



Building professionalism in project management.™

Project Management Institute
Central Mass Chapter

NEWSLETTER

June 2005
Vol 5 Issue 1

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Next Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 13, 2005

Time: 5:30 – 8:30



<http://www.acteva.com/go/centralmass>

A Note from the President

By Sue Baust, PMP – President

Finally some beautiful warm weather! Flowers are blooming and the smell of new mown grass is in the air.

And there are new things blooming at the Central Mass Chapter of PMI. In hopes of meeting your needs we have changed the format of our meetings to provide more networking time. We are also trying out a new venue for our meeting and look forward to hearing what you think.

Hi, my name is Sue Baust and I am the new President of the Central Mass Chapter. Our past President Jim McGill had to step down due to work pressures, but he is still working with us and contributing to the chapter and for that we are most grateful. I look forward to working with you as we move forward.

We are very excited about our upcoming Tech Fair in August. Please review this newsletter for more on the Tech Fair. This will also be held at the Wyndham Hotel.

If you are studying for your PMP exam, and planning to take the test in the near future, be aware that there are some changes to the application and exam itself. You can find out more about these changes in another article within this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at our Tech Fair in August.

Jobs@PMICMass

One of the free services our chapter provides is the jobs@PMICMass distribution list, which allows employers to gain access to our membership of skilled project management professionals.

If you have project management opening, email position information to jobs@pmicmass.com, and it will be forwarded promptly to the chapter job information distribution list.

If you are a member interested in new opportunities, email jobs@pmicmass.com and ask to be added to our job information distribution list.

Meet The Board

President: Sue Baust, PMP
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New PMP Certification Exam and Application Process

By Barbara Karten, PMP, Interim VP

Thinking of taking the PMP Certification exam??? You might want to take the exam sooner rather than later. As stated in the June, 2005 issue of PMI Today, "As the new PMP exam is rolled out later this year, PMI is making the application and examination process more thorough and more rigorous."

PMI is rolling out a new exam and application process in September, 2005. More specifically, August 29, 2005 is the final day to submit applications to test on the current exam, September 24 is the final day to test on the current exam, and September 30, 2005 is the first day to test on the new exam. Consider applying early to take the current test, and lock in a test date as soon as you can; many folks may look to obtain the PMP Certification under the current (less rigorous) process and exam, creating competition for the limited testing appointments.

Why take the current exam?? There are a couple of changes that suggest that it might be to your advantage to take the current exam.

- The Passing score will be increased to 81.7%, from the current passing score of 68.5%.
- Project Management experience requirements will become more rigorous. Currently, you can use project team work that you have performed; going forward (with the new exam application process), you will need to have led and directed this work to apply it toward the PM experience necessary to sit for the exam.
- You will need to provide project contact information for the project work listed on your application. So, for the project experience listed in support of your 4500 hours (or 7500 hours) of experience, you will need to identify companies, supervisors, or other contact information such that PMI can verify this project experience. For those of us who have worked in many environments, this might be a time consuming effort.
- The new exam will include 25 pretest questions, placed randomly throughout the new exam, to gather statistical information used to determine whether they will be placed on future exams.

Details of the changes concerning the new exam are currently posted at the PMI Web site at www.pmi.org/info/PDC_PMPCredchanges.asp Some of these changes include:

- enhanced application review process
- instant notification if your online application is selected for an audit
- you must take the exam within one year of the approval of your application
- limit on the number of times you may take the exam. You have 3 opportunities to take the exam within one year of approval of your application. If you don't pass the exam by the third attempt, you must wait one year before testing again.

The new test is based on the new PMBoK [A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge - Third Edition]. One source for information on the differences between the current PMBoK and the new PMBoK is available at <http://www.sdspin.org/downloads/PMBOKGuide3rdEditionSDSpin.pdf>

In July and August, PMI will hold Webinars that will feature a presentation about the updated exam and a Q&A session. Please check the PMI web site [www.pmi.org] for details.

The PMP Credential is a valuable certification. The new process and certification ensures that the PMP credential continues as evidence of experience and knowledge of Project Management excellence. The PMI Central Mass Chapter encourages you to continue your professional certification and experience enhancement.

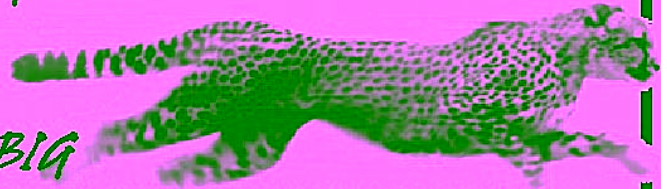


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Courses held in:

Hartford: June 6-10; June 27-
July 1; July 18-22

Boston-Dedham: July 11-15



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Project Management Truths compiled and some written by Mike Harding Roberts

- A project is one small step for the project sponsor, one giant leap for the project manager.
- Good project management is not so much knowing what to do and when, as knowing what excuses to give and when.
- If everything is going exactly to plan, something somewhere is going massively wrong.
- Everyone asks for a strong project manager - when they get him they don't want him.
- The more ridiculous the deadline the more money will be wasted trying to meet it.
- The first 90% of a project takes 90% of the time the last 10% takes the other 90%.
- Anything that can be changed will be changed until there is no time left to change anything.
- Managing IT people is like herding cats.
- Planning without action is futile, action without planning is fatal.

