

ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Inside this Issue:

President's Message	1
National News	2
CDFM	2-4
Member News	5-11
Board Meeting Minutes	12-13
Finance Report	14
Chapter Management	15

ASMC October Luncheon
with Guest Speaker, Tonya
Hughes-Scruggs

Date: Wednesday,
October 30, 2019
11:30 am–1:00 pm
Location: AJC Federal
Building—Room 1373

ASMC Social

Wednesday, October 30, 2019
The Cleveland Bar and Grill
834 Huron Rd, E.

4:30 pm–6:30 pm

ASMC Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 30, 2019
at 3:00 pm in room 2911C

Disclaimer: The ASMC
Cleveland 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. We
reserve the right to edit
submissions for content, length,
grammar and spelling.

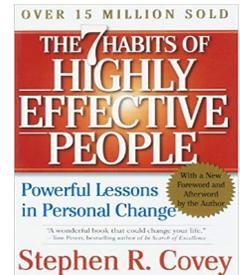


Dear ASMC Members,

Everyone sets goals to have a successful career and a meaningful life. The road traveled on this journey may differ for each of us. Many experts have given advice on how to be more effective, how to be a leader and how to be successful. These are two of my favorite road warriors.

Stephen Covey defines his road in, The 7 Habits of Highly Effect People:

1. Be Proactive
2. Begin with the End in *Mind*
3. Put First Things First
4. Think Win/Win
5. Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood
6. Synergize
7. Sharpen the Saw



J.K. Rowling defines her road rules in "Rules of Success":

1. Failure helps you discover yourself
2. Take Action on your ideas
3. You will be criticized
4. Remember where you started
5. Truly believe in yourself
6. Learn from Adversity
7. Visualize to achieve
9. Persevere
10. Dreams can happen



Whether you agree with Covey over Rowling or a mixture of both, every goal accomplished begins with a plan. In setting goals be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable/Attainable, Relevant, Timebound. If you are a visual person, creating a Vision Board can be helpful.

I personally believe that being successful, however you define it, takes commitment. Define the habit you want to develop and write it down as a form of commitment. Only what you do consistently becomes a habit. It takes an average of 66 days to create a habit. Keeping track of what you do daily towards your goal, gives a sense of accomplishment. "Whatever you hold in your mind on a consistent basis is exactly what you will experience in your life. "...Tony Robbins. **Happy next 66 days!!!**

NATIONAL NEWS

ASMC National News

Membership Renewal!!!

You can be rewarded for your timely membership renewal! Each month, ASMC HQ enters all renewing members into a random drawing to award two \$50 gift certificates and one \$150 gift certificate, respectively for those renewing on-time or early for one or three years.

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



Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) Certification

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.

CDFM INFORMATION



CDFM FAQs

What is the CDFM?

The CDFM is a test-based certification for financial management professionals who are Civilian or military members of the Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard, or employees of defense contractors and suppliers.

What are the benefits of obtaining a CDFM?

- It is one of the DoD-approved certifications that the DoD Financial Management Certification Program "Recommends" at DFMC Level 2 and "Strongly Recommends" at DFMC Level 3
- Indicates your level of initiative and distinguishes you from others in the field
- Shows growth and advancement within the profession
- Enhances your career and reputation
- Leads to continuing professional development – stay current with industry trends and changes

What is the difference between the CDFM and CGFM?

The CDFM program is for those interested in displaying proficiency in core aspects of defense financial management. The CGFM is more applicable to general government financial management - federal, state, and local.

Who has obtained the CDFM?

Find a list of active CDFMs at <https://asmconline.org/cdfm/active-cdfms/>.

Will passing the CDFM exam get me a promotion?

No. While adding the certification to your resume can positively impact the hiring process, you are not guaranteed a promotion after passing the CDFM.

Do I have to be an Accountant or Financial Management Analyst in order to sit for the CDFM exam?

No. You may sit for the exam regardless of your job title.

Do I need to take the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMTC) to sit for the CDFM exam?

No. You are encouraged to take the course to prepare for the exam, but it is not required.

What is the best way to prepare for the exam?

