



# ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Newsletter

Summer  
2020

## ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter

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Jenna Hyde

## President's Corner

By Jenna M. Hyde, President, ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter  
ASMC Gulf Coast Members,

Wow, what a whirlwind this year has proven to be so far! I don't know about you, but there I was, early March, in the routine of getting off of work each evening and getting dinner on the go for the family, running one kid to baseball practice, the other kid to volleyball practice, where I also assisted in coaching two teams. Most nights, I did not get home until almost 9pm. Saturdays consisted of baseball games in the mornings then rushing out of town to try to make it for my daughter's volleyball tournaments in whichever 'big city' she was playing in that weekend. Each Sunday evening, I took a deep breath before starting the busy week all over again! Then, bam. In the blink of an eye, everything as we knew it came to a screeching halt. The COVID-19 Pandemic will no-doubt, be a significant period in our lives that we will never forget.

It is my honor to serve as the Chapter President. As we continue to navigate these uncharted waters, I am excited for what we have in store for you. Late June, the Vice Presidents and I were virtually sworn in as your newly elected officers. Our Executive Council (EC) has met and the committees are off running, jumping over the various new hurdles that we face under this 'new norm.' A HUGE thank you to every single person that stepped up to take on an EC role!

Even though the National PDI was canceled, National Award winners were still announced. Congratulations to two of our chapter members! Our very own Mandy Chapman, CDFM-A and Vice President, is a meritorious winner in the category of Acquisition/Cost Analysis and Brianna Hoppel, CDFM-A, is a meritorious winner in the category of Resource Management. Well deserved! Additionally, our Chapter once again received a 5-Star Recognition; something we've maintained for as long as I can remember!

Lastly, although these may be challenging and uncertain times, sometimes it's much easier to focus on the negatives around us, causing us to miss the hidden blessings. I, for one have embraced the slow down of life and love the additional quality time that I have with my family. I encourage you to pause and reflect on the positive of whatever situation you're in; it will change your outlook! Please remember to be on the lookout for your colleagues and be the wingman they may need. Additionally, let's keep the warfighters that are overseas or away from their families in our thoughts and prayers. I'm looking forward to a fantastic year!

# Announcements

We need volunteers!

