

# HIGH DESERT WIND

High Desert Chapter ASMC  
Newsletter



American Society of  
Military Comptrollers



## CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Dee Cameron

As I write this President's Message, we have just celebrated Easter and are experiencing an already warm springtime. The local wildflowers having had a healthy dose of water a month or so ago have the desert beginning to erupt in the most beautiful vibrant yellows, oranges, and purple hues and the California poppies are not far behind.

With all this renewal going on, I wanted to talk about our ASMC Chapter and our roles as members. We have a really great group of individuals who participate in the monthly meetings and activities. For

those of you who, due to workload, are not able to come very often, the board members and I are constantly requesting help from our members to join our committees or help with fundraising activities and events. We have a dedicated group of hearty souls readily volunteering over and over again to help. But I would love to see some new faces out there. A goal of mine for the new year is to have every one of our members volunteer to help with at least one of our committees (scholarship, fundraising, publicity etc.). These volunteer activities do >>>

2nd  
Quarter  
FY08

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## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

### MEMBER'S MEETING

"16 April 2008" Wolfe - Yeager Conference Area

Subway Sandwich Luncheon \$5.00 for members - 6.00 for non-members  
Member's Choice PDI 2007 Video will be shown - 1130 to 1300 hrs.



*(Continued from page 1)*

not always require significant amounts of time or work. Kathleen can always use a hand setting up and cleaning up after luncheon meetings.

Another major activity is coming, the election of new Executive Board members. We will need volunteers to either sign up for a board position or to be willing to make contact with each of our members to see if they are interested in running for a board position.

Please consider running for an office. There will be several board positions that will be available this year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact one of the Executive Board members and let us know. Remember that being an Executive Board member or being part of one of the committees, attending luncheons and helping out gets you extra points when it comes time to decide who gets to go to the Professional Development Institute (PDI). Some of the upcoming PDIs are 2009 - San Antonio, Texas; 2010 - Nashville Tennessee; 2011 - Minneapolis, Minnesota; and 2012 - Anaheim, California

These volunteer activities are an opportunity for you as a member to network among the Financial Management Community here at Edwards and with other ASMC chapters nationwide.

The PDI program objective is to enhance skills and abilities that personnel in the financial and resource management community must possess to meet the challenges of working in the 21st century. This valuable training is offered each year to our members; however, we have limited resources for travel. As I said above, those members of our organization who volunteer for committees and help out during the year with chapter events are given additional consideration when choices are made as to who will be offered the opportunity to attend.

Our next meeting will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April in the Wolf Yeager Conference Room at 1130. We are planning to watch one of the 2007 PDI Classes.

See you at the General Membership Meetings (third Wednesday of every month), 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 let us know that it is broken. Remember it is your Chapter and you have a say in how it is run; you just have to take the time to speak out or let one of us know. We as an Executive Board are here to help you make the most of your ASMC experience.

Russine Cameron  
High Desert Chapter President

**~ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP SUBMISSIONS & AWARDS~**

By Nancy Wachter - Committee Chairperson  
Annual Scholarship Committee Report

This year's scholarship season was very productive. The scholarship committee chairperson was Nancy Wachter, with committee members Kathleen Augustine, Toni Culver, Mary Gibson and Rebecca Pease. Last year the scholarship committee mailed applications to the local high schools and did not have much participation. The committee decided this year that a more aggressive approach was needed to ensure the community was aware of the scholarship opportunities. The members went to the high schools in Palmdale, Lancaster, Mojave and Edwards and gave packages to the guidance counselors. Articles were put in the base bulletin and in the local newspapers ensuring the word got out. Two weeks before the due date the committee followed up with each school as a reminder. The extra work really paid off as we had nine applicants for

the high school scholarships. Four applicants were chosen for the local scholarship and two packages have been forwarded on to ASMC for consideration in the National Scholarship Program. All four high school applicants were awarded \$500 each.

The member's continuing education scholarship had only one applicant this year. Kathleen Augustine was awarded the \$500 scholarship and her package was forwarded to ASMC for consideration of the National Member's Continuing Education Scholarship.

