meeting. Reservations can be made by responding to the electronic notice or by calling **Mary Simpson at 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775** Dinner reservations can be canceled up to 24-hours prior to the meeting without cost.

Since the Chapter pays for reserved meals, No Shows will be billed at the reservation price of \$20.00 for Members, and \$30.00 for Guests.

Members are responsible for their guests' reservations. *If you are a member and have not been receiving this notification, please contact Mary Simpson at:*

615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775
msimpson@genesco.com.

December Chapter Meeting:

Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theater
8204 Highway 100
Nashville, TN 37221
(615) 646-9977

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow AITP Members and Guests,

Our November meeting was a joint meeting with Nashville's PMI (Project Management Institute) group. It was a great opportunity to not only meet with other Nashville-area IT/Project Management professionals, but to also hear a great presentation! Our featured speaker, Walter "Bubba" Mullen, was unable to join us due to a scheduling conflict; however, he recruited Joe Ferry (one of his peers) to share his presentation. Joe, of course, chose to expound on several of Bubba's "Bubba-isms" and add some of his own words of wisdom!

To quote Bubba, "Life is a collection of stories we've learned from." You can always learn new things from old experiences and conclusions; and you should continually reevaluate what you've learned.

Joe shared several Bubba-ism's with us. Like, "You shouldn't pave the cow path". Just because a path has been worn over time doesn't guarantee that this path is the best path. It's sometimes just the path that's there that gets used again and again. Don't be afraid to consider change. Just because that's the way it's always been done doesn't mean that it's the best way.

"Eat your own dog food." Make sure you have confidence in your product or work. Do you use it yourself? And, then there's the saying about the pig and the chicken. The chicken has interest in breakfast but the pig must be committed! You need to make sure you have the support of your management team before embarking into a new project. Chickens can get very excited about new projects but it won't do much good if the pigs can't be found!

"Insanity is running the same plays over and over again; failing every time; but thinking you will get a different result." Be flexible. Try different approaches. Don't try to deliver a "perfect" system! No system is perfect and trying to make it perfect may cause you to miss your product delivery deadlines. Find a balance.

"If you're a mason, you build brick outhouses." With some projects, it's possible that some of the decisions aren't being made by the right people. Make sure you utilize the skill set of your "masons"; include them in your decisions.

"All hat and no cattle." Just because a guy has a big hat, cowboy boots, big belt buckle and a big truck doesn't mean he's a cowboy! Some managers have less technical expertise than the people they manage. As a manager, enable your people, even though they might have more technical skills than you do.

"It's easier to turn while moving." Probably a left over from the days before power steering; but the concept is still applicable! It's easier to make changes if you're at least doing something!

For the last point, Joe actually used two phrases: "To get a hit, you have to swing the bat." and "It's all part of the gig." Bottom line, do what needs doing to "git 'er done!" Be flexible and pull together to get the job done!

Make AITP your next project! Consider change! Build confidence! Try different approaches! Decide to get involved! Come to the meetings, network with other IT professionals, and hear other great presentations! To make the Nashville AITP chapter better than ever, we need you, your skill set, and your commitment!

Mary Simpson

President

msimpson@genesco.com

AITP Special Recognition

November Speaker – Joe Ferry

Our advertised speaker for the November 8, 2007 meeting was Walter “Bubba” Mullen of the Oakwood Systems Group. He was to speak on Project Management since the November meeting was a joint AITP – Project Management Institute (PMI) meeting.

Bubba was unable to join us for the November 8th meeting due to a last minute business requirement. He was able to have one of his associates, Joe Ferry, give us a presentation on Project Management in his place. Joe Ferry did make an excellent presentation, and there was nothing by good comments from the audience.



The purpose of this write-up is not only to thank Joe for his talk, but also to give people an idea of his background.

Joe Ferry is a Consultant with Oakwood Systems Group, Inc. in their St. Louis office. He has been working for the past year in Columbia, Tennessee as a data base administrator for a web-based court case management system.

Joe started life as a lawyer and spent 13 years practicing law prior to a career change to application and database development. Joe said he got into computers and found that it was more fun than practicing law. He did put his legal experience to good use in developing applications involving code enforcement and law enforcement activities. Joe worked for St. Louis County for five years in its Division of Data Processing and the Police Department’s Bureau of Computer Services.

After leaving St. Louis County employment, Joe worked for eight years as a Microsoft Certified Trainer, six of those years as a self-employed independent contractor. As a trainer, he taught courses in virtually all aspects of application development, database programming, and database administration, as well as data warehousing and OLAP using Microsoft tools and products. Joe prides himself on keeping up with Microsoft certifications and says he has passed 45 certification exams.

Joe is a member of the Missouri Bar and received his J.D. degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia School of Law. He also has a BS in Physics, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of Missouri. Joe says for fun he develops videos for YouTube.

We appreciate Joe filling in for Bubba and wish him well.

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2007

Date	Event	Location	Information
December 13	Field Trip	Chaffins' Barn	Guest Night for Dinner Theater and Play
January 10	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Select	IT at HealthSpring, Inc. Andy Flatt, CIO
February 14	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Select	Program TBA
March 13	Field Trip	Tennessee Titans	Russ Hudson, IT Director To be confirmed

SPEAKERS

We are always interested in good speakers to make presentations at our AITP Chapter Meetings. If you know someone who is interested in making a presentation on a topic, on their company, or company's products, please contact Paul Saunders at (615) 367-1717 or Paul@SaundersSystems.com.

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AITP NEW MEMBER

Jacqueline Hollingsworth
Information Systems Manager
Metro Water Services
1700 3rd Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37208
jacqueline.hollingsworth@nashville.gov

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!

ELECTION OF NASHVILLE AITP OFFICERS FOR 2008

We will be holding our annual election of Nashville AITP officers at the January chapter meeting. The slate thus far is as follows:

President: Marshall Messamore

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Ella McGill

Treasurer: Beverly Gibson

Nominations may also be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

There are other Board positions open. If you would like to serve in a leadership role in Nashville AITP please contact Marshall Messamore or any Board member.

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Quarter Page	(4" x 5")	\$150 for 12 issues
Business Card	(2" x 4")	\$ 50 for 12 issues

Contact Mike Eischen for more information! 367-7068

AITP
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December 2007



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