

ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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ASMC November Luncheon
with Guest Speaker,

Mr. Laurence Zietlow,
Public Contact Coach
Veterans Benefits Association

Date: Wednesday,
November 20, 2019
11:30 am–1:00 pm
Location: AJC Federal Building
Room 1629

ASMC Board Meeting
Wednesday,
November 27, 2019 at 3:00 pm
AJC Room–2911C

Save the Date
ASMC Winter Social
Tuesday, December 17, 2019
Sausalito's

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
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submissions for content, length,
grammar and spelling.



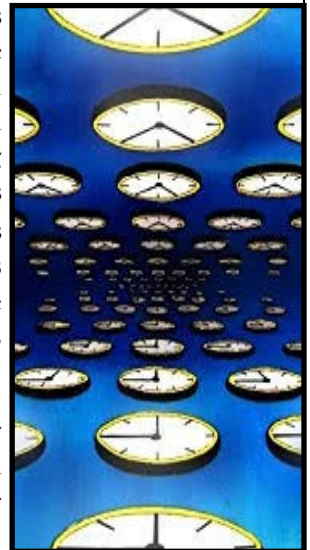
Dear ASMC Members,

Last month we set our clocks back one hour for daylight savings time. Daylight savings time practice is to move the clock one hour forward in the spring (*spring forward*) and back in the in fall (*fall back*), to make better use of natural sunlight. It was thought that people get more accomplished during the day light hours and use less electricity.

Adjusting to the hour difference may take a couple of days. Time is a commodity that cannot be bought or negotiated. Do you handle your time like you do your money? Do you spend more than you invest? A good way to answer this question is to write down what you do each hour of the day. The focus should be on being productive instead of busy. Do you procrastinate? There are days where spontaneity rules, especially on vacation 😊. There are times when structure is a must! However you invest your time, once it's gone, it is gone. You can have more money, you can have more things, you can never touch time again once the moment has passed.

An exercise during time-management training is to fill a container with the big rocks first. You will still have room for the sand after. The big rocks are the most important things in your life. The sand is small tedious things that can consume our time.

"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." Michael Alshuler



What Rocks Your Life?



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)



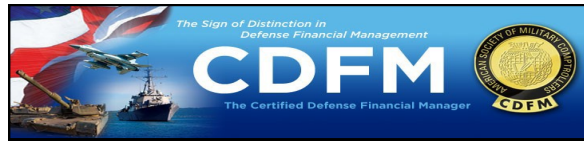
Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) Certification

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?

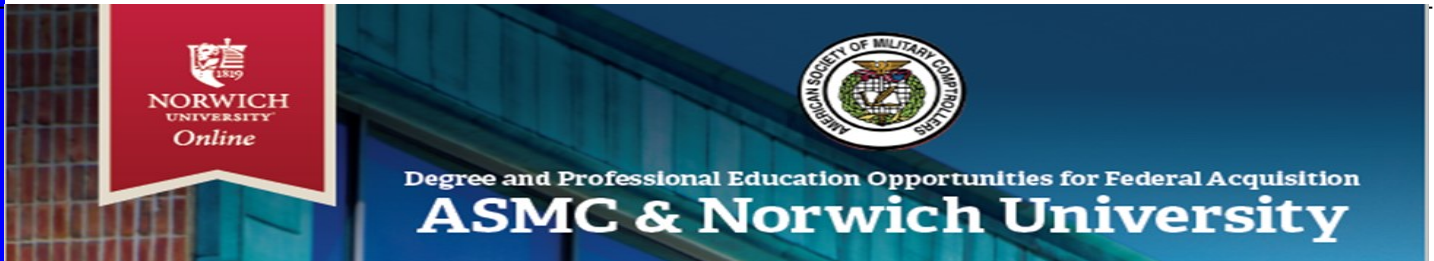
| | Member | Non-Member |
|--|--------|------------|
| CDFM Program Enrollment | | |
| Initial Enrollment (2 years of testing eligibility) | \$40 | \$75 |
| Enrollment Extensions (2 years of testing eligibility) | \$75 | \$85 |
| Exams (initial exams and retakes cost the same) | | |
| CDFM exam (Module 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 – Monique Uthman



By J. Coghlan

Having earned a Bachelors in Accounting, Monique joined the DFAS Cleveland cadre as an accountant in the L.I.M. program. She was born and raised in Rochester, NY. During her four years with DFAS she has completed several assignments and achieved a Green Belt.

Her current role as an accountant in the AM&C area keeps her busy, but future plans include preparing to take the CDFM exam and entering graduate school.

Monique seized the opportunity to become an ASMC member in order to take advantage of the professional development and networking possibilities within the organization.

In her free time she enjoys traveling, dancing and spending time with family and friends. She is active on a number of ministry committees within her church, Greater Cleveland SPAN. Monique is REALLY looking forward to spoiling and cuddling her newborn niece....I'm mean...what else is an Auntie for?

