



Chapter Newsletter

ASMC – Gulf Coast Chapter
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Join ASMC Today!!!

The current fee is \$40 for one year or \$114 for three years. The membership fee is non-refundable and non-transferrable.

Send your articles and upcoming events in to the newsletter team so we can share them with our ASMC Chapter!

ASMC Newsletter Committee:
Holly Jordan
Amy Tolar

President's Corner

Spring Inside and Outside by Dane Manfredi

Greetings ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter! First and foremost, I hope this newsletter finds you and your families safe and secure during these most interesting times we are living in. Please seek comfort knowing that this adversity that is striking each of us, this great country, and world will serve to make us all stronger! We will gain the knowledge of how to best combat not only this virus, but also any future medical, environmental, or economic challenges.

Most of us, if not all of us, are reading this newsletter as we telework and are watching the economy grind to a halt as our experts look to combat this virus worldwide. In these times of uncertainty, we may wonder what to do with some added time we have while teleworking, what to consider doing with our families that are all in the house at once, and what on earth to do with our hard earned investments. With all this circling in our heads, here are some recommendations and reminders to consider within the referenced subjects:

- 1) **Continuing Education while Teleworking** – Who knew teleworking would be so much “fun” and “free.” Some may love it, yet some may despise it, but each of us may be finding some extra time on our hands as we battle VPN connectivity issues. Therefore, in conjunction with your supervisor’s approval, consider what continuing education online courses you may be able to take or knock out a great book you have been wanting to read that will assist you within your work field. We all know those 60 hours of LMS continuing education and 80 hours of DAWIA continuing education credits we need every two years are not being affected by this virus, so consider the many resources we have to earn that credit!
- 2) **Family Activities** – Because of COVID-19, schools are closed, gyms are closed, childcare facilities are closed... what to do... Well, speaking for me, I have never seen so many family walks taking place during my morning PT runs and also kids and their parents actually using their legs for activities within the yard. Yes, actual physical activity rather than staring at screens all day. Take this time to get out in your yard with your families for physical activities, or do yard work with the family, or take advantage of this amazing weather and have a lunch or dinner by having a barbeque with under 10 people and with six feet of distance (LOL). In other words, take advantage of the many gifts God provides us to utilize that we often overlook in times of hustle and bustle. Investments – We are all in different boats when it comes to how to invest and when to invest our discretionary income based on our age, timeframe to retirement, family situation, and overall discretionary income. However, in times of fear like this, everyone needs to be reminded that it is not the time to make drastic investment decisions on your own. Rather, ensure to discuss these situations with either your Financial Advisor or re-read your long-term investment strategy and stick to it! I remind you of this due to a recent question a neighbor of mine posed to me. You could tell he was fearful that his 401K was losing 25%-30% in value over just the last month! ... **President's Message continued on Page 4**

Future meeting announcements:



- ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter future activities and meetings are postponed until further notice. Emails be sent with updates.
 - RPDI 9 April 2020 at the ECCC - cancelled
 - March Professional Development Luncheon - cancelled
- National PDI Registration is Open
 - Visit asmconline.org for the most current updates



Thank you!

Patrick Connolly (AFRL/RWF and active ASMC member) would like to personally thank the ASMC community for donating (monetary and leave)! Pat and his family can't tell you enough how much they appreciate it. He is still recovering from his medical emergency and leave donations are needed as he goes through physical therapy. As you know, Pat is an approved leave recipient through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (VLTP). If you would like to donate leave, contact Jonathan Pinto.

National News

Government Executive

Esper Orders Pentagon into Stricter Health-Related Lockdown

By Katie Bo Williams

March 24, 2020

Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Monday upgraded the Pentagon's [health protection level](#) to indicate substantial risk and sustained community transmission of the coronavirus, a move that places even stricter restrictions on Pentagon access.

The decision was previously reported by *Defense One*.

Most of the military installations in the Washington, D.C., area have already been designated HPCON-C, the Pentagon's second-highest level. HPCON-C coincides with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's [Level 3 warnings](#) of sustained community transmission. The highest, HPCON-D, indicates severe risk and widespread community transmission.

Although the Pentagon has already sought to minimize staffing of the building, moving many employees to telework and practicing social distancing even in senior-level meetings, a move to HPCON-C further [lock downs](#) access to the building to non-essential personnel. Officials could also institute some medical screening practices, such as taking temperatures of employees before they enter, according to Esper.

