



ASMC Cleveland Chapter Newsletter



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President's Message

Greetings ASMC members,

I want to convey my gratitude to ASMC Cleveland Chapter membership for the outstanding support and participation in our luncheons, off-site social event, community service volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events. These events could not happen without the support of membership – thank you.



As we transition to coming back into the office, the chapter looks forward to having opportunities where members and non-members can come together to listen to dynamic speakers, discuss and learn, plus earn CPEs on current and new financial management topics that could possibly impact your duties, learn more about CDFM and how to earn your CDFM. Also, people can develop and enhance professional growth, build professional relationships, create network channels, and welcome non-members to learn about ASMC membership benefits and join a professional organization. In addition, I would like to welcome our newest members to the Cleveland Chapter.

Also, I wanted to recap an opportunity where members including their families and friends were invited to join the ASMC and AGA Cleveland Chapters for a picnic at the Huntington Reservation. Together, ASMC & AGA hosted the summer at the beach event. It was a great opportunity for the chapters to come together to network - meet new people (members and non-members), talk about various topics including professional growth and development, career opportunities, work/life balance, and other areas of interest. Great participation, over thirty-five people attended, and it was a fun day to say the least. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next ASMC function.

ASMC Cleveland Chapter members continue to give back to the community through our volunteerism. Without hesitation, the ASMC Cleveland Chapter continues to volunteer monthly at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank (GCFB) to help the organization to meet the growing needs of the NE Ohio communities across six counties. I encourage and welcome members to give a few hours of your time to make a difference in the lives of others. Volunteerism is truly rewarding within itself, so let's continue to make an impact!

Lastly, I want to convey my holiday wishes to the entire ASMC Cleveland Chapter. I wish all a safe and happy holiday season! 'Tis the season to enjoy time with family and friends, make new memories, relax, and have fun, and reminisce about old memories. Again, Happy Holidays & Happy New Year 2024!

Warm Regards,

Lillian

Lillian Powell
ASMC Cleveland Chapter/President

ASMC National News

Member News

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. While December's *Tips & Tricks* session has passed, keep an eye on the [registration page](#) for information on the January session.

ASMC Cleveland Chapter Fights Hunger with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank (GCFB)

84,700 new people served in FY2022, meaning they have visited an emergency feeding program for the first time.

The ASMC Cleveland Chapter always steps up to volunteer and serve the communities and families in NE Ohio. ASMC members volunteer monthly to help fight hunger with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank (GCFB). Community service is way to give back and help make communities stronger and more resilient than before. When we volunteer at the GCFB, we know that our efforts have a tremendous impact for NE Ohio children, families, adults, and seniors.

Food insecurity is a reality for many families across America, and the number is steadily growing in many U.S. cities. Right here in the Cleveland and other NE OH communities, people are experiencing difficulties with having enough food. The first-time families that visited the GCFB doubled during the pandemic to an average of 6,000 each month (clevelandfed.org). The GCFB feeds six Ohio counties, which include Cuyahoga, Ashland, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, and Richland.

349,000 people served by the Food Bank and its over 1,000 partnering agencies over six counties.

Statistics show the number of families visiting food banks and pantries increased by “6.7% nationwide in 2020 during the pandemic, up by 4.4% from 2019 (clevelandfed.org).”

According to the USDA, “more than 34 million people, including 9 children, in the United States are food insecure (ww.feedingamerica.org).” The numbers keep climbing, in such that million people, nationwide, are turning to food banks/community pantries for food assistance in 2022 (feedingamerica.org).

In relation to Cuyahoga County, “food insecurity reached more than 2020; then a slight decline was recorded to 16 percent in 2021 (clevelandfed.org).”

Although there was a decline NE Ohio, reports showed that “200,000 county residents still experience food insecurity in 2021 (clevelandfed.org).”



million
49
18% in

Over several months, ASMC members volunteered at GCFB to help repack 3,200+ pounds of food. Also, in the month of October, we created children bookbag snack bags that children receive on Friday afternoons so they will have food over the weekend.

There is still a strong need to ensure all families can put food on their tables daily. It takes all of us to help fight hunger across the United States and right here in Ohio. If you are interested in volunteering, please reply to the community service announcements. In the future, there will be opportunities to volunteer at both the GCFB current location and/or the new food pantry located at the former GCFB location on Waterloo Road. We welcome all to join us to volunteer for a good cause!

AGA & ASMC Annual Summer Picnic at Huntington Reservation (contributed by Lillian Powell)

What a fun day! Thank you, members, for making this a great summer event! It was nice to see everyone and being able to talk, laugh, and enjoy everyone's company.

As I looked around, everyone was having a good time - talking and laughing, catching up with one another and even meeting new people. More than thirty-five people attended this year annual AGA & ASMC summer picnic held on Saturday, September 16 at Huntington Reservation, Cleveland Metropark.

