

July 2014

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Save the Date:

July luncheon on Tuesday, 22 July 2014 featuring DFAS Cleveland Site Director Mr. Bob Edwards. The luncheon will be held at City Club of Cleveland at 11:30 am.

22nd Annual Medical Mutual Walk for Wishes® at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on Saturday, 19 July 2014 at 7:30 am.

Future Meeting Announcements:

ASMC Board Meeting on Tuesday, 29 July 2014 at 3:00 pm in room 2911G.

**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.

ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Final Message from the President

Summer has truly arrived, and with it, the start of a new program year for the Cleveland Chapter of ASMC. It's hard to believe that my term as President is coming to an end. I appreciate the opportunity I've had to serve as your leader - it has challenged me to step outside my comfort zone, and I've grown both personally and professionally as a result.



I cannot overemphasize how thankful I am to each and every member, committee member and officer who has contributed to making ours a thriving chapter. We have accomplished much together over the past year and a half, and I know the Chapter is in excellent hands with inbound leadership. We have been very successful as a chapter, maintaining our 5 Star Status Level in the ASMC National Chapter Recognition Program and earning continued recognition for our community service efforts. We held our 2nd Annual 5k, *The Essential Run*, to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project and the St. Augustine Hunger Center. We recently co-hosted a professional development seminar with the Cleveland Chapter of the Association of Government Comptrollers (AGA); that event sold out and was very well received by attendees and guest speakers alike. Last but not least, we have built great relationships both within our association and with others in our local community.

I commend each of you for your efforts, and I encourage those who do not currently participate in Chapter activities to actively join in and reap the rewards of membership. I look forward to traveling with you down the path of continued success as I take on my role with the Chapter's Past Presidents Advisory Board where I'll join Jason Denmeade and Jeff Hayden. Again, I thank you all and hope I have left as positive a mark on our Chapter as you have left on me.

Respectfully yours,

Jessica

July Points of Interest:

July 12th - Community Service Event - Volunteering @ the Cleveland Foodbank

July 22nd - Monthly Luncheon and Installation of Officers

July 19th - Community Service Event - Volunteering @ the Make-a-Wish Foundation's Walk for Wishes @ the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

OFFICERS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2014

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

FRANKIE DENMEADE

Frankie Denmeade began her career at DFAS in Indianapolis as a Computer Programmer after receiving a B.S. Degree in Computer Information Systems from Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio.

Frankie holds a Masters Degree in Business Education from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. Frankie is a 2012 graduate of the Cleveland Federal Community Leadership Institute. Frankie has worked for Garnishment Operations for last 11 years. She began her career in Garnishment as a System Manager, later becoming the Executive Assistant to the Director. Frankie is currently doing a developmental assignment in Site Support. Before being elected as President, Frankie served as President-Elect and on the Community Service Team.



Frankie is a Certified Personal Trainer/Fitness Instructor and teaches classes in the Health and Improvement Center. Frankie is also an entrepreneur who owns a Designer Consignment Boutique. She is a marathon runner, completing 15 full marathons. Frankie has ran 3 consecutive Boston Marathons. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends.



PRESIDENT ELECT

LOU OCKUNZZI



Lou Ockunzzi was recently reappointed to serve as the Director, Finance Operations at DFAS Cleveland. Prior to this recent appointment, he served as the Director, Corporate Systems – a DFAS-wide position – for two years. He also served as the Director, Accounting Operations at DFAS Cleveland from 2006-2009.

Lou graduated from the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio with a B.A. in Psychology and earned a master's degree in Public Administration from Cleveland State University. He is a Certified Government Financial Manager.

Lou joined DFAS in 1995 after ten years with the Government Accountability Office (formerly the General Accounting Office). While at GAO, he worked on audits related to Medicare, Navy Computer Systems, Department of Labor Training Programs, and various financial audits at the federal, state and local levels.

Lou has been married to Amy, a registered nurse, for 32 years and has two sons: Scott (28) and Zachary (23). His outside interests include stamp collecting, playing basketball, and volunteering with his church and at the West Side Catholic Center. He is active with both ASMC and AGA, having been a member of both organizations for over 10 years.

VICE PRESIDENT—MEMBERSHIP

CHARVEZ WALKER



Charvez Walker started her career at DFAS Cleveland in July 2010 and works permanently in I&T where her efforts are focused on FISCAM/iControl with Corporate Systems.

Charvez's "gifts" include creativity, planning, and organization and she has a passion for reading, writing, and traveling. She has previously served under the Treasurer as Corporate Sponsorship chair, Scholarship committee member, and 2013 served as VP of Membership. Charvez's desire is to continue to serve in this capacity and improve membership by diversifying and offering development opportunities for members.

