

PMI Mid-Mo Chapter News

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January 2001

Hot Presentation-Workshop

Linking Project Management to Capability Maturity

Nearly 40 persons, or about half of the Mid Missouri Chapter membership, attended the January 18 Chapter Meeting and gained insights from Lloyd Miller, PMP, of Oakwood Systems Group (www.oakwoodsys.com). Miller covered Microsoft Project Tips and Tricks, a presentation of about an hour and a half that served as the first of a two-part contribution Miller and Oakwood Systems are making to the Chapter.

The presentation, valuable alone, was a run up to the Chapter's first half-day workshop, scheduled for Saturday, February 24 at the Jefferson City Ramada Inn. The workshop, also to be led by Miller, will cover an overview of the Software Engineering Institute's (SEI) highly acclaimed Capability Maturity Model (CMM). In the January 1995 issue of IEEE Software magazine, Mark Paulk of SEI described the CMM as, "the principles and practices underlying software-process maturity and is intended to help organizations improve the maturity of their software processes."

Today, the full SEI-CMM is available online in via Carnegie Mellon University at www.sei.cmu.edu.

[See Presentation and Workshop on page 2](#)

TOP OF THE NEWS

Board Position Filled

VP Administration Already at Work

Norma Miller, Assistant to Missouri State Government's State Courts Administrator, heard opportunity knocking when the Chapter Board announced its need for nominations of candidates to fill the vacant position of Vice President of Administration. Selected from among several other highly qualified candidates who offered their volunteer service, Miller will handle multiple responsibilities and duties essential to the operation of the Chapter.

In August 1997, Miller joined the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) and coordinated the rollout of case management software in all of Missouri's circuit and appellate courts. In the nine years preceding her entry into state government, she served as a manager with Accenture, formerly Andersen Consulting, in the Big Six consulting firm's Phoenix, Arizona office. As an Accenture employee she specialized in helping governmental agencies solve business problems through improved use of technology. Before joining Accenture, she served as a programmer / analyst in Utah State Government's Division of Finance, where she developed cost-benefit analysis of the state's accounting system and budget forecasting instrument, and developed and executed software acceptance test plans.

Miller has a Bachelor of Science degree in information management from Brigham Young University, is state certified as a project manager through Boston University, and has her certificate in court management and development through the National Center for State Courts. The Chapter's administrative function is again in capable hands thanks to Miller's volunteerism. ❖

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At the February workshop Miller will explain CMM and, especially valuable, its direct links to project management. He and a colleague will also tie in what's new in Microsoft Project 2000. Miller polled attendees at the January meeting for the priority Microsoft Project 2000 topics to be covered in the follow-on workshop.

About Mr. Miller

Throughout his career Miller has successfully managed projects for major corporations, the Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, and other complex organizations. During the last two years, he has served the PMI St. Louis Chapter as Vice President of Communications. In 1995, a decade after putting his communications electronics background to work on network and systems designs, Miller shifted his focus to overseeing project teams developing and implementing applications that integrated voice and data to the desktop. Today, he is Management Consultant for Oakwood Systems Group, where he specializes in providing technological solutions to address business challenges. The Chapter is honored to be associated with Miller and appreciates the time and effort he is contributing to help advance the Chapter toward its goal of providing quality programs and activities for the membership. ❖

ALSO IN THE NEWS

**Roundup and Excerpts Reprinted
with Permission from PMI Friday Facts**

More Corporate Sponsorship – Skylar-Marks Corporation, led by PMI Mid Missouri Chapter President Charles Coldwell, has again infused the Chapter with seed money, in the form of the corporation's second \$1,000 donation. The donation, along with the balance of Chapter operating funds, will be used to advance the Chapter and to support Chapter programs, events, and activities.

Improved Confirmation – PMI's Membership Services Department recently announced that an automated email confirmation to all new members was placed into operation. With help from its MIS Department, PMI offered the enhanced service to provide more timely communication to members.

Confirmations are being sent twice a week via email to all new members.

New PowerPoint Presentation – The PMI

Certification Department last month announced that it was developing a PowerPoint presentation that would provide updated information about the PMP Certification Program. The presentation, now available, is too large to send as an email attachment according to PMI, so the Mid Missouri Chapter Board will send a written request, as required, for a copy so it may be made available to members interested in seeking certification as a Project Management Professional.

E-Biz Buzz – PMI Headquarters approved the charter for the new PMI E-Business Specific Interest Group on December 4. The SIG, under the sponsored direction of Tom McCabe, accumulated nearly 600 members since it submitted its letter of intent in October 1999. For more information, contact sig@pmi.org.