A total of \$2,500 was awarded this year.  
**N.W.**



**General Membership Meeting Minutes  
High Desert Chapter(ASMC), Edwards AFB, CA  
19 March 2008**

**Business:**

Meeting called to order by Chapter President Dee Cameron @ 1150

**Secretary:**

Previous months meeting minutes were emailed to members on March 17, 2008 for review. Motion was made by Zarie Flemig and Sam White to approve the minutes as written;. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Edie Morris. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

EFCU checking \$3,190.57  
Scholarship Fund \$3,260.02

**Money Market**

Pentagon FCU \$13,635.66  
EFCU \$5,422.89

**Membership:**

We have one new member (a returning transfer member) Debbie Bower.

**Events Coordinator:**

The menu for next month will be Subway sandwiches.

**PDI:**

Registration has opened. This was not reported at the meeting, but letters were sent to 35 corporations asking for donations for the Silent Auction.

**Next Month Meeting:**

Apr 16, 2008

Speaker – TBD

**New Business:**

- The CDFM training class that was scheduled for April has been cancelled. We will check to see if we can get someone to come to Edwards to conduct the training and administer the test.
- We registered and paid for 3 audio conferences with approx 9 people expressing interest. We had only 3 people show up for these conferences. The next audio conference is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1100 – topic – “Congress and the Defense Budget.” Do we want to continue to pay for the audio conferences with such low attendance?
- Volunteering – our chapter needs your help on committees such as, fundraising, elections, membership drives, publicity, running for an executive board position, etc.
- Rebecca Pease will soon be putting together the election committee for the 2008-2009 election for the new board. Some current executive board members will be vacating their position. Please think about running for an office.
- Rebecca Pease won the free lunch for next month.

**Scholarship Committee:**

Committee members were: Nancy Watcher (Chair), Mary Gibson, Rebecca Pease, Kathleen Augustine and Toni Culver.



At the meeting it was reported we received 9 high school applications. The committee met on March 18<sup>th</sup> to review the applications. After reviewing the applications, we felt we could give 4 scholarships, considering we didn't give any in 2007. Nancy sent out an email vote based on the By-Laws (see below)

**Section 2: Scholarships**

Two \$500 scholarships each year may be awarded to graduating high school seniors accepted by colleges and universities under financial and business-related curriculums. Members may also be awarded continuing education scholarship of \$500 based on established competitive procedures. The amount and criteria of the scholarships may be amended by a majority vote of the Voting Membership.

Once Nancy receives the votes, we will make our announcement of the selected winners. As for our Continuing Education Scholarship, we received one from Kathleen Augustine. She will be awarded our Continuing Education Scholarship.

**Speaker:**

This month's speakers were Mr. Greg Head from NAF and Lt Darvill from 95 CPTS/FMF. Mr. Head spoke to us about the many services and discounts available to us here at Edwards AFB. Lt Darvill gave us a briefing on Defense Travel System (DTS) and Government Travel Card (GTC). A \$20 donation will be made to the AF Aid Society on behalf of Mr. Head. Meeting adjourned @ 1240.

Toni Culver  
Secretary

**CHAPTER COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**RELAY FOR LIFE**  
Member's Article - Rebecca J. Pease

The High Desert Chapter of American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) has made fighting for cancer a part of its routine. For the past seven years, the chapter has participated in the local Relay For Life, a 24-hour event where teams from all over the Antelope Valley camp out, walk a track, promote cancer aware-

ness and prevention, and raise money for the American Cancer Society. Since 2001, the chapter has raised a total of \$28,369. The most recent event was held on September 15, 2007. Led by team captain Toni Sandelli, High Desert ASMC had a total of 18 team members and raised \$3,902.



In addition to taking part in this annual fundraiser, the chapter just revised its bylaws to make American Cancer Society its default charity. Nearly every month, High Desert ASMC has a guest speaker and makes a donation in the speaker's name to his or her charity of choice. With the American Cancer Society being the chapter's default charity (this means that if the

guest speaker doesn't choose a charity) the donation will be made to the American Cancer Society. High Desert ASMC hopes 2008 will be a rewarding year for both ASMC and the American Cancer Society.




