

High Desert Chapter ASMC

# High Desert Wind Newsletter

American Society of Military Comptrollers

4th Quarter  
2007



## CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dee Cameron



**Happy New Fiscal Year 2008.** The Edwards AFB financial management community has once again survived the End of Fiscal Year processes. From all the comments I have been hearing from all the organizations involved, it went smoothly. A planned end of year picnic for both FM and PK is scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, so relax and enjoy it. To all of you that worked so hard this year, thanks for a job well done.

Once again, our ASMC members have supported and participated in the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" (There are plenty of pictures out on the common drive). Relay For

Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money to help the American Cancer Society save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer, and empower individuals to fight back against the disease. During the event, our ASMC teams gathered at the Antelope Valley College Campus and took turns walking or running laps. We have raised to date \$3,937 but we may have an update at a later time.

It is time to start thinking about PDI 2008 in Orlando, Florida. Permission forms are usually sent out in the January timeframe so decisions can be made as to who will be attending. Due to

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

**13 NOV 2007**

**"Annual Thanksgiving - Member Appreciation Meeting"**  
Lunch Will Be Catered At No Cost To The Membership



continued funding constraints this year I am not sure how many will be allowed to attend. Keep your eyes and ears open concerning this, 2nd Vice President, Rebecca Pease will be sending out information as she gets it.

There is a new approach to ASMC's 1-Day CDFM Training. For the past two years, ASMC headquarters has paid for instructors to visit some chapters to offer a day of intensive training on one CDFM module. This year, instead of sending instructors to those chapters that can muster enough students, we plan to cancel the on-site training program and experiment with offering the instruction as audio training. There will be no minimum on number of participants for this audio training. Specifically, on January 28 and 29, 2008, we expect to offer intensive training for Module 3 of the CDFM during two four-hour blocks on consecutive days using phone lines. If this experiment succeeds, we will offer training on the other basic CDFM modules.

There is a New Service Coming from ASMC - Career Central. Within the next two months, ASMC hopes to introduce a new service to its members. The ASMC Career Central will be an electronic job board that will permit companies and government agencies to post

job offerings online. Individuals will be able to post resumes online, which will be matched to job offerings. Career Central will release contact information to companies/agencies only if individuals explicitly approve. ASMC members will receive "top billing" in our Career Central, as will CDFMs.

The Holidays are coming up and our November and December meeting will follow those themes. We will also be taking food and money donations to continue with the Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets that are a tradition here in FM (the FM Rec Club and ASMC work this effort together). Information will be coming out concerning what will be needed for the baskets as well.

With that, I want to take this time to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, a Happy Kwanza and a Happy New Year. Please drink responsibly and if you do drink make sure you have a designated driver. BE SAFE!

See you at the General Membership Meetings, and as always, if you have any thoughts comments or suggestions please let one of the Board Members know. We can't fix or make things better unless you tell us.

**D.C.**



## **COMPTROLLER'S CORNER**

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



### **Where We Were:**

Despite a slow start, FY07 turned out to be quite a successful budgetary year for the 95<sup>th</sup> ABW. All told, the Wing received and obligated \$173M in O&M funding. While approximately \$1.5M less than that spent in FY06, Team Edwards garnered \$65.9M in facility project funds which enabled the initiation of military construction, mission support, and quality of life projects across the base. The FY07 closeout effort was a tremendous success. The combined efforts of AFFTC/PK, 95 CONS, AFFTC/FM, and 95 CPTS/FMA facilitated the obligation of \$98M across all appropriations during the last quarter of the FY. During the month of September, 745 purchase requests were processed, with a total dollar value of \$59.8M.

