

ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES



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Save the Date:

March Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Michael Ciccolini

Date: March 27, 2019
Location: AJC Building, Room B1

ASMC Local PDI

Date: April 18, 2019
Location: Cleveland City Club
More information coming soon!

Future Meeting Announcements:

ASMC Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 3:00 pm in room 2911G.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear ASMC Members,

Spring is certainly around the corner as I see signs of it everywhere. From fewer days of snow to longer days in the sun.

Personally and professionally it has been extremely rewarding to serve as a volunteer on the Board. I wish to extend an invitation to all ASMC members that are interested in sharing their talents to contact us! There are multiple ways to volunteer including actively serving on specific committees (full list of vacant positions available is on Page 9). We are delighted to be partnering with AGA for a Professional Development Institute (PDI) Conference at the Cleveland City Club on April 18, 2019, so here's your chance! If you are interested in volunteering for this joint conference, please contact me.

Speaking of the PDI, registration for the AGA/ASMC Local PDI 2019 is open now! Please visit the registration page soon: registration for DFAS Cleveland Operations closes March 28, 2019, and general registration ends on April 5, 2019. You can register via the link on Page 10.

Hope to see you at the conference.

Wishing you all good things!

Elena Baykal
2018-2019 ASMC President
Cleveland Chapter

NATIONAL NEWS

ASMC National News

- PDI 2019 Registration is now open!
- March 2019 Member Highlight
- DoD News—March 13, 2019
- Financial Management News
- February 2019 Chapter Highlight

...and more, [check it out!](#)

See more Defense and Budget Financial Management Highlights on the ASMC website (www.asmcnline.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



Frequently Asked Questions | 2019

YOU Asked, WE'VE Answered!

American Society of Military Comptroller – Cleveland Chapter Certified Defense Financial Management (CDFM) 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 **Kira Swanson** (kira.swanson.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.org/certification/cdfm-forms/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.

Frequently Asked Questions | 2019

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

A: No.

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

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

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

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

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

A: Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A: The current version of the EDFMTC book is version 2018a and was released in July, 2018

Member News

Member News

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – Anureet Benipal



By: Shana Rose

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to introduce Anu Benipal! Anu started with DFAS in June, 2018 and is a LIM rotating through the Front Office with a home base in Accounts Payable. She was born in India, and did not speak English when she came to US in the 4th grade. Her 4th grade teacher, Ms. Seseek, not only taught her English, but also taught her everything about the American way of life from going to Indians games, movies, and festivals as well as tutoring her after school. She still keeps in touch with Ms. Seseek to this day.

Anu has her Bachelor's Degree in Molecular Biology and a Master's in Public Health with a focus on Health Policy and Management from Kent State University. Currently, she is focusing on obtaining her FM certification and thinking about going back to school to obtain 24 credits of accounting to build a stronger foundation of finance and accounting. Last year, she was selected as the Employee of the Quarter for Army Headquarter Services and had her picture all over the Pentagon!

Anu joined ASMC in October 2018. She took the opportunity as a great way to meet new people since she was new and did not know anyone. This year, she plans on attending more volunteering events and helping out with ASMC committees.

Outside of work, Anu loves traveling to new cities with her husband, and going for long walks at the park seeking solitude, which allows her to reboot her brain and unwind.

Favorite Quote:

"Tell me and I forget, Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

Member News



Angels of America's Fallen has been selected as the primary charity for the ASMC Cleveland Chapter for the 2018-2019 program year. Our Chapter is proud to donate \$100 in the name of each luncheon speaker to support this tremendous cause.

Angels of America's Fallen is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by a retired Lt Col with 25 years of service as an enlisted Army field artillery canon crewman, a Marine Corps fighter pilot, and an Air Force Reconnaissance pilot. He created Angels of America's Fallen in 2012 to address a gap in support he saw for the children of his fallen friends in all branches of the military and first responders. There was no program providing opportunities for the children to be engaged in healthy activities the entire year, with long term support every year of their childhood, in between initial grief counseling and scholarships once they became adults. Angels of America's Fallen was designed to offer positive outlets for the children's grief during the entire period of these most crucial developmental years. Our staff and board consist of individuals with a passion to help the children in the most impactful way we know. That is to provide them an opportunity, not a handout or a gift, but a chance to invest in themselves and pursue healthy activities during their entire childhood.

For more information, please visit: <https://aoafallen.org/>

Member News

Member News

Hello members,

Please join ASMC-CL on Mondays 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) to request a date(s) below. Confirmed volunteers should meet in Saint Malachi's kitchen for instructions and ask for Martyr 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>.

