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Links

- <http://www.lacrossepmi.org>
- <http://www.pmi.org>

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A Message from the President

Greetings, La Crosse PMI chapter!

In my first message as the incoming President, I'd like to welcome you all to the 2008-2009 season! It is sure to be exciting and thought-provoking, as we have many special events planned and a great team in place to pull it all together. Our board for this season has some familiar faces and some new ones, and I'm thrilled to be working with such a talented group of people. To learn more about our board members, take a look at their biographies on page 4. The experience of this group is vast, and I'm sure they'd all enjoy the opportunity to talk more with you about project management and PMI, so please use them as a resource!

I'm also pleased to be able to announce two very important milestones for the La Crosse PMI Chapter that we have recently achieved. The first is that in the month of July we broke the 100 member mark! This is a great achievement and a testament to the value our chapter is bringing to its members and the project management community. Our members come from various industries, including healthcare, IT, manufacturing and consulting, which shows the broad reach of PMI and project management.

The other very important milestone our chapter has reached is our 5-Year Anniversary as a chartered chapter of PMI. You'll notice many special events over the course of this season to celebrate this achievement. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the original board of the La Crosse PMI Chapter; Jay Johnson, Bill Green, Pam Starcher, Joel LaPlount, Tom Ley, Joan Rausch and special thanks to Kay Wais as the Chapter Sponsor. Without them our chapter wouldn't be in existence today!

As we progress through this season, I would invite you to contact any board member with improvement ideas or opportunities. We are always looking for better ways to provide outstanding membership benefits!

Thank you
Heather Kujak-Coon



La Crosse Chapter PMI

Newsletter

Fall 2008

Upcoming Events

- October:** **Speaker:** Ken Campbell
 Topic: L.E.A.D. with integrity
- November:** **Speaker:** TBD
 Topic:
- December:** **No meeting.** Happy Holidays!
- January:** **Speaker:** Leanne Hedberg Carlson
 Topic: Appreciative Inquiry Strategic Planning

New Members

These members have joined the chapter since March. The La Crosse PMI Chapter now has over 100 members. We look forward to meeting everyone at our upcoming meetings. Welcome!

April

Jamie Christenson	Mayo
Carol Otto-Nilsen	IBM
Rebecca Schmieding	IBM

June

Bernard Manning	IBM
Blake Peters	Logistics Health

May

Laura Haynes	Mayo
Mary Norman	Deltek System
Greg Novotny	TRW Automotive
Kathleen Wellen	Mayo

August

Gary Geike (PMP)	IBM
Brian Rietzel	TCI

New PMPs

Congratulations to Corie Frasor and Greg Novotny!

Sponsorship

What better way to spread the word about your company's project management products and services than to become a sponsor of the La Crosse Chapter PMI? We will display your company's logo and hyperlink, news article with hyperlink, or event listing with hyperlink on our website based on your sponsorship selection.

Check out our sponsorship form, <http://www.lacrossepmi.org/sponsorship.pdf> and contact directorofmarketing@lacrossepmi.org for more details.



PPM Summit Provides Insight into Vendor & Tool Selection



Anita Wood (left) and author Nancy Olson enjoy the PPM scene!

La Crosse PMI past president Anita Wood and I recently attended the 'Project & Portfolio Management Summit 2008,' in Kissimmee, Florida. We met software vendors, IT executives, project managers, and panels of software users. The Summit focused on strategic business interaction between Project and Portfolio Management (PPM) technology providers via Case-Study presentations, the insight and expertise of industry-leading Gartner analysis, and a host of networking events.

A typical day had us viewing several Gartner analyst presentations and attending a variety of hour long sessions with vendors of PPM software. Attendees eventually voted for the best vendor/product in several categories. There was also an ongoing PPM Pavilion, for one-on-one discussions and demos with vendors.

The PPM world changes dramatically year to year. Some vendors, for example, Clarity (CA), are the ongoing leaders. However, it seems that smaller 'quick to implement' solutions (some SaaS) are emerging as viable solutions as well, with less risk, time and cost to implement. Borland and IBM, who were strong just a year ago, have fallen off the Gartner 'Magic Quadrant' and new vendors have made it on. Even vendors such as CA are now offering more cost effective alternative solutions. Continually check what's new on the market, the viability of your past favorite tools and the companies which provide them, and attend free events such as this. You'll leave with some relevant information on current PPM tool selections.

Job Opportunities

As a service to its membership, the La Crosse PMI Chapter posts job opportunities related to Project Management. Positions contained in this site are presented as a service and neither constitute nor imply endorsement or warranty as La Crosse PMI Chapter makes no attempt to verify job openings.

Also, known job opportunities can be submitted. <http://www.lacrossepmi.org/jobs.html>



Meet the Board

President – Heather Kujak-Coon



president@lacrossepmi.org

I am a Systems Analyst with Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, and have worked in Project Management, Process Improvement and Software Development for the past 8 years. I have been a member of PMI since 2004 and this is my third year serving on the board. I'm also a member of the American Society for Quality (ASQ), through which I became a Certified Software Quality Engineer (CSQE) in 2006. I enjoy golfing, hiking with my dog, Bella, and spending time with my husband, Dave and daughter, Sophia.

