



November, 2013 Newsletter

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2013 PMI CLG MEETINGS

No meeting in November

December 5th

Surviving your Serengeti

Presented by Kevin D. Martin

Join us for a fun and informative meeting. **This meeting is suitable for your non-Project Management significant other and we hope that you will bring them for Free with your paid fee.**

2014 PMI CLG MEETINGS

January 23rd

The historical relevance of the D-Day Invasion as a Project

Presented by Walter Viali

Please register online. *By signing up on our new website, you can download your own receipt and your PDU's will be automatically tracked by our system. Receipts will no longer be distributed at the Chapter meetings.*



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How I Lead: Working With the Government's Best, Trying to Prevent the Worst

By Linnie Martin
Government Executive
October 22, 2013

Peter Brost is an intelligence operations specialist and the Tactics and Targets Team Lead for the Terrorist Targets and Tactics Branch, Homeland Counterterrorism Division, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, DHS.

What is the best leadership lesson you've learned?

Lead from the front. I know it may sound cliché, but it is something that, while I served in the Army, we often stated and I believe it summarizes leadership concisely. Be the example that you would like others to emulate. Think of others before yourself, stand up for your team when necessary and support their efforts. Try to develop your subordinates into someone that YOU would want to work for.

What leadership lessons do you try to convey to your team?

Integrity is of course the number one lesson. The best leaders are those whom mentors, peers and subordinates can trust. Other lessons that I hope I project are the value of honor, professionalism, and respect of others.

What strengths do you bring your organization?

I hope I bring many of the leadership qualities that I appreciate: integrity, honor, professionalism, and dedication.

What is your weakness and how do you compensate for it?

I believe that I may not always fully communicate my intentions accurately and clearly. I tend to be verbose and may not always precisely request what I would like others to accomplish. I try to compensate for this by asking my mentors, peers and subordinates if they understand what I am trying to convey. I may even ask them to repeat back what they think I am requesting they accomplish. This helps me to recognize if I have clearly stated my intentions and helps to improve my communication skills.



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What is your strategy for interactions with your supervisor?

Again citing a lesson I learned in the military, NEVER approach a supervisor with only a problem. Always approach him or her with both a problem and your suggestion for a solution. Supervisors count on their subordinates to think through situations and develop ways to overcome obstacles. This does not insinuate that your suggested solution will always be the accepted one but it does provide the supervisor something to consider and adjust, if necessary.

What career accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

I am proud of every career accomplishment because I believe that each was achieved through hard work, dedication, perseverance and in some cases, a little bit of luck. My completion of military language training, officer candidate school and other military endeavors are all sources of pride for me. It was not because I was the best or most recognized. Instead, I am most proud that I was able to begin and complete something that was a goal to me.

My DHS accomplishments also are a source of pride. I believe everyone appreciates being recognized by mentors, peers, and subordinates. The small number of awards and certificates that I have accumulated are reminders that, although leadership may not be able to provide recognition for everyone's hard work all of the time, they do recognize the extraordinary effort that we provide and seek to offer recognition when they can.

How do you involve your employees to ensure everyone is on board with a new idea?

Team meetings, general discussions and "brainstorming" sessions are all ways that my team and I communicate ideas. Allowing everyone to voice their opinions and suggestions in a non-attributable environment accomplishes primarily two goals: It permits employees to be both a part of the development and the implementation of an idea.

I believe that when employees are included in the beginning, they feel most connected to the proposed concept or idea. The key is that managers should both acknowledge and, when able, attempt to accommodate employees' suggestions.

What is the most important thing you have learned in your career?

To always listen. We often strive to have our opinions heard but we sometimes also neglect the importance of listening. Employees want supervisors and managers to listen to their concerns and suggestions. Peers often want us to listen, so we can assist by possibly providing feedback or by acknowledging their views. Superiors want us to listen because it is important that we understand and complete their taskings right the first time.



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Do You Know?

