



ASMC Cleveland Chapter Newsletter



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President's Message

Greetings ASMC members,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Although the month of January is ending, I want to extend well wishes to everyone as we celebrated the end of one year and the beginning of a new year. I am excited for the new year because the membership body will have a chance to come together to attend some in-person events as more federal employees return to their worksites. This is a fantastic way to re-connect, meet new members, and invite non-members to attend our events. Our membership is what makes our chapter strong. Members - feel free to invite your co-workers/friends to an ASMC event so they can learn more about the benefits of joining this professional organization.



To start this new year, ASMC & AGA hosted the January luncheon with a guest speaker from the Cuyahoga Valley National Parks (CVNP) on January 25. Ms. McGee, guest speaker, gave an insightful presentation about the establishment and the history of the park, the importance of the CVNP to surrounding cities, the resources and activities CVNP offers to visitors, and the budget which impacts the operations of the CVNP. I hope to see you at the February luncheon.

The ASMC Cleveland Chapter and Kearney & Company are proud to announce the sponsorship of our annual educational scholarship essay for this year. All ASMC members in good standing who are attending college are eligible to apply to win one of the two scholarships. Members, I want you to know that the Cleveland Chapter supports and encourages you all to continuously strive to increase your professional knowledge and skills as outlined in the ASMC Pledge of Professionalism. Without a doubt, I believe that you can achieve your goals and exceed expectations, and I hope all eligible members apply for the scholarship. The application deadline is February 23, 2024.

The Chapter and the scholarship committee look forward to awarding the scholarships at the AGA & ASMC 2024 Local PDI in April – date TBD. I'll share that date as soon as it is set and I hope to see you there, if not sooner!

Warm Regards,

Lillian

Lillian Powell
ASMC Cleveland Chapter/President

ASMC National News

[PDI 2024 Call for Volunteers!](#)

PDI 2024 in Phoenix will be supported by the Thunderbird, Cochise and San Diego chapters - but ASMC needs more volunteers to make this event even better. Please complete the [Application Form](#) if you would like to lend a hand with hospitality, program support, administration, philanthropy, or special events. The interest form contains a short description of each committee. **NOTE:** You must log into <https://engage.asmcusercontent.com/> to access the application form.

Information provided by Jennifer Sizemore, ASMC



[Enter ASMC's 2024 National Essay Contest!](#)

Would you like to share your thoughts and experience to potentially influence the future of the defense financial management profession? This year's members essay contest is open for submission until **February 28!**

Authors may choose to write on any one of three current topics:

- [The Growth of Artificial Intelligence](#): We are currently witnessing the expansion of artificial intelligence (AI), defined as “systems with intellectual processes characteristic of human, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalize, or learn from past experience.” While we have long embraced related capabilities like robotic process automation, AI represents a distinct paradigm shift. What roles should artificial intelligence play in the future of financial management? Please provide examples of potential applications and their potential impacts.
- [Centralization in Decision Making within Defense Financial Management](#): Budget execution may seem relatively straightforward in times of financial abundance; however, when budgets become constrained, organizations tend to gravitate toward decentralizing resource decision making. As a general premise, should decision making within defense financial management be more centralized or less? Please provide examples to substantiate your viewpoint.
- [Accelerating DoD's Path to Financial Auditability](#): The DoD is on a path towards achieving financial auditability, but this journey is lengthy and challenging. What improvements should be prioritized now, such as policy guidance, systems integration, training/education, etc. to expedite audit readiness within the DoD?

Find the submission form and contest rules here: [Essay Contest](#).

Member News

[ASMC Cleveland and Kearney & Company 2024 Scholarship Opportunity](#)

The Cleveland Chapter and Kearney & Company are pleased to offer TWO scholarships – one for \$875 and the second one for \$550 – to two Cleveland Chapter ASMC Members currently pursuing college degrees. Scholarships will be awarded based on a candidate's potential for making a meaningful contribution to government service through ASMC.