VICE PRESIDENT– PROGRAMS

AMANDA SERNE



Amanda has worked for DFAS since 2008 and has been a member of ASMC since then as well. Amanda currently works in Garnishment Operations as a Financial System Specialist. Prior to accepting her current position, she spent most of her career at DFAS in Military Pay.

Since Amanda joined ASMC in 2008, she has always been very involved within the Cleveland Chapter. Before serving in her current role as Vice President of Programs, Amanda served as the Community Service Co-Chair for three years. As the co-chair she greatly enjoyed planning the Chapter's participation in various charitable events. Now in her role as VP of Programs, Amanda has shifted to working with her committees to organize educational, professional development, and social events for the Chapter. As part of ASMC, Amanda also served as the secretary on the National ASMC Planning Committee when the Cleveland Chapter co-hosted the National PDI in 2011. She is proud of what she has seen the chapter accomplish over the years and hopes to contribute to its bright future by continuing in her leadership role.

Amanda attended Miami University of Ohio, where she earned her undergraduate degree in 2007. She continued her studies and obtained her MBA from Cleveland State University in 2011. She is also currently working toward earning her CDFM. In her spare time, Amanda likes to travel, bake and cheer on her Cleveland sports teams! She also loves living in downtown Cleveland with her husband and spending time with family and friends!

VICE PRESIDENT– NOMINATIONS

KHEMEO SAHYE



Khemeo Sahye has been employed with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) since 2006. She is a Financial Management Analyst currently working in Systems Operations. She has been a member of ASMC since 2010 and served on the Education/Scholarship Committee in 2012. She is the current VP of Nominations which focuses on providing scholarships to high school seniors, college students, and ASMC members attending college. In this role, she has worked closely with high school and college administrators in an effort to provide a financial benefit to students. She has also built relationships with organizations in the City of Cleveland to assist in promoting the ASMC high school scholarship to seniors.

She is an active member of Toastmasters International and is involved in various activities around the agency. Khemeo received a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Indiana Wesleyan University and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Information Systems from Ashford University. She is in the process of obtaining her Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) certification, and Security+ certification.

Khemeo has an outgoing personality and enjoys being in the company of others. She takes pride in networking and understands the importance of making others feel valued. She loves to travel, shop, fashion design, and fitness activities.

TREASURER

LAURA FARRELL



Laura is working towards her MBA with a focus in Accounting at Cleveland State University. In July 2010, she was hired by DFAS into the Leaders-in-Motion (LIM) Program. She has been a member of the ASMC Cleveland Chapter since August 2010 and has previously volunteered in the chapter on the CDFM Committee and was an assistant to the Treasurer.

Laura currently works as a Budget Analyst in the Site Support Resource Management Office. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, running, watching Ohio State and Cleveland sports, and spending time with family and friends.

SECRETARY

ELENA BAYKAL

Elena joined ASMC in the fall of 2011 and she enjoys being active with the Chapter. Elena has a bachelors degree in International Business and Accounting/Finance from Youngstown State and master's in Accountancy from Cleveland State University. Previously, Elena worked for a CPA firm and joined DFAS in the summer of 2009. She has worked in different areas of DFAS while in the LIM program and learned a lot about culture and the daily business of DFAS. Currently, Elena works in I&T AAA, enjoys her work and likes to meet new people on different projects. Outside of work, Elena enjoys traveling and eating different cuisines. She appreciates everything and everyone that life sends her.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Essential Run 5K Race/1-Mile Walk

By: John Giammo



On Saturday, May 10th, the ASMC Cleveland Chapter and DFAS Cleveland Wellness Project co-hosted The Essential Run 5K Race/1-Mile Walk at the West Side Irish-American (WSIA) Club in Olmsted Township.

106 participants and volunteers came together for two outstanding causes, the Wounded Warrior Project and St. Augustine Hunger Center. In addition, State Representative, Michael Dovilla, made a guest appearance in support of the event. 65 people completed the 1-mile walk, while 41 individuals finished the 5K race. The top

three overall finishers in the 5K Male and Female Divisions were awarded trophies and had their picture taken with Mr. Robert Edwards, Director of DFAS Cleveland. For the Male Division, Frank Chahulski earned first place, while Scott Sabol finished second, and Phil Neudeck came in third place. In the Female Division, Jessica Huff took top honors, Michelle Bloom claimed second, and Michelle Neudeck finished in third place.



In the Male Division, winners in the corresponding ages groups were as follows: Cory McTaggart (20-29), Edward Roback (30-39), William Bloom(40-49), Phil Neudeck (50-59) and Calvin Stout (60 and over).

In the Female Division, winners in the corresponding age groups were as follows: Kendal Schulte (14 and under), Lauren Hogan (15-19),

Cristie Shively (20-29), Kim Cunningham (30-39), Shannon Illig (40-49) and Joyce Stout (50-59). Each adult participant received a red, dry-fit t-shirt and a giveaway bag that included a gift card from Active Runner and Wounded Warrior Project items (bracelet, fridge magnet and lapel pin). Participants in the children's race received an ASMC key chain, a KPMG rubber ducky and a medal.



