CTT CHAPTER NEWS

Issue 49   **December 2010**

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Upcoming Events
Interested in Upcoming Events? Check out our new website at www.pmi-ctt.ca to register now!

Message from the President

At this time of year, many are celebrating holidays and spending time with friends and loved ones. December 21st also brings the winter solstice, and recently I saw this quote that provided some thought provoking ideas.

"Winter Solstice itself is the turnaround time, and in that three day shift from Yin to Yang, there is a kind of pause, a neutral moment, as the planetary gears shift."

This sentiment brings to me ideas about the new year, which will also be upon us shortly – the new year is traditionally a time of reflection, resolution and change. The quote above meshes well with this idea, in that it is "time to shift". As you near the end of the year, I hope you have the opportunity to think about the past year and the one ahead, and what your 'shift' might look like for you, be it personal, professional or both.

Here at the PMI-CTT Chapter, we are also making changes – some which will be evident to you shortly, if not already. We have developed a new website and adopted a new system to send our twice-monthly email communications to you. We have been on a year-long and very intensive project to implement these changes, and they will provide us with greater capabilities to serve you, our Chapter membership. This achievement would not have been possible without the great contribution of the Project Manager on the initiative, Margaret Charles, and her team of volunteers. The Board is grateful to Margaret for her great management and dedication to seeing this project through – without her it would not have been possible. Thank you Margaret!

This newsletter is filled with information about the past such as our successful Webinar launch this past year, and our 2010 events recap, and also about the future - our website changes, and our much anticipated 10th anniversary year and the celebrations that will come with it. I hope you take the time to have a look at all that has been and will be going on at the Chapter.

For those who are celebrating at this time of year – on behalf of the PMI-CTT Chapter Board of Directors, I wish you happy holidays and all the best to you in 2011!

Cheers!
Marc Blanchette
President

PMI-CTT Board of Directors

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2010 Events Recap

Looking back over the events held this past year, it is interesting to see such a wide variety of topics. Yet, despite the variety in topics, there is one common thread which is interwoven throughout the presentations we saw – and that is – practicability. We recognize your time is valuable, so we are committed to ensuring you receive maximum benefit from all of our events. We will continue to provide you with practical, useful tools and techniques which you can immediately apply to improve your skills as a Project or Program Manager.

January 21 Dinner Meeting
Husam Sha'ath kicked off our first event of the year with a practical approach to managing project risks. Specifically, he spoke to us of strategies to identify, manage, and rank the project risks we encounter, and how to ensure we have the right people involved in the process. 61 people attended this session.

March 23 Dinner Meeting
In March, 71 people joined us to hear Tammy Sturge speak about "managing up" – where she provided practical tips for managing your boss. Remember, it is always important to manage your boss, no matter how great your boss is!

April 28 Joint PMI-CTT & IIBA Event
The joint event with the IIBA was extremely successful, with 121 people in attendance. During this fun and energetic session, Peter Paul lead us through a "workout" to build our facilitation muscles! We learned a lot of useful tools and techniques for becoming more effective facilitators.

May 19 AGM & Dinner Meeting
For the Annual General Meeting portion of the evening, Ian Adare, Past-President, provided the attendees with a summary of the year's activities and financial position. Following Ian, Rick Brenner helped us identify tools to effectively manage virtual project teams. The fact that virtual teams are becoming more popular as a way for organizations to reduce expenses, made this presentation very practical. 45 people attended this session.

September 22 Evening Event
In September, Peter Paul returned for a "sequel" to the facilitation event we held in April. 60 people attended this second hands-on workshop where we learned practical application tools for delivering successful facilitation sessions that deliver impactful and meaningful experiences.

November 25 Evening Event
PMI-CTT's very own Vartkes Peltekoglu & Ian Adare lead an open-forum discussion for 51 people on the topic of Risk Management. This informal open-forum format was extremely well received, and led to very interesting and practical discussion for managing project risks in "real life".

