



December-January 2020

# Chapter Newsletter

**ASMC – Gulf Coast Chapter**

**P.O. Box 1756**

**Eglin AFB FL 32542**

<http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org>

<https://m.facebook.com/gulfcoast.asmc>

[gulfcoast.asmc@gmail.com](mailto:gulfcoast.asmc@gmail.com)

<http://www.asmcnline.org>



**Join ASMC Today!!!**

The current fee is \$40 for one year or \$114 for three years. The membership fee is non-refundable and non-transferrable.

**Send your articles and upcoming events in to the newsletter team so we can share them with our ASMC Chapter!**

ASMC Newsletter Committee:

Holly Jordan

Amy Tolar

## President's Corner

**Denise Ward, President**

Normally we do not have a speaker for the ASMC Christmas Luncheon, but at 3:30 am this morning I started to really think and reflect on our theme we chose for this year... *ASMC – More Than Just Numbers!*

We are more than just budget analysts and financial managers; more than just accountants and costers; we are more than Form 9s, MIPRS, Project Orders, and their acceptances. In addition, we are more than ABSS, CCAR, FMSUITES, CRIS, JOCAS, BQ AND DEAMS - aren't we?

We are mommies and daddies, paw paws and me-maws, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. We are family... A very extended family. I often say we spend more time with our work families than we do at home with our real families. Not just this holiday season but also every day, let us reflect upon the fact that

**WE ARE A FAMILY!**

Supervisors think back to when you were not a supervisor and how it felt to have that supervisor who made coming to work every day a bit difficult for you. Think about how you wished your supervisor was more relatable or a better leader and try to be that person for your people

The same goes for non-supervisors who make things difficult for your co-workers and even your supervisor. Office cliques or groups that alienate others... That is a form of bullying. In addition, think about the stress you put on your supervisor when deadlines are constantly missed or your analysis/charts are incorrect or when you are constantly not at work to help pull your share of the load. That is stressful because we supervisors have supervisors too.

Each and every one of us should think about it from a different perspective and try your best to be better; even if it means sometimes going above and beyond your regular job duties.

In these times of SAPR/SA (Green Dot) Training, incessant Resiliency Training with the suicide rate skyrocketing across our Air Force family, we must be better stewards of our people... Not just the taxpayers' dollars.

*ASMC... More Than Just Numbers.* To me, that means we are a big family. Notice I didn't say big HAPPY family; because families do sometimes have issues but despite the educational differences, personality differences, different backgrounds, race, gender differences and even pay grade differences, at the end of the day, we are still family.

Let us love and help each other AND our customers in spite of all the things that make us different because teamwork makes the dream work.

**"Mission First: One team. One fight!"** Happy Holidays!

**We are now accepting nominations for 2020-2021**

**ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter**

**President; VP – Eglin Units; VP – Eglin Tenants; VP – Hurlburt**

**If you are interested or you know someone you believe would do a phenomenal job, please submit the name and preferred position no later than 14 Feb to Brianna Hoppel.**

**\*\* Please note: for VP nominations, those who fall under the 96<sup>th</sup> TW are Eglin Units, all others are considered Eglin Tenants.**



## Future meeting announcements:

- ASMC RPDI save the date is 9 April 2020 at the ECCC
- Fisher House available dates are 7 Apr and 21 Apr
- ASMC Feb Professional Development Luncheon - TBD
- Scholarship applications will be coming up in the Spring

## Ways and Means

The BX gift wrapping event was a huge success! ASMC volunteers wrapped presents for BX patrons on six different days and time slots in December. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for selflessly giving their time to support this event. We could not have done it without you! ASMC made over \$400 in donations because of the support and dependability of our volunteers.



The Regional Professional Development Institute will be held at the Emerald Coast Convention Center on 9 April 2020. We look forward to hosting a variety of speakers and topics to include Col Travis Leighton, Director, PMO for Tyndall AFB Reconstruction and CMSgt Kendall Briscoe, SAF/FM. The RPDI Committee is hard at work finding and securing speakers. Look for registration to come out in February. If you have any questions regarding the RPDI, please contact Lori Dolce, Dane Manfredi or Kimberly Hill.



