

ASMC

GULF COAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

1



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
Publicity	Ms Gayle Thomas	883-2897
Mini-PDI	Ms Kimberly Sypher	882-7682
Membership	Ms Susan Ashworth	883-0177
Education/CDFM	Ms Kaci Harris	884-7643
 	Ms Heather Long	884-2806
 	Ms Lisa Gamon	883-5336
 	Ms Edwina Freeman	883-5317

Enlisted Advisors:

Hurlburt	TSgt Steven Coover	884-1548
Eglin	TSgt Kimberly Holen	882-2001
Ways & Means	Mika Gellinger	882-8650
 	Ms Jennifer Miller	882-0283
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



2

ASMC Gulf Coast Members,

As another ASMC year comes to close, it's hard to believe how fast it all went! We can look back on so many good times and successful events over this past year. Certainly too many to re-cap here. Most recently though, it was with resounding success that we brought back the RPDI to the convention center with a full scale production. What can you say about the Regional Professional Development Seminar of 2016 except that it was spectacular? Kaci Harris, Kristen Pedro and the rest of their team went above and beyond organizing our "signature" event... such a great job! One of my first memories when I arrived back in this area in 2007 was the RPDI events on the island and how impressive it was. I'm happy to see us restore this event to its deserved lofty status. The quality of the speakers and presentations were top-notch and it makes me so proud to be a part of this wonderful organization. Of course, the president dictates the course, so for Ms. Hodge to re-instate the full blown event as a goal on our annual agenda she truly set the bar high from the

...continued on next page

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.



President's Corner



3

beginning. As the general mentioned in his briefing at RPDI, the subordinate will usually only jump as high as the leader sets the bar. So, I'm glad our president saw this effort as worthwhile enough to set some high goals from the get-go.

By the time this publishes, I am confident our RFL team will have passed around high-5's for another successful fundraising event. The committee has worked so hard to get everything executed just right and I am blown away by how dedicated they are to ensuring this effort supports a worthy cause.

New officers will be taking over soon and we wish them even greater success toward advancing a positive agenda. It will take all of us working together to support this new leadership team. It has been a true whirlwind of a year with so many accomplishments and great times being in each other's company. I am sure I can speak for each of us from this year's leadership team when I say thank you to each and every one of you. Certainly, nothing gets done without your outstanding volunteer efforts. You all are the best! I'm already looking forward to what we can do next year.

*Rick Figueroa
ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter, VP-Eglin*



Upcoming Events



4

MAY LUNCHEON

When: 23 May 16, 1130

Where: Luke's Place, Eglin AFB

What: Jeanette Duncan, AF Audit Agency & Induction of new officers

*Please note that due to the need to base the number of pizzas ordered on the number of people registered, if you register, you will be expected to pay. Cut off is 20 May 16.

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

WAYS and MEANS

We are soliciting members' interest in upcoming volunteer opportunities at future luncheons. Be sure to provide your contact info, interest, and availability on our sign-up clipboard. Near future opportunities include:

- Annual ASMC Golf Tournament – **June 3rd, 2016 @ 1200**

POC: Mika Gellinger, 882-8650

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 8).

Chair: Heather Long, 884-2806, heather.long.7@us.af.mil



Community Service

5



Fisher House:

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 last July, and is scheduled every other Tuesday through the Month of June. We are still looking for volunteers for the following dates:

- Tuesday, 17 May 16
- Tuesday, 7 Jun 16
- Tuesday, 21 Jun 16
- More dates to follow

If anyone is interested in volunteering to provide a dinner with the Fisher House, you may call Maika Andrew at 850-420-8893 or she may be reached by email at maika.andrew.1@us.af.mil.

Pictured below from left to right:

Kent Fitzgerald, Kristen Pedro, George Joseph, and Jonathan Pinto from EBD



Pictured below from left to right: Lindsey Stephan, Neil Orness, and Amy Tolar from AFRL



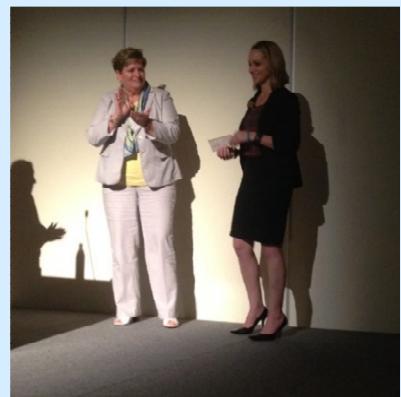


RPDI Success!

6



Thanks to all who attended the RPDI sponsored by our local ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter! A very successful event with nearly 250 attendees, dynamic speakers, and valuable training provided. One of the goals set by the Gulf Coast Chapter for the 2015-2016 year was to increase fundraising activities, and this event was instrumental in helping us obtain that goal! A big Thank You to all of you that made this happen. Proceeds help fund scholarships of deserving candidates and ASMC members, assist local charities, and support other operational activities for our Chapter.





Education/CDFM



7

- Coming down to the wire for this year's scholarships! There are two different ones: one for high school seniors/undergraduates and one for member's only. If you know anybody who is pursuing a business career, please send them the application. **Deadline 6 May**
- 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.
- CDFM Reimbursement: <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/cdfm.html> (New rules and form dated 13 May 2015)
- Purchasing a CDFM Test Module: <http://www.asmconline.org/certification/cdfm-information/testing-resources/>
- Forgot your CDFM Candidate number: <http://www.asmconline.org/certification/get-my-candidate-id/>
- EDFMT Course Details/Schedule: <http://www.asmconline.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



Websites

8



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.asmconline.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.asmconline.org to register and take tests as applicable to get your credit.



