



# MAXIMUM FLOAT

## Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter

Volume X, Issue IV January 2009



### ***Program Meeting Announcement***

Due to unforeseen circumstances  
the Chapter's monthly program meeting scheduled for  
**Tuesday, January 20, 2009**  
has been cancelled.

**The next meeting is scheduled for  
Tuesday, February 17, 2009**

**The speakers and topics for the February meeting will be announced  
on the Chapter website and email notifications will be sent to those on  
the Chapter mailing list.**

Please check the website for updates: <http://www.pmi-mcac.org/>

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## Message from the President

Amy J. Piper, Ph.D, PMP

Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to 2009 and the activities we are planning for the Michigan Capital Area Chapter's (MCAC's) 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We started the chapter with a Kick-Off Meeting in June of 1999, and held our first dinner meeting in September of the same year.

This year we will celebrate the MCAC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at our **September 15<sup>th</sup>** Program Meeting. We are still in the planning stages; however, we plan to have a major speaker and hope to have a large turn out for this very special celebration. So please mark your calendars now to reserve the date. If you would like to get involved in planning the event, contact me at [president@pmi-mcac.com](mailto:president@pmi-mcac.com).

On **October 19<sup>th</sup>** we will hold our now annual Professional Development Day at the Sheraton. This will be our seventh Professional Development Day. See Marjorie Greer to get involved with this activity.

Other upcoming events are, at the end of January a complimentary webinar by Peter de Jaeger and a new PMP Study Group will be forming in February. (See the Professional Development Corner for more information.)

Recently the national PMI chapter surveyed all of their members to obtain feedback on individual chapters. 26 of our chapter's members provided feedback on the MCAC. That input provided the Board with some excellent information and what's working well and what we need to do to improve our services. As we move forward we will use that information. If you missed this survey or have any additional input to help us, please contact me through email or at one of our program meetings. I appreciate your feedback.

I look forward to 2009 being the best year ever!

### PMI Michigan Capital Area Chapter Officers

**President**

Amy Piper, PhD, PMP  
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**VP Outreach**

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## Vice President – Logistics

Randy Jobski, PMP

Hello and Happy New Year!! I hope that all had a wonderful Holiday Season, got energized for the challenges of the New Year, and are ready to get engaged again with the Chapter. I missed seeing all of you at November's Chapter Meeting, but I look forward to seeing you at January's!

At the time of this writing, we have not pinned down the January speaker yet, but we are hard at work on bringing you a fresh new topic that I am sure you will enjoy, and find valuable. Our January Program Meeting will once again be held at the Waterford Estates Lodge in Lansing on January 20<sup>th</sup> and will run from 5:30 pm – 8:15 pm. In addition to our featured speaker, we will have a bonus program on LinkedIn put on by Amy Piper, our Chapter's President.

You will find something new this time when you go to register for this Program Meeting via our web site. Obviously, our goal is to provide the very best experience possible with these monthly Program Meetings. As such, we are asking each of you to provide your input on new speakers and topics during the registration process. In addition, we are also looking for suggestions on new venues to hold the Chapter Meetings at. All of these questions are OPTIONAL even though the web page states that these are required entries. However, we would greatly appreciate any input you could provide. After all, we want our attendance at these meetings to grow substantially, but that will only happen when you feel that you are getting a good value out of your attendance. What we need to know is how to best provide that value. Again, I ask that everyone register via our web site for this event (<http://www.acteva.com/go/pmi-mcac>) whether you choose to pay online (preferable) or pay at the door. This helps us to provide the most accurate guaranteed count to the hotel and, hence, keeps our Chapter's expenses to a minimum.

Finally, if you have suggestions that you would like to share about how to improve our Program Meeting's presenters, topics, and/or venue, I really would love to hear from you directly. You can send any comments and/or suggestions to [logistics@pmi-mcac.org](mailto:logistics@pmi-mcac.org). We consistently have over 200 people pay annually to be members of our Chapter, but our attendance at the meetings is always much lower than this. This is a bit perplexing. Attending the Program Meetings is a great place to learn new skills from our Bonus and Featured presenters, a place to build your professional network, enjoy a wonderful meal (if you choose that option), and just take a few minutes a month for you – to give to yourself and grow a bit more in your chosen profession. I think you would find that these are really worth the time and money to attend. I have attended probably 85% of the events since I became a member back in 2002, and I am very happy that I have.

I really hope you decide to join us this month, and going forward. I know you will get as much out of these events as I have.

Take care, and may good fortune find you always!

## Vice President – Professional Development

Marjorie Greer McIntyre, PMP

Happy New Year! As the Detroit Pistons would say, "Let's get it started!" To kick this year off with fervor, our professional development focus will be on providing you with many more opportunities to enhance your project management and leadership skills, networking, share your knowledge and earn those most needed Professional Development Units (PDUs). How's this for starters....

