



Yankee

# Financial *Matters*

September 2014

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### WHAT'S HOT, WHAT'S NOT, WHAT'S UP?

What a change from last month's Newsletter - last month I was writing to you in hot, humid 90 degree weather, today it is 62! Only in New England!!

**WHAT'S HOT:** Some exciting news to talk about as well! As you may have read in our earlier Newsletters we have been desperate for someone to take over Bill Gurney's position as Co-Chair of our Community Events Committee. Bill and Sarah Higgins (who took a short sabbatical and Bill who departed for DCMA) did an outstanding job the past three years and have consistently won National Recognition and Awards with ASMC National for exemplary service to our community. They diligently organized a Community Event each and every month - that is quite a feat and no easy task!! I am happy to report that Brianna Gurney has stepped up to the plate to handle the Community Committee, along with Sarah Higgins who has recently now returned from getting married. Congratulations to you both! Stay tuned for more information to come regarding their event in October!!

**MORE GOOD NEWS TO REPORT:** Our Training & Education Committee --, while the Chairperson position is still open at this time, I am thrilled to let you know we will be continuing with the **CDFM TRAINING** here on base. As you probably know Ms. Pam Condino has been conducting the training the past two years and recently relocated to Virginia. Our ASMC VP, Ken Sweeney was able to organize with Mr. Tommy Appleby to take over as facilitator/trainer in Pam's absence. We expect to have the first session begin in November so keep an eye out for more details. Thank you Tommy for assuming this very important role and thanks to Ken for your idea!

### **WHAT'S UP?**



The Yankee Chapter will be working with Mr. Vince Siwicki, Chief, Financial Management Directorate on **The AFLCMC FM Awards Ceremony** scheduled to be held on Thursday, October 9, 2014, at the Hanscom Conference Center. I'm sure you remember the fabulous organization, timely information that was disseminated, and

fun times that Linda Holahan prepared for last year's event. Stay tuned for more information to be sent out soon!

**COMING UP EVENTS:** We have an exciting year once again ahead of us. We are always looking for dedicated, committed, & energized members to help participate in and work on committees. If interested please send an email to the respective Committee Chair and let them know of your interest. We only want the "cream of the crop" as we consider ourselves a "top notch professional organization".

We expect to have Col. Alfonso LaPuma address our group on "Everything you wanted to know about Acquisition but they never told you". This will most definitely be a very informative and entertaining meeting. More details are coming!!

**WHAT'S NOT HOT?** Well it certainly is NOT our Yankee Chapter because we are "**Smokin' Hot**" at the moment and plan to continue full steam ahead! Jump on the train, join a committee today - have fun, make a contribution to a worthy cause, Great EPR/OPR and Civilian Awards Bullet, network with your co-workers, learn something new, -- Did I mention **HAVE FUN? COME GROW WITH US!**

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## ASMC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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**PRESIDENT JOYCE INGRASSIA**

**VICE PRESIDENT KEN SWEENEY**

**SECRETARY JANET FOSTER**

**TREASURER STEPHANI FISHER**

### COMMITTEES

**COMMUNICATIONS SrA MATTHEW GOFORTH**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE BRIANNA GURNEY & SARAH HIGGINS**

**MEMBERSHIP RODNEY ARNDT**

**PROGRAMS SMSgt. LYNETTE SCOTT**

**TRAINING & EDUCATION OPEN**

**AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIP & FUND LINDA HOLAHAN & CATHY SCHULZ**

**AWARDS KATHERINE BRADSHAW**

**NEED ASMC – YANKEE CHAPTER - VOLUNTEERS**



**ALL MEMBERS OF THE YANKEE CHAPTER WE ARE  
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE DIFFERENT  
COMMITTEES. THIS IS A GREAT EPR/OPR & CIVILIAN  
AWARDS BULLET. PLEASE CONTACT JOYCE INGRASSIA  
OR KEN SWEENEY IF YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER.**

**Submit an article to:**  
**joyce.ingrassia@us.af.mil**

**for use in a future newsletter.**

**Share your thoughts,  
achievements or pictures.**

**We are always looking for your ideas, articles, photos  
of events, suggestions virtually anything you'd like us  
to share. See the box to the left for submitting. We  
are only as good as you help to make us!**

**MEMBERSHIP LINKS:**

Join ASMC:  
<http://www.asmcnline.org/membership/join-renew/>  
Update your Profile:  
<http://www.asmcnline.org/membership/edit-profile/>  
Renew ASMC Membership:  
<http://www.asmcnline.org/membership/renew/>

## MEET YOUR MEMBER, ALEX RABASCO

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Alex grew up in North Reading, Massachusetts a suburb north of Boston. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and Economics from Boston College and an MBA from Suffolk University.

