

PMI Mid-Mo Chapter News

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So You Want to Earn a Million PDUs?

Missouri Certified Project Managers: Did you know you can earn Project Management Development Units (PMDUs) by serving as a committee member or officer for the Mid-Missouri Chapter PMI?

Project Management Professionals (PMPs): Did you know volunteering to serve the Mid-Missouri Chapter PMI can earn you Professional Development Units (PDUs)?

Volunteers of all stripes: Did you know Chapter activities can help you gain valuable career and networking skills?

Yes, it's true – the Mid-Missouri Chapter has opportunities to benefit every member!

The Missouri Office of Information Technology [Project Management Certification Handbook](#) states Missouri Certified Project Managers can earn from 2 to 10 PMDUs per year by serving as an officer for a project management organization, or 1 to 5 PMDUs per year serving on a project management organization committee.

The PMI® [Continuing Certification Requirements Handbook](#) states PMPs can earn 2 to 10 PDUs per year by serving as an officer for a project management organization, or 1 to 5 PDUs per year as a committee member.

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In the News

*Roundup Reprinted with Permission from
PMI Friday Facts and Leadership Links*

▪ **PMI appoints new Manager, Government Relations.**

Valerie Carter has joined PMI as Government Relations Manager and will be working out of PMI's newest representative office, due to open in May 2005, in Washington, D.C., USA. This newly created and important role within PMI's Business & Government Relations Department will aid our efforts in building and maintaining relationships within the U.S. Government and Canada, as well as with volunteer groups within these areas. Carter will be engaged with a number of groups and individuals and will work closely to understand and collaborate toward advocacy and the adoption of project management.

Carter brings over 15 years of experience to PMI from Merck & Co., Inc., in the areas of government, state and community relations. She is also experienced in large project cost tracking and monitoring. For the past seven years she served as Manager, Government Relations Programs and Communications for Merck & Co., in Washington, D.C., leading the development and management of grassroots legislative action programs, related communications, and coordination of contacts among Merck executives and legislative leaders.

▪ **Online books are new member benefit**

Thanks to PMI members' tremendous usage and positive feedback, PMI eReads & Reference Online Book Program is now an official member benefit! Through Books24x7®, PMI members have access to the full unabridged contents of selected PMI books and other leading project management and business texts. PMI eReads & Reference is a perfect resource for members to build their project management knowledge base and enhance their professional development.

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2005 Exam Schedule

Important notice for components involved in PMP preparation ... PMI announces September 2005 release date for updated PMP credential examination.

The updated PMP® credential examination (referred to as the “2005 Examination” for purposes of this communication) will deploy globally at 14.00 GMT on Friday, 30 September 2005. Five days prior, a “blackout” period (beginning on Sunday, 25 September 2005) will commence during which the PMP credential examination will be unavailable.

Because PMI cannot guarantee space at any test center, we strongly recommend that candidates apply early and schedule their examinations immediately upon receipt of their eligibility notice to ensure they can reserve a seat to test on the 2004 Examination.

Application and scheduling

Applications to take the current PMP examination (referred to as the “2004 Examination” for purposes of this communication) will be accepted until Monday, 29 August 2005. Candidates submitting applications after 29 August will take the 2005 Examination. Candidates who do not receive a passing score on the 2004 Examination will be permitted to re-take the 2004 examination for the period of one year from the date of their last attempt; however, these will be the only candidates permitted to take the 2004 Examination after the release of the 2005 Examination.

Preparation for 2004 examination:

Candidates preparing for the 2004 Examination are encouraged to include [*A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge \(PMBOK® Guide\)–2000 Edition*](#) as one of their study references. Visit the [PMI Bookstore](#) for a suggested exam preparation resource pack.

Preparation for 2005 examination:

Candidates preparing for the 2005 Examination are encouraged to include [*A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge \(PMBOK® Guide\)–Third Edition*](#) as one of their study references.

Dates to remember:

29 August 2005 - Final day to submit applications to test on the 2004 Examination

24 September 2005 - Final day to test on the 2004 Examination

30 September 2005 - First day to test on the 2005 Examination

So You Want to Earn a Million PDUs? continued

Are these opportunities not challenging enough for you? How about these?

- Survey Chapter members and meeting attendees to generate ideas for future program content
- Solicit presenters for Chapter events
- Help coordinate meeting logistics by securing meeting rooms, selecting menus, approving contracts, shopping for gifts and door prizes, and facilitating speaker travel arrangements
- Help conduct Chapter Sponsorship and Membership drives
- Staff the Chapter’s booth at the Missouri Digital Government Summit in June 2005
- Become a Webmaster!