Clearly it was a beautiful day; we could not have order better weather for the last summer weekend. Plenty of sunshine & clear skies, and a pleasant breeze. Across from the canopy, there was a field of beautiful yellow flowers that seemed to grab everyone's attention in the park.

It was a great day for ASMC & AGA members & their families/friends to come together for good food, music, nice conversation & networking opportunities, games/and great fun moments!

Both ASMC & AGA Cleveland Chapter Presidents and Board members thank everyone for the support and attending the AGA & ASMC Annual Picnic. This event was successful because of each one of you, the members. We look forward to seeing you at the next social event! Until next time, take care.

Coming Events – Save the Date!

[Save the Date - ASMC & AGA Cleveland Chapters January Lunch & Learn – January 25 \(via Zoom\)](#)

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: Pamela Barnes, Public Information Officer, National Park Service
Topic: TBD
Date: January 25, 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: Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 9:00am-12:00pm
RSVP: To volunteer, email [Jennifer Gutierrez](#) by close of business on Friday, January 5, 2024. She will forward you a link to register for the event.

What: Volunteering/repack
Where: Greater Cleveland Food Bank, 13815 Coit Road, Cleveland 44110
When: Monday, February 12, 2024, from 6:00pm-8:00pm
RSVP: Be on the lookout for registration information!

[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

CDFM Pilot Testing – Open to Active CDFMs and CDFM-As

Active CDFMs are eligible to pilot test newly developed Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) exam questions!

ASMC is collaborating with the Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) to update the CDFM certification exams. As part of this initiative, newly developed exam questions (items) need to be pilot tested by current CDFM and CDFM-A certificants. The data obtained is analyzed to assess item quality and determine which new items are ready to be added to the live exams.

What are the benefits of volunteering to pilot test?

Your input is vital for creating representative and valid CDFM certification exams. By volunteering, you contribute meaningfully to the Defense Financial Management field. Additionally, you will earn 2 CPE credits and an entry to win an Amazon gift card for each pilot test you complete.

What does pilot testing entail?

This opportunity involves spending approximately 60-120 minutes taking an online test. Each pilot test has 90-110 multiple-choice questions in the same format as the questions on the CDFM exams you took to earn your credential. We ask that you please DO NOT PREPARE for the CDFM pilot tests. These tests are NOT SCORED. Taking these tests has NO IMPACT AT ALL ON YOUR CERTIFICATION. We understand that you may not have current knowledge in all content areas.

How do CDFMs access pilot tests?

The ASMC certification team sent an email to active CDFMs and CDFM-As on December 18, 2023. This email contains links to the three pilot tests. You can take one, two, or all three pilot tests.

If you have any questions, please email certification@asmconline.org.

Board Meeting Recap

November Board Meeting (11/16/23)

Attendees: Lillian Powell, Elena Baykal, Jeannine Anderson, Victoria Nord, Kira Swenson, Alex Kearney, and Tiffany Douglas

Schedule conflict: Shana Rose

Meeting Scribe: Lillian

Jeannine, VP of Programs

- December 2023 Luncheon: ASMC & AGA will host a joint luncheon.
- Possible Holiday dinner luncheon at a downtown restaurant
 - Jeannine will check with Sausalito's on Ninth for availability.
 - Alternative luncheon option Zoom luncheon
- January Luncheon 2024: ASMC & AGA
AGA has contacted Cuyahoga Valley National Park to request a speaker for the Jan. luncheon.
AGA POC is Lou Ockunzzi for this luncheon. Jeannine will follow up with Lou for additional information for confirmation and date.
- February Luncheon 2024: Jeannine will follow-up with Ms. Brittany Nesser to be the Feb. 2024 speaker.

Local PDI 2024

The Local PDI 2024 Meeting tentatively the weeks either 10/23 or 10/30 for the Local PDI committee to meet/brainstorm/and create do-outs for this event.

- Venue location
- Cuyahoga Community College Corporate East
- Double Tree Hotel (submitted request for information – awaiting)
- Drury Hotel (unable to accommodate- requires at least 10 people to secure hotel rooms to host an event at their hotel)

- Cleveland State University Wolstein Center
- Westin Hotel (Sales and event POCs are out of office due to Conference) Will follow-up.
- St. Clair Ballroom (submitted request for information – awaiting)
- 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.

Victoria Nord, VP of Nominations

- The scholarship Application
 - Working on the question
 - Postpone until the new year 2024, since employees will be coming back into the office.
 - Easier for members to attend a downtown social event.

Kira Swenson, CDFM POC

- Kira did not have any CDFM updates at this time.
 - Kira replied to email inquiry about CDFM.
 - Provided information about the CDFM App that can be purchased for 3 months.

Tiffany Douglas, VP of Membership

- Emailed ASMC members who membership has expired and invite them to renew their membership.
- Tiffany emailed membership benefits to a potential member and answered questions.
- Tiffany will work with Jeannine, VP of Programs to incorporate recruitment opportunity with an ASMC social event.