It depends on your personal studying methods. The EDFMTC textbook is provided to those who attend the one-week training course. ASMC members can also [contact the Cleveland Chapter CDFM Committee](#) to inquire about loaner copies.

What are the educational requirements to sit for the exam?

You must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

What are the financial management experience requirements to sit for the exam?

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:

CDFM INFORMATION CON'T

CDFM FAQs

- 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 degree or higher)

If I do not have any financial management experience, can I still enroll in the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMTC) class?

Yes. No previous experience is required.

How do I enroll in the CDFM Program?

You may [enroll for the exam online](#), or complete a paper [CDFM Enrollment form](#) and submit to ASMC Headquarters via mail/email. After your application is accepted, you will receive an Authorization Letter or e-mail from ASMC with your candidate ID number and instructions for registering for modules examinations. Find additional enrollment information at <https://asmconline.org/cdfm/enroll/>.

Once enrolled, how long do I have to pass the CDFM exams?

You have two years from the date of your Authorization Letter to pass the three module examinations. The fourth module is optional. If you pass the fourth module, you will earn a CDFM with an acquisition specialty (CDFM-A).

Do I have to take all three modules at the same time or in a specific order?

No. You may take module examinations one at a time, in any order that you choose.

What fees are associated with obtaining and maintaining a CDFM?

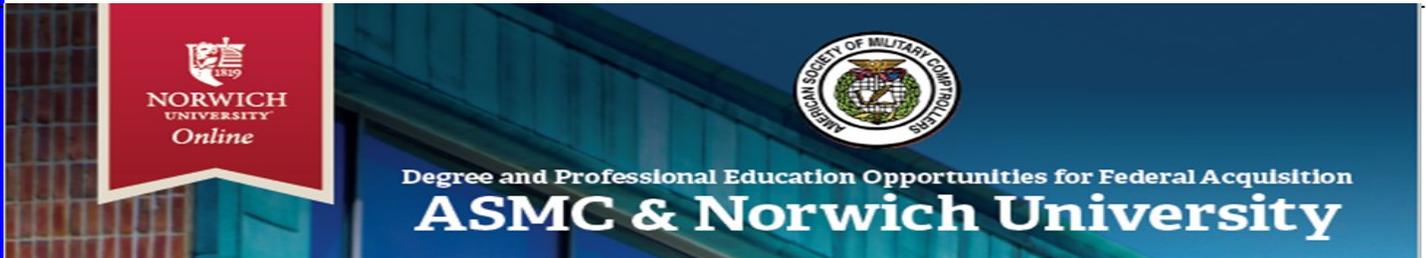
	Member	Non-Member
CDFM Program Enrollment		
Initial Enrollment (2 years of testing eligibility)	\$40	\$75
Enrollment Extensions (2 years of testing eligibility)	\$75	\$85
Exams (initial exams and retakes cost the same)		
CDFM exam (Module 1, 2, 3, or 4), each	\$99	\$99
Textbooks		
EDFMTC Textbook (Modules 1-3)	\$110	\$120
Module 4 Textbook	\$75	\$85
Recertification		
Recertification Fee (required every 2 years)	\$25	\$45

Find additional information at <https://asmconline.org/cdfm/fees/>.

How do I receive reimbursement for CDFM examination fees?

Reimbursement policies vary by military service and agency. Find service-specific reimbursement information at <https://asmconline.org/cdfm/reimbursement/>.

Member News



ASMC has added another perk to the list of member benefits!

[ASMC has partnered with Norwich University](#) to provide members assistance in achieving their goals in certification, advanced degrees, and career enhancement. ASMC members receive a \$3,000 scholarship towards a master's degree and CDFM holders earn six credits towards the Master of Arts in Public Administration (MPA) program.

The Cleveland Chapter reached out to Norwich University's partnership officer, Kevin Beal, for a little more information on these offerings:

How is the \$3,000 scholarship applied?

The scholarship is distributed across the terms of the program. It ends up being approximately 10% "discount" off the tuition each term. We'll always bring this up whenever we talk with prospective students so there aren't any surprises when it comes to the tuition and cost of the program.

For CDFM holders, does the 6-credits toward an MPA count toward the maximum of 12 credits which can transfer in?