Alex's career started in 1984 with a job as a financial analyst for a Boston area defense contractor. As part of his job he would participate in negotiations at Hanscom AFB. In 1991 Alex worked for another Boston area defense contractor as a Financial Manager. His duties included preparing financial statements, contracts management, and preparing proposals. From 1996 until 2010 Alex worked for a number of defense support contractors that provided support to program offices at Hanscom. In 2010 he transitioned to the government as a civilian. He worked 3 years as a GS employee in the Strategic Warning and Surveillance Division and most recently in September 2013 moved to the US

Airborne Warning and Control system (AWACS) Program Office.

Some of Alex's favorite things he enjoys are tennis and bicycling.

When asked who is the biggest influence in his life Alex responded, "My wife, Joanne, is very caring for all people and animals. (We have 2 dogs, 2 cats – no more pets though, please!)"

One of the best things that has happened to him is the fact that his family is blessed with health. The worst would be when both boys received sports related injuries in high school in 2011. Each boy had 2 surgeries each at Children's Hospital in Boston over the time span of a year. It was a very stressful time but they have fully recovered.

Any Pet Peeves? "Not doing your best. I went to college with students that were brilliant but didn't apply themselves. Another pet peeve is mean people, but more often than not bullies are tormented themselves with issues".

One of her most favorite things to do is to spend time with her family, children, and grandchildren. This is getting harder and harder to do, because of the different locations everyone lives at. "Whenever we get together with as many as we can or we'll go and visit them, it's a really special event" Diane said, "and very exhausting as well".

What does Alex want out of life? Well, he wants continued health for himself and his family (and to get the kids through college!)

I asked what inspires him to do good? He replied working side by side with the military folks who give up so much to protect us. September 11<sup>th</sup> was a wake-up call for Alex to

## ASMC YANKEE CHAPTER

appreciate our military servicemen and women.

What are you most proud of? “My sons Garrett, 20 years old, Jordan, 19 years old, and daughter Jillian, 15 years old”.

Some goals Alex is still trying to accomplish now that his children are nearly grown is to focus on more training to enhance his skills. He recently completed the Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) program and Program Management Level 1. Alex is definitely an example that you are never too old to learn!

Is there a time in your life that you’ll never forget? “Yes. Kind of a wacky fact is that my childhood home was hit by lightning twice. There were no injuries resulting from the lightning strikes and the house sustained minor damage in each instance”. Wow that is weird.

I asked, “Is there anything in particular that you wish you could do over?” Alex responded with, “Yes, I am very reserved. If I had to do it

over again, I would push myself outside of my comfort zone more. (for example, this interview, I am uncomfortable talking about myself).

Alex said he’d like to travel to Europe once they pay off the college loans. “That’s something I’d like to accomplish that I haven’t done yet”.

What are some goals that Alex is still trying to accomplish? “To keep learning. There is still so much for me to learn about finance and acquisition in general”.

What brings Alex joy? “Feeding people, must be my Italian roots. That’s why I volunteer on the ASMC Program Committee”, he laughed.

I asked Alex the final pressing question. If you were to take out a full page in the New York Times and had to describe yourself in only three words, what would those words be? “Hard worker, Husband, Dad”.

Thank you Alex Rabasco, we’re proud to have you a part of ASMC’s Family!!

## HOUSE LAWMAKERS OFFER FUNDING BILL TO AVERT SHUTDOWN

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House Republicans rolled out a short-term funding bill that would fund the federal government from the end of the fiscal year until early December and prevent a repeat of last year's shutdown.

- By FederalSoup Staff
- Sep 10, 2014

House Republicans rolled out a short-term funding bill that would fund the federal government from the end of the fiscal year until early December and prevent a repeat of last year's shutdown.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) introduced the [continuing resolution](#) Sept. 9. The bill would keep the government open after current funding expires Sept. 30.

The legislation would fund government programs and services at the current annual cap rate of \$1.012 trillion until Dec. 11, unless Congress approves a fiscal 2015 appropriations bill before then.

"We have reached the point where a continuing resolution is necessary to keep the government functioning and avoid another shutdown," Rogers said in a statement. "It is a critical piece of legislation, and my committee has crafted the bill in a responsible, restrained way that should draw wide support in the House and Senate. This bill is free of controversial riders, maintains current levels, and does not seek to change existing federal policies."

