PMI-NH Chapter Newsletter

October 2009

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

December 2, 2009 (Wednesday)

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
The Yard
Manchester, NH

Topic: **Personal Organization & Time for Project Managers**

Speaker: Star Dargin
Star Leadership, LLC
Given a finite number of days to deliver a project, how should a Project Manager spend that time?

Discount cutoff date: November 27

Please visit: www.pmi-nh.org/meetings.htm **for details.**

Inside This Issue:

Editor's Note

Your contributions and ideas for upcoming newsletters are welcome and can earn PDU's!

Contact me at:
Newsletter@PMI-NH.org.

Steven Lapinskas, PMP
Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Please see the chapter web site for the latest President's message from Ray Peeples.

New Chapter Initiative

netPM

PMI New Hampshire Chapter's Networking Group

Networking *by* Project Managers *for* Project Managers

- **Regular bi-weekly meetings held in Derry, NH. No cost to chapter members.**

- **Networking and job search help to out-of-work members**

- **Next meeting being held on October 29, 2009**

- **See Pg. 4 or visit the chapter website at PMI-NH.org for more information and contact details.**

Chapter Member Volunteer Profile

Ambassador Program

Dave Connors from Hampton, NH is Chairman of the PMI New Hampshire Ambassador program.

What's the program about?

Gary O'Kula, a previous President and a chapter-founding member instituted the Ambassador program close to 3 years ago.

The program objectives are to reach out to New Hampshire colleges, business and industry and expose them to the PMI–New Hampshire Chapter and the project management profession in general.

Specifically, this is done by offering free mentoring sessions designed for company business meetings or departmental staff meetings.

As part of the chapter Ambassador we make our services available for times during the day such as a coffee klatch, or informal lunch session.

To help make those interested more familiar with project management we have covered topics such as:

- Introduction to the PMI NH Chapter
- PM 101 - What is Project Management?
- What is the value of implementing project management?
- What is a Project Management Professional?
- What is a Project Management Office?
- PMI vs. Six-Sigma
- Triple Constraints and the PM Role.
- Earned Value overview
- What is a Critical Path and how do I know I am on it?

The Ambassador is an outreach program. Rather than present education on each topic, we structure between 30 and 45 minutes as an overview of the topic.

A brief Q&A session follows this where a person or company having interest in the profession can get an overview about the things we do. This also presents the chance to clarify a business need or show the benefit from instituting project management techniques in their organization.

The Ambassador program for the PMI–NH is listed on the chapter web site. But, you can help spread the word about benefits of using structured project management and PMI.

If you've had discussions with others about the benefits of project management, being a PMP, or other PMI certification, consider having them get in touch with me.

I welcome referrals to the program and and can be contacted by email at: Ambassador@PMI-NH.org or by phone at (603) 380-0556.

Dave Connors, PMP, has extensive experience that includes a career of 32 years at IBM in technical project management and numerous seminars in project management principles at Boston University and the University of New Hampshire. Dave's background includes a B.S. degree from Boston University and a M.S. in Computer Science from Syracuse University.

GUEST ARTICLE

The Myth About Project Managers
by Lisa DiTullio

Let's get out of the dark ages and admit what we know. Project manager is a misnomer.

We don't manage projects, we drive change.

Set aside the process and tactics associated with projects and you will easily separate those who manage projects versus those who lead.

Leadership is not about your credentials or accomplishments; it's about your presence. It's what's inside you that makes you stand out to others. Simply stated, leadership is often defined by how others view you.

In today's frenetic business environment, it gets complicated. You know you have experience and knowledge, yet others see it as arrogance. When you believe you are contributing in a real and meaningful way, others see it as butting in. When you think you are delegating effectively, others see it as shirking responsibility. Strong leaders just can't win.

Only in the last five years have project managers been recognized as needing keen technical skills and top management skills to be effective. In fact, some believe grooming project managers with a 360-degree focus on all key leadership attributes is a successful recipe for creating future business leaders and CEOs. Do you have what it takes to reach this level?

We can teach project managers process and technique; true leadership is harder to grasp and often the differentiating factor between success and failure.

Set aside your methodology, your tools, and your checklists for just a moment and consider these questions as you assess your leadership attributes:

- Do you inspire a shared vision?
- Do you encourage both the head and the heart?
- Do you inspire trust?
- Do you have a long-term perspective?
- Do you act as an innovator?
- Do you focus on people?
- Do you give purpose and meaning?
- Are you committed to the cause?

Now that you have contemplated these questions of yourself, consider the most important question: How would others answer these questions of you? Strong leaders must obtain honest, helpful feedback. How many times have you asked for feedback today? In the last week? In the last month?

Take the first step to improve your leadership qualities today. Be brave and ask for feedback. Then be courageous and act upon it.

