Building professionalism in project management...
Project Management Institute
Michigan Capital Area Chapter

MAXIMUM FLOAT

Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter

Volume II, Issue 4 January 2001 www.pmi.org/chap/mcapmi

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Message from the President

By Amy J. Piper, Ph.D., PMP

Happy New Year! As we enter the New Year, we often make resolutions and set new goals. I'll take this opportunity to make my first plug for the Michigan Capital Area Chapter Board. Think about running for a Board position during our elections in May. The positions that will be open are: Chapter President (this position opens annually), Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Publicity, Vice President of Finance, and Vice President of Special Projects. The other positions open in May 2002. It may seem early to begin thinking about this, however, if you are considering this goal, you may want to attend one of our Board meetings in the coming months to help make your decision. It will give you an opportunity to see the Board in action! Even if you are not considering running for a Board position, keep in mind that our Board meetings are open to our members.

In December, in addition to our regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Michigan Capital Area Chapter Board held a strategic planning session. We reviewed what we have accomplished in the past year and looked forward to what we want to accomplish in 2001. As we look forward to the New Year we plan to accomplish the following organizational goals:

President:

- Integrate charter renewal package
- Lead, inspire, organize, promote the Chapter
- Develop a transition process

Membership:

- Conduct a membership survey
- Give at least four membership presentations
- Attract corporate sponsorship for the chapter
- Reach 250 members
- Consider an academic relations program

Continued, see "President" on page 2

Inside this Edition

Message from the President 1
PM Eye 3
Thunder Hall 3
Grey Matters 4
January's Featured Speaker 4
Max & Maxine. 5
Program Events Schedule 6

MAXIMUM FLOAT
Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter
Volume II, Issue 4 January 2001 www.pmi.org/chap/mcap.ni

Charlie Kidd of EDS, as he discusses "When Good Projects Go Bad" at the November 2000 Chapter Meeting

Michigan Capital Area Chapter's Mission Statement

The Michigan Capital Area Chapter is established to provide a professional forum dedicated to promoting project management excellence by:

- Encouraging the development of professional project management
- Sharing project management expertise
- Providing project management education and training
- Supporting the application of project management standards

Michigan Capital Area Chapter's Vision Statement

The Michigan Capital Area Chapter is the professional organization of choice for project management professionals.

President, *continued from page 1*

Communications:

- Establish a self maintaining member listserv for members and guest
- Clean up email list before transferring to listserv
- Increase brochure distribution

Programs:

- Improve Bonus Program quality and attendance
- Increase the relevance of the dinner program
- Increase attendance of the Chapter's monthly dinner program
- Develop speaker guidelines

Publicity:

- Publish meeting information times and location in local trades and publications (e.g., Lansing State Journal, LCC paper, etc.)
- Use newsletter as tool to promote the chapter and PMI
- Promote chapter website

Logistics:

- Improve the quality of the catering at the dinner meetings
- Renegotiate and sign next year's room and catering contract

Finance:

- Continue with quality financial analysis and advisement
- Continue to build working capital

Professional Development:

- Host Professional Development Day
- Host PMP Prep Class

Special Projects:

- Continue to stabilize organization
- Promote monthly meetings in local media using public service announcements
- Promote Professional Development Day

PM Eye on Doug Goulet!

Doug Goulet is a Program Manager with Electronic Data Systems (EDS) in Lansing and has been with EDS for 11 years, and in Information Technology industry for 21 years.

Doug was the project manager for EDS's site process improvement team. EDS achieved the SEI-CMM level 2 assessment. He has managed miscellaneous software development projects. Doug is currently setting up a program office for EDS application service provisioning (renting applications over the Internet).

Doug has been a member of PMI for 6 years starting out in the Western Michigan Chapter and enjoys networking with other project managers to gain additional knowledge from the speakers. Doug is an avid downhill skiing buff.

Please introduce yourself to Doug at a future dinner meeting, as he was the latest winner in the "free dinner" drawing!

"THUNDER HALL"
Sung to the tune of "Thunder Road"

Let me tell the story,
I can tell it all.
'Bout the Project Lead
who had no control.
His client made some wishes,
The Lead went to the Team.
When he walked hall
They called the area Thunder Hall.

