



President's Message

**Maj, Michael J. Rooney
COMMANDER, 95 CPTS**



CERTIFICATION: HOW TO GET THERE AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOUR CAREER

Spring has finally sprung! Soon the Antelope Valley will be awash with poppies, homeowners will commit themselves to their annual spring cleanup, Financial Services transformation will kick into high gear, and diligent ASMC members will rededicate themselves to finally completing the remaining three or four classes they need to complete their associates, bachelors or masters degrees. As we think of the importance of education and the role it plays in advancing our careers, improving our social standing, and fulfilling our desire for self

actualization, we should also consider the benefits of professional certification.

With our annual PDI just around the corner, this is the ideal time for many High Desert Chapter members to turn their thoughts to studying and taking the required tests to become Certified Defense Financial Managers (CDFM). While this is truly a lofty and worthwhile goal, it will require dedication, a commitment to study, and a willingness to broaden one's horizons by striking out and seeking knowledge in areas of Financial Management which are often strange or unfamiliar to us. With that in mind, I highly encourage our members >>>

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Treasurer



Chapter

~ UP-COMING CHAPTER MEMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS ~ **ASMC Meetings: Start 11:30 - Place: Wolfe Yeager Room, Bldg. 2800**

"16 April 2009"

Ms. Rose Burnham will speak on Cost & Risk Analysis (CARA)

"18 June 2009"

Mr. Michael Moore will speak on "Leadership" - Place TBD



seeking professional certification to get with others who have recently completed the CDFM tests to get a broad understanding of not only the depth and breadth of material necessary to successfully pass these tests, but also the types of study habits employed and the amount of time invested to achieve the goal. The next step would be to find other interested people who are also planning to test for CDFM and, with your diverse backgrounds and experiences, you should be able to form small effective study groups with these people. If a member of your group has experience in one particular discipline, have that person lead your study session but be actively involved and ask questions in areas that you may not be completely familiar with.

As I recommended at our January luncheon, seek out those who have experience working issues or processes that you and your study group are unfamiliar with. If possible, ask these functional area experts to give a brief process presentation to your study group over lunch. We have many within our Chapter with broad experiences they would be glad to share if asked. So ask!

Why is professional certification important to your career???

Three reasons:

First, for our civilian workforce CDFM may be the final way to differ-

entiate, which puts you ahead of the competition when seeking out new employment opportunities within the federal government. It shows supervisors and managers that you are a person invested in your career and are one who has dedicated yourself to improving your professional qualifications. When you complete professional certification, you further build out your resume and distinguish yourself from your peers.

Second, obtaining professional certification is an achievement to be proud of. The module tests are anything but easy. Successfully completing them demonstrates mastery of the subject matter (even when you know that there is still so much you don't know). Obtaining your certification demonstrates your understanding of the principles underpinning financial management within the Department of Defense. It also means that you understand what you don't know but are equipped with the skills necessary to find the right answers.

Finally, certification assures the public that those charged with managing taxpayer's money in an efficient and effective manner. Given the errors of the past and a general misperception as to the manner in which government employees carry out their assigned duties, certification can only help improve the public's confidence in the work we do as federal financial managers.



Ultimately, CDFM credentials put you into a select but growing group of professional financial managers who can be relied upon to provide well reasoned decision support to their leadership. Those who fail to avail of the opportunity are doing themselves a disservice and hampering their career growth potential. If you're up to

the challenge and would like more information on CDFM, please visit www.asmconline.org or go directly to the CDFM program page at <http://www.asmc certification.com>



ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP SUBMISSIONS & AWARDS By Nancy Wachter - Committee Chairperson

Scholarship Committee Report



The ASMC High Desert chapter high school scholarship selection committee for 2009 was chaired by Nancy Wachter. The members of the committee were Kathleen Augustine, Toni Culver and Rebecca Pease. Scholarship applications had gone out to approximately 20 local high schools and unfortunately we had applications returned from only three schools. Scholarships in the amount of \$500 will be awarded to two high school seniors entering into the business field. Committee members

will be attending award nights at the two schools to present the winners with certificates. Upon acceptance in a college the scholarship money will be sent directly to the school.

AND THE WINNERS ARE!!!

Sorry can't name them yet...since they haven't been announced yet by their respective schools, but of the two \$500 winners one is being submitted as a National scholarship competition entry. We will announce the two winner's names in the next newsletter.



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes
High Desert Chapter Minutes
6 Jan 2009**

Officers and Committee Chairs Present:

Maj Michael Rooney	President
Anita Rennie	1 st Vice
Charlotte Phillips	2 nd Vice
Toni Culver	3 rd Vice
Zarie Flemig	Treasurer
Kathleen Augustine	Events Coordinator
Jackie Burdian	Secretary

Meeting called to order at 0900.

