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Save the Date:

ASMC Winter Social on Thursday January 26, 2017 from 4-8 PM at Bar Louie on W. 6th Street. Appetizers will be provided.

January luncheon will feature Mr. Mike Gibbs Chief Financial Officer for the Transportation Security Administration
Date: Thursday January 26, 2017
Time: 11:30-1:00 PM
Place: Double Tree on Lakeside

Future Meeting Announcements:

ASMC Board Meeting on Tuesday January 31, 2017 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. Phone number is (216) 204-7639. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content, length, grammar and spelling.

ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy Holidays! I hope that everyone is having a great holiday season. An integral part of the season is often the contemplation of New Year's resolutions. Many reflect upon the previous year, engage in self-assessment, and pledge to make positive changes in their lives. These resolutions may be to spend more time with loved ones, become more involved with community service, or increase one's personal wellness.

One type of resolution to keep in mind concerns career advancement. No matter what stage of your career that you are currently in, the ASMC can provide you with the resources and network opportunities to stay connected and remain career relevant. ASMC luncheons and the Local PDI offer continuing education credit toward your FM Certification and/or CDFM. The chapter is offering CDFM studying and testing opportunities to obtain this valuable certification. Scholarships are available to support your higher education goals. The luncheons and socials allow for interaction with people outside of your work area, including finance, accounting, and IT professionals who may provide a gateway to new opportunities that will kick start your career!

There is no better time than now to join or extend your membership. After freezing membership rates for 11 years, ASMC National has approved a rate increase beginning on January 1st, 2017. Annual membership dues will increase from \$26 to \$40 and three-year membership dues will increase from \$75 to \$114. membership/renew for additional information.

Thank you for all of your support and engagement this year, we are looking forward to continuing our chapter's momentum into 2017!

Bryan Conway

NATIONAL NEWS



Congress extends the FY 2017 CR until April 28, 2017

Final action on the 11 remaining FY2017 appropriations bills must wait until the new Congress and the new administration take office in January.

With the Dec 9 expiration date for the current continuing resolution (CR) looming, the [House](#) voted (326-96) and the [Senate](#) went along (63-36) to approve an extension of the CR (H.R. 2028) until April 28, 2017.

There was a bit of late-night drama in the Senate as Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WVA) and other Senators from coal-producing states threatened to block passage of the bill unless health care benefits for miners were funded for the entire year. Realizing they did not have the votes to block the bill and not wanting to shut down the government, Sen. Manchin and his supporters relented, vowing to continue the fight in the new Congress. ([Read entire story here.](#))

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

- [President authorizes a 2.1% pay raise for federal civilian employees](#)

CDFM

The CDFM remains a prestigious credential, as only 14% of the 54,000 defense financial managers currently possess it; only 3% also possess the CDFM-A (Acquisition) credential. For those of you considering pursuit of the CDFM, I urge you to take the steps to achieve this goal now! The demands of the fiscal environment over the past few years certainly indicate that knowledge and analytical skills across the range of FM disciplines is beneficial. The CDFM certification is fundamental to establishing a broad set of financial management skills. It also enables DoD and USCG leaders to be confident in hiring CDFMs or CDFM-As, knowing they have demonstrated initiative and drive in achieving a certification focused upon knowledge and skills directly applicable to requirements of positions within our profession.

Now that the DoD FM Certification Program (DFMCP) has reached its first major milestone and over 32,000 FMers have achieved it, the shift from earning to maintaining the certification has begun. As a reminder, the DFMCP “recommends” and “strongly recommends” that FMers at Level 2 and Level 3 respectively, also obtain a “test-based” certification. The CDFM is among the group of test-based certifications recognized by the DFMCP, and, obviously it is the certification most closely related to the profession of defense financial management. Achieving a test-based certification and maintaining mandatory CPEs, are keystones of demonstrating professionalism and commitment to high standards.

Whether you are at the journeyman level or an experienced defense financial manager, the CDFM Certification Program offers the type of recognized and prestigious credential that remains relevant, provides a solid foundation supporting professional development, identifies you as an individual with the initiative to enhance your skills, distinguishes you as a respected professional with knowledge across all areas of defense financial management, and increases your employment opportunities within the public and private sector.

ASMC National PDI 2017 will be conducted May 31 - June 2, 2017 in San Diego! Many thanks to the San Diego and supporting chapters, who are assisting ASMC HQ in preparation for this great training event. We’re thinking “Catching the Wave: Audit Ready” will be the theme. Our Professional Development Committee is gearing up to meet on 4 October to start developing the program. We expect to open registration NLT March 2017.

