



# ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Newsletter

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Ken Pickler

## President's Corner

Written by Ken Pickler, President

We've had the privilege of hearing two outstanding speakers since October. Mr. Bill Rone, former AFSOC/FM Director, spoke about building effective FM teams. His key takeaway: it's critical to recruit, hire, and develop great people.

Last month, Mr. James Pitts, former Air Armament Center Budget Officer and our Test Wing's Plans Director, followed up Mr Rone's story about hiring James as an entry-level accountant. One of James' key takeaways was being grateful for the career opportunities you've had, and ensuring you are ready when new career doors open.

One of the key benefits of membership in ASMC, and specifically our chapter, is the opportunity to serve with people outside our immediate work families. Networking is key to professional success. You can never have too many contacts/mentors to help you navigate the challenges we face daily as financial advisors to our leaders.

It's time to elect next year's officers and fill openings in key positions. Brianna Hoppel has volunteered to head our elections. Our Executive Council is trying something new: a chapter "Job Fair" for our program on 16 March. I have used job fairs in recruiting new personnel, and look forward to this event. We will do this virtually, and encourage all members to be actively engaged in getting set for our next chapter year.

More to come...stay tuned!



# Community News

By Dedra Hickman

Happy New Year, ASMC members!

Thank you for creating a great 2021 holiday season for so many in our community.

First, we once again sponsored a family for the Niceville Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center (ECCAC). Thanks to all our members, ASMC was able to fulfill every wish on the list, and a few additional items, for this family. These children asked for bikes, outdoor toys like basketballs, soccer balls and goals for each, clothes, shoes, dolls, and even some staples like diapers and wipes for the smallest member of the family. Your generosity made all of these dreams a reality. The ECCAC has a great mission. It supports local families and tries to prevent child abuse and neglect, protect children, and restore the lives and futures of impacted children. The Centers in Walton and Okaloosa Counties house a multidisciplinary team of child protection, personnel, prosecutors, law enforcement, DCF, therapists, staff and volunteers. These services are provided at no cost by this non-profit organization. If you suspect abuse you can call the anonymous Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE.

Next, we also were able to offer support to Niceville's Sharing and Caring organization by purchasing, collecting and delivering over 182 pounds of necessity goods. These items included everything from soaps, razors, diapers, wipes, dishwashing liquid to all kinds of food items for that perfect Christmas dinner. We also provided some cool toys for the center to offer in the Christmas store so that struggling parents could make the holidays brighter for their kids who may have otherwise not had a holiday. Our efforts helped to support the Niceville Sharing & Caring mission to coordinate community efforts to meet the emergency needs of families in our area. It is a food source for the needy and they make food available to anyone who qualifies within their guidelines. A basic menu of food staples is given out freely. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday, Sharing & Caring acts as the coordinating agency with area churches and civic organizations to provide meals and gifts for needy families.

In summary, the AFMC Connect topics for the last two months of 2021 were: Thoughtful and Hope. As part of the guidance AFMC provided for talking to your team about these topics was that we should use this time to reflect back on past months. The stressors of the holiday months can make it more challenging for many and it is important that we take the time to check in on one another and provide whatever help and support that is needed. Financial hardship and emotional struggle are real for so many and it is important, especially around the holidays, to give where we can. This is why volunteering in your community can provide benefits for both our community and you, as you see the good you have done. Again, thank you to all of our ASMC members who made the holidays a little brighter and gave so much back to our community.

# Announcements

Next professional development event will be our 16 March chapter job fair. Save the date and keep an eye out for more info!

2022-2023 ASMC Elections are approaching soon. An email will be sent soon for a nomination request - followed by voting.

New to the FM team? Visit the below link to enroll to be an ASMC member. Select Gulf Coast Chapter or log into your account to transfer to our chapter.

Contact Nicole Allen, membership chair, for more information or to be added to the ASMC distro.  
<https://asmconline.org/membership/>

## Relay for Life

ASMC members,

The Community Services committee is looking for someone to lead our team at the Niceville Relay for Life event, on 13 May at the Mullet Festival Grounds. Our team, Comptrollers for a Cause, has been a part of this relay event for several years and would like to continue to support by volunteering our time and raising funds for lifesaving cancer research.

Relay for Life is the world's largest volunteer based cancer fund raising event. For more than 36 years, communities across the world have come together to honor and remember loved ones and take action for lifesaving change. At relay you will find community members taking turns walking around a track lined with luminarias. You will have the opportunity to cheer for local survivors, patients and caregivers.

Please consider becoming a part of this event by signing up to be a team member or volunteering to lead our team. You can become a team member by going to this link: Relay for Life of the Emerald Coast | Relay for Life ([acsevents.org](https://acsevents.org)). Scroll down to see all teams and look for Comptrollers for a Cause. You will see Amy Tolar's name as team captain but we are looking for someone to fill this spot. If you would like to volunteer to be team captain, please let Dedra Hickman know and she will work to get the website updated with the information.

