



The Project Navigator

December, 2005 to January 2006

A Monthly Publication of PMI Erie, PA Chapter

www.pmierie.org

Thursday, January 19th

Date: January 19, 2006

Time: Meet & Greet: 5:30 PM
Dinner: 6:00 PM
Meeting: 6:30 PM
Speaker: 6:45 PM

Speaker: Tom Rose
Poor Man's Estimating Tool

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

Cost: Members - \$15
Non-members - \$20
Meeting Only - Free

RSVP: by Thursday before the meeting if possible!
Online Registration at www.pmierie.org

Upcoming Meetings & Speakers

February 16th John Spencer
Projects at BLAIR

For complete information on our upcoming meetings and events, please visit our web site at www.pmierie.org.

**** Please contact Randy Long, Vice President of Programs, if you would be interested in being a Speaker! rlong@pmierie.org**

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.

NOTE: The Bylaws of the PMI-Erie Chapter have been modified, and accepted by the chapter membership at the December Mtg.



Chapter Meetings:

December's Speaker: Tom Blecki: Order-to-Delivery Project (O2D)

Our apologies to Tom for not sending a newsletter before his December presentation! Tom has been employed at Engelhard Corporation for the past 13 years where he has held a variety of IT positions. He has managed several I.T. projects including network upgrades, workstation rollouts, and software implementations. During the past 18 months, he has devoted his efforts to the implementation of Engelhard's Order to Delivery project (O2D). Prior to joining Engelhard, he was employed by Lord Corporation for 12 years. He is an adjunct faculty member at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.

He holds a Masters degree in Business Administration and a Bachelors degree in Management from Gannon University, as well as an Associate of Arts degree in Computer Programming from Anne Arundel County Community College in Maryland.

January Speaker: Tom Rose: Poor Man's Estimating Tool

Tom has over 30 years experience in custom application design, development, integration and Project Management. Currently, Tom is a Project Manager II at The ERIE Insurance Group.

Prior to joining The ERIE, Tom was a Senior Project Manager in IBM Global Services where he practiced Project Management as a specialty for the past 15 years. Prior to IBM, Tom worked for the Gulf Oil Corporation where he developed his skills in application design and development.

Tom's education background includes a BS in Business Systems from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Duquesne University. He received his PMP certification in 2001.

Membership Matters

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: Robert Swasta from Joy Mining

We currently have 52 members from 26 organizations.

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.

Officers and Committee Membership

A combination of OLD and NEW PMI Erie Committee members are listed below. *Additional support is always welcome, and NOW is the time!* Contact the board members if you would like to assist in any of the activities of the chapter management team.

PRESIDENT: Robert Spinelli (Bob)

Finance: Tom Rose

Education – Howard Steinfield, with Eric Podgers and Tom Rose

Communication & Publicity – Tom Blecki, David Mahoney, Diana Day (newsletter), Adam Walker and Chris Jobczynski (Webmaster)

Membership – Bruce McCall, with Andy Putnam and Jay Wingerter

Programs – Randy Long with Beth Ludwig, Karl Ludwig, Tim Milloy and Mike Angelo

If you are interested in serving on any of the committees, or serving as a future officer, please contact rsinelli@pmierie.org.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Your Career Action Plan for the New Year

People make New Year's resolutions with the best intentions, but they often fail for lack of a solid action plan. If you've resolved for 2006 to move your career forward into a new industry, occupation or level of responsibility, increase your chances of success with this three-part action plan focused on results.

1. Know your career objective

Knowing your career objective may sound obvious and easy. If, however, you are dissatisfied with your current position, it can be difficult to sort out the good from the bad. You may not fully understand the target of your dissatisfaction: Is it your job or your employer; your company's culture or your supervisor? Analyzing what you want in a job is a good start in determining the best new job for you.

If you are uncertain what type of position to focus on, start by identifying the transferable skills you enjoy(ed) using in your current or past positions. A professional career coach can be helpful in sorting out what you want to keep and, more importantly, what you want to avoid in your next position.

(Continued from previous column)

2. Update your resume and cover letters

If it has been a while since your last job search, your resume may no longer reflect your current career direction. Don't forget the most important elements of a strong resume: solid achievements that illustrate your transferable skills, and key words and phrases to capture employers' attention and interest.