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.

Scholarship application (attached) and required documentation must be received by the close of business on Friday, February 23, 2024. No incomplete or late applications will be considered. Please send questions and completed application packets to the Education & Scholarship Committee at ASMC.CL.Scholarship@gmail.com.

Did You Know? – Armed Forces Comptroller (AFC) Journal Edition

ASMC members receive a printed issue of the quarterly *Armed Forces Comptroller (AFC) Journal* by mail and have access to the online version at no cost. If you are a member, please log into [ASMC's Engage online community](#) to view current and past digital issues going back to 1956. Copies of current issues are available at defense organizations, universities, and libraries around the world. <https://asmconline.org/resources/afc-journal/>

... You Can Submit Articles for Inclusion in the Journal

The *Armed Forces Comptroller (AFC) Journal* was first published in 1956 and remains ASMC's flagship publication. Articles are received from a variety of sources, including academia, government and the membership at large. ASMC's editorial board and staff welcome ideas for article submissions. To submit a manuscript to the Journal for consideration, please review the [article submission template and guidelines](#).

... You Can Earn CPE Credits by Reading the Journal

Members have the opportunity to access the most recent 8 issues of the AFC and their assessments for CPEs through our [Online Learning Center](#). To get started, first, login to [ASMC's Engage online community](#) to read the Journal. Using the Google Chrome browser is recommended for optimal viewing. Then, login to your Member Portal and find the Journal Exam in the [Online Learning Center](#). Next, add the "AFC Exam" to your cart. There is no charge for members and a \$99 charge for non-members. You'll receive an email with a link to take a short 10 question exam for 2 CPE credits. You must pass with 70% or greater to receive your CPE certificate.

Tips & Tricks with Teksouth

Did you know? *Tips & Tricks* is a free virtual webinar series Teksouth offers to ASMC members each month. The series is designed for the needs of financial management and government accounting professionals. *Tips & Tricks* hosts monthly training on the Microsoft products already used within your government/DoD workplace.

The February session of Tips and Tricks features Vince Bulatao, who will review all things Microsoft Forms, a web-based application that lets you design and share online forms for feedback, measurement, testing, and collaboration. It's scheduled for **February 15, 2024**, with sessions at **10:00 AM** and **3:00 PM**, EST. Click here to register: [registration page](#).

Coming Events – Save the Date!

Save the Date - ASMC & AGA Cleveland Chapters February Lunch & Learn – February 15 (via Zoom)

Be on the lookout for additional information and registration instructions. The Cleveland Chapters of ASMC and AGA will co-host a lunch and learn:

Speaker: Brittany Nesser, Director, Department of Navy Client Executive Liaison Office, DFAS Cleveland
Topic: TBD
Date: February 15, 2024
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Volunteer @ the Greater Cleveland Foodbank

Join ASMC-CL in helping those in need by volunteering with us at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank!

What: Volunteering/repack

Where: Greater Cleveland Food Bank, 13815 Coit Road, Cleveland 44110

When: Monday, February 12, 2024, from 6:00pm-8:00pm

RSVP: To volunteer, email [Jennifer Gutierrez](mailto:Jennifer.Gutierrez@asmc-cl.org) by close of business Friday, February 9, 2023. She will forward you a link to register for the event.

1 in 7

people in the Food Bank's service area are food insecure

1 in 4

senior citizens in the Greater Cleveland area are at risk of hunger

51.9m

pounds of food distributed in FY2023

400,000+

households served in FY2023



Find additional foodbank stats and impact facts at <https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/our-impact/overview>.

(Photo at left) Cleveland Chapter members volunteered at the Foodbank on January 6.

