



GULF COAST CHAPTER NEWS



JUN 09

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Gulf Coasters,

Thanks to those of you who attended the PDI this year and represented our chapter. I was unable to make it unfortunately, but I have heard nothing but good feedback. Thanks to Laura Gamble for accepting the Meritorious Award on the chapter's behalf at the Friday night banquet. Also, thanks to Lisa Regulus for heading up the chapter's charity raffle. Our chapter raffled off an I-Touch, a \$100 Mastercard gift card, and a handmade AF blanket. The final numbers aren't in yet but early indications look like our chapter made several hundred dollars from the event.

This will be my final President's message as I am PCS'ing the end of this month, so I just want to say thanks to the entire chapter for allowing me to serve as your President this past year. It has truly been a rewarding experience and a huge learning experience for me personally. I will miss the friendships that I have made but am happy knowing that the chapter will be in great hands with Mr. Pickler and his new team taking the reins.

See you around the AF,

--Dan

Capt Dan Genest, President

A special thanks to our 2009 Diamond Corporate sponsors!



COLSA
Corporation

6728 Odyssey Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35806
Phone: (256) 964-5555
www.colsa.com

MICRO SYSTEMS, INC.

a HERLEY company

ASMC, P.O. Box 1756, Eglin AFB FL 32542

Executive Committee

President	Capt Dan Genest	884-2804
VP-Eglin	Mr Ken Pickler	883-2193
VP-Hurlburt	Ms Lisa Regulus	884-1726
VP-Tenants	Ms Dedra Hickman	883-6411
Secretary	Ms Brenda Dininger	882-3635
Community Service	Ms Vanessa Fuentes	882-9841
Education	Mr John Dininger	883-3542
CDFM	Mr Ron Millis	882-0936
Membership	Ms Woxie Williams	883-3449
	Mr Troy Brown	883-0839
Programs	Ms Leah Hodge	882-3615
	Ms Tammy Robbins	885-4335
Publicity	Ms Pati Galvan	882-5456
Newsletter	Ms Laura Gamble	884-6869
Regional PDI	Ms LaTanya Bryant	882-8964
	Ms Deborah Washington	882-3525 x3175
Treasurer	Ms April Chapel	882-3812
	Capt Tommy Dawson	882-3663
Ways & Means	Ms Jennifer Denega	883-4787
Webmaster	Mr Doug Craighead	882-5296
Eglin Enlisted Advisor	vacant	88 -
Hurlburt Enl Advisor	vacant	884-
Awards Committee	Mr Lewis Williams	883-0204

Minutes: Executive Council & Regular Meetings

The ASMC Luncheon Meeting minutes and the Executive committee meeting minutes are now 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.

Community Service: Relay For Life

The Relay for Life event yielded \$1729.00 for ASMC Chapter toward donation for finding a cure for Cancer. I want to thank all of the members who participated in the event. I would like to give a special thanks to Randy Combs (96 CPTS) and my husband Jesus Fuentes (46 TW) for helping me put together the event. Without their help there was no way I could have pulled the event.

v/r
Vanessa

RPDS – “Thank you”

A big thank you to all those who participated in signing the “Blankets of Hope” at our regional PDS this March. I mailed the box to them and received a thank you letter, which reads as follows:

On behalf of Soldiers’ Angels, we would like to thank you for sending the 4 blankets for our Blankets of Relief project. We truly value all the items we can send to our Military heroes. The goal of Soldiers’ Angels is to continually bring care and comfort to our Heroes in uniform who sacrifice so much for our freedom, as well as our Veterans.

Contributions such as yours are a critical part of our success. Your continued support is greatly appreciated for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who are serving our country.

Laura Gamble

Ways & Means

Ways and Means Projects:

Please start brainstorming – We need your ideas for future fundraisers!

Thank you to all who volunteer for our Ways and Means Projects.

Please contact Jennifer Denega if you would like to volunteer:

jennifer.denega@eglin.af.mil or call at 883-4787

Your suggestions are always welcome for the Ways and Means Committee. Continued Blessings for a beautiful Summer!

Programs – Leah Hodge & Tammy Robbins

The June luncheon will be a presentation by Okaloosa Saves, at the Eglin Enlisted Club. Our annual Membership Appreciation luncheon will be held on July 15th at the Eglin Officers Club. Sign up on A3 for the luncheon of your choice (remember to put in your club card number – you won’t be charged but we’ll get the discount!).