Anita will be rescheduling the visit to AV Hospital to give away the bears to the children.

Anita passed the book over to Maj Rooney.

Zarie suggested that Kathleen plan out lunches a year in advance to make things easier.

January's General Meeting needs to be pushed back a week due to the UCI. Kathleen will pick up the lunch for January's meeting in Lancaster. (Poss. Green House Café)

Anita will recap all events for 2008 at the meeting.

Maj Rooney will be added to ASMC bank account.

Anita will be selecting a new Tax Service to file taxes and to place us into a tax exempt status.

Anita plans to check with Sam White to see how the Newsletter is coming along. Anita stated that each member should write a monthly blurb on the different charities and provide this to Sam to put in the Newsletters.

CDFM Courses are coming up. Do we have anyone interested? An email needs to be sent out asking for interested participants.

A speaker from the previous PDI is willing to speak on Financial Planning. He plans to speak in San Diego soon.

The Board plans to ask Rebecca Pease to announce the Board nominees again this year Scholarship committee needs to send out package to the schools and request applicants from the counselors.

Maj Rooney plan to write a blurb for the newsletter regarding the families that received the donations during Christmas.



We need to give Barbara Sobaski a letter of appreciation for her thoughtfulness and hard work making the jewelry and giving the proceeds towards December's charity. We need to gear up and prepare for the Cancer Walk soon.



Meeting adjourned @ 10:00
Jackie Burdian, Secretary

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS
HIGH DESERT CHAPTER
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
28 Jan 2009**

Officers and Committee Chairs Present:

Maj Michael Rooney	President
Anita Rennie	1 st Vice
Charlotte Phillips	2 nd Vice
Toni Culver	3 rd Vice
Zarie Flemig	Treasurer
Kathleen Augustine	Events Coordinator
Jackie Burdian	Secretary

Business

Meeting called to order by Maj Rooney @ 12:00

Secretary

Minutes for December's meeting were emailed to members for review and approved 1st by Richard Phillips and 2nd by Phyllis Wright. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

EFCU checking \$2,305.85
Scholarship Fund \$2,680.85

Money Market

Pentagon FCU \$14,131.67
EFCU \$5,646.50



Next Month Meeting:

Mike Ryan will be speaking on 3 Easy steps to take towards a bigger and better Government Retirement.

New Business

ASMC Connection – EDT open enrollment 23 Feb.

Nancy Watcher sent out 2 high school scholarships. Due date for applications is 27 Feb.

Relay for Life coming soon.

PDI applications due 6 Feb. to Toni Culver. Registration should open up mid March.

Virginia won a free lunch for next month.

Dee Cameron is working on 5 Star Chapter. Please provide her with information.

Speaker:

Anita Rennie was our speaker. The topic of discussion was “High Desert ASMC Chapter - A look back on 2008 and a look forward.” A \$20 donation will be donated to the National Cancer Society.

Meeting adjourned @ 12:30
Jackie Burdian
Secretary

MEMBER’S ARTICLE

A CHANGE IS COMING!

“The Air Force Financial Service Center (AFFSC)”

By Capt, Whiticar Darvill - 95 CPTS/FMAO

Financial Services is full speed ahead for a migration to the Air Force Financial Service Center (AFFSC) located at Ellsworth AFB. The migration will allow a centralization of processes to gain efficiencies. Utilizing trained technicians whose primary responsibility will be processing documents, the AFFSC will be able to focus greater resources on the primary mission of paying members. A secondary effect will be a more consistent financial customer service. Historically, members could inquire about a specific military pay question

and receive a different answer depending on whom in the FSO they asked. The future is for customers to first seek answers to questions online or through a centralized call center. This will greatly increase the standardization of pay related questions and answers. The ultimate end state for the Financial Transformation is for customers to utilize the Click, Call, Walk concept. Customers should click on web resources located in the Life & Career tab under the Money – Finance Center page on the AF portal. There will be an elec-



tronic in-processing program for members who recently PCSed. There will also be an eFinance program utilizing a “turbo-tax” like interface to help customers fill out required pay affecting forms. The Call portion of the concept will be a centralized call center, operating 24/7. This will greatly help get answers to deployed troop whose home station operates on a differing time. The final step will be for a customer to Walk into the local FSO to speak face to face with a technician who will help answer questions.

The first day of cutover for Edwards is 24 April 2009, but CPTS has been preparing for months. With the help the 95 CG, we are ready to transmit travel and

military pay documents to the AFFSC via the electronic information management (EIM) program. This is great news, as CPTS absorbed manning cuts back in 2007 in preparation for the migration. While customers will not see any difference in how they can file travel vouchers, the expected payment timeline is returning to the Air Force standard with 95% paid within 10 days and 100% within 30 days. This is a major deviation from our current 5-7 day payment window, but the DoD standard has always been 30 days. We need all of EAFBs leadership to support this effort and be patient as the AF changes to the future of Financial Services.

