

May 2012

May 10, 2012 Monthly Meeting

This month's PMI breakfast meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2012 from 7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center at 525 33rd Ave SW in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Clarion Hotel and Convention Center phone number is 319-366-8671. A light continental breakfast will be served.

Due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict/work commitment, our scheduled speaker for the May chapter meeting, Dane Pelfrey, PMP, will be unable to attend. We hope to reschedule his talk on "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly – Adventures in Portfolio Management" for another chapter meeting later this year. We are very lucky to present an alternate speaker and topic that should prove to be equally as informative.

Program: "Project Management - An Infrastructure Perspective"

Presented by Lon Andersen

Have you ever worked on a software project where you got everything nailed down perfectly only to discover at the eleventh hour that the infrastructure on which it would be hosted would not support it? The interesting thing is that IT managers have a lot in common with project managers, but their main difference is one of focus: an IT manager is responsible and accountable for an ongoing program of IT services while the project manager's responsibility and accountability are both limited to a project with a clear start and end date. Lon Andersen will discuss how project management and project management practices play a critical role in coordination of infrastructure in small and large IT projects.

About the Speaker

Mr. Andersen has over 20 years of IT industry experience. He currently serves as the Vice President of Information Technology at ACT in Iowa City and previously served as Assistant Vice President of the same group. He has also held executive positions with ING, where he was Vice President of IT, and with Aegon (now TransAmerica), where he was the Senior Vice President of IT. Mr. Andersen holds Bachelor degrees in Science and Business Administration from Minnesota State University Mankato. Mr. Andersen currently resides in Marion with his wife Lois.

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

Registration Deadline: Sunday, May 6, 2012 (11:45 p.m. CT)

Register at www.pmieasterniowa.org and click **Events > Monthly Program Meetings > May 2012 Monthly Meeting**

Notes: New in 2012, all meeting registration fees will be collected using our online registration/payment system. It is important to register in advance so we have an accurate attendance count for food, beverage, and seating. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

7:15 - 7:30 a.m. Registration, breakfast and networking
7:30 - 7:45 a.m. Opening by Chapter Officers
7:45 - 8:45 a.m. Presentation / Discussion
8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Final announcements and wrap-up

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President's Corner

Mindless Musings for May

By Carol Scherrman, PMP®, President

It is safe to say, I think, that spring is here to stay. I kept waiting for us to get one last blast of winter weather, but when we passed the anniversary of the infamous April blizzard of 1973 (April 8-10, 1973), I was pretty sure we were out of the woods. Do you all remember the 1973 blizzard? I was in elementary school and in my hometown, near Dubuque, we received 19" of snow. School was canceled for four consecutive days. There were 8'-10' drifts on the road in front of our house. Of course, when you are a kid, a snowstorm of that magnitude is awesome!

Because the year seems to be zipping by, I thought I would take this month to recap some miscellaneous chapter information for you.

- **Save the Date!** The date for our 5th Annual Professional Development Day has been set for Friday, October 12, 2012 at The Kirkwood Center. The Board of Directors is busily reviewing proposals from speakers, which we plan to announce later this month. If you were unable to attend last year's event, you missed a great program. Here is one example of the positive feedback we received, "This was the best one I've attended. I think this may be my third one now...this one is the benchmark in my opinion. Thank you leaders and volunteers of the chapter."
- **Volunteers:** We are very excited to be nearly full-strength on our Leadership Team. We experienced a lot of turnover this year, but we have some excellent new volunteers. Just two open positions remain. Look for details on the chapter website under Get Involved > Volunteer Openings if you are interested in helping us with these last two positions.
- **Coralville Meeting:** Our first chapter meeting at our alternate location in Coralville seemed to be successful. We had 27 members in attendance. Let us know your thoughts. We have two more meetings planned at this location for 2012. We will need your input if we should continue this option in future years.
- **Chapter Scholarship:** If you or a dependent will be seeking higher education in a project management related field during the 2012-13 school year, take some time to review the application for our chapter scholarship. The deadline to apply is June 1. Information can be found on our chapter website under Career Development > Scholarships.
- **Annual Report:** As noted last month, our 2011 annual report has been published. All chapter members should take a moment to review the report, which can be found on the website under Publications > Annual Report. If you have questions or concerns, please send them to president@pmieasterniowa.org.
- **New Website Platform:** The Website Committee has completed the requirements gathering phase for a new website provider. Once approved by the board, the committee will be identifying 3-4 vendors to provide demonstrations of their platforms.
- **PMI Region 2 Strategic Advisory Group:** This meeting will be held in Minneapolis the last week of April. Look for an update on the outcomes of this meeting in the June newsletter.
- **PMI Knowledge Center:** I continue to be amazed at the wealth of information available to PMI members on the PMI.org website. One of my recent discoveries is the "Voices on Project Management" blog. If you haven't checked it out, I encourage you to do so. The blog offers insights, tips, advice, and personal stories from project managers in different regions and industries. A recent post on "What Does a Project Sponsor Really Do?" was particularly helpful to me to help clarify some questions that had arisen on a couple of projects at my job.