Mr. Alvin Tucker, Executive Director of ASMC, will induct new officers, and present scholarships and awards. Watch for the announcement and please plan to attend – make sure your dues are current and the lunch is on the chapter!

Gulf Coast Chapter Annual Awards

ASMC Members,

We are starting a new milestone for our chapter this year...our own annual awards program.

This is an exciting time to get involved in this worthy effort to recognize the hard work of our ASMC professionals. Everyone should take some time and identify and nominate someone.

Awards will be presented in 7 categories. The nominations are open to all members of the chapter, with one award winner selected per category. Anyone may nominate a person who has demonstrated outstanding performance.

The awards will be presented during our July luncheon. Contact me if you have any questions.

Lewis Williams

Awards Committee Chair

883-0175

Special Thanks from the Programs Committee

The Programs Committee wishes to thank Jason Guzzardo for his AV help and expertise this past year. Jason came to our rescue a number of times and could always be counted on to provide excellent support to our luncheons. The chapter presented him with gift certificates to some local restaurants recently and wanted everyone to know he was a key part of our successful luncheons! Thanks, Jason!

Scholarships / Education – John Dininger

We received 9 applications for our college scholarship program, and they are presently being evaluated by our 10 member team. Their evaluations are due back to me on 11 Jun 09. Thanks in advance to our evaluation team for their hard work, and also thanks goes to Verna McBride for working publicity for the scholarships.

I've notified the 6 winners of our high school scholarships, and so far 3 have RSVPd to attending the July awards luncheon. I should be notified in the next few weeks by ASMC headquarters if our national scholarship applicant is a recipient. Hopefully we will get some good news here, as I believe our nominee is a strong candidate.

As many of you have heard, I've received an assignment to Peterson AFB, CO and will be departing Eglin in early August. Our new president, Ken Pickler, will be looking for a new scholarship chairperson, so if you're so inclined, let him know that you're interested! It's been great serving the chapter in this capacity, and I've enjoyed it immensely!

Again, if you have any questions or concerns about how our scholarship programs are run, feel free to contact me at 883-3542.

CDFM – Ron Millis

CDFM Self Study Tools

This self study tool encompasses all of the reference material used in writing questions for the Certified Defense Financial Manager examination. For your convenience, it is organized into three modules to parallel the structure of the exam. Most references are hyperlinked to actual source documents to save you time in locating study material. To further ease your work load, we cited pertinent sections of larger documents, such as the Financial Management Regulations. Still, you will find a significant amount of material you will need to review. Here are a few tips to help you get started .

Begin your self study with the module you know the most about. This will increase your confidence and let you get used to the level of detail of the questions in an area where you feel most comfortable. Remember, most of us know a lot about two or three of the areas already. Capitalize on what you already know!

Read all of the narrative material in the Reference Guide. Much of it was prepared by the subject matter experts who wrote the more than 900 questions in the item bank. Reading this material closely will give you a good idea of what experts feel a certified financial manager should know in a given area.

Spend enough time. It's hard to tell sometimes how much time is required, but you will see certain subjects and references coming up many times throughout your review. You will know when you have a good grasp of the subject matter.

If possible, talk to other people who participated in the Enhanced Financial Management Training Course, in group study, or who took some or all of the CDFM. They can help by giving you an idea of how much you need to review.

DoD Financial Regulations

In addition to specific official documented references (these are the source documents for the examination questions), other supplemental study material is recommended. As you work through the different competency areas, you will find the majority of references are already somewhat familiar to you. Most prevalent are the DoD Financial Regulations...better known as FMR. Since these references are extensive, we list here the chapters for you to concentrate on as you prepare. Don't forget to review Volume 1 of the FMR for definitions. The FMR's are all downloadable free from the web at <http://www.dtic.mil/comptroller/fmr>.

OMB Circulars

Another common reference is the OMB circular. These are also easy to download by going to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/index.html>. All of the original legal citations from 10 US Code and 31 US Code are available through the fiscal law section - or by going directly to <http://uscode.house.gov>. Simply enter the title (i.e., Title 10 or Title 31) and section number - and the search engine will provide the text almost instantly.

DoD Publications

All DoD publications, instructions, directives, manuals, etc., are available on the web at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

CDFM – Ron Millis

CDFM Self Study Tools – continued from previous page

DoD "Greenbook"

The Fiscal Year 2003 budget and the DoD "Greenbook" are available at www.dod.mil/comptroller.

