

March 2017

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Save the Date:

The ASMC Spring Social date & location are currently TBD. E-mail announcement to come soon!

March luncheon will feature a series of speakers from the Toastmasters Club #8769
Date: Tuesday March 28, 2017
Time: 11:30-1:00 PM
Place: Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building, Room B-1

Future Meeting Announcements:

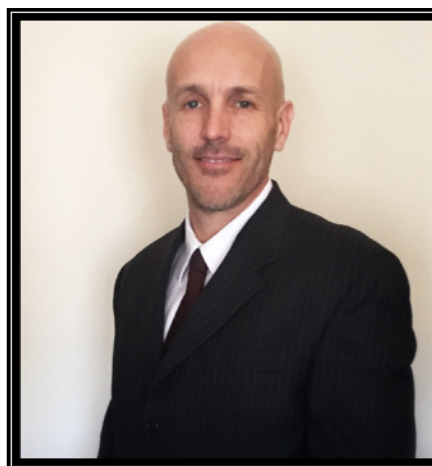
ASMC Board Meeting on Tuesday April 25, 2017 at 3:00 PM in room 2911G

"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



"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." -Charles Dickens

"Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day." -W. Earl Hall

"Spring is the time of plans and projects." -Leo Tolstoy

Spring is here! After a relatively mild winter, the promise of an amazing spring that features fair weather, fresh air, green grass, and baseball awaits us. Spring brings about two important events for the ASMC Cleveland Chapter: the Local Professional Development Institute (PDI) and the election of new officers. We hope that many of you will be able to attend the Local PDI (April 25th at the City Club) and that all of you will be voting in the election.

Aside from these special events, there are luncheons, Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) testing, a social, and community service events that are on the ASMC calendar. Hopefully there is room on your calendar as well!

So take note of the observations and wisdom found within the quotes above: embrace the extremes of the spring weather, enjoy the mood-altering nature of sunny spring days, and make spring a time of plans and projects. Assisting you with your career plans and projects is our primary mission and the true value that the ASMC has to offer, and we hope to be an integral part of your spring!

Bryan Conway

NATIONAL NEWS



From Congressional Budget Office: Options for Reducing the Deficit: 2017 to 2026

CBO periodically issues a volume of options—this year's (2016) installment presents 115—that would decrease federal spending or increase federal revenues over the next decade.

The Congress faces an array of policy choices as it confronts the challenges posed by the amount of federal debt held by the public—which has more than doubled relative to the size of the economy since 2007—and the prospect of continued growth in that debt over the coming decades if the large annual budget deficits projected under current law come to pass. To help inform lawmakers, CBO periodically issues a compendium of policy options that would help to reduce the deficit. This edition reports the estimated budgetary effects of various options and highlights some of the advantages and disadvantages of those options. ([Read entire story here.](#))

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

- [Trends in Spending by the Department of Defense for Operation and Maintenance – January 2017](#)
- [HR 1301 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2017](#)

CDFM

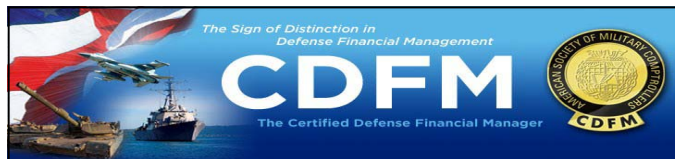
The CDFM remains a prestigious credential, as only 14% of the 54,000 defense financial managers currently possess it; only 3% also possess the CDFM-A (Acquisition) credential. For those of you considering pursuit of the CDFM, I urge you to take the steps to achieve this goal now! The demands of the fiscal 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.asmcnline.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

\$40.00

\$85.00

\$ 75.00

\$99.00

\$297.00

\$396.00

Enrollment Fee for ASMC Members

Extension of Enrollment Fee for Non ASMC Members

Extension of Enrollment Fee for ASMC Members

One Module Examination

Three Module Examination

Four Module Examination

Re-examination per module

Renewal of Certification (Every 24 months after obtaining CDFM)

\$99.00

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 SPOTLIGHT - Matt Pfarr

By Jessica Ciccolini

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matthew Pfarr (pronounced 'far' vs. 'p-far') is an active duty Marine assigned to DFAS Cleveland. He works in Disbursing Operations as the Deputy Disbursing Officer for Disbursing Station Symbol Number 6102. With 13 years in the service, he's completed deployments to Iraq and Bahrain. Matt joined ASMC to meet other professionals and expand his knowledge of DoD financial management; he hopes to become a CDFM this year! He currently serves on the Cleveland Chapter Board as a member of the Education & Scholarship Committee.

But enough with the official bio! I had the opportunity to ask Matt a series of more personal questions...