CHORUS:
And there was thunder, thunder
Over Thunder Hall.
Unreasonable were the wishes
And demanding was the Lead.
And there were changes, changes
Total chaos reined.
The Team they swore they'd get him
But the PMBOK got him first.

In the final testing
The Lead walked down the hall.
An SME stood up and cried
"He'll do his walk no more".
He called in a consultant,
A PMP from PMI.
Whatever the Lead tried to do
There was a way to do it right.

"Lead" his client told him,
You haven't done your job.
We're 6 month behind time,
Spent the budget way too fast.
Your work is shoddy,
Won't pass any test.
We really don't need the project anyway,
And that's the end of it."

Repeat CHORUS

The PMP consoled the Lead,
"You really had no control,
This is what you need.
A framework within which
You can meet and exceed
Your client's expectations".

He preached on integration,
Processes, tools and techniques.
When he had finished
The Lead he was convinced.
On the next project
The Team now had a chance
Of meeting time, cost
And schedule.

Repeat CHORUS

The Team they never quit
'Cause the PMBOK got him first.

Grey Matters

Random Thoughts on Project Management

by Dan Belcher

Last summer, while breaking out plaster and lath, I thought that it would be incredible to have my two girls wake up on Christmas day in a new bunk bed brought by Santa Claus. I had to get the drywall, painting, carpeting and trim in their new bedroom done by Christmas, but that was only part of Project Impossible.

The first mission was to convince my 5 and 3 year olds to ask Santa for a bunk bed. It was something that they really wanted, but how do you get them to ask Santa? This turned out to be fairly simple. My 5 year old loves money. One day out of the blue she said, "Mom, since bunk beds are so expensive I think that I will ask Santa for one so that you and Daddy can save your money." We bumped into Santa four times during the holidays. The first time my 5 year old ask Santa for a bunk bed (it took my 3 year old until the forth time to get up the courage to sit on Santa's lap and ask). On the second, third and forth visit my 5 year old told Santa a different thing each time. I asked her why and she said, "I already told Santa that I wanted a bunk bed so now I can tell him everything else I want". Surprisingly, kids have many wants in fact during every toy commercial for girls you here, "Mom/Dad come here quick I want that" then "No, I want that" from my 3 year old.

We had been looking at beds all summer and had decided on a model. While up north for a family Thanksgiving, I read a store flier "Thanksgiving Day ONLY All Furniture 25% off". It was too good to be true, but we were 200 miles away from home. Thanksgiving morning my wife was AWOL leaving me to help mash the potatoes, bake the pies and stuff the turkey. She went to the local store and after several phone conversations was able to strike a deal and obtain a rain check ata store closer to home. Surprisingly the deal held up and I was able to get the bunk bed without hassle. Tying a box bigger than your car to the roof and driving it 20 miles can be a bit stressful, but everything went well.

Christmas Eve 4:00 PM, I slipped out to the garage to assemble the 200 piece jig saw puzzle with 2 pieces missing. Not many hardware stores are open on Christmas Eve so I had to use my Civil Engineering skills to improvise and was able to use a part from a toilet. Around 6:00 PM I the bed was 75% assembled. My wife decided to check on my progress. It was her opinion that the bed would not fit through the doorway of the house in this partially assembled state. I was almost sure that it would. Measurements soon proved me wrong. I spent the next ½ hour taking it apart.

Christmas Eve 9:00 PM, the kids were asleep in our bed (we needed their mattresses for the new bunk bed). We carried all the pieces into the house, up the stairs and to the bedroom. The bed is 80% metal so there "...arose such a clatter". Luckily the kids did not wake up. By midnight the beds were assembled and made. The last task was to get the girls into their beds without waking up. I struggled to get my 5 year old into the top bunk. She sat up looked around and then flopped down sound asleep. My 3 year old did not make a sound.

Christmas Day 7:30 AM we heard the stirring sound of waking kids. We raced into their bedroom to share the excitement. There were big smiles of amazement. The kind where the grin goes from ear to ear. Our 3 year old said that she remembered Santa carrying her to bed. It was my best Christmas ever. I was amazed that my Project Impossible had turned out to be perfect.