1. **During testing, multiple defects were identified in a product. The project manager overseeing this product's development can best use which tool to help prioritize the problems?**
 - a. Pareto diagram
 - b. Control chart
 - c. Variance analysis
 - d. Order of magnitude estimate

2. **The key function of the project manager's job in project integration is**
 - a. Minimizing conflict to promote team unity
 - b. Making key decisions about resource allocation
 - c. Communicating with people of various backgrounds
 - d. Problem solving and decision making between project subsystems

3. **Which of the following choices fits the definition for benchmarking**
 - a. Comparing planned results to actual results
 - b. Comparing actual or planned results to those of other projects
 - c. Statistical sampling of results and comparing them to the plan
 - d. Comparing planned value with earned value

Answers on Page 5



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Answers to: **Do You Know?**

1. A. Pareto charts are column charts that rank defects based on the number of occurrences from highest to lowest. Because this tool is based on frequency, it prioritizes the most common causes. B is used to determine whether or not a process is in control. C is used to measure the difference between what was planned and what was done and D is a type of estimate used in cost management.
2. D. The project manager's job during the integration is to solve problems and make decisions. It is not the team's job to do this! Their job should be to execute the work packages. The project manager should be fixing the problems that come up and keeping the team focused on the work.
3. B. Benchmarking is a tool of quality management for both the Plan Quality and Perform Quality Assurance processes. It takes the results of previous projects and uses them to help set standards for other projects. A and C are incorrect because they would be more closely aligned with Perform Quality Control. D is largely unrelated to quality.



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Do You Need To Earn PDUs?

Our Chapter has lots of opportunities available. Decide if one is right for you.

Are You A Speaker?

We are looking for speakers on project management related topics for upcoming chapter dinner meetings, if you or someone you know are interested in speaking, please contact:

Scott Field at vp-programs@pmiclg.org

Want To Be A Mentor?

We need a group of certified PMPs to help our aspiring PMPs and new members realize their full potential. Here is the chance to build professional relationships with select members and help them on the road to PMP certification. Contact: Fran Mackin, vp-professionaldev@pmiclg.org

Would You Like To Volunteer?

If you'd like to volunteer, contact:
Dennis Sherman at president@pmiclg.org

Meeting rate increase

Beginning July 01, 2012, the cost for non-PMICLG members to attend chapter meetings increased to \$25. Members pay only \$20.

If you are not a member; log onto

<http://marketplace.pmi.org/Pages/ProductDetail.aspx?GMProduct=00100125500>

and add to your cart.

New Membership

Beginning September 1, 2013, we introduced a new PMI Student Membership for full time students. The annual chapter dues for PMI members who are full time students will be \$10.00. This rate will remain as long as the student is in good standing as a PMI Student member.



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Volunteer Position Available

Director of Administration:

Qualifications:

- Volunteer management experience
- Customer Service experience

Responsibilities: The Director of Administration is an officer of the chapter, a member of the Board and responsible for the following:

- Act as an overseer of PMI-CLG and protect the integrity of the organization.
- Act as an advisor to the President
- Assist other officers as designated by the Board
- Bring any variances to the attention of the Board
- Provide feedback from evaluations to board members, other volunteers, speakers and vendor.
- Administration;

Regularly attend PMI-CLG and Board meetings.

Submit contributions for the PMI-CLG monthly newsletter.

Maintain communication with officers and other appropriate people.

Turnover all records to a successor in a timely manner.

Abide by the PMI-CLG version of Robert's Rules of Order at all Board Meetings



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Take Advantage of Classes and Courses!

San Jacinto College Free Classes

San Jacinto College is offering several FREE classes, including PMP Prep. and Lean Six Sigma Certification!!!!

To determine if you qualify and to retrieve the application please click here:

<http://cpd.sanjac.edu/IT3-Grant>.

All grant documents and forms should be submitted directly to Rachel.tompkins@sjcd.edu and copy lydia.chavez-garcia@sjcd.edu or faxed to 281-542-2097. Questions related to the grant should be sent me and Rachel as well.

Any PMICLG member can sign up for any Project Management or Business Analysis course offered by the PMI Houston Chapter and receive the same discounts applicable to PMI Houston Chapter members. A calendar of courses offered by PMI Houston is available at www.pmihouston.org



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Take Advantage of Classes and Courses!

