PMI-NH Chapter Newsletter

August – September 2010

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Date:	**Wednesday, September 22, 2010**
Time:	6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Place:	The Yard, – Manchester, NH
Cost:	$25.00 for members
Topic:	**Agile Leadership and Management of Change – Project Lessons from Winston Churchill**
Speaker:	**Mark Kozak-Holland**

——— **Early discount through September 17** ———

Please visit www.pmi-nh.org/meetings.htm
for additional details about this upcoming meeting.

Inside This Issue:

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings,

It's hard to believe that the summer is nearly over. In fact, when we meet again it will be the Autumn Equinox!

We have a fabulous schedule for the coming year and I can't wait to share with you our fall schedule of meeting events. Additionally, we have a few fun surprises in store for all members that attend the chapter meetings. Our goal is to make our monthly PMI-NH Chapter meetings educationally enriching, networking worthy, fun, and perhaps, even memorable.

Looking at what's new this year for the PM-NH Chapter...

Over the coming membership year we will continue to build stronger ties with all of our chapter members across the Granite State. We had a fantastic July Chapter meeting in downtown Nashua that was an "eye-opener" for me regarding our membership turnout. I was humbled and pleased by the amount of attendees on such short notice and as well as energized by the enthusiastic participation that ensued. As a result of that meeting we will be announcing and kicking off member suggested volunteerism efforts that I believe will make a positive impact on the great people of this state.

Please make the effort to come to the September Chapter Meeting and help us kick off the start of the new season. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,
Salvatore Angelone, PMP
President

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at:
president@pmi-nh.org

Volunteers needed:

Vacancies

The following Board positions are open:

Director Sponsorship

Director of Communications

If you are interested in serving, please contact president@pmi-nh.org for more details.

New Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire chapter of the Project Management Institute – We wish a warm welcome to our newest members

Mr. Thomas Smith, PMP

Andrea Moy, PMP
Director of Membership

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netPM
PMI New Hampshire Chapter's Networking Group

Networking *by* Project Managers *for* Project Managers

- **Regular bi-weekly meetings in Derry, NH.**
- **No cost to chapter members.**
- **Visit the chapter website at PMI-NH.org for more details, schedule, and contact information.**

Next meeting: Thursday, September 16

Topic: Challenges, Methods and Advantages of Technical Consulting Opportunities

For more information visit the group web page at:
http://www.pmi-nh.org/netPM.htm

Once a PMP, always a PMP
The path to Recertification – Part II

By Claudia Richards, PgMP, PMP

In Part 1 we examined why it was important to keep earning PDU's during the entire 3-year cycle. In this part I'll review the categories in detail and review strategy on how to collect the 60 PDU's required over the 3-year cycle.

Category 1 – This is a PM-Related (not well defined) course from a college or university for degree credit. You get one PDU for each degree credit, so a 15-credit semester course would yield 15 PDU's.

Category 2 – this category has 9 subcategories, as follows:

- **2a:** Author of a PM article in a refereed journal (30 PDU's), or co-author (20 PDU's)
- **2b:** Author of a PM article in a non-refereed journal (15 PDU's), or co-author (10 PDU's)
- **2c:** PM Speaker at a conference, symposium, or formal course (10 PDU's)
- **2d:** PM Speaker at PMI chapter meeting (5 PDU's)
- **2f:** Author of a PM textbook (40 PDU's) or co-author (20 PDU's)
- **2g:** Developer of content for structured PM learning program (10 PDU's)
- **2h:** Practitioner of PM at least 1500 hours/year (max 5 PDU's/year, 15 PDU's/cycle)
- **2SDL**: Individual PM-related learning, research, study, or coaching. 1 PDU for each hour, maximum of 15 PDU's for this category per cycle.

Category 3 – Courseware from PMI REPs, 1 PDU granted for each hour of training.

Category 4 – Courseware from other PM training providers, 1 PDU granted for each hour of training. If you take a seminar at a conference that has PM as the subject, or other courseware NOT from an REP, it would be recorded here.

Category 5 – Volunteer Service to Professional or Community Organizations
NOTE: "PM organizations" described below are meant to be official PM organizations, like PMI chapters, not committees within your company.

- ➢ Officer in PM organization
- • Minimum of 3 months, 2 PDU's per year
- • 6 months service yields 5 PDU's per year
- • 12 months service yields 10 PDU's per year

- ➢ Committee member in PM organization
- • Minimum of 3 months, 1 PDU per year
- • 6 months service yields 3 PDU's per year
- • 12 months service yields 5 PDU's per year

- ➢ PM-related services to community or charitable group (5 PDU's per year) – here you would indeed count your efforts in coordinating a fundraiser for the town, religious group, boy or girl scouts, or if you gave a presentation on PM to a local school.