Cover letters can make the difference between a warm reception or a cold shoulder. While it's true that not all resume screeners read cover letters, those who do are never impressed—and are often put off by cover letters that sound phony or mass-produced. If you are uncertain of your resume writing skills, a professional resume writer can transform your so-so resume & cover letters into true selling tools.

3. Update your network and networking skills

A good job-search network consists of all those persons who can provide information about future or current career opportunities. You say you don't have a network? You probably do, but you just haven't thought about people who could fit this category. Start by identifying groups of people that you are in contact with on a regular basis, such as professional associations, church, college alumni groups, and neighborhood associations. Then identify the individuals within those groups with whom you feel comfortable and who could help you learn of job leads.

Many of my resume and coaching clients lament their poor networking skills. I always tell them not to worry; they are in good company because most people feel inadequate when it comes to networking. Before you dismiss the value of a strong network, remember: In securing all-important job interviews, it's very often not what you know but who you know. There are many resources available for learning how to build and utilize a network to your job-search advantage: books, online articles, workshops, and career coaches trained in the most effective networking techniques.

Once you've put your job-search action plan into practice, you'll be on your way to a better job and a better life.

(Our Thanks for this article to:)

Deborah Walker, CCMC

Career Coach ~ Resume Writer

Find more job-search tips and resume samples at:

www.AlphaAdvantage.com

CHAPTER NEWS

Wondering who those chapter officers are? Here is some biographical info on our new officers. In addition, there are photos at the www.pmierie.org website!

Bob Spinelli, PMP: President

Bob has 14 years of program and project management experience that covers the manufacturing, information technology, and government industries. He is currently employed by Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and previously by General Dynamics. Bob has led and supported projects in the US, Germany, Sweden, Great Britain, and Egypt. He is currently responsible for managing a Programme Management Office (PgO) for the data centers of a multi-national, Fortune 500 company.

He holds an MBA from the University of Phoenix in Global Management and a Bachelors degree in Data Processing from the University of Dayton. Bob received his PMP certification in 2003.

Bob is an Erie native, and is married with two children ages 15 and 11.

Randy Long, PMP: Director Programs

Randy has 25 years of business experience that includes 16 years of project management experience. He was previously employed by Zurn Energy Division where he was involved in product design and project management of power generating equipment. He was later hired as the lead project manager at Jamestown Metal Products where he managed all large laboratory and research facility equipment projects, and is currently employed by NUVO Surgical where he is responsible for all projects and estimating for the company's operating room equipment contracts.

Randy holds an Associate Degree in Architectural Design and a Business Administration degree from Penn State Behrend. He earned his PMP certification in January of 2001 and has been a member of PMI Erie since 2003.

Bruce McCall, PMP: Vice President, Membership

Bruce has a total of 13 years of information technology experience that includes 5 years of project management experience. He is currently employed by Erie Insurance Group as a supervisor in the IT division and previously worked for Republic Mortgage Insurance Company in Winston-Salem, NC for 10 years in various software development roles. In addition, he began his professional career by working briefly in the Data Processing department for the County of Butler (PA).

Bruce graduated from Grove City College with a Bachelors degree in Management Information Systems in 1991

Shirts for Members

At one of the last board meetings of 2005, the PMI Erie Board elected to distribute the lovely PMI Erie Shirts (with our official PMI Recognized logo) to all chapter members.

* * * *

Project & Screen

Have you noticed that we sometimes have problems with the projection equipment and screen at our local meetings? Fortunately, most of our speakers can adjust to projection on a table cloth... but the chapter is looking into purchase of this equipment.

* * * *

PMP Exam

After all of the hoopla about the new PMP exam criteria, the certification officials at PMI have revised the evaluation criteria again, and the passing grade is similar to what it was originally. Maybe some of us were motivated to finally take that PMP exam... so perhaps the temporary change was a good thing!

* * * *

Surveys

Thanks to all members who completed and submitted the survey distributed by the program committee last fall. This information is being used to pursue program topics, educational opportunities, and chapter activities

* * * *

THANKS!!

Many thanks to the outgoing board members – Beth Ludwig and Chris Jobczynski; and outgoing (but still active!) president Ray Kutzer. These folks established a solid foundation for our chapter, made it happen, and contribute to its continuous value-added activity in the Erie area. We salute you!