### **Where We Are:**

As you are all aware, we're currently operating under the constraints of a six week Continuing Resolution Authority (CRA). The limitations call for the prudent use of funds with no new program starts

without specific prior authorization to do so. Additionally, budgetary constraints under the current CRA are extremely tight because Air Staff have only distributed 50% of the Budget Authority requested by AFMC. What this means to 95 ABW is \$12.5M in obligation authority through 16 November. This funding level is particularly problematic in that \$8M has been set aside for must-pay contracts while another \$6M is required to meet the Wing's October Civ Pay obligation. Unfortunately, no relief will be forthcoming from Air Staff until the obligations appear in the accounting system. We will continue to pinch pennies but, with any luck, the FY08 Appropriations Bill will be passed before the need to initiate a CRA extension and we can resume business as usual. Failing that, we can expect a continuation of limited spending authority. Of course, every delay reduces the length of time funds are available for units to obligate.

### **What Lies Ahead:**

Civilian Pay will continue to be a big ticket item (\$77.5M or



44.8% of the overall O&M budget in FY07). As mentioned in the last newsletter, pay will be a major area for budgetary focus during FY08 as we attempt to bridge the gap between Air Staff funding and actual requirements. By buying-down non-pay requirements with FY07 end-of-year money, we hope to have alleviated any potential disconnects that may remain in the pay account for the new FY. When coupled with the CRA and the associated delay in initial funds distribution, FY08 will be a year which affords us further opportunities to enhance our reputations as Financial Advisors.

### **Also on the Horizon...**

...Financial Services Transformation (FST). The AFMC and Air Staff team will visit Edwards on 27 November to evaluate our progress toward preparing the base for cut-over to operations at the Air Force Financial Services Center (AFFSC) located at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. The team will provide a Senior Leader brief and meet with key CPTS personnel to evaluate the roadmap to the April 2008 transfer of specific tasks to the AFFSC. More to follow on this topic in upcoming newsletters.

**Major Michael J. Rooney**

## **ASMC NATIONAL NEWS**

### PDI Online – Free CPE

Would you like to earn free CPE credits by listening to or watching workshops and Service Day sessions from the highly successful PDI 2007? Now you can by tuning in to ASMC's PDI Online. Choose from video or audio versions of many workshop and Service Day presentations. As a suggestion, consider either of two workshops that received high marks from participants at the PDI: introduction to federal accounting concepts (mini course 60 A/B on 5/31) or mastering the art of successful interviewing (workshop 118 on 6/1). If you complete a session, you may self-certify for CPE credit or, in

some cases, you can take a short test and get a CPE certificate. Just go to [www.asmonline.org/development/extendedlearning.shtml](http://www.asmonline.org/development/extendedlearning.shtml) and follow the directions on the screen. In addition, charts from many of the workshop sessions are available for download in the same area.

### Defense Financial Highlights

Want to keep up to date on what's going on in defense financial management without spending a lot of time? ASMC provides members with Defense Financial Highlights covering key events affecting defense financial management. Learn what is going on



with the budget on the Hill and more. These write-ups appear on the home page of the ASMC website under the title "Defense Financial Highlights". This section is updated regularly so long as news and time permit.

### Geico Public Service Awards

Geico has asked ASMC to help publicize their Public Service Awards, each of which provides \$2,500 in cash and other benefits. The awards do not include financial management, but ASMC members may know worthy nominees in covered fields. Nominations are due by December 31, 2007. For more information, go to <http://geicodirect.com/federal/serviceAwards.htm>.

Did you know that as an American Society of Military Comptrollers member you are entitled to join Pentagon Federal Credit Union?

As a part of the ASMC family, you, your children, parents, brothers, sisters, and other immediate family members are eligible to join Pentagon Federal Credit Union. Membership

entitles you and your family to the superior rates and proven service that Pentagon Federal Credit Union has to offer.