## Programs

We need your help! Do you know of a person that would like to speak at one of our Professional Development Session? If so, please contact Rietta Sydnor with their contact information, topic, month available to speak and any other information that could be helpful.



# Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you to all the volunteers this year that have supported Fisher House. The Fisher House provides military & veteran families with no cost lodging while their loved one receives medical treatment in the Eglin area. This can be stressful enough without worrying about what to cook for dinner. You can help by volunteering to prepare and serve dinner to the current guests. Opportunities are twice monthly, from 1600-1900 hours. If your team would like to volunteer, please contact Arielle MacKendree. The next Tuesday night available dates are 7 Apr and 21 Apr.



Team EBZ for volunteering on 19 Nov!



Team 53WG for volunteering on 3 Dec!



Thank you to all teams that have volunteered AFLCMC/EBZ, AFLCMC/EBJ, 53 WG/FM, AFRL/FM, & AFLCMC/EBYI. The guest appreciate the hot meals!

Team AFRL/RWF Volunteering On 17 Dec!



*Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer*



# ASMC Members Volunteering for the community!

Thank you for participating in the  
Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center's (ECCAC)  
2019 Adopt-A-Family program!

Because of your generosity, children had smiles on their faces Christmas morning!

**We Adopt Family #35 and collected around \$600 dollars for gifts and gift cards for this family.**



Pictured above from left to right: SrA Pelino, SrA Eichstedt, Julie Porterfield (ECCAC) and Ms. Ward.

Thank you to all  
member who  
contributed!



ECCAC is a multi-disciplinary team that wraps services around children when abuse and neglect have been identified. They house several agencies that are part of the investigation process, as well as, a mental health team to guide the children and families with hope and healing once the investigation starts. ECCAC continues to work with them, free of charge until the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. For more information, their website is [www.eccac.org](http://www.eccac.org) or [www.facebook.com/eccac](https://www.facebook.com/eccac). Visit their website and become a team member! Your annual membership will help them bring hope and healing to child abuse within our community and equally as important, will support their education efforts to prevent abuse!

**Below are some ASMC Christmas Party pictures.**

**For more awesome pictures visit**

**<http://www.gulfcoastasmc.org/gallery/HolidayParty2019/index.html>**







Above is our ASMC President – Denise Ward

Below are two new ASMC members –  
Broderick Darnell and Tarsolan Greer



Above are Patrick Connolly, Lindsey Stephan and Kaci Harris







ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter's  
2020 Regional Professional Development Institute



# ASMC - More Than Just Numbers

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Earn 6 CEUs attending professional development sessions!**

Dress code is business casual for civilians and uniform of the day for military.