That's correct. The maximum amount that a student can transfer is 12 credits. That's a requirement from our accreditors—and it's probably a good rule. Students should complete a certain amount of courses at the school from which they're receiving the degree. We always work to find the maximum amount of credit transfer opportunities to avoid duplicating effort. If students can demonstrate competency, we'll try to award the credit as long as it doesn't negatively impact outcomes, requirements, or quality.

Does the \$3,000 scholarship apply to any master's degree, or just to an MPA?

The scholarship is for any master's at Norwich if they are an ASMC member. We're proud to offer this as a partner of ASMC!

Does the 6-credits towards an MPA count toward any concentration, or just toward the *Fiscal Management or Procurement & Contract Management* concentrations?

For those concentrations. Any time we award credit, we evaluate two things. First, the source of credit or instruction received elsewhere has to be of good quality. Second, it has to satisfy a degree requirement in the program of choice. So, for instance, the CDFM wouldn't necessarily apply, even though it's a quality credential, if someone wanted to enroll in our Cyber Security program. The courses and subject matter is too different. The same goes for the other concentrations in the MPA program. Students can receive transfer credit for those concentrations because that most directly applies to the CDFM credential.

Can students work through masters programs at their own pace, or should they expect to start and complete their program with the same classmates?

We're built to be flexible. But we have high graduation rates because we have a cohort model that encourages persistence to the end of the programs. Students enroll and take courses as a cohort, and generally stay with that class until graduation. However, we also understand that life happens and always work with students if something unexpected comes up. We have students who are active duty and get deployment orders, students who have a family emergency, or other situations. That's when we jump into action to make sure that student gets the time they need to be successful.

The online catalog seems to contain only curriculum maps and course descriptions. Where can potential students find information on class start/end dates and course recurrence?

Everyone's first stop should be to talk to an admissions advisor by calling 866-684-7237 or emailing learn@norwich.edu. There are calendars and course descriptions online as well.

Master's degree courses start quarterly, in March, June, September, and December. The Calendar is at <https://online.norwich.edu/current-students/academic-calendar>.

For additional information about Norwich University's offerings, please visit online.norwich.edu.

Member News Member News

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – JENNIFER GUTIERREZ



By: J. Coghlan

Jennifer proudly serves... at DFAS since 2017...and most importantly, the Country, as a military spouse. Her family's 6th duty station landed them here in the CLE in 2015. Her husband Larry is active duty United States Coast Guard posted right here in AJC Federal Building. As is the case with the majority of our military families, Jennifer is "down for whatever" and although her permanent role is Accounting Technician in DFAS Disbursing, she is currently completing an assignment as a Civilian Pay Technician on their Debts team. She somehow finds the time to enjoy volunteering for our ASMC Cleveland Chapter charitable events at St. Malachi's and the Cleveland Food Bank.

Having earned an Associates from Broward College, she is working toward her goal to earn a Bachelors in Business Administration. Jennifer and Larry are the proud parents of a recent graduate of Kent State University. After graduation their daughter enrolled in graduate studies and is currently attending Chatham University for Occupational Therapy.

When not on the job, Jen enjoys the simple pleasures of spending time with her family, baking, trying out Pioneer Women recipes, travelling and of course....rooting for our CLE Browns, Cavs and Indians!



ASMC OCTOBER LUNCHEON

Please join ASMC for its October luncheon. The keynote speaker will be Ms. Tonya Hughes-Scruggs, Director of Departmental Reporting and AM&C, DFAS Cleveland.

Presenting: *“Communication Skills for Workplace Success: It’s Not WHAT you say but HOW You Say It!!”*

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: Wednesday 10/30/2019

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

Place: Room 1373 AJC Federal Building

Cost: \$10 for ASMC Members and BIG Members/\$11 for Non-Members

The luncheon includes an assorted deli and combination sandwiches from **Al’s Deli** with chips, brownies, and cookies. Water will be provided.

Please RSVP to both Paul Cotton at paul.c.cotton.civ@mail.mil and Falana Banks at falana.banks.va.gov by COB Friday, October 25, 2019, 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 Paul.c.cotton.civ@mail.mil or Falana.banks.va.gov by COB Friday, October 25, 2019. If you cancel after this deadline, you will be responsible for the cost of the meal. Thank you for your understanding.

