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Message from the President

Dear PMI UNY Member:

On behalf of the PMI Upstate New York Chapter members, I would like to welcome you to our monthly newsletter. Since its founding in 1977 and throughout its history as one of the earliest PMI chapters, the Upstate New York chapter has continued the tradition of being a member run nonprofit organization with the philosophy of "By the members, for the members".



If you are currently a member of our chapter, we welcome you to get involved in organizing and managing chapter programs. Please feel free to reach out to our VP of Membership – [Norine Kenny, PMP](#) or the Program Director for Volunteers – [Sandy Costanzo, PMP](#) to learn more about opportunities to get involved.

If you are not yet a member of our chapter, we welcome you to explore our website and attend our chapter meetings to learn more about us. If you are interested in learning more about project management, planning to start a career in project management, preparing for the PMP exam, increasing your knowledge of project management, looking to earn more PDUs, etc. please visit the Education and Certification section of our website and reach out to our VP for Education and Certification – [Joe Spreitzer, PMP](#) for more information.

This is an exciting time for our chapter as we are currently embarking on four major strategic initiatives to move our chapter forward:

- Board transformation initiative to get more members involved in program leadership roles.
- Operational excellence initiative to streamline the core operations of the chapter.
- Innovative programs initiative to increase networking opportunities for our chapter members.
- PMI UNY 1000 initiative to grow our membership and expand the PMI community in our region.

Please reach out to our VP of Programs – [Carol Fitzgerald, PMP](#) for more information on the exciting upcoming events and please reach out to our Treasurer – [Michele Chenette, PMP](#) for more information on our plans to grow the PMI community in our region.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

[John Andrew, MBA, PMP](#)

President, Upstate New York Chapter
Project Management Institute, Inc.



Local Twin Bridges in the Capital Region

Membership News

Message from VP, Membership, Norine A. Kenny, PMP

Did you know?

Our oldest chapter membership is held by Bruce Oswald, PMP, (former chapter president) who joined in 1994

Chapter Membership Anniversaries

5 Years

Michele Alford-Zappala, PMP
Deborah Atlas, PMP
Jane Bonichi, PMP
Timothy Bronk, PMP
Peter DiLillo, PMP
Benjamin Eggleston, PMP
Ina Fischer, PMP
Carol Fitzgerald, PMP
Nancy Scott-Horan, PMP
Jennifer Shoemaker, PMP
Laura Smith, PMP
David Sodergren, PMP

10 Years

Gail Belles, PMP
Anna Mae Decker, PMP
Frank Hughes, PMP
Brenda Marcil, PMP
Diane Menz, PMP
Donna O'Leary, PMP
Margaret Sherman, PMP
Stacy Terry, PMP
Frederic Teti, PMP
John Traver, PMP

15 years

Brenda Breslin, PMP
Diana Pinto, PMP

20 Years

Bruce Oswald, PMP

Recognition of Officers

The chapter would like to recognize and thank the following officers for their contributions to the board and chapter initiatives:

- Joseph Spreitzer, PMP, President of PMIUNY, June 2010 – May 2014
- Deborah Atlas, PMP, VP of Education, January 2012 – May 2014
- Suzanne Wilson, PMP, VP Facilities and Registration, June 2011 – May 2014

Welcome to the Upstate New York Chapter of the Project Management Institute!
Member Services, Volunteers, Recruitment



Left to right:

Melody Kot, Director of Recruitment and Retention,
Sandy Costanzo, PMP, Director of Volunteers,
Norine A. Kenny, PMP, VP of Membership,
James Warfield, PMP, Director of Member Services

Project Management Professionals look to the PMIUNY Chapter for professional networking opportunities and PDU opportunities. The mission of Membership is to ensure that members are getting the benefits that they want, meet the members' needs as well as respond to your needs. We are very excited this year to announce that as part of our board re-structure, we have three director positions under the VP of Membership, dedicated to membership services: Director of Volunteers (Sandy Costanzo, PMP), Director of Member Services (James Warfield, PMP), and, Director of Recruitment and Retention (Melody Kot). These positions will be focusing on:

- Volunteer engagement
- New members: Welcoming them and engaging them with the chapter
- Recruiting new members as well as retention
- Formal recognition of volunteers

I welcome our two new directors to the Membership Team, James Warfield and Melody Kot. I am very excited to have them on board and we are looking forward to a very productive year with our new structure in place.

