

February 2013

Feb. 14, 2013 Monthly Meeting

This month's chapter meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2013 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center at 525 33rd Ave SW in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. A breakfast buffet will be provided

Program: "Chasing the Perfect Project"

Presented by Zac Henrich

Using Project Management experiences from RuffaloCODY, Pearson, Rockwell Collins and ACT, the presentation will focus on elements from each organization to document a fictional perfect project. Being part of several successful project teams at four of the corridor's premier employers has helped shape a vision of what crucial traits an ideal project and project team must have.

About the Speaker:

Zac Henrich is a product manager focusing on new product development for ACT. He has worked with a wide variety of clients and successfully launched several products into the marketplace. Zac has worked with a wide variety of customers including The College Board, The United States Coast Guard, and hundreds of colleges and universities. He is skilled in project management, software product development, and vendor management.

Zac completed his undergraduate studies at Wartburg College receiving a B.A. in business administration and received his M.B.A from University of Iowa's Tippie School of Management. He completed his PMP certification in May of 2009. Zac resides in North Liberty and enjoys all of the outdoor sporting activities the area has to offer.

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

Registration Deadline: Sunday, February 10, 2013 (11:45 p.m. CT)

Register at www.pmieasterniowa.org and click **Events > Monthly Program Meetings > February 2013 Monthly Meeting**

Notes: 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

By Behram Kasad, PMP®, Chapter President

In case you didn't notice, it is Fe-brrrrrrr-uary (sic) already. What happened to January? Did it just get lost in between the debate on gun control or the Presidential inauguration or the Arctic weather or the small rise of the stock market? Well if you are reading this article as a member of the chapter, we are glad you stayed with us for another month.



I hope that most of you were able to stick to the resolutions made in the final moments of 2012. As I said in the January news article, my resolution was to learn as much as possible about the President role and to put it to work. And indeed I have. Barely four weeks into the role and I am drinking right out of the proverbial fire hose. I have already participated in 3 meetings, including a Regional one. There is lots going on, lots of change. Let's start with our Chapter itself.

We are actively seeking out, as well negotiating with, new venues to host our monthly meetings. As always, we are conducting the necessary diligence to ensure that we get the best value for money. We have narrowed our selection to a few places. Watch out for updates on this subject in the next few months.

The Chapter Leadership team continues to change and evolve too. If you can spare a few hours each month, please step up and volunteer for the open Director roles. Ask any member of the Leadership team for information or check our website for more details of these open positions. Recalling Dr. Annie McKee's caution from the PMI's 2012 Leadership Institute Meeting (LIM) in Vancouver BC, "Remember, as soon as we allow ourselves to become victims, we cease being leaders, and so, be the change you want to see in the world!"

Are you one of the few PMs that wish to get their PMP certification? Do it soon. Do it now, because starting August 1, 2013, candidates taking the PMP will be tested on the Fifth Edition of the PMBOK. This revised version has the following changes:

- A 10th Knowledge Area has been added; Project Stakeholder Management expands upon the importance of appropriately engaging project stakeholders in key decisions and activities.
- Project data information and information flow have been redefined to bring greater consistency and be more aligned with the Data, Information, Knowledge and Wisdom (DIKW) model used in the field of Knowledge Management.
- Four new planning processes have been added: Plan Scope Management, Plan Schedule Management, Plan Cost Management and Plan Stakeholder Management: These were created to reinforce the concept that each of the subsidiary plans are integrated through the overall project management plan.

Coming back to our Eastern Iowa community, I look forward to seeing familiar old faces and many new ones at the Chapter Meeting on February 14.

I do, however, express one caution before you come to the meeting – Don't forget that Valentine Day card!

News and Views

Leadership Team Announcements

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Irene Dymerski, PMP, as Director of Certifications. Irene was previously the Director of Newsletter and is a member of our Website Selection Committee. Irene has been an active member of our PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter since Oct. 2011.

Please welcome Greg Laffey, PMP, as Director of Newsletter. Greg recently rejoined our chapter after accepting a position at ACT in Iowa City. He had previously transferred to the Quad Cities Chapter of PMI to expand his professional network during a five-year tenure at Midland Information Resources in Davenport.

