

ASMC

GULF COAST CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015



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Executive Committee:

President	Ms Lisa Gamon	883-5336	
VP-Eglin	Ms Brianna Hoppel	883-4238	
VP-Hurlburt	MSgt Daniel Doble	884-2152	
VP-Tenant	Ms Connie Clay	883-2890	
Secretary	Ms Sharon Pedersen	883-0695	
Treasurer	Ms Michelle Woolgar	882-6700 x 7800	
2 nd Treasurer	Ms Mandy Chapman	883-2237	
Reconciler	Ms Angela Gilbert	883-3412	
Programs	Mr Joe Proctor	882-4593	
	Ms Connie Clay	883-2890	
	Ms Kimberly Sypher	882-7682	
Publicity	Mr David Herndon	883-5318	
	Mr Max Miller	883-4294	
Mini-PDI	Ms Michelle Woolgar	882-6700 x 7800	
Membership	Ms Lindsey Stephan	883-4925	
Education/CDFM	Mr Ron Millis	883-0158	
	Ms Dorothy Goring-Briley	883-8755	
Enlisted Advisors:			
	Hurlburt	MSgt Arnold Soto	884-1548
	Eglin	TSgt Kimberly Holen	883-4703
Ways & Means		Roger Kendall	882-2148
		Mika Gellinger	882-8650
Community Service		Mr Robert Turpin	883-5332
		Ms Deb Privette	883-5299
Awards		Mr George Joseph	883-2123
		Ms Kaci Harris	883-3961
Webmaster		Mr Jason Guzzardo	882-7595
Newsletter		Ms Brianna Hoppel	883-4238



President's Corner



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🎵 There is spring in the air, and a song in my heart... 🎵 I love this time of year...winter is winding down, flowers are peeking up ready to show their true colors and we finally have all of our funding so we can spend, spend, spend!

The other reason I like this month is because we are honoring your compatriots who have been shining stars all year long! These unsung heroes who, day after day, make sure the books balance, run numerous what if drills to guide commanders in decisions, and jump through hoops for last minute suspense all the while keeping up with the newest policies and mind reading skills required to make it all look easy. So, come on out to the 12 Mar luncheon and help me say “job well done!”

Now that the weather is cooperating a bit, let's get out and help Pet Welfare spruce up their place. We have 2 dates we are cleaning/raking/whatever...14 and 28 March from 0800-1200. If you can't make it either of those days but want to do another, please do. Just let Rob Turpin or Deb Privette know so we can log your volunteer hours.

Comptrollers for a cause (Relay for Life Team) is in full swing. Please see page 8 for how you can get involved.

April is our election month for next year's officers. I encourage all of you to think about running for an office or helping on one of the committees during the coming year. This is a wonderful organization for YOU and if you want to see something changed you have to make a change.

Until next month...

- Lisa Gamon, ASMC President

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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MARCH LUNCHEON

When: 12 Mar at 11:30am
Where: Bayview Club
What: Annual Awards Luncheon

APRIL LUNCHEON

When: TBD
Where: TBD
What: Personal Budget **Look for the link by mid-March

MAY LUNCHEON

When: 20 May at 11:00am
Where: Soundside Club, Hurlburt
What: New Officer Induction

Mini-PDI 2015

It's that time of year again; we are looking for volunteers to be a part of the Mini-PDI 2015. All committees are still open for chairs and co-chairs. We would like to make this year better than ever. Keep your eye out for the next planning meeting coming in March. The chair for this year's Mini-PDI is John Feagin, john.feagin@us.af.mil and co-chair is Michelle Woolgar, michelle.woolgar@us.af.mil. Please email either if you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to be part of this exciting volunteer opportunity.

7th Annual ASMC Golf Tournament

4 Person Scramble

Golf Tournament to support ASMC's Scholarship Program

When: Friday, 8 May 2015

Pre-registration deadline 5 May 2015

Where: Eglin Golf Course (Falcon)

Check-in: 11:30 lunch and 1:00 shotgun start

Cost: \$50.00 per person includes entry fee and lunch,
and Mulligan package(2 mulligans, 1 red ball
buster,
string)

Prizes: At least 1st, 2nd ,3rd Place prizes!!!!