W.D.

**MONTHLY CHAPTER GIVING TO GRACE RESOURCES
Helping to Serve The Homeless In The Antelope Valley
“Community Giving Project”**



Monthly our local Chapter members gather and donate clothes etc. to Grace Resource Center, helping to feed and cloth the homeless.





HIGH DESERT CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES 10 Feb 2009

Officers and Committee Chairs Present:

Maj Michael Rooney	President
Anita Rennie	1 st Vice
Charlotte Phillips	2 nd Vice
Toni Culver	3 rd Vice
Zarie Flemig	Treasurer
Kathleen Augustine	Events Coordinator
Jackie Burdian	Secretary

Meeting called to order at 0900
Donating the bears to Antelope Valley
Hospital will be postponed again.

Anita has 2 new prospects for the tax-
es.

Toni Culver will ask Rebecca Pease to
audit tax records. Janet Fitzgerald did
the audit last year. Zarie will look into
Bill Bruens or Janet Fitzgerald doing it.
The audit is to be completed within the
next 4 weeks.

Charlottes needs to provide a list of
proposed speakers for the next quarter.
The following people were suggested:
Tom Oko, Lori Williams from AFRL,
Col. Gerald Brown from the JAG office,
Capt Stengel, Steve Lundy and Mr.
Bernard to represent NAF.
For March, we will have Lt Darvill
speak on Financial Services Transfor-
mation and in April the POC from the
412th FM.

Blankets and charitable donations are
due by 18 Feb. Kathleen will check with
Grace Resource about donating shoes
and socks for March.

The board voted to donate \$200-250
quarterly for different charities. The
board also voted to donate \$250 to buy
food for Grace Resource this month.
We need to look into holding fund rais-
ers to help support the donations. It
was suggested to have a muffin or ba-
gel sale and Kathleen will look into the
stipulations of having the basket auc-
tion.

We reviewed and discussed the appli-
cants wanting to go to this year's PDI.

There is going to be a large attendance
for February's General meeting. Kath-
leen will need assistance in
setting/cleaning up.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:20
Jackie Burdian, Secretary



HIGH DESERT CHAPTER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES 16 Mar 2009

Business

Meeting called to order by Maj Rooney
@ 12:00

Secretary

Minutes for February's meeting were emailed to members for review. There was a correction stated that not only did the board approve to donate \$200-\$250 per quarter to a charity, but Maj Rooney put the proposal to the floor for a vote and it was approved. Motion was made 1st by Maj Rooney and 2nd by Kathleen Augustine. Approved.

New Business

Maj Rooney discussed the selection process of choosing member's for PDI. It is based on the direction individuals are going in their career. The funding is provided by Don Sullivan and he ultimately makes the final decision. If individuals are not chosen to go, their organization can use their TDY funds to send them.

Toni Culver and Kathleen Augustine are responsible for heading up a Charity Event at Grace Resource. For the month of March, the ASMC board members are requesting donations for new socks, new or slightly used shoes, and always toiletry items. These items will be distributed on March 25th for those who wish to participate

The members were asked to think about other charities that might need

help and submit them to the board/membership.

Toni Sandelli talked about the Relay for Life. This event is to help raise funds for the American Cancer Society. It will be held on April 18th and 19th at Quartz Hill School. There are 9 team members and you can give a donation to anyone of them. Also, from 11:00-3:00PM, Antelope Valley Hospital is conducting a long-term study on individuals who have never had cancer before and are between the ages of 30-60.

Nancy Watcher said that there were 2 high school students who will receive a scholarship for \$500. We will forward one on to National.

Lashunda Waterman won next month's free lunch.

Speaker:

Lt Whitaker Darvill briefed on Financial Services Transformation. On behalf of Lt Whitaker Darvill, ASMC will be donating \$20 to the American Cancer Society.

Meeting adjourned @ 12:30





ASMC NATIONAL NEWS

ASMC Selects New Executive Director

Mr. Tucker replaces the Honorable Robert Hale who was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller/Chief Financial Officer).

Mr. Tucker is well known in the Department of Defense (DoD) financial community. He has extensive experience in Defense accounting, audit, and budget and has demonstrated a strong commitment to the professional goals of ASMC by serving as Chair of the CDFM Commission. He joins ASMC from the accounting firm of Grant Thornton LLP where he spent 12 years, and served as a Director in the Defense and Intelligence practice. During his federal service he was DoD Deputy Chief Financial Officer from 1990 to 1997. Previous to that he was Deputy Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Deputy Assistant Inspector General (Audit) in the Office of the DoD

IG, and Director of Training and Education in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). He began his federal career with the Army Audit Agency, and progressed to staff positions as an auditor and budget analyst in the OSD Comptroller organization before joining the Senior Executive Service in 1979. He retired from the Civil Service in 1997 with 34 years of service. Mr. Tucker is a Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM), a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), and a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM). He is the recipient of the Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service, with oak leaf cluster and was twice named a Meritorious Senior Executive. A graduate of the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, he is also a graduate of the Federal Executive Development Program sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management.