Any random facts about yourself that you can share with us? I've been 6'6" since I was 13 years old; people assume that means I'm good at basketball but they assume wrong. I was homeschooled and – subsequently – valedictorian of my class. I am a huge fan of the trading card game *Magic: the Gathering*. I'm also a musician; I play the guitar and I write music too.

What's your favorite song? "[Motorcycle Drive By](#)" (Third Eye Blind, 1997)

What is your favorite movie, and why? I'd have to go with *The Truman Show*. The concept of life as a spectacle mirrors how I think some people feel about their lives. The willingness of people to keep someone captive to fascinate themselves – then seeing him break out – it's interesting that reality TV really took off after that.

What is your favorite vacation/travel spot? London. I loved the atmosphere – the pubs, the quaint areas off the beaten path. It was where I discovered cider. On the other hand, Australia is on my bucket list.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be? Teleporting! It would let me eat breakfast in London, lunch in Hawaii, dinner in China or anywhere else I wanted to go (like Australia).

What is your LEAST favorite food? Popcorn, and my least favorite condiment is mayonnaise. Bleh!

If you could meet anyone in the world (dead or alive) who would it be? Martin Luther King, Jr.

If you had a motto or mantra, what would it be? "Be the best you."



Member News

Greetings members!

Please join the ASMC Cleveland Chapter and the Toastmasters Club #8769 for our joint March luncheon, featuring a series of speakers presenting on: "Public Speaking from the Toastmaster's Perspective".

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: Tuesday, March 28, 2017

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

Place: Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building, Room B-1

Cost: \$10



The luncheon will include pizza and salad from Guy's Pizza.

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 March 24, 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 March 24, 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 and the Toastmasters Club #8769

Member News

Member News

2017 AGA-ASMC Local PDI

DFAS Cleveland Employees: You may now submit an interest survey to potentially attend the 2017 AGA-ASMC Local PDI. The url address for the interest survey is <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017ClevelandPDC>. An interest survey must be completed to be considered for a seat. The final day to submit a completed AGA-ASMC Local PDI Interest Survey is Friday, April 7.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) - American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) Local Professional Development Institute (PDI) is scheduled for April 25. The event will be held at the City Club of Cleveland, located at 850 Euclid Avenue at the corner of East 9th Street and Euclid Avenue. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.; the PDI begins at 8:15 a.m. and concludes at 4:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Catching the Wave through Change." Please access the conference website for speakers and agenda information: <https://www.agacgm.org/Chapters/Cleveland/Training-Events/2017-PDC.aspx>.

Registration Instructions:

Cleveland Operations Employees (Accounting Operations, Customer Support/Services, Finance Operations and Site Support Office) - There are only 100 seats reserved for Cleveland Operations, so please complete the survey to express your interest in attending. The deadline to submit a completed survey is April 7, at 11:59 p.m. If needed, the Chief of Staff will select the participants from the surveys with priority given to employees who: (1) need CPEs to maintain a certification, (2) serve as officers or on executive committees, and (3) are members of AGA and/or ASMC. Selected participants will be notified via email. Cleveland Non-operations Employees - Use your mission area's procedures for submitting an external training request. Registrations must be received and paid by April 18.

Certified Defense Financial Manager Exam

On Wednesday, April 12, 2017, the CDFM committee will be hosting an on-site group exam for Module 2 of the Certified Defense Financial Manager Exam. If you are an ASMC member and interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please email Kira Swanson (kira.swanson.civ@mail.mil) by COB Friday, March 17, 2017! Attached you can find some FAQs on the CDFM Certification. Please let me know if you have any questions. If you have previously e-mailed me about your interest in this exam, you do not need to respond to this e-mail.

Seats are limited! Sign up TODAY!



ASMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ASMC Board Meeting Minutes Combined January-February 2017

Last Tuesday of the month, 3:00-4:00PM 2911B

Attendees: Bryan Conway, Bradley Brunaugh, Lance Jones, Earl Foster, Jessica Ciccolini, Kira Swanson, Jason Ward, Shirley Maki, Matthew Pfarr, Karen Poteat, Elena Baykal, Eduard Lorduy.

President

January luncheon had great outcome and reviews, thanks to Paul Cotton.
CDFM/Winter Social event turned out good as well but not many CDFM participants.
Next luncheon will be on February 23 in the Federal building with a Director of LT Keith Huber, we will cater food from closest vendors.

