



# Land of Lincoln Chapter Newsletter

March 2016



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## Chapter Members,

Most of you were there to see with your own eyes and likely the rest of you heard through the grapevine that, in the words of Mr. Al Runnels, ASMC Executive Director, the St Louis Regional Professional Development Institute (RPDI) was the *best ever!* Months of hard work and preparation for our biggest event of the year paid off big time as the RPDI was an all around success, further demonstrating the Land of Lincoln Chapter is "Setting the Standard" for ASMC! You can see highlights from the RPDI, including the Chapter award presentations, starting on page 14.

Just because the main event is over doesn't mean we're done for the year. There is still so much to look forward to and get involved in during the last quarter of the 2015 – 2016 board year!

In just a few weeks we will host our third and final [Rapid Review](#) on **May 2 – 6**. This course is perfect for those who will be taking the exams at the National PDI in early June. Remember that your Chapter will reward the hard work of the first four members who earn their Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) certification with a **\$100 cash incentive!**

Speaking of the National PDI, the event takes place in Orlando, FL on June 1 – 3. It's



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

sure to be a great contributor to your professional development (and to your summer tan). [Registration](#) is now open so talk with your leadership to find out the rules on attendance for your organization.

In line with our plan to strengthen membership ties ([Goal #2](#)) by offering new and better ways to network, we have a very exciting event in the works. Although historically there has been no May luncheon, our growing partnership with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) has created a serendipitous opportunity – the first ever **NGA May Day!** This half day event at the **NGA facility in downtown St Louis** will consist of a luncheon and speaker, a tour of the NGA Museum, and a networking social. Mark your calendars for **Thurs, 26 May**, and stay tuned for more specifics about the event!

It's finally almost here! **The annual Golf Classic is on Thurs, 19 May.** What's that? You're not a good golfer? Good news! Your golf skills are on par with most other Chapter members! No expectations for a hole-in-one here. This event is about enjoying an afternoon outside of the office with your friends and colleagues while helping to raise funds for scholarships. Get your 4-person teams together and [register now](#)! You don't want to miss out on our awesome attendance prizes!

Lastly, the new board year is just around the corner! Start considering whether you would like to grow your leadership skills by serving as an Elected Officer. Ms. Kia Gunter will be the next President and she needs motivated, energetic, dedicated individuals to serve with her as **President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.** Incredible progress has been made this year; a solid foundation has been laid. In order to keep the momentum going, we need your help!

If you are interested or want more information about the Elected Officer positions, feel free to contact any Officer to find out more. Specifics on how to throw your hat in the ring and the timeline for elections will be announced in the very near future, so dust off those bios now! New Officers will be sworn in during the June luncheon and their term begins 1 July 16.

Are you ready to lead a flourishing, growing organization?



## Golf Classic

Mark your calendars now! We will host the annual golf tournament fundraiser on **Thurs, 19 May**, at the **Cardinal Creek Golf Course** on Scott AFB. This 4-person scramble is just **\$50/person** (\$200/team), which covers the cost for lunch, green fees, and a golf cart.

No skill required. This event is about fun and camaraderie with your fellow Chapter members!

Proceeds from the tournament go toward the Chapter's scholarship fund, so get your teams together now to support this great cause!

To sign up, download the registration form from the [website homepage](#) and provide to your Org VP or email to [LandofLincolnChapter.ASMC@gmail.com](mailto:LandofLincolnChapter.ASMC@gmail.com).

### **Awesome Attendance Prizes!!**

St Louis Cardinals Tickets  
\$100 Gift Card to Wasabi Sushi  
Gift Card for 1 Hour Massage  
Much more!

## Penny Pinchers Running Club

Whether you are a seasoned runner or just getting into the running game, the Penny Pinchers team is a perfect match for you! Meet up with familiar faces before the start of each race to share well wishes and build camaraderie. (You may even hear some good spirited trash talking about potential victories!)