**WHEN:** 9 April 2020,  
0800-1600

**WHERE:** Emerald Coast  
Convention Center  
Doors open at 0715 and  
event begins at 0800

**RPDI Chair:**  
Lori Dolce  
**RPDI Co-Chairs:**  
Kimberly Hill,  
Dane Manfredi,  
and Pat Connolly

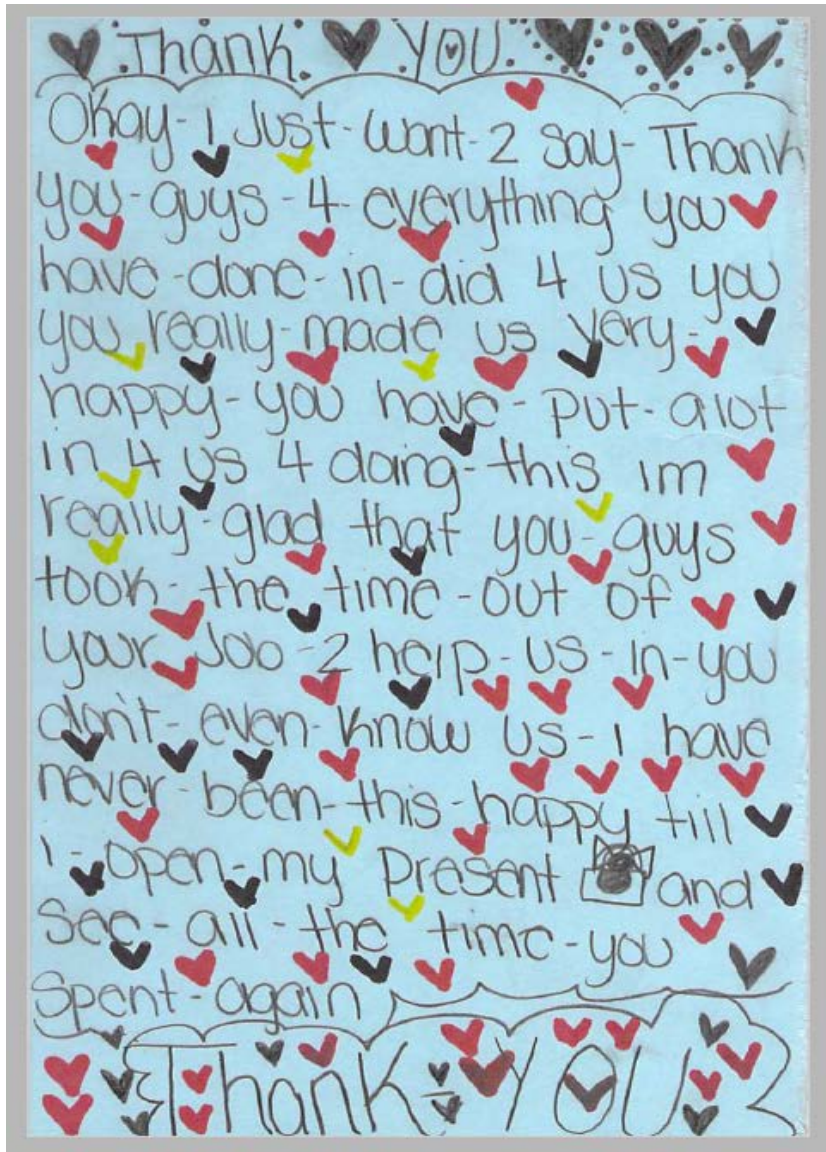
\$96,470  
\$325  
\$180  
\$8,576

\$245  
\$58,690  
\$614  
\$7,231





# Community Support



This holiday season ASMC supported the Gulf Coast Treatment Center, which is an all-girls inpatient residential facility in Behavioral Health & Mental Health servicing young women ages 12-17. Many of the young ladies are considered “Ward of the State” and do not have families. Needless to say, the holiday season is a difficult time of the year for the young ladies and we truly made a difference in their lives this Christmas.

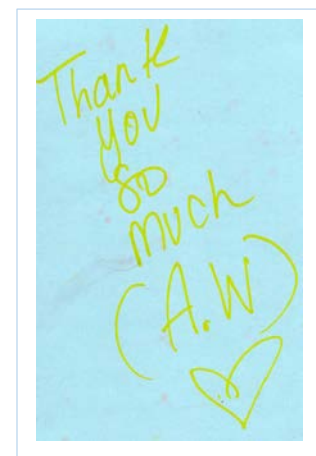
There are 28 girls in the facility this year and we have received individual Christmas lists. Many of them request the most basic of items, socks, underwear, coloring books, stuffed animals etc. They are also always in need of hygiene and school supplies and even clothing for interviews. ASMC embraced the entire group home and each girl received her Christmas wish list and much more.

We really made a huge difference in the lives of these young ladies.

