



GULF COAST CHAPTER NEWS



NOV 10

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is with a heavy heart that I write this month's article. The ASMC and FM communities were rocked last week with the loss of a valued team member. We send our condolences out to the Buentello family as they struggle with their loss. Marcy was a professional who touched all our lives on a day to day basis. She was loved and will be sorely missed by the Eglin community.

As we move into the holiday season I realize that we should give thanks for those things that are truly important in our lives: family, friends, health, and our freedom. Let's keep in mind those less fortunate than us and our deployed troops who are fighting for our freedom. We have several volunteer opportunities coming up to help out those less fortunate and please let us know if you have an FM troop that is deployed so that we can get a care package in the mail to them.

Please ensure that you are signed up to attend the November luncheon on the 16th at Hurlburt Soundside. We have Col Thomas C. Carter, Director of Financial Management and Comptroller, Headquarter Air Force intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency (ISR), speaking to us about the unique ways that we are currently funding ISR Units across the Air Force and the capabilities that brings to the FM world. This promises to be a very interesting presentation.

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President's Column - Continued

Also save your date now for the ASMC Holiday luncheon on 2 Dec at the East Gate Chapel. This luncheon will be free to ASMC members but we will be asking you to bring a toy to donate and your favorite dessert to share. I hear from our programs committee that we have some great door prizes this year and it should be a good time for all.

As we go about our lives keep this quote from Ralph Emerson in mind: "What is success? To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; that is to have succeeded."

Dedra
Dedra Hickman, CDFM
President, Gulf Coast Chapter

Membership

Co-Chairs, Troy Brown and Woxie Williams

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 persons who do not 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.* Contact membership chairs Troy Brown 883-0839 or Woxie Williams 883-3449.

Thanks,
Woxie & Troy

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.

Executive Committee

President	Ms Dedra Hickman	882-4851
VP-Eglin	Ms Kathy Davis	882-6784
VP-Hurlburt	Capt Anita Logan	884-4050
VP-Tenants	Ms Sarah Gaffney	884-5383
Secretary	Ms Sharon Pedersen	882-3812
Community Service	Ms Sheila Hale	883-1099
	Ms Brianna Hoppell	883-3411
	Ms Maika Andrew	882-7211
Education	Ms Sandra Telemacque	882-3511
	Ms Donna Schulist	882-4538
CDFM	Mr Ron Millis	882-4329
	Ms DJ Rasmussen	883-1079
Membership	Ms Woxie Williams	883-3449
	Mr Troy Brown	883-0839
Programs	Ms Ivonne Caridi-Anderson	882-1929
	Mr Jon Slingerland	882-3301
Publicity	Ms Kaci Harris	882-1525
	Ms Pati Galvan	883-0655
	Jenna Colon	882-9380
Newsletter	Ms Laura Gamble	884-6869
Regional PDI	Ms Katenna Edwards	882-1768
	Ms April Chapel	882-6768
	Ms Leah Hodge	883-3384
	Dana Alexander (NCMA)	882-0185
Treasurer	Ms Amy Tolar	882-2001
	Ms April Chapel	882-6768
Ways & Means	Ms Jennifer Denega	883-4787
	Ms Cleo Battle	883-1690
Webmaster	Mr Jason Guzzardo	882-0055
	Ms Lynn Becker	882-4866
Eglin Enlisted Advisor	TSgt Phillip Chapman	882-0064
Awards Committee	Ms Gayle Thomas	883-1686

ASMC Awards

It's time to start thinking about rewarding your outstanding performers. Nominations for Individual Achievement Awards are due 31 January 2011. These awards will be presented at the ASMC PDI.

Nominations must be prepared using the ASMC Awards OnLine website at www.asmconline.org/awards. For more information contact Gayle Thomas 883-2897 or gayle.thomas@eglin.af.mil

RPDS

RPDS planning is currently underway with most of the focus going towards programs you will find educational, entertaining and enlightening.

The biggest news we have right now is our price ... we've worked hard to reduce the cost to \$110.00 per person in order to ensure organizations are able to afford the cost of this training. You'll see some changes ... less frills ... but it will still be the same valuable training and networking event it has been in the past.

Watch for flyers and information for registration - and we hope to see you all there!

Kateena Edwards, April Chapel, Leah Hodge and Dana Alexander (NCMA)

Ways & Means – Jennifer Denega

Ways & Means

Chair Jennifer Denega

Vice-Chair Cleo Battle

Future Events

🍁 Gift-wrapping at the Base Exchanges (Dec 10) – please e-mail if you would like to help

🍁 Pending dates and time slots

🍁 We intend to wrap at both Eglin and Hurlburt this year

Thank you to all who continue to volunteer for our Ways & Means projects.

If you are interested in being part of the Ways & Means Committee, please contact:

jennifer.denega@eglin.af.mil

883-4787

cleo.battle@eglin.af.mil

883-1690

Your suggestions are always welcome for the Ways and Mean Committee.