Lockdown continued on Page 4

Volunteer Opportunities



Fisher House volunteer sign-ups are currently suspended.
The Fisher House is accepting gift cards!
If you would like to donate,
please contact Arielle MacKendree.



Team 96TW FM for
volunteering on 3 Mar!



Team 96TW FM for volunteering on 3 Mar!



*Thank you to all teams that have volunteered!
The guest appreciate the hot meals!*

EBZ Volunteering on 2 Feb!
Just look at those Fruit Dessert Cups! YUM!



Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer

ASMC HQ News

PDI 2020 Update on COVID-19 (As of 24 March 2020)

ASMC continues to cautiously plan for the conduct of ASMC National PDI as scheduled from 27-29 May 2020. Most of the DoD and USCG financial management workforces (as well as those of our ASMC Corporate Members) are out on telework status as our nation continues to drive social distancing practices necessary to overcome this extremely critical situation. We continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 infection status related to whether the extraordinary actions being taken by our federal, state, and local governments; private sector companies; hospitals; etc, will improve the situation to the extent that travel and group gathering restrictions are lifted and PDI registrants feel safe in traveling and participating in PDI 2020.

Approximately 1300 individuals have registered and reserved their hotel room for this valuable annual training event. By mid to late April, we should know whether the crisis will be sufficiently under control to be able to safely conduct National PDI. Again, should the crisis continue, such that we need to cancel PDI, ASMC will fully refund all registration and housing fees paid, with no penalty.

We appreciate your loyalty and support, and are doing all we can to continue to move this outstanding program forward, should this extremely critical situation be reversed and our nation returns to safe status related to gathering of groups to take advantage of valuable training and professional development activities.

Source: asmconline.org

President's Message continued from Page 1

This fear was leading him to believe it may be best to just cash out his 401K to pay off his home and call it a day before he feared of losing it all. So he asked me if this was a good option. In my opinion, this fearful action would be investment suicide to consider such a thing with the market where it is at. Therefore, I presented him the following data/considerations and after doing so, posed the question back to him:

- a) Say your mortgage is at a fixed 4% rate and you have maybe 10 years left to pay off your mortgage.
- b) In the last month, your 401K is down over 25-30%, roughly.
- c) This virus, in my opinion, will be overcome within the next 2-3 months, maybe 6 months as the worst case scenario.
- d) So you would rather cash out of a 401K having lost 25%-30% in the last month to save you a 4% annual yield rather than continue paying your 4% mortgage and most likely gain back what you lost and then some within your 401K in the coming months as we overcome this economic downturn?

Sometimes laying out the numbers shows that we all act poorly when faced with fear and sometimes we need to step back and reassess our situation. Lastly, for us investors with a long-term mindset, I remind you of what the great Warren Buffett advises, "Be Fearful when others are Greedy and Be Greedy when others are Fearful."

I hope the best for each of you in the coming months and before you know it our Chapter will be back up and running stronger than ever! Until then, take advantage of the added time you have while teleworking by seeking continuing education credit and enhancing your knowledge. Also, take time with your families at home and be active in the yard and play games. Lastly, refrain from making any fearful drastic investment decisions during times of uncertainty and rather consult with an investment professional or relook your long-term strategy. Thank you for what you do for our Chapter and be sure to reach out to any of our committee members with any questions/concerns!

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"There is no intent whatsoever to limit the access to the press and we want to keep the building open for essential personnel and the media," he said.

The decision to upgrade the Pentagon's health-protection level comes just days after the Defense Department reported its first death from COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus — and as President Trump has begun to publicly hint that he would move soon to loosen federal guidance keeping Americans in their homes and away from their jobs.

"WE CANNOT LET THE CURE BE WORSE THAN THE PROBLEM ITSELF. AT THE END OF THE 15 DAY PERIOD, WE WILL MAKE A DECISION AS TO WHICH WAY WE WANT TO GO!" he [tweeted](#) Monday morning.

Two people who have tested positive for COVID-19 are connected to the Pentagon. A Defense Department contractor who works in the Pentagon has been at home isolating since Mar. 7 and has not been in the building since Mar. 2. Separately, an Air Force service member visited the Pentagon for less than an hour on Mar. 16. Both are in isolation and receiving treatment.

Source: <https://www.govexec.com/164035/>