Longest Drive, Closest To The Pin



Pre-Registration

Eglin POC: Roger Kendall (850)585-8744

email: willeys1942@yahoo.com

AFI34-223 8 MARCH 2007 "THIS IS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION. IT IS NOT A PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS AND IT HAS NO GOVERNMENTAL STATUS"



Education



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The Education Committee has begun soliciting chapter members, college students and high school seniors for 2014-2015 scholarship awards. Chapter member's scholarships are limited to college students in academic disciplines relating to financial management who are seeking either an undergraduate degree or a postgraduate degree.

An official transcript must be submitted with the application. Non-chapter member scholarships are limited to high school seniors and college students in academic disciplines relating to financial/resource management (such as business administration, economics, public administration, accounting, or finance) who are seeking an undergraduate degree. College students must have at least 2 years (60 semester hours) of college, or will have 60 hours completed by the end of their spring 2015 semester. An official transcript must be submitted (for college students only).

Applicants will be required to submit applications via mail or email NLT May 8, 2015. Visit the chapter Education page at <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/education.html> for more details.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is available to individuals who are actively employed in military comptrollership, as active duty or civilian personnel for DoD or USCG.

Associate membership is available for those who don't meet the qualifications but are currently employed in a defense related financial management field.

Employees of private sector companies who are interested in ASMC membership may join under the corporate membership program.

New military members E1-E4 and civilian GS1-GS7 can be reimbursed for half of their yearly membership fee. *New members only.* I will be providing information about upcoming membership drives and other activities as they are planned.

To register to become a new member, please visit the ASMC Website (Pg).

Chair: Lindsey Stephan, 883-4925, lindsey.stephan@us.af.mil



CDFM



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Congratulations to our newest CDFM awardee: Robin Newton

Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training (EDFMT) Courses at Eglin AFB FL:

- **Module 1-3** scheduled **3-7 Aug 2015**. Please access ATRRS <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/edfmt/> and register as soon as possible. Seats are limited. Study guides will be provided during the class.
- **Module 4** Acquisition Business Mgmt scheduled **30-31 March 2015**. Testing will be available immediately following course completion. Please access AQ-FM: Acquisition Business Management, CDFM Module 4 <https://cs3.eis.af.mil/sites/OO-ED-AA-A2/AQ/Registration/Registration/Registration.aspx> to register. Seats are limited. Study guides will be provided during the class.

CDFM Testing Sample Questions/Answers

The chapter published CDFM Modules 1 & 2 study questions and answers in the Oct 14- Jan 15 Newsletter. Feb 15 Newsletter contained questions from Module 3, Accounting and Finance (1) Accounting (35%), (2) Finance (35%), (3) Auditing (15%), (4) and Fiscal Law (15%) competencies. Take a look at the answers below. You may be surprised by how many you answer correctly based solely upon your day-to-day knowledge working within the DoD and USAF?

Module 3 Sample Study Answers:

1. Purpose, Time and Amount

...continued on next page



CDFM



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2. Multi-year appropriation
 3. Entitlements, Payments, Collections, Control of Public Funds
 4. Certifying Officer
 5. Budgetary and Proprietary
 6. Statement of Net Cost
 7. Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)
 8. Waste, Fraud, Mismanagement and Abuse
 9. Review phase
 10. Legislative Branch (Congress)
- To view a list of Gulf Coast Chapter CDFM awarded go to <http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-information/cdfm-awarded/> and search by chapter.
 - We currently have Module 4 Acquisition Business Management training guides available.

Education/CDFM POCs:

Dorothy Goring-Briley (dorothy.goringbriley.2@us.af.mil) 3-8755

Ron Millis (Ronald.millis@us.af.mil) 3-2150



Community Service



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A HUGE THANKS to all of you that donated your valuable time to our many wonderful charities this year. With more than 270 members, our chapter should be able to meet or exceed our goal of 150 volunteer hours; we're close, but we only have until the end of March to do it. So if you would like to contribute to this year's goal, please take advantage of the opportunity to help out at the Eglin AFB Pet Welfare Shelter on March 14th and 28th from 8am-12pm. Also, the shelter is Monday through Saturday from 9am-1pm, if you cannot make one of our group dates.