Rogers noted, however, that the "temporary, imperfect measure" does not address new and emerging needs.

"In order to adequately address the country's real and urgent budgetary requirements, it is imperative that Congress fulfill its constitutional duty and enact actual, line-by-line appropriations legislation for the next fiscal year," he said.

However, while staying within the capped amount, the resolution does include some funding changes, including a provision to continue a surge in funding for State Department programs to address the situation in Ukraine; several provisions to provide additional funds for various activities at the Department of Veterans Affairs; and provisions to fund accelerated research on Ebola therapies and the Centers for Disease Control's response to the Ebola outbreak.





**ASMC YANKEE CHAPTER  
2014 FIVE STAR CHAPTER  
CDFM AUGUST 2014**

**The Sign of Distinction**

<p><b>The Certified Defense</b></p> <p>Michael Alexander Elisa Allen Tommy Appleby, CDFM-A Rodney Arndt, CDFM-A Holly Beavers, CDFM-A Susanne Bradley Barbara Briand Victoria Brown, CDFM-A Glenn Campbell, CDFM-A Dale Champagne Ethel Churchill, CDFM-A Pamela Coit Pamela Condino Constance Confer Tim Cram Roger Cruzan, CDFM-A Margaret Donahue Catherine Dowling, CDFM-A Jacquelyn Foster, CDFM-A Janet Foster, CDFM-A Jean Galib Charles Gisondi Terry Goodwin, CDFM-A Diane Grant Bill Gurney Andrade Haughton Russell Henry Vincent Hodges Barry Hogan, CDFM-A Dean Hollembaek Michale Jesson Marilyn Keeter, CDFM-A Louis Krueger Lissa Lalonde, CDFM-A</p>	 <p><b>YANKEE CHAPTER CDFMs</b></p>	<p><b>Financial Manager</b></p> <p>Jennifer Lemay, CDFM-A Sharon Littlejohn Manuel Lomba Adam Macksoud Molly Magee Daniel McCarthy Kathryn McCorkle, CDFM-A Carol Anne McGowan, CDFM-A Mary Medeiros Jason Moore Jason Newman Kevin O'Connor Dorethea Ogarro Michael Olivera, CDFM-A Jason Pennino Lisa Perregil, CDFM-A Linda Pettes Alex Rabasco Thomas Regan Dawn Rooney, CDFM-A Frederick Schomburg Lynette Scott Carolann Sharbutt Vincent Siwicki Stephen Smith Jonathan Spooner Patricia Teferian Tina Vetreno Frank West Pauline Whalley Carolyn Wright Michael Yensz Sara Zakrzewski</p>
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## **CHERYL EGGERT FROM HANSCOM FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ADDRESSES ASMC'S ATTENDEES.**

It'll be here before you know it! Yes that's right! Don't blink now but lots of snow along with the holidays and the stress that usually accompanies that time of year. Get prepared now and some of the hassle of dealing with the holiday crush can be alleviated.

ASMC was extremely fortunate to have Ms. Cheryl Eggert from the Hanscom Federal Credit Union address about 20 attendees on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Eggert's topic included

Creating a holiday budget

Debt reduction options

Holiday saving tips and travel planning

One of the keys to being prepared is to develop a budget, we should all be pretty familiar with this process. Typically you should spend no more than 1.5% of your household annual income on holiday gifts and entertainment. Stick to that formula and you should be in pretty good shape come 2015.

Debt reduction – most of us will use our credit cards to make purchases during this festive season and it's really easy to get caught up in overspending. You're shopping, the stores are decorated with festive displays, music is playing – all this can set the theme for overspending. If you plan to shop using credit cards, make sure you have enough money to pay it off when the bill comes in. Remember, interest is money out of your pocket.

Shopping early can give you extra time to compare prices. And always use coupons! Start clipping and saving coupons that you receive in the mail or in flyers. Shop online – Shopping online provides you the opportunity to compare prices without having to leave home and trek through the crowds. Be creative- bake some cookies, create a photo

album, knit a scarf or a blanket, give a coupon for babysitting time or a cooked dinner.- think of the possibilities, they are endless.

Draw names- This works for larger families and friends. Everyone gets a gift and each person only has to buy one gift. Put a limit on the gifts \$10-\$25. Have a theme!

Travel – the best time to book your holiday travel plans is between October 6<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>. Air fares are typically lower during this time, unless you plan to do a last minute booking.