Until next month!

Carol Scherrman

News and Views

Kirkwood Global Education Network (GEN) Partnership

By Bob Sanders, PMP, Director of University Outreach

Kirkwood is one of four members of GEN, a unique international consortium of technical colleges in Singapore, Australia, Canada and the United States. Member institutions include:

- Box Hill Institute (BHI) in Melbourne, Australia
- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in Calgary, Canada
- Institute of Technical Education (ITE) in Singapore

GEN member colleges plan student exchange and faculty exchange activities for their colleges throughout the year and look for continued opportunities to benefit from each other's expertise and international outlooks.

Kirkwood would like to bring a group of about 40 international (Singapore; Australia; and Alberta, Canada) students to the following events:

- Visit a company on Tuesday, July 10 in the afternoon and then another company on Friday, July 13 in the afternoon. It would be great if someone could explain how project management is done at their company. They have 4 hours blocked off, but can adjust that to whatever makes sense for the company - anywhere between one and four hours would be fine. If the company is in Iowa City, Kirkwood will probably combine that trip with a social opportunity for our students to explore Iowa City.
- Kirkwood also has time blocked off for a guest speaker to come to the Kirkwood campus for a one hour presentation on Thursday, July 5 11:00 - 12:00, then another speaker on Thursday, July 12 from 1:00 to 2:00. Once again they are interested in how a company does project management. In the past, students seem especially interested in large projects and they always enjoy hearing examples of problems and conflicts.
- Kirkwood will also have the students attend the chapter breakfast meeting on Thursday, July 12. The thought is for the students to gain more knowledge of how the PMI organization works.

I think this could be a lot of fun and these students will learn a tremendous amount from seeing "real world" applications of project management. Their in-classroom project is partnering up with Habitat for Humanity on planning a project.

For this to be pulled off successfully and professionally, I need support and volunteers. Please contact me at unioutreach@pmieasterniowa.org if you can host the company visit, be a guest speaker, or help with the arrangements.

This fits perfectly into PMI's vision of what a chapter should be doing: "Chapters advance the mission and objectives of PMI by promoting project management professionalism within local businesses, universities, and professional organizations in the chapter area. Project management professionalism is enhanced through chapter activities, meetings, and other educational programs designed to strengthen the knowledge, awareness, and understanding of project management principles, tools, and techniques."



News and Views

Chapter Membership Stats

By Geri Stivers, PMP®, Director, Member Relations

Period Covered: Mar 1 – Mar 31, 2012

Congratulations to new PMPs this month:

Prashant Borse, PMP®,

Welcome new members:

Kim Friese, Pearson

John Heigis, Cargill

Trisha Lucas, NextEra Energy

Julie Taylor, Allsteel

Membership Summary for Mar, 2012:

Starting membership:	308
Renewals:	27
New members:	4
Rejoins:	1
Non-renewals:	5
Current membership:	309

Certifications:

Member PMPs:	202
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Are You A Groupie?

By Behram Kasad, VP of Education



All across the continent, each week small bands of Project Managers are huddling together in conference rooms and asking each other questions - lots and lots of questions. Armed with copies of a rather chunky manual now at its 4th Edition, equipped with flip charts, summaries and flashcards they launch into a quick fire round of questions and answers session that would be worthy of a C-SPAN episode.

How do I know? Because I have been part of such a group myself. What is the manual? It is the PMBOK. What are these PMs doing? They are – most likely - part of a study group for the PMP exam. Some have lived through the experience, survived, gone on to take the PMP examination and emerged victorious. Some are already part of such a group, but more importantly, many of you are not and have reached out to us with requests for identifying or finding such groups.

While it is not the Chapter's charter to host, sponsor such study groups or recommend any specific ones on the market we are genuinely interested in increasing the numbers of professionals in our chapter and getting members connected. So here are some guidelines to keep in mind as you form a study group.

SIZE – Study groups can be of any size but having too large a group may be detrimental. On average, a group size of 8-10 people may be optimal.

LOCATION – Study groups can take place anywhere there is reasonable seating available and possibly a white board to brain storm with. Conference rooms are great locations. It may be a good idea to choose a location where there is some tranquility. Public places may be fine as long as you don't have to shout your question(s) over the din of the venue. Avoid coffee bars or any kind of bars for that matter.

