

The Milestone

Feb, 2010



PMI News

PMI Pulse Surveys: Project Starts Reflect Improving Economic Conditions

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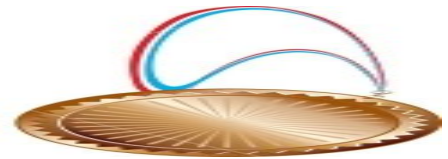
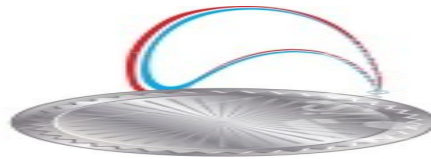
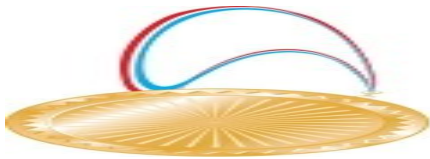
February 2, 2010 – - A recent PMI Pulse Survey indicates that while the number of companies canceling or delaying projects remains steady some previously canceled projects are back on the schedule. The survey, sent to a random sample totaling 1000 PMI members and credential holders, was conducted January 5-12 and 19-26, 2009. Half of those surveyed indicate that their companies have canceled or delayed projects in the past month (down from a high of 57% in March 2009). Of those who said their firms had canceled or delayed projects in the past month, about one in five characterized those projects as “very significant” relative to their entire project portfolio. In addition, 16% reported that projects previously canceled or delayed were started in the past month.

Respondents did reveal significant job cuts in their organizations, with over a third indicating lay-offs had taken place in the past month and one in five indicating job cuts for project managers in particular. It is promising to note, however, that 32% of those surveyed report that project managers have been hired in the past month. Additionally, the percent of full time employed participants remains high since the significant drop seen in October. Still, 8% of the respondents do report their status as “unemployed”.

Read more; get the detailed stats @ [PMI.org Resources](http://PMI.org/Resources)

Your 2010 Board

- President – Chandy Littlejohn, PMP
- Past President - Debra J. Arnett, PMP
- VP Finance - Debra Schrack
- VP Communications – Rick Gober
- VP Public Relations – Vaughan Dewar, PMP, CSSBB
- VP Education – Debbie Miller, PMP
- VP Special Events – Roger Suria, PMP
- VP Programs – Lynn Palmer, PMP
- VP Membership – Jan Speare, PMP



Working To Grow

In an effort to grow the chapter and increase member opportunities for participation and PDU's the board is developing new a volunteer structure. This new volunteer structure will allow chapter members to earn PDU's by assisting board members with the day to day operations of running the chapter.

There are three levels of participation, gold, silver and bronze. Chapter members can participate at these three levels in any of the eight categories represented by the various board positions, President, Membership, Communications, Finance, Education, Programs, Special Events, and Public Relations. The level of participation determines the number of PDU's available.

We are still formalizing the tasks for each board position and PDU's available for each level but here's a random example. For this example will use a random number for the gold level of five PDU's and the random task of developing a chapter newsletter, which oddly enough falls under my area of responsibility, communications.

Using the random example above if you would like to sign up for the gold communications responsibility of writing the chapter newsletter for the year. You will earn five PDU's for your contribution to the chapter. Again, let me emphasize that the category functions and number of PDU's for each level are still under consideration by the board. This is only an example.

Your participation in this program will benefit you; especially if you can't make the monthly chapter meetings or need a considerable number of PDU's to maintain your PMP credential. In addition, the chapter will benefit from your participation by receiving the assistance necessary to maintain and grow the chapter.

Looking forward to seeing you on the podium proudly displaying your shiny new PDU's,

Rick Gober

VP of Communications

VP_Communications@pmimemphis.org





Communications

As your VP of Communications I've been working on several initiatives, the most prominent being the development of a new chapter website and developing/reviewing tools to assist in improving information distribution and maintenance for the board.

One of the responsibilities of the VP of Communications is the update and maintenance of the chapter web site www.pmimemphis.org. Upon taking over this responsibility I came to realize what a labor intensive task this was based on the platform of the current web site.

Not to bore you with the technical details, but the current web site consist of static pages that require them to be downloaded and updated in a text editor. It didn't take long for me to tire of this. Thus, in an effort to create a more dynamic, maintainable site, I've created a new site using the open source platform Joomla. Using the capabilities of the new platform I've developed a new data structure that will make updates to the site easier and maintainable.

The new site is under test and consideration by the board. I'll let you know when it goes live.

The second initiative I've been working on is the development and review of online, web based, tools the board can use to improve information distribution and maintenance. I've been reviewing several open source modules available for the Joomla platform. The primary focus is on event management, online community and job board capabilities. If you have any suggestions regarding this or any other functionality you would like to see on your chapter web site, www.pmimemphis.org, I'd like to hear from you.

Rick Gober

VP of Communications

VP_Communications@pmimemphis.org



Project Management

Programs

We're finalizing a process to provide Webinar support for each Monthly Chapter Meeting, in order to enable more participation. This has been a popular alternative for members who can't attend the meeting in person but would still like to see the presentation and earn a PDU.

Upcoming Programs

March 2nd

Meredith Zachritz/Journyx

Web 2.0: The Future of the Internet and How It Affects You as a Project Manager

April 6th

Dr. Shieves

OPPORTUNITY Unstuck – 1st TN

May 4th

Susan Dodia

Negotiation Skills for Project Managers

June 1st

Dan Tuten

The Elephant on the Wire

Aug 3rd

Rick Brenner

The Politics of Meetings for People Who Hate Politics

Sept

No chapter meeting due to PDD on Sept 24

Lynn Palmer

VP of Programs

VP_Programs@pmimemphis.org





Unemployed Support Group

I've personally been unemployed for going on eleven months now and I realize that I'm not the only one in this situation. There are many intelligent, capable and diligent people who never thought they would find themselves in this situation, through no fault of their own. I understand personally that this can be an isolating and debilitating experience.

I've been considering the idea of starting a support group, for lack of a better word, for some time. I've discussed the idea with my wife, Sandi, unemployed members, and a couple of recruiters around town. The idea I have is to find a place where our unemployed members can meet weekly or bimonthly to discuss job search strategies, view skills presentations, review resumes and corroborate.

The two main requirements I see for creating such a group are; general interest and place to meet.

General Interest: If you think this sounds like a good idea and are willing to participate, let me know.

Meeting Place: If you know of a place where a group could meet during normal business hours, let me know. I think it's important to conduct the meetings during the time when you would generally be at work. Ideally this would be a class or meeting room with a projector we could use to view presentations on a laptop. Potential candidates could be; public libraries with meeting rooms and churches.

Some of the suggestions I have for content would be; a member who would like to demonstrate a skill, trick or tip they have for using Project, Excel or any other tools they've found useful in there Project Management carrier. Another example could be as simple as viewing an online video demonstrating tools and techniques for effective project management, or discussing books or online content someone found useful. The idea, as one member put it, is to keep your saw sharp.

Well that's my idea in a nutshell. I'd be interested in your comments, suggestions and participation. If nothing else it would get you out of your sweatpants and out into the world conversing with other professionals on a regular basis.

Rick Gober

VP of Communications

VP_Communications@pmimemphis.org