Alvin Tucker resides in Crofton Maryland with his wife Jacqueline.

FINANCIAL FUN FACTS - TAXES Submitted by Sara Cameron - Member

History and Facts

The first US income tax was started during the Civil War to help raise money back in 1862.

The 16th Amendment, ratified in 1913, established the first permanent US income tax.

There are over 7 million words in the tax law and regulations. That beats the Gettysburg address, the Declaration of Independence, and the Holy Bible all rolled into one (269 + 1,337 + 773,000 = 774,606).



By 1945, 43 million Americans were paying income tax. In 1939, there were only 4 million income tax payers.

In 1916 Congress deleted the word “lawful” before the word “income” making illegal income taxable.

Collection & Forms

The easiest form, the 1040EZ, has thirty-three pages of instructions.

The first e-file (electronic transmission of a tax return) occurred on January 24, 1986...by 1989, taxpayers in 36 states could e-file their taxes...by 1990, everyone could.

The Cato Institute estimates that there are 1.2 million tax payers in this country.

Tax Freedom Day (is the first day of the year in which a nation as a whole has theoretically earned enough income to fund its annual tax burden) was April 23rd in 2008, a few days earlier than last year (April 26th) because of the tax stimulus rebate.

21% of paper returns have errors, 0.5% of e-file returns have errors; doing your taxes electronically seems to be the best bet.

Weird Tax Laws

Drug Tax Stamps – In at least 20 states (not including California) there is a tax on illegal drugs. When you buy an illegal drug, like marijuana or even moonshine, in Tennessee, you have 48 hours to report it to the Department of Revenue to pay your tax and get a stamp for the substance. No identification needed. For more information on tax rates and penalties, you can visit:
http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6668.

Jock Tax” – Levied on athletes who earn an income competing in a particular city or state. California first levied this tax on athletes from Chicago in 1991, after the Chicago Bulls beat the LA Lakers in the 1991 NBA Finals.

Alabama has a 10 cent tax on each deck of playing cards.

Blueberries from Maine are subject to specific tax too, anyone who grows, purchases, sells, handles, or processes blueberries in Maine has to pay a penny and a half tax per pound.

In Chicago, fountain soda drinks are taxed at 9%, if it comes from a bottle or can then it's only taxed 3%.

Sources: Jim. “50 Fun Facts About Taxes.” [Bargaineering.com](http://www.bargaineering.com). April 15, 2008. Bargaineering: Engineering a richer life. February 9, 2009.

<http://www.bargaineering.com/articles/50-fun-facts-about-taxes.html>>

Marco, Meg. “It's Tax Day! 13 Interesting Facts about US Taxes.”

[Consumerist.com](http://consumerist.com). April 17, 2007. The Consumerist. February 9, 2009.

<http://consumerist.com/consumer/taxes/its-tax-day-13-interesting-facts-about-us-taxes-252882.php>>



**18-19 APRIL 2009
QUARTZ HILL HIGH SCHOOL
High Desert Chapter Team Event**

Sign up on line: <http://events.cancer.org/rfillancasterca> our Team Name is ASMC and Toni Sandelli is the Team Captain Camp Site has already been reserved

Sign up on line (you do not need to pay on line, but you can. If you like you can make your check out to The American Cancer Society and give it to Toni, or you can pay cash. Registration Fee is \$10.00). Teams should bring a flag representing the team, we can use our ASMC banner. All teams will make a lap carrying their flag.

MONEY....MONEY...MONEY...Balance Sheet

HIGH DESERT CHAPTER Treasurer's Report February 2009	
Beginning Balance	\$4,989.64
Add: Revenues checking	721.00
Revenues saving	1.13
Less: Expenses checking	750.69
Expenses saving	0.00
Ending Balance	\$4,961.08
Treasurer's note to members:	
1. Edwards Federal Credit Union checking account balance:	\$2,278.06
EFCU savings account balance for Scholarships:	\$2,683.02
2. Pentagon Federal Credit Union money market certificate and savings account balance as of statement 16 January 2009:	\$14,305.25
(PFCU Dividends Year to Date \$59.13)	
3. Edwards Federal Credit Union money market certificate balance as of statement February 2009:	\$5,646.50
(EFCU Dividends 2006 \$215.65)	
(EFCU Dividends 2007 YTD \$207.24)	
(EFCU Dividends 2008 YTD \$223.61)	