The Pentagon Federal mission is to provide superior financial services to meet your needs, in a cost effective manner. Membership will allow you and your family member's access to some of the nation's lowest loan rates and highest savings yields, as well as friendly, personal service, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Choose your preferred means of communication, either online at [www.penfed.org](http://www.penfed.org) <<http://www.penfed.org/>> or by telephone at 800-247-5626. Pentagon Federal even provides access to a DSN line when you are stationed overseas. To learn more about membership go to [www.penfed.org/asmc](http://www.penfed.org/asmc) <<http://www.penfed.org/asmc/>> . You can join on-line and even fund your new account. It only takes a few minutes and you will be able to take advantage of all that Pentagon Federal





## MEMBER'S ARTICLE

### PDI: A First-timer's View by Rebecca Pease

Since this was my first PDI, I did not volunteer to be an aid because I wanted to simply attend the conference and soak it all in. I had a vague notion of what to expect as I had gone to conferences when in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) in high school, and I have gone TDY to one-to-three-week-long training courses in my adult career. PDI indeed had elements from both experiences – variety of topics and independence of choice throughout each day (similar to FBLA conferences) as well as networking and catching a glimpse of “the big picture” (similar to offsite training courses). Overall, I was pretty impressed.

For those who didn't arrive early to sit for the CDFM, the conference started off with a “Service Day” (each branch of service would meet separately). There was very little description of what this would be about in the PDI literature, so I didn't know what to expect. All I knew was that I would be lumped together with all the Air Force attendees versus the Army, Navy, etc. Again, I was impressed. This is where I really caught a glimpse of “the big picture”. It started off by having all the Air Force attendees meet in a large room and listen to awards given, updates on financial management and budget issues, and

even a little trivia competition to interact with the audience. In the afternoon, we were given our choice of various workshops to attend that were Air Force related. I learned about new financial management systems and updates to DFAS as they affect the Air Force. The day even ended with a Town Hall meeting where we were invited to submit questions that would be answered to the whole audience. Service Day was much more than I expected.

The next two days were full of the workshops we selected when registering for the conference. I attended a variety of topics ranging from Tips on Base-Level Fiscal Law to Fundamentals of Program Management to Negotiating Techniques for Personal and Professional Success. This is where we were really exposed to information, methods, and people outside the Air Force. The workshops were Defense-wide, so there was typically a good mix of attendees from different branches, who were thus able to provide different perspectives. Speakers were from different branches as well. I attended one workshop where the speaker was from the Army and we all had to try to follow the Army acronyms. I attended another workshop where the speaker was from the private sector and we had



to relate what he was teaching to what we do in the Government. Some workshops were better than others, but I definitely felt I gained something out of those two days.

Our education and development didn't end with just the Service Day and Defense-wide workshops either. I think what impressed me most about PDI were the excellent motivational speakers during the morning and lunch sessions. One speaker talked about healthy habits and how known medical information has evolved over the years. Another speaker took us through a journey of having an idea that nobody believed in that turned out to be a New

York Times #1 best seller. Yet another speaker was a comedian, who really knew how to tailor her act to the audience. She obviously did her research before coming because she started out by making fun of our acronyms, but in a way that had us cracking up but would be pure gibberish to someone "on the outside". As corny as it may sound, after every speaker, I truly felt motivated about life and happy to be there.

For me, PDI was a great experience. I gained knowledge of Air Force issues, exposure to Defense-wide topics, and motivation of personal self. The folks who put PDI 2007 together really did a great job at

## General Membership Meeting Minutes 19 September 2007

### HIGH DESERT CHAPTER

#### Officers Present:

Dee Cameron	President
Anita Rennie	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice
Rebecca Pease	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice
Lt Darvill	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice
Toni Culver	Secretary
Zarie Flemig	Treasurer
Kathleen Augustine	Events Coordinator

#### Business

Meeting called to order by Dee Cameron, President @ 1140

Secretary

Minutes were emailed to members on 17 Sep for review. Motioned was made by Edie Morris to approved the minutes as written. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anita Rennie. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

EFCU checking \$3,599.71  
Scholarship Fund \$2,548.53

Money Market

Pentagon FCU \$13,316.17  
EFCU \$5,317.01

Membership

Not growing.