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 **Jason Ward** (jason.l.ward53.civ@mail.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.asmconline.org/certification/cdfmforms/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 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.

CDFM INFORMATION CONT.

Q: Do I have to be an Accountant in order to sit for the CDFM exam?

A: No.

Q: What are the educational requirements to sit for the exam?

A: You must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Q: What is the financial management experience requirement to sit for the exam?

A: You do not have to satisfy the experience requirement in order to sit for the exam. However, after you pass the exam, you must satisfy one of the following experience requirements BEFORE being issued your CDFM certificate:
Complete 4 years of federal government related financial management experience (with an associate degree or higher) -
OR- Complete 3 years of Defense related financial management experience (without a degree) -OR- Complete 2 years of Defense related financial management experience (with an associate, bachelor or higher degree)

Q: If I do not have any financial management experience, can I still enroll in the EDFMT class?

A: Yes.

Q: What are the fees associated with obtaining and maintaining a CDFM?

Enrollment Fee for Non ASMC Members \$75.00
Enrollment Fee for ASMC Members \$40.00
Extension of Enrollment Fee for Non ASMC Members \$85.00
Extension of Enrollment Fee for ASMC Members \$75.00
One Module Examination \$99.00
Three Module Examination \$297.00
Four Module Examination \$396.00
Re-examination per module \$99.00
Renewal of Certification (Every 24 months after obtaining CDFM) \$25.00

Q: How do I receive reimbursement for my CDFM Examination fees?

A: You must first fill out a SF1164 with supervisor's signature in Block 8. Along with this form, verification of payment of the exam and verification of passing the exam must be emailed or faxed to dfas.indianapolis-in.zh.mbx.certification-reimbursement@mail.mil or 317-510-2116/2195.

Q: Are CDFMs required to earn a certain amount of CPEs per year?

A: CDFMs are required to renew their certification with ASMC every two years. CDFMs must complete at least 80 hours of CPE in every 2 year period once the certification has been issued.

Q: As a CDFM, are you required to be a member of ASMC?

A: Members who earned their CDFM are encouraged to maintain their membership with ASMC.

Q: What is the latest version of the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Class Textbook?

A: As of 10/13/2016, the latest version of Textbook for Module 1-3 is 2013A and for the Module 4 textbook is March 2011.

Member News

Member News

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - Doug Vogel



By: Dan Goliat

Ladies and gentleman, meet Mr. Douglas Vogel. Mr. Vogel has an extensive military and government resume dating back to when joined the Navy in August of 1988. Doug served 6 years Active Duty in the Navy and went through the Naval Nuclear Engineering Program. He served as a Nuclear Electrician on board the USS Truxtun (CGN-35) and completed 2 Western Pacific (WestPac) deployments in his four year tour on that boat.

Mr. Vogel's career at DFAS began in June of 2010 when he was hired on as a document imaging clerk and about 6 months later he was promoted to an Accounting Technician position. He moved on from that position when he was accepted into the Leaders in Motion (LIM) Program in 2014. Mr. Vogel graduated from the esteemed leadership program in December 2016 and is currently a Financial Management Analyst in Military Pay. He is currently working with iControl and the MilPay audit effort. Writing Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) code in Microsoft Excel is one aspect of Doug's job that he truly enjoys. "I am frequently asked how to do something in Excel, be it write a formula or figure out a better way to do something. Yes, I am a geek...", says Doug.

When asked about any current projects/degrees/certifications that he working on, Doug said he is not working towards any at the moment but did provide some very sound advice in saying, 'While I am certainly not the most formally educated person in ASMC, I have found that if you can read, you can teach yourself nearly anything.'

Mr. Vogel's involvement in ASMC began in early 2013, primarily as a great opportunity to network and meet new people within the DFAS community. Outside of DFAS and ASMC, some of Doug's hobbies include: The Bible, active participation at his Church, the Constitution, hunting, fishing, auto mechanics, home repair/remodel (more so out of necessity than desire), history, engineering, and electronics. Doug also enjoys spending time with his lovely wife Sarah and when not working, they are nearly inseparable. Surprising to some people, Doug is a natural introvert; his wife has remarked that 'He would be a recluse in some cabin deep in the woods if he got the chance.'

Finally, Doug's favorite quote is:

'God who gave us life, gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are a gift from God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever.'

-Thomas Jefferson

Member News

Greetings members!

Please join the ASMC for its January luncheon, featuring keynote speaker Mike Gibbs Chief Financial Officer for the Transportation Security Administration.



Transportation Security Administration

Attendees can earn 1 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit and/or 1 Continuing Education Training (CET) credit for applicable certifications. CPE forms will be distributed at the luncheon.