**Your 2007/08 Chapter Relay Team Members**



## **ABW COMPTROLLER'S CORNER**

### **Major, Michael J. Rooney**

### **COMMANDER, 95th CPTS**



**CIVILIAN PAY IN FOCUS**

As promised, FY08 is proving to be an extremely challenging budget year for the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) account within the 95<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing (ABW). The challenges are twofold: Pay and Non-Pay. Our Civilian Pay account faced tremendous obstacles even before the FY began. A combination of pricing errors and projected expenditures which accounted for a large vacancy rate across the Air Force led

to initial plans to fund the program at 86%. In the latter part of FY07, the Major Commands worked extensively with the Air Staff to develop a strategy to mitigate the shortfall and restore the Civilian Pay program to a workable level. Within AFMC the decision was made to buy down FY08 requirements with FY07 funds. For Team Edwards, the focus was on facility projects with \$16.2 million in fallout funds being spent during the last month of the FY. Ultimately, the buy-down efforts were successful in freeing sufficient funds to



restore the pay program to a funding level of 93%.

While the restoration of the Civilian Pay program to 93% was a very welcome development, it was not the answer to all our prayers. Despite having a civilian vacancy rate of 11.2% within the ABW, we are projecting a significant funding shortfall due to overtime and over-hire employees. Overtime is primarily being performed to sustain our aging infrastructure and to ensure sufficient fire protection is on-hand at all times. Unfortunately, the buying-down of FY08 requirements resulted in the zeroing out of the Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (SRM) account which we use to provide preventive maintenance to base facilities. Without these funds, much maintenance is going undone and, consequently, as facilities break, an additional workload is placed on our Civil Engineers which often require overtime hours to rectify. Similarly, our fire fighters were only funded at 93% despite the requirement to ensure 100% coverage to the Edwards community. The funding shortfall coupled with a vacancy rate exceeding 10% has driven a need for additional overtime to ensure complete fire protection coverage for our base. Finally, the ABW is carrying 28 direct-funded over-hire positions. These over-hires, while performing critical work, are positions

above and beyond our total authorizations. As such, we must fund these billets out of our existing limited O&M pot.

When overtime and over-hires are accounted for, the ABW vacancy rate goes from a positive 11.2% to a negative 4.2%. To stem the bleeding, Wing leadership has proactively developed a two-track approach to solving our pay shortfall. At the local level we have implemented a 90-day strategic hiring pause. The hiring pause when coupled with the time lag associated with delayed personnel actions at the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) will effectively result in no new vacancies being filled for the remainder of the fiscal year. All Requests for Personnel Actions (RPAs) generated prior to 25 February 2008 will be honored under the hiring pause. Leadership has also directed that overtime be limited to mission-essential requirements only and over-hire positions be converted to vacant authorizations where feasible. At the AFMC level, the Edwards pay shortfall and underlying causes will be addressed at the Mid-Year Review (MYR) with the hope that Command can provide some relief to a chronically underfunded program.

More to follow as the year progresses.

**M.J.R.**





## HIGH DESERT CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**MINUTES**

**8 Jan 2008**

Officers and Committee Chairs

Present:

Dee Cameron	President
Anita Rennie	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice (per telecom)
Rebecca Pease	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice
Toni Culver	Secretary
Zarie Flemig	Treasurer
Kathleen Augustine	Events Coordinator
Sam White	Newsletter

Rebecca Pease gave us the status of the By-laws and Constitution. 51% of the membership voted for the changes to the By-Laws and Constitution.

PDI permission slips have been sent out to the membership with a suspense date of 4 Feb 2008. This is a great

training opportunity. Selection process will be completed prior to PDI registration.

Kathleen Augustine, Rebecca Pease and Toni Culver have volunteered to help Nancy Watcher with the scholarship committee.

