



Kansas City Mid-America Chapter



MAKING PROJECT MANAGEMENT INDISPENSABLE FOR BUSINESS RESULTS®

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Professional Development

PMP Exam Prep

Announcing the Spring/Summer PMP Exam Prep Class, April 21 - July 14, 2011, on Thursdays from 6pm – 9pm. The session will be at Cerner Corporation. Note: it is on the World Headquarters campus in North Kansas City, not the Riverport facility where classes have been held previously.

The Saturday bonus class will be at Cerner on July 16, 2011, from 8:30am – 4:30pm.

Cerner Corporation
Jayhawk Room
2702 Rock Creek Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64117

Visit the [KCPMI chapter website](#) for more information and to register. Chapter member price is \$600, non-member is \$750.

PMP Exam is Changing in August

[PMI Newsletter](#) + [Archives](#)

March 2011

Issue: #34

President's Report :

Welcome March Madness – and hopefully warmer weather!

As you know, each year the chapter distributes out a survey to the membership to see how we are doing in supporting you, the member. The results are always interesting and sometimes a little hard to read (the truth hurts sometimes as we all know). Recently, as part of the overall strategic planning our board did for 2011, we took a deep dive into the results from the December, 2010. As is typical, the results confirmed some things we already knew, some things to improve on and some things that resulted in some soul searching by the entire board. For example, we scored highly on professional development (both PDD and workshops); However, we need increased focus on chapter meeting attendance and speakers.

When we dissected the free form answers, it was there that the soul searching began. In particular, there are two concerns that I feel I must respond to (I have paraphrased below):

1. The board spends too much time speaking at chapter dinners: This is a tough one. By charter, we are obligated to inform the membership on the chapter's business. However, dragging every board member up to the microphone is not the best use of time either. So we will split the difference – if it's important business that we feel the members need to know, then expect we will take the time to do so. (By the way, as a chapter member, you should always want to know the financial health of the organization. Expect to hear that at every meeting.)
2. The board only cares about themselves: I am not sure if this is an aberration or if this is the true sentiment throughout the membership. Having been a member of the board three times now, I can assure you this is far from the truth. Board members, first and foremost, are volunteers willingly giving up their personal time with family to run the business of this chapter. Not one board member is compensated in any way (other than PDUs – another reason to volunteer!). In addition to being brave enough to step forward and volunteer, these

2011

When the PMP exam changes this summer, it will primarily mean a change in emphasis with the same content and will use the same version of the PMBOK. As an example, current guideline says that project manager practitioners spend 15% of their time creating schedules. After surveys or research, the new guideline is that they now spend 18% of their time creating schedules. It means the number of scheduling questions on the exam may change from 15% to 18%.

PMP Study Group

The PMP Study Group is design for participants who are in the final stages of studying for the exam. Study Group sessions are a great way to hone your test taking skills increasing your probability of success in passing the PMP exam. The group also provides great networking opportunities!!

The next study group is expected to start in May. Lyn Heaton, director, and her team are looking for a location. Please [contact Lyn](#) if you have location suggestions.

Workshops

The workshops team is up and running! A capable team of volunteers is now in place. They are: Marcy Randall, Candace Koba, Rajasree Aytam and Michelle Wood. Please welcome them and offer your ideas and support!

The team is working hard to bring you many exciting events this year! Look for the 2011 workshops schedule on our chapter website within the next few weeks. The first two workshops are in April – one focusing on soft skills and one on technical skills.

Project Leadership - Join us on April 16 for “Project Leadership” featuring Chick Keller as the presenter. Special bonus for attendees: John Nobles, executive with Burns & McDonnell will also speak about his extensive project experience. The event will be held from 8:00 – 4:30 pm at Burns &

individuals also have decided to take a leadership role in the guidance and growth of our chapter. Occasionally board members are asked to attend certain PMI sponsored leadership events. Boondoggles, these are not. Typically, we choose a few individuals to attend these information sessions (on their own time by the way, which usually means using some of their professional PTO) and they are tasked to:

- o Represent the KC PMI chapter in the most professional way possible
- and
- o To take careful notes. Upon returning to KC, it is their responsibility to provide an extensive, formal debrief on what they learned at the next board meeting.