New Scholarship – The PMI Educational Foundation now offers the Gaylord E. (Gary) Christle Scholarship to promote project management studies. This new \$2,000 annual academic scholarship is available with an application deadline of February 15, 2001. Additional scholarships and grants are available through PMI as well, including the Mathew H. Parry Memorial Scholarship, the Wilson-Zells Academic Grant, and the Robert J. Yourzak Scholarship Award. For more information, point your web browser to www.pmi.org/pmief/#awards.

Updated Library – The Mid Missouri Chapter Library holdings are now sorted by title and by author, and the Library policies and procedures have been updated to expand on checkout and return, finding the Library resource needed, and consequences of failing to return Library property.

The Library, which remains underutilized as a valuable resource, contains books, videos, compact discs, and diskettes that are available for checkout. Titles cover all nine project management knowledge areas and are especially useful to members who are preparing to sit for the Project Management Professional Examination. Contact a Board member for more information, or stop by the Library at Rose International, Inc. ❖

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Ads Coming to Chapter Newsletter

Research into the initiative to publish paid commercial advertising in the PMI Mid-Mo Chapter News has resulted in receipt of supportive information from the PMI St. Louis Chapter including recommended contacts, and policy information from PMI. The input is now being studied for Chapter policy and procedure formation.

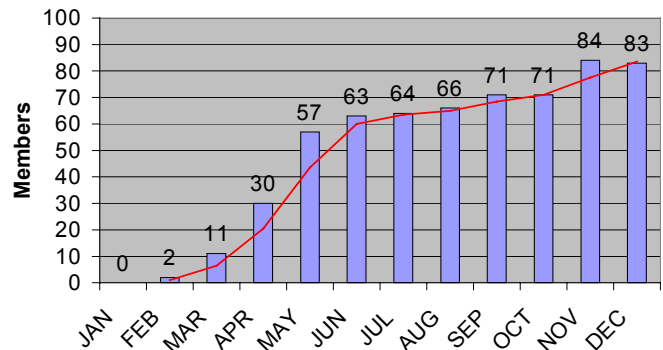
The St. Louis Chapter policy guidance is aimed at enabling that chapter newsletter to be wholly self-supporting by the end of 2001. The Mid Missouri Chapter will consider a similar objective, using standard rate input, which also was provided for study.

One requirement will be that paid ads must be for a service or product related to project management. An invoicing process must be established, along with a contact management system, to launch paid advertising. The Chapter will also draw up a boilerplate contract outlining terms and conditions, and establish a standard set of operating guidelines for distribution to advertisers.

Several companies have already contacted the Chapter to inquire about placing ads. Those organizations will receive guidance as soon as it is developed, reviewed by the Board, and releasable. Contact Frank Cox, VP Communication, or another Board member after Feb. 6 for additional information about advertising. ❖

Retention Crucial to Goals

Monthly Chapter Membership Growth in 2000



Net Gains – The Chapter closed 2000 with strong growth despite a subtraction of one member in December. Recruiting is a never-ending task, one that the Board desires to share. Help your chapter grow by referring prospective members to application materials. ❖

SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN

Contributor: Faye Zumwalt, PMP

Even as the ink still dries on the recent membership survey, one desired presentation has already been made, Microsoft Project Tips and Tricks, as covered on page 1 above. Other beneficial topics to be presented based on the survey include earned value, project communication management (scheduled for the March Chapter Meeting), and PM best practices. Additionally, and also driven by the survey, A Microsoft Project 2000 workshop is scheduled for February 24 (as covered on page 1, more to follow), and the Board is discussing the feasibility of conducting a PMP Exam preparation workshop.

Quantitatively the topics above received a lot of interest by members, and qualitatively there was no shortage of input from members on the survey. At the next Board meeting, scheduled for February 6, a review of the survey will continue to align programs and professional development offerings with member needs.

A copy of the survey, with anonymous responses, may be made available upon request. Contact Faye Zumwalt. ❖

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

What's on Your Mind?

Publication Ideas Solicited

This newsletter provides one-way communication to readers. Two-way communication is better, and so your ideas are requested to generate articles of interest to the readership.

Beyond contributing ideas to the newsletter, member-authors are encouraged to take up the quill and pen material for PMI's magazines, PM Network and Project Management Journal. Writing, editing, and publishing contributes to individual professional development, the local chapter, and the Institute.

Very brief articles about project management are always welcome by the newsletter editor. Longer, more feature-oriented material is suitable for PM Network, and thoroughly researched and highly defensible input will be considered for publication in the Journal. Instructions for submitting material to PM Network and the Journal are in the mastheads of those publications. Suggesting input to your newsletter is simple, just contact the editor at fcx@mail.doc.state.mo.us. Your input and writing can help advance your career and the profession. ❖

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To Active and Prospective Members of the Chapter