

Thursday, 04 September

Welcome to the Pittsburgh Chapter

Summer is ending, and I hope you have created some great achievements professionally, and also had some time-out with family and friends to recharge your batteries.

During the break, the chapter's volunteers have worked together to prepare us for a feature-packed 2014/2015 chapter year. Here are some of our Summer event highlights

- Kim Mangan and I joined leaders from chapters in New York, Delaware, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Michigan at the PMI Region 4 Leadership Meeting, hosted by the PMI New York chapter. While there I had the pleasure of facilitating the Chapter President's Forum, and we all came away with techniques to improve the value experienced by our members.
- The Pittsburgh chapter board and directors met for our twice-annual strategy review and planning session, focusing on topics such as opportunities to support professional development of chapter members, improving networking events, and working with local organizations to deliver value through effective project (and program and portfolio) management.
- We also had a great time celebrating the contributions of our volunteers, at the annual volunteer appreciation dinner. Many thanks to Joanne Sarachine for organizing this fun event. The appreciation speeches were a little tricky, in the midst of the 80's metal cover band warm-ups.
- Each of the teams have been planning and booking events for you, including chapter meetings, training, forums, coffee talks, and the very successful professional development day.

So we return to our calendar of events with a great start, welcoming Carl Pritchard back for our September Chapter meeting next week, as well as Jesse Fewell, a leader in the Agile world. Please review this newsletter for a taste of what's coming. If you are a new member to the organization, welcome aboard! If you're an old-hand, but have been a little quiet, please speak up and help us deliver great content and opportunities to make you more successful in the project management world.

All the best,
Matt Craig
PMI Pittsburgh Chapter President

Meetings

2014 September Chapter Presentation

When: Thursday, September 11, 2014, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Topic: Titanic Risk: 102 Years Later and It Still Matters

Presented by: Carl Pritchard, PMP, PMI-RMP

Location: ESWP, 337 Fourth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

[Register here](#)

Presentation Description: Using the epic tragedy of the Titanic as a backdrop, Carl Pritchard explores the interactive nature of risks and why a single threat normally doesn't doom a project to failure. It is, instead, the confluence of smaller risk, compounding one on another on another that bring even the most "unsinkable" projects down. Carl draws on the lectures and insights from 2012's Titanic Centenary Memorial Cruise to provide a backdrop as to how we can avoid becoming victims of our own overconfidence and sail our projects to safe harbor.

Speaker Bio: Carl is the author of seven project management texts, including two on risk management. He was the lead chapter author for the risk management chapter of the PMBOK Guide 4th Edition, and teaches, lectures and consults internationally on risk management. He is a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter, and serves as the US Correspondent for the British project management magazine, Project Manager Today. He trains for firms in the Pittsburgh area and has family ties to Squirrel Hill, West End, and "Sliberty".

Healthcare LIG Presentation

When: Thursday, September 11, 2014, 5:00PM, prior to monthly chapter meeting

Topic: Agile Presentation

Presented by: Jesse Fewell, PMP, PMI-ACP, CST, IGQI

Location: ESWP, 337 Fourth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Speaker Bio: Jesse Fewell, PMP, PMI-ACP, CST, IGQI, is the founder the PMI Agile Community of Practice, co-creator the PMI-ACP® agile certification, and co-author of the Software Extension to the PMBOK Guide®. Jesse is the author of the handbook for virtual teams, Can You Hear Me Now?, and has traveled the globe as the world's only PMP® authorized to teach both Innovation Games® and Scrum certification courses.

Jesse is also instructing the Agile Certified ScrumMaster class at the ESWP for Pittsburgh PMI on 10-11 September.

This will be a great Agile presentation!

Professional Development

Pittsburgh PMI has great project management educational opportunities! Please check www.PittsburghPMI.org periodically for more details and to register for these events. (The following training information is subject to change.)

Information below in the Professional Development section of this newsletter follows:

- Professional Development Day for Project Management, 5 November 2014!
- Agile Certified ScrumMaster (CSM) Course
- Agile PMI-ACP Certification Study Group
- PMP Preparation Class 2014
- PMP/CAPM Certification Study Group
- Future Project Management Training in 2014
- Social Media Posting of Pittsburgh PMI Training Information

Professional Development Day for Project Management, 2014!

