

PMI Mid-Mo Chapter News

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July 2001

Common Sense: a Workshop

From the Board

Attendees at the July 19 Professional Development Workshop gained useful insights on "Project Management, A Common Sense Approach". Lois Zells, an international author, lecturer, and business consultant presented the workshop, which was condensed from her powerful five-day seminar.

Following the workshop, conducted from 1 to 4 p.m., the Chapter Board wasted no time setting up for the July Chapter Meeting, covered below.

During the workshop, Zells focused on presenting a tutorial designed to help attendees find ways to achieve a higher return on their investment in business systems. Zells provided groundbreaking information that was not yet publicly available in any other venue. As an added bonus, Zells shared her foolproof secrets on how to reduce project costs and shorten activity and task durations by 50% while doubling quality.

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In the News

*Roundup and Excerpts Reprinted
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Registration Open for PMI 2001 – "First to the Future" will be held November 1 –10 in Nashville, Tenn., and members may register for the event online with a credit card at www.pmi.org/pmi2001/, which was misprinted in the June issue of PM Network magazine. Members may also download a registration brochure, as well as loads of information about the event and Nashville, from the same Web site. For more information, send an email to metqs-conv@pmi.org.

PMP Exam Scope Creep – A new performance domain, Professional Responsibility, will be included in the new version of the Project Management Professional (PMP) Examination. The new version of the exam is expected September 15. To get prepared to test on the new version, PMP candidates may obtain and review The Code of Professional Conduct, available at www.pmi.org/certification, and The Role Delineation Study, available for purchase at the PMI online bookstore, via www.pmi.org/bookstore. Additional references are at the PMI certification link above. For more information, contact PMI at (610) 356-4600 or jking@pmi.org.

PMP Exam Application Bug – If you are a PMI member and do not remember your ID number and, or password, contact PMI before beginning an online application to take the PMP Exam. If you log in as a new user but are a member, the online application will not recognize your membership and you will be charged the nonmember rate. If you have started the online application process and see a discrepancy in the fee, contact the Certification Department at (610) 356-4600 before submitting payment.

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Zells' workshop also covered the following scheduled topics:

- Setting the Stage for Success
- Project Planning
- Essential Inputs to the Planning Process
- Building Rational Teams
- Tracking and Managing the Project
- Implementing Project Management So It Sticks

The presenter is author of "Managing Software Projects", a best selling book in the project management genre. She also contributed to "Total Quality Management for Software, published by Van Nostrand Reinhold, and "The Program and Project Management Handbook", published by AMA. Zells has also served on the project management committee for the revision of the ISO 9000-3 standard, and she was selected as PMI's Woman of the Year in 1993. She did her masters studies in computer sciences at John Hopkins University.

When presenting on Building Rational Teams, Zells covered some of the most difficult areas encountered by project managers: listening, trust, communication, collaboration, and confrontation. Covering other major topics during her presentation, she also addressed an area all too familiar to experienced project managers – the multi-project, limited resource environment. Every contribution made by Zells, including her input on "estimating in uncertainty" (providing statistically reliable estimates), matters to project managers and members of the Mid Missouri Chapter.

What made the presentation stand out was its in-depth coverage of the timing and sequencing of the critical work units that must be present in every good project plan. Zells' updated version of her workshop provided new approaches to project stakeholder interviewing, scope management, prioritization, and change management.

The Chapter Board was very pleased to have Zells' present her workshop to attending members. Zells may be contacted by phone at (310) 798-9311, or by email at lzells@aol.com. ❖

July Chapter Meeting Focuses on Scope Creep "Tar Pit"

The July 19 Chapter Meeting got down to business with updates on the Chapter Bylaws and other matters, and covered the business of managing and controlling project scope creep. Guest presenter was Lois Zells, fresh from a common sense approach to project management workshop she provided to Chapter members earlier in the day.

During the meeting, members received information about changes to the Chapter Bylaws, about current activities and events of the Institute, and about current opportunities within the Chapter. Dinner was served at 6:30 p.m., then was followed by the one-hour tutorial, "Climbing Out of the Scope Creep Tar Pit", a recommended follow up to Zell's workshop.

Her presentation covered leading-edge intelligence on scope creep, baseline management, and change control. She covered clear and concise practices that make positive impacts on projects. She helped attendees understand the managers' and customers' perspectives on scope issues, such as requests and how they drive needs for an increase in resources.

Zells used her expansive experience in business consulting on total quality management, process assessments, and product development to drive points home to attendees. She imparted knowledge gained from work on multiple courses she has taught that are directly related to her presentation. Because of Zell's wide experience in the field of project management, she has been called on to serve as an expert witness in software project failure litigation.