And remember those who have less than us. Yes times are tough, budgets are squeezed, stress is huge – BUT there are LOTS of people less fortunate than us. Try to remember to give to your favorite charity, donate unused items or sponsor a child. You'll be amazed at the smile it will bring to your face and heart!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

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## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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### ASMC membership allows you to:

1. Gain insight to information on current trends and developments in the financial management of the Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard.
2. Receive a subscription to the [Armed Forces Comptroller](#), the quarterly professional journal of the ASMC, and the ASMC Connection, the monthly e-newsletter. These publications, as well as the ASMC website, contain articles, organizational news and updates on current trends and developments within the financial management community and the ASMC.
3. Receive discounts for registration at the national Professional Development Institute, a three day educational event that provides valuable CPE and networking opportunities.
4. Have access to online educational opportunities, where members can participate at their own pace, start and stop sessions, and download presentations.
5. Join in one of the more than [140 chapters worldwide](#). Chapter benefits could include monthly luncheons, local education activities, chapter publications, philanthropic endeavors and more.
6. Receive discounts on enrollment and renewal in the Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) Program, which is one of the key certifications identified by the DoD for financial managers.
7. Have the opportunity to participate in the [National Awards Program](#). This program includes achievement awards, an essay contest, corporate member award, members' continuing education grants, high school scholarships and many chapter program awards.
8. Gain access to the CPE management tool, which allows members to manage, track and record their continuing education experience.
9. Have an opportunity to demonstrate leadership as a chapter officer or committee member.
10. Network with military comptrollers/financial managers and other business organizations interested in military comptrollership.

### Affinity benefits include:

#### Pentagon Federal Credit Union

PenFed is proud to partner with the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) to offer superior financial service products at superior rates. As a member of ASMC, you and your family are eligible for PenFed membership giving you exclusive access to award winning products and services.

Opening a PenFed account will directly support ASMC in pursuit of its mission. Choose any award winning ASMC branded credit card or take advantage of competitive rates on savings products.

Support ASMC with [PenFed](#) today!

*\*Federally insured by NCUA*

#### GEICO

Thanks to a special arrangement with GEICO, you can save even more on all your insurance needs simply because you're a member of ASMC. Use the [online quote generator](#) or call GEICO at **1-800-368-2734** and mention your ASMC affiliation for exclusive savings.

## OCTOBER COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT!!

ASMC MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS DON'T MISS OUT - We have a volunteer opportunity at Cradles to Crayons on October 26th, from 1-3 PM. Cradles to Crayons is located at 155 North Beacon Street, Brighton, MA 02135.

### Event Details:

Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive - at home, at school and at play. We supply these items free of charge by engaging and connecting communities that have with communities that need. For more information on Cradles to Crayons please visit: <https://www.cradlestocrayons.org/>.

What: Volunteers will inspect, sort, and package all new and like-new donations into customized "KidPacks".

Where: Cradles to Crayons, 155 North Beacon Street, Brighton, MA 02135

When: Sunday, October 26th- 1:00PM to 3:00 PM

Please contact Brianna Gurney ([brianna.gurney.1@us.af.mil](mailto:brianna.gurney.1@us.af.mil)) or Sarah Higgins ([sarah.higgins.1@us.af.mil](mailto:sarah.higgins.1@us.af.mil)) if you are interested in attending this community service event.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT

Our two new Co-Chairs for the Community Committee, Brianna Gurney and Sarah Higgins wanted to get the word out on an event coming up in January.

We will be feeding the homeless at the Church of St. John the Evangelist on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 12:30-4:30PM. This event will take place in Boston on Beacon Hill.

Although Sarah and Brianna are not yet recruiting volunteers until the November/December timeframe, they wanted to get the word out.

## **EVENT DETAILS:**

Since 1983, the Sunday's Bread organization has been serving healthy meals every weekend to the homeless population of Boston through the help and support of volunteers like you. For more information on Saturday/Sunday's Bread please visit: <http://www.satsunbread.org/volunteers.html>.

## **WHAT: FEEDING THE HOMELESS**

Where: Church of St. John the Evangelist  
35 Bowdoin Street on Beacon Hill in Boston. (The soup kitchen is held at a church, but it's a non-denominational activity.)

## **WHEN:**

Saturday - 12:30PM to 4:00 PM

Team, If you haven't participated in one of our Community Events of feeding the homeless before I strongly urge you to consider volunteering for this. You will leave with a sense accomplishment in your community and a greater respect for your fellow man and woman.