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DATE OF EVENT	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY	SPONSORS	UNITS EARNED
01/28/2009	<b>Webinar – The Mythical Man-Month</b> 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. <i>Specific information will be sent via the PMI-MCAC Mailing List</i>	Peter deJager PMI-MCAC	1 PDU
02/11/2009 - 03/25/2009 (Wednesday's )	<b>PMP Study Group</b> 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. <i>If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Marjorie Greer McIntyre at <a href="mailto:professionaldevelopment@pmi-mcac.org">professionaldevelopment@pmi-mcac.org</a></i>	PMI-MCAC	14 CEUs <i>(Instructors may earn 1-5 PDUs)</i>
10/19/2009	<b>Professional Development Day (PDD) 2009</b> 7:30 – 4:45 p.m.	PMI-MCAC	7 PDUs

### **Professional Development Sub-Committee**

In order to provide the optimum professional development opportunities to our membership, we are in the process of creating a Professional Development Sub-Committee. This Sub-Committee will assist in the identification and implementation of quality value added professional development opportunities in project management and leadership. Just as important, these opportunities will provide the ability to earn those much needed PDUs! Also, committee members may earn additional PDUs for their participation on this committee.

If you are interested in joining us in the endeavor, please contact me at [professionaldevelopment@pmi-mcac.org](mailto:professionaldevelopment@pmi-mcac.org).

Stay tuned for more professional development opportunities!

## **Vice President – Membership**

**John Oldham, PMP**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to the Chapter:

**Gideon Francis**  
**Mitch Graham**  
**Harry Levins**  
**Richard Marks**  
**Keesa Muhammad**  
**Kim Peterson**

The following Chapter members have recently attained their Project Management Professional (PMP) certification:

**Mr. Kalyan Bhaumik, PMP**  
**Mr. Peter De Lorme, PMP**  
**Mr. Robert Nemeth, PMP**  
**Mr. Muthukumar Ramasamy, Ph.D., PMP**

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Please join me in congratulating each one who recently completed their PMP certification!

The Michigan Capital Area Chapter includes 149 PMPs in our 202 total membership count.

I am looking forward to seeing you during our next Chapter Program Meeting on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Vice President – Finance***

**Karl Meier, PMP**

### **Michigan Capital Area Chapter PMI Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2008**

Assets	
Current Assets – Checking/Savings	\$24,382.55
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$24,382.55</b>
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	\$0
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$25,791.65
Net Income	(\$1,409.10)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$24,382.55</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b><u>\$24,382.55</u></b>

The above Balance Sheet is generated from the Chapter's accounting system and does not suggest audited information.

If you have any questions regarding the finances of the Chapter, please feel free to contact me at any time.

## ***Vice President – Special Projects***

**Marcia Jones, PMP**

At the last board meeting, we discussed the idea of attempting to attract new members. During that discussion, I began to wonder if it might not be worthwhile to offer an overview of what types of experience and education qualify someone to sit for the exam. This could be offered to non-members and could create a real win/win situation: new members for our chapter and a better understanding and support for people interested in achieving certification.

I received my PMP certification in 2007 so I'm still a relative "newbie". I learned about the certification process through co-workers who were from other states working here in Michigan on a large project. I wasn't familiar with the local chapter and most of the people I worked with were affiliated with chapters in other states so they weren't familiar with MCAC. I assumed (as I believe a lot of folks do) that I had to have several years of direct project management experience before attempting to become certified so I didn't actively look for a local PMI Vice-President's Messages continued on page 6



chapter for a year or two. I didn't realize that my combined experience on numerous projects combined with my management experience and education qualified me to sit for the test. I'm guessing that there may be a lot of people out there like me who are interested in becoming certified, but assume they aren't qualified because their job title isn't "project manager".

I would be interested in gaining your input on this idea. If you are a member who is not yet certified, you may be able to provide the board with valuable input on what types of information would be useful to "newbies" to make the path to certification a bit easier. I will be at the next dinner meeting (the lady with the fishbowl raffling off a free dinner meeting), so please share your ideas and thoughts with me or email me.

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**Published Monthly prior to Chapter Meetings**

Charlie Kidd	Managing Editor	Amy Piper	Contributor
Randy Jobski	Contributor	John Oldham	Contributor
Karl Meier	Contributor	John LeTourneau	Contributor
Arun Sampath	Contributor	Amita Das	Contributor
Marjorie Greer McIntyre	Contributor	Marcia Jones	Contributor

## Monthly Program Meeting Information

The MCAC Chapter Program Meetings are held at the Waterford Lodge, formerly the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 3600 Dunckel Drive, Lansing, MI 48910

MCAC Chapter Program Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, September through September, excluding December. Bonus Programs are often held prior to the Program Meeting (normally from 5:15 PM to 6:00 PM). Networking begins at 6:00 PM and Dinner at 6:30 PM. The Main Program begins at 7:00 PM. Please go to <http://www.pmi-mcac.org> to register and for additional information.

**Costs:** \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members which includes dinner. A presentation-only option is available to members for \$10 and non-members for \$15. Anyone who does not register 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