



May 2011

## Our Next Chapter Meeting – May 12, 2011

The next PMI breakfast meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 12, 2011 from 7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, 525 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.** The Clarion Hotel and Convention Center phone number is **(319) 366-8671.**

### Program Title:

“Project Management: The System is Everything ... for Engaging People” presented by George Hollins, P.E., PMP.

### About the Program:

“We’ve all lamented from time to time -- wishing we could get better people: “If only I had better people, then I could really move this organization to the next level...but I’m stuck with this bunch of average Joes”. But...what if we could create a system where ordinary people could do extraordinary work? What if we could create a system that constantly improved itself...similar to money growing through the principles of compound interest? This presentation “Project Management: The System is Everything ... for Engaging People” will describe how a project management system can do this.”

### About the Speaker:

George has been responsible for the management of over \$1 billion in project value in his thirty year career as a professional engineer. He has worked on individual projects ranging in value from a few thousand dollars to over \$100 million. George oversaw an organization of fifty people managing roughly \$500 million in project value at various stages. Developing this organization included creating the office staffing structure and associated leadership model, the physical layout of the office, the project management methodology or system, and project management standards. George believes that for an organization to function at the highest level, everyone must speak a common language – on-time, on-budget, on-quality absolutely every time. George Hollins has served as the University Business Manager, the Director for Design & Construction and Associate Business Manager for the University of Iowa. Before moving to Iowa City, George was the Associate Director for Business & Finance for the Iowa Board of Regents and the City Engineer for West Des Moines. He has undergraduate degrees in engineering and business; along with a Master of Organizational Leadership degree from St Ambrose and a professional certificate in project management.

**Cost:** Chapter Members, \$13; Guests, \$20

**RSVP:** Please confirm your attendance no later than Friday, May 6, 2011, to [programregistration@pmieasterniowa.org](mailto:programregistration@pmieasterniowa.org). Use MAY REGISTRATION in the subject line. Cancellations must be received by midnight Sunday, May 8, 2011 to avoid being charged as a no-show for this chapter event.

### Program Schedule:

7:15 - 7:30	Registration, breakfast, and networking
7:35 - 7:45	Chapter announcements by Chapter President/Officers
7:45 - 8:45	Presentation / Discussion
8:50 - 9:00	Final announcements and wrap-up

### Inside This Issue

- |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 1. | Meeting news       |
| 2  | President's Corner |
| 5  | Brainstorm Chicago |
| 6  | Appreciation       |
| 9  | ProCon 2011        |
| 11 | Top 10             |
| 15 | Important Dates    |
| 16 | Who's Who          |

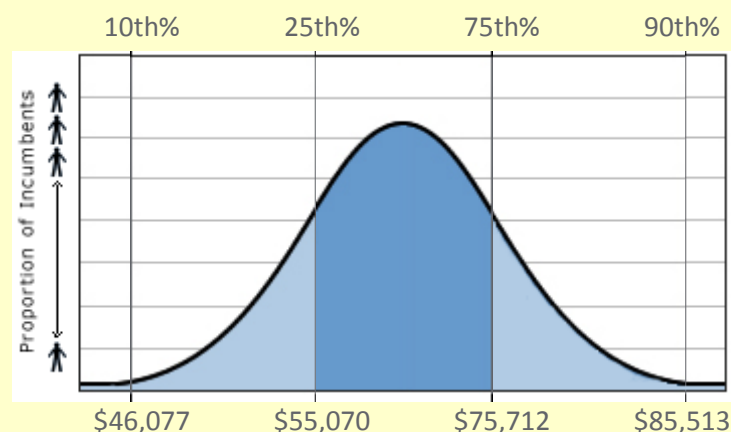
## President's Corner – Do You Make What You Are Worth?

By Tammy Sweat

The following tables were taken from [www1.salary.com](http://www1.salary.com).