FREQUENCY – This may be dictated by how soon you intend to take the PMP®. Decide how often you wish to meet - once a week, twice a month, etc. Remember that depending on the format you choose you may have to do some preparation work in between meetings.

FORMAT – This can vary from group to group. Typical structures include: (a) having each member of the group be responsible for one chapter of the PMBOK. Members can then decide how they will present their content to the others via outline summary, Q & A or a hybrid, (b) working on a single chapter as a group, (c) working on multiple chapters as a group, (d) taking an online class at the same time, etc.

What is really important is the need for a group mentor, preferably someone with a current PMP® that can facilitate the sessions. Another option is for the group to be self-directed i.e. each week a different member takes responsibility for leading the discussion based on their assignment.

If you are interested in getting your PMP and wish to be part of such a group, please contact the VP of Education (education@pmieasterniowa.org) or any member of the Chapter leadership team so we can put you in touch with similar candidates. If you are a certified PMP interested in facilitating such a group please let us know.



There are a number of eager Chapter members keen to engage in this type of group study that could benefit from your guidance and experience.

Staying Current

By Jacquie Haltmeyer, PMP®, Director of Operations

We've received comments on the chapter meeting surveys that company names are missing or outdated on the monthly chapter meeting name badges. To update this information:

- Go to www.pmi.org
- Log in
- On the myPMI tab select Profile
- From the folder list on the left select Professional Info
- Make any needed updates to Company Details

PDU Opportunities

Share your PM knowledge with your peers to earn PDU credits. Submit your newsletter articles to communications@pmieasterniowa.org. Book reviews, PM Tips & Tricks, tasteful humor, your projects, or creative use of social media are just a few of the possibilities.

Consider volunteering for the volunteer positions listed below... You can apply online at www.pmieasterniowa.org (click on **Get Involved > Volunteer Openings**) or contact a current member of the Leadership Team.

Volunteer Position	Brief Description
Director of Marketing	Works with the VP of Communications and Publicity to create marketing materials for chapter events, issue press releases to local media outlets as necessary, create chapter advertising materials as needed, and ensure compliance with PMI Global brand standards.
Director of Logistics	Works on all logistical issues associated with running any program on behalf of our chapter, including monthly chapter meetings. Works with the VP of Operations and interacts with other leadership team members requiring logistical support. Collaborates with the Director of Programs to obtain logistical details and requirements (date and time of next meeting, expected number of attendees, desired location, food, technological requirements, details of presenter, agenda, etc). Manages registration for monthly chapter meetings and coordinates collection of feedback for meetings.

PM Training

Back by Popular Demand: PMP and CAPM Exam Preparation

Are you preparing to take the Project Management Institute's Project Management Professional (PMP)® or Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)® certification exams? St. Ambrose University announces the addition of two PMP and CAPM exam prep classes. The first class is scheduled for August 27-29, 2012, and the second class will be held February 5-7, 2013. Each course includes a comprehensive review of the PMBOK® Guide, practice exams, test-taking tips, a review of the application process, and a copy of the best-selling study guide, "The PMP Exam: How to Pass on Your First Try," by Andy Crowe.

Discounted rate available: PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter members will receive a 30% discount off the \$995 course fee by registering at:

https://epay.sau.edu/C21430_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=4&CATID=100

For more information, contact St. Ambrose University at 563.333.5720 or at PD@sau.edu.



St. Ambrose University Professional Development has partnered with On-Track to provide several project management training programs and a Project Management Certificate. On-Track is a registered education provider with the Project Management Institute® (PMI).

The Project Management Certificate Program provides a scalable project management system for managing projects of all shapes and sizes. The program provides a "project-ready tool kit" to serve project needs...regardless of industry.

Participants can pick and choose which program fits their needs or they can complete the St. Ambrose University Project Management Certificate by completing three core courses and two electives within three years. These classes include elements of the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK®) developed by PMI®.

Core Courses:

- Project Management: Planning, Execution and Control
- Managing Projects through People
- Managing Project Communication

Elective Courses:

- Project Leadership and Ethics
- Managing Project Quality, Procurement, and Risk
- PMP and CAPM Exam Preparation
- Planning and Managing Construction Projects

Each program is three-days in length and costs \$995. The cost includes all seminar materials, networking luncheons, PDUs or CEUs. Discounts for additional participants and for St. Ambrose alumni are available. For more information about the program or to register, visit the St. Ambrose website at:

http://www.sau.edu/Professional_Development/Training/Current_Programs/Project_Management.html

Or, contact St. Ambrose at 563-333-5720 or PD@sau.edu.



