

MARCH 2007

PMI – NEIC Newsletter

Our next program: Wednesday, March 28th, 2007

Northeast Indiana Regional / Future City Competition

Carol Dostal, Director of Outreach Programs at IPFW

The Future City Competition is a national program sponsored by the engineering community to promote technological literacy and engineering to middle-school students. The program fosters an interest in math, science, and engineering through hands-on, real world applications.



This is an educational project of 7th and 8th grade students that involves a teamwork approach to creating their vision of a city of the future. Each team designs a city, prepares a city abstract, and prepares an essay pertaining to a specific topic chosen for each year. This year's theme is: Fuel cells as a possible alternative energy in a future city.

Team activities have foundations in project management techniques. The students on each team need to define the scope of their activities, define project activities and prepare a project schedule, and do some resource planning. The Advisors of each team need to address budgeting, project risk management, and communication.

You can make your reservation online at <http://pmi-neic.org/cgi-bin/rsvp/rsvp.cgi>

NEIC membership

The Chapter offers a hearty Welcome to 11 new members this month

- Stefoni Bavlin, of Press Ganey Associates, up in South Bend
- Beth Bonifas, who works for Our Sunday Visitor down in Huntington
- Mark Bryant, of Symmetry Medical over in Warsaw
- Linda Gray, also from South Bend, where she works for Honeywell
- Dr. Kevin Hunt
- Casimer Kroll, who works at Etra, Inc., and is already a PMP
- Mark Reichmann, of Aptimise
- Laura Saxman
- Christopher Anderson, from LaPorte and works for IBM
- Warren Gareiss, of Symmetry Medical in Warsaw
- Lisa Grote who works at Brotherhood Mutual here in Fort Wayne

PMP Examination Preparation Class



The next online PMP exam preparation class starts Monday, April 2nd. This 8-week course exceeds the 35 contact-hour requirement, and is completely taught on-line, allowing you to get through the material on your own work-schedule. The course also includes assistance in preparing your Exam Application. For more information, check out the Chapter's education web-site at www.pm-neic.org

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, at Hall's Guest House on Washington Center Road in Fort Wayne.

- April 25 – Michelle Hill will be speaking on Six Sigma.
- May 23 – Linda Hite-Mills, PMP, will be sharing how Project Management techniques were used to establish the new Computer Forensics curriculum at Indiana Tech.
- September 26 – Greg McCormick, PMP, will be discussing the parallels between project risk management (as general techniques) and the pre-incident portion of Business Continuity planning (a specific application of those same techniques).

If you have ideas for a topic you'd like to see presented, or if you are willing to share your project-related experience with the group, please contact Pat Ruger, VP of Programs programs@pmi-neic.org.

Case Studies Needed by End-of-Month

We need your help in locating real-life examples of project leadership in action. If you have encountered an example of effective project leadership and how it benefited a project, or if you have an example of ineffective leadership and how it adversely affected a project, please let our Professional Development team know.

In submitting your example(s), please:

- Be sure to remove uniquely identifying information, such as the names of individuals and organizations
- Be as descriptive of the behavior and skills used (or ignored) as possible, but limit your description to 500 words or less

For The Record...

Last Month's Meeting

Nancy Hoffman, FLMI, PMP, of BeniComp Advantage, gave an interesting presentation on how she used project management techniques to improve a work situation.

Nancy's company offers a supplemental insurance program designed to improve people's health while keeping their health insurance costs down. The key component of the product is wellness screening, which must be performed consistently throughout the United States. The primary challenges of the current but changing business model are how to best plan for multiple events with limited resources, and how to manage and control the quality of services provided by contracted paramedical vendors.

Nancy was able to formally initiate the project by getting the Executive Director to sign a Project Charter statement, but was unable to complete other more formal project plan documents, due to the timing of Nancy's hire and the company's business cycle.

The project encompassed the gap and risk analysis of several processes: vendor contracts, the wellness screening process, systems and procedures and human capital. The output from gap and risk analysis allowed Nancy and her team to break down the work that should be performed, organize it into a defined (and approved process), assign the resource responsible for performing each task.

Nancy also incorporated regulatory and quality requirements into the processes and procedures. Project management knowledge and techniques are now facilitating the implementation of ideas and recommendations that are making operations more effective and efficient, and insuring that the customer has a positive experience through improved communication and quality processes. Documentation and training have improved execution, and metrics have been instituted for measuring performance and profitability. And the lessons learned from each screening event are now documented, reviewed, and used to improve the processes and procedures for subsequent events.