After the race, join your fellow Pinchers for a carb-loading session where you can recount the highlights of race day! Simply email [LandofLincolnChapter.ASMC@gmail.com](mailto:LandofLincolnChapter.ASMC@gmail.com) if you're interested in becoming a Penny Pincher or for more information.

### Register for Upcoming Events

- [Race 13.1 \(5K & Half Marathon\), 22 May](#) – Inaugural Event!
- [Honoring the Legacy Memorial Day Run \(5 Miles\), 30 May](#)

**Upcoming Events** – Review the Chapter [calendar](#) for the most current list of events.

## **April:**

- 9 & 10 Apr – Penny Pinchers Event
- 12 Apr – Executive Board Meeting
- 14 Apr – Joint ASMC-NCMA-ICEAA Membership Meeting Luncheon
- 14 Apr – Tax Break Social
- 21 Apr – Lunch and Learn (L2) Training

## **May:**

- 2-6 May – Rapid Review (R2) CDFM Prep Course
- 10 May – Executive Board Meeting
- 19 May – Golf Classic
- 22 May – Penny Pinchers Event
- 26 May – NGA May Day
- 30 May – Penny Pinchers Event

## **Jun:**

- 1-3 Jun – National Professional Development Institute
- 14 Jun – Executive Board Meeting
- 16 Jun – Lunch and Learn (L2) Training
- 29 Jun (Tentative) – Membership Meeting Luncheon



## 2016 Membership Campaign

Our Chapter's 2016 Membership Campaign is off to a great start! Since January, **35 new members** have joined the ASMC Land of Lincoln Chapter! A special thank you to the 23 recruiters for their efforts in making the campaign such a huge success to date.

**Recruiter of the Quarter:** Ms. Christina (Dien) Crisostomo

- Recruited 6 new members!

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## How It Works:

1. Be a current paid ASMC Land of Lincoln Chapter member.
2. Encourage individuals to join ASMC. Be sure the new member includes you as the recruiter on their ASMC Individual Membership application.
3. You and the new member will receive \$2 off your next luncheon!





## Membership Committee Goals

1. Increase our new member/membership renewal rate by 5 members each quarter through the 2016 Membership Campaign  
**-- Results: 1st Quarter – 35 new members!**
2. Increase current paid membership by 5% each year through quarterly reviews of member roster  
**-- Results: Current paid membership increased by 14% since 31 Mar 2015!**
3. Improve recognition of ASMC Land of Lincoln Chapter member achievements by highlighting them in the newsletter and on the website  
**-- Results: Membership news is viewable at any time on the Chapter [website](#).**

## Incredible results thanks to the efforts of our Membership Committee!

Ms. Jasolyn Evans, Committee Chair

Ms. Nicole Reese, Committee Member

Ms. Lynne Keith, Committee Member



## ASMC Profile Updates

Have you recently changed duty stations, received a promotion, or changed positions? Be sure to update your ASMC profile with your new addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc. Please visit ASMC online to update your profile [here](#).

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## Welcome, New Chapter Members! (Jan 16 – Apr 16)

Rita Barker	Tonya Jeffries	Timothy Minzer	Sarah Spencer
Shonta Bradley	Steven Jordan	Brittany Moll	Maelynn Staton
Cammeron Bryce	Kelsey Klaus	Michelle Motz	Ashley Tebbe
Kenneth Canute	Jenna Koleson	Predrag Petrovic	Lauryn Thomas
Melanie Dalton	Shannon Krievs	Jeffrey Polinsky	Benjamin Trotter
Brett Dierkes	Jeffrey Krohn	Brad Ritt	Sandra Vanbooven
Jami Drees	Rick Lechner, Jr.	Caitlyn Simmons	Kyle Wiesemeyer
Janice Gehris	Gary Mackins	Cheryl Six	Daniel Wood
Michael Guyer	Timothy Mesecher	Kimberly Smith	





