



# ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES

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### Save the Date:

ASMC Winter Social is TBD.  
A Winter Social e-mail will be out soon!

December Luncheon is TBD. A luncheon e-mail will be out soon!

### Future Meeting Announcements:

ASMC Board Meeting on Wednesday December 27, 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."

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is hard to believe another year is coming to an end and the holiday season is upon us. First of all, I would like to thank our Chapter Board and Committee members for all of their hard work this calendar year. I would also like to thank our membership base for its continued involvement and support. Our success would not exist without this team effort.

As the nights become long and the weather turns cold, reflect on what is truly important in life. Count your blessings and avoid focusing on the negative. Reach out to an old friend or relative you haven't spoken too in a while. Spend quality time with those who are important to you.

Whatever your beliefs, I encourage you to perform an action that helps others, specifically our veterans. There are multiple ways to show your generosity this holiday season. Make a difference in a veteran's life by donating:

- Airline/Hotel and Credit Card points/miles
- Bonds or Stocks
- Car
- Clothing
- Entertainment tickets
- Furniture
- Household items
- Money
- Toys

If you are searching for a more specific cause, I challenge you to support any of the three veteran organizations listed below:

(continued on Page 2)

## President's Message (cont.)

**Semper Fi Fund** – Semper Fi Fund provides immediate financial assistance and lifetime support to post 9/11 combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. It delivers the resources to these men and women during recovery and transition back to their communities, working to ensure no one is left behind.

<https://semperfund.org/>

**Soldiers Angels** – Soldiers Angels assists patients at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers. This support can range from visiting patients to providing comfort items (like blankets and quilts) and clothing, to sponsoring special events like BBQs or assisting VA facilities with large-scale efforts to improve in-patients' quality of life.

<https://soldiersangels.org/>

**Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)** – IAVA is a non-partisan member advised advocacy organization focused on solutions to the issues facing veterans today. IAVA offers a case-management program to help veterans of all generations navigate the government and non-government services available to them. IAVA leads the charge on combating veteran suicide, improving support for female veterans, ending the VA disability claims backlog, and defending veterans' education benefits.

<https://iava.org/about/>

On behalf of the ASMC-CL Chapter Board, we would like to wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season. Enjoy your time off and come back rejuvenated in 2018.

-John



## NATIONAL NEWS

### ASMC National News

Thanksgiving seemed to arrive quickly this year! There's so much to do before year's end – roasting turkey, holiday gift wrapping, and of course, renewing your ASMC membership. Our "RENEW" YEAR's Resolution program kicks off next month and we want to thank those of you who renew your membership early or on-time! [Read more here!](#)

[FY2018 MilCon-VA Appropriations Bill Approved with Bipartisan Committee Support](#)

[ASMC HQ Happenings](#)

[Thankful for Our Veterans](#)

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



#### 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 key-stones 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.

## 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 at 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.asmc certification.com/certification/cdfmforms/program-enrollment](http://www.asmc certification.com/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 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.

## CDFM INFORMATION CONT.

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

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

**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
Module One Examination	\$99.00
Module Two Examination	\$99.00
Module Three Examination	\$99.00
Module Four Examination	\$99.00
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 [DFASCERTIFICATIONREIMBURSEMENT@DFAS.MIL](mailto:DFASCERTIFICATIONREIMBURSEMENT@DFAS.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 2/29/2012, the latest version of Textbook for Module 1-3 is 2013A and for the Module 4 textbook is March 2011.

For more information, please email either Jason Ward at [Jason.L.Ward53.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Jason.L.Ward53.civ@mail.mil) or Kira Swanson at [Kira.Swanson.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Kira.Swanson.civ@mail.mil)

# Member News

## Member News

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - Travis Harris



By: Dan Goliat

Ladies and Gentleman, please meet one of our newest ASMC-CL members, Travis Harris. He began his career with DFAS as a contractor through Lockheed Martin in 2008 while working as a Military Pay Technician in the Retired and Annuity Pay Department. He officially came on board with DFAS, like many others, in January of 2010 when the Lockheed Martin contract ended. During the transition from Lockheed to DFAS, Travis shifted from Retired and Annuity Pay to Navy Military Pay. While working as a Pay Technician, Mr. Harris specialized in working with the Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) entitlements and also worked with debt processing.

In January of 2017, Travis received a promotion and was accepted in to the Leaders in Motion (LIM) Program as a Financial Systems Specialist in System operations. He works as an ISSO in System Ops granting/modifying/deleting access to variety of financial systems. He is currently on rotation in Audit Readiness and due back for a January 2018 return to System Operations.

Mr. Harris received his Bachelor's Degree (2008) & Master's Degree (2016) in Business Administration from Kent State University. Travis is Lean6 Green Belt (2016) and CompTIA Security+ Certified (2017). In the future, he looks to obtain his CPA, Black Belt Certification, and Project Management Professional Certification.

