



Project Management Institute
Michigan Thumb Chapter

Supporting Members Through Education and Training

MICHIGAN THUMB CHAPTER 2ND QUARTER 2014 EDITION

Message from the President

Michigan Thumb Chapter

Professional Development Day (PDD)

Start planning now to attend this years event

“Global Project Management – Solutions to the Challenges of Being a Global Project Manager”

[Click here to register now!!](#)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE—See page 7 & 8

Website: <http://www.pmi-thumbchapter.org/>

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Project-Management-Institute-Michigan-Thumb-4427050>

DON'T MISS IT!!! Starting this year the Michigan
Thumb Chapter is hosting an **AUGUST DINNER MEETING!!!**

REMINDERS:

Register now for the Fall 2014 PDD (see page 3)

Register for our August Dinner meeting

Don't Forget about our Free Guest Passes—check the website for details

[See the website for more information](#)

Message from the President

Doug Kiracofe

Now that we are pulling out of the great recession, confidence and demand are slowly picking up for most companies. However, companies have not forgotten the devastating effects of market volatility, slashed credit lines, and necessary layoffs. To remain flexible in an uncertain economy, managers hire contract workers rather than staff employees to keep costs down. Unlike a full-time employee, companies do not have to pay contractors a regular salary, employment taxes, or annual health care costs.

Contracting has changed over the years. It is not the way I remember it. Gone are the days when a contract house treated their staff as employees providing company-paid benefits and paid time-off. Today it seems a contracted worker is treated as a commodity by the contract house: brought in when needed and discarded when not. In their defense, providing benefits and time-off is costly especially when the employee base is constantly fluctuating. Also, most contracting resources today want permanent positions within established companies. Therefore, how long will a person engage in contracting? It's a very delicate situation.

In the 1990s when I contracted, I met several others who were dedicated to contracting. They didn't want to join the ranks of any company. They liked moving around from job to job to stay fresh and obtain state-of-the-art industry knowledge. No politics and no corporate responsibility apart from doing what they were brought in to do. They were dedicated, but not committed. Today, it's a little different. Nearly all the contractors I know are seeking companies that will hire them in after a short period of time. That is their goal. To this end many bolster themselves as knowing everything in technology when, in fact, they know very little and are hoping to learn on the job. I am sure this is due at least in part to the fact that their own contract houses treat them more as contractors and not as employees.

Many employers, though, still view contingent workers as commodities hired for specific tasks and nothing more. When their contracts are up, they are let go. I believe contractors tend to express loyalty to a company until they perceive there is no hope of hiring in. After that, loyalty disappears and economic survival takes over. Contractors need to know that their work contributes directly to the company's performance. Clearly illustrating how a contractor supports the goals of the company and encouraging them with praise, honest feedback, and other incentives will likely boost their loyalty. Realistically, companies cannot hire every contractor that performs work for them. Yet, the expectation is that they will. I have seen many good contract candidates refuse contract offers because the company cannot guarantee long-term work or hire-in opportunities down the road.

So, what should the project manager do? Many project managers are contract resources themselves. How dedicated to the job are they? A project by its nature is a temporary endeavor designed to produce a unique product, service, or result with a defined beginning and end (usually time-constrained, and often constrained by funding and/or deliverables). Therefore, by reason, a project manager's job is also a temporary endeavor. However, a project manager is responsible for accomplishing project objectives and meeting critical milestones that keep a company competitive. Project managers are change agents: they make project goals their own and use their skills and expertise to inspire a sense of shared purpose within the project. A good project manager commands additional projects and company managers have to work doubly hard at keeping them engaged and encouraging them to take repeat assignments. Therefore, project managers become an integral part of the company, contracted or otherwise .

Michigan Thumb Chapter

Professional Development Day (PDD)

**“Global Project Management – Solutions to the Challenges of Being a
Global Project Manager”**

Save the date -September 22nd

***“Global Project Management –
Solutions to the Challenges of Being a Global Project
Manager”***

The PMI Michigan Thumb Chapter invites you to a day filled with education, learning, and networking. Global projects are difficult and complex by nature. Language, culture, and logistics are key issues and present challenges to our effectiveness as PM's. The Goal for the day is to provide tools and tips, in an interactive session. Come learn, network and earn eight PDU's towards maintaining your PMP certification, while gaining insights and ideas on how to think “Global” on your “Local” projects.

Sign-in / Continental Breakfast begins at 7:00am

PDD Presentations 8:00 AM to 5:00PM

[Register online at PMI-Thumbchapter.org](http://PMI-Thumbchapter.org)

Early Bird Registration

May 2 – August 3

PMI Member: \$175.00

Non-PMI Member: \$225.00

PDD Registration

August 4 – September 20

PMI Member: \$225.00

Non-PMI Member: \$275.00

Location

Bavarian Lodge

One Covered Bridge Lane

Frankenmuth, MI 48734

[Click Here to Visit the Thumb Chapter Events page to register now!!](#)

Volunteer Opportunities Open Director Positions

The chapter is seeking a volunteer for the **Director of Education**.