All of these events would not be possible without the hard work and commitment of our wonderful Event Coordinators. Between arranging speakers, securing venues, ordering food, handling registrations, and overseeing all materials and promotion for each event – this team is very busy throughout the year! I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank and recognize these individuals:

- Trish MacNeil
- Kathy Liao
- Daisy Martin
- Thuy Hilderley
- Patty Brown
- Allison Hinsperger
- Dananthi Mendis

Thank you for all your efforts in 2010! I truly appreciate your dedication and professionalism. Without you, our chapter would not be able to provide such tremendous development opportunities to our members!
I'd like to say a big thank you to Carol Baker for all your help "showing me the ropes" during my first few months as the new Director of Events. The PMI-CTT chapter is lucky to have such a knowledgeable and dedicated individual coordinating the multitude of things you do!

I would also like to recognize Margaret Charles and Trish MacNeil for all their hard work on converting to the new website. Events and event registration are such a big part of what our members use the website for. We are extremely grateful for your work on behalf of the Events Team on this project!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their support throughout the year by attending the events we held! I hope everyone has a Safe and Happy New Year – see you at the events in 2011!

Jennifer Virley
Director of Events

Webinar Success

Over 120 webinars have been downloaded since October

Since the introduction of on-demand webinars in October 2011, PMI-CTT members have accessed 123 on-demand webinars. The PMI-CTT chapter's mission is to serve as a resource and knowledge base for the advancement of all project management professionals. Vartkes Peltekoglu, VP, Professional Development, PMI-CTT, is very pleased with the partnership with ESI International and feels that ESI is helping the chapter in achieving its mission.

"These webinars allow our members to earn professional development units (PDUs) at no charge and at their convenience. It's a perfect solution for our members, with busy schedules, to fulfill their educational needs," said Carol Baker, VP, Communications & Publicity, who manages the PMI-CTT Events Team that worked closely with Professional Development to develop and launch a webinar program that would be appropriate for members.

With the volatility in the marketplace, the two webinars that are getting the most hits are: *The Impact of an Economic Crisis* and *Best Practices in Risk Management*, according to Patty Brown, Director Business Development, ESI International.

Here is what our members downloaded in November:

- The Impact of an Economic Crisis
- Best Practices in Risk Management
- Leading Virtual Teams
- The Evolution of the Project Manager
- The Need for Effective Integrated Project Teams
- Untangling the Web of Complex Projects
- Middle Managers Role in Emerging Change

For first-time users, register and then you are done!

Haven't had a chance to check out the webinars on-demand yet? Here's a list of pre-selected topics we hope you will find of interest! (Note: PDU information provided at the end of each webinar):

- A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned: Better Requirements Metrics
- Communication is Key: How to Achieve Contract Management Success
- First Things First: 5 Steps to Achieving Successful PPM Outcomes
- Outside the Box: Business Skills for Technical Professionals
- Project Portfolio Management in a Time of Significant and Rapid Change
- Selling the PMO to the CFO
- Taking Charge of Organizational Change

2011 Planning Underway

During the last quarter of each calendar year, the PMI-CTT Board of Directors undertakes a strategic planning exercise to review our direction and adjust offerings to our member services and chapter governance. We take input from a variety of input sources, focus on goals with a 2 to 3 year window, and then identify detailed tactical approaches for the upcoming year.

This planning cycle is nearing a conclusion as we look forward to embarking on activities in 2011. We are presently documenting the details of our plans for 2011 and developing the budget. This plan will be ratified in January, 2011 and published at that time.

Sources of Input
We consider three main sources of input when developing our chapter plans:

1. Foremost is feedback from you, our members. You told us about your level of satisfaction with the programs and services provided in our member survey conducted in May/June 2009. You gave us valuable suggestions for improving our existing offerings and provided great ideas for new events and programs. We collected this feedback from the member survey and followed up with a Feedback evening in September 2009. Your suggestions were reviewed during the planning stage and many of the ideas are still valid and will make their way into our 2011 plan. In general, we are reacting to your interest in building collaborative relationships with colleagues and the business community. See the PMI-CTT Oct 2009 newsletter for details of the items members proposed at the September 2009 Feedback evening.