2012 Annual Report

By Carol Scherrman, Past President

Each year, the chapter publishes an annual report, which is our official notification to our chapter members about the Eastern Iowa Chapter's prior year successes, membership status, and fiscal health. The 2012 annual report has been posted to the chapter website. You can locate the report by clicking on Publications > Annual Report.

I encourage all members to take a few moments to review this report. The Eastern Iowa Chapter met its fiscal objectives for 2012 and finished the year by adding \$1,352.78 to our reserves. Our goal each year is to manage an operating budget that meets our annual expenses through our annual revenues. Our two primary sources of revenue are the Professional Development Day (PDD) and your membership dues. Our standard operating expenses include speaker fees for the PDD and chapter meetings, insurance, our chapter scholarship endowment payment, chapter website fees, registration and travel expenses for selected chapter leaders to attend regional and national events, and meeting and event expenses (food, beverages, room rental, etc.).

It is also important to note that PMI Global provides guidance to chapters that it is a best practice for chapters to maintain a reserve fund that is equal to two years' of operating expenses. Our chapter has successfully maintained this reserve fund for several years without needing to access the fund to support annual operating expenses.

We have noticed a slight drop in chapter membership for the past couple of years, which has had a negative impact on our revenue. While we assume that some of the reduction may be due in part to the economic downturn of the past couple of years, we are cognizant of the need to continue to add value for our members. The leadership team will focus on this in 2013.

Thank you for your continued support of our chapter. Please let us know if we are not meeting your needs. You may share your concerns with anyone on the leadership team. Contact information can be found on the website.

Chapter Membership Satisfaction Survey Launching Soon

By Carol Scherrman, Past President

Project Management Institute (PMI) is committed to serving its valued stakeholders as well as the broader project management profession. Each year, as part of PMI's ongoing commitment to product and service excellence, PMI evaluates chapter members' satisfaction.

At the beginning of February, all chapter members will receive an e-mail with a link to the 2013 Chapter Satisfaction Survey. Your participation in this survey is very important. The chapter leadership uses the survey results to shape our strategic vision. We also use it as a barometer to gauge how well we are doing providing our local project management professionals with valuable content.

The survey will take approximately ten minutes. The opportunity to provide feedback will only be available for a couple of weeks. Individual feedback will be kept completely confidential. Only the collective output of chapter members' responses will be made available to the chapter leadership for review.

Thank you in advance for taking time to complete this important survey.

What a Difference a Year Makes

Written by Liz Herman, Director of Marketing

I have been thinking about this saying—what a difference a year makes—a lot lately. You see, last February, I was not active in PMI's Eastern Iowa Chapter and I was not a PMP. Fast forward to this February and I am the Chapter's Director of Marketing and a PMP in good standing. In 2012, I was able to actively participate in the Professional Development Day, facilitate one of the chapter meetings, and get to know the wonderful group of people who belong to this chapter. Through a combination of chapter activities and continuous learning, I was able to earn enough PDUs to recertify my PMP through 2018. What a difference a year makes!

We all have unique journeys that we take to achieve the PMP certification. If you had asked me two years ago if I was going to be a PMP, I would have answered with a resounding no. Why? I was done with school! It took me six years to complete my Ph.D. in Knowledge Management. When I finally graduated, I vowed that I was done with school, test taking, studying, etc. Even though I understood the value of the PMP certification and certainly respected the PMPs with whom I worked, I had no interest in being part of PMI. It seems the universe had other plans.

In June 2011, I was bid on a government contract that required its project manager to be PMP certified. I was extremely interested in the position, and that meant getting my PMP as soon as possible. I completed the PMP application and began to look for a boot camp through one of PMI's registered education providers. I was nervous because I was being asked to work on the bid and squeeze in a boot camp. Oh, and I was being asked to take and pass the exam as soon as possible! Unfortunately, the government agency decided to rescind its request for proposal. Fortunately, that took the pressure off of me to go to a boot camp and take and pass the exam in the June 2011 timeframe. As soon as that pressure was off, I promptly stopped thinking of all things PMP-related. Then in January 2012, the clock started ticking again.