The top two reasons why people join PMIUNY are (1) to network with peers and (2) to earn PDUs to maintain their project management certifications. The benefits of PMIUNY membership are:

- Discounted rate to our monthly chapter dinner meeting
- Discounted rate to our annual professional development day
- Opportunities to network with fellow project managers
- Opportunities to earn PDUs
- April chapter meeting, which is the annual member appreciation meeting is free
- Discounted rate for the PMP Prep class which is offered twice a year
- Opportunities to volunteer to work on chapter initiatives and earn PDUs
- And many more.....

REMINDER: Maintain Your Membership Information

Please remember to keep your PMI Membership information up-to-date. You can do this by going to the PMI website at www.pmi.org. PMI maintains the database of each member and provides that information to each chapter. So please keep this information current so that you receive PMI and PMIUNY correspondence.

Please verify your information today:

1. Log in at www.pmi.org with your user name and password.
2. Click on myPMI tab.
3. Under "Profile", scroll down to "Edit my Profile"; under "Profile", review and edit the information for each tab.

2014 Volunteer of the Quarter for Q3: Sandy Costanzo, Director of Volunteer

Since January 2013, Sandy has held the volunteer position of Director of Volunteers. This position was created to formally structure volunteer engagement with the chapter. Since the chapter has grown to 500 plus members the board created this position to provide a focal point for volunteer engagement so that we could support the many chapter initiatives. This position involves informing chapter members of volunteer opportunities and acting as a liaison with the board to fill these positions. She also tracks the work done with each opportunity as well as awarding the associated PDUs. Sandy has been very instrumental in the success of this first new director position that was created in 2013 and has contributed many hours to making sure that we have the necessary volunteers to support the chapter.

At the present time the PMIUNY Board is in the process of re-structuring. We decided to do this so that we could meet the many needs of the chapter as well as provide additional benefits for membership. This initiative is the result of strategic planning that took place in the summer of 2013. The board worked for a year to identify the new structure that would support and expand chapter initiatives. In May 2014 we finalized the new structure and over the summer Sandy worked very diligently and put in many hours to fill the eighteen open director positions that were created as a result of the new organization. Fourteen of the twenty director positions are filled and we are moving forward at a rapid pace to onboard the new directors and offer the many benefits that have been identified with the director positions.

Please join me in thanking Sandy for her efforts!

Warm Welcome to New Members (joined in 3rd quarter 2014):

Gainford Amponsah	Tonya Fountain	Ashis Nayak, PMP
Colleen Awa, CAPM	Albert Frank	Vijay Oruganti, PMP
Raja Sekhar Badami	Craig Gronlund	James Page
Vanessa Barber	Merdina Hayduke	Suresh Kumar Ramaraj
Francesco Benevino	Rebecca Jones	Timothy Rudden
Michael Bolduc	Ellen Kaufman	Karen Schmieder, PMP
Michelle Chank, PMP	Melody Kot	Susan Smith, PMP
Janet Christy	Nicholas Lentini	John Taormina, PMP
Kimberli Deane	Susan Mardon, PMP	Craig Thomas
Elizabeth Erkes	George Matykowski, PMP	Kay Watkins
Robert Floge	Mahesh Nattanmai, PMP	Jayme Wood

Volunteers

Sandy Costanzo, PMP, Director of Volunteers is responsible for the engagement of chapter volunteers. If you are interested in getting involved in the chapter and supporting chapter volunteer initiatives, please contact Sandy by sending her an e-mail at pmiuny.volunteers@gmail.com. It is through the dedication of our volunteers that a 500 member organization can remain strong. There are many benefits of volunteering:

- Meet great people while supporting chapter initiatives
- Learn about the many chapter initiatives
- Potential for succession to chapter leadership positions
- Earn PDUs
- Participation in leadership meetings with chapter officers
- Satisfaction of contributing to the Chapter's success

Presently the following director positions are open:

- Professional Development Day
- Lunch n' Learn
- Career Fair
- Revenue
- Technology
- Treasurer

"Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals".
Unknown author

All current PMI UNY members are eligible to apply for these appointed Program Director positions.

Chapter Statistics

Total Members	526
Credentials Held:	
PMPs (Project Management Professional)	384 (76% of membership)
CAPM (Certified associate in Project Management)	5
PMI-ACP (Agile Certified Practitioner)	6
PMI-RMP (Risk Management Professional)	2
PMI-SP (Scheduling Professional)	1

New Member Spotlight

Melody Kot

My name is Melody Kot, my friends call me Mel. I live in Albany, NY but originally I am from Schenectady, NY. I am married to my high school sweetheart and we have 3 beautiful children, a 3 year old boy and 1 year old boy/girl twins.