Thanks to Nancy for sharing her innovative approach to the practical application of PMBOK Guide knowledge areas. Perhaps she'll return for another presentation in a year or so, and tell us other ways in which Project Management has improved her company's success.

We had 29 people in attendance at this meeting, including 3 guests

Microsoft Project

The Chapter is exploring the possibility of offering a professional development session on the use of MS-Project. If this is a topic that you're interested in, please let Pat Ruger, VP of Programs know what you think the session could/should include as far as content, and whether you'd like this to be a hands-on session or not

Professional Development Session!

Reserve the date! We'll see you Saturday, April 14th at Hall's Guest House on Washington Center Road in Fort Wayne. Check-in begins at 7:30, and the session runs from 8:00 until noon.

Joe Dorko of Lutheran Hospital, who made a very engaging presentation at a recent meeting, will be speaking on "Exemplary Leadership". The \$25 registration fee includes the speaker, a continental breakfast, mid-morning snacks, and door prizes.

Registration is open for the opportunity to earn 4 PDUs locally. You can register on the chapter website using our [RSVP feature](#)



Reporting your Professional Development Units (PDUs)

Just a quick reminder that it's important to enter your professional development units (PDUs) on a regular basis, and not wait until the end of your three-year CCR cycle to register them. Note that the PMI may take up to three weeks to process your submissions, and if your credits are audited, that process can take two months to complete.

To get more information, or to register PDUs:

1. Go to the PMI web site at www.pmi.org
2. At the top of the page
 - o Select "Professional Development & Careers"
 - o From the drop-down menu, select Certification Program
3. On the left side of the page, select Continuing Certification Requirements

Board Report

The Chapter's Board of Directors (BoD) is currently working on the following items:

- Finishing improvements to the Chapter website, some of which are visible to the members, and some of which facilitate administration and reporting
- Finalizing the annual Budget
- Expanding activities related to advertising and promoting the Chapter and its events
- Accepting the resignation of Linda Hite-Mills, VP of Communications, due to family circumstances, effective immediately; and making arrangements to cover that Board function until the next election
- Updating Chapter By-Laws to conform to the PMI's new model
- Discussing arrangements for a half-day workshop on using MS-Project, tentatively scheduled for the Fall
- Working out the details of a new scholarship program, scheduled to be available for the Fall semester of classes
- Finalizing arrangements for a major speaker at the October meeting, and identifying possible speakers for the December meeting

Board Profile

David A. Maynard, PMP, VP of Professional Development

Actually, I'm only called "David" when I'm in trouble – all other times you can call me Dave. And, despite my disguise, I'm not an Indiana native; I'm a transplanted New Yorker who's lost his accent.

I graduated from engineering school from the State University of New York with a BSEE. Lucky for me, I was picked up by NASA – Houston at an exciting time. We all were working on the design of the Shuttle. My particular area was called TAEM for Terminal Area Energy Management. The problem was: "How do we take a brick that's in orbit without fuel and land it on a runway?" Well, we solved it! Then, after 15 years, I left to "seek other opportunities."

After NASA, I worked on several diverse projects from the F16 to the Learjet 55 and the Airbus A320. During this time I earned an MBA. Then, one day, as Forrest Gump says: "For no particular reason," I moved to Orlando to be the General Manager of Systems Management Inc (SMI). We did well also! Our charter was to buy / obtain / manage troubled projects and operations and either turn them around or kill them. We ended up with about \$25 million / year in sales and 70 direct employees. After about six years of that, my mind started to drift again so we finished our contracts and broke up the company.

Again, "for no particular reason", I decided to move to Fort Wayne. Yes, I left Orlando for Ft. Wayne. I've never regretted it either! I like it here. Once I arrived in Ft. Wayne, I started looking around for a PMI chapter. There wasn't one! So, a group of us got together and started working on bylaws and charters and such. I'm pleased to say that in 1997 we obtained a charter from PMI and the chapter has been going strong ever since. Actually, the chapter has gotten better each year! That may be because I was the president for only one year – that's all the chapter could withstand! Some other things I've done for the chapter is work on the chapter web site and help provide an online PMP exam preparation class.