Favorite words of wisdom:

-Happiness is a choice. You can choose to be happy.
There's going to be stress in life, but it's your choice whether you let it affect you or not.-

choose 
HAPPY



ASMC NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

Please join ASMC for its November luncheon. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Laurence Zietlow, Public Contact Coach, Veterans Benefits Administration

Presenting: Veterans Benefits

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 November 20, 2019

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

Place: **Room 1629** AJC Federal Building

Cost: \$14 for ASMC Members and \$15 for Non-Members

The luncheon includes assorted meats, sides and bakery items from Mission BBQ. Please inquire about vegetarian options.



Please RSVP to both Melinda Mahoney at melinda.m.mahoney.civ@mail.mil and Falana Banks at falana.banks.va.gov by COB Monday, November 18, 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 Monday, November 18, 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 transaction 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!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ST. MALACHI

Please join ASMC-CL on November 25, 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>.



ST. HERMAN'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

Please join ASMC-CL on Thursday, December 5, 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.

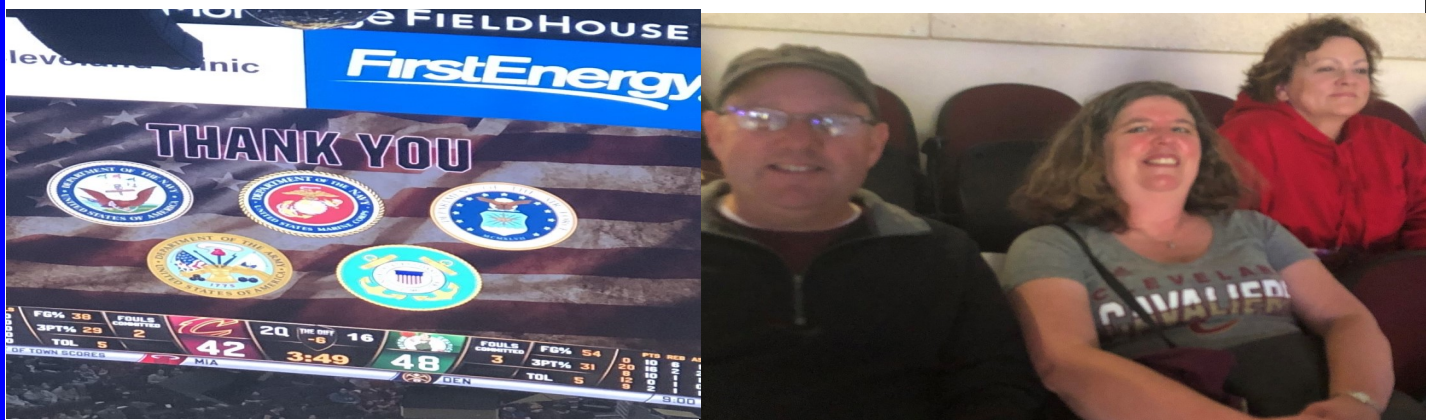
Please consider joining in the tradition of serving those in need in Ohio.

Member News

PREVIOUS MEMBER EVENTS

ASMC and Cavs "A Salute to the Military"

A great night for the Cavs and our military at the newly refurbished Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse.



ASMC Board Meeting Minutes October 30, 2019

Attendees: Frankie Denmeade, Jason Denmeade, Shana Rose, Brenda Banks-Hammonds, Tonya Hughes-Scruggs, Kristin Miller, Jeanine Anderson, Melinda Mahoney, Jessica Ciccolini, Falana Banks, Kira Swanson, Kim Williams, Sandra Morgan, et al...

President-Elect

Community Service:

- St. Malachi - Next opportunity is 11/25/19.
- Received inquiry from Wreaths Across America to fund wreaths to honor fallen service members laid to rest at Woodland Cemetery on National Wreaths Across America Day, December 14, 2019. The motion was carried to fund 10 wreaths, totaling \$150. The membership committee donated \$100 of membership recruiting funds towards the cost.

Programs

- Net meeting November 20th featuring Lawrence Zietlow, VA Public Contact Coach. Mission BBQ will cater.
- Winter Social December 17th @ Sausalito
- January 22nd luncheon will feature R.I.T.A. representatives.
- Melinda will look into holiday social
- February luncheon will feature Vicky 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 Hallcarrillo is the POC.

Membership Committee

- Had Cafeteria Recruiting event. Attendance was good. Recommends not ordering as much food for future events. Should spend no more than \$100 for food and coffee.
- No new members for October.
- Will continue outreach to those with expiring memberships.

Scholarship Committee:

- Scholarship budget will be verified
- Scholarship applications will be available before Thanksgiving through mid-February
- Brainstorming for scholarship essay topic. Suggestions are welcome.
- Scholarships are for ASMC members only.

ASMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES – CONTINUED

CDFM Committee:

Module 3 CDFM exam, scheduled for November 19, 2019, has three participants.

CDFM class scheduled in Cleveland on February 24th - 28th. Enroll via the training dashboard on the E-portal.

Treasurer Committee:

Purchased printer cartridges and reimbursed members for chapter purchases

Cav's tickets (58) will be purchased today for the November social.

Due to the last Wednesday of December landing on Christmas, the board meeting will be held on December 18th.

ASMC CLEVELAND TIMES

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 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.asmc-online.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 | |