From left to right: Monroe Kidd, Lillian Powell (President), Shana Rose (Secretary), Lynn Zielaskiewicz, and Jessica Ciccolini

ASMC Professional Development Institute 2024 (Phoenix, AZ)

Save the date for [Professional Development Institute \(PDI\) 2024!](#)

The PDI is ASMC's premier training event and will take place on May 29 – 31 in Phoenix, Arizona at the Phoenix Convention Center. Registration will open on March 1, 2024.

Join ASMC for this fantastic opportunity to learn and interact with participants from Service HQs and major commands, and to collaborate with leadership and peers. This event also showcases individuals and teams recognized by ASMC for their excellent contributions to the field of defense financial management in 2024. The PDI 2024 program will include general and Community Day sessions, mini-courses, and sessions focused on multiple defense financial management competency areas.

CDFM Info

CPE Opportunity for CDFMs and CDFM-As – CDFM Exam Revamp

In line with the [updates to CDFM exams](#), ASMC has gathered and analyzed pilot test results, and the questions that meet certification industry standards have been assembled into their respective Module 1, 2, 3, & 4 exam forms. Now they **need active CDFMs and CDFM-As to help set passing scores for each exam**. In return for your full participation (9.5 to 11.5 hrs), you will receive CPEs and an Amazon gift card worth \$50 for full participation. Visit ASMC's [Standard Setting webpage](#) for more information, and complete the [CDFM/CDFM-A Standard Setting Module Preference Survey](#) by **February 5, 2024**, to sign up!

Want to become a CDFM?



Are you interested in becoming a Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM)? Have you read through the [CDFM Certification information](#) but want to talk to someone who has gone through the certification (or recertification) process? The Cleveland Chapter's CDFM Committee is here to assist you and answer your questions, whether you're still considering your professional development options or already progressing down the path to certification. Reach out to Kira Swanson (kira.swanson.civ@mail.mil) and/or Jessica Ciccolini (jessica.k.ciccolini.civ@mail.mil).

Board Meeting Recap

December Board Meeting (12/28/23)

Meeting started at 2:47 PM EST.

Attendees: Lillian Powell, Stan Foster, Victoria Nord, Paul Cotton, and Alex Kearney

Schedule conflict: Shana Rose, Elena Baykal, Tiffany Douglas, Jeannine Anderson

Meeting Scribe: Lillian

Jeannine, VP of Programs

Information provided by Lillian Powell, President

- January 25, 2024, Luncheon: ASMC & AGA will host a joint luncheon.
 - Guest speaker Ms. Barnes from Cuyahoga Valley National
- February Luncheon 2024:
 - Jeannine will follow-up with Ms. Brittany Nesser about being ASMC luncheon speaker for Feb. 2024 speaker.
- Social event for holiday – Postponed to a later date as member are returning to building.

Local PDI 2024

- Locate a venue that is in the downtown area for easy access from building for employees to attend.

ASMC Social Event

- Holiday Social event
 - Postpone until the new year 2024, since employees will be coming back into the office.
 - Easier for members to attend a downtown social event.
 - Possible joint venture with AGA

Victoria Nord, VP of Nominations

- The scholarship Application
 - Team is working on the scholarship question and application.
- CDFM: No updates

Tiffany Douglas, VP of Membership

Information provided by Lillian Powell, President

- Emailed ASMC members who membership has expired and invite them to renew their membership.

Elena Baykal, President-Elect

Information provided by Lillian Powell, President

Community Service

- Volunteer at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on the following dates:
 - Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, 9 am – 12 noon. Send email to the membership body.
 - Planning for February and March 2024 dates with Greater Cleveland Food Bank

- Wreaths across America, Saturday, Dec. 16 - Inquiry about sponsoring wreaths to be placed on military veteran's graves for 2024 for Woodland Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio.

Alex Kearney, Treasurer

- ASMC financial statement: no updates

Lillian Powell, President

- Submit information to Jessica for newsletter.
- Submit January luncheon announcement to DFAS CI Communication Department to place in DFAS Daily update.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 3:20 PM December 28, 2023.