## Chapter Member News

Share your good news such as promotions, transfers, new arrivals, graduations, retirements, etc. with the rest of our members. Send your news to Ms. Jasolyn Evans ([jasolyn.b.evans.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jasolyn.b.evans.civ@mail.mil)) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

### **Congratulations on Your Promotions/Transfers**

- Jami Drees (DISA) promoted to GS-9
- Pam Sellers on her GS-13 promotion (transferred from SDDC to USTRANSCOM)
- Christina Crisostomo (USTRANSCOM) on her promotion to GS-12 Budget Analyst
- Don Fontaine (USTRANSCOM) on his promotion to GS-11 Budget Analyst
- Reindale Hill (USTRANSCOM) promoted to GS-12 Financial Management Specialist
- Nicole M Reese (USTRANSCOM) transferred from DFAS to a Palace Acquire Accounting position
- Scott Gebke accepted a GS-12 position at USTRANSCOM (transferred from MCR)
- Ashley Tebbe accepted a GS-11 Budget Analyst position at USTRANSCOM (transferred from Veteran Affairs)
- Mark Smith (USTRANSCOM) promoted to GS-12
- Kimberly Carder (USTRANSCOM) promoted to GS-13



### **Best Wishes on Your Retirement**

- Robynn Flamm retired from SDDC
- TSgt Raymond Bertram (USTRANSCOM) retired from the Air Force
- Chuck Miles (USTRANSCOM) retired from Ernst & Young

### **Celebrating Years of Service**

- Mary Leige (USTRANSCOM) on 30 years of service
- Randy Newcome (USTRANSCOM) on 10 years of service



### **Welcome New Arrivals**

- Stephanie Westerman (AFSPC) welcomed a baby girl, Hayden Marie, in Dec 2015
- Amanda Merckel (DISA) welcomed a baby girl, Aurelia Rae, on Fri, 12 Feb 2016
- Kyle Wiesemeyer (USTRANSCOM) and his wife, Mindy, welcomed a baby girl, Paige Addison, on Wed, 6 Apr 2016



## Who's Who in the Land of Lincoln Chapter: Getting to Know Fellow Members



**Name:** Angela "Angie" Rule

**ASMC Member Since Mo/Yr:** 10/1995

**Chapter Officer/Committee Member, if applicable:** Senior Leader, DISA

**What is your career field?** Financial Management/Resource Management

**How long have you been in this career field?** 20+ Years

**What organizations have you worked for?** Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)

**Do you have your CDFM?** Yes

**If so, how did you prepare for your CDFM certification?** I took the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training course on Scott AFB that was sponsored by ASMC.

**Where did you grow up?** Aviston, IL

**How do you like to spend your spare time outside of work?** My kids are very involved in sports. I can usually be found in a gym in the winter or by a baseball field in the summer. When I'm not attending kids' sporting events I enjoy spending time with family and friends, preferably outside by a pool or on a boat at the lake.

**How did you get started down your current career path?** I always knew I wanted to work in a job involving math or numbers. My undergraduate degree is in Accounting from McKendree University, which started me in the Accounting career field. My graduate degree is in Business Administration from Webster University, which led me into management.

**What is your favorite motto/quote or words you live by?** Well of course it's the Golden "RULE": "Treat Others as You Would Like to be Treated"



**Name:** Jami Lynn Drees

**ASMC Member Since Mo/Yr:** 3/2016

**Chapter Officer/Committee Member, if applicable:** N/A

**What is your career field?** Financial Management

**How long have you been in this career field?** 1 year

**What organizations have you worked for?** Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)

**Do you have your CDFM?** Not Yet. My plan is to complete my already started Master's Degree then begin working on my CDFM.

**If so, how did you prepare for your CDFM certification?** Recently completed the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training (EDFMT) Course

**Where did you grow up?** Trenton, Illinois

**How do you like to spend your spare time outside of work?** I enjoy spending time outside with my family and my dog, playing sports, and working on my Masters.

