



MAXIMUM FLOAT

Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter

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Message from the President

Amy J. Piper, Ph.D., PMP

I am very excited to have been elected the President of the Michigan Capital Area PMI Chapter. We have had our charter for almost a year now and our membership continues to grow. We now have more than 160 members. While we have accomplished so much, we can not rest. I plan to work with the other board members toward achieving the objectives set out in our strategic planning session.

By way of introduction, here is a short autobiography. I am a Senior Project Planning Specialist at EDS with five years of experience leading people. I have developed three unique start-up organizations, one of which was with an EDS joint venture in Seoul, South Korea, where I lived for six months. I have designed, developed, and delivered appropriate training solutions to customers in a wide variety of industries. These solutions incorporated topics such as technology, project management, leadership, and financial systems. My industry experience includes information technology, banking, public utilities, manufacturing (including automotive), state and local government, and wholesale food distribution. I earned my BA from the University of Michigan and my MA and Ph.D. from Michigan State University. Last year I served as the Vice-President of Membership on the Michigan Capital Area Chapter's board. My most recent accomplishment is passing the PMP exam.

I will be representing the Michigan Capital Area Chapter at the National PMI Leadership meeting. This meeting begins September 7th in Houston, when I will meet with other Chapter leaders to exchange ideas and information. I will share some of the information in my next "Message from the President."

In the mean time, I'm looking forward to seeing you at our first meeting this program year on September 19!

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Meet The New Michigan Capital Area Chapter Officers!

Vice President of Programs Intro!

Hi All,

My name is Gwenn Carr and I have been elected to follow Scott Brown as VP for Programs. That's a tall order and I'm a petite person, so I need your help. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers for our dinner meetings or bonus programs, please forward them to me either in person at the meeting or by e-mail at gcarr@sourcing.com. We have tried to line up an interesting mix of programs for this year that combines both concept and actual practice that I hope you will enjoy. I am also looking for a few volunteers to serve on the Programs sub committee. If you join this committee, I can promise you lively debate and the opportunity to be creative.



On a personal basis, I am interested in developing more networking contacts through the chapter and look forward to meeting more of the chapter members. I moved to the Lansing area from the East Coast about a year ago and have been a member of several other PMI chapters. I had the opportunity to present at two PMI National Symposiums and have always enjoyed my association with PMI. I currently work with a supply chain management consultancy in Okemos and was formerly a technology assimilation and strategic change consultant for PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP. I also worked in the utility industry as deregulation began in the East and learned a great deal during that transition.

Please look me up at the meeting. I'll look forward to meeting you and hearing your suggestions for meetings and bonus programs.

Michigan Capital Area Chapter's Web Page

If you don't already know, there is a wealth of information on our chapter's web site. The address is www.pmi.org/chap/mcapmi/. Information on the web site includes our current bylaws, the contents of the chapter's library, up-to-date dinner program info, etc. The web site also includes historical information, such as board meeting minutes, past newsletters, etc.

Vice President of Professional Development Intro!

As our new program year begins, I wanted to introduce myself as the new VP of Professional Development. I am currently working for the e-Michigan agency (State of Michigan) as a Project Manager responsible for the Reengineering and Business Process Analysis.



This year we have another great group of volunteers for the professional development sub-committee consisting of Beth Rigby, Chuck Baird, Nancy Foltz, Penny Dewey, Gwenn Carr, Karl Meier and Viji Jayaraman. In addition to duties as the President of MCAC, Amy Piper has kindly agreed to be our expert consultant. We are anticipating an exciting year ahead in the professional development arena.

We are going to look into another PMP exam preparation class. We are also looking into having a professional development day – a day-long conference with different speakers. I would love to hear any suggestions or requests that you may have.

Please email me at jayaramanv@state.mi.us or talk to any of the committee members regarding your ideas. Hope to see everyone at the dinner meeting.

Vice President of Logistics Intro!

Mark Lawrence

Hi -

I am looking forward to a great year with the Chapter. In the logistics area, these are some of the issues we will be looking into:

- is there some way for the Chapter to accept dinner payments via credit card?
- is there a need for employers to buy blocks of dinner tickets, to use for groups of employees at future dinners?



Hope to see you at the meetings!

Mark

Vice President of Membership Intro!

Rick Cummings

I wish to begin by thanking Amy for a great job as Vice President and look forward to a great year with her leadership. Amy set a number of goals, which she exceeded, in the past year. One goal was Membership growth to 125 or more; current membership is now at 164, a growth of 82.2% since 12/99. Another major goal was to present PMI to at least six Mid Michigan employers and seven presentations were given over the past year. Thanks again Amy for a job well done.



Thank you all for your vote of confidence last spring. I will try to continue with the growth and retention of membership throughout my tenure. In upcoming newsletters, I will provide membership statistics and set some personal goals for the chapter as well.