A self proclaimed 'huge movie buff', Mr. Harris owns 745 movies with titles 'I'm Not There', 'The Big Lebowski', and 'Donnie Darko' rounding out his Top 3 favorite movies. Travis also finds great enjoyment in music (all genres), video games, and being outdoors.

Favorite Quote:

“We all got holes to fill  
 Them holes are all that's real  
 Some fall on you like a storm;  
 Sometimes you dig you own”

Townes Van Zandt,  
*To Live is to Fly (1971)*

## Member News

### WAGS 4 WARRIORS

Wags 4 Warriors has been selected as the designated charity for the ASMC Cleveland Chapter for the current program year. Our Chapter is proud to donate \$100 in the name of each luncheon speaker to support this tremendous cause.

The mission of WAGS 4 WARRIORS is to unite veterans whom upon returning home from war suffer with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with an appropriate dog, and to provide all of the training, equipment and support for the dog to become the veterans service dog at no cost to the veteran. The ultimate goal is for the service dog to take away the struggles the veterans face every day.

Wags 4 Warriors provides all of the training for the service dog, the cost of adoption fees, all equipment, routine veterinary care (vaccinations, spay/neuter, monthly heartworm and occasionally other veterinarian visits that are required for the year they are in training with Wags) and the costs associated with public access outing trainings. The estimated cost per veteran and service dog team is roughly \$5,000.

Once a veteran and dog are paired, they begin their training and must complete 120 hours at the Broadview Heights training facility and 60 hours of public access training at places including restaurants, malls, museums, zoos, VA hospital, etc. The service dog must learn a minimum of three tasks to perform for the veteran and they must pass the three phases of testing throughout the training. This process can take up to one year to complete.

Wags is a family-oriented organization, which has multiple family picnics and veteran outings throughout the year. For more information, please visit: <http://www.wags4warriors.org/>.



# Member News

## Member News

Greetings Members!

The American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) Cleveland Chapter is proud to sponsor a holiday gift drive for the local nonprofit organization, Cleveland Christian Home. Cleveland Christian Home exists to be a haven of hope and healing for children, youth and families struggling with mental illness, abuse and neglect. From the first orphaned children left on the doorstep of their founder in 1900, to the stately orphanage on Lorain Avenue that generations of children called home, to the modern network of services reaching children and families in need across Northeast Ohio, Cleveland Christian Home has remained committed to serving vulnerable children for over 100 years and into the future. For more information, please visit: <http://ccCaution-home.org>

Please see the attached flyer for a list of gift suggestions. We ask that gifts remain unwrapped and are in new condition. The last day to donate to the ASMC Holiday Gift Drive is Thursday, 12/14. Please contact Lynn Zielaskiewicz for more information and to drop off your donations. Thank you for your generosity this holiday season.

POC info:

Lynn Zielaskiewicz - Room 1749

Email: [lynn.r.zielaskiewicz.civ@mail.mil](mailto:lynn.r.zielaskiewicz.civ@mail.mil)

Happy Holidays!

ASMC-CL Community Service Committee

Did you know that the Cleveland Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) provides educational scholarships? In conjunction with Kearney and Company, we are currently offering ONE \$1,000 scholarship and ONE \$500 scholarship to two Cleveland Chapter ASMC Members currently pursuing college degrees.

To be eligible, applicants must...

- Possess a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Be an active member of the ASMC Cleveland Chapter.

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 9, 2018.

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



# Member News

## Member News

### ASMC Volunteer Opportunities

Greetings Members!

Are you looking to get involved? Are you looking to make a difference within the ASMC-CL Chapter? Are you looking to network? Look no further! The ASMC-CL Chapter has plenty of openings for current members to jump on board and get involved. There are current openings for the following positions:

- Corporate Sponsorship Committee
- Project Management Committee
- Military Liaison
- Luncheon Committee
- Marketing Committee
- Newsletter Committee

If you are interested in joining any of the committee teams listed above, please contact ASMC-CL Secretary Shana Rose at [shana.e.rose.civ@mail.mil](mailto:shana.e.rose.civ@mail.mil) for more information.



# Member News

## Member News

### ASMC-CL Luncheon & Chapter Anniversary Celebration Photo Gallery



DFAS Principal Deputy Director Ms. Audrey Davis presenting at the November Luncheon.



ASMC members enjoying Ms. Davis' presentation.



John Giammo and Elena Baykal

# Member News

## Member News

### ASMC-CL Photo Gallery (continued)



ASMC-CL members with Ms. Davis after her presentation.



ASMC-CL President John Giammo and Jacqueline Hall-Carrillo (AGA-CL President) present Ms. Davis with a Certificate of Appreciation.