2. Our second source of input is provided by PMI. PMI issues a catalogue of Core and Extended Services. Chapters use this catalogue to support planning their activities. The Core Services are a requirement to maintain our good standing as a PMI chapter, but we also look to the Extended Services to enhance our Chapter offerings. The Core services are the subject of the annual membership satisfaction survey issued by PMI and the results are distributed to each chapter.   Our chapter reviews the survey results, our activities, events and communications, and then completes the Strategic Alignment Scorecard (SAS report) on our performance against Core Services. This is submitted annually to PMI. As part of this exercise, we set our targets for subsequent years. PMI uses the information to provide assistance to chapters where needed.

The following is a sampling of the Core Services against which chapters are measured:

- Member retention rate
- Community events
- PDU hours offered
- Number of Events
- Website – update frequency

- Number of communications
- Marketing introduction and member benefit package
- New members and PMI certification recognition
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Stability

3. The final consideration in the planning process is supportability and affordability of the programs and services. As a "not for profit organization" operating on your chapter membership fees, we must keep the scope of our activities financially responsible. As a volunteer organization, we can only offer new initiatives when we are able to attract the volunteer interest and commitment to deliver them.

Strategic Initiatives

For 2011, our focus will continue to be directed on the following four (4) strategic initiatives. Each event, program, communication and activity should align with one or more of these initiatives:

1. Increase value of the chapter to current and potential membership
2. Maintain long-term viability (financial, succession planning, membership and retention)
3. Promote project management discipline in the region
4. Facilitate professional development and collaboration

The **Membership** team will continue to strengthen the process for operations, including new member welcomes and the renewal communications. The Volunteer process will continue as procedures are refined and improved throughout the year. Community Outreach will see the biggest change as it is expanded in terms of people and visibility. New initiatives throughout the year and continual process improvement will be the areas of focus.

Professional Development modified the Mentoring Program in 2010, to make it easier to execute in one year. Now the mentoring program is centered around 36 hours of one-on-one contact, about 25% less than the previous version. A library of webinars, courtesy of ESI Canada, is now available. Members can utilize the library at their convenience. There are also plans for a full day workshop in June 2011. The Professional Development team will continue to jointly offer PM Connect with our Communitech partner. The PMP Study Group will continue in 2011. PMI PMP Certification examination will be based on the PMBOK Fifth Edition beginning August 2011. The Study Groups will have access to the Chapters Study Group Library updated to reflect the Fifth Edition.

The **Events** team will continue to explore options for new event formats. Webinars were introduced in 2010 to great success, and the program will be refined in 2011. Other event suggestions for consideration in 2011 included discussion evenings based on white papers, books reviews, and project management research reviews. As well, with the chapter reaching our 10th anniversary in March 2011, planning for an anniversary event began in 2010 and will be held in April 2011.   The regular dinner meetings and special event evenings will be ongoing, with speakers and topics selected from suggestions received through our various feedback methods.

The **Communications** team plans to reformat the newsletter during 2011. We received input from the Newsletter Enhancement team in May 2009 suggesting we take advantage of the electronic delivery of the newsletter to improve navigation. And at the September 2009 feedback focus group session, we received suggestions for additional content.   The membership has requested a more interactive web site with opportunities for social networking. In December 2010, we have launched our new website as a key strategic initiative. This not only provides a cost-effective web solution, but also gives us a better foundation for which to serve our members and pursue potential 2011 strategic initiatives. Additional content requests have been received and we will maintain and update the new site with current and useful information for our members.

Next Steps

As we proceed through the final steps to document the plan, establish a budget for 2011, and build success measures to ensure we remain on track to deliver the planned activities, it is evident that we need additional volunteer assistance to make this happen. We will be posting volunteer opportunities early in 2011. Keep tuned to our underline volunteer page on the web site for information.