How can you participate? Contact any of the Mid-Missouri Chapter PMI [Board Members](#). We’ll have you on the road to professional development riches in no time!

Seminar: The Best of Neal Whitten

Mark your calendars for September 22, 2005, and join noted trainer and speaker Neal Whitten, PMP, for a practical, no-nonsense session on becoming a better leader and a more successful project manager.

This all-day workshop will be held in Jefferson City. PMI member price is \$125 (\$135 for non-members).

For more information, check the [PMI website](#).

In the News continued

Online books are new member benefit (con’t)

You can read, research and refine your book selections, browse or search text and create annotated bookmarks for quick future reference. You can discover work solutions or learn about new areas of interest – around the clock – without ever leaving your desk.

Roy Reese, Director-Department of Special Projects, Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, USA, shared that “...this is the best professional association member benefit that I have ever experienced. This access and quick search can make experts of every member...it’s awesome!”

PMI hopes all members will find the latest benefit valuable and that they utilize it often. Check the Members Area of the [PMI Web site](#) for details!

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CHAPTER MAILING ADDRESS:

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Chapter Advertising Policy

The PMI Mid-Missouri Chapter PMI accepts print advertising for publication in our bimonthly newsletter published in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Submissions may be made in color or black and white. Any graphics must be in a file format that may be inserted into a PC-compatible Microsoft Word document. In submitting, specify the issue(s) in which the ad is to be placed. Include full contact information along with your submission. Please submit by e-mail to Gwen Billinger, Advertising Manager, at ads@pmimidmo.org. The Advertising Manager will send an invoice to your return address upon receipt of your ad. Important: Payment must be received no later than two weeks before the lead month of the first issue in which you would like your ad placed.

Rates are based on fitting your ad to a standard 8.5" X 11" newsletter page, and are as follows:

Ad Size	One Issue	Three Issues <i>15% Discount</i>	Six Issues <i>20% Discount</i>
Full Page	\$150.00	\$382.50	\$720.00
Half Page	\$75.00	\$191.25	\$360.00
Quarter Page	\$37.50	\$95.62	\$180.00
Business Card	\$25.00	\$63.75	\$120.00
Classifieds (size and length vary). Flat price per word is .25¢, 20-word minimum.			

Make your company check payable in the proper amount to **PMI Mid-Missouri Chapter, Inc.** Mail your check to:

PMI Mid-Missouri Chapter, Inc.
 P.O. Box 105137
 Jefferson City, MO 65110-5137.

Ads must be for a service or product related to project management. The Chapter Board reserves the right to refuse publication of any ad that would appear offensive to the Chapter Membership. Any ad that discriminates based on federally protected classes of persons will be refused. Limited space is available for advertising so ads will be published on a first-come-first-served basis. The newsletter editor will determine placement of advertising.

After-meeting note from our March presenter

Presenter Peter de Jager has asked for a quick mention of his Web site and a mailing list to which he sends monthly updates. Visit his Web site at www.technobility.com and sign the guestbook (you can find it under the Publications link on his home page) to get on the list

Tribe of PMPs

The emails were telling. “Whew!” exclaimed one candidate. “I passed.” “I took the test...passed. Now I either need a stiff drink or a vacation.”

As of late April 2005, 6 of the 14 participants in the Mid-Missouri Chapter PMI’s fall 2004 PMP Prep Workshop have passed the PMP® exam, with an additional two participants planning to sit for the exam soon.

- Rodney Britt, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
- Nathan Eatherton, University of Missouri – IAT Services
- Rod Koelker, Shelter Insurance Companies
- Jack Morris, Missouri Department of Transportation
- Alexis Nixon, Shelter Insurance Companies
- Bob Roark, Ciber, Inc.

Please join the Mid-Missouri Chapter in congratulating those who have attained PMP® certification!

Member involvement makes a difference!

Diary of a Test Taker

*Editor’s Note: Rodney Britt, PMP, passed the PMP® exam on March 29, 2005. Rodney attended the Mid-Missouri PMI Chapter’s PMP Exam Preparation Workshop in October and November 2004. A core textbook for the Workshop was Rita Mulcahy’s book **PMP Exam Prep, 4th Edition**, published by RMC Publications.*

First of all, I felt comfortable with the exam because I felt I was adequately prepared. I studied quite a bit and what I studied helped. Here is what I did.