~Ms. Denise Ward

In the picture to the left, from left to right, is Tanya Hart, ASMC VP; Maesha Gulley, Director of Quality and Risk Management; Jeanette Jackson, CEO Gulf Coast Treatment Center; Angela Workman-Cathy, Mental Health Technician; Coretta Ward, ASMC President and Rietta Sydnor, ASMC Program Committee, Chair

For more information about the Gulf Coast Treatment Center, visit <https://gulfcoasttc.com/>





# Membership



We randomly selected an ASMC member and we asked that person to share a little bit of information with us.

## Q&A with Mercedes Suarez

**Where do you work?** I work at the 96 Comptroller Squadron on the Financial Management Accounting Support team.

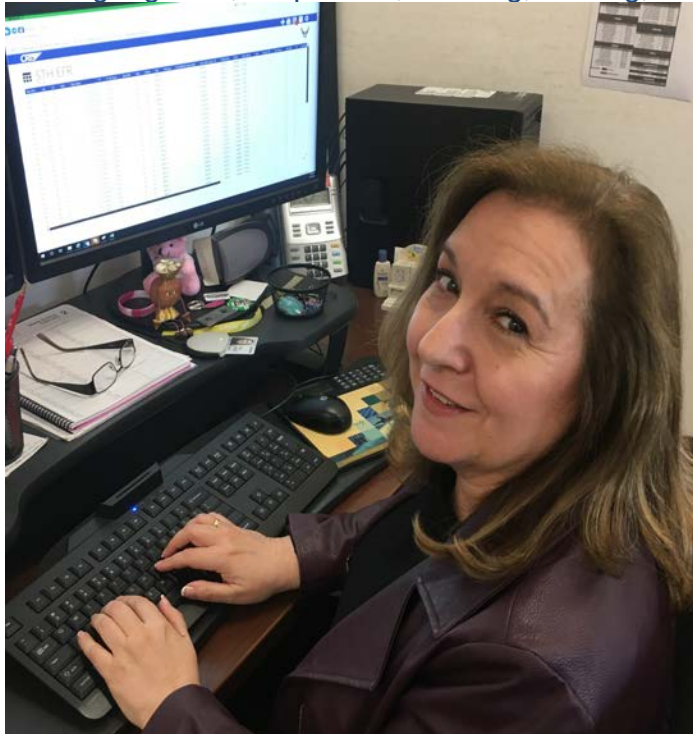
**What do you do?** I am the Team Lead providing legacy accounting support to the Armament Directorate, Nuclear Weapons Center, AF Research Lab and Test Wing missions.

**What are your hobbies?** Travel, reading, going to the beach

**Why is ASMC important to you?** Professional Development opportunities. Meeting new members in the career field. Meeting face to face the customers I work with from the different Organizations of the base including the Tenants.

**What's your favorite FM tip for someone?** Work ODL weekly. Approach everything with a positive attitude, a smile and warm greeting usually sets a good tone.

**What is your favorite thing about working at Eglin?** The fact there are diverse Commands and missions working together, Acquisition, Training, Testing, etc.



## January Personal Development Training by Amy Tolar

I really like learning about leadership, listening to motivational speeches, and reading positive self-help books! In January, our members had the opportunity to listen to Col William Hunter speak at the Personal Development luncheon on the topic Grit and Success. Wow, did he deliver! Hunter's vast experience in financial management and leadership, which was highlighted at our event. He spoke on Leadership, Resiliency, Passion and what it takes to succeed in your career. There were so many great nuggets so I will share several with you!

Hunter shared information from Author Angela Duckworth, "Grit, Why passion and resilience are the secrets to successes." However, his top three takeaways were from author Darrin Donnelly, pulling from the book, "Old School Grit, Times my Change, but the rules for Success never do." The three subjects were (1) Live for a purpose greater than yourself, (2) Eliminate negative influences, and (3) Effort trumps talent.

Live for a Purpose, from Donnelly's book, Hunter shared how success is not predetermined. Why? Because it takes determination and drive to get there – you have to earn it! Live for the purpose and profession you should be in - either make a change, if you are in the wrong career, or embrace where you are at! Make a decision and commit to it.