We thank everyone who provided feedback and helped us develop this plan. We are looking forward to engaging more members in the plan delivery and generating greater collaboration and interaction within the chapter. Regular updates on our plans will be provided as progress is made. Please stay tuned to our communications (email blasts and newsletters) to keep up to date on our progress.

**Carol Baker**
VP of Communications & Publicity

New PMI-CTT Web Site

Today, when you visit us at www.pmi-ctt.org, you will see a new version of our web site with many familiar features and some exciting new additions. This was a major undertaking for an organization that runs solely on volunteer support and I would like to thank and recognize the great effort of the team who made this happen.

The project started in the spring of 2010 with a business case and a search for solutions. This was followed by a 60 day trial assessment with One PMI which was our preferred web and event management solution and a parallel assessment with Constant Contact for e-mail blast services. Walter Winkler, Trish MacNeil and Kim Eccles took the lead on this work and did a superb job analysing and comparing the functionality of the new solutions against our current capabilities. After reviewing the assessments and financials, the Board of Directors agreed that we should move forward with the new web site and e-mail provider.

The main benefits were.
- One PMI solution supported all our current chapter web site content and in addition provided:
    - Login to a "members only section" of the site - as requested by membership in feedback sessions
    - Ability to register for events and make payment by credit card right on the site
    - Capability to print a PDU certificate following your attendance at the event
    - Viewing of the listing of events you have attended
    - Viewing of event presentations from the event description page
    - Collaboration area for Board and Volunteers to store chapter governance and operational documents
- The additional value added to the site was very cost-effective ensuring your membership dollars are wisely spent.

Back row: Arcy Canumay, Mansoor Ali, Max Xu
Front row: Henok Russom, Walter Winkler
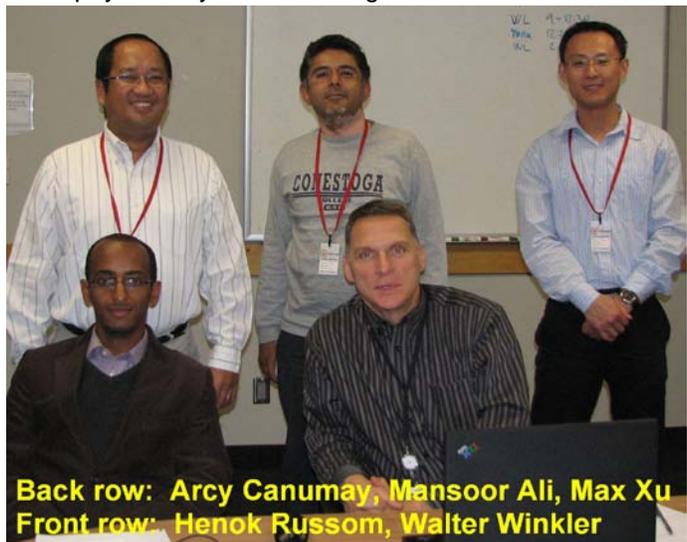
Web Administration Team

In Sep we augmented our volunteer team with 4 web site administrators, ran a training session and set assignments to migrate to the new site before yearend 2010. Rick Black, VP of Finance, provided guidance with the contract work and ensured the transfer of our credit card payment processing to a new supplier is working smoothly. Carol Baker, VP Communication and Events and her team became very involved in the event setup and event management activities. Cyndi Seifried, the Director of Publicity, researched the recently issued PMI Branding Standards to develop a new graphic for our site banner. The Board of Directors reviewed the site and provided feedback during the testing stages. Everyone involved deserves a big vote of thanks for stepping up to the task.

Although there is still work to do on the site and many opportunities to provide additional benefits in the future this is truly a significant step forward for the chapter. We are very grateful and appreciative of the numerous evenings and weekends that were graciously contributed to make this possible.

