



Land of Lincoln Chapter Newsletter

January 2016



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Chapter Members,

Wow, just like that we're already halfway through the board year! In the last six months your Executive Board and committee volunteers have been hard at work implementing a number of fresh new ideas to ensure your membership in the Land of Lincoln Chapter provides tangible value. From Lunch and Learns and Rapid Reviews to networking events and enticing incentives, this year is about giving our membership more!

But enough about the past, let's focus on where we're headed in the coming months. In Feb we'll be hosting our second CDFM exam prep course. The [Rapid Review](#) is perfect for those who are in the process of or will be seeking certification as a Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) in the near future. Be sure to register for this free course now!

It's finally time for the big announcement. **Mark your calendars for Wed, 23 Mar, for our local Professional Development Institute (PDI)!** This is our premiere training event of the year. We've been diligently working to bring together an exciting group of esteemed speakers who will provide diverse perspectives on a number of issues affecting DoD finance.

National ASMC has taken notice of the innovative changes being implemented in our Chapter. Consequently, Mr. Al Runnels, ASMC Executive Director, will also be joining us at our **PDI on 23 Mar** to help recognize our Chapter award winners. Thank you

(continued on page 2)



Message from Your New Chapter President (cont'd)

to everyone who took the time to submit awards nominations highlighting the significant contributions our members made over the last year. We are excited to celebrate local winners at our PDI!

In addition, our Chapter will be awarding [continuing education](#) and [high school](#) scholarships on 23 Mar. Be sure to read more about changes to our local scholarship program and submit applications by the **12 Feb deadline!**

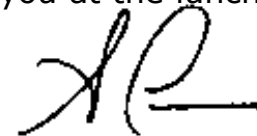
For more information about the PDI, including speaker biographies, visit our website. **Registration begins Mon, 8 Feb**, so be sure to check with your Organizational Vice President on how to reserve your spot at the PDI!

We're not all about training and CPEs here. **The annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser will be held in May.** Not only does this event help raise funds for scholarships, but it also gives members a chance to get out of their office to have some fun on the course! Not a seasoned golfer? Don't worry about it (neither am I)! This event is about having fun with your friends and colleagues. More information will be coming in the next few months, so start recruiting for your 4-person teams now!

Lastly, I want to highlight the work being done by our Membership Committee. Ms. Jasolyn Evans, Chair, is spearheading some exciting changes with the help of her committee members, Ms. Nicole Reese and Ms. Lynne Keith. Take some time to read about our Chapter's membership goals and the ongoing 2016 Membership Campaign to find out how you can **earn \$2 off your next luncheon**. Be sure to stop by their table at the luncheon on 28 Jan to hear more about their plans to help grow our Chapter!

Thank you all for everything you do to make the Land of Lincoln Chapter an organization to be proud of!

See you at the luncheon!



Penny Pinchers Running Club

Are you looking for ways to keep your New Year's resolution to get healthier in 2016? Maybe you're interested in finding others who enjoy being active like you. If so, we have good news!

The Penny Pinchers running club is just what you need to stay on track for a healthy new year! This is a low pressure, fun way to get motivated and stay active.

If you're interested in becoming a Penny Pincher, simply email LandofLincolnChapter.ASMC@gmail.com to get more information.



Upcoming Events

- Nippy Niner (9K & 9 Miles), 31 Jan
- St. Patrick's Day Run (5 Miles), 12 Mar
- Quivering Quads (Half Marathon), 6 Mar
- Go! St. Louis (5K/Half & Full Marathon), 9 / 10 Apr

Winter Warm-up Social

Another successful social is in the books! Thanks to everyone for coming out to Silver Creek on Thurs, 14 Jan, to enjoy some free food and fellowship. This event provided yet another opportunity to reconnect with former colleagues and network with other members of our Chapter. Be on the look out for information on our next social in the coming months!



Upcoming Events

January:

- 12 Jan – Executive Board Meeting
- 14 Jan – Winter Warm Up Networking Event
- 21 Jan – L2 Training
- 28 Jan– Membership Meeting Luncheon
 - Hosted by AMC
- 31 Jan – Penny Pinchers Event

February:

- 1-5 Feb – Rapid Review (R2) CDFM Prep Course
- 9 Feb – Executive Board Meeting
- 18 Feb – L2 Training
- 24 Feb (Tentative) – Membership Meeting Luncheon
 - Hosted by AFNIC & AFSPC

March:

- 8 Mar – Executive Board Meeting
- 12 Mar – Penny Pinchers Event
- 23 Mar – St. Louis Region Professional Development Institute (PDI)

Review our Chapter's [calendar](#) for the most current list of upcoming events.