ASMC-Saint Malachi Community Service Dates (through June 2019)

*Denotes extra day of service during month for holiday dinner

April 2019

*4/22 (Easter Dinner - 10 volunteers)

4/29 (5 volunteers)

May 2019

5/20 (5 volunteers)

*5/27 (Memorial Day Dinner - 10 volunteers)

June 2019

6/24 (5 volunteers)

Thank you,

ASMC Community Service Committee



**St. Malachi
Parish**

Member News



Left—February Luncheon Speaker Sheila Echols, is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Vice President of Programs, Paul Cotton



Right—February Luncheon Speaker Sheila Echols with Vice President of Membership, Lillian Powell (left), and President-Elect, Frankie Denmeade (right).

EDFMTC Update for DFAS Cleveland Members

Several of you have asked about the **Enhanced Defense Financial Manager Training Course (EDFMTC)** which DFAS-CL normally hosts each December. While the course has been delayed, the DFAS Learning and Development Division is finalizing a contract to bring the course to Cleveland in May. Dates are currently tentative.



Because the course material and exam content are all new this year, we're holding off on scheduling on-site exams until after the training course schedule is finalized. In the meantime, if you're interested in the course, please ensure that it's part of your individual development plan.

Member News

Member News



The Education & Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce this year's scholarship winners:

- Ms. Rosemarie Hammond, of the Defense Finance & Accounting Service, is the winner of the \$1000 scholarship.
- Ms. Victoria Nord, of the Defense Finance & Accounting Service, is the winner of the \$500 scholarship.

Congratulations to both of our awardees! Scholarships will be presented at the annual ASMC/AGA professional development conference on Thursday, April 18, 2019, at the City Club of Cleveland. We hope to see you all there!

Our ASMC Officer Committees need your help! We have several vacancies that we need filled so that we can provide the best events and information for our membership!

We have the current open vacancies:

- Luncheon Committee - 2
- Newsletter Committee - 2-3
- Webmaster - 1
- Community Service - 1
- Corporate Sponsorship - 1



Each position requires approximately 3-4 hours of volunteer work during the month. Please contact Shana Rose (shana.e.rose.civ@mail.mil) for more information.

Member News

Member News

Greetings Members,

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) and American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) will once again host the Local Professional Development Institute (PDI), which is scheduled for Thursday, April 18. The event will be held on the second floor of the Cleveland City Club located at 850 Euclid Avenue at the corner of East 9th Street and Euclid.

Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. The PDI begins at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:00 p.m.



Please access the conference website for speakers and agenda information: <https://www.agacgm.org/Chapters/Cleveland/Training-Events/2019-PDT.aspx>

This event will provide seven Continuing Professional Education (CPE) units and/or seven Continuing Education and Training (CET) units for FM Certification maintenance.

Cleveland Operations Employees (Accounting Operations, Finance Operations and Site Support Office) - There are only 100 seats reserved for Cleveland Operations employees. This first step requires completion of the interest survey if your organizational code begins with a JA, JB, JF, or JL. The deadline to submit this survey is March 28 at 11:59 p.m. Participants will be selected from the received surveys with priority given to employees who: 1) are members of ASMC and/or AGA, 2) are serving as an officer or on an executive committee, and 3) need CPEs/CETs to renew a certification during 2019.

Organizational Management will notify confirmed participants via a notification email. Then, Organizational Management will prepare one group DFAS Training Request for the notified attendees, and complete the payment process. Contact Kimberly Stahley or Kathleen Alexander with registration questions for Cleveland Operations.

Registration Instructions for DFAS Cleveland Operations Employees:

You may now submit an interest survey to potentially attend the 2019 AGA-ASMC Local PDI. The url address for the interest survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019ClevelandPDT>. An interest survey must be completed to be considered for a seat at the conference. The final day to submit a completed AGA/ASMC Local PDI Interest Survey is Thursday, March 28.

Cleveland Non-operations Employees - Use your mission area's procedures for submitting an external training request. The closing date to accept registrations and payments is April 5. If you have questions regarding the registration and payment process, contact the purchase cardholder for your non-operations mission area.

Registration Instructions for NASA employees:

Please coordinate your request to attend with your site POC via SATERN.

For questions regarding the registration process, DFAS-CL employees should contact Kimberly Stahley at kimberly.m.stahley.civ@mail.mil.