**How did you get started down your current career path?** I began college as a mathematical science major and decided to switch to business and accounting. I started at DISA as a student in April 2014 and was converted to a permanent position in April 2015 after I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting.

**What is your favorite motto/quote or words you live by?** Live and love to the fullest each and every day as we do not know what tomorrow will bring!



### February Membership Meeting Luncheon

The February Membership Meeting was held Thurs, 18 Feb, at Amore Ristorante in O'Fallon, IL. Our guest speaker was Mr. Eric Druker, Principal, Strategic Innovation Group, Booz Allen Hamilton. Mr. Druker discussed the future of analytics by sharing the latest on data science and how it is transforming the role of financial managers.

Chapter President Aaron Parker also shared the latest news on Chapter events, including the upcoming local PDI and the status of local scholarship awards.





## Setting the Standard | 23 March 2016

What an awesome day! So much was covered from the very interesting topics by the all-star lineup of speakers to the awesome award ceremony. If you don't see your picture here, be sure to check the Facebook page as there are hundreds and hundreds of high resolution pictures waiting to be viewed, liked and shared with friends and colleagues!



## 2015 Chapter Award Ceremony Snapshots







## Food Drive

At the St Louis Regional Professional Development Institute (RPDI) on 23 Mar, the Chapter proudly partnered with the [Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House](#) in East St. Louis to help families in need. Land of Lincoln Chapter members packed a car full of nearly 500 food items! In addition, over \$80 was donated to support the community programs at Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House.

What a great way to make a big difference in our community. Thank you all!





## Lunch and Learn (L2)

Now offering FREE monthly training events to provide members with Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits, essential for maintaining CDFM and DoD FM certifications!

These courses will be held over a one hour lunch period from 1130 to 1230 at the Scott AFB Education Center.

Topics will be announced on the Chapter [website](#) as the training date approaches. Seating is limited. Registration is not required.

Is your organization looking for an efficient, inexpensive way to offer training to its employees? Contact any Chapter Officer or your Organizational VP to find out how ASMC can help by sponsor a Virtual PDI training event.

## 2015 – 2016 L2 Schedule

- 21 Apr
- 16 Jun

Note: The L2 originally scheduled on 19 May has been canceled. Members are encouraged to attend the Golf Classic instead!



## Rapid Review (R2)

The next Rapid Review (R2) CDFM exam prep course is scheduled **May 2 - 6**.

This FREE week-long course is designed to provide a high level review of all 11 exam competencies through five hour-long sessions held from **11:30 – 12:30**, allowing attendees to get the training they need without sacrificing a significant amount of time out of the office.

This is the perfect opportunity for those planning to take the CDFM exams at the National Professional Development Institute (PDI) at the beginning of June!

If you're interested in furthering your professional development by taking the next step towards becoming a Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM), sign up to attend the May R2 course by emailing [LandofLincolnChapter.ASMC@gmail.com](mailto:LandofLincolnChapter.ASMC@gmail.com).

To find out more about CDFM certification criteria, training, and benefits, check out our Chapter [website](#).



\$\$ CASH INCENTIVE \$\$

Don't forget – the first four Chapter members who earn their CDFM certification earn \$100!



## National Professional Development Institute

The National PDI will be held in Orlando, FL on Jun 1 – 3, 2016. Be sure to check with your organization for rules on conference attendance.

Conveniently, CDFM exams can be taken during the PDI. Register for our Chapter's FREE [Rapid Review \(R2\) CDFM exam prep course](#) to get ready for the tests! The next R2 course is scheduled for May 2 – 6.

# Top Career Experts Share Their Best Tips For Success In 2016

William Arruda, Contributor  
January 14, 2016

I want you to be able to start the year with your career on the ideal trajectory, so I reached out to the leading experts in career/talent management – people for whom I have tremendous respect. It is an eclectic group of gurus, but they share a few traits: they are super smart and respected in the community, and they are generous about sharing their expertise. Their advice is as diverse as they are; yet all of it comes from a proven path to success. Put this wisdom to work and watch your career soar in 2016.