If you know of project management professionals who are not members of our chapter, please invite them to any of our meetings, or if you would like to assist the Michigan Capital Area Chapter in continuing the growth of your chapter, please contact Rick Cummings at 367-4301 or email to rick.cummings@jnli.com.

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Rick, as he was the latest winner in the "free dinner" drawing!

Vice President of Communications Intro!

Hello –

My name is Kristen Mullaney and I am one of the new board members for our local PMI chapter. I am proud to be the Vice President of Communications and I pledge to do my best for our chapter. I am currently employed by the Office of Project Management at the Michigan Department of Management and Budget. I have been with the State of Michigan for just 18 months and my current project is an e-Commerce endeavor. In my previous life, I was employed by IBM, Corporate Purchasing. The last assignment was with IBM, The Netherlands in Amsterdam for global travel and intranet projects. I have recently passed the PMP's and look forward to serving this chapter through out the 2000-2001 term.



My theme this year is email: Please update your email with our chapter if it has changed since Fall 1999. You can email them to me at: mullaneyk@state.mi.us. Please provide old email and then new email. Thanks and see you all at the meetings.

Editor's Note: The picture above was accidentally turned backwards during the production layout of Maximum Float. We apologize to Kristen for this error!

September's Crossword Puzzle

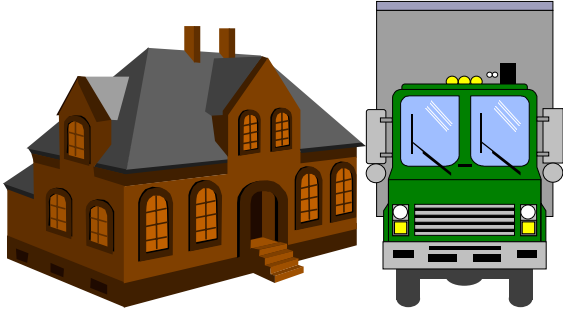
By Liz Chaney

Find our Michigan Capital Area Chapter Officers (look for full name)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Someone to Lead Us | Amy Piper |
| In our past but not forgotten | Maureen Myers |
| Backup Leader | Richard Cummings |
| Able to handle all the Money | Alan Casey |
| Someone who can get the word out! | Kristen Mullaney |
| Advertise!, Advertise!, Advertise! | Daniel Buonodono |
| Help me become a PMP | Viji Vayaraman |
| Keeping our monthly mtgs interesting | Gwenn Carr |
| Who has all the Logic? | Mark Lawrence |
| Who can handle any special request | Penny Dewey |

G	M	A	R	K	L	A	W	R	E	N	C	E	D	V
L	W	M	I	R	L	C	R	U	C	S	B	O	A	I
K	Y	E	M	N	E	I	E	O	G	T	Q	R	N	J
M	I	C	N	H	H	M	P	N	S	U	W	R	N	I
J	D	W	C	X	W	D	I	S	X	K	C	A	E	V
N	A	N	B	P	R	M	P	I	Z	J	E	C	Y	A
H	O	P	E	A	M	P	Y	M	Z	N	Y	N	E	R
I	L	L	H	U	Q	O	M	Y	W	E	P	N	W	A
U	Y	C	C	R	A	L	A	T	S	M	U	E	E	M
V	I	J	I	V	A	Y	A	A	Z	F	I	W	D	A
R	M	A	R	K	L	A	W	R	E	N	C	G	Y	N
Y	S	R	E	Y	M	N	E	E	R	U	A	M	N	C
H	E	L	P	M	A	N	A	G	P	R	F	J	N	A
C	A	P	I	L	O	T	B	X	M	C	G	O	E	M
U	W	Q	A	L	A	N	Y	Z	P	F	B	H	P	X
O	B	M	O	N	O	D	O	N	O	U	B	N	A	D

Featured Speaker



Ruth Varner

House Moving Project

Ruth is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and a Masters Degree in Labor and Industrial Relations. She has worked for the Oldsmobile Division of General Motors and for nine years has been the owner of several D.O.C. Optics franchises.

Ruth is a member of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

She will be speaking with us about her project management experience moving a house. When we asked Ruth why she moved the house, she replied:

When I moved to Lansing from Northern Michigan 20 years ago, I fell in love with the "big white house" across the street from Sparrow Hospital - the house at that time was the Virgiline Simmons Studio de Danse. Since I admired the house so much, I always thought that one day I would go into the dance studio and ask if I could just look around because I thought the house was so beautiful. Of course, I never did.

Then two years ago while I was driving downtown, I noticed the house was all boarded up, which piqued my curiosity. By doing some investigating, I discovered the house was going to be demolished unless someone was willing to move it off Sparrow's property. I made several phone calls to the State Historic Preservation Office and the Lansing Historical Preservation Society about saving the house.....and one year later there I was with the house on a moving truck driving to Okemos!!!

