



## NEWSLETTER

### CONTENTS:

Annual Membership Survey

From the President

What Project Managers Need to Know about Upcoming IT Challenges

Chapter Library

Upcoming Training Events

Our Sponsors

Board Members

## Annual Membership Survey

Each year the PMI Montgomery Board of Directors conducts a membership survey to determine what the membership expects and how well the chapter is meeting membership expectations.

Our chapter's 2008 membership survey was conducted October 1–21. Forty-six of 140 members began the survey, and 43 completed it. A full report will be published by the end of November. In the meantime, here are some summary observations.

The purpose of the survey was to determine the extent to which the chapter meets our members' expectations of a professional project management association. Generally, the respondents seem satisfied with the chapter's performance, although some opportunities for improvement were identified.

Of the 46 respondents, 33 (71.7%) were PMPs and 1 (2.2%) was a CAPM. Thirteen (28.3%) did not hold a PMI credential. The numbers (33 + 1 + 13) add up to 47. Either someone reported holding no credential and then checked one of the credential boxes, or one respondent held both the PMP and CAPM certifications.

Employers of over half of the respondents paid annual PMI dues (58.7%), chapter dues (54.3%), and/or initial certification expenses (52.2%). A little over one-quarter (28.3%) of respondents reported receiving no assistance from their employers with any PMI expenses.

Most respondents (56.5%) preferred lecture or informational presentations at monthly membership meetings. Three-quarters (76.1%) prefer Thursday meetings. Interestingly, 21 (45.7%) respondents indicated a preference for a lunch meeting, while only 17 (37.0%) prefer a dinner gathering.

Of the 46 respondents, 28 have attended a membership meeting within the past 12 months. Twenty-three of the 28 (82.1%) rated the meeting location, amount of food, and quality of food "very good" or "excellent." Thirteen (46.4%) rated the quality of presentations "good," and another 11 (39.3%) rated the presentation quality "very good."

Twenty-nine respondents have attended at least one chapter-sponsored seminar. Most of them rated the quality of seminar presentations "excellent" (12—41.4%) or "very good" (10—34.5%). In judging the relevance of seminar topics to their needs, 18 of 29 (62.1%) rated the relevance "very good," and another 6 (20.7%) assigned a rating of "excellent."

The overwhelming majority of respondents prefer to receive chapter communications via e-mail as opposed to web site download or Postal Service delivery.

Three respondents didn't complete the survey, leaving 43 to answer this question: "Please grade the chapter on how well it meets your expectations of a professional project management association." We received 14 A's, 23 B's, 5 C's, no D's and 1 F. Converting that to a standard 4-point grading scale (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0), the average is 3.14—a solid B, perhaps a B+.

That's a lot of numbers to digest at once. Again, this is just a summary. Complete details appear in the written report, which is posted on the PMI Montgomery web site. The board of directors deeply appreciates the feedback and guidance offered by those who responded to this survey.

Article by Charlie Carney, PMP

## *From the President...*

Year end is almost here and we wonder in amazement how the time has passed so quickly! I hope it has been a very rewarding and special year for you both personally and professionally. As we move forward to Jan 2009, we usher in a new Board of Directors. Join me in welcoming the 2009 Board of Directors.

Emily Jones, PMP	President
Charlie Carney, PMP	President Elect
Mark Spain, PMP	VP Communication
Bart Ivy	VP eBusiness
Martha Scoggin, PMP	VP Financial Affairs
Mark Jeter, PMP	VP Membership
Chris McCorkle, PMP	VP Professional Development
Matt Olson, PMP	VP Programs
Sharon Morris, PMP	VP Public Relations

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Membership Survey! We value your input as it provides requisite feedback to the Board on how whether the Chapter is meeting your expectations and professional needs. Additionally it is used as a planning tool to derive the project management areas we should focus on when planning seminars and meeting presentations. The widest dissemination possible is being given to the Survey Report; it has been sent via email to the membership, was available at the November dinner meeting, and is posted to the PMI Montgomery website. You'll also see a summary in this newsletter. More to come in the future on the how the BOD is reviewing and addressing the survey responses.

Our first Sponsor Recognition luncheon was held on 12 Oct at Capital City Club for our current Chapter sponsors and perspective sponsors. We also formally announced our PMI Corporate Alliance Sponsor Program name changes for the three existing sponsor levels to Bronze, Silver and Gold as well as the addition of the new fourth level, Platinum. Check the PMI Montgomery website for more information on the sponsorship program. Our deepest appreciation to our current sponsors:

- **Alfa Insurance**
- **Auburn University at Montgomery / Continuing Education Center**
- **Colonial Bank**
- **Enterconference**
- **LJT and Associates, Inc.**

The 8 January dinner meeting is one you will want to attend for sure! Rick Morris, PMP, well known to most of us, will present "Project Management that Works" based upon his newly released book with the same title. Rick's first book is entitled, "The Everything Project Management Book". The presentation Rick will be giving is the same one he gave at the PMI Global Congress North America held mid-October at Denver this year and will definitely be a treat!