RELAY FOR LIFE:

- Theme for this year's Relay for Life event will be BOARD GAMES!
- Now is the time to sign up if you would like to participate with the ASMC Relay for Life team (Comptrollers for a Cause)
http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY15FL?pg=entry&fr_id=63748
- Save the Dates:
 - March - Our team will be hosting fundraisers at Joe's Crab Shack in Destin every Thursday in March.
 - April - Relay for Life will also hosting a yard sale on 4 April at Niceville Bayou Plaza. If you have items you would like to donate please contact Roger Kendall or Dedra Hickman.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The 29th annual Sandestin Wine Festival is on April 17th and 18th. There are an assortment of times and positions available for individuals interested in volunteering for the Grand Wine Tasting event. A portion of the proceeds from the Grand Wine Tasting will be donated to the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast.

Please make sure to submit any volunteer hours to Rob Turpin or Deb Privette.

Community Service Chairs:

Rob Turpin, Co-chair, robert.turpin.2@us.af.mil, 883-5332

Deb Privette, Co-chair, deborah.privette@us.af.mil, 883-5299

Susan Ashworth, Habitat for Humanity Okaloosa County, susan.ashworth@us.af.mil, 883-0164

Patrick Dewitt, Deployable Care Packages, patrick.dewitt.4@us.af.mil, 883-4874

Sara Bennett, Shelter House, sara.bennett.3@us.af.mil, 883-1980

Gabriella Geier-DuReitz, Fisher House, gabriella.geier-dureitz.2@us.af.mil, 882-5485

Laura Gamble, Soldiers' Angels, laura.gamble@us.af.mil, 884-6869

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



ASMC Annual Awards



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ASMC Members,

Please join us in congratulating the following nominees for the 2014 ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Awards:

Accounting & Finance

TSgt Amber Foster

Acquisition/Cost Analysis

Eric Flinchum
Dianna Malik-Allen
Naymi Martinez
Nancy DeMonbrun

Auditing

Shannon Skrivanie
Jeanette Duncan
Jeanette Sherritze

Comptroller/Deputy Comptroller

Kathy Davis
Maj James Cunningham

Budgeting

Capt Andrew Fingall
Catherine Gunn
Susan Copeland
Gayle Thomas
Brianna Hoppel
Lt Chris O'Dell
Tammy Robbins
Vanessa Davis

Intern/Trainee

John Johnson
Maria Machina
Nicole Gray

Resource Management

SrA Anthony Dickens
Pat DeWitt
Ann Tipton
Jennifer Miller

Contractor Support

Ginnie Spock

Large Team Achievement

1 SOCPTS Financial Services
1SOCPTS Resource Management
96 CPTS/FMA
AFRL/RWF
Acquisition Cost Staff

Small Team Achievement

AFSOC FIAR Team
AFSOC Mission Operations
AFSOC Portal Team
EBJ Cost Team
Miniature Munitions Division

Financial Systems

Jason Guzzardo

Again, congratulations to all of the nominees and a special thank you to all of those who took the time to nominate and recognize your fellow colleagues! The awards will be presented at the 12 March Luncheon.

Thank You,
Kaci Harris & George Joseph
ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter
Awards Co-Chairs



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) or David Loch (882-0057) if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on chapter website issues.

NATIONAL NEWS

National PDI 2015 will be held in New Orleans, LA.

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, such as the recent Sequestration webinar, PDI 2011-2014 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.



Acquisition 101: When a Bargain Isn't a Bargain

by Eric S. Crusius, Jan 12, 2015, govexec.com



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When my wife and I purchased our first vacuum cleaner, we selected a cheap model. It met all the specs of what we needed, did a minimally acceptable job and lasted little more than a year before it died. Not learning the lesson that buying the first vacuum should have taught us, we immediately bought another cheap vacuum to replace the first one, and it died an early death about 18 months later. We finally did learn our lesson with the third vacuum and paid slightly more for a better vacuum that has lasted six years (and counting).

Much like our predicament with the rotating vacuums, federal contracting professionals are facing increasing pressure to purchase goods and services as cheaply as possible using a method commonly referred to as “lowest price/technically acceptable” (LPTA)—even if it means minimal acceptability. This push is laudable in theory, but the reality is often higher prices and a smaller pool of quality contractors, while robbing contracting officers of any discretion to choose a solution or product that is more cost-effective in the long term.

