

December 2019

# ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Inside this Issue:

President's Message	1
National News	2
CDFM	2-3
Member News	5-8
Board Meeting Minutes	9
Finance Report	10
Chapter Management	11



### [ASMC Winter Social](#)

ASMC Winter Social  
Tuesday, December 17, 2019  
Sausalito's

[See Page 7](#)



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The holiday season is a joyous time. It's a time for to celebrate with family and friends. After Halloween, it seems the holiday season is blasted into turbo mode. Christmas music and decorations are in the stores before Thanksgiving. Black Friday shopping begins on Thursday. I even had my tree up before Thanksgiving, which I never do!

The holiday season is not always joyous for everyone. Many suffer from loss, loneliness and dread the holiday season. I've often heard and know it to be true, if you ever want to lift your spirits, do something for someone else. Many will volunteer to give gifts, feed the hungry and provide clothing for those in needs. This display of kindness is awesome. For those that may be suffering, the gift of time and being in the moment is priceless.

When the holiday season is over, let us continue to give. One of the things I love about our ASMC family is that we give all year round. Thank you for always giving of yourself and your time.

I wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season. I'm looking forward to our holiday gathering on December 17<sup>th</sup>. See you there.

## 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.asmconline.org](http://www.asmconline.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.

# ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES

Page 3

## 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
<b>CDFM Program Enrollment</b>		
Initial Enrollment (2 years of testing eligibility)	\$40	\$75
Enrollment Extensions (2 years of testing eligibility)	\$75	\$85
<b>Exams (initial exams and retakes cost the same)</b>		
CDFM exam (Module 1, 2, 3, or 4), each	\$99	\$99
<b>Textbooks</b>		
EDFMTC Textbook (Modules 1-3)	\$110	\$120
Module 4 Textbook	\$75	\$85
<b>Recertification</b>		
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

Degree and Professional Education Opportunities for Federal Acquisition  
**ASMC & Norwich University**

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](mailto: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](http://online.norwich.edu).

# Member News

## Member News

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – Gerald Whitsett



By J. Coghlan

Those that frequent ASMC-CLE meetings, DFAS functions, committees, DFAS directorates and the halls of the AJC, will recognize this face and/or have the fortunate experience of working with Gerald on projects and programs. His quiet, friendly, and humble demeanor hides formidable talents.

You may be unaware that Gerald has spent his entire adult life serving our country and travelling the world; in the Army for six years, Ohio Air National Guard for six years and thereafter, deploying all of those acquired leadership, organizational and strategic skills to public service. He joined DFAS in 2013 and worked in our own Cleveland Care Center before leaving briefly to serve as an analyst at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Since returning to DFAS in 2015, Gerald has spent time in several DFAS directorates solving problems and making things better. He currently is working with the executive team in Civilian Pay, participating on two greenbelt projects and serves on the ASMC Treasury committee.

His undergrad education in business, MBA, Juris Doctor, and FM2 certification is instrumental in our agency's mission to merge and transform our business processes into 21st century standards...an undertaking not for the faint of heart.

Despite subscribing to Arnold Schwarzenegger's motto "***you can have excuses or results...not both,***" a secret fact is that Gerald is mere putty in the palm of his daughter Rian's hands and he is also the family expert in deep fried turkeys (or pretty much anything) around holiday time. Good thing he is in to fitness too!

# Member News

## Member News



Peace  
Love  
Joy

### ASMC HOLIDAY DINNER

Please join ASMC in celebration of this holiday season!



Our keynote speaker for the evening's festivities will be **Mr. Lou Ockunzzi, Site Support POC, DFAS Cleveland**

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Time: 5:00 pm Appetizers – Compliments of ASMC-CLE Chapter

Place: Sausalito's on Ninth, 1360 E. 9th St, Suite 125, Cleveland, Ohio

Cost: Dinner and beverages are at the discretion and cost of individual attendees. Please visit <https://www.sausalitocle.com>, for menu options.

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 via email after the dinner.

Please RSVP to both Melinda Mahoney at [melinda.m.mahoney.civ@mail.mil](mailto:melinda.m.mahoney.civ@mail.mil) and Falana Banks at [falana.banks.va.gov](mailto:falana.banks.va.gov) by COB December 12, 2019, if you would like to attend. Significant others are welcome! An email response will be sent to you confirming your reservation.

Space is limited so please RSVP with headcount if you will be joining the celebration

We hope to see you there!

# Member News

## Member News

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### ST. MALACHI

Please join ASMC-CL on **Monday, December 23, 2019 and Monday, December 30, 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](mailto: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: Caution-<http://www.stmalachi.org>.

# ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES

Page 9

## ASMC Board Meeting Minutes November 27, 2019

Attendees: Frankie Denmeade, Jason Denmeade, Brenda Banks-Hammonds, Tonya Hughes-Scruggs, Jessica Ciccolini, Lou Ockunzzi, Lillian Powell, et al..

### General

- Mike Hoffman w/ AGA is seeking volunteers for the Local PDI. Frankie will request info on which committees need assistance.
- DRAS will send five ASMC officers to the National PDI (Jessica will not attend in 2020. New baby due around same time. CONGRATS!)
- ASMC supports attendance for two people to attend the National PDI. Frankie will verify the amount.
- DRAS has committed \$10,000 to the local PDI

### Programs

- Winter Holiday Social December 17<sup>th</sup> @ Sausalito will feature Lou Ockunzzi as the speaker.
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> luncheon will feature R.I.T.A. representatives.
- February luncheon will feature Vicki Pryor discussing Group Dynamics.
- March luncheon - Tri-C Speakers bureau
- April - Local PDI, Subject Robotics/AI. The AGA has secured the Hilton Garden Inn as the venue. Jacquelyn Hallecarrillo is the POC.

### Membership Committee

- Three new members in November. 31 new members for the year
- Membership team will meet on December 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss recruitment/retention efforts.
- Presented benefits of membership to the recent new hire group.

### Scholarship Committee:

- Scholarship monies not yet received from Kearney. Will continue to accept scholarship applications until check arrives.

### CDFM Committee:

- CDFM exams are complete for this year.
- CDFM class scheduled in Cleveland on February 24<sup>th</sup>- 28th. Enroll via the training dashboard on the E-portal.

December board meeting is cancelled.

# ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES

Page 10

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
<b>Quarter End Balance</b>	<b>\$ 24,133.62</b>

# ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES

Page 11

## 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.asmconline.org/>

ASMC National

## 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 Gianno      Lou Ockunzzi

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CDFM—Jessica Ciccolini	Kira Swanson	Victoria Nord
Community Service	Franke Denmeade	Jessica Huff
	Ryan Serne	Lynn Zielaskiewcz
Corporate Sponsorship	 <i>Vacant</i>	
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 Gianno	
Treasurer—Sandra Morgan	Whitney Joy	Gerald Whitsett
Webmaster	 <i>Vacant</i>	