*Triggers* author, Marshall Goldsmith, who was recognized as the #1 Leadership Thinker in the World suggests you “Imagine that you are 95 years old and just getting ready to die. Imagine that you have been given a beautiful gift. The ability to ‘go back in time’ and help the ‘you’ who is reading this have an even better life. What advice would the ‘old you,’ who is facing death, have for the ‘you’ that is reading this now? Do that!”

Marketing strategy consultant Dorie Clark, whose latest book, *Stand Out*, was named the no. 1 Leadership Book of 2015 by Inc. magazine, shares this advice: “Create a personal board of directors. Time is our most important and limited resource, and yet far too many of us are reactive when it comes to our scheduling. The people that we spent time with are the ones who emailed us and say, let’s get coffee. Instead, take the time to think about who are the 5 to 6 people that you most respect and want to spend time with. Then, make a plan to be more proactive in reaching out to them in 2016 so you can learn from them and give back.”

“Step back and ‘unlearn’ everything you’ve ever known about building a career,” says career strategist and workplace consultant J.T. O’Donnell, who is the CEO of CAREEREALISM, one of the top three career blogs. “In the last several years, there’s been a dramatic disruption in how we work. Today, every job is temporary, and studies suggest as much as half our workforce will be Independent Contractors by 2020. We are in a gig economy now. Those that see it and embrace it will survive and thrive. Those who bury their heads in the sand and try to keep building their career the old-fashioned way will suffer.”

Original article from [Forbes.com](http://Forbes.com)

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"My top career tip for 2016 is to make sure your professional network is generationally diverse," says Lindsey Pollak, the leading voice on millennials in the workplace and author of *Becoming the Boss: New Rules for the Next Generation of Leaders*. "The most successful people this year will be those who can communicate with Traditionalists, Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, Millennials and the up-and-coming Gen Zs. Members of the different generations tend to think differently about issues such as work/life integration, entrepreneurship, people management, marketing, social media and more, so a multigenerational network will inspire you to try new strategies in your career this year."

Ora Shtull, New York City's sought-after C-Suite Executive Coach and author of *The Glass Elevator*, says, "Everyone can benefit from a two-step strategy for blasting their career upward in 2016. Most professionals intuitively grasp the first step, but it's the second step they often ignore. The first step is: Change your Act. To advance professionally, enhance your presence, delegate the weed pulling, and engage in meatier strategic work. The second step is: Change your Audience. To avoid stalling on your personal path to success, extend your reach and deepen your connections both internally and externally."

And to make all this work, you need to establish some new habits. So I reached out to the bestselling author of *Better Than Before*, Gretchen Rubin, who shared this piece of wisdom: "To change our habits, the most important step—and a step that oddly, most habits experts seem to ignore—is to understand ourselves. There's no shortage of habits advice. Start small! Do it first thing in the morning! Reward yourself! But the fact is, there's no one-size-fits-all solution—but when we tailor a habit to suit our particular idiosyncrasies, we set ourselves up for success. A good example? Morning people and night people. Sure, it sounds sensible to exercise first thing in the morning. But if you're a night person, you're at your most energetic much later in the day. If your New Year's resolution is "Get up an hour early each day to exercise," you're not setting yourself up for success. Because you're a night person."

Applying this sage advice from these revered thought-leaders will help you accelerate your success in 2016. Make a plan to integrate these techniques and actions into what you do and how you do it. Track your progress throughout the year. Adjust, refine and measure. Then pat yourself on the back!



Original article from [Forbes.com](http://Forbes.com)

# Report: DoD Needs Big Cuts in Civilian, Contract Spending in Next Budget

Aaron Boyd, Senior Staff Writer  
December 30, 2015

The Department of Defense has been following a congressional directive to reduce spending on civilian and contract employees, the department told the Government Accountability Office. However, GAO investigators say they can't find the data to back this up.