- ☐ Community Service
- ☐ Programs
- ☐ Enlisted Advisors

Contact out to xxx

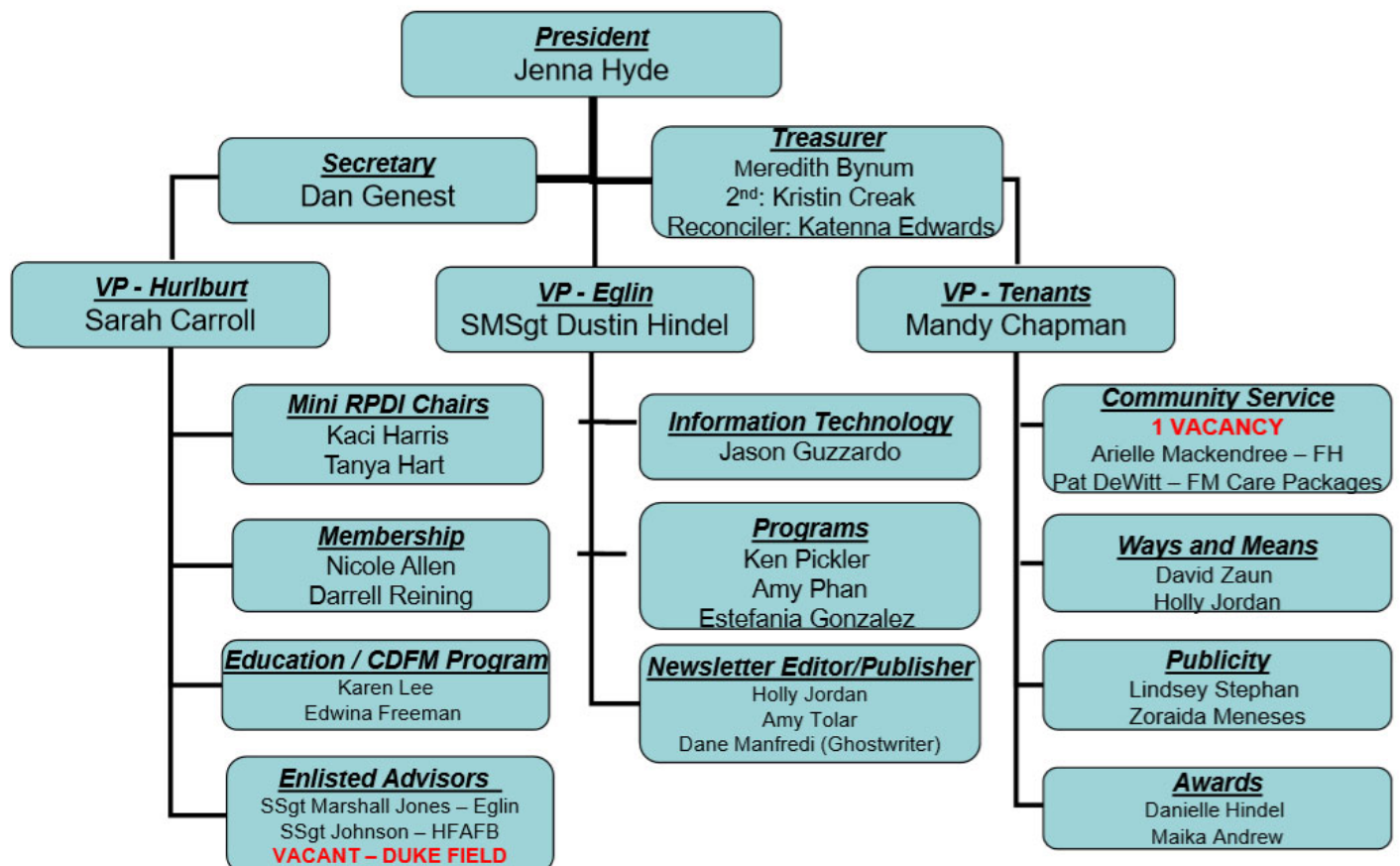


## Future Meetings

- 3 Sept – Virtual State of the Chapter
- Fisher House Meal Delivery slots available, contact Arielle Mackendree
- Did you know we post pictures of events? Check them out on our website!
- Please shop our Amazon Smile link to support our Gulf Coast Chapter!  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2139423>



## 2020-2021 Chapter Organization



# Programs

Written by Ken Pickler, Programs Chair

I'm very excited to have another opportunity to serve on our chapter's programs team. Amy Phan, Stefanie Gonzalez and I look forward to an amazing year where we will reconnect with some former Eglin/Hurlburt comptroller leaders...and connect with our current ones.

Back in the horse & buggy/biplane years, I read and reported on a book titled, "Thriving On Chaos." It was part of the Air Command & Staff College reading list. Chapter after chapter focused on how successful leaders and organizations were at their best in turbulent times. Well, this chapter is going to demonstrate we have "The Right Stuff" as we navigate this most interesting time in my 40+ years as an Airman.

We're kicking things off with a 3 September "State of the Chapter" session headed by Jenna Hyde, our new president. She and the Executive Council members will share our plans for this amazing year. It will be a virtual event you won't want to miss. And really, why would you not dial in when you can "attend" in a t-shirt and shorts like I'm wearing while penning this? (OK, we won't be asking you to dial into a Zoom meeting with your phone/laptop camera on...we're not that crazy.)

During the rest of the year, numerous current and former flag-level FM personnel with roots/connections here will be speaking to us. I expect those that are local to speak with us in person, using whatever venues are approved at the time. Others will connect via our current teleworking tools. We're lining up other senior leaders we know and love to share their wisdom—and humor on occasion—with us. We welcome your ideas for topics and speakers.

In closing, I salute Jenna and the other chapter officers for stepping up to lead us this year. When the going got tough, they got going. Let's all do our parts in helping them help us succeed as we continually improve our talents and expand our personal and professional networks!