### !!Save the Date!!

The Gulf Coast vRPDI 2022 will held 19-20 April.

\$25 Members / \$35 Non-Members

Contact Ms. Angela Mobley if you are interested on being on the RPD committee.



Please shop our Amazon Smile link to support our GC Chapter!  
<https://smile.amazon.com/c/h/59-2139423>

### Care Packages

If you would like to donate to care packages that go to our deployed FM members, please contact

Patrick DeWitt.

*Thank you for being the reason you  
made someone smile!*



# Membership Spotlight

## Tania Stamp

Where do you work? **AFSOC HQ in A4, Hurlburt Field**

What do you do? **Budget Analyst/Resource Advisor**

What are your hobbies/sports team/activities?

- **Watching Football**
- **Going to the gym**
- **Watching my 14 year old son and grandchildren's football, track, and basketball games**



Why is ASMC important to you? **My most memorable event I attended with ASMC was the 2017 San Diego PDI. I have moved around a lot in my FM career and at the PDI I saw old coworkers and mentors from previous jobs. It hit what a great event the ASMC PDI is every year to help the FM community enhance our skills and network with one another.**

What's your favorite FM tip for someone? **Ask questions, take notes, and learn from each and every co-worker. That knowledge or expertise you learn will always come in handy.**

What is your favorite thing about working at Hurlburt? **My favorite thing about working at Hurlburt is the fast paced environment and that each day is different. It keeps me on my toes. The drive into work right next to the beach somehow doesn't hurt either.**



What is something you learned (life hack) always stuck with you that you could share? **Go out and do it! The pandemic taught me that in an instant things can change before you realize it, so if you enjoy something make sure you take the time out to do it! Attend that event, go to that party, or make that lunch date with friends**

## Fisher House

Fisher House volunteers are needed to provide meals for their guests!  
Get your team together and contact Jaclyn Mailoto for  
available dates and information!

## ASMC HQ National News

From the Chief Executive Officer

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday and were able to spend some time with family and friends. As we prepare to enter the third year of the COVID pandemic, it is important that we take time to rest and recharge.

As we close the chapter on 2021, there are many successes that we can look back on as a Society. We successfully executed our first, fully virtual PDI after having to cancel the PDI in 2020. The 2021 Virtual PDI was a phenomenal undertaking and displayed the agility and flexibility of our staff and members. PDI 2021 set the stage for our upcoming PDI in Atlanta, which will combine both in-person and virtual components.

The Society also successfully conducted the 2nd Annual Data Analytics and Decision Support Virtual Conference in December. This event brought together experts from across the financial management and information management communities to discuss the direction of the use of data analytics in government. The overarching themes included viewing data as an asset (similar to other assets on your balance sheets) and linking the boardroom to the battlefield.

Finally, the Society continued to manage through adversity in another year of the COVID pandemic. This is no easy undertaking for any organization and, again, shows the grit, resilience, and determination of our members and staff.

As we look to 2022, we have an exciting platform of education, training, and professional development opportunities. These include increased webinars with corporate and strategic partners, a review of our Armed Forces Comptroller journal, a hybrid (virtual and in-person) PDI in Atlanta, the 2nd Annual Data Analytics and Decision Support Virtual Conference, and mini-PDIs at many of our chapters.

Behind the scenes, we are continuing to review of governance structure, our business model, and our business processes, and we will be kicking off a new digital marketing and rebranding campaign.

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There were many successes in 2021 that we should all be proud of, including, the successful clean audit opinions by 8 reporting entities of the 26 standalone DoD audits and the Coast Guard, the continued progress towards unmodified (clean) audit opinions by all the Services, improvements in financial systems consolidation and modernization, and the selection of ADVANA as the single enterprise data analytics and visualization platform to transform the Department of Defense (DoD) into a data-centric organization.

As I said in the last update, this is a very exciting time in defense financial management. Defense financial management professionals face a myriad of challenges as we continue to balance day-to-day operational requirements with long-term modernization efforts in order to provide increasing value to our nation. We will do this by managing inflationary impacts, pivoting on talent management, reimagining PPBE, improving transparency, and communicating return on investment.

The ASMC will be at the forefront of these efforts providing you the knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed in this environment. Moreover, ASMC will work collaboratively with all our members, stakeholders, and partners in both the government and private sector to identify unique solutions, mitigate risks, and create opportunities.

As always, thanks for all you have done....and continue to do....to support the ASMC. I look forward to working with each of you in 2022 to advance the mission and goals of the Society!