Project Manager I - U.S. National Averages

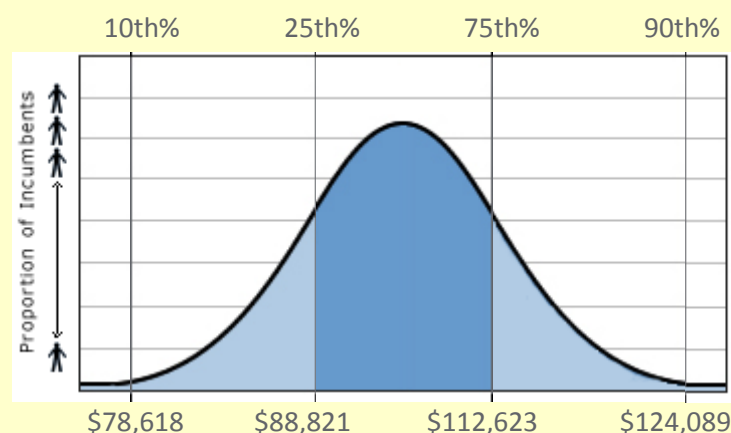
Base pay only



The table to the left shows that the national average salary for a beginning project manager is \$64,947

Project Manager III - U.S. National Averages

Base pay only



The table to the left shows that the national average salary for a seasoned project manager is \$100,028.

Salaries from current open job positions listed on Indeed.com	Iowa	Cedar Rapids vicinity
\$60,000 range	178	46
\$80,000 range	40	8
\$100,000 range	6	3
\$130,000 range	2	0
\$250,000 range	1	0
Total available PM positions	227	57

### How do you fare?

If you answered “not well”, it may be time for a discussion with your boss! Keep in mind though, that all jobs are unique and some require additional skillsets, such as IT knowledge, engineering knowledge, construction knowledge, etc. Good Luck!

## Just Say No to Lack of Planning!

By Mary Phelan, PMP

OK, I have a real pet peeve, and I have a sneaky suspicion that you all might share this with me...but I just hate it when people don't allow enough (or any) time for planning their projects!! Let's face it, not everyone can be as organized as us project managers (ha!) – but, to think that you are actually saving time by cutting out or paring down the key step in your project life cycle is nonsensical.

I don't know why I've gotten so touchy about this lately; maybe I've seen too many instances of it, maybe it's been building up, or maybe I just got up on the wrong side of the bed - and there was no sunshine again, to boot. But how many times have you heard any of these statements:

- We've got a major problem here – we need to start executing immediately!
- Planning? We don't have time to plan – we are already behind on schedule!
- We don't know all the requirements of the project, so let's just start and it'll work its way through as we go...

Now I'm not going to name names here, but I know you all have a friend or colleague who uttered these same words once or twice. And now I implore you for your help...just say no to lack of planning! Stop them dead in their tracks – because that's where their projects will be unless you protect them from themselves!!

I recently had a co-worker claim that there was a huge difference in the success rate of 2 different projects: one was initiated with a 2-day WBS and key stakeholder meeting, and followed up with 30 minute status updates monthly and used a collaboration website in between meetings. The other project had 2-hour weekly status meetings where 20 people were trapped in a room working the project issues 'real-time.' Can you guess which one was the more successful project??

I know everyone has their different styles, but I always point to the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) problem solving model as a fallback if anyone questions me why we need to take time to plan. It is an objective way to show the [potentially guilty] party that 5 of the 8 steps in the cycle are devoted to planning – and there's a reason for that!

OK fellow project managers, I hope you will join me in my crusade to educate the world about the virtues of good planning. It's up to us to drive change, educate, and unite! And you can believe that I am planning on it!

## What the PUK?

By Behram Kasad



A few days ago, I had a sudden anxiety attack. It was not at the gas station or had anything to do with the impending government shut down, but one of my own doing. During an absent minded moment, I accidentally, but successfully, managed to lock my cell phone by entering an incorrect security code multiple times, rendering it useless and leaving me with the polite request to *'Please contact your wireless service provider'*. Of major concern was the fact that I could not recall ever seeing the instruction it was asking me to fulfill *'Enter PUK code'* because I did not ever remember entering 'PUK' code (for definition see note below). A quick rummage through my (clear throat) well maintained filing system of all 6 sheets of scribbled notes resulted in establishing simply that (a) perhaps I never had it, (b) had forgotten it or (c) both. I think it was at this point that I was getting increasingly concerned about what I could do next to salvage the situation without losing the expensive handset. Under any other circumstance this would have been an acceptable, but since this was my only mode of connection to the outside world, I do confess to having a rather sleepless night.

It didn't matter that I had all my information on the phone backed up someplace else, because it was not the data I had lost, but the ability to access it.