Traffic Light Reporting **by Vern Valero, PMP**

Traffic light status reporting has been in use for some time. It uses the universal concept of a street traffic light to communicate summary status of the project as a whole, a tracking metric, or a deliverable. Traffic light reporting is particularly useful for stakeholders not involved with the project on a day-to-day basis or those who may not respond well to detailed written status.

Summary status is reported as:

Green – The measured item is on track. (*Message: Don't worry!*)

Yellow – The measured item is not on track, but there is a solid get-well plan. (*Message: Don't worry!*)

Red – The measured item is not on track. The get-well plan is either risky or doesn't exist. (*Message: Your help might be needed. Let's talk!*)

The challenge is to decide where the traffic lights should apply. Your formal project status report should not resemble a city street with traffic lights every few blocks! If overused, the technique can lose its power.

There is no substitute for assessing the communications needs of your stakeholders. Which metrics or deliverables are important for stakeholders who must quickly understand the current status of many projects or programs? Will traffic light reporting actually work for those individuals?

In my current project, I have applied traffic light reporting to deliverables associated with the second layer of the work breakdown structure. The project is a software development project with seventeen major feature deliverables. My weekly status report shows traffic light status for each feature regardless of current life cycle stage. This appeals to all stakeholders, especially those unfamiliar or disinterested in the details of the software development process.

One set of deliverables consistently showed red over the span of a month. The root cause of the problem was loss of a specific resource for customer support activities. Like an impatient motorist waiting for the red light to change, the Engineering VP wanted to know what he could do about the situation. We had conversations about the issue – many conversations. The solution was to hire a new resource for customer support. Only the VP had the authority to increase head count and the red light over a long period of time caught his attention to the issue.

Traffic light reporting is simple, effective, and multi-cultural. It is important tool for communicating status to all stakeholders. It might even contribute to the ultimate success of your project.



PROJECT MANAGEMENT TECH FAIR

Tuesday, August 9, 2005

5:30 – 9:00 P.M.

Wyndham Westborough Hotel, Westboro, MA
(just west of I495 on north side of Route 9)

Come meet fellow project management professionals and learn more about project management tools. The event will include vendors exhibiting and presenting software tools for project portfolio management, virtual project management, project resource and schedule management and other PM-related tools. In addition, there will be a panel discussion about actual experiences using PM tools, describing their advantages and their shortcomings. There will be plenty of food on hand and door prizes.

Event Schedule

- 5:30 - 6:00 Registration and Networking
- 6:00 - 8:00 Product Presentations (2 tracks; 3 - 30 min presentations)
MindJet, Maconomy, PSS Group, William George Associates, PL
Logic, Exact Software
- 6:00 – 8:30 Project Management Tools & Exhibitors
MindJet, Maconomy, PSS Group, ExactSoftware, Nagarro,
William George Associates, Boston Group, & Quindi Corporation
- 8:00 – 8:45 Project Management Practitioner Panel Discussion
- 8:45 – 9:00 Closing Summary and Give Aways

Registration

Register at <http://www.acteva.com/go/centralmass>

\$10 for registrations prior to July 25, 2005

\$15 for registrations prior to noon on August 8, 2005

\$20 for registrations at the event

Registration fee includes presentations, networking and appetizers

For more information call 978-422-6611 or visit our website www.pmicmass.com



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Continued on Page 7 - eReads

eReads – Continued from Page 6

Advance your knowledge and skills.

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Top 10 Reasons NOT to Use Project Management

(With apologies to David Letterman)

10. Our customers really love us, so they don't care if our products are late and don't work.
9. Organizing to manage projects isn't compatible with our culture, and the last thing we need around this place is change.
8. All our projects are easy, and they don't have cost, schedule, and technical risks anyway.
7. We aren't smart enough to implement project management without stifling creativity and offending our technical geniuses.
We might have to understand our customers' requirements and document a lot of stuff, and that is such a bother. Project management requires integrity and courage, so they would have to pay me extra.
4. Our bosses won't provide the support needed for project management; they want us to get better results through magic.
3. We'd have to apply project management blindly to all projects regardless of size and complexity, and that would be stupid.
2. I know there is a well-developed project management body of knowledge, but I can't find it under this mess on my desk.
1. We figure it's more profitable to have 50% overruns than to spend 10% on project management to fix them.

Do any of these sound familiar to you?