Speaking of board meetings, it is true we meet every other month to review the business of the chapter. Most times we meet at a restaurant that has meeting facilities and allows the board members to eat during a working dinner. The meetings typically last three hours. But the bottom line is this – our board understands the stewardship we have to running this chapter as if it is our business and we do what we can to balance that challenge with the need to hold costs to a minimum.

Sorry if I went off on a little rant there, but I found some of the comments I read to be almost offensive and blatantly unfair. I choose to volunteer and lead this organization as a way to give back to the profession that has provided me a challenging career. Your board cares deeply about this chapter and we continually work on ways to make it better for you.

I would be remiss to not mention one thing for you, dear reader, to consider – the best way to ensure that the chapter runs the way you want to is to volunteer and take the step to run for office. We will begin accepting nominations for office positions starting in July.

Have a great March!
Steve Gorman
President, KCPMI

Advertisements :

McDonnell. Registration is just \$140 for members and \$170 for nonmembers and includes breakfast and lunch.

Advanced MS Project - On April 30th, we will hold an “Advanced MS Project 2007” workshop at New Horizons Computer Learning Center in Overland Park. The event runs from 8:00am – 5:00pm and included continental breakfast and lunch. Registration is \$140 for members and \$170 for nonmembers.

Please go to www.kcpmichapter.org to register for these events or for more information on future events.

Knowledge XChange (formerly Mentoring Circles)

Mentoring Circles is now KnowledgeXChange! The professional development committee is in the process of revamping the mentoring circles program, and there’s more going on than just a name change. As past participants know, this program provides a forum where members can exchange information and expertise to help them with current situations. Like a bank, both deposits and withdrawals of information are welcome. KnowledgeXChange will maintain this important dialogue.

The team is also looking to expand this concept to bring in experts and to store the lessons learned in a central repository. To do this, we need the help of some volunteers, both as facilitators and knowledge managers. If you are interested in supporting this program, please consider attending the March 21st session, right before the dinner meeting. If you cannot make it but intend to participate, please email john.iversen@vangent.com.

Next Knowledge XChange Session
 When: Monday, March 21, 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm
 Location: Ritz Charles, 9000 West 137th Street
 Cost: Free – select when registering for dinner
 Topics: Establishing a Project Management Culture, Managing Stakeholder Expectations

PMP® Exam Prep Boot Camp

<p>St. Louis April 4-7 7:15 am - 5:15 pm Holiday Inn Southwest</p>	<p>Kansas City May 17-20 7:15 am - 5:15 pm Embassy Suites on the Plaza</p>
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Don't fear the PMP® exam certification test any longer! This fast paced boot camp prepares each participant with all the core competencies to pass the PMP® exam the first time, while providing you with 35 contact hours.

We are excited to offer two public Project Management seminars!

April 11-12
Dealing with Conflict and Negativity in a Project Management Environment

April 13-14
Successful Negotiation in a Project Management Environment

Each class is registered with PMI and qualifies for PDUs. Check out our website for more information.

The Mathis Group
 800-224-3731
 Fax: (636) 938-5292
keith@themathisgroup.com
www.themathisgroup.com
www.pmpexpertlive.com

Onsite Training Available

Course Content

- PMBOK®'s 5 process groups and 9 knowledge areas of project management
- Professional and social responsibility
- Test-taking strategies and techniques
- Project management definitions, process charts and formulas
- Practice exams, scenarios and activities

What You Receive

- *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide) - Fourth Edition*
- *PMP® Study Guide 4th Edition* by Kim Heldman (includes software)
- Course notebook, Flash cards, Process charts
- Free online simulation Exam & 14+ in class practice tests

The Mathis Group PMP® Exam Guarantee: In the unlikely event you do not pass the PMP® exam the first time, The Mathis Group will pay for your second attempt within 30 days. If you do not pass the PMP® exam the second time, we will pay for the third attempt within 30 days. If you do not pass the PMP® exam after three attempts, we will refund the balance of the seminar price to you!!

