

The Cleveland Times

ASMC Cleveland Chapter Newsletter



ASMC NATIONAL NEWS

Army Audit Readiness Unveiling the Secrets of Internal Controls

For the latest edition of the “All Things Financial Management” podcast, presented by ASMC and Guidehouse, Ms. Eulica Kimber, Director of Audit Readiness for Office of the Assistance Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology) (ASA(ALT)), sat down with host Tom Rhoads to discuss Army audit readiness and the intricacies of internal controls. Listen in to uncover the importance of systematic processes, cross-functional narratives, and risk management in creating a robust financial environment. Gain valuable insights into building a successful control environment and preparing for audit readiness.

Use a personal device to [listen in or download the transcript](#) and learn more about the secrets of internal controls for Army audit readiness.

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.asmconline.org/> to access the application form.

The planning committee is still looking for 45 volunteers. Deadline to sign up – April 15, 2024.

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ASMC Welcomes Caroline Smith as Vice President, Education & Professional Development

ASMC is pleased to announce that Caroline Smith has joined ASMC as Vice President of Education and Professional Development effective February 1, 2024. Caroline is located at ASMC's national headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. She will play an integral role in the implementation of ASMC's defense financial management training and professional development programs including the organization's preeminent event, the National Professional Development Institute (PDI), as well as the burgeoning Program/Budget Summit and Data Analytics & Decision Support Conference (DA/DS).

"Caroline is a passionate advocate for professional development and is committed to ensuring that ASMC members have the skills and knowledge they need to excel in their careers," said ASMC's President & CEO Rich Brady. "We're thrilled that she's on the team."

Caroline is an experienced professional learning advocate with over 25 years' experience providing learning programs, project management, and performance improvement solutions to private schools and associations. She brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this vital role. Prior to joining ASMC, Caroline was the Director of Professional Development at the National Associate of Tax Professional (NATP) where she was responsible for the development and delivery of the association's education program and annual conferences.

by Heather Ireland (www.asmonline.org/news/asmc-welcomes-caroline-smith-as-vice-president-education-and-professional-development/)



MEMBER NEWS



DEADLINE EXTENDED – ASMC CLEVELAND & KEARNEY & COMPANY 2024 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Applications for the member scholarship are now being accepted through **Friday, March 15, 2024!**

The ASMC Cleveland Chapter and Kearney & Company are pleased to offer TWO scholarships – one for \$875 and the second on 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 and required documentation must be received by the close of business on Friday, March 15, 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.



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 March session of Tips and Tricks will feature James Yoder, who will review PivotTables. It's scheduled for **Thursday, March 21, 2024**, with sessions at 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM, EST. Click here to register: [registration page](#). Note: Morning and Afternoon sessions cover the same material.

A Message from the President



Greetings members,

Our first hybrid luncheon held in February was a great success! Thanks to all of you! There was a great turnout for this month's luncheon. We had a total of forty people who attended the February luncheon, which nineteen attendees came to the in-person session. It was nice to see everyone who attended both in-person and online; and I enjoyed talking and mingling with people after the luncheon.

For the February luncheon, we were honored to have two amazing guest speakers, Ms. Brittany Nesser and Ms. Sunshine Wormdahl, who gave an informative briefing titled "DFAS Budget to Bill". Both Ms. Nesser and Ms. Wormdahl provided an insightful perspective about the DFAS budget including the DoD budget process – PPBE, collaborative effects with other DFAS areas and external stakeholders, cost allocation, develop budget forecasts using historical trends over multi-fiscal years, how federal employees can support the budget, and how leveraging Power BI assist with the budget process. This interesting topic led to a robust conversation during the Q&A session. What a great luncheon! This successful event could not happen without your support, thank you.

Also, ASMC members participated in Go Red for Women by wearing Red to bring awareness about women and cardiovascular disease/stroke for American Heart month in February. It was great to see members wearing Red for an important cause that affects many women today.

Great news, another educational opportunity! The Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training (EDFMT), also known as CDFM, course will be offered through a virtual online delivery platform. The course is coming soon, and it's scheduled for Monday, May 6 through Friday, May 10, 2024. The registration close date is May 4, 2024. If anyone is interested in taking this training course, please express your interest with your supervisor and/or chain of command. Join your fellow chapter members who have earned their CDFM certification after passing all three modules. I look forward to adding your names to the Cleveland Chapter CDFM rolls.

Attention members, there's still time to submit your essay application. ASMC members who are in good standing are eligible to apply to win one of the two scholarships. The Cleveland Chapter supports and encourages everyone to continuously strive to increase your professional knowledge and skills as outlined in the ASMC Pledge of Professionalism. The ASMC Cleveland Chapter and Kearney & Company Scholarship deadline is extended until Friday, March 15, 2024. Good luck to members who apply!