The new *PMBOK® Guide—Fourth Edition* is scheduled to be released in December. At the North American Global Congress, it was announced that a new version of the PMP exam will be placed into worldwide use for any and all PMI credential examinations taken on or after June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2009. If you are considering taking a certification exam based upon the Third Edition, plan accordingly.

Continued—Page 3

(Continued - From the President)

Information from The Project Management Institute indicates that the upcoming Fourth Edition of the PMBOK® Guide will reflect a focus on improved consistency and clarity. Great consideration was given to remove redundant information and add clarifying statements where needed. Significant improvements were made to improve readability, and terminology was updated only to present them consistently in a verb-noun format.

The major differences between the Third Edition and the Fourth Edition are summarized as follows:

1. All process names are now in a verb-noun format
2. Efforts were made to distinguish between Enterprise Environmental Factors and Organizational Process Assets.
3. A standard approach for discussing requested changes, preventive actions, corrective actions and defect repairs was employed.
4. The processes decreased from 44 to 42. Two processes were deleted, two processes were added and 6 processes were reconfigured into 4 processes in the Procurement knowledge area.
5. To provide clarity, a distinction was made between the Project Management Plan and project documents used to manage the project.
6. The distinction between the information in the Project Charter and the Project Scope Statement was clarified.
7. The process flow diagrams at the beginning of chapters 4-12 have been deleted and replaced with data flow diagrams.
8. A data flow diagram for each process has been created to show where information comes from as an input and where it goes to as an output.

A new appendix was added that addresses key interpersonal skills that a project manager utilizes when managing a project.

Volunteers are needed to support the Chapter for 2009. The Chapter cannot function without the dedicated support of our volunteers. Contact Charlie Carney, Emily Jones, or Liz Fant to volunteer.

Birmingham, Huntsville and Montgomery PMI Chapters are jointly hosting our first statewide PMI Symposium, "**Alabama Horizons: the Project Management Kaleidoscope**" on 9 – 10 Mar 2009 at the Hilton Perimeter Park in Birmingham. We're anticipating up to 200 attendees. Check our website for a "*2009 PMI Symposium Call for Presentations*" and "*2009 Symposium Sponsorship Package*" for more details on presenting or sponsoring at the event. Volunteers are needed to help with the various planning and execution stages of the symposium. If interested, please contact me, Emily Jones, or send an email to [vpprof-dev@pmimontgomery.org](mailto:vpprof-dev@pmimontgomery.org).

It has been an honor to serve the PMI Montgomery community. Thank you all for your support and participation. To the 2008 BOD, your service is deeply appreciated.

Everyone have a safe and very special holiday season.

Liz Fant, PMP  
President

## What Project Managers Need to Know about Upcoming IT Challenges

John Jung presented “What Project Managers Need to Know about Upcoming IT Challenges” to a welcoming group at the November dinner meeting. This was the fourth November in a row that John has been the guest speaker. John is the CIO at Alfa Insurance.

John used a series of slide that asked the question “Did You Know?” to address some of the changes occurring in the world as well as interesting trivia and predictions. There were too many to mention but one that I thought was most interesting was that the top 25 percent of students in China outnumber the total student population of the United States. These world changes will create challenges for IT.

John addressed the expectations of IT bosses. They expect efficient operations, security consciousness, production of results on time and with accuracy, assured response time, and network availability. It is assumed such metrics will be perfect or near perfect. The old days of touting 99 percent availability is now an expected norm. The expectations of today are totally different from just five years ago.

Technology is now influencing business. Emerging technologies are being used in ways that change the landscape of business operations. Today the IT department sponsors projects for technology impacts to business...the boss expects it. The bosses are looking at game changing use of technologies. John provided a possible scenario in which GPS is used to track the movements of an automobile which is insured only during the time it is in operation. How would that change the way insurance companies insure motor vehicles.

This move is from stewards of existing systems to innovators that shift the business into new directions. How should the IT leadership react? One way is to form an innovations group that is enterprise wide and focuses on emerging technologies that could impact the business. The group would need to be lead by a senior executive. Another is to establish corporate initiative groups for process redesign management with business subject matter experts that have user experience. A third action is to establish a sourcing strategy to ensure the right talent is available, either from inside or from outside the organization.

As you consider the challenges that IT changes are creating, also think about possible organization changes that will be needed. There may need to be a Chief IT Operations Officer, a Chief IT Administration Officer, and a Chief IT Innovation Officer. Each would be responsible for a portion of the IT continuum. John suggested that it is now time for IT to have a turn at changing the game.

