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Montgomery PMI Chapter Presents “Why do I want to become a PMP or CAPM?”

As part of the Montgomery PMI Chapter’s ongoing membership drive, the chapter will present a seminar titled “Why do I want to become a PMP or CAPM?” The goal of the seminar is to reach out to people who may not be aware of PMI and how it could benefit them. It also seeks to raise employer interest in professional project managers. The seminar will be held 5 - 7 pm, Thursday, August 2, 2007, at the Hampton Inn East Chase. Presentations include the following topics:

- Who hires project managers and why
- Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) and Project Management Professional (PMP) certification requirements
- Training opportunities
- PMI Montgomery: who we are, what we do, and how we can help you

There will be refreshments as well as ample opportunity to network with other project management professionals.

Attracting new members to the chapter is crucial for the continued growth and vitality of our chapter. You can help by spreading the word about this upcoming seminar to anyone you know who could benefit from membership.

2007 PMI Region 14 Leadership Meeting

The 2007 PMI Region 14 Leadership Meeting was held at Miami, Florida 21 – 23 June. I was fortunate enough to represent the Montgomery PMI Chapter. The South Florida PMI Chapter and the Leadership Planning Committee out did themselves and definitely surpassed the objective and theme “Building Relationships Across the Region”. There were 60 attendees with virtually every chapter in Region 14 being represented.

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All presentations were both informative and impressive. The lineup began with Sam Tidwell, the CEO of American Red Cross of Greater Miami and the Keys. His presentation covered a day in the life of a Red Cross CEO – Mission Critical Project Management & Volunteer Leadership. Mr. Tidwell discussed the challenges of being prepared for any storm or disaster that may occur along with the challenges of maintaining a proficient and qualified volunteer corp. He indicated that project managers get PDUs by volunteering project management services at the Red Cross...something to consider for providing a service to your community.

Other sessions covered subjects such as Governance as Leadership – Defining the 21st Century Board; PMI Strategic Plan Component Alignment Process; Managing Culture in a Project World; Volunteer Leadership; Building a Better Project Manager; Beyond the PMP; and Creating Value in Educational and Professional Development Offering. The good news is that our PMI Chapter is inline with the areas covered. The ongoing initiative of the membership drive, increasing the value and benefits through quality programs and seminars to the PMI membership and local community is right on track with the objectives and goals discussed at the Leadership Meeting.

Tersia Eaves, the Chair of the Information Systems Specific Interest Group (ISSIG), conducted a session on the benefits of the ISSIG for those in the information systems arena and announced an upcoming membership drive. Benefits include pod casts and webinars that allow you to earn PDUs. To obtain more information about the ISSIG and to join, go to <http://www.pmi-issig.org>.

For the breakout session, we split into groups and discussed a specific topic such as Professional Development, Membership, Programs, Finance, Marketing and Communications. Subjects discussed included: best practices, lessons learned; wants & strategies; and what does our chapter do well that we would want to share with other chapters. This was a great networking tool and a wealth of ideas for possible use at future meetings.

The final session was a panel discussion that dealt with “How to drive strategy without getting caught up in the “weeds” of operational details”. The panel consisted of a mixture of representatives from large and small agencies. They shared their best practices and ideas from across PMI and other successful not for profit, and professional member based organizations. Addressed were the different leadership challenges, strategies to attract corporate sponsorships, delivering valuable programs, and strategic industry collaborations.

If you have an opportunity to attend a leadership meeting such as this, GO! It is motivational, educational, and a great networking event.

Article by Liz Fant, PMP

From the President...

Welcome to this edition of the Capital Project Manager. The first six months have just flown by, and we have accomplished a lot as a chapter. Our year will started off with a timely presentation at our January membership meeting by Tamara Stidham on “What Project Managers Need to Know about Contracts”. We followed that up in February with a presentation by Mary Pruett titled “A Day in the Life of a Project Manager”. In March Dan Tuten, a well know PM practitioner and author, presented an outstanding seminar on the Agile Development and the Rational Unified Process (RUP) methodologies. He also spoke at our March dinner meeting on “Leadership from the Inside Out”. The next three months we heard terrific presentations on ITSM, Risk Assessment, and Scope Management from Ken Hamilton, Rick Morris, and Dan Johnson, respectively.

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Our education and training partner, AUM, offered training on “Developing and Confirming Effective Business Requirements” and “Developing Reliable Project Estimates” in February and a PMP Exam Preparation Review Course in March. AUM also held ITIL Foundations in March, Advanced Project Management Techniques in May, Hands-on IT Project Management in June, and two Successful Project Management seminars, one in March and the other in June.