About the Author:

Lisa DiTullio is principal of Lisa DiTullio & Associates, LLC, a practice dedicated to introducing project management as a business competency - enabling organizations to improve decision making, instill accountability and enhance communications. Visit www.lisaditullio.com for program and service offerings.

netPM PMI–NH Chapter Networking Group

netPM is the new chapter networking group organized by members Howie Lyhte, Jan Wells, and John Sherman. netPM is offered to chapter members at *no* additional cost.

The unique advantage of netPM over other networking groups is that it focuses on Project Managers helping other Project Managers.

Too often a Project Manager wastes precious time in explaining what he/she does to a non-understanding support group.

Project Mangers are the best networking resources for other Project Managers, and netPM therefore provides a structure for strong support. The group will offer topics, ideas, exercises and presenters that will be specifically helpful to job-seeking Project Managers.

PMI Study Groups

We will begin planning for the next session soon. It is tentatively scheduled for mid-January, 2010.

These classes offer up to 26 contact hours towards the PMI required minimum (35) to sit for your PMP exam.

Mentors are needed!

Regular bi-weekly meetings will be held on Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at **The Coffee Factory** in the **Hood Commons Plaza** on **Crystal Ave**. in **Derry, NH**. **October 29**, **2009** is the next scheduled meeting.

Agenda:

> 9:00 - 9:15 – Welcome, Rapid Introductions, Landings & Announcements
>
> 9:15 - 10:15 – Interactive Networking: Getting to Know Us: focusing on Improved Introductions (name, title, pitch) amongst ourselves, and with non-PM'.s
>
> 10:15 - 10:45 – Needs and Leads
>
> 10:45 - 11:00 – Select Primary & Secondary Facilitators for Next Meeting, Presentation and Networking topics, and Open Networking

Facilitators: Oct 29: Barbara O'Connell, PMP and Howie Lyhte, PMP

What to bring to a netPM meeting:

1. Business/Networking Cards
2. Your own nametag with your name (last name optional) and desired job title
3. Needs and Leads
4. Notepad
5. Positive attitude and open mind
6. Demonstrate respect by being on time

netPM is structured to serve chapter members, and *will not encourage* guest (non-chapter member) meeting attendance. Please be sure to see details at: www.pmi-nh.org

RELEVANT READING

by Steven Lapinskas, PMP

A book about software development is the last place you'd expect to read about contemporary project management thinking.

However, in Trustworthy Systems Through Quantitative Software Engineering, author Lawrence Berstein has insights applicable to projects other than software development. In the preface, Bernstein even invites those outside of software development, stating the book is useful to "...the project manager who wants to understand software engineering technologies."

This book is written with a broad view of what encompasses software engineering. But, there is no wading through details about programming languages or coding style for those who fear getting overwhelmed technically. Instead, Bernstein starts the book off by pointing out that no successful software development project completes without the help of a process that works. The next underlying need for success, in his opinion, is project management.

A number of familiar process approaches are identified and discussed in Chapter 1. The main idea presented is that the appropriate process is important. Another point dealing with project management is the Process versus Functional organization. A good observation is a shortcoming in Functional organizations that deals with time. The fragmentation of an individuals time as they are assigned across a number of projects can be a hindrance. But this is just stated and not described in a detailed example case study, like numerous others given in the remainder of the book.

Agile is a topic in Chapter 2. Bernstein is quick to point out that Agile done "right" shouldn't be confused with the Rapid Application Development (RAD) popular in the mid 1990's.

But, you'll have to wait until (or jump ahead) to Chapter 8 before getting more of his thoughts on the shortcomings of Agile.
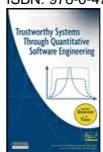
One notable line in a chapter exhorts *"...successful project managers track the details and regularly are in the thick of things*." This is sort of a verbal Rorschach test. There could be as many opinions as there are people who read this and decide what it means.

The author's experience with mega–projects and large development groups at Bell Labs shows throughout the book. Today there's a new reality of offshore development projects and cultural differences. These contrast with the in-house and homogeneous environment Bernstein draws on.

Still, there are individual gems of insight that are timeless in spite of the current trends. One easily recognized by any PM with experience goes: *"When things are worst and nothing is working, the leader is required to show unwarranted optimism."* This could summarize what is Bernstein's quest – software that works by using the right process and people, along with successful project management.

Trustworthy Systems Through Quantitative Software Engineering
Lawrence Bernstein, C. M. Yuhas
Hardcover. 464 pages
Wiley-IEEE Computer Society Press Oct. 2005
ISBN: 978-0-471-69691-9

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PMI NH Chapter, Inc.
P.O. Box 4496
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Visit us at: www.pmi-nh.org

General E-mail Addresses:

membership@pmi-nh.org
programs@pmi-nh.org