ASMC will be collecting 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 transactions cost in addition to the luncheon cost, which is 2.75% of the luncheon cost.*

Space is limited so please RSVP today if you would like to attend. We hope to see you there!

Member News

Member News

ASMC Evening Social

When: Wednesday, October 30, 2019
from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Where: The Clevelander
834 Huron Road East
Cleveland, OH 44115

Why: Networking and Fun
Free Appetizers & Cash Bar Available



Please RSVP with Paul Cotton (paul.c.cotton.civ@mail.mil) and Falana Banks (falana.banks@va.gov) to attend.

American Society of Military Comptrollers Cleveland Chapter



www.asmc-cleveland.org



Member News

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



ST. HERMAN'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

Please join ASMC-CL on October 17, 2019 to help those in need at St. Herman's House of Hospitality, just a short distance from DFAS in Ohio City. We will meet at 5:00 PM at St. Herman's located at **4410 Franklin Blvd in Cleveland**. We will plate and serve meals, as well as clean dishes and tables afterwards, ending by 6:30 PM. St. Herman's is a small place that can accommodate only eight volunteers, so if interested, please email Jessica Huff at jessica.l.huff20.civ@mail.mil so you can be added to the list.

Please consider joining in the tradition of serving those in need in Ohio.

ST. MALACHI

Please join ASMC-CL on Monday October 28, 2019 from 5:30-7:00 to help those in need at St. Malachi located at **2459 Washington Avenue in Cleveland (just north of West 25th St. and Detroit Ave)**. We will assist with set-up, serving dinner and clean-up. For those who would like to go above and beyond, volunteers may arrive at 4:30 p.m. to assist with tables and chairs. If you would like to volunteer, please email Lynn Zielaskiewicz (lynn.r.zielaskiewicz.civ@mail.mil). Confirmed volunteers should meet in Saint Malachi's kitchen for instructions and ask for Marty or Pat.

The mission of this ministry is to provide for the needs of the poor including nutrition and other hungers, such as the need for human care and concern. Saint Malachi serves a hot meal every Monday of the year to the less fortunate. For more information, please visit: <http://www.stmalachi.org>.

Member News

Member News

PREVIOUS MEMBER EVENTS



Member News

Member News

MEMBER EVENTS CONT.

ASMC/BIG Luncheon



The ASMC/BIG joint luncheon featured James Somerville, Information Technology Specialist, USCG and Blacks In Government – Lake Erie Chapter, 1st Vice President, as the speaker. His topic “Let’s Talk Technology” included so much useful information that we decided to share it.



Hover your smart phone camera over the QR code to take advantage of the information he provided. The code is valid through November 31, 2019.

Those without a smart phone can access the presentation on your personal computer at:

<https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=B7BE5E9193767298!273959&ithint=file%2c pptx&authkey=!AAZno9OQvBXuQRE>

ASMC - Cleveland Chapter
 Finance Report
 Chapter Year 2019-2020
 1st Quarter Report
 July 1st, 2019- September 30th, 2019

Earnings/ Receipts

Interest Earned	\$	89.28
Luncheons	\$	885.96
Social Events	\$	105.00
Conferences/Seminars	\$	-
Membership Rebates and Dues Collections	\$	-
Sponsorship	\$	-
Miscellaneous	\$	-
Total	\$	1,080.24

Expenses

Membership Dues & Subscriptions	\$	135.97
Luncheons	\$	936.95
Social Events	\$	874.00
Conferences/Seminars	\$	-
Gifts	\$	-
Office Expenses	\$	576.00
Charitable Contributions	\$	500.00
Promotional	\$	-
Miscellaneous	\$	-
Total	\$	3,022.92

Beginning Accounts Balance	\$	26,076.30
Petty Cash On Hand	\$	100.00
Add Earnings/Receipts	\$	1,080.24
Subtract Expenses	\$	(3,022.92)
Ending Accounts Balance	\$	24,233.62
Ending Petty Cash	\$	100.00
Quarter End Balance	\$	24,133.62

ASMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ASMC Board Meeting Minutes September 25, 2019

Attendees: Frankie Denmeade, Jason Denmeade, Sandra Morgan, Brenda Banks-Hammonds, Melinda Mahoney, Jessica Ciccolini, Kira Swanson, Falana Banks, Elena Baykal, Tonya Hughes-Scruggs.....

