

Volunteers are Priceless

By Steven Lundquist, PMP, PMI-ACP, M.SC.

"Volunteers are not paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless" - Unknown Author

We recently celebrated Veteran's Day, and gave thanks to those around us who have served. As a veteran, I can say those thanks are sincerely appreciated, and very welcome. I would also like to point out that all of us can dedicate ourselves to service, and it doesn't need to be in the military. No need to get shot at! Volunteerism to causes and organizations is also a very worthwhile way to serve, and in many cases, can have a more immediate and visible impact on your life and your community.

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Writing Better User Stories

Our Chapter meeting will be two weeks early, so register now for Writing Better User Stories on December 6.

As teams incorporate Agile techniques for project management, the creation of User Stories tends to be a stumbling block. In this talk, Lisa Sieverts, PMP, PMI-ACP, will show us how to write useful and usable User Stories.

Lisa will discuss the difference between Waterfall and Agile projects and show how User Stories uncover project requirements in an iterative and light-weight manor.

By encouraging strategic thinking, she will demonstrate how good stories allow teams to quickly deliver business value. Lisa will also focus on techniques for splitting User Stories and will make the case that "a small story is a good story." Attendees will have the opportunity to practice splitting User Stories by applying practical techniques for writing useful and usable User Stories.

For more information about [Writing Better User Stories](#) and the presenter, Lisa Sieverts, click the link or visit the events page of the Chapter calendar. To register, visit the www.pmi-nh.org home page and select the Dec 6 link in Upcoming Events.

Reminder, Reminder, Reminder

The December Chapter meeting will be held on December 6. Register early.

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Chapter Meeting Ticket Change

Starting in January, when you register for chapter meetings and you sign up for dinner, early bird discounts will only be available if you pay when you register. This will allow our meeting planners to provide an accurate dinner count for the location. Paying at the door will still be available for speaker-only attendance.

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The [Harvard study](#)* outlines many benefits, including those that can improve your personal wellbeing. Basically, you will connect more with people around you and your community. As social animals, humans desire that connection, and it is vital to our health and wellbeing. That is an awesome WIIFM benefit that people don't talk about much. Suffice it to say, volunteering can help you live longer, happier, and a more productive life, no matter what organization you give your time and effort to. If you want more information or a better summary of the report, [HelpGuide.org published an article about this](#).

Of course, the [PMI Volunteering website page](#) also describes the benefits of volunteering. Those include benefits that we are used to hearing:

- Build a professional network.
- Gain skills and experience.
- Develop as a leader.

These are also great benefits, and probably the first ones you thought of when I mentioned the WIIFM. They are probably also the first reasons you've heard from anyone asking you to volunteer for an organization. Volunteering for the PMI New Hampshire Chapter is especially more relevant to the specific skills and leadership areas that you work in, and should definitely coincide with any career advancement goals you may have.

The benefits described on the [PMI Volunteering](#) page and the [PMI New Hampshire Volunteering](#) page are common answers to "Why Volunteer?" questions, but we should not lose sight of the "softer" benefits.

Of course, there are other reasons to volunteer aside from WIIFM. The biggest being that many organizations *need* you, and it is a socially responsible thing to do. The health and happiness, or professional benefits, are for you. The actual volunteering you do keeps organizations such as the PMI New Hampshire Chapter actually functioning and providing the benefits to thousands of people throughout the state. The sense of service may be what contributes to the sense of happiness and wellbeing, but speaking more pragmatically, knowing that you can make a real difference to thousands of people is a just reward. For me, it is a continuation of that sense of service I got while on active duty. And I would love for you to be able to feel that as well.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Chapter, please reach out to any member of the Board, and let them know. The chapter has many projects and initiatives that we can put your talents and energy to. And consider leadership positions in the chapter. That is where you can have the greatest impact on the organization, as well as on yourself.

* Digital copies of the Harvard Medical Publications report cost \$18 each.

Studies prove that volunteering improves your personal health and wellbeing

The New Hampshire Chapter needs you so we remain a strong professional organization

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For the complete description of this position, visit the www.pmi-nh.org, Get Involved page and click [9.3_DirectorNetworking.pdf](#).

Director of Programs

The Chapter is also looking for a volunteer to fill the Director of Programs position. Here is a quick summary of the responsibilities:

- Contact, schedule and secure quality presenters for chapter events.
- Work with presenters so they understand the audience, the PMP role, and how the topic relates to the PMI talent triangle.
- Work with presenters collecting event descriptions, biographical information, and assisting with travel arrangements.
- Update the chapter's programs calendar, maintain the CRM database, and manage the approved programs budget.

For the complete description of this position, visit the www.pmi-nh.org, Get Involved page and click [9.1_DirectorPrograms.pdf](#).

More Opportunities

Additional open positions where you can get involved include Director of Marketing, Director of Academic Outreach, Director of New Media, Director of Projects, Director of Mentoring, and Election Committee members. For more information, [Get Involved](#) page of the New Hampshire Chapter website.

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." – Winston Churchill

Remember the Food Bank

Winter and the holidays are a tough time for people who need help. The New Hampshire Chapter helps as a sponsor of the New Hampshire Food Bank.

Remember to bring non-perishable food products with you to every Chapter meeting you attend. Or, if you can't attend in person, you can send a check. Make it payable to NH Food Bank and mail it to 700 E Industrial Park Drive, Manchester, NH 03109.



www.nhfoodbank.com

Do You Know Excellent Project Managers?

Please submit your nominations for project management professionals, organizations, and projects for the PMI New Hampshire Chapter Awards. The goal of this program is to recognize the outstanding efforts of our members, those who support them, and who they support. This program also increases the visibility of the New Hampshire Chapter in the state and in our local communities. The 2017 award winners will be announced at the May Chapter meeting.

For more information visit the [Awards and Recognition](#) page of the PMI New Hampshire website. Using the forms at the bottom of the page, submit your choices for Project Managers, Projects, and Organizations to President-Elect, Nora Colliton at president-elect@pmi-nh.org.

Recognizing 2016 Excellence Award Winners

In May, the New Hampshire Chapter recognized the project manager, project, and organization that exhibited superior performance, superior organizational results, and positively impacted society. Here are the candidates and winners.

Project Manager of the Year

- Winner, Jason Hui, PMP (Photo on right)
- Runner up, Lora Bates

Project of the Year

- SNOW Project, KMC System at Elbit Systems of America (Photo on page 6.)



Project Manager of the Year Winner, Jason Hui, PMP, receives recognition award from President, Steve Lundquist



Accepting the award for Project of the Year, Paul Dahlstrom

Company of the Year

- Winner, Elbit Systems of America (Acceptance photo, right.)
- Measured Progress (Photo of candidates on Page 6.)



Leanne Collazzo, accepting the award for Company of the Year, Elbit Systems of America

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Members of the Snow Project, Left to Right: Pete Marin, Paul Dahlstrom, David Penfield



Measured Progress Candidates, Left to Right: Gayle O'Connor, Julia McIntosh, PMP, Dr. Margie Gaines McCaw PhD, PMP, Martin Borg