President-Elect

5-Star volunteer requirement of 125 hours was recently achieved by our Chapter. ASMC-CL is currently at 146 volunteer hours. (Note: Cycle runs May-April).
Volunteering at Saint Pat's in Ohio City: February date is still being finalized by Ryan Serne. St. Pat's is supposed to let him know their availability tomorrow. He will advise when complete. Volunteer nights will also be scheduled in April and June.
Volunteering at Saint Herman's in Ohio City: Tuesday, March 14 has been reserved by Jessica Huff. Jessica will email details to you and Elena after the February event at St. Pat's is finalized. Another volunteer night will be scheduled held in May.
Upcoming Cleveland Food Bank group volunteer dates:
Saturday, March 11, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturday, May 13, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Remaining dates for 2017:
Saturday, July 8, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturday, September 9, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturday, November 11, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Front Steps Transitional Housing 5K Walk/Run at the Zoo - Saturday, May 17

Membership

Membership report was updated and sent to secretary.
The total chapter size increased due to membership cost increase and last minute sign ups.
CDFM VP helped with information about CDFM that helped to recruit new LIMs.
Membership drive is coming up.

Nominations

Scholarship:
Scholarship Information is posted on the chapter website and date has been extended. Will have winners announced soon.
CDFM:
CDFM Social event had 5 people signed up for the study group to prepare for the CDFM exam.
Three members took Module-Exam.
Spring 2017 test is changing more to come.

ASMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

ASMC Board Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2017

Last Tuesday of the month, 3:00-4:00PM 2911B

Program

March 28 join luncheon with Toastmasters at Federal building, featuring a series of speakers presenting on: "Public Speaking from the Toastmaster's Perspective".

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.

Looking for speakers.

Treasury

Treasury committee members will cover for treasurer at luncheons.

January luncheon was successful but overpaid due to the deposit.

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

Secretary

Website is up to date. Looking for new volunteers to join committees.

Working on the newsletter.



ASMC - Cleveland Chapter

Finance Report

Chapter Year 2016/2017

Second Quarter Report

October 1 2016 - December 31 2016

Earnings/ Receipts

Interest Earned	\$	40.05
Luncheons	\$	1,584.95
Social Events	\$	-
Conferences/Seminars	\$	-
Membership Rebates and Dues Collections	\$	-
Sponsorship	\$	500.00
Miscellaneous	\$	-
Total	\$	2,125.00

Expenses

Membership Dues & Subscriptions	\$	59.97
Luncheons	\$	1,764.67
Social Events	\$	147.86
Conferences/Seminars		
Gifts		
Office Expenses	\$	18.39
Charitable Contributions		
Promotional	\$	200.00
Miscellaneous	\$	-
Total	\$	2,190.89

Beginning Balance: 1 October 2016	\$	25,691.66
Add Earnings/Receipts	\$	2,125.00
Subtract Expenses	\$	(2,190.89)
Ending Balance: 31 December 2016	\$	25,625.77

ASMC Treasury Budget 2016-2017

Item	Budget	Execution				Remaining	Notes
		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr		
Speaker Scholarship Donation	\$250.00	-				\$250.00	
Scholarships	\$750.00	-	500.00			\$1,250.00	12/13/2016- Scholarship Donation Kerney & Co.
Luncheons	\$250.00	(158.01)	(131.81)			(\$39.82)	
Socials	\$950.00	-	(147.86)			\$802.14	
Supplies/Office Expenses	\$250.00	(147.04)	(18.39)			\$84.57	
Dues/Subscriptions	\$250.00	(59.97)	(59.97)			\$130.06	Website
Other Expenses/Giveaways	\$450.00	(134.13)	(200.00)			\$115.87	Promotional
National PDI	\$2,500.00					\$2,500.00	
Total	\$5,650.00	(499.15)	(58.03)			\$5,092.82	Total

Revenue Received

Vendor	Goal	Receipts				Total	Notes
		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr		
Navy Federal - Interest Earned	\$150.00	39.94	\$ 40.05			\$79.99	
Sponsorships	\$500.00	\$500.00				\$500.00	
Member Rebates	\$1,000.00	\$550.00				\$550.00	
Local PDI	\$1,700.00	400.00				\$400.00	
						\$0.00	
Total	\$3,350.00	\$1,489.94	\$ 40.05			\$1,529.99	

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	Jaclyn Donadio Jeff Hayden

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

ASMC Cleveland Chapter

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

ASMC National

Membership Committee	Kim Bennett
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Education/Scholarship Committee	Matthew Pfarr
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Community Service Committee	Jessica Huff
Community Service Committee	Ryan Serne
Community Service Committee	Rechelle Williams
Community Service Committee	Frankie Denmeade
CDFM Committee	Kira Swanson
CDFM Committee	Brenda Banks-Hammonds
CDFM Committee	Jason Ward
Military Liaison Committee	Dominique Bray
Marketing Committee	Eduard Lorduy
Local PDI	Lance Jones
Webmaster Committee	Brett Bertram