Everyone enjoyed the presentation and the “Did You Know?” slides were thought provoking. John once again exceeded the expectations.

Article by Mark Spain, PMP

## Chapter Library Provides Free Resources for PMP Exam Preparation

If you're preparing to take the PMP exam, the PMI Montgomery Chapter library has several books that will help. These books are available for loan to any chapter members. To check out a book you should visit [www.pmimontgomery.org](http://www.pmimontgomery.org) and choose the Chapter Library link on the left. Click on "Book List" to get a list of all books. Click on "Request Form" to bring up an on-line form that will allow you to request a book. Usually the books are brought to a PMI dinner meeting where you can pick them up. You can return them at a future meeting. You may also make arrangements to pick up the books from their downtown location. For more information about the chapter library, you can contact the chapter librarians Jerry Short ([Jerry.Short@ISD.Alabama.Gov](mailto:Jerry.Short@ISD.Alabama.Gov)) or Linda Grah ([linda.grah@isd.alabama.gov](mailto:linda.grah@isd.alabama.gov)).

Below is a list of some of the PMP preparation books available from the library.

Passing the PMP Exam, How to Take It and Pass It	Rudd McGary, PMP	2005
PMP Exam Success Series: Exam Simulation Booklet	Tony Johnson, PMP	2005
PMP Exam Success Series: Certification Exam Manual	Tony Johnson, PMP	2005
PMP Exam Success Series: Certification Exam Manual	Tony Johnson, MBA, PMP	2006
The PMP Exam, How to Pass on Your First Try	Andy Crowe, PMP	2005

Once you are certified, the library contains books that you can self-study to earn PDUs or just read to improve your project management knowledge.

Article by Betty Corbin, PMP

**PMI Montgomery**  
**Current Membership**  
139 Members  
84 PMPs  
2 CAPMs

**Congratulations**  
**New PMP**  
  
**Bob Milano**

**Welcome New Members!**  
  
Eric Beasley  
Hector Donastorg  
Benjamin McGhee, PMP

## Upcoming Training & Events

### Advanced Project Management Techniques

December 10-11, 2 days, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

14 PDUs, Auburn University Montgomery TechnaCenter Building. \$975 for PMI members, \$1050 for non-members.

This is the course for experienced project managers who want to 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](http://www.pmimontgomery.org). For more information call 334-782-0842. To register call 334-244-3080.

### Successful Project Management-Introductory Level

January 28-30, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Auburn Montgomery TechnaCenter Building. \$625 for PMI members, \$725 for non-members.

This highly interactive 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 a detailed course brochure, visit the Events page of [www.pmimontgomery.org](http://www.pmimontgomery.org). For information call 334-244-3057. To register call 334-244-3080.

### PMP Exam Preparation Review Course

April 20-22, 3 days, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Location: Auburn Montgomery TechnaCenter Building. \$699 for PMI members, \$799 for non-members.

This course is designed to equip students to pass PMI's Project Management Professional (PMP®) certification exam. Participants receive a course manual that includes over 400 sample questions. The course provides 21 contact hours of training that apply toward the hours required to take the PMP or CAPM exam. Students should bring a copy of the *PMBOK Guide, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* to the course. For a detailed course brochure, visit the Events page of [www.pmimontgomery.org](http://www.pmimontgomery.org). For information call 334-244-3057. To register call 334-244-3080.

### .MS Project 2007 Introduction

December 17-18, 2 days, 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m.

14 PDUs, Auburn Montgomery TechnaCenter Building. \$308 for PMI members, \$384 for non-members.

In this hands-on course, you will learn to set up a project schedule; define task durations and relationships; add and assign resources; use calendars ; assign costs; and work with the critical path. You will also learn how to exchange project plan data with other applications; update progress on tasks; manage project costs; create visual reports; create templates and custom views; create a master project; and share resources. This course is held in a hands-on computer lab. For a detailed course outline, visit the [www.aum.edu/coned/computertraining](http://www.aum.edu/coned/computertraining). For more information call 334-244-3057. To register call 334-244-3080.

### MS Project 2003 Intermediate/Advanced

January 20-21, 2 days, 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m.

14 PDUs, Auburn Montgomery TechnaCenter Building. \$308 for PMI members, \$384 for non-members.

This hands-on course covers MS Project capabilities for customizing information, tracking project progress, working with multiple projects, working with resource pools, importing and exporting data. This course is held in a hands-on computer lab. For a detailed course outline, visit the [www.aum.edu/coned/computertraining](http://www.aum.edu/coned/computertraining). For more information call 334-244-3057. To register call 334-244-3080.

THANKS  
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