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# ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES

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**Save the Date:**

CDFM Module on-site testing location and dates TBD.

The Monthly Luncheon will be held at The City Club of Cleveland located at 850 Euclid Avenue on Wednesday, 20 November 2013 at 11:30. The speaker will be John Lukcas, Director of Audit Readiness.

Volunteer Day at the Cleveland FoodBank on Saturday, 9 November 2013 from 8:00 to 12:00.

**Future Meeting Announcements:**

ASMC Board Meeting  
Location and time to TBD.

\*\*The ASMC Times is the newsletter of the Cleveland Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers. Views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of federal agencies. Items for inclusion are welcome and should be sent to: ASMC Cleveland Chapter, P.O. Box 99907, Cleveland, Ohio 44199-0907. Phone number is (216) 204-7639. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content, length, grammar and spelling.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the uncertainty and distraction of sequestration and the government shutdown out of the way, we've all been busy making up for lost time. It's easy to let certification maintenance fall by the wayside, but no one wants to lose a certification that they have worked hard to earn. If you need CPEs to maintain a certification, I want to take time to remind you of the many resources available to you.



- \* It's likely that your organization offers courses that provide CPE credit. I encourage you to check available classes and enroll in any that interest you.
- \* College credit hours convert to CPE credits. Don't forget to include them when tracking CPEs.\*

In addition to CPE credit which may be made available by your organization, be sure to take advantage of the CPEs offered by ASMC:

- \* Chapter luncheons usually provide up to 1 CPE. These monthly events provide both educational and networking opportunities. Watch your inbox for emails from the Chapter regarding luncheon topics, dates, and venues.
- \* On the national website, you can access current and past issues of the [Armed Forces Comptroller](#). After reading an issue, earn 2 to 3 CPEs per issue by taking a short quiz.
- \* Presentations from the 2011 and 2012 Professional Development Institutes (PDIs) are available online and can be accessed at your convenience. PDI 2012 presentations are available for a cost of \$99 and can earn you 50+ CPEs. PDI 2011 presentations are available free of charge and can earn you 80+ CPEs. See [ASMC's PDI page](#) for additional information and to access courses.

Last but not least, if you don't currently have a certification or are not yet working towards one, I encourage you to make it a goal. Obtaining a certification strengthens and enhances your knowledge while demonstrating to management and peers that you take your career seriously. Possibly start by earning your CDFM!

Respectfully yours,

Jessica Kearney Rust, CDFM, ABCP  
President, ASMC Cleveland Chapter

\*You are tracking your CPEs earned, right? It's up to *you* to know where you stand on CPE requirements. If you don't already have a method for tracking your CPEs, take advantage of the CPE management tool available on the [national website](#).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Cleveland Foodbank

By: John Giammo

ASMC members John Giammo, Jessica Rust, Tonya Peterson, Nicole Balek and Khmeo Sahye volunteered for four hours in conjunction with the DFAS bi-monthly volunteer program at the Cleveland Foodbank on Saturday, September 14, 2013. The ASMC Cleveland Chapter seeks to maintain its record of community service excellence by volunteering a minimum of 125 hours during the annual reporting period that runs through March 30, 2014.

As part of an assembly-line approach, a group of thirty volunteers succeeded in filling 400 cardboard boxes with food items (8 pallets) for an estimated total weight of 12,000 pounds including items such as cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit and juice. It is a true pleasure to see firsthand the difference that can be made in four hours on a Saturday morning, as other Foodbank volunteers have concurred.

The Cleveland Foodbank supplies a majority of the food used in local hot meal sites, shelters, and food pantries. In addition, it provides food to child care centers, group homes, and programs for the elderly. The Foodbank works closely with other Northeast Ohio hunger relief organizations, providing food and nonfood products to hunger centers administered by the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, the Catholic Hunger and Shelter Network, and the Salvation Army, among others.

For more information on the Foodbank, please visit [www.clevelandfoodbank.org](http://www.clevelandfoodbank.org).

For more information on the DFAS Foodbank bi-monthly volunteer program, please contact Denise Provenzale at [denise.provenzale@dfas.mil](mailto:denise.provenzale@dfas.mil).



### Cleveland Foodbank Volunteering Opportunity:



Please join us next Saturday, November 9, for the DFAS volunteer day at the Cleveland Foodbank. The event will last from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm during which time volunteers will sort and repackage food for local hunger centers.

There are still a few open slots which will be filled on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested, please respond to Cristie Shively at [CRISTIE.SHIVELY@DFAS.MIL](mailto:CRISTIE.SHIVELY@DFAS.MIL) by COB Wednesday, November 5.

## NATIONAL NEWS



## House—Senate Budget Conference Committee Begins Deliberations

Yesterday, the House and Senate members of the budget conference committee met officially to begin deliberations on a 10-year plan for taxes and spending that would replace automatic sequestration.

