



## THE UPDATE

SDFM BUCKEYE CHAPTER

### MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT, MS. TERRI HILTON

Prior to becoming a public servant, I worked in the bankcard industry. My first position was being that person at the end of the line (phone) when you needed to report your credit card lost or stolen, needed your credit limit increased, or just wanting to know what a charge was for because they couldn't recall purchasing something there. I learned the importance of listening, asking questions and compassion for others.

I took a promotion and moved to collections, calling people who were delinquent on their bills, as I was being trained by a seasoned collector she told me to always listen and treat people the way you would want to be treated if you were in their situation. I found myself working with my customers to find resources that were available and helping them to get their accounts caught up. I wasn't there to collect the most money and earn bonus, I saw my role as someone who was there to help

them, even if it meant letting their account go another month delinquent and the other collector reaping rewards (a bonus) for collecting the account.

It was this position when I discovered that I was part of something bigger. These small intentional acts improved the lives of others. I've worked in various positions at DFAS, supported various agency initiatives that afforded me the luxury of being able to help recruit people to work for our agency.

This past month I had the pleasure of recruiting at The Ohio State University, with one of our agency's leaders. When I heard him telling these future graduates about what we do and what it was like being part of something bigger than oneself, it dawned on me that is exactly how I feel working as a Public Servant.

As public servants we move away from a self-centered mindset to a collective we mentality. Every interview I've had when asked questions I always answer as we did this vs me. I even explain when I am answering this as I could not have done what I've done alone.

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This shift just happens naturally. It's this mindset that allows us to do great things for our customers, our community and

each other. Tom Path, author of "Are You Fully Charged" said "The odds of being completely engaged in your job increases by

250%, if you work on meaningful projects each day."

## SDFM Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

**WELCOME:** Meeting brought to order by Terri Hilton, Chapter President at 12:00 PM September 17, 2026

**ATTENDEES:** Terri Hilton, Joe Swartz, Danielle Stanley, LaVaris Woods, and Virgie Gault

### Topics Discussed/Upcoming events:

Tuesday October 13, 2026, Lunch and Learn with Karen Stewart  
 Tuesday November 17, 2026, Lunch and Learn with Elizabeth Gibbs  
 Tuesday January 19, 2027, Lunch and Learn with K. Michael Isbill  
 Tuesday February 16, 2027, Lunch and Learn with Benjamin Thayer  
 Tuesday March 16, 2027, Lunch and Learn with Ryan Riggle  
 Tuesday April 20, 2027, Lunch and Learn with Emilee McLarnan

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

### August 2026 Awards Ceremony: Highlights

The SDFM Buckeye Chapter recently held its annual awards ceremony, taking time to recognize and celebrate the dedicated volunteers whose hard work and commitment enabled the chapter to maintain its prestigious 5-Star Status.

This year's event highlighted another outstanding year for the chapter, as members continued to surpass expectations while fostering professional growth and camaraderie. The evening served as a powerful reminder of the collective strength and shared commitment that defines the Buckeye Chapter.

During the ceremony, more than 30 awards were presented to deserving members in recognition of their exceptional service, leadership, and dedication to the chapter's mission.



<https://community.sdfm.org/sdfmbuckeyechapter/home>

## Basic Governmental Auditing Course:

Gain foundational skills in public sector auditing, from planning to reporting. Ideal for new auditors and oversight professionals seeking to understand GAGAS and performance audit principles. This course is intended to help develop your personal and professional attributes you need to be successful in the government audit environment. Through lectures, discussions, and exercises, gain an understanding of the Government Auditing Standards, types of audits, the role of audit objectives, qualitative and quantitative audit evidence, the fundamentals of interviewing, risk and control assessment, the preparation of audit documentation, as well as audit findings, reports, and their elements.

### This course includes

- \*5 days of live, project-based training from experts
- \*Retake for free within 1 year
- \*Learn at an accredited institution
- \*Proprietary workbook included
- \*Verified digital certificate of completion
- \*Credits: 40 CPEs

### Dates:

October 5-9, 2026  
November 16-20, 2026  
January 11-15, 2027

Start Time: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm  
Start Time: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm  
Start Time: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

**Enrollment link:** <https://training.sdfm.org/cart/checkout>

## New Leader Program

This is a six-month program designed to prepare employees at the GS-7 to GS-11 levels for management and leadership positions. Combines classroom learning, developmental assignments, and practical application to equip participants to lead effectively and navigate the challenges of management.

### This course includes:

- \*13 days of live, project-based training from experts
- \*Retake for free within 1 year
- \*Verified digital certificate of completion
- \*Credits: 9.6 CEUs
- \*Learn at an accredited institution
- \*Small class sizes

### Dates:

Jan 25-Jul 23, 2027  
May 10-Nov 17, 2027  
Aug 16 -Mar 1, 2028

Start Time: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm  
Start Time: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm  
Start Time: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

**Enrollment link:** <https://training.sdfm.org/cart/checkout>

The New Leader Program (NLP) is a six-month leadership development program designed to equip leaders at the GS-7 to GS-11 level with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to transition into management and leadership roles. The program theme is "Leading Self." The program objectives are to give motivated individuals the confidence and training they need to set and meet personal and professional goals, expand their network, and broaden their experience.