Rich Brady  
Chief Executive Officer

## **National PDI 2022 will held June 1-3 in Atlanta, Georgia.**

We will also be offering a Virtual option for those who cannot attend in person. Join us as we discuss current issues in DoD, US Coast Guard financial management operations, and mini courses will provide participants the opportunity to obtain direct credit toward meeting certain DoD FM Certification.

We are expecting 2,500-3,000 attendees in-person and another 2,500 virtually for 2022.

Registration for PDI 2022 will be open the first week of May. In the meantime, please visit our website at <https://asmconline.org/pd/pdi> for more information.

Email ASMC HQ at: [education@asmconline.org](mailto:education@asmconline.org) – we look forward to hearing from you!

# National News

Government Executive

## **An Appeals Court Has Rejected the Biden Administration's Request to Resume the COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate for Feds**

By Eric Katz

February 10, 2022

A federal appeals court has denied the Biden administration's request to undo the pause on its COVID-19 vaccine mandate for federal employees, leaving in place a ban on agencies enforcing the requirement. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit opted not to weigh in on the Justice Department's petition for immediate relief, meaning the mandate will likely remain enjoined for at least several months. The only path for quicker resolution would be for the administration to appeal further to the Supreme Court, an option it has not yet said it will explore. A Justice spokeswoman declined to comment.

The Biden administration sought a stay from the Fifth Circuit after a lower court in Texas issued the injunction in a surprise ruling. Opponents of the mandate for federal workers have pursued more than a dozen cases seeking to strike down Biden's order, but have yet to find success in any other court. About 98% of federal employees were in compliance with Biden's executive order at the time of the injunction, with 93% vaccinated. Federal agencies are mostly not currently punishing non-compliant workers, or adjudicating requests for religious or medical exemptions.

The appeals court asked for briefs from Feds for Medical Freedom, the group that brought the lawsuit with a union that represents some Homeland Security Department employees, and the Biden administration next month and will proceed with the case from there. In the meantime, the district court in Texas must still rule on the underlying case after it issued the preliminary injunction.

In a dissenting opinion, Fifth Circuit Judge Stephen Higginson, a President Obama appointee, said the government was likely to ultimately prevail in the case. Higginson argued the federal circuit is not likely the proper place to address the concerns, the president has the constitutional authority to serve as the "CEO of the federal workforce" and the plaintiffs failed to show they will suffer irreparable harm without an injunction.

"Federal employees that disagree with the content of Executive Order 14043 retain the right to claim an exemption, to leave the government's employment, to collectively bargain, and to challenge the order through the [Civil Service Reform Act]," Higginson wrote. "And, of course, any American that disagrees with the content of the order has the right to vote the president out of office."

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# National News

## An Appeals Court Continued

On Wednesday, 45 Republican lawmakers, including more than a dozen senators, filed a brief with the court requesting it not stay the injunction. No federal statute allows the president to “unilaterally compel a broad swath of American workers to undergo a medical procedure,” they wrote, arguing he can only regulate “workplace conduct” for agency employees. Allowing the mandate to go through, they said, would create a dangerous precedent of allowing the president to declare “inherent powers.” While the administration has allowed and encouraged employees who qualify for them to seek religious exemptions to the mandate, the lawmakers called the carve outs “theater” and said the requirement violated employees’ First Amendment rights.

“The American people have had enough of Biden’s unconstitutional mandates that trample on our rights,” said Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas. “Today, we’re sending a clear message to everyone suffering under Biden – from our military service members, to federal employees, to nurses and hospital staff: the days of these tyrannical mandates are numbered.”

<https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2022/02/appeals-court-has-rejected-biden-administrations-request-resume-covid-19-vaccine-mandate-feds/361847/>

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## **Almost all of the TSP’s Retirement Savings Funds Lost Ground in January**

Only the government securities (G) fund grew last month.

By Erich Wagner

February 1, 2022

The federal government’s 401(k)-style retirement savings program saw a rough start to 2022, as nearly every one of its portfolios lost value in January.

The small- and mid-size businesses of the Thrift Savings Plan’s S Fund saw the worst performance last month, falling 10.07%. The common stocks in the C Fund also bore the brunt of the falling stock market, losing 5.18%.

The international (I) fund lost 3.96% in January, while the fixed income bonds (F) fund fell 2.09%.

Of the TSP’s five core portfolios, only the G Fund, which is made up of government securities, finished January in the black. It increased 0.13% for the month.

Similarly, all of the TSP’s lifecycle (L) funds, which shift to more conservative investments as participants get closer to retirement, lost value last month. The L Income Fund lost 1.28%; L 2025, 2.37%; L 2030, 3.33%; L 2035, 3.68%; L 2040, 4.01%; L 2045, 4.32%; L 2050, 4.60%; L 2055, 5.41%; L 2060, 5.42%; and L 2065, 5.42%.

<https://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/2022/02/almost-all-tsp-retirement-savings-funds-were-red-january/361430/>