LPTA certainly has its admirers, but even the most ardent supporters in the contracting community recognize its severe limitations. Nevertheless, J. David Cox, national president of the American Federation of Government Employees, offered a full-throated [endorsement of LPTA](#) in a recent column in Government Executive. Mr. Cox stated the reasons why LPTA is preferred to the “best-value premium” approach to acquisition.

Here are several reasons he is wrong:

- **“Best-value premium” is a misnomer** because these procurements still allow agencies to choose the lowest cost option. With any best-value procurement, the agency always has the discretion to choose the lowest bid unless something compelling exists that is worth a premium. This approach allows agencies the flexibility to pick the option that best suits their needs.
- **LPTA is often used where it should not be used.** “Lowest price/technically acceptable” can be an appropriate mechanism in highly regulated or commoditized industries, where there is little differentiation between minimally acceptable products. The approach, however, is popping up in situations where marginal product quality is a differentiator (such as medical products used to care for soldiers) and in the outcome-based services industry. A long dissertation is not necessary to explain why that approach is highly problematic. Would you like it if your children’s school hired its teachers on an LPTA basis?
- **LPTA often ends up costing more.** This contracting method frequently attracts contractors who are unable to fulfill the requirements or complete the work without great assistance from the government customer. (This can be the case especially when past performance is not evaluated.) Eventually, this drives up costs. It has held true through time with products that are minimally acceptable—the example of the vacuum cleaner is illustrative. In addition, this contracting method is driving responsible contractors away from doing business with the federal government, resulting in less competition. In fact, the number of small businesses participating in the federal marketplace has declined over the past few years.

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by Eric S. Crusius, Jan 12, 2015, govexec.com



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There are also social reasons to shy away from using LPTA, such as lower wages and benefits for contractor employees and the exclusion of small businesses from government contracting, all of which drives down the overall economy. This, of course, is counter to the Obama administration's efforts to raise wages among contractor employees.

LPTA advocates, including Mr. Cox, repeatedly point to bloated contractor profits. The number of contractors conducting layoffs and slashing salaries paint a different picture. As a result, a lot of talented individuals are moving away from public sector contractors in favor of commercial work. Do we really want the federal marketplace to become a bastion of firms that cannot cut it anywhere else? Indeed, prior to the 1984 Competition in Contracting Act, which jumped-started best-value contracting in the federal marketplace, a common refrain heard in the federal market was "good enough for the government." In other words, the government was content to settle for mediocrity—or worse.

Another common misperception is that best-value procurements always result in agencies buying features or services they do not need or want. Using a best-value procurement, however, an agency always has the discretion to choose the lowest bid.

The Government Accountability Office has consistently backed agencies that made that choice: "It is well-settled that an agency in a procurement based upon best value may properly select a lower-rated, lower-priced proposal, even where price is a less important evaluation factor than technical merit, where the agency reasonably concludes that the cost premium involved in selecting the higher-rated proposal is not justified in light of the acceptable level of technical competence available at a lower cost."

The government buyer is merely required to conduct a "trade-off" analysis when selecting an offer other than the lowest bid. The actual value and corresponding benefits of competing products or services is integral to the final source selection decisions. Surely Mr. Cox is not suggesting that the federal workforce is incapable of such an analysis.

Advocates also argue that protests are less likely when LPTA is used. The numbers, however, tell a different story. GAO statistics demonstrate that protest numbers are still rising (albeit at a slower pace) despite the falling number of federal dollars being spent. Part of the reason is that in a best-value environment vendors are much more likely to be conscious of the possibility that a decision to protest something today will affect the customer's impression of them tomorrow, which could dim future business prospects. But in a "price only" environment where loyalty and team play are given no consideration by the customer, filing a protest presents no negative implications for the vendor. So, in a LPTA environment a vendor is much more apt to see "nothing to lose" in filing a bid protest. Another reason is that technical acceptability can still involve judgment calls when determining the technical acceptability of the various bids.

While LPTA certainly has its place in federal contracting, that place is a small defined box with highly commoditized requirements. Anything larger robs agencies of much needed discretion, drives valuable contractors away from the federal marketplace, and enriches lawyers like me with more potential clients seeking assistance in filing bid protests.

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