1. First, I went back and studied each chapter thoroughly. I did this over the span of a few weeks. The process I took for this was:
 - a. I read through the PMBOK® [Project Management Body of Knowledge] Guide thoroughly and felt I understood it. I tried to memorize the processes, inputs, tools and techniques at this time but was not successful at this point.
 - b. Next, I thoroughly read Mulcahy’s chapter that corresponded with the chapter I had just read in the PMBOK® (I only read Mulcahy’s chapter on professional responsibility since PMBOK® did not address it). I then took the exam at the back of each chapter in Mulcahy’s book.
 2. I took Mulcahy’s computerized exam three times. First I took the exam without studying at all and barely failed. This was at the end of January when I had not looked at any PMI material for a couple of months. The second time I took the exam I still had five chapters to study and I barely passed. The third time I had studied all the material (except for the memorization which I’ll describe later) and made a 79%.
- Mulcahy’s test helped me get a good feel for what to study. The actual exam felt a little different but was comparable in terms of difficulty. Also, taking Mulcahy’s exam three times helped me develop strategies for taking a 200-question test that lasted over three hours.
3. The last thing I did was to attempt to memorize every process, input, tool and technique, and output. I was not able to memorize everything without prompting--there are 39 processes with hundreds of items to memorize--but I learned it well enough so that I got several questions right because I knew what item went with what process on the exam plus I understood what happened when.

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Upcoming Chapter Meeting

“Embracing Risk,” with Brian Nathanson, PMP

May 12, 2005

5:00-7:15 p.m.

[Summit Lake Winery](#)

"Risk" is a hot topic in management today, and while risk may be misunderstood, it is an unavoidable and natural part of project undertakings. How we react to risk is the positive or negative factor, rather than the existence of risk itself.

Brian Nathanson, PMP, is an Associate Principal in the Reston, VA corporate headquarters of Tier Technologies, a leading provider of transaction processing and systems integration services for public sector clients.

For more information, visit the PMI website at www.pmimidmo.org

PMI Professional Awards nominations due this month

Recognize significant contributions to the profession and practice of project management, as well as to PMI, by nominating a peer for a 2005 award. The deadline for the 2005 PMI Professional Awards is right around the corner!

Submit your nominations now for this year's PMI Fellow Award, PMI Linn Stuckenbruck Person of the Year Award, PMI Distinguished Contribution Award, PMI David I. Cleland Project Management Literature Award, PMI Professional Development Product of the Year Award, and PMI Professional Development Provider of the Year Award.

You can find award descriptions and submittal guidelines on the [PMI Professional Awards Program](#) section of the PMI Web site. **All nominations must be received by postal mail addressed to the Manager, Brand Development at PMI Global Operations Center no later than Friday, 29 April 2005.** (melissa.diegidio@pmi.org)

Diary of a Test Taker continued

Also, by attempting to memorize these items, the processes started clicking and I started to see a pattern of how they fit together. I did not exactly get to the point where I had the interconnections down perfectly but if given more time I think I would have.

As far as taking the exam my personal techniques were:

1. Mark questions to come back to at the end.
2. Double check to ensure I answered every question.
3. Only review the ones I had marked. I went with my first instinct on the others. That is my personal test-taking style.
4. I took several small mental breaks. Any time I felt my concentration slipping I took a break. Some of my breaks were less than 2 minutes but that helped. Near the end I was taking about a two-minute break every other question.

We received one piece of advice in the training that did not help. We were told to memorize as much as you can and do a mental dump on paper. I started to do that but had these two problems.

1. You only have 10 minutes from the time you sit down until you start the exam. I tried to write down all the processes, inputs, etc. that I could. However, I only got about one quarter of the way done before the exam started.
2. You only have four pieces of paper. You can get more paper but you have to turn in the originals in if you do.

Despite these problems the process of memorizing for the mental dump helped because I knew the material I attempted to memorize better than I would have otherwise.

I only remember one question where I had no frame of reference. The question asked for detail about TQM [Total Quality Management], which is barely mentioned in Mulcahy's book. Had I ever been exposed to TQM, I would have gotten the answer.

What you learned in the Chapter's PMP Prep Workshop is what you need to know. You just have to study **STUDY STUDY**.

Rodney Britt (e-mail: BrittR@dhss.mo.gov) is a Computer Information Technology Specialist at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.