2016 Membership Campaign

We are excited to announce the kickoff for our Chapter's 2016 Membership Campaign! To launch this, we are initiating a new member recruitment program where both current ASMC Land of Lincoln Chapter members and any new members can earn **\$2 off their next luncheon**.

Here's how it works:

- 1. Be a current paid ASMC Land of Lincoln Chapter member.*
- 2. As an ASMC Land of Lincoln Chapter member, encourage individuals to join ASMC. (Be sure the individual 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.
2. Increase current paid membership by 5% each year through quarterly reviews of member roster.
3. Improve recognition of ASMC Land of Lincoln Chapter member achievements by highlighting them in the newsletter and on the website.



ASMC Profile Updates

Have you recently change 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](#).

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) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Welcome, New Chapter Members! (Oct 15 – Dec 15)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| - Bruce Gunn | - Jessica Haddock | - Jennifer Hicks | - Perfidia Moffitt |
| - Nicole Reese | - Troy Sanders | - Matthew Sicola | - Jervinia Thomas |
| - Stephanie Westerman | | | |



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



Name: Jasolyn Evans

ASMC Member Since Mo/Yr: 7/2015

Chapter Officer/Committee Member, if applicable:
Membership Committee

What is your career field? Financial Management

How long have you been in this career field? 13 years

What organizations have you worked for? Air Mobility Command (AMC), 375th CPTS, Air Force Communications Agency, AF Materiel Command, AF Global Logistics Support Center, AF Network Integration Center, and U.S. Transportation Command

Do you have your CDFM? Yes

If so, how did you prepare for your CDFM certification? Attended the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Course and studied the course material

Where did you grow up? Bluford, IL, a small town near Mt. Vernon, IL.

How do you like to spend your spare time outside of work? I enjoy spending time with my husband and three boys. We love traveling and exploring new places and cities.

How did you get started down your current career path? I began my professional career as a Cost Analysis Palace Acquire Intern at AMC. My career progression has consisted of both Budget and Cost Analysis positions at the MAJCOM, Base, Field Operating Agency, Center, and Combatant Command levels.

What is your favorite motto/quote or words you live by? Be bold enough to use your voice, brave enough to listen to your heart and strong enough to live the life you've always imagined. And, Life's Too Short, Eat Dessert First!



Name: Nicole M Reese

ASMC Member Since Mo/Yr: 10/2015

Chapter Officer/Committee Member, if applicable:
Membership Committee

What is your career field? Financial Management/Accounting

How long have you been in this career field? 4 months

What organizations have you worked for? St. Louis March of Dimes and Mueller Prost (Public Accounting firm)

Do you have your CDFM? No, but I'm planning to have my CDFM by 2018

If so, how did you prepare for your CDFM certification? I'll cross that bridge when I get there.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Southeast Missouri, in a small town, called Piedmont.

How do you like to spend your spare time outside of work? Outside of work I enjoy a variety of different activities when I'm not working on completing my MBA. I enjoy crafting, hunting, fishing, and reading. I like to spend time with my husband and our dogs and family and friends.

How did you get started down your current career path? I interned with March of Dimes and Mueller Prost before graduating from University Missouri- Saint Louis this past May. Upon graduation I begin exploring government employment opportunities and landed at USTC.

What is your favorite motto/quote or words you live by? "A bad attitude is like a flat tire, you can't get anywhere with it."



December Membership Meeting Luncheon

The December Membership Meeting was held Tues, 15 Dec, at the Scott Club. Renown motivational speaker, author, and serial entrepreneur Mr. Aaron Broyles delivered an engaging presentation on how to see opportunity in everything you do. The motivational speech was inspired by concepts discussed in his book, "Do Great Things." Lucky members in the audience walked away with signed copies of Mr. Broyles' book. Be sure to check out his [website](#) for more information on this exciting speaker and the work he does!

At the luncheon, Ms. Mollie Bergmann, Scholarship Committee Chair, shared details on changes to the local continuing education and high school scholarship programs. Be sure to check out our [Scholarship](#) pages for more information. In addition, Ms. Jasolyn Evans, Membership Committee Chair, shared information on new initiatives that the committee will be implementing in an effort to increase membership.