"Driving Organizational Value through Effective Project Management" is this year's theme.

High quality speakers, great information and attendees make this the largest project management networking event in Pittsburgh!

Click [here](#) to register.

7 PDUs

5 November 2014

850 Cranberry Woods Drive Cranberry Township, PA 16066, <http://www.therla.org/>

This PDD will include the following:

<p>Keynote Speaker: Skip Weisman; President; Weisman Success Resources, Inc. How to be Respected and Heard as a Valuable Partner by Every Stakeholder on Every Project</p>	
<p>Session 1A: Joe Lukas; Vice President, PMCentersUSA <i>How to Create a Correct and Concise Schedule</i></p>	<p>Session 1B: Sam Provil; President & Managing Consultant; Provil & Associates, Inc. <i>Serious Project Time Management – Presented Not Too Seriously</i></p>
<p>Session 2A: Ron Taylor; President; The Ron Taylor Group <i>What the Dog Saw</i></p>	<p>Session 2B: Rick Clare; Director, PMCentersUSA <i>Top 10 Project Disconnects Between Executives and the Trenches</i></p>
<p>Lunch</p>	

Executive Panel Discussion – Effective Project Management, from the Executive’s perspective	
Session 3A: Bob Stearns; CEO; Powerful Potential <i>Engaging Shareholders to Support your Projects</i>	Session 3B: Joe Lukas; Vice President, PMCentersUSA <i>Improving Stakeholder Relationships using Emotional Intelligence</i>
Session 4A: Harlan Bridges; PMO Setup Practice Lead, BOT International <i>Business Driven Project Management and Project Strategy</i>	Session 4B: Jennifer Smith; Executive Leadership Coach, Growth Potential Consulting <i>Three Secrets to Getting Projects Done on Time and Within Budget</i>

Standard Price: \$329

Pittsburgh PMI Member Discount! \$30 (remember to login first for this discount)

Early Bird Discount! Before September 21st: \$50

Avoid the \$50 Late Fee. Register before October 28th.

For updates please see www.PittsburghPMI.org.

Agile Certified ScrumMaster (CSM) Course, 10-11 September 2014

This class is currently sold-out but you may register below to be on the waiting list.

Jesse Fewell from Alacrity is coming to Pittsburgh to provide another great Agile class. Scrum is a leading Agile methodology with great tools for project success. Don't be left behind without an Agile certification.

Jesse's website follows: <http://jessefewell.com/>

The CSM (Certified ScrumMaster) certification is administered by the ScrumAliance.

Pittsburgh PMI Members, login first for your \$100 discount when registering.

Click [here](#) to register for the waiting list.

Price: \$795

Dates: 10-11 September 2014

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Engineering Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP), 337 Fourth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

The class qualifies you for the exam to become a Certified ScrumMaster (CSM). The test fee is included with class registration. Also, we won't take the test during class time, but you'll be able to take the online test, using your own laptop, in the comfort of your own home, within 1 business day of completing the class.

More information is here. [CSM Training 2014](#) (624.13 kB)

Some Agile articles are in the Professional Development page on www.PittsburghPMI.org.

Please contact FredBKoos@IEEE.org for comments or questions.

Fred Koos, PE, PMP, CSM, VP Education Pittsburgh PMI

Agile PMI-ACP Certification Self-Organized Study Group

Our Agile PMI-ACP study group is running and gaining momentum.

We meet on WebEx at times that work for the members.

For information on how to joint this PMI-ACP Self-Organized Study Group or to attend please contact FredBKoos@IEEE.org.

PMP Preparation Class 2014

Become a certified PMP!

This is a great class at a great value for your preparation to become a PMP!

The PMP Preparation Class is planned to be held on five consecutive Saturdays starting in February 2015. Specific dates are TBD.

Each day is planned to run from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM with lunch and other snacks & beverages provided.

35 PDUs will be awarded!

This course includes a text book, study guide, online resources, practice exams, instructor support, and more!

We recommend to read and apply processes of the PMBOK® Guide now in preparation for your PMP exam.

Interested in being an instructor for future PMP review class?

Have questions about attending the PMP review class?

Please contact FredBKoos@IEEE.org

PMP/CAPM Certification Study Group

Complement PMP certification training with our live and online study group. This is a self-organized study group enabled by the Pittsburgh PMI Chapter.

