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UPCOMING
MEETING
DATES :

- > **September 17, 2013**—“Becoming Agile” Dinner event in Rochester, MN
- > **September 26, 2013**—“Positive Project Stress” Dinner event in La Crosse, WI
- > **October 25, 2013**—“Storytelling for Effective Change” half day workshop in Rochester, MN

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends

On behalf of the PMI La Crosse—Rochester Chapter Board, I welcome you to 2013-14 season. It is a privilege and an honor to lead the Chapter along with elected board members with the objective of strengthening the project management community in La Crosse and Rochester regions.

I take this opportunity to also thank outgoing President Laura Davis and board members for successfully completing the 2012-13 term and making chapter very strong. Our membership has grown to a record number now and I, with help from the board, will continue to set the trend. I urge everyone from PMI La Crosse—Rochester Chapter Project Management Community for an active involvement and share ideas on how we can do better. Please

try best to attend all our events in your area. I think that is how we can stay engaged and be involved. The new board is young and energetic and we assure you of organizing many exciting events this year.

We are also excited to inform you all about the chapter name change "PMI La Crosse—Rochester Chapter" which will be in effect this season. The new name will fill the gap between Rochester and La Crosse communities and reduce any confusion on areas our chapter covers. Marketing efforts are in full swing to inform everyone about this change. With a new name comes a fresh start to the mission and vision of the chapter.

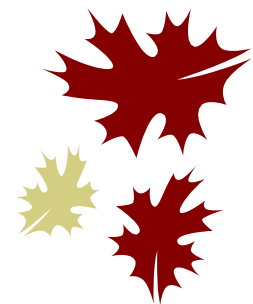
- **Mission:** Advancing project management best practices through education and networking
- **Vision:** Providing value to the practitioners, the organizations and the communities we serve by promoting project management best practices.

To end this note, I want to give my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who willingly spared their invaluable time in hosting and participating in all our events. If you are interested in contributing to the various opportunities as a volunteer or if you wish to participate in any of the events, please write to any of the board members. We look forward to serving you through these various initiatives. I eagerly look forward to your contribution and participation. Please feel free to contact me at president@lacrossepmi.org. I wish you all the very best.

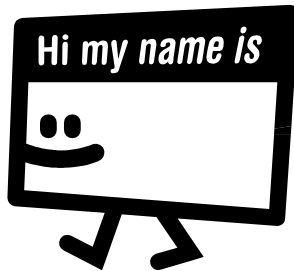
Thank you,

Ajay Singh

PMI La Crosse—Rochester
Chapter President



INTRODUCING "PMI LA CROSSE-ROCHESTER CHAPTER"



As you notice from our new PMI logo on this newsletter, we are delighted to announce the official chapter name change to PMI La Crosse - Rochester Chapter.

The new name change reflects our dedication to expand our chapter activities and events in the La Crosse, WI area in addition to Rochester, MN.

In the upcoming months, we will communicate changes to the chapter website, presentations, and other

promotional items.

We look forward to continuous success sharing with our PMI members about the progress and changes we are making under the new chapter name. As always, we will continue to serve you with the same devotion and quality which you come to expect from us.

UPDATE TO PMI CHAPTER POLICIES: ADVANCE PAY AND CANCELLATION POLICY

What—no more pay at the door?!?!?

Yes—that is correct. Beginning in September 2013, the PMI Chapter Board has updated the Advance Pay Policy and the Cancellation Policy. The removal of “pay at the door” is to aid in more appropriate planning and preparation for the Chapter events and the associated fees, such as speaker fees and catering.

More importantly, this will allow for a quicker registration once at a PMI Event.

Please note the updated policies located on the PMI La Crosse—Rochester Chapter Website: www.lacrossepmi.org

We appreciate your flexibility and understanding with this update.

MEET THE PMI LA CROSSE-ROCHESTER CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS :

PMI Chapter President, Ajay Singh—Ajay is a strategic, results-oriented certified Project Management Professional (PMP), with 18 years working in software solutions with proven track record in managing delivery of software development projects. Currently he works as Program Manager in US Bank. Prior to taking the President role he was VP of Events – Rochester for 2 years and Vice president of the chapter for another 2 years. He is also vice president of another volunteer organization of Indian Community in Rochester. He loves sports and is fan of cricket.