About the New One PMI Site Engine
One PMI is a web site solution initially developed from requirements provided by Mile Hi Chapter in Denver Co. It is an internet engine that supports a member database, event management and payment functions as well as configurable web pages for chapter information. The One PMI solution was designed to support the needs of PMI chapters and is made available to PMI chapters on a non profit basis. Currently seven other Canadian chapters use One PMI to support their web and event management needs.
The solution is a packaged engine that supports chapter specific content pages under our control as well as standardized functions used by all chapters. There is a user group composed of reps from each chapter with a One PMI site solution. It is through this user group that we will be able to influence changes and enhancements to the standardized functions.

Information for Site Users - Things you need to Know

This is a repeat of the e-mail blast issued 14 Dec 2010 and will reside permanently in the newsletter area of the site for your future reference.

General Information
The left menu bar on each page is chapter specific and you will find many of the same menu items as you are accustomed to view on the old site. In addition there is an FAQ menu item where we can answer commonly asked questions. Some of the instructions in this document will reside there for future reference. You will notice the home page looks different from our previous site. Here is a preview of the home page.
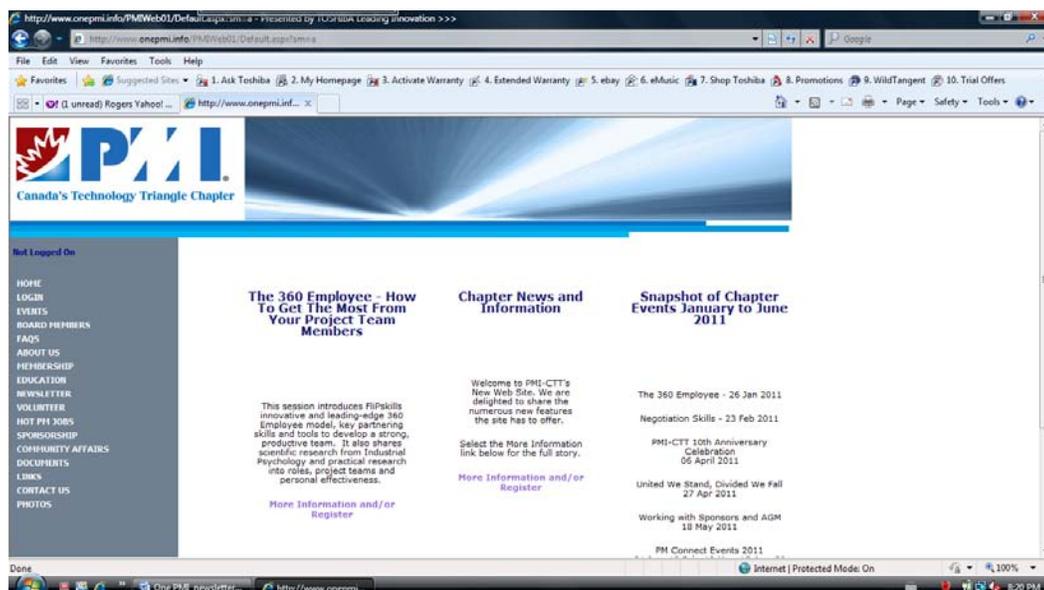
The body of the home page is divided into 3 columns
- Left column on Home page is a looping presentation of future events so you may see a different event each time you sign on. Clicking on the "more information and/or to register" link at the bottom of the column will take you to the events page where you can find details on all events
- The middle column on the Home page is our news and special events area. Initially we are providing information on the new site.

- The right column on the Home page is a static snapshot of our events for a 4 to 6 month period. This area will be refreshed two to three times per year so you always have a quick preview of upcoming events.

You will note the banner has changed from the old site. We are incorporating some of the graphics from the new PMI marketing standards and you will see these repeated on other chapter materials.

Member Login
The first time you login to the new chapter website you will need to have your **PMI membership ID/number** handy.

The initial login is a 2 step process. Step one guides you through setting up an account and password and then step two asks you to login using the newly established account. The following steps guide you through this activity.

