



✦ *News of Enchantment* ✦

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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Mar – Jun 2007

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Message from the President



Terry Franks
Rio Grande
Chapter President

Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to open our latest Rio Grande Chapter newsletter and to introduce myself as this year's President. It is a great honor for me to accept this challenge and I look forward to working with everyone as we move into a new and exciting year.

My personal vision for this year is to have a more robust and active membership with members eager to describe the benefits of being part of the Rio Grande Chapter.

I believe it is important to recognize excellence and to share ideas that lead us to excellence.

Therefore, I would like to declare this year to be one of refreshing three of our grass-roots raison-de-être: fostering fellowship, promoting education and training, and exchanging ideas [and perhaps sponsoring research on a demanding topic].

To this end I am inviting each of you to be an active member and to encourage your colleagues to join as well. I will personally respond to all suggestions and questions toward meeting this year's goals.

If one were to ask you how much of the time Apollo 11 was on course to the moon, what would you say? Are you thinking 'well surely most of the time because they got there!' Records show that Apollo 11 was on course just 3% of the time; 97% of the journey was spent off course! For the entire flight, from blast-off to landing on the moon, the crew was checking and correcting, checking and correcting to guarantee they achieved

their goal. If I were to ask you how much time are you on course to your next goal...what would you say?

Apollo 11 made it to the moon because of a group effort. In addition, each member of the crew brought a specific set of talents and expertise vital to the mission.

As ASMC members we all bring our own set of abilities and knowledge crucial to our mission. The only way we can guarantee continuing success as a group is to expand the ways we share those experiences, to make those mid-course corrections, and construct a true fellowship of comptrollers.

I'm looking forward to meeting as many ASMC members, and potential members, as possible in the coming months. I will be encouraging all Vice-Presidents to identify and contact prospective candidates to explain the benefits of being part of our family. We all have to champion membership as a means to better ourselves and others.

I hope that this newsletter is a forum for key issues we are all facing, and how we have, or could, successfully overcome those challenges. Please enjoy the newsletter and I welcome your comments at any time.

Warmest regards,

Terry A. Franks

ASMC Scholarship Recipients

Continuing Ed Scholarships



Dalila Gutierrez, Regional \$1,000 National \$1,000



Delores Lineback, Regional \$1,000 National \$2,500

High School Scholarships



Phillip Cruz , \$2,500



Art Chacon, \$2,500

VSF Comptroller

Jose R. Aragon

Jose Aragon is a retired USAF colonel with 29 years of active duty service. He is currently serving in a GS-15 position as Chief, Financial Management for the Space Vehicles Directorate at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. As the AFRL/VS Chief Financial Officer he leads a team of 30 financial analysts who drive the day-to-day financial activities for the directorate. Mr Aragon has held this current position since February 2007.

Previously Mr Aragon worked as a Business Consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton. In that capacity he directed the financial and business efforts of 25 staff throughout the greater San Antonio, Texas area, serving a myriad of USAF clients. His broad and diverse Air Force career included a unique combination of assignments. Throughout his career, Mr Aragon served as a financial manager, acquisition manager, congressional liaison officer, plans & programs officer, data automation officer; executive officer, aide-de-camp, and while a member of the enlisted corps as a crypto-analyst in the Intelligence community. He has served at all levels within the USAF – base, group, wing, product center, logistics center, MAJCOM, Numbered AF, and Air Staff. During his AF career, he traveled to 33 foreign countries and 44 US States.

Mr Aragon earned a MS degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University, a MS degree in Business Management from Central Michigan University, and a BS degree in Business from the University of Pittsburgh. Mr Aragon is also a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Air Command and Staff College, Squadron Officers School, Professional Military Comptroller School, Defense Systems Management College, and the Senior Acquisition Course. He maintains Level 3 certification in both Financial Management and Program Management; and is also certified as a Project Management Professional through the Project Management Institute. He is an active member of the Project Management Institute, the National Defense Industrial Association, and has been an ASMC member since 1980.

June Luncheon Donations

The Rio Grande Chapter of the America Society of Military Comptrollers is involved in fundraising events to provide scholarships to New Mexico graduating seniors who are interested in pursuing a business, accounting, or related college degree.

As part of our community outreach program, the Rio Grande chapter donates its time and funds to local charities. We presented two checks at our June luncheon to two organizations that make a huge difference in our state.

The first donation, in the amount of \$250.00, was presented to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Mexico. Wishes uplift the human spirit by creating hope, strength and joy! The journey of the Make-A-Wish foundation began on April 29, 1980. A 7-year-old boy from Phoenix, Arizona, named Chris suffered from a life-threatening medical condition. But ...he had a wish... a life long wish to become a state trooper. Because of caring people, his wish became a reality. Those same caring people wanted to grant wishes for other children with life-threatening medical conditions. Thus the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of America was born. The Make-A-Wish Foundation® is now the largest wish-granting organization in the world with 74 chapters in the United States and its territories, and 28 international affiliates spanning five continents.

The New Mexico Chapter was founded in 1986 and granted its first wish in January 1987, to Donovan, who wanted a bicycle.

Since 1987, the Foundation has granted over 900 wishes to children between the ages of 2 ½ and 18 who have a life threatening illness or condition. This year marks the 25th year of the New Mexico Chapter and it will be granting its 1,000th wish!

We extend our thanks and appreciation to the New Mexico Make-A-Wish Foundation for bringing joy and hope to the children who need it the most!!!!

The second community service donation, in the amount of \$500.00, was to the Mid Rio Grande Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Mid Rio Grande Chapter has been providing services to the Albuquerque community since 1916. It provides relief to victims of disaster and it helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

During the three month period of July 1, 2006 to October 31, 2006, the Mid -Rio Grande chapter of the American Red Cross was busy helping 847 individuals affected by disaster, coordinating five mass care events and opening one shelter!

Disasters do not take a break. Below is a story about someone who benefited from the aid the American Red Cross provides.

Mr. Kristopher Morgan was involved in a large apartment complex fire in Albuquerque. After the fire, he was without most of his medication and with a drained wheelchair battery. The belongings he was able to save from his apartment didn't amount to much. He felt alone and confused about what the future would bring.

But the Red Cross arrived on the scene and placed him in an apartment, provided him with a cot and a blanket, and vouchers for food and medications. Because of the Red Cross, he felt that there was someone for him, and that he would overcome the fire and move forward. He was grateful that the Red Cross relieved the lonely feeling and offered guidance and supplies to help him through the disaster.

95% of the staff are volunteers. It is these volunteers that make the Red Cross the premier disaster relief organization that it is. We thank the Mid Rio Grande Chapter of the American Red Cross for continuing to provide shelter, food, and most importantly, hope to people affected by disasters.

Upcoming Luncheons



- 26 July 07 – KFCU
Managing Your Credit & Credit Score
- 16 Aug – ASMC Lunch, TBD, 1130-1230
- No ASMC Luncheon in September (End of year closeout)
- 18 Oct – ASMC Picnic

CDFM

ASMC would like to congratulate the following for completing their CDFM:

Carrie Bloomer - AFRL

Scholarships

Are you currently working on your college degree in the financial arena or possibly thinking about starting....

Our Chapter is going to award a scholarship to a deserving student that is working on his/her college degree in the Business Field.

Check out our Chapter website to find out what the requirements are. You can also find the application there. Start soon and get your required paperwork together.
<http://www.asmcrgc.org.htm>

Or, if you know a high school senior that is interested in pursuing a college degree in the financial arena? You can also refer them to our chapter website to check out the requirements and print out the application. It is not too soon to start thinking about applying.

If you have any questions, please call Angela Martinez at 505-846-3692.

Community Service

We are looking for volunteers for the VA Hospital, once a week for 1-2 hours. Please contact Ruby Ann Alforque at 3-4286 if you are interested.

ASMC National News

Defense Financial Highlights—June 29, 2007

DoD on the Hill. DoD budget cut in FY 2008 appropriations allocation. The FY 2008 Budget Resolution, Congress' blueprint for congressional action on budget-related items, allocated \$953 billion in total discretionary budget authority to the Appropriations Committees, \$23 billion more than the president requested. Earlier this month, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees distributed this amount among its twelve subcommittees so they could begin work on FY 2008 appropriations bills. The allocation for the DoD appropriations bill was \$3.5 billion less than the request, while most other allocations were higher. This marks the seventh consecutive year that Congress has set its DoD appropriations target below the president's request. For a complete listing of all subcommittee FY 2008 allocations, look on the web sites of the House Appropriations Committee (www.appropriations.house.gov, see "FY2007 302(b) allocations") and Senate Appropriations Committee (www.appropriations.senate.gov, see Committee Adopts New Funding Levels").

House passes Military Construction/VA Appropriations Bill. The House passed the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs appropriations bill on June 15, 2007. The House bill provides \$207 million more than the president requested. Slightly more than \$150 million was added to military construction accounts--\$57 million to active components and \$100 million to guard and reserve components. The bill also added \$50 million to the BRAC 1990 account request. Family Housing, Chemical Demilitarization construction, and BRAC 2005 were funded at the requested level. The Senate Appropriations Committee version of the bill is about \$400 million higher than the request. The full Senate should complete floor action before the July 4th recess. For a link to the FY 2008 House and Senate versions of the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs appropriations bill and report, visit the House and Senate Appropriations Committee's web sites (see ASMC Viwepoint for addresses).

House reaches agreement on earmarks. After weeks of negotiations, the House leadership reached agreement on how to consider earmarks in FY 2008 appropriations bills. The original proposal by the Appropriations Committee leadership called for adding earmarks to each appropriations conference report, rather than in the House and Senate bills as has been normal practice. Critics viewed this proposal as not providing promised transparency on earmarks. Proponents insisted that this process was the only way to keep to a rigorous schedule that would ensure congressional passage of all appropriations bills before the beginning of the new fiscal year. The new agreement calls for earmark sponsors to be identified before the bill goes to the House floor, allowing members to directly challenge earmarks by amendment during floor action. Also, it was agreed that earmarks added in conference that were not included in either the House or Senate bill could be challenged by a point of order during consideration of the conference report.

House set to move on Appropriations bills. Now that Democrats and Republicans have reached agreement on how to consider earmarks, the House will move forward on completing appropriations bills. Appropriations Committee Chair David Obey (D-WI) had hoped to complete most or all 12 appropriations bills by the July 4th recess. However, the earmark disagreement has delayed House action and forced a revised schedule that means it is likely that all appropriations bills will not be finished until the August recess. The DoD bill is expected to be the last FY 2008 appropriations bill passed in the House. To date, the full House has passed four appropriations bills: Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, Legislative, and State/Foreign Operations. In the Senate, the full Appropriations Committee has reported out the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs and the Homeland Security bills. However, the Senate has not yet begun floor consideration of any appropriations bill. You can find an up-to-date status of congressional action on appropriation bills on the Library of Congress' "Thomas" web site (www.thomas.loc.gov). Click on "Appropriations Bills" under the heading "Find More Legislation."

Congress moves to increase pay raises for FY 2008. The House-passed FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Bill and the Senate Armed Services Committee version of the bill include a 3.5% across-the-board pay raise for military personnel, versus the 3% raise proposed by the president for both military and civilian personnel. Federal civilians would also get a 3.5% pay raise if the House FY 2008 Financial Services Appropriations Bill, which includes authorization for the higher pay raise, becomes law. The Senate version of the bill is also expected to include a 3.5% civilian pay raise. For a link to the House and Senate versions of the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Bill, visit the web sites of the House Armed Services Committee (www.house.gov/hasc) and Senate Armed Services Committee (www.armed-services.senate.gov).

Committee Chairpersons:

Awards

Lyn Kirkwood

CDFM Certification

Beverly Hollingsworth

Community Service

Five Star

Beverly Hollingsworth

Fund Raising

Dianna Delany

Luncheons/Programs

Santa Stocking, Lydia Duran,
Lisa Norton

Membership

Leona Gallegos

Newsletter

Lucinda Lopez

National PDI Booth

James West

Publicity

Dalila Gutierrez

Regional PDI

Rick DeMello

Scholarship

Angela Martinez

Web Master

Esther Archuleta

Fundraising

ASMC is scheduled to work the following games at the Isotopes Park. If you want to volunteer please contact TeNesha Hall at 853-1660 or email her at tenesha.hall@kirtland.af.mil.

16 Jul 07
22 Jul 07
23 Jul 07
5 Aug 07
6 Aug 07
15 Aug 07
16 Aug 07

ASMC Membership

ASMC Rio Grande Chapter members may contact Leona Gallegos for new member registration and information or to update current member information. She can be reached by email at leona.gallegos@kirtland.af.mil or by phone (505) 853-3384.

Future PDIs

2007 - Kansas City, Missouri
2008 - Orlando, Florida
2009 - San Antonio, Texas
2010 - Nashville, Tennessee

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report						
Cash Flow Statement						
1 June 07 to 30 Jun 07						
				Checking	Savings	Total
Balance 31 May 07				\$236.82	\$7,733.78	\$7,970.60
Credits (+)						
1-Jun				\$0.00	\$8.19	\$8.19
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
11-Jun Deposit for Ovations Fund raiser						\$0.00
5/10 and 5/13				\$901.57		\$0.00
5/13				\$22.89		\$0.00
				\$924.46	\$924.46	\$924.46
						\$0.00
21-Jun Proceeds from June Luncheon (collected from members)					\$428.00	\$428.00
21-Jan xfer to cover checks # 1356 and # 1357				\$1,040.00	(\$1,040.00)	\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
Total Credits				\$1,276.82	\$8,054.43	\$9,331.25
Debits (-)						
21-Jun Mid Rio Grande Chapter of the American Red Cross				1356	(\$500.00)	(\$500.00)
21-Jun Air Force Catering at Mt View Club (June luncheon)				1357	(\$537.74)	(\$537.74)
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
Total Debits				(\$1,037.74)	\$0.00	(\$1,037.74)
Balance 30 June 07				\$239.08	\$8,054.43	\$8,293.51
Accounts Receivable						
KFCU Scholarship Donation					\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
						\$0.00
Nat'l PDI Booth					\$100.00	\$100.00
				Sub A/R	\$0.00	\$2,100.00
				Adjusted Total	\$239.08	\$10,154.43
						\$10,393.51
Accounts Payable						
Make a Wish Donation					(\$250.00)	(\$250.00)
2 HS Scholarship \$2K ea, 2 CE \$1K ea					(\$6,000.00)	(\$6,000.00)
				Sub A/P	\$0.00	(\$6,250.00)
				Adjusted Total	\$239.08	\$3,904.43
						\$4,143.51
Rose-Marie Strach Treasurer						

Corporate Page

Rio Grande Chapter would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors!