Now I will be the first to confess not being able to remember many, okay correction ANY, phone numbers these days including those of my family. This started me pondering about the things we take for granted these days – our smart phones to phone, text, browse, find our way to destinations, e-mail, productivity tools such as MS Office for our day to day business, MS Project to compile into tidy manageable tasks and subtasks, our 1000+ line project schedules with all the dependencies and resource allocations. Can you imagine a world without them? God help us all if we had to go back to having our own desktop typewriters. The noise alone would warrant a health and safety warning. For a number of reasons – some driven by security initiatives, some organizational culture and some by personal habit – we are compelled to store securely all our passwords, change them every 90 days and yet be able to remember them all. Even with the advent of desktop utilities that allow you to store passwords for all your systems in one single place – where do you store the password for that utility? Very often these systems have no 'back door' to access the ones you stored there because you couldn't remember them all. And now you are faced with the dilemma of not being able to access any of them because you can't remember the single one to get to the rest.

Data is data, whether it belongs to you, your client or is about your project; its security and safeguarding is essentially our responsibility. While we build mitigation plans for the bigger risks that we might encounter in our professional careers, let us not overlook the simpler things that are closer to our homes and hearts.

For my part, a quick call to my wireless company confirmed that the PUK code is not given out at the time of your contract agreement but retained by the provider in the event that your phone gets stolen or compromised and you need to resurrect it or, as in my case, just restore it to its normal purpose. Once I acquired the PUK code, I promptly jotted it down on the post-it note and filed it away along with all the other codes that I keep for that rainy day.

Can you hear me now? Good. <sup>TM</sup>

Note:

(1) A PIN Unlock Code (PUC) or PIN Unlock Key (PUK) is used in GSM mobile phones and some smartcards to unblock a blocked card. Most mobile telephones offer the feature of personal identification number (PIN) protection. After switching on the phone, if the PIN security function is active, the user is requested to enter a 4-8 digit PIN enabling the phone's non-emergency calling functions.

(2) If the wrong PIN is typed in more than three times, the SIM card, the device or both become locked. They can be reverted to their original unlocked state by entering a PUC (PUK), provided by the service operator through verification. If the wrong PUC (PUK) is entered ten times in a row, the device will become permanently blocked and unrecoverable, requiring a new SIM card. Cellular phone users are therefore advised by most providers to keep their PUC (PUK) written down in a safe place separate from the device.

(3) The PUC (PUK) is a SIM-specific code assigned by the service provider. It is near-impossible to guess and enter it; thus, if you do not know your PUC (PUK) and are prompted for it, you should get it from your service provider.

## Director of Programs

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Srikanth Kamineni PMP

VP of Education

The PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter has an open volunteer opportunity for the Director of Programs. Some of the duties include lining up the monthly chapter meeting topics and speakers, assisting with Fun Night and PDD activities, participating in occasional conference calls and attending the chapter meetings. Many of the duties can be handled via email.

If you would like to become involved with our chapter and earn free PDUs for volunteering, please contact [education@pmieasterniowa.org](mailto:education@pmieasterniowa.org) or any of the members in the Leadership team.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2 - State income tax filing deadline  
 8 - Mother's Day  
 12 - PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter Meeting  
 30 - Memorial Day

JUNE 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

5 - World Environment Day  
 9 - PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter Meeting  
 19 - Father's Day  
 21 - First Day of summer

JULY 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

4 - Independence Day  
 14 - PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter Meeting

### Chapter WHO's Who?

Role	Name
President	Tammy Sweat, MSPM, PMP®
VP of Communications and Publicity	Behram Kasad, MBA
VP of Education	Srikanth C Kamineni PMP®
VP of Finance	Brian Thorn, PMP®
VP of Operations	Carol Scherrman, PMP®
VP of Outreach	Suzanne Prymek, PMP®
Past President	Bhaskar Pulikal, MBA, CISA, PMP®
Director of Certifications	Denise Boeding, PMP®
Director of Individual Outreach	Mary Phelan, PMP®
Director of University Outreach	Bob Sanders, PMP®
Director of Logistics	Brian Wayling
Director of Marketing	Jennifer James, PMP®
Director of Member Relations	Geri Stivers, PMP®
Director of Newsletter	Sathian Devarajan, MBA, PMP®
Director of Professional Development	Jacquie Haltmeyer, PMP®
Director of Programs	Vacant
Director of Website and Technology	Mark Bazzell, MBA, PMP®