The Project Navigator

Summer 2006 A (nearly) Monthly Publication of PMI Erie, PA Chapter www.pmierie.org

September Meeting Details

Date: Thursday, September 14, 2006

Time: Meet & Greet 5:45 pm
Dinner and Program: 6:00 - 9:30

Place: Porters Restaurant & Tap Room
123 West 14th Street
Erie, PA 16501
814-452-2787

Cost: Members + Non-Members - $40
Pre-paid package- $75 for Sept and October meetings, by 8/31/06

Online Registration at www.pmierie.org
Or Mail your registration to the location shown in the

SPECIAL REMINDER:

Please remember to VOTE for new PMI Board members by October 2nd.

Upcoming Meetings & Speakers

For complete information on our upcoming meetings and events, please visit our web site at www.pmierie.org.
Part 2 of our Special Modern Project Management Program will be held on October 19th.

Dinner Meeting Reservations

Please visit our website at www.pmierie.org to make your dinner meeting reservations. We have to provide Porters with an expected headcount by 1 week prior to the meeting, so get your reservations in early.
You can pay for your dinner at the door. Please remember that we make reservations at Porters for a certain number of people based on the online reservations we receive. If you make a dinner reservation, and do not attend the dinner, you will be billed for your meal.

Sept-Oct Meeting + Learning

This is the last week to register for both the Sept and Oct Meetings and take advantage of the discount!

SPEAKER: Sam Provil, PMP

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PMI September - October Meetings
Dates: Thursday 9/14/06 and Thursday 10/19/06
Time: 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM
Place: Porters Restaurant, 123 West 14th Street, Erie, PA
PDU's: 3 for each session.

Cost: $40 for each session (includes dinner) or $75 for both sessions if we receive your payment by Thursday 8/31/06.
Mail Payment To: PMI Erie PA Chapter, 6660 Peach Street, Unit 7 Box 123, Erie PA 16509

Topic: +/- of Modern Project Management Planning and Scheduling Techniques
This two-part workshop will focus on the time management aspect of project management. We will introduce, explain, describe the background, and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of modern project planning and scheduling techniques, including:

- Milestone scheduling
- Gantt and bar chart scheduling
- Critical path method (CPM) scheduling
- Monte carlo simulation
- Critical chain project management (CCPM)

This is a cumulative program where you will receive the best learning value by attending both sessions, however, you are welcome to attend either session if you prefer.

New Members!

The Erie PMI Chapter welcomes new members - Please encourage your colleagues to get involved with our PMI-Erie. Bringing them as guests to our meetings is a great way to show the primary value provided by this growing and dynamic chapter.
This month we are pleased to welcome:
Cynthia Rensel (Erie Insurance Group)
Lisa Ruhlman (IBM)
Bonnie Wagner, PMP

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the PMI Erie PA Chapter, please contact Bruce McCall, Vice President of Membership, or visit our web site at www.pmierie.org.

Featured Article from the RISK DOCTOR
Email: david@risk-doctor.com Web: www.risk-doctor.com

Dear Frustrated Project Manager,

Anyone who is too busy for risk management is too busy! People who have no time to think about potential problems in advance, always manage to make time to fix problems when they happen. Try a combination of the following eight steps to encourage your team to adopt risk management:

1. *Mandate it.* If you can, it might help to insist that a structured risk management process must be implemented on your project. While it is not the whole answer, it sometimes helps to tell people what to do. If your company procedures include a risk process, then you can refer to this and explain that there is really no choice.

2. *Simplify it.* Risk management need not be complicated. Make the process as simple as possible without compromising effectiveness. Minimise the overhead for the team, keep risk meetings short and focused, and only collect information which you intend to use.

3. *Normalise it.* Explain to your team that managing risk is a "normal project task", and it is not an optional extra. All projects are risky, and risk management needs to be built into every part of the project. Plan and review risk responses the same as other project tasks, and expect your team to treat them just like any other task.

4. *Demonstrate it.* The project manager should lead by example, and be a role model for the team. If you show that you are serious about identifying and managing risk, and actively do it yourself, the team are more likely to follow your example.

5. *Use it.* When risk reports are written and forgotten, the team will learn that risk management is not important. But where the direction and strategy of the project is adjusted in the light of risk information, people will see that their efforts make a difference to how the project is run.

6. *Update it.* If the Risk Register is produced once and never updated, or agreed responses are not reviewed and monitored, the risk assessment will quickly become outdated and useless. Ensuring that current risk exposure is understood emphasises the importance of the risk process.

7. *Celebrate it.* Look for proof that risk management has tackled a threat so that a problem was avoided, or evidence that a potential opportunity has been converted into a real advantage. Record these successes and tell people about them. Success breeds success.

8. *"Pull" it.* Seek the support and buy-in of senior management. When the boss asks for risk information as part of the project governance, the team will know that it matters.

These steps should ensure that your team knows how importantly you view risk management, and should encourage them to take it seriously and do it themselves – because it works!
With best wishes,

The Risk Doctor

South Western Ontario Chapter

PMI SWOC (www.pmiswoc.org) is proud to present Neal Whitten's - "No-Nonsense Advice for Successful Projects"

Neal Whitten, PMP, is a popular speaker, trainer, consultant, mentor and author in the areas of both project management and employee development. He has written over 80 articles for professional magazines and is the author of five books.
He is a member of PMI and is a contributing editor of PMI's PM Network magazine.

Mr. Whitten has over 30 years of front-line project management, software engineering, and human resource experience, of which 23 years were with IBM. www.nealwhittengroup.com/

Tuesday, October 3, 2006
Best Western Lamplighter Inn
591 Wellington Rd. South
London
8:30 - 5:30

$ 299 for members *$329 for non member*

Early Bird Special
$1350 for groups of 5 who register before Sept 8th, 2006

(GST not included)

Come prepared to rethink what constitutes effective leadership and project management.
No theories here! This stuff works! You won't want to miss this!
Successful projects don't just happen—they are made to happen.
Email Diana.Day@LORD.com for a registration form, which you can EMail to nealwhittenevent@pmiswoc.org.

Membership Facts: PMI- ERIE

- We have 62 members
- We represent 3 Specific Interest Groups (Healthcare, Information Systems, and Manufacturing) (10 of us belong to SIG's)
- 5 of us also belong to other chapters
- We come from 25 companies
- Erie Insurance has the largest number of members in this area

Questions or Concerns?
Contact our chapter president,
Bob Spinelli, at