Vice President – Wayne Gorski



vicepresident@lacrossepmi.org

I have been performing the role of project manager while working at Trane for the last 16 years. During that time, I have had the opportunity to manage projects of many sizes and scopes; with roles in the laboratory, new product development, and reliability. My degree is in mechanical engineering from UW-Madison. I have also achieved Six Sigma black belt certification through Trane. I've enjoyed the benefits that the chapter provides, including networking, formal education, and presentations at each meeting. I was a member of the first PMP study group.

Secretary – Ann Yates



secretary@lacrossepmi.org

I have worked at Trane in La Crosse for 19 years in various aspects of literature, and currently am the Literature Process Owner/technical publication manager for the commercial products. Projects — and management of projects — are a large part of my day-to-day work with a team of 19 writers. I've served on the Western Technical College advisory board for Technical Communications since the program began six years ago.

Treasurer – Joan Barth



treasurer@lacrossepmi.org

I work at Mayo Clinic Rochester as a Project Manager within the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. The types of projects I manage are laboratory software application implementations and system to system integration projects. I live in La Crosse with my husband, Jim McCormick.

Director of Membership – Denise Thompson



directorofmembership@lacrossepmi.org

For the last 15 years, I've worked as a Risk Manager, Operations Manager, and Project Manager for business, nonprofit, and government organizations. I enjoy a challenge, the ability to live life to the fullest, and the opportunity to make a positive difference in the community. Last year, a desire to return to my roots led me back to the Coulee Region. Before I knew it, I was involved in the PMI La Crosse chapter. I teach Project Management at WTC and I enjoy working full time at Logistics Health Inc.



Director of Events – Open



directorofmarketing@lacrossepmi.org

Director of Marketing and Communications – Brian Hinton, PMP

I work at IBM in Rochester as a hardware compliance program manager for IBM's newly developed mid-range computer servers – compliance to external legal requirements as well as IBM standards. My wife, Rene', and I have two older boys, who have already left the roost, and one 17 year old daughter still at home. Not too many people know that I was selected District 6 Toastmaster of the Year over about 5000 other Toastmasters in Minnesota and parts of Ontario, Canada. It was a huge honor for me and the result of being passionate about managing many Toastmasters projects in one year. Thank you PMI for giving me processes to organize it all!



pastpresident@lacrossepmi.org

Immediate Past President – Anita Wood, PMP

I am a charter member of the La Crosse PMI chapter and have served on the board in several different positions: director of events; vice president, president and now immediate past president. Something unique about me is that I have dual citizenship (Swiss and American), and I speak four languages. I've lived in many places in the world, but the La Crosse area is by far my favorite. It is a community well worth serving to further the mission of PMI at a local level. A favorite pastime for me and my husband, Dave, is trying to keep up with our two toddlers, Gabriel and Fiona.



webmaster@lacrossepmi.org

Webmaster – Don Gabrielson, PMP

The board would like to recognize Don, who continues to be instrumental in making behind the scenes changes to our chapter website and setting up a new board member website. Thanks for all your efforts, Don!



The True Believer

William C. Oakes PMP (Bill@eaglewing.biz)

Once upon a project, a newly appointed project manager met with her project sponsor over a cup of coffee in the company cafeteria. The conversation went something like this.

"Good morning, Sally, and welcome to the project."

"Thank you, Mr. Smith, for this opportunity. I am eager to get started. I have some ideas on how best to keep us moving forward without the usual ugly surprises," replied Sally.

"That's one thing I wanted to talk to you about. I have worked with other project managers from our company PMO and to be honest, I don't see the need for some of the things they require of you guys." Mr. Smith said quietly, as if someone might overhear.

"Oh, like what things?"

"Well, three things in particular. The first is the status report. I believe that we have to be careful about what we say in public and in print. Some in the company do not take the truth very well. It is our job to ensure they react properly to the status reports we send out. Know what I mean?" Sally could only nod her head and wait for point number two.

"Another thing I don't want us to do on this project is to over think it. The last project manager I worked with insisted upon a project plan that was far too detailed for my tastes. He was constantly worrying about things that might take someone only a day or two to accomplish. I think we need to concern ourselves with the bigger picture and not get bogged down in the details so much. Don't you agree?"

"I understand what you are saying, sir." said Sally. "What is the third thing?"

"It has to do with this Issues List the PMO keeps preaching about. You know, in my experience, you get more done informally and through personal relationship than through documenting problems, assigning them, and even giving out due dates!" Mr. Smith raised his voice at this point. This was obviously a sore point with him. "We are here to serve our bosses and make them look good, not to give them work to do!" Mr. Smith whispered loudly.

"So, Sally, if we can agree on these three minor points, I think we will work well together. If you need my help convincing your PMO about these items, let me know. I just don't want to have to suffer through this project management stuff like we did before. Okay?"

(To be continued ...)