Being “self-organized” we are looking for participants and facilitators for our succession plan.

PMP Volunteers are needed to answer questions during PMP Study Group sessions.

Please contact FredBKoos@IEEE.org to be a leader, participate or volunteer as a PMP.

Future Project Management Training in 2014

Please reply to FredBKoos@IEEE.org with suggestions for additional training offered by our Pittsburgh PMI Chapter for 2014.

Social Media Posting of Pittsburgh PMI Training Information

In addition to training information being posted on www.PittsburghPMI.org, information is often posted at the following social media locations.

- LinkedIn Group: Pittsburgh PMI
- Facebook: Project Management Institute-Pittsburgh Chapter
- Twitter: @PittsburghPMI (use hashtag #PitPMI for related tweets)

Other useful Twitter handles to follow are below.

- Twitter for our IT LIG: @Pgh_PMI_IT_LIG
- Twitter for PMI: @PMInstitute
- @Fred_Koos for tweets related to our events

Enjoy!

Outreach Events

Coffee Talks: Training with Caffeine

Join us for the Final Coffee Talk for 2014, “Mastering the Interview” with Rich Werdann!

This free event has only 35 seats available so register early, it will sell out quickly. As usual, complementary refreshments will be provided.

Sign up using our online registration on www.PittsburghPMI.org.

When: Thursday, 9/25/2014, 6:30 AM

Where: Kings Restaurant (5800 Grand Ave, Neville Island, PA 15225)

Topic: "Mastering the Interview" with Rich Werdann

PDU: Earn 1 PDU!

Registered attendees will get the presentation in advance to prepare personalized talking points that will be used during a discussion about how to approach the interview.

Volunteers during the discussion will receive supportive feedback not only from the Rich Werdann, an experienced interviewer, but also from the other attendees.

Lessons Learned Roundtable Discussion

Four times a year, the Outreach Committee looks to provide Project Managers with shared knowledge of past experiences from other Project Managers. Our program is called the Lessons Learned Round Table discussions. These quarterly meetings are scheduled at various locations throughout the Pittsburgh area. Our meetings are designed to allow those in attendance to share their insight on their own past experiences on various projects.

When: Wednesday, September 3rd 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Topic: Requirements Gathering Best Practices

Location: Eaton Corporation, 1000 Cherrington Parkway, Coraopolis, PA 15108

Cost: There is no cost to attend this meeting.

PDU/CEUs: 1

This event is now sold out! Please join us next time.

Contact: Lee Guo, lhguo3786@yahoo.com, with any questions/queries.

Academic Outreach

Volunteers Needed for Professional Development Units (PDU's) Opportunities

PMI Pittsburgh Academic Outreach is offering fun & easy opportunities for PMI credential holders to obtain PDU's in 2014-15 for Category D – Creating New Project Management Knowledge. We are seeking PMP, PgMP, PMI-RMP, PMI-SP, as well as CAPM Certified volunteers to share their project management knowledge/experiences with students at Western Pennsylvania colleges/universities. The list of PMI Pittsburgh Academic Outreach educational institutions includes, but is not limited to:

- Beaver County Community College,
- Carnegie Mellon University,
- Duquesne University,
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania,
- Geneva College,

- Pennsylvania State University – Beaver Campus,
- Robert Morris University,
- University of Pittsburgh.

Each presentation is scheduled for approximately one (1) hour, including 15 to 20 minutes for questions & answers, with typical range of topics starting from PMBOK knowledge areas; to PMBOK processes, tools, or techniques; to individual “real-life” project management experiences, as requested by the sponsoring professor/students. The venues for these presentations are all live class-room, on-campus at the Academic Outreach college/university of your choice.

Both, your time to prepare your presentation as well as the time to deliver it, can be claimed for PDU’s. Each hour of your preparation/delivery time qualifies for 1.0 PDU.

Interested volunteers are encouraged to contact PMI Pittsburgh Chapter – Director of Academic Outreach, Sam Provil, PMP (sprovil@provilassociates.com or 412-833-1115) for more information and to register as a volunteer speaker.

Volunteer today to take advantage of this fun & easy opportunity to give back to the project management profession as well as earn PDU’s for re-certification of your PMI Credential. And, who knows? Your presentation may even inspire a student to pursue a career in project management. Wow! Wouldn’t that be amazing?!