Warm Regards,

Lillian

Lillian Powell
ASMC Cleveland Chapter President

CDFM INFO

Coming Soon for DFAS Employees – Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training (EDFMT)

Great news! Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training (EDFMT) – ASMC’s Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) prep course – will be offered through a virtual online delivery platform. Attendees can earn 40 CPEs by taking this course. The course is scheduled to run Monday, May 6 - Friday, May 10, 2024. DFAS employees interested in taking this training course should express interest with their supervisor and/or chain of command, and self-register via DFAS Learning Central. The registration close date is May 4, 2024.

CDFM Practice Test

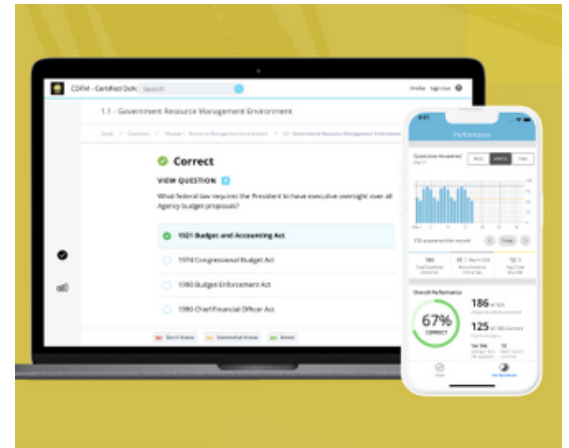
The CDFM Practice Test Mobile App (also available on web) is an assessment resource for individuals preparing to take the CDFM exams. This tool is designed to help build your confidence and identify areas in which additional exam preparation may be needed.

3 Modules-3 Months-Unlimited Access!

\$59.99 gives you 3 months of 24/7 access to:

- 320+ practice questions in all CDFM exam a modules 1,2, and 3 domains.
- 380+ flashcards featuring important acronyms you may encounter on the exams.
- 240+ glossary flashcards to ensure you’re familiar with the necessary terminology.
- The CDFM Candidate Handbook and additional resources to help you prepare.
- The ability to create custom quizzes and tailor your learning.
- And advanced progress-tracking tool that indicates how you are performing on each question and in each domain.

Visit <https://asmconline.org/cdfm/practice-test/> for more information.



Have questions about CDFM Certification?

- Visit the ASMC website to learn about all things CDFM (and CDFM-A) at <https://asmconline.org/cdfm/about-cdfm/>.
- Contact Kira Swanson (kira.swanson.civ@mail.mil) or Jessica Ciccolini (jessica.k.ciccolini.civ@mail.mil) for additional answers to frequently asked questions.

BOARD MEETING RECAP

January 2024

Attendees: Lillian Powell, Stan Foster, Jeannine Anderson, Kira Swanson
Schedule conflict: Shana Rose, Elena Baykal, Tiffany Douglas, Victoria Nord, Alex Kearney

VP of Programs / Jeannine Anderson

- February Luncheon 2024: Ms. Brittany Nesser & Sunshine Wormdahl: follow-up to confirm the date that works best with their schedule for the February luncheon 2024.
 - Hybrid luncheon: Both online via Zoom and In-person (on site)
 - Joint luncheon with AGA Cleveland Chapter
 - Inquiry with GSA about room availability
 - Brown bag luncheon

Local PDI 2024

- Locate a venue that is in the downtown area; Making it easier for employees to attend.
- Date: TBD
- Committee is working on creating a theme for the PDI

VP of Nominations / Tori Nord

- Scholarship Application
 - Two scholarships: \$875.00 scholarship and \$550 scholarship
 - Scholarship question and application will be submitted for review and approval.
 - Deadline of Friday, February 23, 2024
- CDFM - no updates

VP of Membership / Tiffany Douglas

- Emailed ASMC members who membership has expired and invite them to renew their membership.
- Welcomed new member to ASMC chapter with Welcome Package

President-Elect / Elena Baykal

Information provided by Lillian Powell, President

Community Service

- Volunteer at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on the following date:
 - Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, 6 pm – 8 pm
 - Send email to the membership body.
- Planning March and April 2024 dates with Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Treasurer / Alex Kearney

- ASMC Financial Statement - no updates

President / Lillian Powell

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

Save the date

March Lunch & Learn

AGA & ASMC March Luncheon 2024

Speaker:

Mr. James D. Peccia III, MGen (USAF Ret.), MBA

Topic: "Advancing our Leadership Series: Pulling Together & Leading the Way"

Date: Friday, March 29

Time: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Location: Hybrid Luncheon

In-person: Rm 2889, AJC Building 1240 E. 9th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44199
 & Virtual: Zoom Platform

Local PDI

@ the Doubletree Hotel,
Downtown Cleveland

Thursday, May 2, 2024

This seminar, co-hosted by the Cleveland Chapters of ASMC and AGA, is a way for members and other government employees to earn Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits and to network with other professionals. This year's theme is **"Resilient Finances: Adapting to Change."** Change is inevitable, and government financial professionals need to be resilient. This year's PDI focuses on agility, adaptability, and overcoming financial challenges.