Blessings for a Beautiful Fall!



Programs – Ivonne Caridi-Anderson and Jon Slingerland

Our next luncheon is November 16th when Col Thomas C. Carter, Director Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) Agency Financial Management, will discuss the ISR funding mission. Pre-payment is required, so sign up today!

<https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/Reg/Register.asp?Filter=OO-ED-AA-A2&Eventid=189&Groupid=243&Class=190756&TypeName=Class>

On December 2nd we will host our annual Holiday Luncheon. It will be at the Eglin Chapel (East Gate), from 11 AM – 2:30 PM. It's free to active ASMC members, and please bring your favorite dessert to share. Register at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/Reg/Register.asp?Filter=OO-ED-AA-A2>

CDFM – Ron Millis

Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training (EDFMT)

The five day Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course will be offered at Eglin AFB 3-7 Jan 2011. The course is provided by the Department of Defense and is licensed and copyrighted by the American Society of Military Comptrollers. If your personnel are interested in attending this course please have them register using the EDFMT Registration (available o/a 30 Aug 10) link below. There are 30 seats available for USAF personnel and shared between Eglin and Hurlburt Field. Attendees will be expected to complete CDFM certification within a reasonable timeframe after course completion.

Begin Date: 03 January 2011

End Date: 07 January 2011

Location: Eglin AFB, FL

Time: 0800-1630 Hrs

Location: Bldg 11 201B

<https://www.atrrs.army.mil/edfmt/>

Contact Ron Millis at 882-4329 for additional details.

Community Service

Big thanks to those who volunteered at the Baytowne Beer Festival in support of Fisher House and a "special" thanks to SSgt Amber Ciesielski! SSgt Ciesielski went above and beyond extending her volunteer hours for the full day when there was a shortage of volunteers enabling Fisher House to receive their donation from the festival. Thanks SSgt Ciesielski—great job!

UP-COMING EVENTS:

RELAY FOR LIFE: Looking for additional people to help assist in this fund-raising event. If interested, please contact us. Meetings have already started to take place.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

25 Nov: **Harbor Docks Thanksgiving Dinner**, volunteers needed 22/23 & 25 November to help assist Charles Morgan, owner of Harbor Docs open the door to provide free Thanksgiving dinner to the locals. Volunteers will be assisting wait staff and cooking the meal. Also, children as young as 6 can help assist with this event.

POC: Christy@habitatfwb.org

SHELTER HOUSE:

22 Nov: **Thanksgiving Meal Basket Assembly**, Monday, 5:30 – 8:00 pm. Volunteers needed to help assemble meal baskets, stuff/label holiday cards and assemble annual reports. POC: Cynthia at 243-1201 or info@shelterhousenwfl.org

21 Dec: **Winter Holiday Meal Basket Assembly**, Tues, 5:30 – 8:30pm. Volunteers needed to help assemble holiday meals. POC: Cynthia at 243-1201 or info@shelterhousenwfl.org

BRILLIANT MINDS:

Are requesting "slightly" used hand bags to be donated for upcoming fund raiser. POC: Nancy Rothe, 850-450-8942, nancyrothe@cox.net

FISHER HOUSE:

10 Dec: **Howl at the Moon Ticket Pre-Sale**. Camouflage and Christmas Lights, patrons encouraged to dress festive in support of the troops. Fisher House to receive (all) the money on the pre-sold tickets and money from the raffle. POC: Julie Thompson, 883-8072.

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Community Service

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ON-GOING EVENTS:

DEPLOYABLE CARE PACKAGES - Continue to send names of FM troops that are deployed.

HELPING HAND/MOWING BRIGADE: Continue to send requests of (family members) of (deployed) FM troops who need help (during their absence) for small projects around the house to include mowing. POC: David.Herndon@eglin.af.mil

PROGRAMS SUPPORTED:

1. Brilliant Minds - medical/educational resources for Autism, ADHD, & Down Syndrome children
2. Habitat for Humanity - creating affordable housing opportunities
3. Relay for Life - fight against cancer
4. Fisher House - providing home away from home that enables family members to be close to a love one during stressful times.
5. Blankets of Hope - handmade blankets supporting wounded soldiers/vets
6. Shelter House - survivors of domestic violence
7. Opportunity Inc - helping the homeless
8. Deployable Care Packages - sent to FM (deployed) troops
9. Helping Hand Committee
10. Give a Child a Christmas

Finally, help us keep track of your volunteer hours – email us. As always your suggestions welcomed!

POCs:

Sheila Hale, sheila.hale@eglin.af.mil, 883-0158

Brianna Hoppel, Brianna.hoppel@eglin.af.mil, 883-3411

Maika Andrew, Maika.andrew@eglin.af.mil, 882-1755

FEHBP plans have wide range of flexibility and cost

By Emily Long elong@govexec.com November 5, 2010

Participants in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program have myriad options in selecting a plan this open season. When deciding which type of coverage fits best, they should consider their preferences, such as whether they intend to see a particular physician or want the flexibility to seek care from a wide range of providers.