Throughout her presentation, Zells capably shared her knowledge with a vocabulary designed to support scope management. Her coverage of the subject provided clear benefits to attendees, who must apply what they learn and consider scope management along with the other eight major areas of the project management profession. ❖

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Welcome to the U.S. Armed Forces – The U.S. Department of Defense is among the newest members of the PMI Corporate Council. The DOD Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics is the new member organization. A complete list of Council members may be viewed online at www.pmi.org/corporatecouncil. For more information, contact the Council by email at corporatecouncil@pmi.org.

VA Says OK to PMP Exam – The PMP Certification Examination is now recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs under provisions of Title 38, U.S. Code. Vets who pay to take the exam may have their test fee reimbursed as a provision of the Montgomery GI Bill. More information is online at www.gibill.va.gov, and the PMI contact for more information is at progmgr@pmi.org.

Kudos to Delaware PMI Chapter – PMI staff and members of the Delaware Valley Chapter recently volunteered their time at a Delaware Habitat for Humanity site in Chester, Penn. About 15 members volunteered. For Mid Missouri Chapter members who may be interested in volunteering, the local Habitat for Humanity office is at 1906 Monroe St., Columbia, MO 65201. The office phone number is (573) 499-1202. The non-profit organization is online at www.habitat.org.

PMI Career Headquarters Update – Multiple new features have been added to the PMI CareerLink Directory. Check it out at www.pmi.org/CareerHQ. The email contact is at CareerHQ@pmi.org.

Got the Writing Bug? – The PMI Call for Research Papers, for PMI Research Conference 2002, opened July 15. The Call closes October 15. The conference will be held in Seattle, Wash., from July 14 to 17, 2002. Details are at www.pmi.org/research/conference/conference.htm. The email contact is r&s@pmi.org.

Link to IT Pros Down Under – PMI has struck an agreement with the Australian Computer Society (www.acs.org.au) to stimulate cooperation, understanding, and information exchanges. A ceremonial signing to ink the agreement was held in June in Sydney, Australia. To learn more, send email to execdir@pmi.org. ❖

Important PDP Changes Made

Retroactive to January 1, 1999

Professional Development Program (PDP) changes and their impacts follow:

- Category 2:
 - ✓ A new activity area has been added. Five PDUs (fifteen per three-year cycle) are awarded for provision of 1,500 hours of project management services annually.
 - ✓ Point values for Category 2 have been adjusted to reflect industry values.
 - ✓ Self-directed activities are eliminated (with exemptions until December 31).
- Changes to the overall program:
 - ✓ PMPs may roll up to 20 PDUs to the next cycle, provided they exceed the 60 PDUs required for re-certification. Restrictions apply.

Updated information about the PDP program is online at www.pmi.org/certification. ❖

Timely Reminder to PMPs

Project Management Professionals must report at least 60 Professional Development Units (PDU) by year's end and re-certify. PMPs receive a certification renewal packet shortly after reporting to PMI that they have obtained the required PDU. PMI requests that renewal packets be completed and returned promptly to support re-certification.

The next certification cycle begins January 1, 2002. PMPs who do not meet re-certification requirements will have their certification status changed from "active" to "suspended", and will have 12 months to regain active status. After 12 months, PMPs who do not re-certify will be placed in a "revoked" status. Put questions to Barbara Pattinson, PMI Certification Administrative Manager, at certmgr@pmi.org. ❖

NEWS EXTRAS

Meet Me in St. Louie – The Metropolitan St. Louis Chapter of PMI invites Mid Missouri Chapter members to attend Project Management Vendor Night, Wednesday, September 19, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Sheraton Westport, Maryland Heights, Mo. Attendees will see some of the latest project management tools and will be able to ask technical questions about products. The event will provide opportunity to network with fellow PMI members, meet vendors, and make new contacts. Contact Toni Courtney for more information at (314) 694-1418 or toni.courtney@usa.net. The metro chapter is online at www.oakwoods.com/stlpmi/

New Editor Announced – On May 31, Kristin Wright introduced herself to the PMI membership as the new publisher for the Institute. Ms. Wright encourages PMI members' input, and she said Imagination Publishing's Editor, Ross Foti, in Chicago will work with PMI publishing staff to design and publish PM Network and Project Management Journal, two key publications mailed to PMI members.

PM Network is a monthly magazine containing editorial content and paid advertising. Project Management Journal is a refereed quarterly publication containing thoroughly researched material that advances the profession.

Wright said PMI members with input may contact the editor at the following address:

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