January Membership Meeting Luncheon

This month's luncheon, hosted by AMC, will be held on [Thurs, 28 Jan, at Eckert's](#). Our guest speaker is Mr. Edwin F. Donaldson III, Deputy, Chief of Staff, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). Be sure to contact your Organizational Vice President to RSVP for this event!



Mark your calendars now!

What: St. Louis Regional PDI

When: Wed, 23 Mar 16

Who: High caliber, dynamic, informative speakers

- Maj Gen (ret) Alfred Flowers
- Mr. Al Runnels, ASMC Director
- Ms. Glenda Scheiner
- Dr. Jarris Taylor
- Col (ret) Dave Weinberg
- Mr. Aaron Broyles

Cost: \$79 Member / \$114 Non-Member

Registration begins Mon, 8 Feb! Be sure to check out the website www.LandOfLincolnChapter.com for more information.



Thanks to the generous donations of our members, our Chapter collected nearly 30 toys for children in need. These gifts were given to children in our local community to help brighten their holiday season. Thanks to everyone who contributed!



Brrr...winter is officially upon us! Unfortunately, there are many men, women, and children who are lacking quality coats to stay warm this season. To help those in our local community, we're asking members to clean out their closets!

Our Chapter will be collecting new and gently worn coats of any size at the luncheon on Thurs, 28 Jan. These donations will be delivered to the St. Patrick Center in St. Louis, where they will be distributed to those in need.





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 Jan | - 21 Apr | - 16 Jun |
| - 18 Feb | - 19 May | |

Rapid Review (R2)

The next Rapid Review (R2) CDFM exam prep course is scheduled **Feb 1 - 5**.

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.

Hear what fellow Chapter members had to say about the course:



"It's definitely worth the five hours of time to become acquainted with the CDFM material and put the overall information in perspective. I feel I'm well on the path to testing."

"It is a great course and allows for open conversation and it is better than trying to study the material by yourself. Also an hour a day for 5 days is not that much time to give up to get so much more in return."

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

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

Local Scholarship Program

Don't miss out on this awesome benefit of being a member of the Land of Lincoln Chapter! The **deadline** to apply for local Continuing Education and High School scholarships is **Fri, 12 Feb 16!**

This year our Chapter has altered the criteria for local scholarship awards in some important ways:

Continuing Education Scholarship

- No longer required to pursue a finance-related degree, giving members the opportunity to get assistance regardless of their field of study.

High School Scholarship

- Graduating high school seniors must be sponsored by a member of our Chapter, ensuring that the benefits of these scholarships are reaped by our members.
- No longer required to pursue a finance-related degree, giving sponsored students the opportunity to get assistance regardless of their field of study.

Check out our website to find everything you need to know about scholarship eligibility criteria, how to apply, and more! If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Mollie Bergmann, Scholarship Committee Chair, at mollie.bergmann@us.af.mil.



Armed Forces Comptroller

The Spring 2016 edition of the *Armed Forces Comptroller* will focus on topics related to cost management and budget.

This is a perfect opportunity to put your share your professional expertise by submitting a scholarly article! If your article is selected for national publication and you cite the Land of Lincoln Chapter, you earn a **\$100 article incentive award!**

For publication details, click [here](#).



National Professional Development Institute (PDI)

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!



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

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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

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 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.

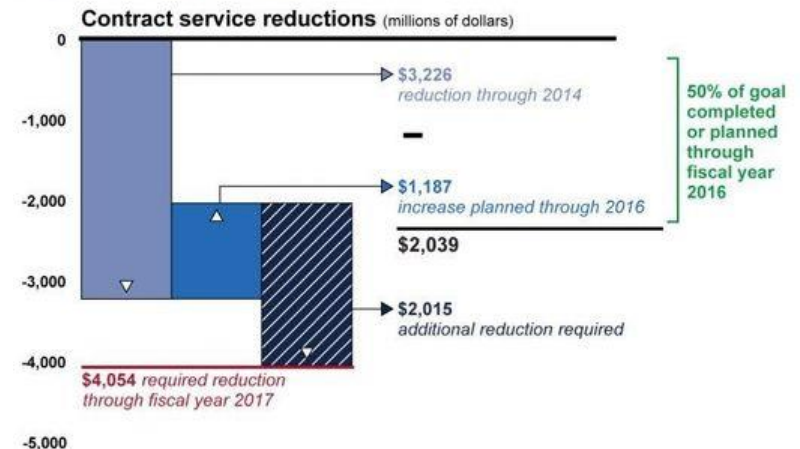
An increase in 2016 spending means DoD only has one more year to account for half of its cost reduction goals.

"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!

