

**“If you think you can do a thing or think you can’t do a thing, you’re right.”**

**– Henry Ford**



# THE UPDATE

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

**BY: MS. STACY SON**



In preparing for this month’s message, I came across what I wrote for the newsletter back in 2022, and I feel like it is worth repeating. The environment we are operating in continues to become more complex, more dynamic, and as a result, it is more critical to challenge the status quo and move our Agencies, our Department and our country into the future.

In January, we honor Martin Luther King, Jr and his legacy. Did you know that he was just 19 years old when he graduated from Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology? Did you know that he received his Ph.D. degree when he was just 26 years old? Doctor King was one of the most influential leaders in the Civil Rights movement and was assassinated at the age of 39. During his lifetime, he forged a path that took courage, perseverance and strength to overcome adversities that most of us will never have to endure. He stood up for ideas, beliefs and a vision that was met with direct opposition and conflict, yet he chose to approach his adversaries in peaceful protest, proclaim his beliefs through powerful speeches that moved masses into action, and led by example. He was a servant leader who had a significant impact on our nation.

I didn’t know until recently that Doctor King passed away at such a young age. Given all that I knew about his legacy, I assumed that he had been sharing his message for many, many more years than he had.

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**2024 JOINT ASMC & AGA PDT**

**FEBRUARY 20 & 22**

**8:00 AM-12:30 PM EST**

**ISSUE: 34:07**

**JANUARY 2024**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY: MS. STACY SON

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This one small detail changed my entire perspective about his legacy and has inspired me to think differently about the influence that we, as individuals and as leaders, can make on the world around us in a relatively short period of time.

Each one of us has the authority and responsibility to lead others in some facet of our life, and Doctor King's story reveals to us the power that we each possess when we believe and participate in working toward a goal or vision that is bigger than ourselves.



As part of the Department of Defense, we are gifted with the opportunity to participate in such an endeavor, the defense of our great Nation. While we may not be fighting on the front lines, we do play a vital role in ensuring that our Warfighters have the supplies and resources, technology, and weapons that they need to perform their jobs with excellence.

You may wonder at times if your role has significance. Let me encourage you and tell you that it does! Every person contributes to our mission to protect and defend our country, and you make a difference! Think about the small business that is depending on us to pay their invoices correctly and on time or the budget analyst who is tasked with determining how much money will be needed to support their program in future years, who is depending on the accounting records as their baseline for future budget requests. Think about all those who depend on us to provision their system accesses or answer their questions about when they will be paid or how much of their obligation has been expended. While these may seem like day-to-day routine tasks for us, for those we serve, the work we perform is vital to the sustainment of the DoD operation, and our Warfighters are counting on us to do our jobs well. This is what we do. This is who we are. This is the legacy that we are leaving as DoD Civilians.

The rate of transformation and change within the Department has never been greater. We are living in unprecedented times. We are part of a movement toward frontiers we are just beginning to explore. We all have opportunities to influence our organizations with new ideas, process improvements, and innovations, and I am excited to see what we will accomplish as we work together toward our goals to transform, modernize and enhance our support to our Service members. Thank you for all you do!



## 8 TAX TIPS TO MAKE FILING EASIER THIS YEAR

BY: ROBERT FARRINGTON, SENIOR CONTRIBUTOR AT FORBES

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertfarrington/2024/01/29/8-tips-to-make-tax-filing-easier-this-year/?sh=550397fc1217>

Tax season officially starts this week with the IRS opening e-file for individual taxpayers. While many people are getting a jump on filing their taxes, you may want to wait a little bit and get organized before you decide to do your tax return. I reached out to a range of CPAs and tax experts to get their best tips for filing taxes in 2024 for the 2023 tax year, and here's what they said.



- 1. Keep Track of Your Documents As They Arrive.** You may not have all the documentation you need to file a tax return for several more weeks. If you begin storing documents in different places, you are more likely to lose them or forget about some of them altogether. Moll also points out that tax documents can be delivered online, via email, or through the mail, and you can do yourself a favor by setting up a cloud-based folder to keep all your digital documents in. Meanwhile, you can keep paper documents sent to you in the mail in a regular folder or a dedicated slot in your filing cabinet.
- 2. Have All Required Documents Before You Get Started.** According to CPA Scott Rawitscher of Collaborative Business Solutions, one of the biggest issues that slows down the tax preparation process is going back and forth with a CPA or tax preparer to ensure all the information is collected. "If your CPA provides you with a tax organizer, definitely use it as a guide," he said. And if you're unclear on anything you might need, reach out to your tax preparer early in the process to find out what you need and how to get it.
- 3. Don't Forget to Report Earned Interest.** CPA JP Geisbauer of Centerpoint Financial Management points out that rising interest rates in 2023 led to many taxpayers opening new savings accounts or certificates of deposit to earn more interest on their cash reserves. However, not everyone knows that interest earned in these accounts needs to be reported as taxable income. "Inventory all your interest-bearing cash accounts and ensure you have included the information in your income tax return," said Geisbauer. "The last thing you want to do is file a tax return only to receive a notice that you should have included interest income from an account you may have forgotten about."
- 4. File Electronically.** CPA Lisa Greene-Lewis of TurboTax points out that filing taxes electronically and early on can help you get your tax refund significantly faster. The IRS even points out that 9 out of 10 electronically filed returns lead to receiving a tax refund in 21 days or less.