Corporate Outreach

The Project Management Company of the Year application is now available on the PMI Pittsburgh website.

The Project Management Institute is the world's leading not-for-profit professional membership association for the project, program and portfolio management profession. Founded in 1969, PMI delivers value for more than 2.9 million professionals working in nearly every country in the world through global advocacy, collaboration, education and research. PMI advances careers, improves organizational success and further matures the profession of project management through its globally recognized standards, certifications, resources, tools, academic research, publications, professional development courses, and networking opportunities. PMI has more than 250 chapters in more than 70 countries worldwide. Your local Pittsburgh chapter has been recognized for its involvement and unique member services locally, nationally and globally. Pittsburgh is leading the way in Project Management and we want to recognize the local companies that contribute to our goal of improving the Project Management profession!

It does not matter the size of your company or the current level of your project management maturity model, we are focused on identifying the company who has placed great focus on advancement and performance improvement of its project management practices over the last year.

This is a chance for your company to showcase its strengths and earn a distinction that attracts experienced project managers and makes you one of the best project management employers!

All applications are due by 11:59 pm on October 31, 2014. You may contact Jim Huber, Director of Corporate Outreach, with any questions or to submit your application at dir_outreach_corp@pittsburghpmi.org.

The Pittsburgh chapter looks forward to your submission!

Scholarships

The PMI Pittsburgh Carl Pritchard Scholarship:

The Carl Pritchard Scholarship supports development of the best and brightest future project management professionals in the Greater Pittsburgh area through learning opportunities. It was named in honor of Carl Pritchard, to express gratitude for his continuous support of the Pittsburgh Chapter.

Carl Pritchard has been a long-time member of the Pittsburgh chapter. He was keynote speaker at many of the Pittsburgh Chapter Meetings. Carl Pritchard has also offered our Chapter Members multiple opportunities to participate in his Pittsburgh based seminars. He is the principal and founder of Pritchard Management Associates and is a recognized lecturer, author, researcher, and instructor.

The scholarship is open to PMI Pittsburgh Chapter members and as well as non-chapter community members such as:

- College and University Students - Students at the bachelors, masters, and doctoral levels who are studying project management and related fields
- Educators - Primary and secondary school teachers and administrators who wish to implement project-based learning in the classroom
- Non Profits - Employees of non-profits and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who wish to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their operations
- Professionals - Project management practitioners, who wish to improve their professional capabilities

The scholarship will award a maximum of \$500 per year, which may be awarded in whole or in part to one or more individuals each time. The scholarship will be awarded to cover all or a portion of the tuition to a training seminar offered by the PMI Pittsburgh Chapter such as the PMP Preparation (PMP Prep) class or the Professional Development Day (PDD).

The official application will be available in early September here: [Scholarships](#). If you have any questions please contact Steve Boley at Steven.Boley@optum.com.

Membership

Your Chapter Needs You!

Contribute to the Pittsburgh Chapter, increase your professional network and get to know others involved in your profession. PMPs can earn valuable PDU's in addition to making a contribution to the Project Management Profession! Volunteers and Operational Team members earn up to 5 PDUs per year and elected officers earn up to 10 PDUs a Year. Check out the [chapter website](#) for more details...

New Chapter Members

As of September 2, 2014 the chapter has 1,397 members. Please join us in welcoming the following new chapter members:

[Altenbaugh, Andrew Bartle, Jessica Bellas, Sayantan Bhowmick, Mark Brado, Aimee Brown, Emily Burger, Tamberlyn Buse, Jeff Casciani, Jeffery Childress, Jennifer Clifton, Dennis Connelly, Matthew Curry, Lauren Dahl, Donna Desiderio, Rachael Devore, Cynthia Dillen, Edward Donehue, Shamon Ecung, Judy Falk, Joseph Gill, Scott Goldsmith, Kristy Golebiewski, Melissa Gottschalk, Christopher Gray, Daniel Gull, Roxanne Hammar, Sean Hansen, Luciane Haubach, Sam Henderson, Ann Marie Hepler, Katherine Hill, Mark Hoffmann, Deborah Jackson, Micah Karns, Brian Keenan, Tammy Keller, Joyce Kepner, Michael Kohler, Rohit Kulkarni, Lee Lundberg, Lynn Manfredo, Michael Mari, Brian McCombs, John McDonough, Sam Murgie, Tim Murray, Hitesh Nangrani, Nikki Natale, Amy Novak, Stephanie Pilarski, Matthew Shaffer, Roni Shwaish, Jennifer Syrylo, Chetananand Ullal, Vincent Wallander, Meredith Webb, David Wirth](#)