I decided to sign up for a boot camp and go forward with the PMP process when I realized in January 2012 that my application was going to expire within the next few months. I signed up for a boot camp sponsored by PMstudy and found myself driving to Kansas City, MO last February. I told no one. Well, I told my boss, but I did not tell any co-workers. I went through the boot camp and I took the exam the following week in Iowa City, IA. The exam was tough. I do not usually consider myself as someone who has test taking anxiety, but I was a wreck. I could not decide if I wanted to cry or throw-up during the entire time I was taking the exam. When the "you passed" message flashed up on the screen, I was very happy and relieved. I promptly went to work and told PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter Past President Carol Scherrman that I was now a PMP. It should come as no surprise that she encouraged me to become active in the chapter.

I am looking forward to our year together. What a difference a year makes!

Volunteer Opportunities

Join the website implementation team – Contact communications@pmieasterniowa.org to participate in the implementation of our new website platform. Look for more details in the March newsletter.

Join the Leadership team - Several director positions are open for 2013. If you are interested in volunteering for a director position and earning PDUs, go to pmieasterniowa.org and click on Get Involved > Volunteer Openings. Contact any member of the chapter's Leadership Team for more information.

Submit newsletter articles - Contact newsletter@pmieasterniowa.org to submit your content and earn PDUs. Book reviews, PM Tips & Tricks, tasteful humor, your project experiences, or creative use of social media are just a few possibilities.

PM Training

As seen in *PMI Today*, PMP holders can earn PDUs through the [PDU Advantage](#) program at no additional cost.

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 class will hold a prep class on February 5-7, 2013. The 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. 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 PD@sau.edu.



ON-TRACK:
The Strategic Solutions Company

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.

Chapter Membership Stats

Period Covered: Dec 1 – Dec 31, 2012

By Geri Stivers, PMP, Director, Member Relations

Membership Summary for Dec, 2012:

Starting membership: 290
 Renewals: 8
 New members: 1
 Rejoins: 1
 Non-renewals: 4
 Current membership: 288

Member Certifications:


PMP: 196
 PMI-ACP: 1
 CAPM: 0

Welcome new members:

John Steffen, CIVCO Medical Solutions

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
Mar. 14, 2013 7:15 to 9:00 a.m.	Iowa City Area Association of Realtors (ICAAR) 847 Quarry Road, Suite 110 Coralville, Iowa 2013 chapter meetings will be held in Coralville in March, June, August, and October	TBA
Apr. 11, 2013 7:15 to 9:00 a.m.	Site TBA Cedar Rapids, IA	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 2013						
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		

7 – Leadership Conference Call
 14 – Chapter Meeting
 21 – Board Meeting
 24 – Newsletter Articles Due for March 2013 Newsletter

MARCH 2013						
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						

7 – Leadership Conference Call
 14 – Chapter Meeting
 21 – Board Meeting
 24 – Newsletter Articles Due for April 2013 Newsletter

APRIL 2013						
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				

4 – Leadership Conference Call
 11 – Chapter Meeting
 18 – Board Meeting
 24 – Newsletter Articles Due

PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter Leadership

Role	Name
President	Behram Kasad, MBA, PMP®
VP of Communications and Publicity	Mark Bazzell, MBA, PMP®
VP of Education	Denise Boeding, PMP®
VP of Finance	Mary Phelan, PMP®
VP of Operations	Patty Collins
VP of Outreach	Darwin L Hochstedler, PMP®
Past President	Carol Scherrman, PMP®
Director of Certifications	Irene Dymerski, PMP®
Director of Individual Outreach	Vacant
Director of University Outreach	Bob Sanders, PMP®
Director of Logistics	Vacant
Director of Marketing	Liz Herman, PhD, PMP®
Director of Member Relations	Geri Stivers, PMP®
Director of Newsletter	Greg Laffey, PMP®
Director of Professional Development	Kayla Eko-Acquah
Director of Programs	Dania Ajam, PMP®
Director of Website and Technology	Stanley Freyermuth