University of Northern Iowa Executive Development Center To Offer Project Management Training and Continuing Education

Potential project managers and current PMPs have a new option for professional development in the corridor. In an effort to support the growing need for quality project managers, the University of Northern Iowa's Executive Development Center is offering four project management courses throughout 2012. The workshops can be taken individually or combined. UNI is the first and currently the only state university in Iowa offering certified project management courses.

The three-day, hands on, interactive courses range from introductory to intermediate, allowing potential or experienced project managers an opportunity for professional development. The courses are being taught by a Registered Education Provider through the Project Management Institute, which means that anyone who takes the classes are eligible for Professional Development Units that can be applied toward a Project Management Professional (PMP) or Certified Assistant Project Manager (CAPM) designation.

The series includes

- *Professional Project Management* (May 9-11), an introduction to project management, including a system to make any project less daunting.
- *Project Management: Working with People* (June 18-20) gives project managers leverage in working with various personalities, regardless of the level of authority that the project manager has.
- *Project Management: Communicating for Project Success* (July 11-13) introduces project managers at all levels to a communication management plan.
- *PMP and CAPM Exam Preparation* (September 5-7) is a course that walks PMP and CAPM candidates through the exam. Past participants of the instructor have nearly a 100% pass rate on the exam.

A 20% early registration discount is being offered for each course. Cutoff dates for the discount are listed with each course on the website (April 13, May 11, June 1, and July 31). All courses will be held on the UNI campus in Cedar Falls.

UNI is offering a free lunch and learn webinar on Tuesday, April 10 for anyone who would like a sneak peak at the series. The webinar, A Predictable System for Project Success will be held from noon until 1. The webinar is a great opportunity to see if these courses are a good fit for you or someone who may be interested in a PMP or CAPM designation.

More information on the courses and the webinar are on the UNI Executive Development Center website at www.bcs.uni.edu/execdev, by email at execdev@uni.edu or by calling (319) 273-5851.

Chapter Meetings

Mark your calendars for upcoming chapter meetings. All meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.



Date & Time	Location	Topic and Presenter
May 10, 2012 7:15 to 9:00 a.m.	Clarion Hotel and Convention Center 525 33rd Ave SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa	"The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly - Adventures in Portfolio Management" Dane Pelfrey, experienced program/portfolio/project manager
June 14, 2012 7:15 to 9:00 a.m.	Clarion Hotel and Convention Center 525 33rd Ave SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa	"Thriving Amidst Chaos: Effective Strategies for Getting Things Done" Susan Johnson, professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
July 12, 2012 7:15 to 9:00 a.m.	Clarion Hotel and Convention Center 525 33rd Ave SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Speaker TBD Welcome Kirkwood GEN students
August 9, 2012 7:15 to 9:00 a.m.	Iowa City Area Association of Realtors (ICAAR) 847 Quarry Road, Suite 110 Coralville, Iowa	TBD
Sept. 13, 2012 7:15 to 9:00 a.m.	Clarion Hotel and Convention Center 525 33rd Ave SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa	TBD
Oct. 11, 2012 7:15 to 9:00 a.m.	Iowa City Area Association of Realtors (ICAAR) 847 Quarry Road, Suite 110 Coralville, Iowa	TBD
Oct. 12, 2012 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	The Hotel at Kirkwood Center 7725 Kirkwood Boulevard S.W. Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404	Professional Development Day
Nov. 8, 2012 7:15 to 9:00 a.m.	Clarion Hotel and Convention Center 525 33rd Ave SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa	TBD

DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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		

3 – Leadership Conference Call
 10 – Chapter Meeting
 17 – Board Meeting
 28 – Newsletter Articles Due

JUNE 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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19	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

7 – Leadership Conference Call
 14 – Chapter Meeting
 21 – Board Meeting
 28 – Newsletter Articles Due

JULY 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

5 – Leadership Conference Call
 12 – Chapter Meeting
 19 – Board Meeting
 28 – Newsletter Articles Due

PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter Leadership

Role	Name
President	Carol Scherrman, PMP®
VP of Communications and Publicity	Mark Bazzell, MBA, PMP®
VP of Education	Behram Kasad, MBA
VP of Finance	Brian Thorn, PMP®
VP of Operations	Jacquie Haltmeyer, PMP®
VP of Outreach	Mary Phelan, PMP®
Past President	Tammy Sweat, MSPM, PMP®
Director of Certifications	Denise Boeding, PMP®
Director of Individual Outreach	Rachel Fowler
Director of University Outreach	Bob Sanders, PMP®
Director of Logistics	Vacant
Director of Marketing	Vacant
Director of Member Relations	Geri Stivers, PMP®
Director of Newsletter	Irene Dymerski, PMP®, PSM®
Director of Professional Development	Kayla Eko-Acquah
Director of Programs	Dania Ajam, PMP
Director of Website and Technology	Stanley Freyermuth