Much more is planned for the second half of the year. In addition to more outstanding dinner speakers, our VP for Professional Development (Danney Watson) is spearheading planning for a special PMP educational event on 2 August. You will be seeing a ton of publicity on this event, the goal of which is to publicize project management and attract new chapter members. You will also be hearing a lot about our 2007 membership campaign from Mary Lee Carter (VP, Membership) and Deborah Richardson (VP, Publicity). These two ladies have worked very hard to plan this campaign and no doubt it will be a resounding success.

One other very important activity will be taking place over the next several months—nominations for our 2008 board of directors. Our immediate past president, Allyson Pitman, is heading up a committee to recruit candidates for each board position. Elections will be in September, followed by a transition period before the new board takes office in January 2008. If you are interested in serving on the board in any capacity, please contact Allyson or any current board member.

I am very pleased at the continuing growth and progress our chapter is making. If attendance at our seminars and monthly dinner meetings is any indication, I am convinced we are meeting the needs of our members. No doubt this is the result of a lot of hard work by our volunteers and your board of directors (who are volunteers too!). And probably everyone will tell you I am a demanding and hard driving president-- and I plead guilty-- but I will also tell you I am the least important cog in this well oiled machine. I am particularly proud of your board of directors, all of whom have stepped up and performed admirably!

Hope the remainder of the year is terrific for you, and that our chapter contributes to your professional success.

Bruce Paterson, President

“A Real Risk Assessment”

Rick Morris, PMP, ITIL, MCTS, and COO of Highmark Technology, once again wowed the attendees at the May PMI Montgomery Chapter monthly dinner meeting. Rick’s easy going down to earth approach to risk makes it seem easy to accomplish. For something program managers view as important, few really cherish the opportunity and no one else wants to help either. Why? Because the classic approach is to build the work breakdown structure, identify risks, qualify and then quantify risks which leads to a risk strategy and residual risks. In reality, the PM creates the risk plan by identifying the risks, listing them in a spreadsheet and starts the project.



Why do risk plans fail? They provide ambiguous answers. The risk is high, medium or low. Or there is a scoring system which provides some number. The answers are not useful! Rick said there are two constraining laws: Parkinson’s Law - work fills the available time and Murphy’s Law - anything that can go wrong does go wrong. The dilemma of program managers is to capture risk when nobody else supports it; to account for risk without allowing for Parkinson’s Law; and to use risk assessments to help drive the contingency that is needed.

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Rick Morris outlined two approaches to risk assessment: a simple approach and a more involved approach. First, the simple approach is based on the use of Microsoft Project as a planning tool with which the schedule plan is built with no artificial constraints. Rick stressed the need to have a properly developed plan which maximizes the tool. He emphatically stated, “learn the tool!” Once the plan is established, save a copy and “break it.” Rick again stressed that you do not need to wait until it is perfectly constructed to start the risk assessment process. The “break it” approach lets the program manager run what-if exercises on the plan. Determine if you can recover the plan when it is broken. If you can recover, then determine the necessary lead time to recover. If you cannot recover the plan, then you must deal with that risk immediately.

Rick continued with the risk assessment approaches using a more involved method. He advised that you should correlate risk scores to time and cost guidelines. Use real incidents and lessons learned to baseline risks while avoiding theoretical risks. By creating a repository of real proven risks the risk assessment moves from general to more specific. In general, program managers base risk estimates on feelings and hunches. But once you start obtaining real risks based on a real schedule you can more productively deal with the risks.

He addressed the need to baseline the schedule from the beginning and then track variances. Real variances can be categorized by type and therefore can be ranked by percent for impact to the project. This lets the program manager manage according to actual risks and impacts. By focusing on actual variances the specific reasons can be identified which then provides the basis for decision making. Rick’s favorite saying is “Data Rules All.”

The next step is to create a new risk assessment using real risks and actual impacts. Actual variances lead to actual impacts. Risk can be quantified in terms of risk days. A risk day is the amount of time in days which is anticipated to be required to recover from the actual occurrence of a risk event.

One final point Rick made was to address risk with the project sponsor. He stressed that it important to know the risk days but to not allow the project team to know so that Parkinson’s Law does not come into play. But the program manager must get agreement from the sponsor regarding the actual expectation for completion of the project based on risk. Make the date real with the sponsor and don’t change it.

Once again Rick Morris provided a very entertaining and on target presentation that is pertinent to all program managers. It was most definitely a wonderful presentation...maybe even better than the ice cream.

Article by Mark Spain, PMP

Board of Directors 2008

In September we will elect the officers for 2008. All officers must be members in good standing of PMI and of the PMI-Montgomery Chapter. Officers serve a one year term beginning in January. Please contact the Nominating Committee, Allyson Pitman (allyson_pitman@colonialbank.com), or Betty Corbin (bcorbin@mail.aum.edu), if you are interested.