Click on the Login menu item. Then you will be required to enter your last name as your User ID and your PMI Membership ID as your initial password. Entry of your last name is case sensitive and should be in the same format that you recorded it at PMI. You will then be prompted to create an account. You should change your User ID and set a new password. These steps are required on your initial login only. After you have set up your new account information, you will be prompted to enter this information and login to the PMI-CTT site as a member.

Event Management
You will now be registering for an event directly on our PMI-CTT site and will not receive an e-invite as you did with our previous event management solution. In our twice monthly e-mail blasts we will tell you when it is time to register for an event and provide the link to the site where you will login and fill out the registration form online.

Register online for an event
It is best to login to the site to complete an event registration as the form presented will be populated with your personal information if you are identified to the system. If you do not login, you can still register but will need to type in your personal information.

If the event is listed on the home page, simply page down until you see "More Information", click it, and then press the "Register for this Event" button on the next page. If you do not see the event on the home page click on the Events menu item on the left hand menu bar, and click on the event you are interested in. Then click the "Register for this Event" button.

Payment for an Event
As part of the online event registration, you will create a shopping cart displaying the event items you have selected. It is possible to register and pay for more than one event at a time by making multiple selections during Check Out.

You can then proceed to make payment by Visa, Master Card or AMEX. Our system is fully secured and does NOT store your credit card number or associated codes. We use a third party provider that is widely used by Merchants. Transactions are sent between your server and the Merchant data centers via the Internet using a highly secure technique based on SSL.

We highly recommend you to use this secure credit card payment system which is one of the benefits of this event management solution. In the interests of streamlining our payment processing while addressing the importance of information security, credit card payment is preferred.   If you opt to make payment by cash or cheque, you must notify events@pmi-ctt.org that you wish to register off line and pay at the door. You will be issued a registration form via e-mail that must be completed and returned 48 hours prior to the event. Our event coordinators will register you and collect cash or cheque from you at the event.

Event Cancellation
If you need to cancel your registration please contact events@pmi-ctt.org. One of the event coordinators will process your cancellation. If it is more than 48 hours prior to the event you will receive a refund. Due to the commitment and cost associated with our hosting venues, failure to cancel your registration 48 hours prior will require full payment be made.

Tracking your Event Attendance and Registration
Once you are using the new site to register for events, you will be able to track events registered and attended events. First, login to the site with your user name and password.   Then in the left menu bar click "My Information". You will see two tables – one for Registered Events and one for Attended Events. These tables will reflect information about the events you for which you have registered or attended. The sample below is from the Nova Scotia chapter since we do not yet have any events open for registration.
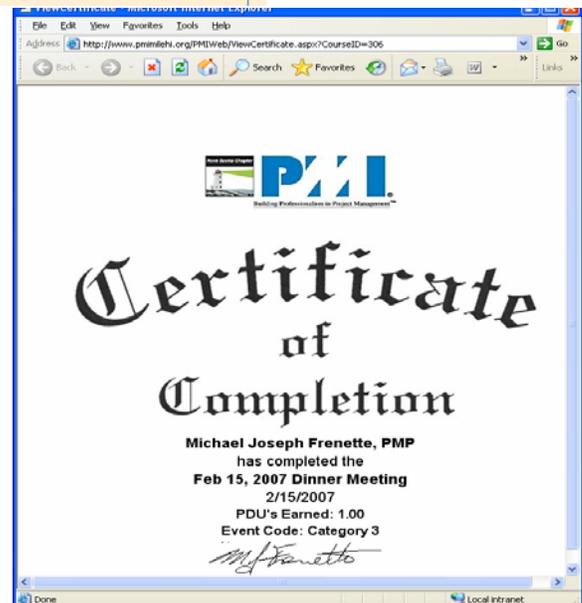
Registered Events

Event	Code	Start Date	PDUs
		1	

Attended Events

Event	Code	Start Date	PDUs	
Feb 15, 2007 Dinner Meeting	Category 3	02/15/2007	1.00	View Certificate
Kilimanjaro Breakfast Meeting	pdu#12121	04/18/2005	1.00	View Certificate
Feb 15, 2007 Dinner Meeting	Category 3	02/15/2007	1.00	View Certificate
Feb 15, 2007 Dinner Meeting	Category 3	02/15/2007	1.00	View Certificate
		1 2		