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5. **Get Professional Help.** Greene-Lewis also says that, if you feel overwhelmed with the prospect of filing your own taxes, you can always reach out to a professional for help or use a tax software program to make the process easier. Whether you want to do it yourself, get help along the way, or have a tax expert do your taxes for you, she points out that TurboTax offers a suite of full-service, assisted, and DIY tax preparation offerings for individuals, families, and small businesses. "Enabled through Intuit's generative AI-powered innovations paired with the company's virtual expert platform, filers can choose to file their taxes themselves, with assistance along the way, or fully hand off their taxes for a virtual or in-person tax preparation experience and receive the same maximum refund and accuracy," she said.
6. **Take Major Life Changes Into Account.** CPA Dana Lashbaugh of Helium Financial Group also says that, whether you're filing taxes yourself or with the help of a professional, you must take major changes in your life into account and communicate them properly. This should also include any changes to your life, such as getting married, a new child, enrollment into college, retirement plans, change of employment, buying or selling a business, or even buying or selling a home.
7. **Remember That Filing Late Doesn't Mean You Can Pay Late.** Lashbaugh also points out the common misconception that requesting an extension for tax filing means you can pay the amount you owe later in the year, too. However, this is not the case at all, and taxes due are always due by the tax filing deadline each year. For 2024, this date falls on April 15. "When filing an extension, the taxes are still due on April 15th, but filing can be delayed until October 15th," he noted.
8. **Keep Tabs on All The Deductions and Credits You're Eligible For.** Also consider making a list of all the deductions and credits you may be eligible for this year, which you can base off of ones you were able to take in previous years, and changes that occurred in your life and finances in 2023. Tax attorney Priya Mishra said taking advantage of deductions can reduce the amount of your income that is taxed, whereas tax credits reduce your taxes owed directly. Mishra adds that deductions and credits to watch out for can include deductions for charitable contributions and business, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Child Tax Credit. If you had large medical or dental bills in tax year 2023, you might be able to claim this deduction, she said provided eligible medical expenses were above 7.5% of your adjusted gross income.





# RUNNING THE CHAPTER

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BY: JENNIFER WELCH

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024



**WELCOME:** Meeting brought to order by Stacy Son, Chapter President, at 12:00 PM.

**ATTENDEES:** Stacy Son, Brandi McGough, Emilee McLarnan, Jennifer Welch, Mahmud Islam, Danielle Stanley, and Megan Bratton

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Membership Drive and Brochure:
  - Megan is maintaining regular communication with the publicity board for membership updates.
  - Kim is actively reaching out to lapsed members for renewals. Stacy is reaching out to contacts that are GS-14 or above.
- ASMC National Professional Development Institute (PDI):
  - Stacy and Danielle are attending the national PDI and Emilee will attend next year's as chapter president.
- Social event planned for Feb 22 at Rusty Bucket from 4:30-7:30.
  - The event cost remains the same, featuring a raffle for three \$50 Amazon gift cards for attendees.
  - Early career talks for those new to government are being considered at the social event.
- Monthly Raffle for New/Renewing Members (FY 24):
  - Emilee is drawing the raffles, offering the \$50 prize each month.
- Financial Matters:
  - Mahmud will reimburse Emilee \$50 for eGift cards related to raffle prizes for Oct/Nov/Dec. Charitable Activities:
- Account Management:
  - Emilee discusses potential board or committee involvement with new members and is aiming to streamline current committee chairs.