Upcoming Training & Events

Developing and Confirming Effective Business Requirements

November 13-14, 2 days, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 13 PDUs.

Auburn University Montgomery TechnaCenter Building, 75 TechnaCenter Drive. \$975 for PMI members, \$1050 for others.

This two-day course will give you hands-on experience with the latest proven requirements gathering techniques. Lively lectures combined with insightful demonstrations and realistic practice exercises will provide you with the competence and confidence to improve project outcomes through better requirements elicitation and management. This seminar is presented by ASPE Technology, a PMI Registered Education Provider. For a detailed course brochure, visit the Events page of www.pmimontgomery.org. For more information call 334-782-0842. To register call 334-244-3080.

PMP Exam Preparation Review Course

July 23-26, 4 days, 1:00 pm-6:00 pm.

Auburn University Montgomery TechnaCenter Building, 75 TechnaCenter Drive. \$699 for PMI members, \$799 for others.

This course is designed to equip students to pass PMI's Project Management Professional (PMP) certification exam. Students should bring a copy of the *PMBOK Guide, 3rd Edition* to the course. The course provides 20 contact hours of training that apply toward the 35 hours required to take the PMP Exam. For course description visit <http://www.aum.edu/coned/computertraining>, choose Training Courses and Schedules, and do a course search for Exam. For information call 334-244-3057. To register call 334-244-3080.

Developing Reliable Project Estimates

September 5-6, 2 days, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 14 PDUs.

Auburn University Montgomery TechnaCenter Building, 75 TechnaCenter Drive. \$975 for PMI members, \$1050 for others.

This course will give you practical experience with proven tools and techniques for reliably estimating your next IT project's costs and schedule. You'll gain a practical understanding of how project estimation fits within the project management processes. Dynamic lectures are interspersed with insightful exercises that will add important project estimation and management tools to your skill-set. This seminar is presented by ASPE Technology, a PMI Registered Education Provider. For a detailed course brochure, visit the Events page of www.pmimontgomery.org. For more information call 334-782-0842. To register call 334-244-3080.

ITIL Foundations Exam Preparation Boot Camp

August 27-29, 3 days, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 21 PDUs.

Auburn University Montgomery TechnaCenter Building, 75 TechnaCenter Drive. \$1351 for PMI members, \$1451 for others.

This course prepares you to pass the exam to earn your Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) Foundations Certificate. This certificate guarantees your understanding of the basic terms, concepts of ITIL, and relationships between the ITIL processes. The Foundation Exam will be given at the end of this three-day program as part of your course fee. This seminar is presented by ASPE Technology who has been accredited by EXIN to provide this training. For a detailed course brochure, visit the Events page of www.pmimontgomery.org. For more information call 334-782-0842. To register call 334-244-3080.

Successful Project Management - Introductory Level

September 24-26, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Auburn University Montgomery TechnaCenter Building, 75 TechnaCenter Drive. \$499 for PMI members, \$599 for others.

This three-day seminar provides an overview of project management concepts and principles using lecture, small group case studies and discussion. Course participants develop many of the project plan elements required to take a project from initiation through planning, executing, and closing. This course provides 21 hours of training that apply toward the hours required to take the PMP or CAPM exams. For course description visit <http://www.aum.edu/coned/computertraining>, choose Training Courses and Schedules, and do a course search for Successful. For information call 334-244-3057. To register call 334-244-3080.

Advanced Project Management Techniques

September 27-28, 2 days, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 13 PDUs.

Auburn University Montgomery TechnaCenter Building, 75 TechnaCenter Drive. \$975 for PMI members, \$1050 for others.

Learn high-level techniques to manage competing demands in constantly changing environments. This course is driven by a hands-on case study. Topics include project metrics, earned value, critical chain, quality, politics, and managing multiple projects. For a detailed course brochure, visit the Events page of www.pmimontgomery.org. For more information call 334-782-0842. To register call 334-244-3080.

Welcome New Members!

**Albert McKinnon
Christopher Mitchell
Ray Stall
David M. Papale
Julie C. Atcheson
Matt Olson**

Congratulations New PMPs!

**Ellen Hill
Chuck Crews
Jeffrey Haney**

PMI Montgomery

Current Membership

**151 Members
88 PMPs
2 CAPMs**

Upcoming Dinner Topics

Mark YOUR Calendar!

August 9, 2007 - In August, PMI Montgomery is planning a panel discussion on "The Benefits of Becoming a PMP From a Business Perspective."

September 13, 2007 - In September, Andy Crow will present "What the Top 2% of Project Managers Know."

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Auburn University *Montgomery*



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