# Member News

## ASMC-CL Photo Gallery



The ASMC-CL Chapter's 50th Anniversary cake.



John Giammo and Elena Baykal



ASMC-CL members enjoying the anniversary celebration.

# Member News

## ASMC-CL Photo Gallery



ASMC-CL members enjoying the anniversary celebration.



ASMC-CL members with Ms. Davis.



More members gather to celebrate the anniversary.

## ASMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### ASMC Board Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2017

Last Wednesday of the month, 3:00-4:00PM 2911G

**Attendees:** John Giammo, Elena Baykal, Lillian Powell, Shana Rose, Jason Denmeade, Julie Coghlan, Lynn Zielaskiewicz, Kira Swanson

#### Programs

Working with the Coast Guard to obtain speaker for December Luncheon  
We need Guest Speakers for local PDI! If you know of anyone, please contact Lance.  
Follow up with DFAS Leadership on approval for local PDI attendance

#### Membership

ASMC National is holding a drawing for a Gift Card for any new members or any members that renew by December 31<sup>st</sup>!  
12 new members in October - 7 of which took advantage of the CDFM offer  
5/12 of those members that were expiring renewed (42% retention)  
Lillian will continue to send out reminder e-mails to the members as well as let them know about the incentive from National

#### Nominations

EDFMT Training  
Class is full with a wait list of 4 people  
CDFM on-site testing will be in room 2603 at 9:15AM on the following dates:  
Module 1 - January 16, 2018  
Module 2 - March 14, 2018  
Module 3 - May 16, 2018  
The format of the CDFM may be changing and will impact on-site testing if it does

#### Community Service

Ideas needed for our Holiday Community Service Event  
Julie recommended Ronald McDonald house and will follow up with availability and more information  
St. Herman's will be contacted next week for dates

#### Treasurer

All invoices are paid  
All luncheon fees have been collected

#### Secretary

Excel file with Newsletter deadlines created to keep submitters on track  
All personal information about the officers was removed from the website by Elena. Any questions can be directed to the ASMC mailbox  
Newsletter will go out to membership early next week

ASMC - Cleveland Chapter

Finance Report

Chapter Year 2017/2018

First Quarter Report

July 1 2017 - September 30 2017

**Earnings/ Receipts**

Interest Earned	\$	41.68
Luncheons	\$	1,231.27
Social Events	\$	-
Conferences/Seminars	\$	-
Membership Rebates and Dues Collections	\$	-
Sponsorship	\$	-
Miscellaneous	\$	14.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,286.96</b>

**Expenses**

Membership Dues & Subscriptions	\$	-
Luncheons	\$	1,433.26
Social Events	\$	34.49
Conferences/Seminars	\$	-
Gifts	\$	-
Office Expenses	\$	370.51
Charitable Contributions	\$	200.00
Promotional	\$	-
Miscellaneous	\$	133.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,172.24</b>

Beginning Accounts Balance	\$	29,006.04
Petty Cash On Hand	\$	100.00
Add Earnings/Receipts	\$	1,286.96
Subtract Expenses	\$	(2,172.24)
<b>Ending Accounts Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>27,894.76</b>
<b>Ending Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>326.00</b>
<b>Quarter End Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>28,220.76</b>

**ASMC  
CLEVELAND TIMES  
STAFF**

Daniel Goliat – Editor  
Daniel.S.Goliat.civ@mail.mil

**Visit Us Online At:**

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

ASMC Cleveland Chapter

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

ASMC National



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President	John Giammo
President-Elect	Elena Baykal
Vice President—Membership	Lillian Powell
Vice President—Programs	Lance Jones
Vice President—Nominations	Jessica Ciccolini
Treasurer	Matt Pfarr
Secretary	Shana Rose
Past President's Advisory Board	Lou Ockunzzi      Frankie Denmeade
	Jessica Ciccolini      Jason Denmeade
	Jaelyn Donadio      Bryan Conway

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Membership Committee	LCDR Brad Braunaugh
Membership Committee	Jim Caywood
Membership Committee	Jane Mullins
Membership Committee	Perlita Arnold
Membership Committee	Lucinda Holden
Membership Committee	Seung (Jay) Choi
Education/Scholarship Committee	Julie Coghlan
Education/Scholarship Committee	Kari Vescio
Education/Scholarship Committee	Kelsey Zifzal
Treasurer Committee	Kristen Bendzuck
Treasurer Committee	Gerald Whitsett
Luncheon Committee	Stan Foster
Luncheon Committee	Paul Cotton
Special Events Committee	Paul Cotton
Special Events Committee	Ashley Platko
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	VACANT
Local PDI	Lance Jones
Webmaster Committee	LCDR Brad Braunaugh