Negative influences – get rid of them! Hunter continued with Donnelly's point by stating, "Confidence can change and get better but being a [butt] does not change." Be vested and have the commitment – either on a specific task or in your job. I have always heard try, fail, try, fail, get back up and keep going. Hunter said people will help you, mentor you, and even motivate you to your successes. He said, "Get away from those that bitch and complain. Find people that want to help you - those that want to celebrate in your win!"

Effort Trumps talent – if we over emphasis, you will under estimate the other passions. You need to persevere! Hunter's example was that we do not see how hard someone is working for success – we only see the outcome. Those people work hard and are very determined to win!

Do not underestimate your talent. Hunter gave us the quote from the late Kobe Bryant, "I want to be remembered as a talented overachiever. I was blessed with talent, but I work as if I had none". Talent is important and so is passion, perseverance and determination!

Thank you Col Hunter for speaking at our ASMC event! On behalf of our members, we appreciate you taking the time out of your schedule to give us great information on Success!

## Your 2020 To-Do List By Tammy Flanagan January 23, 2020

The start of the new year brings with it the possibility of improving your retirement readiness. With that in mind, here are some items you might want to put on your to-do list.

**Put away more in savings.** There was a generous federal [pay raise this year of 3.1%](#). That may present an opportunity to increase your Thrift Savings Plan investments. The elective deferral limit for this year is \$19,500. Over 26 pay periods, that works out to a \$750 payroll deduction. The limit applies to the combined total of traditional and Roth contributions. The maximum amount of catch-up contributions that can be contributed annually by participants in their 50th year or older is now \$6,500.

Since we are already a few pay periods into this year, you may have to adjust your withholding accordingly. The TSP provides a helpful [fact sheet](#) for computing this amount. Beginning in 2021, you will no longer need to make [separate elections for catch-up contributions](#).

**Consider rebalancing your TSP.** Even if your portfolio delivered great [returns last year](#), you may want to make sure you're properly diversified among three stock index funds (C, S, and I) as well as the G and F funds. Have you considered using the L (lifecycle) funds? In 2019, 43% of TSP participants took advantage of the hands-off approach these funds offer, up from 37% in 2018.

**Watch for guidance on the SECURE Act.** This law, which took effect Jan. 1, changes rules regarding minimum distributions from retirement plans. The TSP hasn't issued guidance on implementation of the law yet. In the meantime, [this Forbes article](#) covers the basics.

**Watch some videos.** Among the new videos on the [TSP YouTube channel](#) are [The Real TSP!](#) and [TSP Post-Service Withdrawals](#), hosted by TSP educators. Whether you're new to government, are currently serving the country in the United States or abroad, or are already into your retirement years, these podcasts have something for you.

**Learn the latest Social Security numbers.** The maximum taxable wage limit for 2020 is \$137,700, up from \$132,900 in 2019. This is the amount of your income that is subject to the 6.2% Social Security tax. If you are under the [full retirement age for Social Security](#), the earnings limit for 2020 is \$18,240. Your Social Security benefit will be reduced by \$1 for every \$2 you earn over the limit. This is why most people don't apply for Social Security at age 62 if they are still working.

Beginning the month you reach your full retirement age, there is no earnings limit. This means if you are working, you can file for Social Security retirement or hold off on applying to earn [delayed retirement credits](#). The same earnings limit applies to Federal Employees Retirement System retirees who receive the [FERS annuity supplement](#).

**Pay attention to Medicare premiums.** The standard [Medicare Part B premium in 2020 is \\$144.60](#) per month. Most people pay the standard amount. If your modified adjusted gross income as reported on your IRS tax return from two years ago is above a certain amount, you must pay the standard premium and an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount.

If you or your spouse are still working at age 65 and carrying health insurance through current employment, remember that you can delay enrollment in Medicare Part B without a late enrollment penalty. There's an eight-month special enrollment period starting the month after you or your spouse's employment ends.

Source: <https://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/2020/01/your-2020-do-list/162622/>