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Volunteers :

Volunteering is a great way to get involved and truly make a difference. It is also a way to meet and network with other professionals and to help shape the direction of your chapter. Don't hesitate to contact any of the active directors or VPs for more information about roles in their area or to discuss your interests and skills. The Chapter is always looking for qualified, enthusiastic volunteers!

- [Visit our website](#) to view current openings.
- Follow the instructions to submit a volunteer application.

We look forward to working with you!

Membership :

Kansas City Mid-America of PMI is having their first of four social events on Monday, April 4, 5:30 to 9 pm. Registration is \$10 on-line at www.kcpmichapter.org and includes pizza and soft drinks. We will also give away a [Motorola Xoom](#) as the grand prize.

Each of our four social events will offer a grand prize of an iPad2 or an android tablet to those people attending the event. Besides the one raffle ticket provided when you register, other raffle tickets can

Contact John Iverson
(john.iverson@vangent.com or 785-830-2420) to learn more.

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How did we do?
Take our event survey
and give us your
feedback on this
month's event.
[Click Here.](#)



be purchased at the event for \$ 5 each or five tickets for \$20.

Where: [Next Door Pizza](#)
3385 SW Fascination Dr
Lee's Summit, MO 64081-3300
(816) 763-1200

After each social event all registered guests will receive a thank you follow up email along with an online survey to improve our future offerings to our members.

Professional Development Days :

The theme for 2011 Professional Development Days is "Project Managers Drive Results." It is scheduled for September 19-20 and is worth 16 PDUs!

PDD Hardship Scholarship & Adversity Grant Program

The KCPMI chapter will offer two programs for members to attend 2011 PDD who would otherwise be unable to attend due to financial hardship. To find out more please [send an e-mail](#) to the Vice-President of PDD.

Keynote Speakers



Bill Rancic – Winner of the first Donald Trump Apprentice Show and now seen on A&E and E!, Bill is a true entrepreneur and a serious businessman. He's also a great motivational speaker with celebrity appeal. He and his wife, Giuliana DePandi from E! News, have a new reality show on Style Network.



Jeff Havens - A corporate speaker and offers easily the most unique and entertaining motivational speeches in America today. His original, informative, hilarious, and powerful approach has transformed the way business people approach the idea of personal and professional growth.

Please [check our website](#) for additional details as they become available.

Communications :

New Website Update

As mentioned in previous newsletter, we plan to upgrade our website this year. We have been working with our vendor Star Chapter on the design of the new home page! Please see mock-up below. We will keep you posted as we move forward. Please look out for future email communication on the status.



Stay Connected with Our Chapter!

Our Chapter is on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#). Sign up as a follower/fan to keep up to date on upcoming events! Feel free to post any PMI related information you think others may be interested in on the wall and remember to suggest our page to friends and business contacts!

If you have any question and/or comment, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,
Yawen Hsu-Brown
VP Communications

PMI Global Announcements :

News Alert from PMI Global!

Due to the growing demand of Agile Practices in Project Management, PMI is launching a new Agile Certification.

Who Should Pursue the PMI Agile Certification?

Practitioners who are using Agile practices in their projects, or whose organizations are adopting Agile approaches to project

management, are good candidates for the PMI Agile Certification. By earning the Agile certification, practitioners can

- Demonstrate to employers their level of professionalism in Agile practices of project management.
- Increase their professional versatility in both project management tools and techniques.
- Show they have the capacity to lead basic Agile project teams by holding a certification that is more credible than existing training-only or exam-only based offerings.

Key Dates for the Agile Certification Launch

May 2011 – Candidates for the Agile certification will be able to submit an application for the pilot.

August 2011 – Pilot testing is scheduled to begin.

Please visit the [PMI Global website](#) or contact your regional PMI Customer Care for more information.

How did we do?
Take our monthly
meeting survey and
give us your feedback
on this months event.
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