

ASMC

GULF COAST CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2015



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Executive Committee:

President	Ms Leah Hodge	883-3384	
VP-Eglin	Mr Ray Graber	882-8097	
VP-Hurlburt	Mr Rick Figueroa	884-2802	
VP-Tenant	Ms Rachael Peoples	883-0832	
Secretary	Ms Lindsey Stephan	883-4925	
Treasurer	Ms Michelle Woolgar	882-6700 x 7800	
2nd Treasurer	Ms Mandy Chapman	882-5754	
Reconciler	Ms Angela Gilbert	883-3412	
Programs	Ms Connie Clay	883-2890	
	Ms Gayle Thomas	883-2897	
	Ms Kimberly Sypher	882-7682	
Publicity	Ms Susan Ashworth	883-0164	
	Mr David Herndon	883-5318	
Mini-PDI	Ms Kaci Harris	884-7643	
Membership	Ms Heather Long	884-2806	
Education/CDFM	Ms Lisa Gamon	883-5336	
Enlisted Advisors:			
	Hurlburt	MSgt Arnold Soto	884-1548
	Eglin	TSgt Kimberly Holen	882-2001
Ways & Means		Mika Gellinger	882-8650
		Ms Jennifer Miller	883-1839
Community Service		Mr Robert Turpin	883-5332
		Ms Kaci Harris	884-7643
Awards		Mr George Joseph	883-2123
		Ms Kristen Pedro	883-2152
Webmaster		Mr Jason Guzzardo	882-7595
Newsletter		Ms Brianna Hoppel	883-4238



President's Corner



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As I put pen to paper this morning, we are 61 days away from close-out. I like this time of year; everybody seems to “kick it up a notch”, and the pace gets faster. I’ve never been bored in CPTS, there’s something to work on, but this time of year it seems like everything moves faster and you get more done in a shorter period of time.

In the O&M world, we started having bi-weekly status of funds telecons with Command over a month ago, about 30 days earlier than last year. Our friends in Contracting are pushing contact awards at an amazing pace helping us meet our obligation goals with Command. We’ve scheduled, hopefully, our final FWG and FMB for this fiscal year. We’ve built our strawman unfunded list and every analyst is scrubbing their accounting records to see how far down that list we might be able to get.

Our analysts are getting ready to scrub and reconcile every O&M GPC card, and our funds control analyst has already started balancing D to O, ensuring the reimbursement program will be perfect for EOY. The Support Agreement team, with the help of Squadron Resource Advisors have reconciled every reimbursement and returned any excess dollars to our customers. Our civilian pay analysts have forecasted shortfalls and excesses by program element through EOY and fine tune those projections after every payroll. The skeleton record process has started, which for us still has a lot of uncertainty as the Installation Management Support Center (IMSC) stand up 1 Oct. The Squadron Resource Advisors have started pushing FY 16 contemplated form 9’s so none of our services stop on 1 Oct.

This time of year is exciting and fast paced, and yes I’m a little weird, maybe more than a little, but I really do like this time of year.

Ray Graber, Eglin VP



Community Service at the Fisher House



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The ASMC Community Service committee has scheduled bi-monthly dinners at our local Fisher House here on Eglin AFB. The ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter started preparing meals in July, and is scheduled every other Tuesday through the month of September. August 11th will be the next Tuesday that the Chapter is preparing meals for the guests at the Fisher House. Below is a short feature by Maika Andrew who has already prepared numerous meals, and would like to share the experience.

Pictured to the right:
David Herndon, Maika Andrew,
Vanessa Fuentes, and Mercedes Suarez



Once we come up with a menu to prepare, we divide the tasks.

They recommend about four volunteers per event, which allows for everyone to have a job to do and helps us interact with the residents. On this occasion, we served spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, green salad, and Mexican wedding cake; we also brought drinks. One person prepared the meatballs the night before and cooked in the crockpot all day and another person baked a cake the night before. We arrived at 1700 to put the finishing touches on the meal in the Fisher House's fully equipped kitchen. The kitchen has two sinks, two dishwashers, two refrigerators, two ovens and plenty of cupboards. Ms. Fuentes brought the ingredients for the salad and garlic bread and Dave Herndon boiled the pasta.

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Community Service at the Fisher House



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We were informed there were 14 guests that evening. Typically, not all the guests may be available at the set time for dinner to be served, which is around 1730. We served 6 guests last night. There were also 2 Fisher House volunteers who helped locate items in the kitchen, set the plates, clean up, and assist the residents who needed more care. The leftovers are wrapped up for the residents to enjoy later that evening or the next day for lunch!

