

# The Cleveland Times

ASMC Cleveland Chapter Newsletter



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## ASMC NATIONAL NEWS

### ASMC Roundtable: Decoding the Audit supported by KPMG

When: Apr 25, 2023 from 13:00 to 14:00 (ET)

Join ASMC for a roundtable supported by KPMG.  
Registration deadline: 24 April 2023 | 1100 ET

Title: Decoding the Audit

**Description:** Have you ever sat through a meeting with the auditor and walked away with more questions than answers? Do you get lost in whether downgrading a weakness or obtaining an opinion is the biggest priority? In this session you'll hear from former auditors who now serve as audit coaches on leading best practices to improve the outcomes of your audit and translating the "audit speak."

**Moderator:** Shalay Ward, Director, KPMG

**Panelists:**

- Jacob Sones, Non-Asset Remediation Financial Management Office (FMO) Branch Chief for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Financial Management and Comptroller (FM&C), Department of the Navy
- Niki Lizarraga, Program Manager, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Real Estate Business Line (REBL), Department of the Navy
- Sarah Shuey, Director, KPMG

Register [here](#).



## MEMBER NEWS

### ASMC Charity of the Year

ASMC's chosen charity to support this year is [Paws4Vets](#) which is part of [Paws4People Foundation](#).

Paws4Vets provides customized service dogs to veterans, service members, and their dependents with physical, neurological, psychiatric, or emotional disabilities. The program serves veterans and service members living with:

- PTSD
- C-PTSD
- Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)
- Military Sexual Trauma
- Moral Injury

Each year at the National Professional Development Institute (PDI), ASMC organizes a basket raffle to benefit the chosen charity.

Chapters from around the globe contribute baskets. The Cleveland Chapter is donating a spa-themed basket this year.

### Membership Drive - We Need Your Help

In conjunction with ASMC's 75th Anniversary celebrations, members are asked to help grow the organization by bringing in new members.

**Now thru June 30**, for each new member you recruit, you will receive a **\$10 Starbucks gift card** from ASMC HQ as a show of gratitude.

For more information, contact [Jessica Ciccolini](#), Cleveland Chapter President.



## A Message from the President

Greetings Members!

The spring Professional Development Institute (PDI) with our local AGA Cleveland partners is nearly upon us. In the 10+ years I have been involved with ASMC, I cannot remember looking forward to it the way I am this year.

Why the excitement? This is the first time we are hosting an first in-person educational event since February 2020, and our first in-person PDI since April 2019. I'm excited about seeing you!

This year, we've built extra networking time into the lunch hour to allow attendees to reconnect and forge new connections. In addition, we are hosting a no-host social at the Cleveland House of Blues' Foundation Room following the event. All attendees are welcome to attend - more details to come!

Wishing you all the best that spring can bring,

Jessica Ciccolini,  
ASMC Cleveland Chapter President



# CERTIFIED DEFENSE FINANCIAL MANAGER (CDFM) FAQs

In our last few newsletters, CDFM FAQs have covered certification benefits, basic CDMF program information, and enrollment. We last shared information on certification timelines and the difference between the CDFM and Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certifications. We continue this series with the following questions:

## What are the best ways to prepare for the exam?

It depends on your own personal studying methods.

- The **Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMTC)** is an intense five-day course that assists in preparation for completing the exams. The material covered in this course varies in intensity from the intermediate level to the advanced level.
  - Chapter members who are **DFAS employees** may **self-nominate** for upcoming courses via DFAS Learning Central. Click the *Learning* button, scroll down to *Find Learning*, and search for "EDMF" to find the course and self nominate. Upcoming courses:
    - [May 15-19, 2023 \(virtual\)](#)
    - [June 26-30, 2023 \(virtual\)](#)
- The **EDFMTC textbook** is provided to those who attend the one-week training course. Aspiring CDFMs should plan to dedicate a considerable amount of study to the text prior to registering for the CDFM examination. The ASMC Cleveland Chapter may have copies of the textbook that can be checked out by ASMC members.
- The **CDFM Practice Test Mobile App** (also available online) is designed to help build your confidence and identify areas in which additional exam preparation may be needed. \$59.99 gives you 3 months of 24/7 access. Search "CDFM" in the Google or Apple app stores to access over 320 exam-like questions, 380+ acronyms, flashcards, and more. Click [here](#) for more information on the app (and web option).
- Form a **study group**. Meet virtually or in person to study. The Cleveland Chapter does not currently have an active CDFM study group, but you can reach out to Kira Swanson for assistance in reaching out to other local CDFM candidates.

## Is the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMTC) required in order to sit for the CDFM exam?

No. However, the course is strongly encouraged for those who are preparing for an exam.

## 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

### March 2023

#### Attendees:

Jessica Ciccolini, Shana Rose, Alex Kearney, Victoria Nord, Kira Swanson, Jeannine Anderson, Lillian Powell

#### President / Jessica Ciccolini

- Charity Raffle for the National PDI: Spa Basket

#### Pres-Elect / Lillian Powell

- Upcoming community service opportunities:
  - Food Bank on Tues., 4/11, 5/16, 6/6

#### VP of Programs / Jeannine Anderson

- Potential Speaker for March Luncheon - Still awaiting response; Schedule for 3/30
- PDI - 7 confirmed speakers, potentially 2 more

#### VP of Nominations / Tori Nord

- No scholarship applications this year
- Officer Nominations for next year to go out soon

#### VP of Membership / Tiffany Douglas

- Not present but provided notes
- Local PDI Swag Budget - \$500
  - Sent items with links/counts, etc. to Jessica/Lillian for consideration

#### Treasurer / Alex Kearney

- Square Reader - created new account and set up ability to accept credit card payments via weblink or square reader

#### Secretary / Shana Rose

- Will reach out to officers to get info for 5-star

#### Not Present

- Tiffany Douglas

# Save the date

## ASMC/AGA Local PDI

Last call to register!

Join the Cleveland Chapters of AGA and ASMC as we host our first in-person professional development institute since 2019!

Our theme this year is "Back to the Future: Leveraging Robotics and AI in Financial Management." Access the conference website for more information: AGA Cleveland Chapter ([agacgfm.org](http://agacgfm.org))

**Registration must be complete and paid for by April 13!**

Be sure to follow your organization's nomination and registration instructions.

## Community Service

**@ the Greater  
Cleveland Food Bank**

Tuesday, April 11, 2023,  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Tuesday, May 16, 2023,  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Tuesday, June 6, 2023,  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM