

NCMA TYSONS NEWSLETTER

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September 2025



NCMA Tysons Monthly Talks

Welcome to the September 2025 edition of our chapter newsletter! This month is packed with exciting updates, highlights, and events.

We'll recap our recent get-togethers, shine a light on some of our amazing members, and share details on upcoming events. Read on to discover member achievements, upcoming events, and more!

Top News

Member Articles: Of Interest in Federal Contracts, and 3 others

Member Spotlight:
Cara Woodward, JD – Board of Advisors

Event Recaps, Chapter Updates, and More!





A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear NCMA Tysons Members,

Welcome to the start of a new program year! I am genuinely honored — and deeply grateful — to serve as your Chapter President for a second term, thanks to the trust and confidence you've placed in me. Together, we accomplished a great deal last year, and I am excited about the opportunities ahead as we continue building on that momentum.

This year, our board has prepared a lineup of engaging programs, professional development opportunities, and community initiatives designed to support you in every stage of your contracting journey. From thought-provoking speaker sessions to hands-on workshops and collaborative networking events, we are committed to delivering value that strengthens both your career and our NCMA community.

Most importantly, our chapter exists to serve you. Your feedback, ideas, and participation are what make us stronger. Please feel free to contact us at support@ncmatysons.org with any questions, comments, or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you and shaping this program year together.

Let's make this another year of growth, connection, and impact. I look forward to seeing what we'll achieve as a chapter — and as a community — in the year ahead.

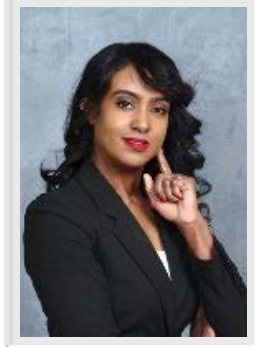
With gratitude and enthusiasm,

Lawrence K. Davies, Jr.
President, NCMA Tysons Chapter



✦ NCMA Tysons: Celebrating Our New Board of Advisors ✦

We are proud to announce the appointment of our new Board of Advisors! Their leadership, expertise, and commitment will play a pivotal role in guiding our Chapter's vision, strengthening our programs, and expanding the impact we deliver to our members and community.



Janelle E. Taylor



Jean Lohier
CPCM, CFCM, NCMA Fellow



Angel Davis
CFCM



Ron Falcone
CPCM, CFCM, NCMA Fellow



Lenn Vincent



Jim Blades



Cara Woodward, JD

Collectively, this distinguished group brings decades of knowledge and experience in government contracting, program management, and industry collaboration. Even more, several of our new advisors have previously served as Chapter Presidents, giving them firsthand experience in leadership at the highest level of our organization. Their background not only qualifies them but also makes them uniquely equipped to guide this year's board with insight, wisdom, and vision.

We extend our warmest congratulations and deepest gratitude to our new advisors for accepting this role. We are excited to collaborate with them in shaping the future of our Chapter and advancing our mission.

Please join us in celebrating and welcoming our Board of Advisors—their dedication and insight will no doubt lead us into an exciting new chapter of growth and success.

Team Tysons Flies Past Our Fundraising Goal!

On September 8th, NCMA Tysons proudly surpassed a significant milestone—raising \$2,725 in support of the Special Olympics! Not only did we meet our \$2,500 goal, but we exceeded it by \$225.

Why This Matters

Our fundraising success qualifies us for the Dulles Day Plane Pull, and we're thrilled to announce our pool plane time is officially scheduled for 2:30 p.m. This achievement represents more than just numbers; it reflects the spirit of generosity, collaboration, and community that defines our chapter.

A Special Thank You

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Al Lister, whose remarkable donation pushed us over the finish line. Al's consistent dedication and generosity exemplify the values of leadership and service that inspire us all.

Beyond the Celebration

While this is undoubtedly a time to celebrate, it's also a time to remember the greater purpose: the funds raised directly benefit the Special Olympics, creating opportunities and experiences for athletes and families. As a chapter, we're not only building professional excellence, but also giving back to our community in a lasting way.

Join the Festivities

If you haven't yet registered, there's still time! Please bring your family, bring your friends, and join us this Saturday for an afternoon of camaraderie, fun, and friendly competition. Let's celebrate our win together while making an impact that truly matters.



Member Articles

Disclaimer – Please Read

The following articles are member-submitted and do not, in any way, represent the opinions of NCMA Tysons Chapter or the National Contract Management Association. Member-submitted articles are included as-is, without warranty, representation, or liability of any kind.



Article: The Everchanging Acquisition Landscape, The FAR revolution has Arrived by John Dobriansky

On April 15, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14275, "Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement," initiating the most comprehensive overhaul of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) since its inception over 40 years ago. EO 14275 establishes a policy direction "to create the most agile, effective, and efficient procurement system possible" by directing that the FAR should contain "only provisions required by statute or essential to sound procurement." The Order builds upon several other Trump Administration Executive Orders focused on deregulation across federal agencies and improving federal procurements.

[Click here to read the rest](#)



Member Article– Of Interest in Federal Contracts contd.

GAO Decisions:

BrightPoint, LLC | U.S. GAO

The recent GAO decision in the matter of BrightPoint, LLC (B-423392; B-423392.2; B-423392.3, dated June 25, 2025) sustained the protest in part due to flaws in the agency's best-value tradeoff analysis and source selection decision under a Department of Agriculture (USDA) RFQ for IT services. The Source Selection Evaluation Board (SSEB) findings and the contracting officer's selection rationale did not meaningfully address or rebut BrightPoint's allegations that its quotation was not evaluated on equal footing with the awardee's. GAO found that BrightPoint raised "colorable allegations", plausible and well-supported claims, that the agency's evaluation lacked transparency and fairness. The agency did not provide a meaningful response to these allegations, which contributed to the sustain decision. Ultimately, GAO concluded that the agency's best-value tradeoff analysis and source selection decision were inconsistent with the solicitation's evaluation criteria and failed to give equal consideration to BrightPoint's and MetaPhase's quotations.

Bid Protests: Key Features and Trends | U.S. GAO

The proposed reforms to the GAO bid protest process, as outlined in the FY25 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), reflect a growing interest in refining how federal contract protests are handled. One key area under consideration is the clarification of the "pleading standard." This refers to the level of detail a protester must provide in their initial filing to gain access to the agency's procurement records. A clearer standard could help ensure that only well-founded protests proceed, potentially reducing frivolous filings while preserving fairness for legitimate claims. Another reform being explored is the introduction of cost-shifting mechanisms. While GAO remains neutral on this issue, it has presented Congress with options such as requiring unsuccessful protesters to bear certain costs. This could deter speculative protests and encourage contractors to conduct more thorough internal reviews before filing. Together, these reforms aim to balance efficiency and accountability in the federal procurement process, with significant implications for contractors who must adapt to a potentially more stringent and cost-sensitive protest environment.

emissary LLC | U.S. GAO

On July 29, 2025, the GAO issued a decision on Emissary LLC's bid protests challenging the Department of Defense's award of a technical support services contract to Gemini Industries Inc. The protest was sustained in part due to flaws in the agency's evaluation of Gemini's technical proposal, failure to assess the impact of Gemini's organizational conflict of interest mitigation strategy, and inconsistent treatment of past performance relevance. These findings highlight the importance of strict adherence to solicitation terms and transparent evaluation of mitigation plans.

However, GAO denied Emissary's claims regarding misrepresentation of key personnel availability and certain aspects of the past performance evaluation, finding no evidence of wrongdoing or unreasonable judgment by the agency. The decision serves as a reminder for contractors to ensure accuracy in key personnel representations and to document performance relevance clearly.



Member Article– Of Interest in Federal Contracts by Tiffany Thomas

The FAR Overhaul – Below are links to each updated FAR part as of July & August ([Click here](#) for the Overview list of Deviations):

Revolutionary FAR Overhaul



ACQUISITION.GOV

FAR Overhaul Regulations



Revolutionary FAR Overhaul

Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

Under the President's Executive Order, *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement*, the Federal government is undertaking the first-ever comprehensive overhaul of the FAR.

Led by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) and the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council (FAR Council), this initiative will return the FAR to its statutory roots, rewrite it in plain language, and remove most non-statutory rules. In addition, non-regulatory buying guides will provide practical strategies grounded in common sense while remaining outside the FAR.

The goal is clear: faster acquisitions, greater competition, and better results.

[FAR Part 2](#)

[FAR Part 4 | August 14, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 5 | August 8, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 8 | August 14, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 9 | August 21, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 12 | August 14, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 26 | August 8, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 29 | July 17, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 31 | July 17, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 36 | July 24, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 33 | August 21, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 38 | August 14, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 40 | August 14, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 46 | August 21, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 49 | August 21, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 51 | August 14, 2025](#)

[FAR Part 52](#)



Member Articles contd.



Article: What Procurement Frustration Is Trying to Tell You **by Jason Whetsell**

Abstract: Procurement frustration isn't about bad people or bad rules—it's a reflection of the public sector's underlying systems. The article explores how visible pain points like complex RFPs and endless delays stem from deeper cross-functional processes and unwritten rules. By recognizing frustration as a signal of systemic issues, leaders inside and outside the contracting workforce can better understand their role in improving procurement and the public services it enables.

[Click the link in the title to continue reading.](#)

Article: FAR 2.0: Cutting Through 40 Years of Red Tape By Joseph Wittusen

"We're cutting the outdated red tape and focusing on value for American taxpayers."

A Once-in-a-Generation Rewrite

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) has governed how the U.S. government buys everything—laptops, jet fighters, software—since 1984. But over 2,000 pages of accumulated rules have made it less a roadmap and more a maze. In 2025, that began to change. The FAR 2.0 Overhaul is a bold initiative to strip away decades of accumulated complexity, keeping only what is required by statute or essential to sound procurement. Think of it as tuning up a 40-year-old engine: removing worn-out parts, streamlining the system, and making it run faster and more efficiently.

Want the Full Story? "FAR 2.0 Overhaul: A Revolutionary Rewrite of Federal Acquisition Rules"—a detailed, part-by-part analysis including timelines, examples, and preparation strategies for agencies and contractors. The full version is available upon request for professionals who need the deeper dive.





Chapter Updates

AI-Powered Compliance: What CMMC Means for Today's Government Contractors.

Guest speaker Eric Crusius, Partner & Government Contracts Practice Chair, will explore the intersection of CMMC and AI, examining how contractors can harness emerging technologies to streamline compliance efforts, strengthen cybersecurity postures, and remain competitive in today's government contracting environment.

- When: September 30, 2025 5:00pm - 8:00pm EST
- Where: 1420 Spring Hill Road, McLean, Virginia 22102
- Sponsored by Distributed Solutions, Inc.

Whether you are a small business seeking your first CMMC certification or a large contractor managing complex supply chains, this discussion will provide actionable guidance on preparing for the future of compliance in the age of AI.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Help Shape NCMA Tysons Events

Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey. Your feedback will directly shape:

- The *topics* we cover in training and panel discussions
- The *format* and *frequency* of our professional development events
- The *benefits* we provide to members and sponsors

[NCMA Tysons Member Feedback Survey](#)

Thank you for helping us make NCMA Tysons even stronger.
We look forward to hearing from you!

Big GovCon Conversations Ahead!

If you didn't catch Michelle Currier and Eric Crusius at NCMA World Congress, here's your chance.

Join NCMA Dulles Corridor on September, 11 for GovCon in Real Life: Lessons from the Trenches, Talk from the Top. Michelle Currier and Eric Crusius bring their signature insights, humor, and hard-won lessons to a no-fluff conversation about what shaped FY25 and what every contracts, compliance, and acquisition professional should keep an eye on for FY26.

- Location: Hilton Fairfax, 12777 Fair Lakes Cir, Fairfax, VA 22033
- Virtual Event: Zoom
- Date and time: Thu, Sep 11, 2025 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM ET

Don't miss this chance to learn, laugh, and get ahead of FY26.

[Register Here](#)



Chapter Updates

2025 Dulles Plane Pull!

Join the team or donate below

Join our team, NCMA Tysons Chapter!