Speaker Lineup continued on page 5

## State of the Chapter

### 3 Sept

# Awards

## Excellence

Congratulations Gulf Coast Chapter for demonstrating exceptional community service and meeting the required number of hours in our chapter size category in

2019 – 2020.



## Chapter Award Winner!

Congratulations Gulf Coast chapter for meeting the Five Star Recognition requirements for a well-rounded professional chapter which supports the mission of the society in 2019-2020!

Awards continued on page 7



# RPDI

Ms. Kaci Harris – Hi! I’m Kaci! For those who don’t know me yet, I currently reside in the 96th Test Wing Financial Management office. I work with over 30 Financial Management professionals focused on supporting Developmental Test & Evaluation for Weapons Systems and Cyber Capabilities. From a professional development standpoint, I’ve served on the ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Executive Committee for 10 years because I believe in the Chapter’s purpose and understand the value of networking. Our Chapter is unique in that it brings together financial managers in budget, accounting, cost, financial services, and more from multiple bases on a frequent basis. During past RPDI events, we’ve had FMers from all over come in to speak at our event and build upon their network & professional development. Pre-COVID, we typically had ~250 people in attendance. While we are not 100% sure of what the event will look like just yet, Ms. Hart and I are excited to co-chair the 2021 RPDI. You are in good hands but we welcome any and all suggestions on how to make the event successful & worthwhile for all of you!



Ms. Tanya Hart - Hello all! I’m Tanya Hart and I work in the 96th Test Wing’s JOCAS Office.

I have worked on the Gulf Coast Chapter’s EC for the last 4 years and have enjoyed getting to know all the professionals involved.

I’m looking forward to working with Kaci and building on our last RPDI to make it exciting!

There will be many challenges with COVID-19 still in the forecast, but we are willing and able to make it the best one yet!



## Program / Speaker Lineup

22 Oct: Carolyn Gleason,  
SES, SAF/MG, Former  
AFLCMC/FM

19 Nov: Leah Hodge,  
AFLCMC/EBF

17 Dec: Holiday Celebration

21 Jan: Steve Herrera, SES,  
SAF/FMB Carlos Rodgers,  
SES, SAF/FMBI

18 Feb: Bill Rone, SES,  
Retired, Former  
AFSOC/FM

18 Mar: TBD;  
Eglin/Hurlburt FM  
Leaders/Alumni

22 Apr: RPD

20 May: Maj Amy Justus,  
96CPTS/CC

17 June: 2021 Installation  
of Officers / Scholarship  
Presentations

# Education

This year, the Gulf Coast Chapter awarded \$3,500.00 in scholarships to four local students in the Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton County community. The scholarships are for high school graduates, undergraduate students, and ASMC members currently enrolled in college who are seeking degrees in academic disciplines relating to financial/resource management (such as business administration, economics, public administration, accounting, or finance). In each category, students are ranked based on scholastic achievement, leadership ability, extracurricular activities, career/academic goals, and financial need.



Holly Jordan: Syracuse University, Master of Science (Accounting)

Bassel Shoucralla: University of South Florida, Bachelor of Science (Accounting)

Sofia Burleson: Wake Forest University, Bachelor of Science (Business Enterprise Management)

Cameron Genest: University of Central Florida, Bachelor of Science (Integrated Business)

Congratulations to all and best wishes for a successful school year!



# Membership

## Three Membership Benefits

- ASMC membership allows you to:
- Gain insight to information on current trends and developments in the financial management of the Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard.
- 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.
- Receive discounts for registration at the national Professional Development Institute, a three day educational event that provides valuable CPE and networking opportunities.
- <https://asmconline.org/armed-forces-comptroller/armed-forces-comptroller/>



## Membership Spotlight *Stefanie Gonzalez*

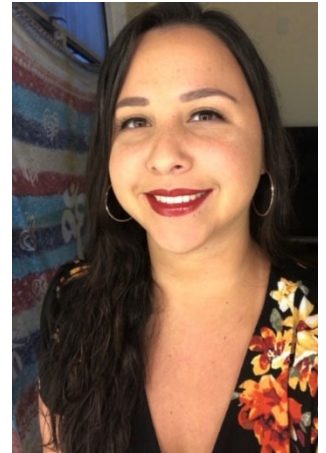
Where do you work?