PDU Certificates
To print a PDU certificate, you must be logged into the PMI-CTT site. In the left menu bar click "My Information". Click "View Certificate" beside any event that you attended and a window will pop up with your certificate in it. Press "File, Print ..." and send it to a printer of your choice. *** NOTE *** you must allow pop-up windows for www.pmimilhi.org, or the certificate will not appear. To record PDUs you must log them directly with PMI. See the Education section of our site for further information

Here is a sample certificate from an event hosted by the Nova Scotia Chapter.

Now that we have transitioned to the new site, you can register for our January 2011 event. If you have questions about the new site contact us at communications@pmi-ctt.org.

PMI

Certificate of Completion

Michael Joseph Frenette, PMP
has completed the
Feb 15, 2007 Dinner Meeting
2/15/2007
PDU's Earned: 1.00
Event Code: Category 3

Margaret Charles

PMI-CTT 10th Anniversary Celebration

On April 6, 2011, we invite you to join us in celebrating ten years of PMI-CTT's growth and accomplishment. The celebration event will be held at Whistle Bear Golf Club, Cambridge, ON. This special event will include recognizing our chapter's successes and progress, reconnecting with our past leaders, and networking with former chapter presenters and fellow members.

Our special guest, Peter Monkhouse, will deliver a congratulatory message from PMI. Peter has been a member of PMI since 1996 and was originally elected to the PMI Board of Directors in 2009. He is past president of PMI Southern Ontario Chapter and provided expertise, support and encouragement to the PMI-CTT founding team. He has a long-standing association with the chapter and we are delighted that he will join us in our celebration and represent PMI.

We are also pleased to have five of our past presenters lined up to give us a brief synopsis of the key points in the messages they previously delivered. We have challenged these presenters to limit their comments to 10 minutes or less and get across key points for "take away". You will have a chance to socialize and network with them as well. We will be joined by:

- Keith Farndale, who was our first dinner meeting speaker during the pre chartering period and he spoke on Project Risk Management
- Dave Barrett, who presented at a dinner meeting in March 2002 on the topic Project Management in the 2000's
- Rob Straby, who has been a speaker at the chapter in 2006 and 2009. Always well received, he will relate the most important thing he has learned about careers in the past decade
- Julie Grabb, who last spoke to the chapter in Sep 2008 and will recap her key message on Asking the Right Questions
- Nancy Praymayer, who was a presenter at the 2008 symposium and will title her comments "Greater Things are Yet to Come"

The display of our chapter's history will give you a glimpse of our growth and development. By visiting our display, you have a chance at winning door prizes.

After ten years, we have much to celebrate! We hope you can join us! Event information is now posted on our web site and you can register at any time on the new site.

Margaret Charles
Chair, 10th Anniversary Celebration

5 Reasons NOT to Take a PMP Exam Boot Camp

By Cornelius Fichtner, PMP - Making the [PMBOK]® Guide fun.

Often touted as "ideal targeted training" for the Project Management Professional (PMP) exam, many people find PMP boot camps are an attractive option for exam preparation. While boot camps are designed to deliver noticeable results with a high-output of effort in a short period of time, the drawbacks of choosing this path for exam preparation often outweigh the benefits.

Boot camps may work for some because the instructors are usually highly qualified with master's degrees, prior training, and years of industry experience. Most also offer a pass guarantee and will assume financial risk if you fail. They may offer to pay for your exam re-take or provide custom coaching and feedback.

Quoting high first- and second-time pass rates, boot camp programs claim to be the ideal package for exam preparation, often including the PMBOK® Guide, a prep guide, test-style prep questions, and meals during classroom sessions. If you would like a surefire way to pass the PMP exam in a short period of time, then a boot camp may be just what you're looking for.

However, PMP boot camps definitely have their share of drawbacks and these drawbacks are the reason why I never recommend a boot camp to any of my students.