Panel Repeals Cuts to Pentagon Travel Per Diems

by Kellie Lunney, May 2nd, govexec.com



9

A House panel once again has approved legislation that would repeal cuts to per diems for service members and Defense civilian employees on long-term government travel.

The [fiscal 2017 Defense authorization bill](#), which the House Armed Services Committee reported out on April 28, included an amendment scrapping a [2014 Pentagon policy](#) that resulted in lower reimbursement rates for lodging, meals and other expenses for service members and civilian employees on long-term TDY (temporary duty).

The policy, which took effect on Nov. 1, 2014, reduced the reimbursement rates by 25 percent for long-term TDY of 31 to 180 days, and by 45 percent for travel exceeding 180 days. So for long-term TDY of 31 to 180 days, the reimbursement rate is up to 75 percent of the locality rate (lodging plus meals and incidentals) for each full day during that time frame; for travel lasting more than 180 days, it drops to 55 percent of the locality rate for each full day under the November 2014 policy.

Rep. Mark Takai, D-Hawaii, successfully offered the amendment, which also was in the House version of the fiscal 2016 Defense authorization bill, but was dropped from the final version during House-Senate negotiations over the legislation.

"I've heard stories of our personnel sleeping in campsites because they couldn't afford a hotel," Takai said during the markup. "There are instances when longer-term duty assignments are necessary to the needs of our military and are not simply a choice or a perk. This policy is eroding the morale of the workforce." Takai's amendment provided \$56 million to reverse the cuts.

Congress and the Obama administration have told agencies they need to slash travel costs. Still, Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill, as well as several unions, believe the Pentagon's changes have eroded morale and caused an undue burden on government travelers. The 2014 policy is simply unrealistic, given the increased rates of rental housing and many hotels, they have argued.

...continued next page



Panel Repeals Cuts to Pentagon Travel Per Diems

by Kellie Lunney, May 2nd, govexec.com



10

The movement to repeal the policy has broad and diverse support, including the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers, the American Federation of Government Employees, the American Hotel & Lodging Association, Marriott International, and Hilton Worldwide.

In the Senate, a group of bipartisan lawmakers with shipyards in their states in early February urged Defense Secretary Ash Carter to exempt naval shipyard employees from the 2014 policy.

The senators' letter references a [Jan. 19 letter](#) from the head of the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) asking Defense for an immediate waiver for shipyard workers from the new reduced reimbursement rates. "This is jeopardizing the successful execution of off-station availabilities and costing the Navy more than the intended savings," wrote Adm. William Hilarides to Anthony Kurta, the per diem, travel, and transportation allowance committee charter chair. "Reduced travel allowances have introduced inefficiencies and hardships for shipyard workers on long-term TDY."

Hilarides cited several factors related to the reduced per diems for long-term TDY that could adversely affect the command's mission, including "undesirable" turnover among staff because various bargaining unit agreements restrict the amount of forced travel the agency can impose on workers, and difficulty in finding adequate housing. The policy, Hilarides said, "has already had a negative impact on the naval shipyards' ability to effectively and efficiently conduct Navy ship maintenance."

In the fall of 2015, Republican Susan Collins of Maine and Democrat Brian Schatz of Hawaii [unsuccessfully tried to get appropriators to include language](#) in the fiscal 2016 omnibus spending bill that would have repealed the cuts to the long-term TDY per diems.

A congressionally-mandated study on the policy's ramifications on employees is due on June 1.



Info from Becker Professional Education



11

Becker is adding new courses constantly and many of them apply to the Government. They have both Yellow book and Green Book courses as well as soft skills that everyone needs. Below is information on CPA and CPE courses:

**Becker's CPA and CPE
courses are aligned to fulfill
DoD FM Certification competencies.**



Becker Professional Education is proud to announce that select Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Continuing Professional Education (CPE) courses offered by Becker are now aligned with the Department of Defense (DoD) Financial Management (FM) certification program.

DoD FM employees may take advantage of Becker courses to earn credits toward their level one, two, or three requirements for certification. Those interested can choose to enroll in the four-part CPA Exam Review course or select individual CPA Exam Review parts or CPE courses to earn credit towards their competencies. Becker's CPA Exam Review and CPE courses align with 15 of the 17 DoD FM competencies*.

Prepare for the CPA Exam while meeting the DoD FM competencies.

Over the past 50 years, Becker has helped over 400,000 candidates successfully prepare for the CPA Exam. Federal Government employees can take advantage of the following pricing:

- Enroll in one CPA Exam Review part: \$910 (list price \$1,120)
- Enroll in two CPA Exam Review parts: \$1,820 (list price \$2,240)
- Enroll in all four CPA Exam Review parts: \$1,930 (list price \$3,360)
- 0% Financing is also available. For more information, visit becker.com/financing.

Enroll today: becker.com/dodfm

Earn CPE credits while meeting the DoD FM competencies.

Now DoD FM employees can obtain their CET credits through Becker's comprehensive online CPE course catalog. Our courses cover pertinent topics that address issues critical to today's accounting professionals, plus:

- Our courses meet 100% of the CET credits needed to maintain the DoD FM certification.
- Becker's CPE course catalog includes a comprehensive list of relevant Government CPE courses.
- Try before you buy. Sample a CPE course with our complimentary demo at becker.com.

For more details and pricing: Visit becker.com/dodfm or call 877.BPE.8238

*These courses have been aligned by the DoD, Office of the Under Secretary of Comptroller, to the DoD approved Financial Management and Leadership competencies for the specific area of study. The DoD course alignments serve neither as an advertisement, endorsement, or recommendation of any privately developed and maintained courses for continuing education.

becker.com

ACCOUNTING | PROJECT MANAGEMENT | HEALTHCARE

©2014 DeVry/Becker Educational Development Corp. All rights reserved.

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