Elena Baykal, President-Elect

Information provided by Lillian Powell, President
Community Service

- Volunteer at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on the following dates:
 - Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, 6 pm – 8 pm
 - Email will be sent to the membership body.
 - Inquiry with GCFB about the pantry opportunity on Saturdays at the former location on Waterloo. Awaiting update from GCFB
 - Planning for February and March 2024 dates with Greater Cleveland Food Bank
- Wreaths across America, Saturday, Dec. 16

Alex Kearney, Treasurer

- Update on ASMC financial audit
 - Ryan Ponton completed the audit.
 - Will provide update on the financials.

Lillian Powell, President

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

October Board Meeting (10/20/23)

Attendees: Lillian Powell, Jeannine Anderson, Kira Swenson, Tiffany Douglas, and Alex Kearney

Schedule Conflict: Shana Rose

OOO: Elena Baykal, Victoria Nord

Meeting Scribe: Lillian

Jeannine, VP of Programs

- Luncheon: ASMC & AGA will host a joint luncheon for the month of October 2023.
Guest Speaker: Ms. Elizabeth Gibbs, Director, Emerging Capabilities (ESS)
Topic: “Enabling Financial Modernization (FY24 UPDATE)”
Date: Monday, October 30, 2023, Location: Zoom
- Lillian will send to Brad to post Oct. luncheon announcement on DFAS Daily email.

- November Luncheon:
Guest Speaker: Ms. Tracy Meyer, DFAS CL Site, Chief of Staff
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023, Location: Zoom
- Jeannine: Will email AGA President to ask if AGA would want to partner to host joint luncheon for Nov. 2023. (Email sent)
- December Luncheon: TBD – Working on finding a guest speaker.
Jeannine: Will email AGA President would they like to host joint luncheon. (Email sent)

Local PDI 2024

- Jeannine will email Elena Baykal, President-Elect, about planning the AGA/ASMC CL Chapters Local PDI for April 2024.
 - Schedule the Local PDI 2024 Kick-Off Meeting tentatively the weeks either 10/23 or 10/30 for the Local PDI committee to meet/brainstorm/and create do-outs for this event.
 - Discuss PDI format, Keynote speakers, breakout session speakers for event, speaker invitation letter/package.
 - Venue location
- The Local PDI is normally held the last week of April.
- Check the front office schedule to prevent schedule conflict with scheduled senior mgt meetings and site events. (Email sent)
- Venue Location: Look for alternative location options to host PDI for 2024.
 - The City Club of Cleveland has moved location from Euclid & E.9th Street.
 - New location is the Playhouse District at 1317 Euclid Avenue (next door to the United Way building).
 - The new location is a 14,600 sq. foot space with seating for 350.
 - Currently, The City Club of Cleveland is not accepting reservation until sometime in 2024, which the date is unknown.
 - Alternative venues to check:
 - Double Tree Hotel, any local hotels in downtown area near the workplace.

ASMC Social Event

- Fall Social event
 - Program committee will determine if they can locate a place to hold a fall event.
 - Membership and Program would partner up to host a membership recruiting event with this social
- Holiday Social event
 - Select a date to host at the holiday social the beginning of December 2023 before holiday celebrations and time off for end of the year.

Kira Swenson, CDFM POC

- Kira did not have any CDFM updates at this time.
- Lillian received an email from former ASMC member who has taken the CDFM and passed part 1 and 3 and working on part 2.
 - Lillian will forward email to Kira to answer any questions that the individual may want to ask. (Email sent)

Tiffany Douglas, VP of Membership

- Emailed membership renewal reminders to members who membership expires in the month of October 2023 and November 2023
- Emailed ASMC members who membership has expired and invite them to renew their membership.
- Lillian received an email from former ASMC member who wants to renew ASMC membership. Lillian will forward email to Tiffany to answer any questions about membership, cost, and benefits offered. (Email sent)

Elena Baykal, President-Elect

Information provided by Lillian Powell, President
Community Service

- Volunteer at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on the following dates:
 - Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, from 9 am – 12noon
 - Announcement sent to membership body.
 - Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, 6 pm – 8 pm

- ASMC volunteered at GCGB in the month of October on the Tuesday, 10/3 and Saturday, 10/7.
 - On 10/3, ASMC had three volunteers that made snack bags for school children to receive on Friday afternoons, so they have food through the weekend.
 - On 10/7, ASMC had eight volunteers that made food boxes that the GCFB gives to individuals, families, and seniors that need food assistance.

Alex Kearney, Treasurer

- Update on ASMC financial audit
 - Ryan Ponton should have the audit completed by next Wednesday, 10/25
 - Alex will provide an update on financial audit upon completion.

Lillian Powell, President

- Submit information to Jessica for newsletter.
- Submit email to membership body to join Cleveland Chapter committees.
- Submit luncheon announcement to DFAS CI Communication Department to place in DFAS Daily update.
- Correspond with potential sponsors for Cleveland Chapter