*AFLCMC/EBM*

What do you do? *I'm a budget analyst working in acquisitions.*

What are your hobbies?

*Boating, cooking, going out to see live music.*



Why is ASMC important to you? *ASMC gives members the opportunity to give back to community, continue personal development, and also meet like-minded professional individuals they wouldn't otherwise meet. As someone that's just starting out in my career, ASMC is the perfect way to "get out of the office" and be more involved.*

What's your favorite FM tip for someone?

*All training is good training. Even if involves something you've done for many years, there's always some new trick that you can learn or advice the trainer can provide.*

What is your favorite thing about working at Eglin?

*So far, the people I've met has definitely been the biggest bonus. I've met and worked with individuals who have become my support system, mentors and life-long friends.*



# Awards

Please welcome our new awards committee co-chairs - Maika Andrew and Danielle Hindel! We need your help! Please begin thinking about those hard working Eglin and Hurlburt teammates you would like to recognize. This year, the ASMC awards nominations will be due 3 December 2020. The award categories include: Accounting and Finance, Auditing, Budgeting, Comptroller/Deputy Comptroller, Intern/Trainee, Contractor Support, Resource Management, Acquisition/Cost Analysis, Financial Systems, Team Achievement (Small: 2-10, Large: 11-20 members). More information can be found at <http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/Awards.html>.



Congratulations to the 2019 Gulf Coast Chapter ASMC Award Winners and ASMC National Nominees!

Accounting and Financial Analyst of the Year: Mr. Arnold Soto

Acquisition Cost Analyst of the Year: Ms. Mandy Chapman

Auditor of the Year: Ms. Sharon Brannon

Budget Analyst of the Year: Ms. Christina Frisch

Comptroller of the Year: Mr. Jeffrey DeCocker

Contractor of the Year: Mr. Loran Higgins

Intern of the Year: Ms. Estefania Gonzalez

Resource Manager of the Year: Mr. Brody Fahle

Small Team Achievement: Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon Finance Team

Large Team Achievement: Armament Directorate's Long Range Systems Division Finance Team



Congratulations to **Mandy Chapman** and **Brianna Hoppel** for receiving 2019 National ASMC Acquisition/Cost Analysis and Resource Management awards.



Please reach out to Maika or Danielle if you have questions, suggestions, or if you need assistance with submitting a nominee for 2020-2021.

# Book Review

## The Traveler's Gift by Andy Andrews

Book Review by Dane Manfredi

Ever come to a point in your life where you just feel so overwhelmed with life that you never seem to have enough of the one finite thing that we all hold near and dear to our hearts.....Time? Ever get to the point where hindsight being 20/20 you realize the actions you have done in the past because you got so frustrated were of drastic decision making that not only served you poorly, but the many people you have around you?

With that in mind, ever think what differing decisions you could have made if you actually saw how some of our finest world thinkers and leaders acted in some of their most overwhelming situations? Ever think what it would be like to have the opportunity to travel back in time and meet some of those amazing thinkers and leaders from around the world? Or not only be able to meet those amazing leaders, but to actually speak to them and be able to ask them questions of their thought processes when they made history making considerations or decisions?

If these questions have crossed your mind, I encourage you to read the fictional journey of David Ponder in the book so thoughtfully written by Andy Andrews entitled, "The Traveler's Gift." Go along on a ride where one soul is taken to his limits in his present life only to go back in time and discover while in the presence of some of our greatest would thinkers and leaders just what the true Seven Decisions of Success entail. Imagine what we all could learn if we had the opportunity to talk with the likes of Anne Frank, Abraham Lincoln, an actual Archangel named Gabrielle, and others. Through their experiences and looks on life, one may just find that the darkest hour of his/her life is something one can surely overcome for the betterment of not only oneself, but for the betterment of all those people around him/her. I highly recommend the book, "The Traveler's Gift," as it taught me many life lessons I can take with me as I further travel along my life's endless journey. After all, a friend of mine once advised me so well, "The Present Life is just that, a "Present." So go along for the ride and enjoy this fictional journey. Not too often we can travel back in time as we read great fictional books that will live on with us in our dreams for years to come.



