

PMI WA-Chapter Newsletter

November 2008

Volume 2008, November Issue

Our President's Remarks

Dear Members and Friends,

I'm sure you are surprised to hear from me again.

Our annual Board elections normally held in October each year were postponed to December this year due to unforeseen circumstances, so I had an automatic two month extension of my services to the Chapter, just to let you know how we are going.

The AGM was held on the 8th of October and was well attended as is customary for our AGM's.

It was my pleasure to present the 2008 Annual Report to everybody at the meeting and to let them know how we have been tracking over the past 12 months.

It was great to reflect on each Board portfolio's achievements and realise how much had been achieved by the Board during that period.

Some of our members may not be aware of how much personal time and exceptional levels of dedication is expended by Board members in service to the Chapter and

Project Management Community through the Chapter Board.

Please take some time and read through the 2008 AGM Report.

Their individual results speak for themselves!

At the AGM, Mr. Terrence Shim was awarded and presented the PMI WA Chapter Scholarship Foundation Award which was sponsored by PCS Australia.

This is inaugural 2008 award and will be repeated each year into the future. A rather large Cheque (physically and monetary) for \$4000 was presented to Terrence!

Congratulations to Terrence from us all, and many thanks to PCS for their continued support of the Chapter.

Our membership number continues to creep upwards at a steady pace and I expect we may reach the magic number of 500 soon.

It's a privilege to be a member of the PMI WA Chapter and the Board and I know your continued support at

meetings and events is your way of thanking the team for their time and high level of dedication.

Please note, the usual Australian PMI Project Manager of the Year Award and the PMI Distinguished Contribution Awards held each year on a national basis was postponed to next year for a variety of reasons.

Primarily, the co-ordination of event logistics for volunteers was such a mammoth task each year that this aspect of the awards is potentially being outsourced nationally.

The plan for these PMI Australia awards is that they would be held in 2009 at the new PMI National Conference in conjunction with PMOZ.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Meintjes, PMP
President, PMI WA-Chapter

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eMentoring – Reflections On being a Mentee and of a Mentor

In this five-part series, Michelle has shared with us:

In the June Newsletter, what mentoring is and what the eMentoring Program is.

In the August Newsletter, how you can get involved.

In the September Newsletter, what support there is for you as a Mentor.

In the October Newsletter, how to build the mentor-mentee relationship.

In this November Newsletter, Michelle shares with us what she feels she has gained/learned (expected and unexpected) from being a mentor; and we hear from Michelle's mentor as well !!

If you have a piece of advice, some experience you have had, or some knowledge you think would benefit your fellow Project Management Community Members, why not get in touch with me, the Communications Director, and we can work out an approach to get your message out.

Your fellow Members and I thank-you, in advance, for your generosity and support. (Ed.)

Phases	Dimensions	Key Points
Early	Relationship	Trust
Middle	Information	Advise
Later	Facilitative Confrontive	Alternatives Challenge
Final	Mentor Model Mentee Vision	Motivation Initiative

The Adult Mentoring Model™ by Dr. Norman H. Cohen

The Mentee's Experience

This is the best \$15 I have ever spent (apart from that amazing clean-skin red I purchased a couple of months ago!);

My mentor has been a valuable source of guidance, advice, impartial opinion, and a voice of reason. She has given me tips on how to build my professional profile and general career advice. She has also answered many project specific questions relating to best practices within the PMBOK framework. I have really enjoyed having a mentor and would recommend the program to any PM looking to build their skills through collaboration;

I have achieved all of my three objectives for participating in this program, these were:

1. Corporate career management (planning and execution);
2. Gain knowledge and insight on how to implement PMBOK best practices in a real world; and,
3. Improve my stakeholder management skills.?

My manager has given me a fantastic opportunity to refresh/ update the PMO's templates, processes, and procedures. This clarified and solidified a large amount of my new project management knowledge; and having a mentor in another country with whom I could only communicate via email was more beneficial than I thought. Although the emails at times have been more like essays, these have provided me with not only wisdom and advice, but a valuable impartial perspective on things.

Michelle Matthews,
PMI WA-Chapter Member

The Mentor's Experience

I have two mentees.

I had expected only one, and the time commitment I made according to that expectation has been essentially doubled.

But I have gained two friends from being a mentor this year.

I have learned as much from my mentees as they might have from me;

I have learned more about myself. Having to consider how to advise another requires me to be honest about my ability to follow my own advice. Thinking about alternatives for dealing with challenges my mentees are facing has shed new light on many of my own;

In order to support some of those challenges, I did research on Organizational Change Management, and on Managing Upward. Finding the resources that were appropriate to the problem meant doing a little reading and filtering, and of course self-checking for that honesty that suggests this is something I've done or would do under similar circumstances;

Although I refrain from considering myself a teacher, I recognize the sense of fulfillment that comes from helping someone discover that "A-ha!" moment; and,

Of course, there is also the practical matter of the PDUs; essential to maintaining a current and valid PMP certification.