The program is strategically designed around three program components: assessment, experiential learning, and individual development. Participants take the Graduate School USA's Leadership Effectiveness Inventory (LEI), a robust 360°degree feedback. The results guide the individual's developmental objectives. The program uses various assessments to help teams better understand various personalities and their behavioral impact on others, ascertain conflict management styles, and assess communication styles.

The NLP curriculum is focused on the Office of Personnel and Management's Executive Core Qualifications framework. Training consists of three one-week training sessions. Some of the topics addressed during the training include team building, communication, conflict management, decision making, and problem solving.

### **Target Audience**

This program is for you if you:

- Desire the tools and knowledge needed to enhance your leadership capabilities
- Want to become more visible to the leadership in your organization
- Could benefit from building and enhancing personal career networks
- Desire to connect with leaders from across the government to share their views and experience on how to enhance your leadership competencies
- Would like to gain knowledge on effective team building

## **SDFM Buckeye Chapter Community Service Volunteer Opportunity**

### **OSU Football Volunteer Support**

As we prepare to volunteer for the upcoming Ohio State University home football season, we are offering our returning volunteers priority scheduling. Please review the 2026 home game schedule below and identify the dates you are available to support our operations.

| Date   | Opponent     |
|--------|--------------|
| Oct 10 | Maryland     |
| Nov 7  | Oregon       |
| Nov 14 | Northwestern |
| Nov 28 | Michigan     |

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## **Volunteer Eligibility**

To ensure successful operations, we must adhere to the following staffing and eligibility guidelines:

- **Staffing Thresholds:** We are contractually obligated to field a minimum of 6 volunteers per game. However, our optimal staffing level is 8 to 10 volunteers to manage the workload effectively during these long events.
- **Age Requirements:** Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.
- **Volunteers are invited to a Post Season Celebration, and raffle tickets are given out for prizes.**
- **Volunteers are offered a 40% discount on merchandise at the Team Shop.**
- **Service Hours:** Authorized volunteer service hours can be documented and provided for those requiring certification.
- **POC:** [Alivia.r.cremeans.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Alivia.r.cremeans.civ@mail.mil)

## **Additional information:**

### **Kickoff for Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> game is 4:15pm**

Currently we do not have a report time yet but based on history volunteers should plan to report around noon-1pm. More information is coming soon regarding this OSU event. Additionally, the Buckeye Chapter Board members voted for raffle tickets for OSU Game Day Volunteers.

## **SDFM Buckeye Chapter Networking Event**

Location: Barrel and Boar in Gahanna

Date: October 20, 2026

Time: 4:30pm-7:30pm

Note: The chapter will cover (appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages)

Purpose: Our chapter is focused on bringing our professionals together to build meaningful business relationships, share knowledge, and unlock new career or growth opportunities. The Buckeye Chapter is truly focused on being a place of excellence and growth.

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## Upcoming Buckeye Chapter Meetings

**POC: Terri Hilton**

|                            |           |                   |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Planning Committee Meeting | In-Person | October 15, 2026  |
| Executive Board Meeting    | In-Person | November 12, 2026 |
| Planning Committee Meeting | In-Person | December 10, 2026 |

## SDFM BUCKEYE CHAPTER GENERAL INFORMATION

### 2026-2027 CHAPTER OFFICERS

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| President        | Terri Hilton           |
| President-Elect  | Joe Swartz             |
| VP Participation | Jernell Logan          |
| VP Programs      | James Reed             |
| Treasurer        | LaVaris Woods          |
| Secretary        | Adutwumwaa Enin-Kattah |

## SDFM BUCKEYE CHAPTER Treasurer's Report

| TREASURER'S REPORT              |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| SUBMITTED BY: La'Varis P. Woods |               |
| August 2026                     |               |
| *** NET INCOME ***              |               |
| INCOME/EXPENSES                 |               |
| MONTHLY INCOME:                 | \$ 48.58      |
| MONTHLY EXPENSE:                | \$ (2,890.22) |
| MONTHLY NET INCOME:             | \$ (2,841.64) |
| YEAR TO DATE NET INCOME:        | \$ 243.26     |
| *** BANK BALANCES ***           |               |
| 8/31/2026                       |               |
| Checking                        | \$ 10,977.58  |
| Savings                         | \$ 22,920.14  |
| CD (6 Mon)                      | \$ 32,861.46  |
| TOTAL CHECKING/SAVINGS          | \$ 66,759.18  |

### 2025-2026 CHAPTER CHAIRS

Administrative: Danielle Stanley  
 Election Nominations: Mike Agdanowski  
 Special Events: Vacant  
 Community Service: Terri Hilton  
 Membership Engagement: Kimberly Douglas  
 CDFM: Karen Stewart  
 General Meetings: LaVaris Woods

SDFM PDT: Vacant  
 History: Teresa Kemp  
 Communications: Amanda Davis  
 Ways and Means: Liv Cremeans  
 Newsletter: James Reed (interim)  
 Scholarship, Grants, and Awards: Liv Cremeans

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