**ADJOURNED:** Meeting adjourned by Stacy Son, Chapter President, at 1:00 PM.

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THE UPDATE

## JOINT ASMC & AGA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING BY: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

DATE: Tuesday, February 20 & Thursday, February 22, 2024

TIME: 8:00 AM-12:30 PM EST (Both Days)

PLATFORM: ASMC Zoom



The ASMC Buckeye Chapter and the Greater Columbus AGA proudly present the 2024 Joint ASMC and AGA Professional Development Training (PDT). This year's theme is "Customer is King," so join us in examining all aspects of customer service to provide an exceptional experience within the Department of Defense. Topics include:

- Strategy 101: Using the DoD's FM Strategy to Improve the Customer Experience
- Aligning with the Mission
- Networking to Improve Current and Future Interactions
- Customer Service Model
- How Innovation Feeds Customers
- DLA: The Amazon Store of the DoD
- The Art of Saying No
- Never Stop Never Stopping: Why Continuous Education Contributes to Your Personal Successes as well as Your Customer's



Attendees will receive 8.0 CPEs for attending. DFAS employees need supervisory approval to attend and code their time to GTRAIN. Employees from other agencies should check with their supervisor for timekeeping guidance.

Space is limited and priority will be granted to ASMC and AGA members. If your registration is approved, you will receive a confirmation email along with event information. Registration closes at midnight on Tuesday, February 13th.

1. Obtain supervisor approval.
2. Fill out the registration information: <https://forms.gle/kQ5MEV8nBmwCEA3L9>
3. Fill out all information requested.

If your registration has been confirmed, you will receive notification along with documents and an access link by COB Thursday, February 15th. If you have questions, please contact [asmcbuckeye.events@gmail.com](mailto:asmcbuckeye.events@gmail.com).



## ASMC NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (PDI) BY: ASMC HQ

The National Professional Development Institute (PDI) is the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC)'s premier, annual training event for the defense financial management community which will be held May 29-31, 2024, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona.



In 2023, over 7,500 defense financial management community members and stakeholders joined us in person and virtually for this professional development opportunity. This year, ASMC is once again pleased to offer a virtual option for attendees, but we hope to see you in Phoenix, where attendees will converge with high-level speakers and instructors for this three-day in-person and virtual event focused on education and training. PDI 2024 includes more than 100 educational sessions with over 300 speakers, and the ability to earn up to 150 continuing professional education (CPE) credits. CPEs include on-site sessions, virtually live-streamed sessions, and recorded session content post-PDI.

PDI features a full day of Service and Defense Agencies sessions; general sessions; mini courses aligned to the DoD Financial Management Certification Program competencies and associated proficiency levels; financial management, audit, acquisition, and workforce management sessions; and other special activities. ASMC is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accounting (NASBA) standards to obtain and maintain certifications and will be offering NASBA credits for several on-site sessions.

### 5 Reasons to Attend PDI 2024 In Person

1. In-person attendees will have more than 100 sessions tailored to the defense financial management community.
2. NASBA credits cannot be awarded to virtual attendees or attendees watching post-PDI recordings due to NASBA requirements.
3. May 29th is Community Day at PDI 2024. Community Day, is a day set aside for each branch of military service to break into sessions that are specific to that service or agency.
4. PDI offers plenty of networking opportunities with defense FM colleagues, high-level speakers, experienced instructors, sponsors and vendors, and attendees will have the opportunity to attend a Chapter Fair Street Party like never before!
5. Phoenix, AZ is a great place to visit because of its stunning hotels, innovative restaurants, impressive cultural institutions, and natural beauty.

PDI 2024 is an opportunity you won't want to miss! Registration opens March 1, 2024. More details can be found at <https://www.pdi2024.org>.



## ASMC BUCKEYE CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT PROGRAM

### BY: SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Applications must be received by the ASMC Buckeye Chapter no later than **Thursday, February 29, 2024 MIDNIGHT EST** to be considered by the selection panel. No exceptions to this deadline will be allowed. Any applications received incomplete or after this date will not be considered for selection.

#### SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

Mail via U.S. Postal Service to:  
ASMC Buckeye Chapter  
Attention: Scholarship Committee  
P. O. Box 360674  
Columbus, Ohio 43236-0674



Or via Official Email to:

[asmcbuckeye.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:asmcbuckeye.scholarship@gmail.com)

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact the ASMC Buckeye Chapter at [asmcbuckeye.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:asmcbuckeye.scholarship@gmail.com). You can also find additional information at <https://engage.asmconline.org/asmcbuckeyechapter/home> or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/asmc-buckeye-chapter/>.

## KROGER REWARDS – A WAY TO GIVE BACK!

### BY: WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

The Kroger Family of Companies is committed to community engagement, positive social impact and charitable giving at the national and local levels. Every community is unique, but our common goal is to partner with the neighborhoods we serve and help the people there live healthier lives.

One of the ways in which we do this is through our Kroger Community Rewards program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works:

1. Create a digital account.
2. Link your card to an organization (ASMC BUCKEYE CHAPTER).
3. Your organization earns from your transactions!

You can get started today! To create an account or link your card to our organization, please visit the following site: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>.