STRATEGY

So let's look at this from a very pragmatic, strategic perspective. **We need 60 PDU's to be collected in each 3-year cycle.** There are a few obvious sources for "mining" PDU's.

Some to focus on right away:

Category 2h: In my opinion, as a practicing PM we should be able to claim 15 PDU's *per cycle* under category 2h.

Category 2SDL: If you are doing the normal reading of PM magazines, listening to podcasts, reading books, blogs, and such, this should yield 15 PDU's *per cycle* from category 2SDL.

Guest Article – Once a PMP, always a PMP
(cont'd)

That means we have collected **30 of the required 60 PDU's** by simply doing our job and keeping current with the profession! Put your non-REP, self-study hours in this category.

So we're down to 30 PDU's needed per cycle – this is 10 PDU's per year.

Here's how to get those 10 PDU's without spending much money.

- You could get 10 PDU's from **Category 2c** by running a workshop or a class for other Project Managers within your company.

- You can take free webinars offered by IIL, Cheetah, Gantthead, or other on-line providers (www.iil.com , www.cheetahpm.com, www.gantthead.com) - and get 1 **Category 3** PDU for each hour.

- If you already volunteer (as an officer or otherwise) at a non-profit organization (i.e. social, religious, scouting) and are indeed providing project management services (i.e. managing a fundraiser) you can give yourself 5 **Category 5** PDU's per year for that work – be ready to support that with documentation from the organization.

- Participation in PMI-sponsored Roundtables (check your local Chapter), the PDU's from this activity would go to **Category 4**

- You can attend your annual local PMI Chapter conference, picking up (depends on the Chapter) about 8 PDU's. These PDU's would go **to Category 4**.

- Speak at your local PMI Chapter – perhaps bringing some work experience to the chapter, and grant yourself 5 PDU's from **Category 2d**.

If you *can* get approval to take some PM training, obviously there is quite a bit of opportunity to gain PDU's via Categories 3 and 4. Your management should support you in this effort, especially, if you are in need of the PDU's and the courseware is appropriate to your work as a PM. Obviously, each company has differing philosophies around this and some may not be willing to fund on-going PM education. Check with your management.

You can read all of the details on recertification at the PMI web page. As this was being written, that link is:

http://www.pmi.org/CareerDevelopment/Pages/MaintainYourCredential.aspx

The double benefit

Remember that any training you get for PDU's not only gets you those PDU's but also may count towards any company requirements for training.

A disclaimer

The PMI is quite capable of changing their requirements for recertification and may do so at any time. That's why you should double-check what you read here with the PMI web page above.

Good luck! And please don't let your hard-earned PMP lapse!

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The Alternate Angle…on Agile icebergs

The word 'Titanic' has been used in some sentences as 'Agile', so it's pretty clear that while there are good concepts behind the Agile method, there are also icebergs out there as well.

Project metrics done wrong in Agile can turn out to be one of these icebergs.

A cross section of thought on applying project metrics in Agile show there's a confusing philosophy that should be alarming if you are considering the wholesale adoption of Agile methodology.

Here's a brief sample of what I mean:

- **"...traditional measures don't line up very naturally with agile thinking and agile practices, especially measures that are concerned with tracking team members' time and comparing estimated and actual task duration's."**
  http://agile2009.agilealliance.org/node/3000

- **" Ensure that metrics don't demoralize the team. "**

- **" Use metrics as a basis for discussion, not as a final decision point. "**
  http://www.developer.com/tech/article.php/3 715196/Principles-for-Agile-Metrics.htm

One takeaway from what's been quoted is we want to be measuring things using Agile, but nothing is going to get in the way of team members self esteem or whether performance meets what was planned.

This is an un-realistic view to take unless you are the one writing the check to cover the cost of the project.

Metrics and team member concerns are a valid issue. Especially with projects involving development where the team is headed off into uncharted water such as a new product. Skill and self-confidence collide with the reality that the task may not be easy or the path to success perfectly clear.

Using solid project metrics is the only way to know where you are in relation to where you've come from and where you plan to go.

What's seems to be getting mixed up in Agile is the function of a project and a project manager versus meeting the needs of team members.

Some organizations have the need to see people 'doing' in addition to 'project managing' since resources (read people) are in short supply and you get one individual to fill two roles.

Agile seems to bring out the best in this 'split personality' at the sake of what's needed most on a complex project with high stakes (read as a chance of losing a lot of money). It's crucial to understand exactly what the end point is and continually measuring and adjusting to get there while working within given constraints.

Esteem, growth, professional development, career paths and satisfaction issues really belong solely to the 'team lead' role.

Establishing project metrics based on individual needs rather than business needs leaves everyone involved at risk of failure.

Metrics in project management, whether Agile or not, are best when not served squishy.

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The Alternate Angle is a commentary on issues in project management. Feedback is welcome at newsletter@pmi-nh.org.

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