The bipartisan committee was established in the [deal](#) agreed to by the White House and the Congress to end the government shutdown and avert a government default. The committee has until December 13 to report on its plan.

House Budget Committee chair Rep. Raul Ryan (R-WI) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) head the 29-member committee composed of seven House members (four Republicans and three Democrats) and the complete Senate Budget Committee (12 Democrats and 10 Republicans). While some held out hope that the committee would work to conclude a broad agreement (so-called “grand bargain”) on spending cuts and revenue and entitlement reform, it now appears that, at best, it will concentrate its efforts on the one issue that everyone seems to agree on: find a way to end the automatic cuts required by sequestration.

In a [joint statement](#) before the committee convened, Rep. Ryan and Sen. Murray said they want to “find common ground and work toward a bipartisan deal.” Seeking to limit expectations about the committee achieving a broad deal, the co-chairs said they “intend to focus on what we can achieve. We hope we can reduce the budget in a smarter way [and] restore stability to the budget process and end the lurching from crisis to crisis.” ([Read full story.](#))

See more *Defense and Budget Financial Management Highlights* on the ASMC website ([www.asmconline.org](http://www.asmconline.org)), including the following:

- Federal civilian retirees to get 1.5 percent COLA in 2014
- DoD Deputy Secretary Ashton Carter to step down

### Message from the Executive Director From Al Runnels

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your dedicated service to our nation during these difficult times when most of you have endured furloughs and the pace of your work requirements remains very challenging.

As Libby Long, mentions below, we have started planning and preparation with the Evergreen Chapter for the 2014 National PDI in Seattle. While there is no guarantee we will be able to conduct the 2014 PDI, I would say that we, including the National Executive Council, are "cautiously optimistic" that we will be able to do so, albeit at significantly reduced levels of participation. Given the reduced levels of training and professional development in FY 2013, I believe the need for financial management training in FY 2014 is becoming more and more important, especially since the challenges and pace of requirements are not diminishing. I look forward to seeing many of you at PDI 2014 in Seattle and I appreciate the ongoing efforts of the Evergreen Chapter and other volunteers to help prepare for it.

I especially want to mention the work that Libby Long and I are doing with about five chapters in helping them toward reactivation. It is gratifying to see the level of interest and effort in restoring these chapters to their previous levels of activity. This reminds me that even in some of our most robust chapters, we have some members who have not updated their membership profile information at least on an annual basis, so if you have not checked the accuracy of your account profile information in a long time, I encourage you to check it out and ensure we have your current contact information.

Lastly, this week, I will be sending invitations to all Chapter Presidents to join in on the Chapter Presidents collaboration group that we have developed. I look forward to the opportunity for Chapter Presidents to collaborate and share their thoughts, ideas, best practices, etc.

## Member News

### Member Spotlight - Nicole Balek



Nicole Balek was hired by Lockheed Martin in June 2007 in the Retired and Annuitant Pay - General Processing Department. She was then hired by DFAS in January 2010 as a Military Pay Technician when the Retired Pay contract returned to the Government. Nicole has been a member of ASMC since June 2013 and chose to join for networking and community service opportunities. She is part of the ASMC scholarship committee.

For her daily tasks, Nicole is assigned and completes Level 4 cases, which are the highest level of work in her department. Examples include: Severance Pay, Temporary Disability to Permanent Disability Retirements, Points changes for reservists, and Advancements.

Nicole earned an Associate's Degree in Information Technology in March from Ohio Business College, where she became CompTIA Certified in A+, Security +, and Networking. In addition, she possesses an Associate's Degree in Business Administration and Accounting.

Nicole was part of the Greenbelt team that recently completed a project that increased overall myPay enrollment. Of the almost 2.8 million Retired and Annuitant Pay customers, only 1.1 million were utilizing myPay. Additional customer service training with the myPay database was implemented which increased customer usage by roughly 20% during tax season from 2012 to 2013. This increase resulted in a cost avoidance of \$62,324 during this tax season with a potential annualized impact of \$754,790.

In her free time, Nicole enjoys going to Cedar Point with her son, playing with her puppy named Molly, gardening, reading, and working on computers.

### Card for Injured DFAS Military Member:

Greetings ASMC members,

SSGT Michael Irish was working as a DFAS employee when he was called back to active duty to serve his country. While serving overseas, he suffered an injury outside of Kandahar and has since been recovering at the VA. We'd like to let SSGT Irish know that we're thinking about him and his family during this trying time. Show your support by signing a card at the desk of Kyle Boehnlein (204-4543) in room 2891. Cards will be available for signing until close of business on Friday, November 8th.