Walton Francis, author of the Consumers' Checkbook 2011 Guide to Health Plans for Federal Employees, said there is no right choice, as most FEHBP participants favor some plan features or cost structures over others.

A health maintenance organization offers enrollees access to a limited panel of service providers and will not cover care received outside of the plan's network. According to Francis, HMOs have generous benefits and don't require co-insurance or deductibles. Enrollees will have co-payments, or fixed-dollar costs for each physician visit or hospital stay, but low out-of-pocket expenses for in-network care. These plans are a straightforward choice for new and young federal employees who have few medical needs but may be limiting for those who want a wider range of service providers, he noted.

"You don't have to let your fingers do walking through the yellow pages to find a doctor," said Francis. "There's a modest amount of safety in the sense that the HMO manages things and performs oversight of the physicians and services in the network."

National plans, such as Blue Cross Blue Shield Standard Option, Mail Handlers Benefit Plan Standard and Value, and GEHA High and Standard, have a larger list of preferred providers than HMOs but also will cover the cost of some out-of-network services. These plans have reasonable deductibles and co-payments. They offer maximum flexibility, but participants pay higher premiums in return, said Francis.

Consumer-driven and high-deductible plans require users to think more carefully about the type and cost of services they receive, according to Francis. These options have preferred providers, allow participants to seek out-of-network care and offer some type of savings account option for health care expenses. Enrollees pay several thousand dollars toward a deductible before coverage kicks in, he said.

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Francis said one variable is whether plan participants prefer to visit a particular physician. But he noted employees' approach to health care and the features they want will determine the type of coverage that's right for them.

"My main advice is to look around a little bit," he said. "Don't automatically eliminate a category like HMO or high deductible. Don't assume they're not for you without looking at them."

Open season for 2011 runs from Nov. 8 to Dec. 13 and allows enrollees to alter or cancel their health, dental, vision and flexible spending account elections without penalty.

Before making any changes in health coverage, however, employees should know more than just how much their premium increased:

Co-insurance: The amount an enrollee pays for a service, such as a doctor's visit, as a percentage of the plan's allowance (20 percent of the cost of the service, for example).

Co-payments: The amount an enrollee pays for a service as a fixed dollar amount (\$15 per doctor's visit, for example).

Deductibles: The dollar amount an individual or family must pay out of pocket for services before the insurance plan begins to cover expenses. There could be separate deductibles for different types of services, such as prescription drugs or outpatient care.

In-network coverage: The doctors, clinics, health centers, hospitals, medical practices and other providers with whom a plan has an agreement to care for its participants.

Out-of-network coverage: Treatment from doctors, hospitals, and medical practitioners other than those with whom a plan has an agreement. Services will cost more for out-of-network providers.

Preauthorization/prior approval requirements: Assurance from the plan that benefits will be provided and the cost of services covered.

Current & Next Meetings and other ASMC events

UPCOMING ASMC LUNCHEONS –

Mark your calendars:

16 Nov 10: Col Carter, AFISR

2 Dec 10: Christmas Party

Please contact our Program Chairs, Ms Ivonne Caridi-Anderson (882-1929) or Mr Jon Slingerland (882-3301) 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, Lynn Becker at 850- 882-4866 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>

PDI 2010 was held in Orlando FL June 1-4, with a theme of “Getting in Tune with Professionalism.”

Go on the national website to see more about the PDI or to view selected sessions for CPE.

**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

ASMC CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Date: Thurs, Dec 2, 2010

Time: 1100 - 1430

Location: Eglin Chapel (East Gate Annex)

Admission: Free to Active ASMC Members

Menu:

Beef Brisket & Smoked Turkey

B-B-Q Baked Beans

Potato Salad

Buns

Pickles

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**DOOR
PRIZES**

Bring along your favorite dessert to share!

Please use the below link to register for the festivities.

<https://afkm.wpaafb.af.mil/ASPs/Reg/Register.asp?Filter=OO-ED-AA-A2>

AQ-FM 110 ASMC Prof Devel: Holiday Event



October Luncheon highlights



ABOVE: Mr. Tom Rice, Vice President of Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, discusses the benefits and opportunities for involvement with Fisher House.

BELOW: ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter President Ms. Dedra Hickman presents Mr. Tom Rice, Vice President of Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, with a Certificate of Appreciation.



October Luncheon highlights



ABOVE: Ms. Dedra Hickman presents Ms. Luvenia Shuman, Air Force Audit Agency, with a Certificate of Appreciation.

BELOW: Lt Col Terri Sheppard presents SrA Akshay Botre with the ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter MAD Award.

