

# GREETINGS FROM THE SVA CHAPTER!

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### ***A MESSAGE FROM OUR INCOMING PRESIDENT, MS. NISHA M. DOWDELL***

It is indeed a privilege to be a member of such an esteemed organization and I am honored to serve as your ASMC Southside Virginia Chapter President. Although, we are experiencing unprecedented times, I am extremely thrilled to work alongside of the Executive Committee to explore new possibilities for our local Chapter. Safety of our members is important therefore, new possibilities began with the virtual installation of new officers on Thursday, July 23, 2020. The Executive Committee anticipates a year full of growth for our Chapter and its members. Our Executive board meetings are held via teleconference on the first Wednesday of each month to discuss opportunities for the Chapter. We are in the process of preparing virtual training sessions on a monthly basis to assist us in reaching milestones within our careers. Your continued support and participation at our fundraising and community service events is much appreciated.

Outgoing President, Ms. Cathy Dale did a phenomenal job to ensure that our Chapter maintained a 5-star status this past year. We are among the select few Chapters to earn and maintain this status. Our members received accolades for their hard work and our Chapter earned awards for Communications and Community Service at the National level.

As we move forward throughout this year, I highly encourage each of you to take advantage of the virtual training offered by our local and National Chapter. Also, please feel free to suggest speakers, training topics, and/or community service projects that will benefit our Chapter.

**Continue to do great things and stay safe!**

**Nisha M. Dowdell, CDFM**

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **Yeonid Gordon - DeCA, Resale Accounting Branch - Receives Recognition**

Ms. Gordon received an On-The-Spot Cash Award for exceptional customer service in managing an important payment issue with a vendor.

### **Anthony Marvan - DeCA, Policy, Systems, and Services Branch - Shares His Experience Taking and Passing the CDFM**

The Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) designation represents a demonstrated proficiency in the foundational tenets of defense financial management. The CDFM was jointly developed by the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) and the Department of Defense (DoD). The CDFM is achieved by passing three examination modules. Module one covers the Resource Management Environment, module two encompasses Budget and Cost Analysis, and module three tests the comprehension of Accounting and Finance. In addition to passing all three examinations, a person with an associate degree or higher must possess a minimum of two years of defense-related financial management or a total of four years of Federal Government-related financial management.

I achieved the CDFM this year. My journey to success started with an e-mail announcement sent from my supervisor to our team promoting the attendance of the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMTC). My supervisor and peers advised that the EDFMTC was a valuable resource to prepare for the CDFM. I accepted their advice and attended the course. The week-long, 40 hour course was fast-paced and challenging. The EDFMTC communicated a wide range of topics including budgeting, accounting and finance, and cost analysis in the Federal Government and DoD. The class was intense and I highly recommend bringing an extra highlighter as your first device will surely run out of ink.

Four weeks later, I took all three modules in the same day and passed. I attribute my success to the support and encouragement from my supervisor and my peers. I strongly recommend taking the EDFMTC. The course proved to be instrumental in providing the knowledge and key concepts tested in the exams. I suggest scheduling the exam as soon as possible after completing the EDFMTC. Do not procrastinate. There is a lot of information covered in the EDFMTC and you will be surprised how much information fades after a short time. Another suggestion is to set up a study plan. Personally, I created a study schedule and allocated a few hours each evening, especially a few days before the exam. I cannot emphasize enough, the amount of information to be covered is enormous. Do not underestimate the exams. Trying to cram everything in one night will not work. The exams are not based on memorization, they will require the application of concepts you learned. The exams can be taken all in one day or on separate days. I did find an advantage of taking all three modules in one day because there is some degree of overlap of tested concepts. Lastly, get plenty of sleep the night before the exam.

There is a lot of support within our Southside Virginia ASMC chapter to help members prepare for and pass the CDFM. Mark Patterson kindly volunteered to proctor the CDFM exams. Nisha Dowdell spearheaded a study group. If you are thinking about taking the CDFM, reach out to your chapter leadership. The support is there and everyone wants to see you succeed.

We want you to share your accomplishments with us for our next newsletter. Did you earn a degree, obtain your CDFM certification, obtain your FM certification, receive a promotion, volunteer, etc.? If you answered yes to any of the questions or have something else to share, please email your organization's VP or Shelby Harrison at [shelby.m.harrison.civ@mail.mil](mailto:shelby.m.harrison.civ@mail.mil). We will include your accomplishment in our next newsletter.

## NATIONAL ASMC NEWS

### **2021 National PDI to be held in Orlando, FL**

ASMC announces a new delivery method to increase access to the Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) examinations. Effective June 1, 2020, on-line proctored test delivery will allow you to take your certification exam securely from your home or office. Find out further details at: <https://asmconline.org/exams>

### TRAINING

**SAVE THE DATE - October 21, 2020 from 11:30 a.m - 12:30 pm - Topic: FM Certification Update with featured speaker, Mark Patterson, Financial Programs Manager, DeCA**

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

ASMC Southside Chapter volunteered at the Chesterfield Food Bank on September 26, 2020. (picture and recap will be shared in our Fall newsletter)

### DOD FM VIRTUAL TRAINING

Looking for an opportunity to take FM virtual training courses, but are not able to commit to a day or two of training?

Good news—the FM Virtual Training (VT) Program now offers 4-hour courses. Find out further details at <https://fmonline.ousdc.osd.mil/CET/cet.aspx>

### **ASMC Offers Education Offerings via WEBINARS (1 CPE each)**

## ASMC Virtual Education Offerings

		<b>WEBINARS (1 CPE each)</b>	
13	October	1200-1300	Productivity - Make Every Moment Count (Debra Vavrus)
13	October	1500-1600	Productivity - Make Every Moment Count (Debra Vavrus)
27	October	1200-1300	Reimbursements, Receipts, Refunds, & Revolving Funds: (Bill Arnold)
2	November	0700- 0800	Writing Compelling Email (Peter Tyson)
2	November	1600-1700	Writing Compelling Email (Peter Tyson)
2	December	1200-1300	Three Keys for Success at Work: Leadership (John Albers)
2	December	1600-1700	Three Keys for Success at Work: Leadership (John Albers)
<b>EDFMTTC Training (40 CPE's each)</b>			
5-9	October	0800-1700	Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course
19-23	October	0800-1700	Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course
9-13	November	0800-1700	Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course
7-11	December	0800-1700	Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course
<b>CFDM REFRESHERS (14 CPE's each)</b>			
26-27	October	0800-1700	Certified Defense Financial Manager Refresher Course
28-29	October	0800-1700	Certified Defense Financial Manager Refresher Course
2-3	November	0800-1700	Certified Defense Financial Manager Refresher Course
30-1	Nov/Dec	0800-1700	Certified Defense Financial Manager Refresher Course
2-3	December	0800-1700	Certified Defense Financial Manager Refresher Course
14-15	December	0800-1700	Certified Defense Financial Manager Refresher Course



Find out more at [ASMC.org](http://ASMC.org)  
 Contact our Education Team: [Education@ASMConline.org](mailto:Education@ASMConline.org) or 703-549-0360

**2020–2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS**

**Executive Board meetings are currently held via teleconference on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30am**