Angela Willis has volunteered to chair the fund raising committee. Valentine's and Easter Baskets

Zarie Flemig will set up a time with Janet Fitzgerald for the tax audit.

Our Jan membership meeting will be a joint meeting with PK and FMA. General Eichhorn will be the guest speaker.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:00  
Dee Cameron, President

**MINUTES**

**6 Feb 2008**

Officers and Committee Chairs

Present:

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

Meeting called to order at 10:08

Selections for PDI attendees have been made. This year the selection process was different than previous

years. Selections were made based on ASMC participation and FM training needs.

Rebecca Pease reported the Constitution and By-Laws are at Services for final approval.

Major Rooney will be our guest speaker for Feb. Meeting will be Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. Topic will be FM Transformation.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:15  
Dee Cameron, President





**MINUTES**  
**4 March 2008**

Officers and Committee Chairs

Present:

Dee Cameron	President
Rebecca Pease	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice
Lt Darvill	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice
Toni Culver	Secretary
Kathleen Augustine	Events Coordinator

sending out to the schools, attend college nights and job fairs at local high schools, send out scholarship info when school begins (Sept) and follow-up at least once a month.

Executive Board voted to purchase a roaster for monthly lunches.

An election committee needs to be formed within the next month.

Meeting called to order at 0905

Some suggestions were made for speakers; Speckled Trout and NAF manager.

Dee will update the Director's Conference Room calendar for Executive Board Meetings. Some officers are not receiving reminder notice.



The idea of "networking" at our monthly meetings has resurfaced. Have one or two members speak on their current job duties. This will help us understand each

Next member meeting is Mar 19. Speaker is not confirmed. Menu will be baked potatoes and pepper bellies.

other's job duties and responsibilities. Lt Darvill has agreed to be the first one; he will speak on GTC, DTS, and Split Disbursing on Travel Vouchers and airline policy for checked bags.

Sam White needs newsletter articles by COB 26 Mar.

Audio Conference today @ 11, Army Budget.

At the next couple of member meetings the Executive Board will also brief on their duties.

Scholarship committee has received 6 applications from high school seniors and 1 from an ASMC member for continuing education. Selection will be made on 18 Mar. Some suggestions were made for next year's process, i.e. remove the national due date when

Meeting adjourned @ 0950

Toni Culver, Secretary



# ASMC NATIONAL NEWS

## PDI 2008 Update

PDI 2008 will be held at the Orlando Marriott World Center in Florida on May 27 – 30. Further information on the event, how to register and hotel information may be found registration on ASMC's PDI website

<<http://www.asmcnline.org/development/pdi1.shtml>> . Besides a dynamic program of workshops and general sessions, this year will include many special events. A fantastic new event this year is the Silent Auction to benefit our chapters and charities. More information about that event will be posted online as it becomes available. If you are a chapter officer and wish to learn how you may get involved in that event, please contact Jennifer Sizemore <<mailto:sizemore@asmconline.org>> at ASMC National Headquarters.

## Register for the CDFM Module 2 Review

On April 30 and May 1 of 2008, ASMC will offer intensive review for Module 2 of the CDFM examination by audio lines. The review will take place in two four-hour blocks – each starting at noon Eastern – and will feature instruction as well as interspersed Q&A sessions. Sessions will qualify for CPE credits. The review should be viewed as “top off” training for those who already have training or experience in Module 2 topics. Mr. Joe Mullane, who spent a career in defense FM and has

taught extensively, will be the instructor.

This training opportunity is open to chapter groups, military organizations, corporate groups and individuals. There will be a charge of \$50 for each participating line but as many people can participate on one line as you can comfortably accommodate. To get maximum value from the course participants should have textbook published within the last several years (October 2006 is the “current” edition). If you do not already have one you may purchase the textbook from ASMC (or borrow one from a friend). The textbook is copyrighted and must not be duplicated. Please go to the ASMC home page <<http://www.asmcnline.org/>> for more information and to register online.