Out of high school, I attended Wentworth Institute of Technology, where I finished two years in Architectural Engineering. I had to take some time off from school but promised myself that I would go back and finish. It took a few years (and then some) but I held onto that promise and graduated this past summer with a Bachelor of Science in Project Management from WIT.

While at Wentworth, several of my professors urged the students to check out the local Project Management Institute chapter. I decided to do that and I learned that the Project Management Institute offers a student discount on membership while the Upstate NY chapter offers a discount to their monthly dinners and local chapter dues. I attended several meetings and was very glad I did. As an older student I feared I would be judged and looked down on by my peers; this was not the case. I found an inviting community that not only didn't judge me but offered advice, admiration and support. It was for this reason I decided that I wanted to become a member of the chapter.

My feelings about the chapter and how it can benefit any project manager, whether they are a student or PMP certified, led to my application for the volunteer position as the Program Director of Retention and Recruitment. I feel this position will help me learn more about the chapter, network with other chapter members, and prepare me for entry into the workforce.

I am so excited to meet each and every one of our members this upcoming year.

Mel

Top Ten Industries our Members Work for:

IT
Government
HealthCare
Consulting
Manufacturing
Financial Services
Training
Telecom
Construction
Energy

Top Ten Companies Our Members work for:

New York State
CDPHP
NYSTEC
WellPoint
Bank of America
Global Foundries
MVP Health Care
CSC
Key Bank
IBM

Region 4 Leadership Conference, July 2014, New York City

In July 2014, the annual Leadership Conference was held in New York City. The theme was "Leading the Way on Broadway". It was attended by 84 chapter leaders from Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania including representatives from PMI. The objective was to provide attendees with an opportunity to meet their peers in similar volunteer roles for sharing and collaboration as well as gain a better understanding of the resources available to volunteers to assist them in their roles. It was attended by John Andrew, PMP, President, Norine A. Kenny, PMP, Vice-President of Membership, and Lynette Seawall, CAPM, Vice-President of Special Projects.

Finance News

Chair - Michele Chenette, PMP

The PMI UNY Chapter Finance Program Committee is in need of assistance. The Chapter's Treasurer, Michele Chenette, is seeking committee members who will be responsible for the following chapter functions:

Ø Treasury Management (Manage expenses/disbursements of the chapter)

Ø Revenue Management (Manage revenue/income of the chapter)

The committee is responsible to ensure that all the expenses and income functions of the chapter are managed efficiently. Key outcomes expected would be as follows:

Ø Manage the disbursement of funds in a timely fashion

Ø Manage the expenses of the chapter to conform with the budget

Ø Manage the revenue side of the chapter, especially money collection for chapter events

Ø Manage the income generation activities and price setting activities for the chapter

Committee Members may represent the chapter at various events.

Please contact Michele Chenette, Treasurer, at shelqueen@gmail.com if you are interested in assisting.

Professional Development News

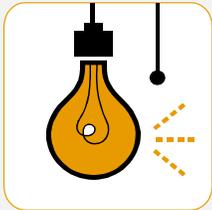
Joe Spreitzer, PMP, VP, & Tim Christensen, PMP, 2nd VP

The Spring PMP Exam Prep class is being planned. Please e-mail Ken Lanoue at klanoue@csc.com for additional information or if you are interested in attending. Sign up early as the class tends to fill up quickly. The schedules are still being planned but expect it to begin in January 2015. The committee is in the process of developing policies and processes for eLearning offerings through the chapter. More news to come soon. We are still in need of a Director to head up the 2015 Professional Development day which is scheduled for May 14, 2015. It will be held at The Desmond and we are excited to have Doug Stevenson as the speaker.

The Fall PMP Exam Prep class is underway with 15 registered participants and 22 presenters taking part in the effort. Our PMP Exam Prep Class started Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

We will be referencing free webinar sources from PMI Communities of Practice to keep free PDU opportunities in front of our members.

Readers Speak



"Every day I am reminded that life is a gift, we cannot waste a single day fearing big challenges" by Gabrielle Gifford.

Seasons at Albany

Albany and its suburbs through the eyes of Chemist, a Professor in English Literature, a marketing professional, a Computer programmer, a Guitar teacher - turned photographer. Vishvesh Obla



Programs News

by Carol Fitzgerald, 1st Vice-President – Programs

Planning for our Chapter meetings for this program year is well under way. The year started off with our chapter meeting on September 17th with Heath Suddleson who spoke on the topic of "Managing Client Expectations Without Losing Your Shirt or the Next Job". On October 15th, our guest speaker will be Jennifer Austin who will talk about "Successfully Managing Large Organizational Change Endeavors". Jennifer Austin is the Treo Solutions Integration Manager for 3M Health Information Systems, Inc., part of 3M's Health Care Business. In the Integration Manager role, Jennifer is responsible for integrating the newly acquired business into 3M. In November, Jeff Nuding will speak on "Accelerated Leadership: Agile and OODA". This presentation will explain the basic principles of the Observe, Orient, Decide, Act (OODA) concept, draw parallels with Agile development techniques, and suggest implications for portfolio and project management. Jeff is a member of our chapter who has presented at PMI North America Congresses in 2003, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2012. Our November meeting will be on Wednesday, November 19th.