Reason #1: Boot camps are expensive.

Designed to be the ideal all-in-one exam preparation experience, the sheer cost of boot camps make them less-than-ideal for those of us on a budget. An intensive 4-day course can cost you several thousand dollars, depending on your location, whether it's a busy time of year, and the availability of included amenities. While the up-front cost may seem astronomical, check to see if it includes the actual PMP exam fee and comes backed with a pass guarantee. Most boot camp companies will offer to cover tailored tutoring and re-take exam fees if you fail the first or second time. If you fail a third time, they may even offer to let you take the entire 4-day course over again for free.

But all of this comes at a cost. Essentially a pay-to-pass program, boot camps pump a large amount of students through a short-term, high-yield course. Boot camps may only be a viable option if time is more valuable to you than money.

Reason #2: Boot camps are inconvenient.

Unless you live in a large urban area where a course is offered, the 4-day boot camp will usually require travel and hotel accommodations. For most project managers with jobs and families, dropping their responsibilities for four days is not only inconvenient, it's impossible. Work and life does not stand still (or even slow down!) just because you have an important exam to pass. Most project managers require – and work best with – a study schedule that fits with their lifestyle instead of interrupting it.

Reason #3: Boot camps focus on memorization.

As you are already aware, the PMP exam is based on concepts from the PMBOK® Guide. Specific principles include communication, cost management, human resources, integration, procurement, quality, risk, scope, and time management. The material is broad and the data is often in-depth. So, how do boot camps ensure you thoroughly master and understand these concepts in a mere four days? They don't.

There is absolutely not enough time in four days to extensively cover concepts and in-depth data. Instead, boot camps focus on rote memorization of high-yield material. While they may be able to guarantee a "first-time pass", boot camps cannot and do not offer an education that will help you with project management beyond the exam.

Reason #4: Boot camps have limited schedules and openings.

As noted above, the inconvenience of boot camps is often rooted in their location and need for travel away from home. On top of that, many boot camps have limited space and are only able to offer sessions at certain times of the year. If you thought taking time off from work and your family would be difficult, try doing it around their schedule instead of your own. The only available times may be during a busy work crunch or stressful family situation. At best, this may be inconvenient. Often, it is impossible. Project managers with home and work commitments will usually have better success with a study schedule or workshop that still allows them to fulfill their home and work responsibilities.

Reason #5: Boot camp training focuses on passing the exam instead of teaching concepts.

The material on the PMP exam is broad and in-depth. If you are not already familiar with concepts covered in the PMBOK® Guide, boot camps will not be able to help you in a mere four days. As noted in their "guarantee", boot camps only promise to help you pass the exam. They do not offer an education that will guide or assist you through your career.

One of the secret ingredients to doing well on the PMP exam is understanding project management principles, both individually and how they work together. Instead of focusing on competency, boot camps rely on rote memorization of high-yield material. While this may result in a high first-time pass rate, it does not ensure that the project manager has learned any skills or gained experience that will help their career beyond exam day.

In conclusion, if your goal is to simply pass the PMP exam without learning new techniques to improve your project management skills, then a boot camp may be just what you're looking for. If you are unemployed, single without familial commitments, have more money than you know what to do with, and are simply looking to add credentials to your CV, then a 4-day PMP boot camp will probably serve you well. However, if you are genuinely interested in becoming a better project manager on the road to excelling on the PMP exam, then a more in-depth study approach is what you want.

Successfully passing the PMP Exam and achieving lasting and positive effects on your project management skills involves daily study time for 10 to 12 weeks. Individuals that choose to study on their own should read the PMBOK® Guide twice, utilize an additional PMP self-study preparation book, listen to a PMP Exam Podcast, and tackle as many sample exam questions as possible. Individuals that prefer the structure of a classroom schedule should select a training class that meets for several weeks. Self-study at home will complement the in-class lectures and further solidify the information. Following this approach will ensure that you not only pass the exam, but become a superior project manager along the way.