Answers to the PMP questions on page 5: 1. c 2. b 3. d 4. a 5. b 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. b 10. c

MAX & MAXINE

BY LARRY SELVAGE

Unable to determine Maxine's origins due to an errant screen saver, Maxine takes pity on our hero and divulges her history.



Before becoming a PMP, I worked in many careers. Then, I was called to service.



As a member of the CIA's crack PM team, I led many successful projects, most of which I cannot talk about, of course.

Then, after the "accident" at the PMI Conference, my intellect ends up as a hologram projection in your head.



Bottom line, Max - this experiment better go right, or you'll find out what an out of control project feels like FROM THE INSIDE!!



Studying to Be a PMP

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

Mary Lonski, PMP of the Western Michigan Chapter, contributed this month's questions. The format has been updated to reflect the most current exam format. Let's take a look at Integration Management. Project Integration Management includes the processes required to ensure that the various elements of the project are properly coordinated. Try testing your knowledge of the following PMBOK concepts within the Integration Management processes:

1. Integration Management consists of the following major processes:

- a) Project Plan Development, Resource Planning, Quality Control
- b) Project Planning Methodology, Project Plan Execution, Configuration Management
- c) Project Plan Development, Project Plan Execution, Overall Change Control
- d) Project Management Information System, Project Plan Creation, Change Control System

2. The project plan is used to:

- a) Improve management's general skills
- b) Finalize budget cost estimates
- c) Provide a variable measurement progress
- d) Facilitate communication among stakeholders

3. Which of the following is NOT an input into project plan development?

- a) Historical information
- b) Constraints
- c) Organizational policies
- d) Performance reports

4. The five basic process groups are:

- a) Initiating, planning, executing, controlling, closing
- b) Planning, checking, directing, monitoring, recording
- c) Initiating, executing, monitoring, evaluating, closing
- d) Planning, executing, monitoring, redirecting, delivering

5. Subsidiary change control systems include all of the following EXCEPT:

- a) Schedule Change Control
- b) Work Authorization System
- c) Scope Change Control
- d) Cost Change Control

6. Performance measurement baselines should:

- a) Change only intermittently and generally only in response to an approved scope change
- b) Change only when higher management directs them to be changed
- c) Change frequently to accommodate current information about the project
- d) Remain the same throughout all phases of the project

7. For a project to be completely successful all of the following must be integrated EXCEPT:

- a) Product scope and project scope
- b) Project work and operations of performing organization
- c) Deliverables from different functional specialties
- d) Performance improvements

8. A controlling process for a project's schedule typically will focus on activities:

- a) That are difficult to carry out
- b) That are starting earlier than scheduled
- c) That vary from the plan, whether late or early
- d) That are starting later than scheduled

9. Tools and techniques used for project plan execution include all of the following EXCEPT:

- a) Organizational procedures
- b) Performance Reports
- c) Product skills and knowledge
- d) Status review meetings

10. A Change Control Board is:

- a) A formal group of stakeholders responsible for ensuring that only a minimal amount of changes occur on a project
- b) An informal group which has oversight of project implementation
- c) A formal group of stakeholders responsible for approving or rejecting changes to the project baseline
- d) An informal or formal group of team members responsible for changes on a project

Tips, Quips, and Quotes

Compiled by Liz Chaney

"Treat people as if they were what they should be, and you help them become what they are capable of becoming."
--Johanna von Goethe

"Life is about enjoying yourself and having a good time."
-Cher

"Why not seize the pleasure at once? How often is happiness destroyed by preparation, foolish preparation!"
--Jane Austen

Keep up your courage:
"Success is never found. Failure is never fatal. Courage is the only thing."
--Winston Churchill

"Fortune befriends the bold."
--John Dryden

"Courage is very important. Like a muscle, it is strengthened by use."
--Ruth Gordon

"One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done."
--Marie Curie

"The best preparation for a better life next year is a full, complete, harmonious, joyous life this year."
--Thomas Dreier

"Trust you own instinct. Your mistakes might as well be your own, instead of someone else's."
--Billy Wilder

If you must argue, remember that:
"It is impossible to defeat an ignorant man in argument."
--William Gibbs McAdoo

"The best way to win an argument is to begin by being right."
--Jill Ruckleshaus

"People are usually more convinced by reasons they discovered themselves than by those found by others."
--Blaise Pascal

"Concern should drive us into action and not into depression."
--Karen Horney

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.

October 17, 2000 -- Jennifer M. Grau, "Habitat for Humanity Housing Projects"

November 14, 2000 -- Charlie Kidd, EDS "When Projects Go Bad"

December 25, 2000 -- Santa's Big Project (Fast Tracking!)

January 16, 2000 -- Mark Wesley, Emergency Management Division, Michigan State Police, "Emergency Management Project Strategies"

Maximum Float

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