NOTICE

A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (*PMBOK® Guide*) - 2000 Edition has been published. A CD-ROM version is being sent by postal mail to each PMI member as a complimentary member benefit. Important articles about this new edition are included in the January 2001 issues of *PM Network®* and *PMI Today®*

PMI 2001 -
First to the Future
1-10 November 2001.
Nashville, Tennessee USA
Become an exhibitor or submit an abstract today!
Also available for viewing is the Monday Morning General Session from PMI 2000

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January's Featured Speaker

"Similarities for emergency management and project management in terms of risk management"

Mark H. Wesley
Emergency Management Division
Michigan Department of State Police

Mark has been with the Emergency Management Division, Michigan Department of State Police since 1988. He is currently the Governmental and Public Affairs Officer. His duties include coordinating the division's strategic planning process, chairing the division's Information Strategy Committee and the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.

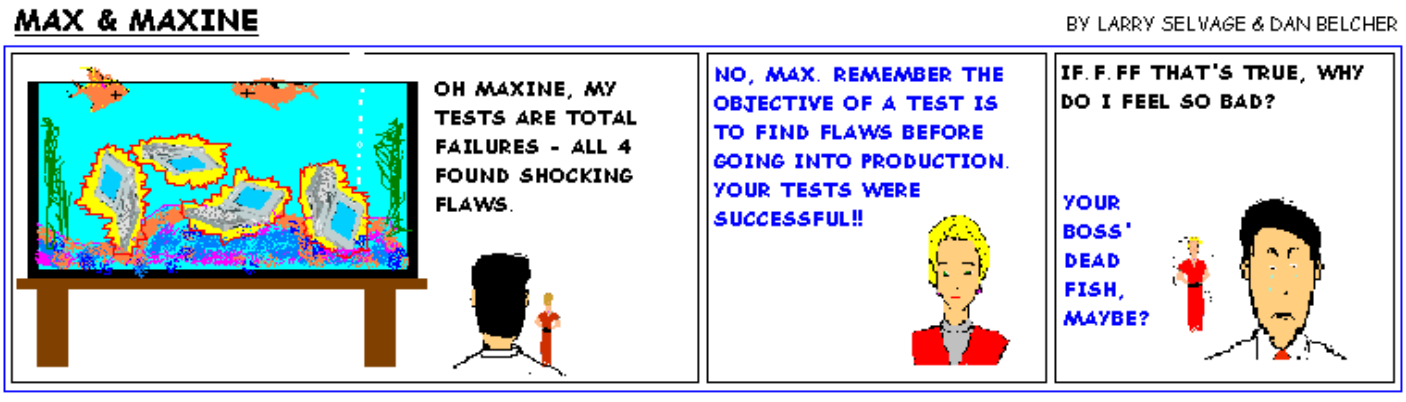
He served as the division's project manager for the division's Year 2000 Unit and oversaw the development of preparedness strategies, assessment, contingency planning guidance, and training programs. Mark has also worked in training development and planning.

Mark received his BS in administration from Eastern Michigan University and holds a graduate degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The State of Michigan recognizes Mr. Wesley as a Professional Emergency Manager.

January Bonus Program

"The Initiating Process" **– A Case Study –** facilitated by Judy Walsh

Participants will review a case study, focus on identifying the PMBOK Initiation process, and what general techniques could have been used to improve project performance in that area.



Program Events Schedule

The Chapter Dinner Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, September through May, excluding December. The Dinner Meetings are held at the Lansing Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center. Bonus Programs are held prior to dinner meetings from 5:15 to 6:00.

Costs: Dinner costs are $25 for members and $30 for non-members. Anyone who does not pay in advance will be charged an additional $5 at the door. If you are not pre-registered, we may be unable to accommodate you due to restaurant limitations.

February 20, 2001 -- Mr. Norm Buckwalter, Electronic Data Systems, "Building a Program Management Office -- Definition, Responsibilities, Implementation Tips Essential to Building a Program Office"
Bonus Program: "The Planning Process" – Case Study

March 20, 2001 -- Mr. Dave Davis, AT&T, "Schmoozing and the Art of Project Management"
Bonus Program: "The Executing Process" – Case Study

April 17, 2001 -- Mr. John Tuman, CEO of Management Technologies Incorporated, "The Past, Present and Future of Project Management"
Bonus Program: "The Controlling Process" – Case Study

May 15, 2001 -- Award Program/Elections
Bonus Program: "The Closeout Process" – Case Study

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