In addition to the monthly Chapter meetings, the Programs team will also be planning Special Events to enable the chapter to provide members with opportunities to network and grow their PM skills. This initiative will provide opportunities to members/non-members who may not be able to attend the monthly chapter meetings. These events will be open to anyone interested in attending and we will be especially looking for new members or those that may not attend the monthly chapter meetings. Our goal for this year will be to hold one event each quarter. Our first event for this calendar year will be held on Tuesday, October 28th from 6:00pm – 9:00pm at the Nine Pin Cider Works on Broadway in Albany and is entitled "From Blossom to Barrel". Nine Pin Cider works crafts its award winning New York Hard Cider from farm to glass. The evening will consist of a tour of the cidery to see the fermentation, aging and packaging process. After the tour, we will have the full run of the facility, it will be open only for us that evening, and we can enjoy pours from our own keg of cider as well a dinner of Italian food from Paesan's Pizzeria and Catering in Albany.

Our Program team consists of Kimberly Thomas - Program Director, Chapter Meetings, Cheryl Patack - Program Director, Special Events, Tim Sorrentino – 2nd Vice President – Programs and Carol Fitzgerald – 1st Vice President – Programs. If you would be interested in helping to plan chapter meetings or special events, please reach out to one of the team members. We eagerly welcome your input and ideas!

PMI-UNY Special Events Committee is pleased to announce our first special event of the 2014/2015 UNY PMI Year! at:

Nine Pin Cider Works

929 Broadway

Albany, NY 12207

October 28, 2014

6:00pm – 9:00pm

\$30/per person* (UNY PMI board members may apply their discount)

Please contact Cheryl Patack with any questions – Cheryl.patack@gmail.com

Details at:

http://pmiuny.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=325:october2014ninepin&catid=79:events

About PMI UNY Chapter

Chapter Background

- Nonprofit organization founded in 1977
- Seventh oldest chapter of PMI
- Volunteer run organization
- 500+ members – PM's and aspiring PM's
- More than 70% are PMP certified

Chapter Mission

- Forum promoting principles of PMI
- Provide networking opportunities
- Enable knowledge sharing and learning
- Offer professional development opportunities
- Grow the PM community in our region

Core Operations (Services)

- 7 Monthly Chapter Dinner Meetings
- 1 Annual PDD (Professional Development Day)
- 2 Semi-Annual PMP Prep Classes

Chapter Organizational Structure

- Led by a Chapter President
- Functional Heads Lead Functional Areas
 - o Membership
 - o Finance
 - o Professional Development
 - o Events Planning
 - o Marketing and Communications
 - o Administration
 - o Special Projects

Marketing and Communications News

Chair – Marketing and Communications, Basavaraj Benki, PMP

I am very excited to have the following program directors as my team players & I am eagerly looking forward to working with them:

Communications – Togba Doe, PMP
Marketing – Christopher Foundas, PMP
Corporate Relations and Outreach –Patrick Jagadeesan, PMP
PMIEF – Mary Beth Imbarrato, PMP

After a 09/30/2014 lunch meeting, PMI UNY Chapter's President, John Andrew, PMP and some members of the Marketing and Communications team posed for photos.



Left to right:

Patrick Jagadeesan, PMP, Director for Corporate Relations and Outreach, Basavaraj Benki, PMP, VP for Marketing and Communications, John Andrew, PMP, President, PMI UNY Chapter, Christopher Foundas, PMP, Director of Marketing
Togba Doe, PMP, Director of Communications

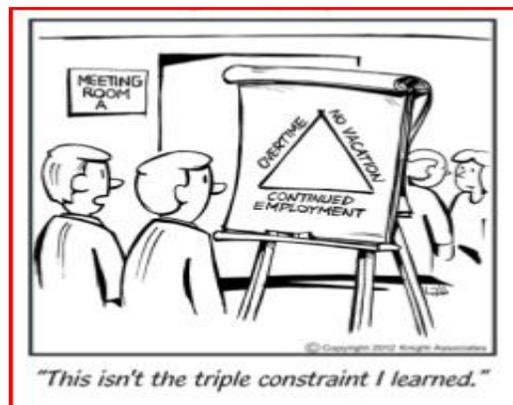
Administration News

Chairman – Praveen Karanjkar & Vice Chair – Angela Wood

The following positions have been filled:
Program Director- Facilities: Deborah Katz
Program Director-Registrations: Stacey Willett
Program Director-Secretary: Barb Glasser

The Chair and Vice-Chair would like to welcome all program directors. We are looking forward to recruiting committee members to help us on the administration of facilities and registration. Please contact chair or vice-Chair for more information or sending your resume.