Some of the responsibilities are listed below.

If you are interested in helping with some of the tasks listed below please let me know. This is a good opportunity to network and find interesting speakers for the Dinner meeting. Also to teach classes and also great fringe benefits PDU's for your volunteering.

Some tasks for Director of Education:

- Coordinate Speakers for the Dinner meetings.
- Assist / Run Training Classes / Coordinate
- Help identify potential sponsors for PDD
- Attend monthly board meetings
- Help create a plan to retain and grow membership
- Give back to your profession and receive PDU's

If anyone has questions or would like to help out the chapter please let a board member know.

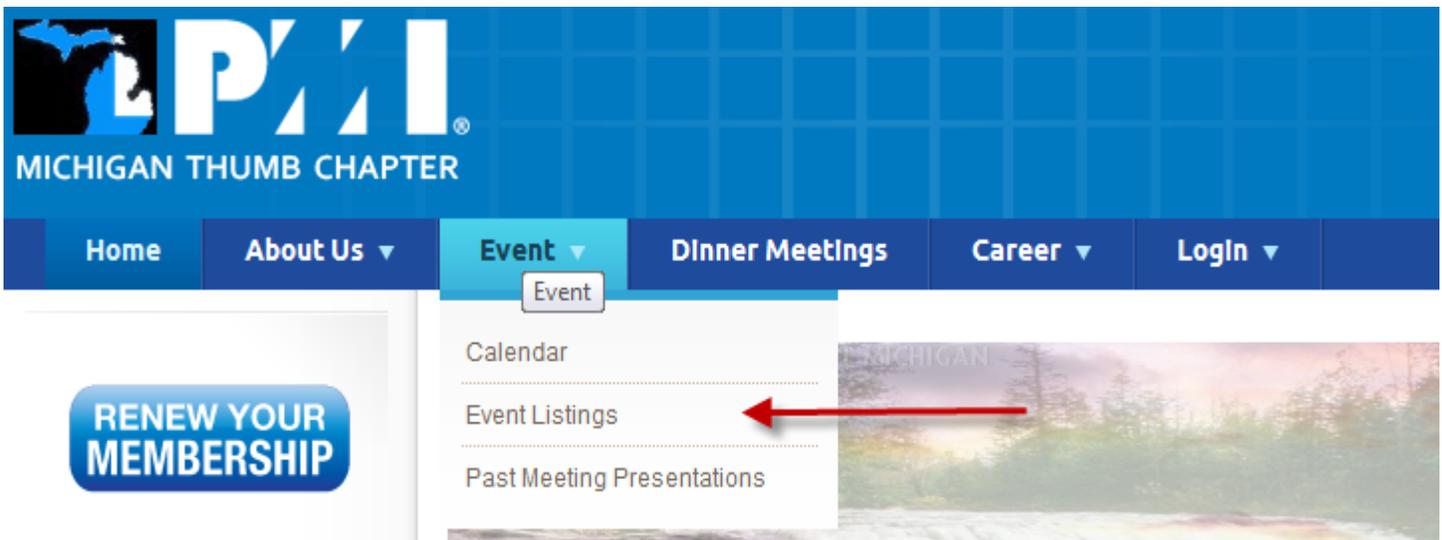
2014 Training & Other Opportunities

**TAKE NOTE & Plan now to attend:
PMI Thumb Chapter August Dinner Meeting
(08-13-2014)**

**Speaker is Robert Schultz , a Fireman from Saginaw, MI
Speaking on the topic “Instant Disaster Management & Prevention”**

More information on these classes and other activities can be found at the MTC website:

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



MS Project Corner—TIPS & Tricks

Have you ever used buttons over and over again, but each time you went to use them, they are in a sub category on the main tools bar. Here is a quick solution for that.

Go to File/Options, Click on “Quick Access Tool Bar”

On the left panel, change the Commands from Popular to All

For the left panel, you select either “for all documents” or for “the project you are in”. I selected-“For all documents”

Now select the commands you use all the time by clicking on them one at a time then hit the Add button.

Put as many commands in the list you would like, but a word of caution, if you put too many, you will lose the advantage you gained, by having to many icons to look at.

Remember, only put the commands you use all the time, to keep the list simple.

Stay tuned for additional MS Project 2010 tips in future editions of the Thumb Print.

Michigan Thumb Chapter Board of Directors

Title	Name	MTC Email Address
President	Doug Kiracofe	president@pmi-thumbchapter.org
President Elect		preselect@pmi-thumbchapter.org
Past President	Jim Donovan	pastpresident@pmi-thumbchapter.org
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