## May 8 Audio Conference on Congress and Defense Budget – Register Now!

On May 8 at 2 pm Eastern ASMC will host an audio conference on Congress and the defense budget. The conference will be live and interactive and will qualify for CPE credits. Robert Shue, former Congressional liaison for the DoD Comptroller, will discuss the procedures Congress uses -- which should make the conference of interest to those seeking basic information. Mr. Shue -- an expert on Congress -- will also discuss recent and likely future events as they affect the DoD budget (including the likely ongoing role of supplementals and continuing resolu-



tions) and answer questions. Please go to the home page of the ASMC web site <<http://www.asmconline.org/>> for more information and to register online.

#### Learn Acquisition – and Become “CDFM with Acquisition Specialty”

Want to improve your knowledge of major systems acquisition and prepare for the optional Module 4 of the CDFM? On April 28 and 29, 2008 ASMC will offer a 1½ day class in Williamsburg, Virginia taught by a former DAU professor. Individuals or groups can attend this Module 4 prep course. Students who elect to take the class, and also the Module 4 test on the afternoon of the second day, will receive a discount on the test. Watch the ASMC web site <<http://www.asmconline.org/>> and future issues of the ASMC Connection for prices and details. Online registration will open soon.

#### AABPA Symposium

The American Association of Budget

and Program Analysis (AABPA) will hold its annual symposium on Tuesday, April 1 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. The theme for this year’s event is "Budget Policy and its People -- at the Crossroads?" For more information about their event or to register, please visit the AABPA website <<http://www.aabpa.org/>> .

Careers in Financial Management? We have them!

At Career Central we specialize in providing services, resources, and a networking community for DoD FMers. In our new online job board you’ll find a large bank of job postings and resumes, career resources, career coaching and advice services, and so much more! Plus, we offer anonymous resume posting for job seekers and a pay-per resume program for employers! Check us out at [www.asmconline.org](http://www.asmconline.org) <<http://www.asmconline.org/>> under the Career Central tab.

## **A Message From The Executive Board by 1st Vice President - Anita Rennie**



Wow, where did the time go? 2007 has come and gone. We gained a wealth of knowledge all the way from tips on preparing your yearly taxes to the enormous training opportunities within the workplace or simple heading off college. A few of my favorite luncheons of the past year were helping out with the American Cancer Society walk and our Bags for Kids. Along with learning it’s always great to help out our local community charities. I’ve included a couple of pictures from the American Cancer Walk with our AMSC members along with a few local high school kids that also volunteered this year.

We have since kicked off 2008 with a Joint luncheon with members of American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) High Desert Chapter, National Contract



Management Association (NCMA) Antelope Valley Chapter and Federal Manager's Association (FMA) by welcoming our very own Brigadier General David J. Eichhorn here at Edwards AFB. Now we're gearing up to attend the PDI in Orlando, Florida. What a great opportunity to meet new people and network from organization to organization throughout the Air Force and other services! As we all know we can't do our job alone. This year several of our attendees will become CDFM certified and many of us have volunteered to be Assistant Instructors (AI's) to assist where needed. I'm sure it will be a great success! Looking forward to see you all there – Have a great 2008. Anita Rennie

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

<b>AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS</b> <b>HIGH DESERT CHAPTER</b> <b>Treasurer's Report</b> <b>February 2008</b>		
		
Beginning Balance		\$6,457.68
Add:	Revenues checking	256.00
	Revenues saving	1.94
Less:	Expenses checking	265.03
	Expenses saving	0.00
Ending Balance		\$6,450.59
Treasurer's note to members:		
1. Edwards Federal Credit Union checking account balance:		\$3,190.57
EFCU savings account balance for Scholarships:		\$3,260.02
2. Pentagon Federal Credit Union money market certificate and avings		
account balance as of statement 16 January 2008:		\$13,635.66
(PFCU Dividends Year to Date \$162.01 )		
3. Edwards Federal Credit Union money market certificate		
balance as of statement December 2007:		\$5,522.89
(EFCU Dividends 2006 - \$215.65)		
(EFCU Dividends 2007 YTD - \$207.54)		