Date: Thursday January 26, 2017

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Place: Doubletree-Lakeside
1111 Lakeside Ave. E.
Cleveland, OH 44114

Cost: \$16 for ASMC Members/\$17 for Non-Members

The luncheon includes the Chef's Choice buffet consisting of hot entree and side dishes, a vegetable side, rolls and salad. Beverages will also be provided.

Please RSVP with Whitsett, Gerald L CIV DFAS JF (US) <gerald.l.whitsett.civ@mail.mil>, McKown, Jacqueline L CIV DFAS JJF (US) <jacqueline.l.mckown.civ@mail.mil> and Cotton, Paul C CIV DFAS JFL (US) <paul.c.cotton.civ@mail.mil> by Friday January 20, 2017 if you would like to attend. An email response will be sent to you confirming your RSVP.

***Cancellation Policy: If a situation arises that prevents you from attending the event after you have made reservations, please email Whitsett, Gerald L CIV DFAS JF (US) <gerald.l.whitsett.civ@mail.mil>, McKown, Jacqueline L CIV DFAS JJF (US) <jacqueline.l.mckown.civ@mail.mil> and Cotton, Paul C CIV DFAS JFL (US) <paul.c.cotton.civ@mail.mil> by Friday January 20, 2017. If you cancel after this deadline, you will be responsible for the cost of the meal. Thank you for your understanding.

We will be collecting the payment the day of the luncheon and accept Cash, Credit Cards and personal checks. *Please note that Credit Card paying patrons will be assessed the transaction cost in addition to the luncheon cost, which is 2.75% of the luncheon cost.

We hope to see you there!
ASMC Cleveland Programs Committee

Member News

Member News

ASMC JANUARY LUNCHEON

Greeting Members!

ASMC Winter & CDFM Social Event:

ASMC's next social will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2017, from 4-8 PM at Bar Louie on West 6th. Appetizers will be provided by the Chapter, and all members are encouraged to attend what's sure to be a fun event!

Additionally, members and non-members who are interested in learning more about the CDFM certification are highly encouraged to attend. Here, they can speak to current CDFMs about the program, sign up for the next on-site exam, meet others who will be sitting for exams, and establish study partners/groups as needed. Have you been thinking about earning your CDFM? Do you know anyone else who is interested or already working toward their certification?

We hope to see you there!



CDFM MODULE-I EXAM

On Wednesday, February 15, 2017, the CDFM committee will be hosting an on-site group exam for Module 1 of the Certified Defense Financial Manager Exam. Please see the FAQs on the CDFM Certification on pages 3 & 4 in this ASMC Cleveland Times issue. If there are any questions, please email either Jason Ward at Jason.L.Ward53.civ@mail.mil or Kira Swanson at Kira.Swanson.civ@mail.mil.



AMCS SCHOLARSHIP

FREE MONEY!!! No really! Did you know that the Cleveland Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) provides educational scholarships? We are currently offering the following scholarships:

- One \$250 educational scholarship to any college bound Ohio high school senior, and
- One \$1000 educational scholarship for a chapter member currently attending college, co-sponsored by Kearney and Company.

For more details about the scholarships, membership, and the benefits of being an ASMC member, visit the Chapter's website at <http://www.asmc-cleveland.org>. All scholarship applications must be submitted by close of business on Friday, February 10, 2017.

If you know a non-member who is attending college and may be interested in applying for the scholarship, this is the perfect opportunity for them to join the Chapter!

Pyrex? Really? Me too!

Networking and Shared Interests

By Jessica Ciccolini

The most amusing thing happened to me a while back - amusing to me, at least...

I was sitting at my desk at the end of a long work day when my then-director walked by on his way out of the office to wish any stragglers a good weekend. I had a vintage Pyrex mixing bowl on my desk, and he noticed it. We went on to have a lively conversation about my obsession for Pyrex and his quest to find a Pyrex mixing bowl set like the one his mother had when he was a kid. It made my day to find out we shared an interest that some - ok, most - might find obscure. I thought he was cool before, but this took him up a notch.

Whether we are conscious of it or not, ASMC provides ample opportunities to connect with others on both professional and personal levels. Monthly luncheons, annual professional development institutes, socials, and community service events such as the ones held at the Cleveland Foodbank and St. Patrick's Hunger Center ... don't take these networking opportunities for granted. These opportunities are not only a great way to give back to our surrounding communities, but a great way to get to know other fellow colleagues! The next time you participate in an ASMC event, I challenge you to sit down with someone new; strike up a conversation; ask questions to draw out those around you - you never know what you may have in common in addition to your experience in Defense financial management. Visit the local chapter's website, newsletter or see the bulletin boards by the elevators for the next scheduled event.