President

- We should reach out to Elena or Shana regarding how to get info into the Comptroller
- Luncheon w/BIG went very well. A "Poll Everywhere" survey was given live on screen at the end of the luncheon with immediate results.
- QR code from luncheon will be in October's newsletter.
- Our national number belongs on all CBT/CPE certificates

President-Elect

Community Service:

- St. Patricks - Scheduled for today

Programs

- Advised that there will be a \$220 rental fee for AV equipment @ future Doubletree luncheons. ASMC has its own equipment so there is no need to rent from the Doubletree.
- Next luncheon is October 23rd featuring Vickie Pryor speaking on Group Dynamics. Al's Deli will cater.
- ASMC social is also on October 23rd at the Clevelander
- No date yet for November luncheon
- Will forward list of possible speakers for balance of year.

Membership Committee

- Twenty new members to date for program year. Goal is 50.
- First membership recruiting event is October 22nd from 7:15-9:00 in cafeteria. Fliers have been made and will be placed in display boxes outside of elevators. Refreshments are ordered.
- Elena received box of materials from National. Will arrange to have delivered to building.

Scholarship Committee:

- Brainstorming on subject for scholarship Essay
- Going forward national# belongs on CPE/CBT certificates

ASMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES – CONTINUED

CDFM Committee:

- Four people are scheduled to sit for Module 2 of the CDFM exam at 9am on September 30, 2019.
- Module 3 exam is scheduled for November 12, 2019.

Treasurer Committee:

- Effective November 1st, Squares credit card processing fee changes from 2.75% to 2.6% + 10 cents per transaction.
- If a luncheon reservation is cancelled or a substitute is used make sure Sandy knows whom to charge for the luncheon.
- Will publish a 48hr cutoff for luncheon reservations but will not turn anyone away at the door.
- Sandy will be provided a final RSVP list day of the luncheon

ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES STAFF

Brenda Banks-Hammonds – Editor
Banks-Hammonds, Brenda D.civ@mail.mil

Visit Us Online At:

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

ASMC Cleveland Chapter

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

ASMC National

KEARNEY & COMPANY



Century
Federal Credit Union

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Frankie Denmeade
President-Elect	Shana Rose
Vice President—Membership	Jason Denmeade
Vice President—Programs	Melinda Mahoney
Vice President—Nominations	Jessica Ciccolini
Treasurer	Sandra Morgan
Secretary	Brenda Banks-Hammonds
Past President's Advisory Board	Elena Baykal Bryan Conway John Giammo Lou Ockunzzi

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CDFM—Jessica Ciccolini		
	Kira Swanson	Victoria Nord
Community Service		
	Franke Denmeade	Jessica Huff
	Ryan Serne	Lynn Zielaskiewicz
Corporate Sponsorship		
	Vacant	
Education/Scholarship—Jessica Ciccolini		
	Jennifer Dunn	Kristen Miller Kim Williams
Local PDI—Melinda Mahoney		
	Stan Foster	Julie Pfaff David Rose
Luncheons/Special Events—Melinda Mahoney		
	Jeannine Anderson	Donnell Clark
	Falana Banks	Paul Cotton
Marketing—Melinda Mahoney		
	Tonya Hughes-Scruggs	
Membership - Jason Denmeade		
	Andrea Alford	Sara Nicholas
	Federica Downing	Kannwanaemelinna Onwudinjo
	Jane Mullins	Lillian Powell
	Anthony Turner II	
Newsletter—Brenda Banks-Hammonds—(Editor)		
	Kim Carpenter	Julie Coghlan Jacqueline Fedak
Project Management		
	John Giammo	
Treasurer—Sandra Morgan		
	Whitney Joy	Gerald Whitsett
Webmaster		
	Vacant	