The ASMC would like to thank the following sponsors: the DFAS Cleveland Wellness Project, Active Runner and Kearney & Company. Mr. Keith McGill, a Principal with Kearney and Company and an ASMC Cleveland Chapter member, has been an integral part of generously supporting numerous ASMC special events. Special recognition goes out to ASMC Project Manager, Bryan Conway, and ASMC Treasurer, Jason Denmeade, who spent

many hours coordinating this successful event.

Charities

The Wounded Warrior Project seeks to raise awareness and to enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members, to help injured servicemen and women aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs. For more information, please visit: <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

The St. Augustine Hunger Center is an outgrowth of the ministry and service of St. Augustine Church. This parish has a long history of service from its beginning in 1860 when it welcomed an impoverished immigrant community. For more information, please visit: <http://www.staugustine-west14.org/>

NATIONAL NEWS

Senate confirms Mike McCord for DoD Comptroller post



The Senate confirmed [Mike McCord](#) to be the next DoD Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer.

McCord succeeds Bob Hale (DoD Comptroller since 2009) who has served three Secretaries of Defense—Bob Gates, Leon Panetta, and Chuck Hagel—during his tenure. McCord brings almost 30 years of experience in defense budgetary matters to the job of Comptroller. He has been Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) since 2009. Prior to that, he served as a professional staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) for 21 years. His areas of expertise on the SASC were installations and global basing matters, readiness accounts, and defense budget matters.

See more *Defense and Budget Financial Management Highlights* on the ASMC website (www.asmcconline.org).

- [President requests \\$58.6 billion for FY2015 Overseas Contingency Operations](#)
- [House passes FY2015 DoD Appropriations bill](#)

Message from the Executive Director From Al Runnels

National PDI 2014 and Follow-up. From all feedback I've seen and heard thus far, our National 2014 PDI in Seattle was a great success. It was an example of great teamwork, dedication, and support among all the individuals, committees, corporate members, contractors, etc. who put so much work into its planning and execution. I was proud to be a part of the team. I know that due to funding limitations, many of our members who wanted to participate were not able to do attend, but for those of you who attended, I trust you will all agree it was a valuable "training and professional development" event. I also want to thank the Department of Defense and the US Coast Guard for support of the PDI.

The ASMC staff and I have been working several PDI follow-up actions, including posting PDI Mini-course and workshops briefing slides on our ASMC website, distributing the feedback survey of PDI participants, review and analysis of Mini-course evaluation forms and work to issue direct credits to participants, provision of CPEs for Mini-courses and workshops attended, development of Virtual PDI 2014, etc.

Registration HQ distributed an email message to PDI attendees yesterday (30 June), providing information on CPEs earned. Additionally, we have input CPEs earned data into the CPE Management Tool area of ASMC member accounts.

PDI 2014 mini-course and workshop presentations (slides only) are available for viewing here <<http://ASMC.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00MTIyNzU1JnA9MSZ1PTEwMjg0Nzk0MTkmbGk9MjM2MDE4OTY/index.html>> . CPE/CET credits are not awarded for viewing presentation slides.

We expect the Virtual PDI (V-PDI) 2014 Program, to be available for access next week. We recorded almost all of the Mini-courses and Workshops from the Thursday and Friday sessions (seventy-eight 75 minute sessions) that can be accessed from your computer or portable device. There are more than 100 CPEs of audio and slide recordings available. While the inclusion of Mini-course instruction in the V-PDI program will provide CPE (or continuing education and training (CET)) units, it does not provide direct credit toward meeting DoD Financial Management Certification Program requirements, as did the on-site mini-course instruction for PDI 2014 attendees who also completed and submitted the course evaluation forms. The subscription cost for V-PDI 2014 is only \$99 (less than \$1 per CPE). To subscribe to V-PDI 2014 click here <<http://ASMC.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00MTIyNzU1JnA9MSZ1PTEwMjg0Nzk0MTkmbGk9MjM2MDE4OTY/index.html>> .

ASMC Deputy Executive Director and Director for Membership. I'm pleased to inform our membership that after reviewing 65 applications and interviewing five candidates for the position of ASMC Deputy Executive Director, I selected Ms. Elizabeth (Libby) Long (previously our Director for Membership) for the position. She is now serving in the dual role of Deputy Executive Director and Director for Membership. In addition to her responsibilities for Membership and Chapter Development, Ms. Long is responsible for oversight of the staff support areas, including administration, finance, personnel, IT, contracting, and communications/public relations. She brings a wealth of experience in these additional functional areas from her service in other professional associations.