Some discussion on CDFM and being a class to Edwards.

Events Coordinator

Next month's meeting is the Joint Meeting with PK and FMA,

PDI

There are several PDI attendees that have not submitted their PDI talking paper. Please do so. Send to Rebecca Pease and Sam White.

The 2008 PDI will be held in Orlando FL

Next Month Meeting:

Joint meeting with PK and FMA. Date and speaker to be announced later.

New Business

Some of our members recently participated in the American Cancer Relay for Life walk held at Antelope Valley College on 15-16 Sep. Our team raised over \$3900. Thank you to Dee Cameron and her family for donating "cool" neck ties and Starbucks coffee to sell at the event. Also a "BIG THANK YOU" to Toni Sandelli for chairing the "walk".

There was a motion for a "Free" lunch drawing. Motion was passed. Winner of a free lunch next month was Anita Rennie.

The Executive board is reviewing the By-Laws and Constitution to be more in line with National.

Chapter Leadership Training on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> @ 1100 in the Director's Conference Room.

Edie Morris will be handling our local publicity.





Newsletter articles are due by 11 Oct – Maj Rooney is writing an EOY article, PDI papers will be included

Speaker: Jeanne Gare, Introduced her Free 6-8 weeks Financial Workshops: Topics to include, Tips on Taxes, Preparing a Home Budget, Thrift Savings Plan, Retirement Planning and many more

Meeting adjourned @ 1230  
Toni Culver  
Secretary

## HIGH DESERT CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES 4 Sep 2007

Officers and Committee Chairs Present:

Dee Cameron	President
Anita Rennie	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice
Rebecca Pease	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice
Zarie Flemig	Treasurer
Toni Culver	Secretary

Called to order by the President at 9:05

Secretary needs to send the proposed speaker list for the year along with new Board list.

Relay for Life walk, Anita Rennie will submit an article in the Desert Wings and Rebecca Pease will send one also to the Mojave Desert News.

We are going to start putting an article in the Base bulletin monthly announcing our member meetings.

Our Aug speaker, Ruth Simonds, donated her \$20 speaker charity gift to the American Cancer Society in our name.

We need to contact Janet Fitzgerald on her charity.

I will forward Toni Sandelli's email to all members of ASMC regarding the "Walk"; we might get more people to participate.



We are reviewing the By-Laws and Constitution to be more in-line with National. One item we would like to insert is the time limit on speaker charity donations, if they don't tell us in a 2 month period; default charity will be American Cancer Society.

Financial Records Audit – need to find out date of last audit. Need to have someone review financial records.

Jeanne Gare will be our speaker at the meeting on Sep 19. Topic will be Personal Financial Workshop

Future speakers: Oct – Joint meeting with FMA & PK, speaker to be announced later. Nov's meeting will be a PDI 07 share.

Vote was taken to purchase a "Brick" for the Century Circle at West Gate. Cost is \$60. Motion was made and approved.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:15  
Dee Cameron, President

**September 2007 Financial Report**

Beginning Balance	\$6,148.24
Add: Revenues checking	145.00
Revenues saving	1.57
Less: Expenses checking	60.00
Expenses saving	0.00
 Ending Balance	 <b>\$6,234.81</b>



Treasurer's note to members:

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Edwards Federal Credit Union checking account balance:   | \$3,684.71      |
| EFCU savings account balance for Scholarships:  | \$2,550.10      |
| <br>2. Pentagon Federal Credit Union money market certificate and savings account balance as of statement 16 July 2007: | <br>\$13,316.17 |
| (PFCU Dividends Year to Date \$355.95 )   |                 |
| <br>3. Edwards Federal Credit Union money market certificate balance as of statement September 2007:                    | <br>\$5,369.28  |
| (EFCU Dividends 2006 \$215.65 )   |                 |
| (EFCU Dividends 2007 YTD \$153.63)  |                 |