GAO looked into whether the DoD has been complying with a mandate in the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act to bring down staffing levels and reduce expenses on the civilian side on par with similar reductions to military personnel, which total about 7 percent since 2012.

**Report:** [Complete Information Needed to Assess DoD's Progress for Reductions and Associated Savings](#)

The DoD's civilian staff is currently made up of about 756,000 full-time employees and at least 641,000 contractors — though that number is likely significantly higher, according to the GAO — compared with some 2.1 million military employees.

Congress also gave DoD authority to exempt certain critical civilian roles, reducing the pool for potential cuts by almost 70 percent. Under a plan submitted to Congress in February, DoD would bring the total civilian workforce — minus exclusions — from 238,000 in 2012 to 221,000 by 2017.

DoD has been tracking staff reductions since the 2013 NDAA, during which time the civilian workforce has come down by 3.3 percent, putting the department halfway to its goal. The congressional mandate was twofold, however, and DoD failed to track cost reductions in conjunction with the staff cuts.



Original article from  
[FederalTimes.com](http://FederalTimes.com) TT COMPANY

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During that same period, budget records show civilian personnel costs — payroll and benefits — have dropped 0.9 percent, far short of the military side, which has dropped 8.1 percent. GAO investigators said that, since the cost reductions are not specifically pegged to personnel cuts, it's impossible to determine what effect those cuts are having on the bottom line.

Furthermore, DoD's 2016 budget includes an increase in spending on contractors, which will only make it more difficult to make up the other half of the congressional mandate with only one more fiscal year to hit the mark, currently estimated to be about \$4.1 billion.

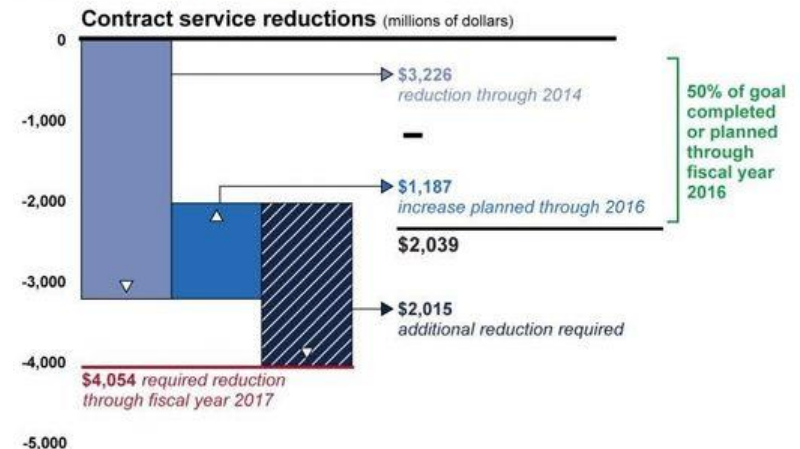
An increase in 2016 spending means DoD only has one more year to account for half of its cost reduction goals.

"At a time when the entire federal government is facing fiscal challenges that are likely to continue, DoD must plan strategically for reductions to its civilian and contractor workforces to achieve savings," the GAO report concludes. "Fully meeting all of the requirements of [the NDAA provision] would be a step in the right direction in this regard and would provide Congress with assurance that the department is making progress."

Without having the right data on hand, the GAO warned it could not make a proper recommendation to Congress about where cuts should be made to achieve those savings.

GAO recommended including a more comprehensive plan — including proposed staff cuts and specific cost reductions — in the president's 2017 budget proposal.

**Figure 1: DOD Progress toward Its Goal for Contractor Workforce Reductions as of February 2015 Status Report**



Source: GAO analysis of Department of Defense (DOD) information. | GAO-16-172





Looking for more ways to stay connected? Simply “like” our Facebook [page](#) to get helpful reminders on upcoming activities, see pictures from recent events, and find timely information about our Chapter.

Like and share our page to be eligible for exciting giveaways!