PM Cartoon / Satire



From the Editor's Desk

By Togba Doe, MBA, PMP,
Program Director –
Communications.

Conception of this chapter's newsletter, PM Matters, inhabits aspirations rooted in the Board of Directors' strategic initiatives. Efforts which the Board targets at building and sustaining a vibrantly functioning local chapter are partly reflected in the provision of information from various functional committees and encouragement of member-wide participation.

As such, works leading to successful production of the inaugural edition of this newsletter embellish the values and virtues of effective collaboration; especially amongst members of this chapter's various functional committees. Thanks to all those who contributed in any way.

Since our collective strengths have the resounding potential to echo through the corridors of history at PMI UNY and far beyond, we are urging our members and affiliates to join us in fostering the principles of PMI in particular and project management in general through this new tool; PM Matters. Articles, pictures, cartoons, suggestions, etc. are welcomed.

As we eagerly anticipate your full participation in these and many future endeavors, kindly accept our appreciation of your time and collaboration.

Regards,
Togba



Find us on the Web at:

<http://pmiuny.org/>

E-mail:

newsletter.pmiuny@gmail.com

Board of Directors

- John Andrew, PMP, President
- Norine Kenny, PMP, VP Membership
- Michele Chenette, PMP, Treasurer
- Joe Spreitzer, PMP, VP Education and Certification
- Tim Christensen, PMP, 2nd VP Education and Certification
- Carol Fitzgerald, PMP, VP Programs
- Tim Sorrentino, PMP, 2nd VP Programs
- Basavaraj Benki, PMP, VP Communications and Publicity
- Lynette Seawall, CAPM, VP Special Projects
- Praveen Karanjkar, PMP, VP of Facilities and Reservations
- Angela Wood, PMP, Secretary
- Debbie Atlas, PMP, Assist. Treasurer / Assist. Secretary

Upcoming Events

[Fall 2014 PMP Prep](#)

09-11-2014 - 12-11-2014

[October 2014 Dinner Meeting](#)

10-15-2014

["From Blossom to Barrel" Special Event](#)

10-28-2014

[November 2014 Dinner Meeting](#)

11-19-2014

[2015 Annual Professional Development Day](#)

05-14-2015

Program Directors

Membership Committee

- Chair, Norine Kenny, PMP
- Program Director – Volunteers, Sandy Costanzo, PMP
- Program Director - Member Services, James Warfield, PMP
- Program Director - Recruitment/Retention, Melody Kot

Finance Committee

- Chair, Michele Chenette, PMP
- Program Director – Treasurer, Vacant
- Program Director – Revenue, Vacant

Professional Development Committee

- Chair, Joe Spreitzer, PMP
- Vice-Chair, Tim Christensen, PMP
- Program Director - PMP Prep Class, Kenneth Lanoue, PMP
- Program Director – PDD, Vacant
- Program Director - Lunch n Learn, Vacant
- Program Director - Career Fair, Vacant
- Program Director – eLearning, Rebecca Myer, PMP

Events Planning Committee

- Chair, Carol Fitzgerald, PMP
- Vice-Chair, Timothy Sorrentino, PMP
- Program Director – Chapter Meetings, Kimberly Thomas
- Program Director – Special Events, Cheryl Patack, PMP

Marketing and Communications Committee

- Chair, Basavaraj Benki, PMP
- Program Director – Communications, Togba Doe, PMP
- Program Director – Marketing, Christopher Foundas, PMP
- Program Director – Corporate relations & outreach, Patrick Jagadeesan, PMP
- Program Director – PMIEF, Mary Beth Imbarato, PMP

Administration Committee

- Chair, Praveen Karanjkar, PMP
- Vice-Chair, Angela Wood, PMP
- Program Director – Facilities, Deborah Katz
- Program Director – Registrations, Stacey Willett, PMP
- Program Director – Technology, Vacant
- Program Director – Secretary, Barb Glasser, PMP