Thank you,

ASMC Cleveland Local PDI Committee

ASMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 2019

ASMC Board Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2019

Last Wednesday of the month, 3:00-4:00PM 2931B

Attendees: Elena Baykal, Frankie Denmeade, Lillian Powell, Paul Cotton, Jessica Ciccolini, Kari Vescio, Shana Rose, Jason Denmeade, Stan Foster, Lynn Zielaskiewicz, & Julie Pfaff

President

Local PDI – April 18th, 2019; City Club of Cleveland
Working on IDC Article for Registration
Keynote Speaker suggestions – Please e-mail Paul, Frankie, or Elena

Nominations

Scholarship Deadline – Extended to 3/8
EDFMT Course – Still tentative for May, but no updates on course availability
On-site exams are on hold
Updated CDFM Frequently asked questions for Newsletter
Nominations period is 3/4-3/15
Special Edition of newsletter to be released in April

Programs

Revisit agreements with local businesses for ASMC luncheons
Mike Ciccolini is the guest speaker for March. Julie Pfaff will need to be rescheduled due to luncheon cancellation in January

Treasurer

Cannot write checks to 'Cash' on business account
Move away from using cash for events

Membership

At the membership drive they handed out 50 brochures/CDFM brochures
Idea of using a hot spot to sign up for membership in cafeteria during drives?
There are new forms to fill out for GSA to use the cafeteria space
Tables/Chairs need to come from B-1
33 New members for 5-Star year as of this meeting
Membership renewal issues are resolved

Secretary

March Newsletter – Released last week of March
5-Star – All requirements due to Shana by 3/22



ASMC - Cleveland Chapter
 Finance Report
 Chapter Year 2018/2019
 Second Quarter Report
 October 1 2018 - December 31 2018

Earnings/ Receipts

Interest Earned	\$	71.66
Luncheons	\$	739.21
Social Events	\$	-
Conferences/Seminars	\$	-
Membership Rebates and Dues Collections	\$	-
Sponsorship	\$	-
Miscellaneous	\$	4.00
Total	\$	<u>814.87</u>

Expenses

Membership Dues & Subscriptions	\$	259.97
Luncheons	\$	1,278.40
Social Events	\$	200.00
Conferences/Seminars	\$	-
Gifts	\$	-
Office Expenses	\$	-
Charitable Contributions	\$	400.00
Promotional		
Miscellaneous		
Total	\$	<u>2,138.37</u>

Beginning Accounts Balance	\$	25,180.21
Petty Cash On Hand	\$	100.00
Add Earnings/Receipts	\$	814.87
Subtract Expenses	\$	<u>(2,138.37)</u>
Ending Accounts Balance	\$	23,956.71
Ending Petty Cash	\$	100.00
Quarter End Balance	\$	<u>23,856.71</u>

**ASMC
CLEVELAND TIMES
STAFF**

Shana Rose – Editor
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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	Elena Baykal
President-Elect	Frankie Denmeade
Vice President—Membership	Lillian Powell
Vice President—Programs	Paul Cotton
Vice President—Nominations	Jessica Ciccolini
Treasurer	Kari Vescio
Secretary	Shana Rose
Past President's Advisory Board	Lou Ockunzzi Frankie Denmeade
	John Giammo Jason Denmeade
	Jaelyn Donadio Bryan Conway

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Membership Committee	Seung (Jay) Choi
Membership Committee	Sandra Morgan
Membership Committee	Jane Mullins
Membership Committee	Zoe Onwudinjo
Membership Committee	Andrea Alford
Membership Committee	Anthony Turner II
Membership Committee	Steve Morgunov
Membership Committee	Frederica Downing
Education/Scholarship Committee	Falana Banks
Education/Scholarship Committee	Jennifer Dunn
Education/Scholarship Committee	Kristen Miller
Treasurer Committee	Whitney Joy
Treasurer Committee	Gerald Whitsett
Luncheon Committee	Melinda Mahoney
Luncheon Committee	Donnell Clark
Community Service Committee	Jessica Huff
Community Service Committee	Ryan Serne
Community Service Committee	Lynn Zielaskiewicz
Community Service Committee	John Giammo
CDFM Committee	Kira Swanson
CDFM Committee	Victoria Evans
CDFM Committee	VACANT
Military Liaison Committee	Dominique Bray
Marketing Committee	Tonya Hughes-Scruggs
Local PDI	Stan Foster
Local PDI	Julie Pfaff
Local PDI	David Rose