New Chapter Credentials

As of September 2, 2014 the chapter has 1,021 credentials in the membership (PMP®, CAPM®, PMI-RMP®, PMI-ACP®, PGMP®). Please join us in congratulating the following new chapter members that received a new credential:

[Lee Bannister PMP, Patrick Beggy PMP, Sayantan Bhowmick PMP, Joseph Bonazza PMP, Michael Chernysh PMP, Sarah Chverchko PMP, Amy Couch Schultz PMP, Eric Daggett PMP, Page Davies PMP, David DeFazio PMP, Shamon Ecung PMP, Jason Hartz PMP, Ann Marie Hepler PMP, Guorong Huang, Ph.D.PMP, Elizabeth Johnsen PMP, Tammy Keller PMP, Leonora Koranchie - Boah PMP, Sally Krayner PMP, Stefan Levine PMP, Aaron Richardson PMP, Dale Schartner PMP, Matthew Shaffer PMP, Kaushik Sivasubramanian PMP, Susan Trkula PMP, Philip Wilson PMP, Donald Wilson PMP](#)

Contacts

Click to view the [Pittsburgh PMI chapter contacts](#).

Additional Announcements

Election Time!

It's not too early to start thinking about 2015 and helping our chapter move forward in new and exciting ways. We will be holding elections in October (please make sure that your membership contact information is up to date at www.pmi.org to ensure that you receive your ballot so that you can cast your vote!) and are looking for a few good men and women to run for the following positions:

- **President Elect:** shall assume the office of the President of the PMI PITTSBURGH CHAPTER at the end of the current President's term of office. Duties include, but are not limited to, assisting the President in liaison with PMI® if and when required, assist with special projects, seminars or meetings, and become cognizant of the duties of the President. This officer shall be elected in even numbered years, corresponding to the election prior to the beginning of the second year of the PRESIDENT's term.
- **VP, Communication and Publicity:** shall keep the records of all business meetings of the PMI PITTSBURGH CHAPTER and meetings of the Board, and be considered the Secretary for the board. Duties include but are not limited to the responsibility of timely dissemination of information both to and from the Chapter membership, publicity of the PMI Pittsburgh Chapter and PMI® to internal and external publications through partnering with local businesses, governmental and educational organizations. This officer shall be elected in even numbered years.
- **VP, Programs:** shall facilitate program events for the monthly PMI PITTSBURGH CHAPTER meetings, and other programs as needed. The duties include but are not limited to managing all efforts related to the delivery of interesting and educational programs by competent speakers, and ensuring all necessary arrangements are made for the monthly PMI PITTSBURGH CHAPTER meetings. This officer shall be elected in even numbered years.
- **VP, Outreach:** Outreach shall facilitate activities outside the customary functions of the PMI PITTSBURGH CHAPTER to interact with the community, including employers of project managers, non-profit organizations, and other professional organizations. Duties include but are not limited to managing all efforts related to the interaction of the chapter and the employers of project managers, as well as those organizations that can be served by project management expertise. This officer shall be elected in even numbered years.

These Board positions are open to members of the Pittsburgh Chapter and represent a two (2) year commitment, with the exception of the President-Elect, which comes with a three (3) year commitment.

More information about these positions, and the operations of the Pittsburgh Chapter Board of Directors, can be found in our chapter by-laws which can be found on our website, www.pittsburghpmi.org, or by talking to any of the members of the Board. Interested in one of these positions? Please reach out to Susan Keaney at skeaney@comcast.net or 412.414.6881 by September 15, 2014.

Volunteer Dinner

We had another great year and are very thankful for the volunteers that have helped us make this Chapter successful. We have over 100 volunteers in this chapter!

We celebrated with our volunteers at Jergels on August 14. If you were not able to attend, we missed you! If you'd like to attend next year's event, it's not too late to start volunteering. We have many opportunities for you to volunteer - whether it be just a few hours, or a somewhat greater time commitment. Please reach out to anyone on the board or watch the newsletter and website if you are interested or want to find out more.