~Maika Andrew



If anyone is interested in volunteering to provide a dinner with the Fisher House, you may call Maika at 850-420-8893 or she may be reached by email.

MINUTES: Executive Council

The ASMC Executive Committee meeting minutes are posted on the Gulf Coast Chapter webpage. To review them, please go to the website:

<http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/> and click on the tab marked "Minutes" along the top.



Upcoming Events



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AUGUST LUNCHEON

When: 19 August 2015 at 11:30am
Where: Eglin Bayview Club
Who: Maj Stephen Gray, 96 CPTS/CC
What: UAE Comptroller Deployment

<https://cs3.eis.af.mil/sites/OO-ED-AA-A2/AQ/Registration/Registration/Registration.aspx>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Interested in preparing a meal for guest at our local Fisher House? This is a great opportunity to give to those who have served our country! See the feature on page 3 and 4.

FUNDRAISING – PIZZA SALE!

Mark your Calendars...see the Flyer on the following page!

When: 27 Apr 2015 at 11:00am
Where: Bldg 350 Lobby

**** Drive thru car pick-up available ****

ASMC Pizza Sale

27 AUGUST 2015

11AM - UNTIL SOLD OUT

BLDG 350, LOBBY

****DRIVE THRU CAR PICKUP AVAILABLE****

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**\$12 FOR PRE-ORDERED
WHOLE LARGE PIZZA**

\$5 FOR 2 SLICES

\$ 2.50 FOR 1 SLICE

**SUGGESTED DONATION
PEPPERONI, SAUSAGE, OR EXTRA
CHEESE**



THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL ACTIVITY. IT IS NOT A PART OF DOD OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS AND HAS NO GOVERNMENTAL STATUS.



Education/CDFM



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Congratulations to 2015 Scholarship winners:

- **\$1000.00 Trey LaNasa**
(Fort Walton Beach HS/University of Florida)
- **\$750.00 Roger Kendall**
(AFMC Membership Award/Columbia Southern University)
- **\$500.00 Bray Makenzie**
(Pace High School/Auburn University)
- **\$500.00 Meredith Schmieder**
(Fort Walton Beach HS/University of Florida)



Congratulations to our recent CDFM awardee, Ms. Jolynn Figueroa!

- To view a list of Gulf Coast Chapter CDFM awarded go to <http://www.asmc.org/certification/cdfm-information/cdfm-awarded/> and search by chapter.
- CDFM Reimbursement: <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/cdfm.html>
(New rules and form dated 13 May 2015)
- Purchasing a CDFM Test Module: <http://www.asmc.org/certification/cdfm-information/testing-resources/>
- Forgot your CDFM Candidate number: <http://www.asmc.org/certification/get-my-candidate-id/>
- EDFMT Course Details/Schedule:
<http://www.asmc.org/educationtraining/classroom-training/enhanced-defense-financial-management-training-course/>
- We have Module 4 Acquisition Business Management training guides available, contact POCs listed below:

Education POC: Lisa Gamon, lisa.gamon.1@us.af.mil, 883-5336

CDFM POC: Edwina Freeman, edwina.freeman.1@us.af.mil, 883-5317



Mini-PDI



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Thank you for your support in this year's MINI PDI. As the 2015 MINI PDI Chair, I would like to take this time to thank all of you that were able to step away from the daily Air force tedium to participate in the 2015 RPDI held on July 16, 2015. We had outstanding speakers and some top-notch giveaways this year. Overall, the feedback has been positive.

My hope is that we continue to build on this year's event to make the 2016 event more appealing to the FM/Contracting workforce community. After all, this training is provided locally, those who attend receive exceptional training and CLPs toward the yearly requirements.

Again, without the help of my dynamic team, this event would not have been possible. Everyone did a fantastic job bringing this training together.

Thanks again for your support and see you next year!

John Feagin





Websites



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We're on FACEBOOK!

We are pleased to announce that our Chapter's **Facebook** page is up and running! We will utilize this venue to share announcements of events and praises going on throughout our chapter. If you would like to submit a picture to share on the Chapter Facebook page, please email it to, gulfcoast.asmc@gmail.com, and be sure to include a caption. Pictures must be related to Chapter members/events. Be sure to like our page! <https://m.facebook.com/gulfcoast.asmc>.

ASMC WEBSITES

ASMC National Headquarters website is: <http://www.asmcnline.org/>
Gulf Coast Chapter website is: <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/>

We are looking for new ideas to include on our webpage. Please contact our webmasters Jason Guzzardo (882-7595) if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on chapter website issues.