PMI Chapter Vice President, Steve Haack —Steve is an IT Lead Systems Analyst at Mayo Clinic who enjoys running programs or many projects. Steve was the VP of Events—Rochester prior to the role of Vice President. Outside of work, Steve enjoys going up to Minneapolis, boating, and is a leader at his church.

VP of Finance, Ryan Trannel—Ryan works at Ingersoll Rand supporting Trane in La Crosse as an IT Project Manager. Ryan has been with the company's IT organization for 15 years, in a project management role for 7.

VP of Communications, Sara Peplinski—Sara Peplinski is new to the PMI Chapter Board this year. Sara has worked at Mayo Clinic for nearly 5 years in Rochester, and is currently an IT Associate Project Manager. She is originally from and has recently moved back to Onalaska, WI, so she shares the best of both worlds for the Chapter of commuting between La Crosse and Rochester. Sara has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from College of Saint Benedict and a Master's degree in Project Management from Saint Mary's University. Outside of managing projects, Sara enjoys reading and running.

VPN of Events—La Crosse, Stephanie Downey — Stephanie, PMP, is an IT Project Manager with Kaplan in La Crosse. She has worked at Kaplan for more than five years, but has only survived one of those with IT. Prior to working at Kaplan, Stephanie spent a decade working late nights putting newspapers together. As VP of events, she looks forward to presenting the stories of project managers from the La Crosse area, as well soft skills, humor, and national speakers. When not working for PMI or acting as "Darth Downey, Project Manager" at Kaplan, Stephanie enjoys spending time with her husband, Denis, and her children, Elly (6), and Will (2).

VP of Events—Rochester, Jackie Rasmusson (Wright) — Jackie joined Mayo Clinic in 1998, and is currently a Senior Project Manager in the Enterprise Portfolio Management Office (EPMO). In this role, she leads a wide range of Project, Program, and Portfolio Management activities for Mayo Clinic enterprise wide, including standards, education, and consulting. Jackie has a passion for portfolio and project management work occurring at Mayo Clinic, and believes in the is brings to Mayo. She is excited about the benefits maturation of portfolio and project management will bring to this organization. Jackie is a certified PMP, with a Master's degree from Saint Mary's University, and a Bachelor's degree from Winona State University.

VP of Membership, Eric Pool — Eric has been employed by Mayo Clinic since 2007. He currently works as an IT Associate Project Manager in the Administrative Applications Project Management Office managing projects and creating metrics for the section. He has completed his Master of Business Management degree through Cardinal Stritch University and is currently working towards completing a doctoral program in Organization Development at the University of Saint Thomas.

VP of Marketing, Ingy Salib — Ingy has been serving in different roles with PMI La Crosse- Rochester since 2009. She is currently working at the regional office for Interstate Hotels and Resorts in Rochester, MN. Ingy has completed her Master's degree in Project Management in 2011. She also has acquired the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certificate in 2009 and PMP certified in 2013. Ingy has solid experience managing diverse projects life cycles through all phases, as well as an In-depth knowledge and experience in cost management, time management, risk management, and integration management. She is responsible and accountable for the coordinated management of interrelated projects directed toward strategic business goals.



PMP® EXAM LESSONS LEARNED FROM THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN THERE

Are you considering studying for and obtaining your Project Management Professional (PMP)® Certification? Are you wondering what study tools and methods others have used successfully? Are you interested in reading about the exam experiences of those who have recently passed the PMP® Exam? Then there is a forum you should check out on The PM PrepCast website. All of the posts are lessons learned and tips from those who have recently become Project Management Professionals and who probably started with the same questions and concerns that you have.

Let's take a look at one example from this forum. It was written by Amar Roy, PMP shortly after he obtained his PMP® Certification and contains the following insights into how the exam went for him.

Lessons learned and tips related to registering for the PMP® Exam:

- Decide on a timeline for when you want to sit for the exam, and based on that, plan your preparation.
- As soon as you have your 35 contact hours, register to take the PMP® Exam. This will help you to accelerate your planning process.
- Become a PMI member before registering for the PMP® Exam; this will save you some money on study materials.
- The PMP® Exam application process is a timely affair. You will need to provide a description of the project(s) you were involved with and your role across each of the process groups. Make sure you have a detailed project-experience history before you start; this will save you a lot of time!