P.S. - If you own the dish pictured above - my personal holy grail -we need to talk!



MEMORY OF A LIFETIME

By: John Giammo

The Cleveland Cavaliers defied the odds by becoming the first team in NBA history to overcome a three-games-to-one deficit in the Finals by defeating the Golden State Warriors to claim the NBA championship in June 2016. After an arduous season, the team was ready to give back to the city and celebrate with a parade.

Anticipating the large crowd, my father and I decided that we would not drive downtown and compete for the limited parking. Instead, we would park at the airport and take the RAPID. Many other fans had the same idea, as we waited in line for two hours to board the train. Once on the fully-packed train, the ride to downtown lasted an hour.

After exiting Tower City, viewing the sea of wine and gold was astonishing. Cavs fans were everywhere. We made our way through the crowd and eventually secured a spot on Lakeside near East 9th. People of all backgrounds and ages anxiously waited for the parade floats to pass in front of them. The Cavs players could not arrive fast enough.

After hours of anticipation, the players on their floats turned the corner causing the crowd in my section to erupt with cheers and applause. Kyrie Irving pumped his fist the air, Kevin Love waived to all of his adoring fans and LeBron James created an ear-piercing roar with his presence alone. Party music played in the background, while yellow and red confetti flew throughout the air. The notion that our Cavaliers were NBA champions officially changed from fiction to reality.

Sharing the event with my father, celebrating with fellow Cavs fans and seeing the players on the parade floats made for a surreal experience. Despite enduring the heat, standing on the concrete and dealing with the crowd of over one million people, attending the parade was a worthwhile event that I will never forget.



ASMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ASMC Board Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2016
Last Tuesday of the month, 3:00-4:00PM 2911G

Attendees: Bryan Conway, John Giammo, Lou Ockunzzi, Bradley Brunaugh, Jacqueline McKown, Jessica Ciccolini, Matthew Pfarr, Karen Poteat, Gerald Whitsett, Elena Baykal.

President

The deadline to take advantage of the membership price before increase is December 31st, 2016.

President-Elect

Community Service: St. Pat's volunteer opportunity on December 27.

Community Service: St. Herman's Pat's volunteer opportunity in January date tbd.

Thank you all for donating Holiday Gifts for abused children, will deliver before Christmas.

Looking for more involvement in the community around the town.

Membership

Membership drive was a big success, with approximately 100 plus people stopped by and had coffee/pastries and collected flyers. As a result of the drive we gained the renewal and new memberships increase.

The total chapter members as of today are 301.

Nominations

Scholarship:

Received a check from Kearney&Co sponsor towards membership scholarship.

Member scholarship is \$1000.

Highschool scholarship is \$250.

Scholarship Information is posted on the chapter website.

CDFM:

CDFM Exams posted on the newsletter.

CDFM Social will be combined w/the Holiday Social on January 26, 2017 @ Bar Louie, large no-cost private room. Breakout area will be needed for CDFM discussions.

Program

January 26 luncheon at Double Tree Speaker will be Mr. Gibbs from TSA.

April 26 Local PDI with AGA.

Local PDI:

Working on the project plan updates (ie. assignment of responsibilities) for ASMC

Scheduled recurring bi-weekly meetings based on feedback at the initial email.

Treasury

December luncheon was successful.

Working on getting new check books possibly will have to open a new account and close current.

Secretary

Working on the newsletter to publish before Holidays.

Website is up to date.

ASMC - Cleveland Chapter
 Finance Report
 Chapter Year 2016/2017
 First Quarter Report
 July 1 2016 - September 30 2016

Earnings/ Receipts

Interest Earned	\$	39.94
Luncheons	\$	1,267.96
Social Events	\$	-
Conferences/Seminars	\$	400.00
Membership Rebates and Dues Collections	\$	550.00
Sponsorship	\$	500.00
Miscellaneous	\$	7.30
Total	\$	<u>2,765.20</u>

Expenses

Membership Dues & Subscriptions	\$	59.97
Luncheons	\$	1,433.97
Social Events	\$	59.19
Conferences/Seminars		
Gifts		
Office Expenses	\$	147.04
Charitable Contributions		
Promotional	\$	300.13
Miscellaneous	\$	1.30
Total	\$	<u>2,001.60</u>

Beginning Balance: 1 July 2016	\$	24,928.06
Add Earnings/Receipts	\$	2,765.20
Subtract Expenses	\$	(2,001.60)
Ending Balance: 30 September 2016	\$	<u><u>25,691.66</u></u>

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ASMC Cleveland Chapter

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ASMC National

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