# National News

## Military moves forward with plan to make Air Force One supersonic

By: Oriana Pawlyk

Military.com

1 Sept 2020

"The U.S. Air Force has taken initial steps to begin prototyping a supersonic aircraft that could someday carry the president around the world in half the time.

Last month, the service's Presidential and Executive Airlift Directorate awarded a \$1 million small business innovation research (SBIR) phase II contract to Exosonic, a start-up aerospace company, to begin the design and development of a low-boom executive airlift concept.

The 24-month contract for the plane called "Air Force One" when the president is on board requires the company to create the future aircraft's specifications, to include "power, weight, dimensions, communication systems, cabin layout" and a virtual reality model of the aircraft cabin space, Air Force Materiel Command told Military.com on Tuesday.

"Low-boom allows travelers to fly at supersonic speeds without generating disruptive booms for those on the ground," said AFMC spokesman Daryl Mayer.

Separately, Exosonic is building a 70-seat passenger aircraft intended to fly at Mach 1.8 speeds "supersonically overland and overwater with a muted sonic boom," according to the company's website. A prototype roll-out for that project is expected in 2025, Mayer said.

The Presidential and Executive Airlift Directorate contract, sponsored by the Air Force Research Lab, "will support Exosonic's efforts to develop and modify the company's commercial supersonic airliner to serve as an executive transport vehicle," the company said in its own release. "These modifications will include reconfiguring the aircraft cabin to include the required accommodations, communications equipment, and security measures that allow U.S. leaders and their guests to work and rest onboard the aircraft."

The latest contract follows another awarded to Hermeus Corp, another start-up developing Mach 5 commercial aircraft, traveling more than five times the speed of sound. The Georgia-based company successfully tested a Mach 5 engine prototype earlier this year, according to a company release.

Last month, the Air Force awarded Hermeus a \$1.5 million Other Transaction Authority (OTA) Phase II contract for the company to begin research on how it could modify its commercial prototype toward the military's VIP fleet.

Meanwhile, the replacement for the current aging Air Force One platform has yet to be delivered -- or even fully modified.

Supersonic continued on next page



# National News

## Supersonic continued

In 2016, the Air Force awarded Boeing Co. a contract to begin preliminary work on the VC-25 Presidential Aircraft Recapitalization program, better known as PAR. Earlier this year, the VC-25B program -- a follow-on from the current VC-25A -- began modification on the first of two Boeing 747-8 aircraft.

The first phase of aircraft modification involves "cutting out large skin and structure areas in both the forward and aft lower lobes of the aircraft and then installing two newly manufactured superpanels," according to a release from Materiel Command. The superpanels contain structural upgrades "and cutouts for the VC-25B lower lobe doors including internal airstairs for mission requirements," the release said.

The two 747-8s were originally ordered for the Russian airline company Transaero in 2013, DefenseOne reported in 2017. Boeing never delivered the jets to the now-defunct airline and instead put them in storage.

Boeing spent 2019 removing the aircraft's commercial interior, engines, auxiliary power units and "numerous secondary system components," officials said.

Additional updates to the aircraft include "electrical power upgrades, a mission communication system, a medical facility, executive interior, and autonomous ground operations capabilities," Materiel Command said.

The aircraft passed its critical design review in the spring, according to Defense News."

Reference: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/09/01/military-moves-forward-plan-make-air-force-one-supersonic.html>



## Fisher House

Although Fisher House has suspended their dinner service program for the time being, there are still ways to help out! House managers are accepting pre-made or restaurant-provided meals to be dropped off for guests on specified days and times. Fisher House provides military & veteran families with no cost lodging while their loved one receives medical treatment in the Eglin area. Volunteering is a great way to give back to our community! Please contact Arielle MacKendree for more info.