Lessons learned and tips related to PMP® Exam study materials:

- Read the most current version of The PMBOK® Guide from cover to cover twice; once early in the study process and again a couple of weeks before your exam date. The first reading will help to determine areas that need more focus, and the reading before the exam will reinforce concepts.
- Additional suggested readings are the "The PMP Exam: How to Pass on Your First Try, Fourth Edition" by Andy Crowe, PMP, PgMP and the "PMP Exam Prep, Sixth Edition: Rita's Course in a Book for Passing the PMP Exam" by Rita Mulcahy. Both of these texts have chapter tests included that you can use to gauge your PMP® knowledge.

Lessons learned and tips related to PMP® Exam practice tests:

- Take at least 4-5 full length practice exams and have a goal in mind such as obtaining at least a 75% on each exam. Don't get discouraged if you don't reach your goal for the first exam. It will give you a good understanding of what you

still need to learn, and you should get better with each exam.

- Sitting for a four-hour exam can be rough. Build in breaks such as 5 minutes after the first 75 questions, 5 more minutes after the next 75 questions, and 10 minutes after the last 50 questions; then go back and review and revise your answers for the remainder of the time. If you practice this method, it will feel natural during the exam.
- Make note of new concepts you come across in the practice exams; not all questions on the PMP® Exam come from the PMBOK® Guide.
- Analyze the results of your practice exams to identify where you need to focus your study efforts.

Lessons learned and tips related to taking the PMP® Exam:

- Know where your exam site is. Stop by the site a week before the test. This will reduce your stress on exam day a lot!
- Make sure you know what identification you need such as passport or driver's license to take the PMP® Exam.
- Ensure you get a good night's sleep.
- Take a bottle of water and snacks with you.

Lessons learned and tips related to the PMP® Exam questions:

- Make sure you know the difference between Quality Assurance and Quality Control.
- There are a good number of questions pertaining to Procurement, Integration, Risk, and Scope Management.
- Make sure you clearly understand Human Resource, Communication, Quality, Cost, and Time Management.
- Understand the concept of Professional Responsibility.
- Understand the concepts around earned value, if you practice the calculations a few times, you will be ready.
- Make sure you understand other formulas such as expected monetary value, three-point estimate, PERT, network-related calculations, and communication channels.

These are just a few examples of the PMP® Exam related lessons learned and tips offered by those who have recently been in your shoes. You can access these lessons learned tips and many more in The PM PrepCast forum at <http://www.pm-prepcast.com/ll>.

By Cornelius Fichtner, PMP - Helping you prepare for the PMP Certificate

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO...



Congrats to new PMP's!

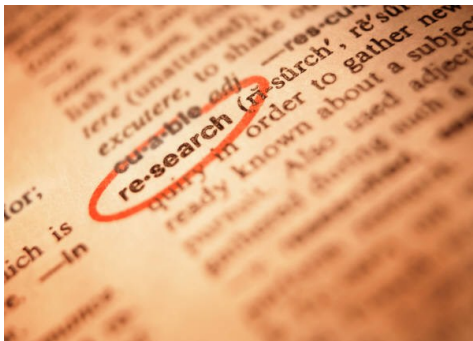
- Krysta Lambert, PMP
- Kim Staudinger, PMP

Welcome New PMI Chapter Members!

- Jennifer Bishop
- Kelly Lisick



Opportunity ahead!



Yolanda Cannady, PMI Member, is a doctoral student at Capella University and is currently trying to recruit virtual project teams or team members for a qualitative study titled **“Valued Project Team Leader Qualities and Preferred Communication Methods in Virtual Project Teams”**.

The purpose of the study is to ascertain the leadership qualities and communication tools that facilitate successful project completion on virtual project teams.

For more information and to participate, please contact Yolanda Cannady @ cannady@q.com

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS !

We would not be able to hold the chapter events and activities without YOU! The PMI La Crosse—Rochester Chapter is always in need of volunteers to help with Board activities and Chapter events.

Contact us to see how you can get engaged at www.lacrossepmi.org



Please be sure to “like” the PMI La Crosse—Rochester Chapter page on Facebook!



Scan the QR code to connect with the Project Management Institute La Crosse – Rochester Chapter group in LinkedIn!



PMI LA CROSSE— ROCHESTER CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

PMI La Crosse Chapter

PO Box 548

La Crosse, WI 54601

For more contact information to the PMI La Crosse—Rochester Chapter Board Members, please visit:

www.lacrossepmi.org

Global Knowledge – Local Networking