We are fundraising for the 2025 Dulles Plane Pull! You should join us and work together to support Special Olympics Virginia and a truly awesome cause.

Let's make it happen!

NCMA Tysons

[Join my team](#)

Please help us in support of the Special Olympics Virginia by making a donation through our team's fundraising page for the 2025 Dulles Day Plane Pull®. Even a small donation will help us achieve our goal in supporting the athletes of Special Olympics Virginia! The process is fast, easy, and secure. Thanks so much

for your support.

NCMA Tysons

[Donate to my page](#)

✦ Calling All Change-Makers, Business Leaders & Community Builders! ✦

At NCMA Tysons, we don't just host events—we create robust platforms that celebrate excellence, uplift communities, and drive lasting change.

From dynamic networking receptions to youth mentorship initiatives, your sponsorship fuels real impact—and puts your brand front and center with an audience that values purpose and progress.

- High-visibility sponsorship opportunities
- Connect with diverse professionals and leaders
- Support causes that matter
- Be recognized for the difference you make

Whether you're a small business owner or a Fortune 500 partner, we have a space for you at the table.

Let's talk sponsorship. Let's make an impact.

Email sponsorship@ncmatysons.org to learn more.

Member Spotlight: Cara Woodward



This month, we are delighted to spotlight **Cara Woodward, JD!**

Cara Woodward is a Contracts Manager at Fibertech, Inc. With over thirteen years of experience in the industry, she has negotiated, managed, and closed out contracts of all types and dollar values. Cara is a proud active duty Navy spouse who enjoys traveling and attending sporting events with her family.

Cara has served on the Board of Directors for both the Rio Grande and Tysons chapters of the National Contracts Management Association (NCMA) and is a 2019 graduate of NCMA's Contract Management Leadership Development Program (CMLDP).

Recently, Cara has been appointed to the NCMA Tysons Chapter Board of Advisors. Cara brings not only her expertise and insight, but also a spirit of collaboration and a fresh perspective that will help us push boundaries and maintain our momentum.

Let's give a warm welcome to our Member Spotlight, Cara Woodward, JD!

See How the "Secret Sauce" Is Made — Join Our Monthly Board Meetings

Ever wondered how chapter initiatives come together behind the scenes? We invite all members to join us at our monthly board meetings to see the process in action.

Participation is simple:

1. Visit our [Chapter Website](#)
2. Navigate to the Events page.
3. View the Calendar of Events to find upcoming board meeting dates.
4. Register for a free ticket that secures your spot.

By attending, you'll gain firsthand insight into how decisions are made, how programs are shaped, and how we collaborate to serve our members and the broader contracting community. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to stay informed and engaged with your chapter leadership.

Thank you to our Partners!



Thank you to our Sponsors!



Upcoming

Events

- September 11, 2025 - GovCon in Real Life: Lessons from the Trenches, Talk from the Top. Seminar
- September 13, 2025- Dulles Plane Pull
- September 18, 2025- CMMC as a Competitive Edge: Turning Compliance into Contract Wins
- September 25, 2025 - CMMC Educational Event
- October 12, Walk to End Alzheimers
- Date TBD Women Giving Back
More to come!

Chapter Board Opportunities

- Director of Sponsorships
- Director of Program Events
- Director of Training
- Director of Social Media

SIGN UP TODAY

*"Move forward.
Good things are up ahead."*



Empowering Futures, Deepening Bridges, and Renewing Purpose.

 @ncmatysons

 www.ncmatysons.org

CALL TO ACTION

EMBRACE THE ERA OF RENEWAL! EMPOWERING FUTURES & BUILDING BRIDGES



Get Involved

Volunteer your time and talents to support our initiatives.

outreach@ncmatysons.org



Attend Events

Join us for our upcoming events and network with our community.

programs@ncmatysons.org



Sponsorship

Consider becoming a sponsor. Your sponsorship will enable us to continue our vital work and reach even more individual needs.

sponsorship@ncmatysons.org



Spread the Word

Repost and engage with our Social Media accounts. Share this newsletter and invite others to get involved.

Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact on our community.
We look forward to your participation and support.