Army Cost Manual

Almost all study materials you will need to prepare for the test are easily accessible by computer - and are free! You will not need extensive study of Service specific regulations, directives and the like, because all of the questions are asked from a Departmental perspective. One exception is the Army Cost Manual, which covers common cost estimating topics and is readily available at <http://www.ceac.army.mil/ce/default.asp>

As you read through the three modules of the CDFM, we will introduce you to the twelve separate competency areas that comprise the examination. Each of these competencies has associated with them various tasks and knowledge. Scoring requirements for the exam are such that very few people will pass the three modules without study but, if you prepare conscientiously, the likelihood of success is high

Ron

882-4538

Bill advances with TSP reforms, but not sick leave fix

Bill advances with TSP reforms, but not sick leave fix

By Alex M. Parker aparker@govexec.com

The Senate on Wednesday (10 Jun 09) advanced major legislation that includes several provisions expanding federal employees' options under the Thrift Savings Plan, but does not allow some employees to count unused sick leave toward retirement savings.

In a 67-30 vote to end legislative debate, lawmakers moved [H.R. 1256](#) forward, but without an amendment that would have enabled federal workers in the Federal Employees Retirement System to count unused sick leave toward their retirement annuities -- a benefit employees in the older Civil Service Retirement System currently have.

That amendment, inserted by Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., also contained provisions that would have made it easier for the government to rehire federal retirees part time; modified how the CSRS calculates annuity payments for employees who retire as part-time workers; and moved federal employees in Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. territories from cost-of-living adjustments into the federal locality pay system.

TSP provisions remaining in the legislation included measures that would automatically enroll federal civilian hires into the plan; enable employees to invest their

Bill advances with TSP reforms, but not sick leave fix

Continued from previous page

retirement money into mutual funds of their choice; allow enrollees to create a Roth 401(k) so they do not have to pay taxes when funds are withdrawn; and permit spouses of deceased federal workers to continue managing their funds in the TSP. Current law requires spouses to withdraw those funds 60 days after their spouse passed away and reinvest them elsewhere.

Wrangling over dozens of amendments to the massive bill, which would give the Food and Drug Administration certain authority to regulate tobacco products, prevented Lieberman's amendment from inclusion. Senate parliamentarians declared the amendment nongermane.

Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., tried to push the provisions in Lieberman's amendment forward through a legislative maneuver, but was blocked by an objection from Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C. Such a legislative move requires unanimous consent.

DeMint's office said several senators were concerned that the amendment was not relevant to the bill, and objected that the Democratic leadership had kept other amendments from consideration. DeMint spokesman Wesley Denton said members were concerned about the amendment's cost, as it had not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

The House version of the legislation contains some of the provisions in Lieberman's amendment, including the FERS sick leave fix.

The unexpected development had federal employee unions reeling.

"This was a bad day for the federal workforce," said Randy Erwin, legislative director of the National Federation of Federal Employees.

Supporters of the overall legislation said they hoped that the provisions in the Lieberman amendment were still enacted into law -- possibly through a conference committee to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the bill.

Colleen Kelley, president of the National Treasury Employees Union, praised the overall bill, but expressed disappointment that it did not include the measures in Lieberman's amendment.

"NTEU will continue to work to enact those provisions," Kelley said.

The Senate plans to vote on Friday on the bill's passage

Current & Next Meetings and other ASMC events

UPCOMING ASMC LUNCHEONS –

Mark your calendars:

15 Jul 09: Membership Appreciation, Eglin Officer's Club

Please contact our Program Chairs, Leah Hodge (x2-3615) or Tammy Robbins (x5-4335), if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on program issues.

ASMC Websites

ASMC National Headquarters website is <http://www.asmconline.org/>

Our chapter website is <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/>

We are looking for new ideas to include on our webpage. Please contact our webmaster, Doug Craighead at 850- 882-5296 if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on chapter website issues.

National News

For more details, see www.asmconline.org.

Earn CPE credits by listening to or watching taped workshops and Service Day sessions from recent PDIs. You can access selected sessions online at

<http://www.asmconline.org/development/extendedlearning.shtml>

The ASMC National Executive Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Alvin Tucker as ASMC Executive Director. *[Mr. Tucker will be visiting the Gulf Coast Chapter in July.]*

***Remember our local website is <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/>
and ASMC national is <http://www.asmconline.org/>***

ASMC, P.O. Box 1756, Eglin AFB FL 32542