ASMC Community Services

# Member News

## Member News

## ASMC High School Scholarship

**What:** One \$500 Student Scholarship Awarded by ASMC

**Eligibility:**

- Current High School Senior
- G.P.A. of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Letter of Recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor

**Deadline:** Application packets must be submitted by Wednesday, December 4, 2013

**How to Apply:** For complete details on scholarship requirements, please visit:  
<http://www.asmc-cleveland.org/news/scholarship-information/>

### American Society of Military Comptrollers Cleveland Chapter



[www.asmc-cleveland.org](http://www.asmc-cleveland.org)



### Back by Popular Demand!!!!!!

ASMC is excited to inform you of our Holiday Social - we will be attending a Cavs game on Tuesday, December 17th. The Cavs are playing the Portland Trailblazers and we have secured the "Penthouse Suite" so we can all enjoy each other's company as we cheer the Cavs on to a victory! Tickets will be \$75 per person, which will include admittance to the suite, appetizers and beverages including beer and wine. There will be 40 tickets available on a first-come-first-served basis.



\*Payment will be required at the time of registration to Jason Denmeade [JASON.DENMEADE@DFAS.MIL](mailto:JASON.DENMEADE@DFAS.MIL) or Laura Farrell [LAURA.FARRELL@DFAS.MIL](mailto:LAURA.FARRELL@DFAS.MIL).

## ASMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### ASMC Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday September 26th, 2013

9:00-10:00AM 2911G

**Attendees:** Jessica Rust, Elena Baykal, Frankie Denmeade, Jason Denmeade, Amanda Preis, Kyle Boehnlein, Greg Scruggs, Adam Haldiman, Charvez Walker, Cristie Shivley, David Rose, Jessica Huff, Joel Lawwell, John Giammo, Khemeo Sahye, Laura Farrell, Lawrence Walton, Sviatlana Alexander.

#### President

- New officer submit your bios and picture to web development team
- Few vacancies left on the committees
- Officers should start meeting and working with the committee.

#### Budget

- Audit has been performed of last year's books
- Letter has been written by the auditor

#### Community Service/Marketing

- Step Out for Diabetes Walk October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 , send a reminder
- Everything scheduled for the year should be captured by April to be counted towards this year and keep the 5 star
- 5K next year should be scheduled earlier so more participation and volunteer can join and possibly to do the 10K

#### Scholarship

- One scholarship for high school seniors
- Reach out to websites for scholarship extend the scope
- Reconciliation of membership needs to be done
- Will plan a meeting to pass all the duties to a new officer

#### Webmaster

- Group picture of new officers is needed for the website
- Individual pictures and bios of new officers needed for the website

#### Micro-Apps

- Database tracker should be completed in October for 5-star requirements

#### Program

- Social event is going to be on October 18<sup>th</sup> in BRGR 9
- Local PDI is planning to take place in the Spring
- Looking for speakers
- Lunch box had positive feedback from last luncheon
- Will research the venue for Holiday Social event

## ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES STAFF

Shayna McCauley – Editor  
Shayna.McCauley@dfas.mil  
216.204.3286

John Giammo  
John.Giammo@dfas.mil  
216.204.2621

Kevin Spotz  
Kevin.Spotz@dfas.mil  
216.204.3248

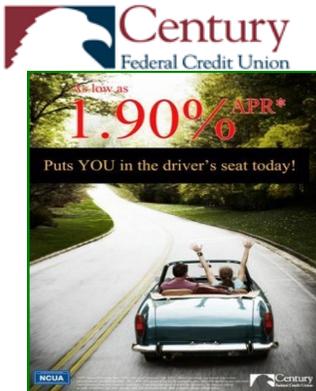
### Visit Us Online At:

<http://www.asmc-cleveland.org/>

ASMC Cleveland Chapter

<http://www.asmonline.org/>

ASMC National



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Jessica Rust
President-Elect	Frankie Denmeade
Vice President—Membership	Charvez Walker
Vice President—Programs	Amanda Preis
Vice President—Nominations	Khemeo Sahye
Treasurer	Jason Denmende
Secretary	Elena Baykal
Past President's Advisory Board	Jaclyn Donadio
	Jason Denmeade
	Jeff Hayden

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Membership	Lance Jones
Local PDI	Elena Baykal
Local PDI	Kim Carpenter
Local PDI	David Rose
Education/Scholarship	Nicole Balek
Education/Scholarship	Greg Scruggs
Education/Scholarship	Lawrence Walton
Treasurer	Laura Farrell
Marketing	John Giammo
Corporate Sponsorship	Shannon Richardson
Luncheon Committee	Zachary Benzuck
Special Events	George Harris
Special Events	Sviatlana Alexander
Community Service	Kyle Boehnlein
Community Service	Jessica Huff
Community Service	Ryan Serne
Community Service	Cristie Shivley
CDFM	Tonya Peterson
CDFM	Jason Ward
Military Liaison	Larry Felts
Military Liaison	Francisco Rivera-Hernández
Strategic Micro Application Development	Joel Lawwell
Project Management Committee	Bryan Conway
Webmaster	Adam Haldiman
Webmaster	Josh Miller