Karen Hensley,
PMI Member, CA, USA

Would The Real PMP® Exam Question Please Stand?

**Are you
sitting the
PMP Exam ?**

**Here's an
approach
that may be
helpful !**

**Focus on the
problem
instead of
being
distracted by
'peripherals'**

**The exam
tests crucial
areas, such as:
A Project
Manager's
judgment, and
their
understanding
of the PMI way**

Identifying true challenges amidst plethora of extraneous details is one of the most critical skills of a Project Management Professional (PMP).

At a glance, the PMP certification exam may look as if it is full of confusing questions and immaterial detail.

However, the exam is designed in such a way that, apart from testing the candidate's general understanding of PMBOK, it also tests another crucial area: the project manager's judgment.

If you can cut through the noise, and identify the important facts, you'll do fine on the exam.

The PMP exam consists of several types of questions.

There are scenario-based questions, questions where you have to select the best course of action, and fact-based questions that test your knowledge of the PMBOK Guide.

You'll be asked to make calculations, interpret simple diagrams, and select exceptions from five selected answers.

There are conceptual problems presented as well as short stories.

As you take the exam, you'll see some very difficult questions that are cluttered with facts and figures that aren't really pertinent to the actual question.

The exam is detail-oriented and demands your best reasoning skills.

It is vital to remember that, even though you may have developed different techniques, your knowledge of the PMI method is what you are being tested on.

You'll find it easier to cut through the inconsequential fluff and find the real question if you look at each question from the point of view of the "ideal" project environment described in the PMBOK Guide.

For instance:

Acme Company has to choose between two projects: Each will cost \$120,000 and take the same amount of time. The first one would reap immediate benefits, reducing costs of production by \$120,000 per year. The second would involve developing a new product and over three-years could possibly net the company \$360,000. Are they both equally beneficial or is one more attractive than the other assuming the discount rate is 5% per year? The test then gives you a choice of the percentage of advantage one project has over the other. With an average of less than ninety-seconds to answer each question, you'll have to be ready for the flurry of figures and red herrings thrown your way. So prepare by taking lots of sample tests. By taking online and other types of practice tests, you will soon be able to identify the real question and know the proper solution, instead

of being sidetracked and wasting valuable time.

You'll also be presented with scenarios that include team-building concepts.

For example:

Your two external consultants are constantly at odds and the situation is putting the project objectives in jeopardy. The test will present you with choices from the stages of team development or group dynamics.

You will have to pinpoint the solution according to the human resources management standards.

If you're well versed in this management concept, you'll be able to move onto the next question quickly.

If you're not familiar enough with that category, the choices will be confusing.

Remember that the purpose of the PMP exam questions is to ascertain whether you're able to focus on the problem instead of being distracted by the peripherals.

With this in mind, you can take the practice tests and become proficient at the thinking processes necessary for answering the questions correctly and doing your job efficiently.

Cornelius Fichtner, PMP
www.pm-prepcast.com

Taking online and other types of practice tests, you will soon be able to identify the real question and know the proper solution, instead of being sidetracked and wasting valuable time.

Project Management
Institute,

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The Western Australia Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) was established in December 2001 as a not-for-profit Australian organisation.

PMI is the largest international professional organisation for the project management profession and is well known for its international defacto standard publication called the "Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge" (PMBOK®).

The WA Chapter's vision is "To be the leader in promoting Project Management best practice, professional development, and standards in Western Australia."

www.wapmi.org.au

Member contributions welcome.

Please contact the Editor at: communications@wapmi.org.au

Errors and omissions to communications@wapmi.org.au

Herman Veltkamp, PMP
Communications Director

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Project Management Institute

PMI Australia National Chapter—Update

The recap:

A PMI Australia National Chapter will create a powerful, single, cohesive PMI community in Australia, which will increase the awareness of PMI, and enhance benefits to the approximate 5,500 PMI members across Australia.

The update:

The Australia "National Chapter with (State) Branches" Feasibility Study, and its accompanying Transition Plan that outlines the first three-years, are built on the successful face-to-face meeting between some of the Australian Chapter Presidents and some senior PMI Global Operations Centre (GOC) Staff at the recent (October 2008) PMI Global Congress in Denver, CO, USA.

Both the Study and the Plan are in discussion with PMI GOC.

The timing:

The release of the Study and Plan are behind schedule; however, are both planned for release before the end of the 2008 calendar year.

One of the reasons for the delay is the recent announcement from PMI's Global Operations Centre (GOC) that they will establish an Australian office, to be called "PMI Australasia."

Details of the roles and responsibilities of the PMI Australasia Office, as well as details of the proposed Australia National Chapter and (State) Branches, are now included in the Study, as are details around the interface between the Australian Federal Government and PMI Australasia.

Future updates:

This newsletter will continue to update you; however, in the interim, if you require further information, please contact

- our Chapter President, Steve Meintjes,

- or contact Wendy Macdonald at wendy_macdonald@aapt.net.au