Watch your email for additional information and registration instructions.

BOARD MEETING RECAP

February 2024

Attendees: Lillian Powell, Stan Foster, Jeannine Anderson, Kira Swenson, Elena Baykal, Tiffany Douglas, Alex Kearney, Erica Fleischer
Schedule conflict: Shana Rose, Victoria Nord, Jessica Ciccolini

VP of Programs / Jeannine Anderson

- March Luncheon - date TBD. Emailed speaker invitation.

Local PDI 2024

- Location: Double Tree Hotel Cleveland Downtown (1111 Lakeside Ave East, Cleveland, Ohio 44114)
 - Under contract with Double Tree Hotel effective Feb. 15, 2024
- Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024
- Theme: "Resilient Finances: Adapting to Change"
- Speakers' invitation package is created.
- No host social: After PDI, location TBD.

VP of Nominations / Tori Nord

- Scholarship Application
 - Two scholarships: \$875.00 scholarship and \$550 scholarship
 - Deadline of Friday, February 23, 2024 WILL BE EXTENDED. Email will be sent out to members.
- CDFM (update provided by Kira)
 - Virtual course titled "Enhanced Defense Financial Training (EDFT)" will be offered online for DFAS employees, May 6-10, 2024, earn 40 CPEs
 - If enrolled in this course, attendees will receive a hard copy study book for all 3 modules.
 - ASMC National has stated that changes will be made. For further details, visit www.asmonline.org

President-Elect / Elena Baykal

Community Service

- Jennifer provided update for volunteer opportunities at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on the following dates:
 - Saturdays: March 9 and March 23, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
 - Former Food Bank location for these two volunteer opportunities: Greater Cleveland Food Bank Community Resource Center's Healthy Food Choice Market and Pantry (former location) (15500 South Waterloo Road, Cleveland 44110)
 - Respond by Friday 3/8 if volunteering for 3/9 shift or Friday 3/22/24 if volunteering for 3/23/24 shift
 - A few openings available for 3/9/2024

National PDI

Phoenix, AZ / Virtual

May 29–31, 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 in March 2024.

For more information, visit <https://www.pdi2024.org/>.

Community Service

@ the **Greater Cleveland Food Bank**

**Saturday, March 9, 2024,
8:30 AM–12:30 PM**

**Saturday, March 23, 2024,
8:30 AM–12:30 PM**

What: Volunteering/Pantry
Where: 15500 South Waterloo Rd., Cleveland 44110

RSVP to volunteer, email **Jennifer Gutierrez**

- By close of business on Friday, March 8 if volunteering for the March 9 shift
- By close of business on Friday, March 22 if volunteering for March 23 shift

**KEARNEY &
COMPANY**

BOARD MEETING RECAP

February 2024 (continued)

VP of Membership / Tiffany Douglas

- Welcomed new member to ASMC chapter with Welcome Package
- Discussion to host a membership drive
 - Will check with GSA about options to set up (in the cafeteria or a nearby room)
 - Open to all individuals who want to learn more about ASMC Cleveland Chapter
- Request to discuss the benefits of joining a professional organization.

Treasurer / Alex Kearney

- Discussion about the Square reader used to accept payments for Local PDI in May 2024
- Double Tree Hotel Cleveland Downtown contracted signed by Alex, treasurer on February 15, 2024
- Remitted Deposit to Double Tree Hotel Cleveland Downtown for AGA & ASMC Local PDI scheduled for May 2, 2024

President / Lillian Powell

- Submit information to Jessica for newsletter
- Double Tree Hotel Cleveland Downtown contract reviewed and approved.
 - Upon approval, contracted signed by Alex, treasurer on 2/15/24 and deposit remitted same day per contract agreement with Double Tree Hotel Cleveland Downtown.

February Lunch & Learn



February's joint Lunch & Learn, co-hosted with the Cleveland Chapter of AGA,

Photo, top left (left to right) -
 Front Row - Balwinder Beasley, Lance Jones III, Lisa Moxley, Tracie Hill, Carolyn Etheridge, Penelope Christo-Zale, Chris Tryon
 Back Row - Robert Sandy, Rhoda Pikul

Photo, top right (left to right) - Kira Swanson, Thomas Spencer, Robert Rainey, Andy Falatic, Simona Williams, Carolyn Tucker

Photo, bottom left (left to right)
 Speakers Sunshine Wormdahl and Brittany Nesser with Lillian Powell, President, ASMC Cleveland