CDFM INFORMATION



Module Frequently Asked Questions about the Certified Defense Financial Management Exam

Q: What steps do I have to take in order to enroll for the CDFM exam?

A: You may enroll for the exam online, or by mailing the paper CDFM Enrollment form to ASMC Headquarters. If you are an ASMC member, you may complete the paper CDFM Enrollment form and send it to Tonya Peterson (tonya.peterson@dfas.mil). After your application is accepted, you will receive an Authorization Letter or email from ASMC with your candidate ID number and the procedures to follow in registering for the modules examinations. Enrollment forms may be found at the following website: www.asmc-certification.com/certification/cdfm/forms/program-enrollment

Q: How long do I have to pass the CDFM exam?

A: You will have two years from the date of your Authorization Letter to complete the three module examinations required for the CDFM Program. There is a fourth, OPTIONAL module that if taken and passed, you will earn a CDFM with an acquisition specialty (CDFM-A).

Q: Do I have to take all three modules at the same time?

A: No. You may take module examinations one at a time, in any combination, or in any order.

Q: What is the difference between the CDFM, CGFM and the Federal Financial Management Certificate Program?

A: ASMC offers the CDFM program to persons interested in displaying proficiency in the core aspects of defense financial management. The CGFM is more applicable to general government financial management - federal, state and local. The Federal Financial Management Certificate Program is offered through Management Concepts and involves taking a variety of courses in order to complete.

Q: What are the benefits of obtaining a CDFM?

A: The Under Secretary of Defense, Robert F. Hale (CDFM) says "earning a CDFM proves that an employee has obtained the knowledge and experience to become certified and adhere to a code of ethics and professionalism." Additionally, the CDFM may:

- set you apart from others
- lead to career advancement
- give you the opportunity to serve in leadership positions

Q: Is it required to take the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMTC) in order to sit for the CDFM exam?

A: No, however, the course is a great way to prepare for the exam.

Q: What are the best ways to prepare for the exam?

A: The best way to prepare for the exam depends on your own personal studying methods. The Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMTC) textbook is provided to those who attend the one-week training course. ASMC-Cleveland has two copies of the EDFMTC textbook that may be checked out by ASMC members.

Q: Will passing the CDFM exam get me a promotion?

A: No, a promotion is not guaranteed after passing the CDFM exam.

For more information, please email either Erin Laughlin (erin.laughlin@dfas.mil), Tonya Peterson (tonya.peterson@dfas.mil) or Jason Ward (jason.ward@dfas.mil).

Member News

Member Spotlight - Ernesto C. Cacho



Ladies and gentlemen, meet one of ASMC's newest members, Ernesto "Ernie" Cacho. Ernie served on active duty for ten years in the Marine Corps, including a one year tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom at Camp Blue Diamond and Camp Fallujah in Iraq.

After returning to civilian life, Ernie completed all of his schooling online with the University of Phoenix. He earned his bachelors degree in Business Management in November 2010, masters degree in July 2012, and an additional certificate in Graduate Project Management in October 2013.

Ernie was hired by DFAS in November 2012 as a Secretary in Civilian Payroll. He was recently promoted to a Financial Systems Specialist in Systems Operations, which is part of Customer Support/Systems (CS/S) in March of 2014. Ernie's next challenge is to acquire his Six Sigma Greenbelt Certification.

Ernie also joined ASMC in March 2014 to network, volunteer, and expand/acquire additional skills and knowledge on management, administrative support, finance and accounting.

Outside of work, Ernie's hobbies and interests include photography, running, working out, traveling, snowboarding, woodworking and baseball. Finally, Ernie's favorite quote is "Carpe Diem", which means "Seize the Day".

*****COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT REMINDER*****

Please join ASMC on Saturday, July 19th where more than 2,500 walkers, sponsors and volunteers will come together at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for the 22nd Annual Medical Mutual Cleveland Walk for Wishes.

In order to volunteer for this event you will need to self-register by going to <http://makewishohio.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1093443> and selecting the "Volunteer Registration" link on the left. Please put ASMC-Cleveland Chapter in the field that asks "Is there a particular individual/group with whom you'd like to volunteer?"

Once you have self-registered as a volunteer, please email Cristie Shively (cristie.shively@dfas.mil) so that you can be added to the roster of ASMC volunteers.

Help make wishes come true and spread hope, strength and joy to children with life-threatening medical conditions through this powerful fundraising event!

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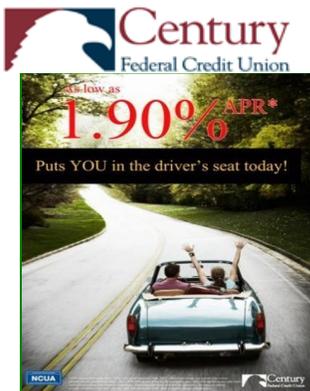
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