NATIONAL NEWS

National PDI 2016 - held in Orlando, FL.

Please take advantage of other opportunities to fulfill your required CDFM CPEs to include local chapter training events, programs offered through the Online Learning Center, PDI 2011- 2015 recorded sessions, and Armed Forces Comptroller journal articles.

Use the link found on www.asmcnline.org to register and take tests as applicable to get your credit.



TSP's Future: Flexible Withdrawals and Mutual Fund Options

by Kellie Lunney, July 27, execgov.com



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Members of the board that oversees the Thrift Savings Plan gave agency staff the green light on Monday to move ahead with plans to eventually provide participants with more flexibility to withdraw money from their accounts, and offer federal employees the option to invest in mutual funds.

Greg Long, executive director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, however, emphasized that both changes are a long way -- years -- from implementation. Changing TSP withdrawal rules requires legislation; Congress gave the board the option in the 2009 TSP Enhancement Act of adding mutual funds, but the agency and federal employee advocates have been weighing the pros and cons of introducing the option to the TSP portfolio ever since.

"I am perfectly fine pushing this out until we have all the king's horses and all the king's men in line to make this work," Long said, of a mutual fund window for TSP participants, during the board's monthly meeting on Monday.

Long said he saw changes to withdrawals as the more urgent need because of data the agency has collected on why participants are leaving. In 2013, enrollees who separated from the government transferred \$9 billion out of the TSP to other financial institutions. Twenty-seven percent of those participants said they were motivated to move their money because they wanted more withdrawal flexibility.

"Participant actions and their feedback provide clear indications of meaningful dissatisfaction with our withdrawal options," Long said in a July 7 memo to board members -- a sentiment he reiterated during Monday's meeting. He said retaining participants is "not about asset accumulation; it's about better financial outcomes for participants." The TSP board manages more than \$450 billion in federal employee retirement funds.

The TSP currently offers two main withdrawal categories for participants, one for those who want to take money out while they are still working for the government (in-service) and another for employees who leave the government (post-separation). There are various rules surrounding the who, what, when and how of withdrawals now, which some enrollees find too restrictive. The number of hardship withdrawals (in-service) were up 13 percent in June from May, though the TSP said it reflects a "similar seasonal increase in prior years" related to paying for vacation and college tuition.

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TSP's Future: Flexible Withdrawals and Mutual Fund Options

by Kellie Lunney, July 27, execgov.com



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Among the proposed changes the TSP is considering:

- *Allow multiple withdrawals (currently only one is allowed) for the age-based (59 and a half) in-service withdrawal, as well as remove the restriction on post-separation partial withdrawals related to this type of transaction.*
- *Allow multiple partial post-separation withdrawals. Currently, participants can only choose one partial withdrawal under this option; subsequent transactions must be full withdrawals.*
- *Eliminate the withdrawal election deadline for post-separation withdrawals.*

For more information on current TSP withdrawal options, see this Retirement Planning column from Government Executive columnist Tammy Flanagan.

Long said the natural concern over changes to withdrawals would be that it leads people to exhaust their retirement savings. "Just because people want more flexibility, does not by itself mean it is prudent for the TSP's fiduciaries to provide that flexibility," he said in the memo to the board, which was passed out at Monday's meeting. "Although it may appear counter-intuitive, the research on this issue demonstrates that additional withdrawal flexibility leads to more participants keeping money inside the employer-based qualified plan system longer."

The agency is talking to the Employee Thrift Advisory Council early next month about proposed changes to TSP withdrawal rules.

On the mutual fund option, ETAC (which includes representatives from several federal employee advocacy groups) has said it supports moving forward after initially expressing some trepidation about the cost of implementation and potential risks to enrollees that cropped up when the idea became a possibility in 2009.

The FRTIB has estimated that creating the mutual fund window will cost about \$6.7 million, and although relatively few participants (between 1 percent and 3 percent) are expected to opt into it, one of the pros is that it encourages enrollees – and their money – to stay in the TSP.

"If a MFW were available in 2013 and it caused just 10 percent of distributed dollars to stay at the TSP, our net cash flow would have improved by \$1.2 billion," according to a July 27 memo from Long to the board on the mutual fund window offering. "In addition, the directly-affected participants would be paid substantially lower fees, and all [emphasis in original] TSP participants would have benefited through marginally lowers asset-based administrative fees."

Some concerns over the MFW are that it makes the TSP more complicated, and could lead to confusion and poor investment decisions by participants.