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## ASMC BUCKEYE CHAPTER WINTER SOCIAL BY: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

DATE: Thursday, February 22, 2024

TIME: 4:30-7:30 PM

LOCATION: Rusty Bucket, 4062 Gramercy St, Columbus, OH 43219



Are you getting cabin fever? Are you looking to socialize with others? Do you like free food?

Join us on the Rusty Bucket's Enclosed Patio at Easton Town Center for our Winter Social! This event is open to anyone (you do not need to be a current member to attend) and pizza, appetizers, and soft drinks will be provided (cash bar is available for all other drink options). This is a great time to network, build relationships with others, and learn more about ASMC! We hope to see you there!

To RSVP, please fill out the Google form below by COB Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.  
<https://forms.gle/k8Pu2DQ1ZJo54vwg9>

If you have any questions about the event, please email us at [asmcbuckeye.events@gmail.com](mailto:asmcbuckeye.events@gmail.com).

## MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

POC: DANIELLE STANLEY

<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>	Microsoft Teams	JANUARY 29 12:00-1:00 PM
<b>Planning Committee Meeting</b>	Microsoft Teams	FEBRUARY 26 12:00-1:00 PM
<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>	Microsoft Teams	MARCH 25 12:00-1:00 PM

## EXTERNAL COMMUNITY SERVICE BY: AWARDS/COMPETITION CHAIR

Did you know that service performed outside of ASMC can earn points for the Chapter toward our prestigious 5-Star Status? Our 2023-2024 award year is well underway, so keep track of your community contributions and be sure to talk to the Awards and Competition Chair/Co-Chair to see what your achievements could mean for the Chapter!



If you have any questions about awards or our Chapter competition, please contact Danielle Stanley at [danielle.m.stanley5.civ@mail.mil](mailto:danielle.m.stanley5.civ@mail.mil).



## GENERAL INFORMATION

## TREASURER'S REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: MAHMUD B. ISLAM

DECEMBER 2023

## \*\*\* NET INCOME \*\*\*

## INCOME/EXPENSES

MONTHLY INCOME:	\$ 30,079.33
MONTHLY EXPENSE:	\$ (30,000.00)
MONTHLY NET INCOME:	\$ 79.33
YEAR TO DATE NET INCOME:	\$ (461.43)

\*\*\* BANK BALANCES \*\*\*  
AS OF 12/31/2023

CHECKING	\$ 3,290.14
SAVINGS	\$ 22,401.50
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (CD)	\$ 30,000.00
TOTAL CHECKING/SAVINGS	\$ 55,691.64

## JUNK EMAIL BLUES

Did you know that your ASMC Membership Expiration Reminders could be going to your JUNK mail folder? Be sure to check your mailbox so that you can renew your membership before it expires!

## IMPORTANT DATES

Competition Year	April 1 – March 31
Competition Deadline	April 10
Chapter Business Year	July 1 – June 30
Audit Report Due Date	September 30

## NEWSLETTER

This electronic newsletter is authorized and funded by the ASMC Buckeye Chapter. Publication content is due by the 28th of the month for publication and should be submitted to the Editor via email.

## 2023-2024 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President  
President-Elect  
Vice-President Participation  
Vice-President Programs  
Treasurer  
Secretary

Stacy Son\*  
Emilee McLarnan  
Danielle Stanley\*  
Megan Bratton  
Mahmud Islam CDFM  
Jennifer Welch

## 2023-2024 CHAPTER CHAIRS

Audit  
Awards/Competition  
Certification  
Community Service  
Constitution/Bylaws  
Education  
Election  
ASMC School Drive  
History  
Legacy Fund  
Membership  
Newsletter  
Nominations  
PDI/PDI Registration  
Photography  
Publicity  
Scheduling  
Scholarship  
Special Events  
Team Meetings  
OSU Football Fundraiser  
Webmaster

Sean Currie  
Danielle Stanley\*  
Elaine Forrest CDFM  
Robynn Dukes  
Ad Hoc  
Megan Bratton  
Michael Agdanowski\* CDFM  
Abby Atkins CDFM  
Teresa Kemp  
Ad Hoc  
Kimberly Douglas  
Abby Atkins CDFM  
Michael Agdanowski\* CDFM  
Ad Hoc  
Jarvis Matthews  
Amanda Davis  
Danielle Stanley\*  
Crystal Whiteman  
Teresa Kemp  
Terri Hilton  
Terri Hilton  
Virgie Gault

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor  
Emerita  
Emeritus  
Proofreader  
\* = Past President

Abby Atkins CDFM  
Pam Nowicki\* Retired  
Jim Snyder\* Retired  
Heather Lyons



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