PMP & CAPM 4-day Prep - November

November 18, 2013 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Tri Tech Surveying Company

10401 Westoffice Drive

Houston, TX 7704

<http://www.pmihouston.org/meetinginfo.php?id=296&ts=1372781294>

Managing Projects with Microsoft Project 2010, Advanced November

November 25, 2013 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

EPM Architect Training and Solution Center

6300 West Loop South, Suite 570

Bellaire, TX 77401

<http://www.pmihouston.org/meetinginfo.php?id=365&ts=1370279578>

Managing Projects with Microsoft Project 2013, Advanced November

November 25, 2013 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

EPM Architect Training and Solution Center

6300 West Loop South, Suite 570

Bellaire, TX 77401

<http://www.pmihouston.org/meetinginfo.php?id=370&ts=1376057146>

Managing Projects with Microsoft Project 2013, Essentials December

December 09, 2013 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

EPM Architect Training and Solution Center

6300 West Loop South, Suite 570

Bellaire, TX 77401

<http://www.pmihouston.org/meetinginfo.php?id=358&ts=1376056910>

PMP & CAPM 4-day Prep - December

December 09, 2013 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Tri Tech Surveying Company

10401 Westoffice Drive

Houston, TX 77042

<http://www.pmihouston.org/meetinginfo.php?id=297&ts=1372781267>

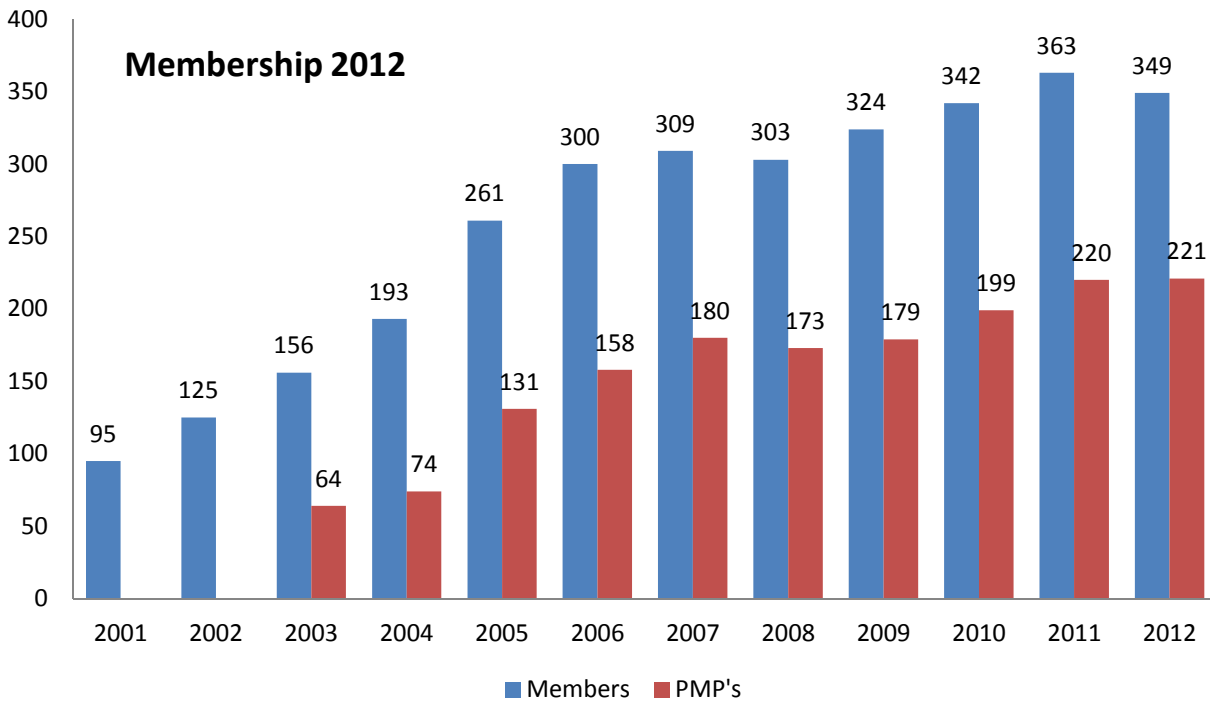


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Chapter Officers

Dennis Sherman, PMP	President	AJ Collier	Founder
Judy Dodge	First Vice President	Deborah Crouse, PMP	Past President
Chris Deal, PMP	VP Finance	Fran Mackin, PMP	VP of Professional Dev.
Scott Field, PMP	VP of Programs	Open	VP of Communications
Tom Nutbrown, PMP	VP of Membership	Open	VP of PR & Marketing
Gotthard Janson, PMP	Director of Administration		



Member Statistics: October 2013

Active Chapter Members: 352

PMPs: 229