



Project Management Institute
Michigan Thumb Chapter

Supporting Members Through Education and Training

MICHIGAN THUMB CHAPTER

1ST QUARTER 2013 EDITION



Project Management Professionals

April 10, 2013

Michigan Thumb Chapter of PMI

April Chapter Meeting

Plus it is FREE

See page 4 for more details

Mission Statement:

The Michigan Thumb Chapter of the Project Management Institute provides a forum to promote the principles of the Project Management Institute. This is achieved through networking with other professionals, sharing project experiences, providing and receiving training, and supporting project managers in their certification efforts.

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

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

Welcome to the 2013 Edition of *The Thumbprint*.

Please forward all ideas, articles and suggestions to: John Jerome

E-mail: dirnewsletter@pmi-thumbchapter.org

From the President:

Jim Donovan

Hello everyone;

I have not written to you in a long time and I am truly sorry for that. However, the rest of the board has been doing a great job handling things while I've been busy with the project I am on.

There is a vote for new board members coming soon. The two open positions are: VP of Communications and VP of Education and Training. Doug, the current VP of Education and Training has also been the President Elect this year. In May, I will become the Past President and Doug will begin his two year term as President. If you want to help make the chapter better, please volunteer. We need fresh minds, fresh ideas. Please contact any board member if you are interested in putting your name on the ballot. The chapter can not operate without a Board of Directors. The positions must be filled. If you have questions as to the duties of a particular position, please contact them and ask them. Their contact information is located on the chapter web site. We are also looking for a new Director of Marketing. This is a very important position and we need help immediately. Please contact me if you would like to try your hand at Marketing.

I want to thank Diane Schiefer, our Director of Web Site, and the rest of her team for the wonderful job they did in transitioning our antiquated web site into a much better one. It looks great and I think it is much easier to use. If you haven't had the chance to check it out, please do. The website can be found at: www.pmi-thumbchapter.org.

From President Elect:

Doug Kiracofe

We Made It to 2013!!

Doug Kiracofe, PMP

Well, we've made it past December 21, 2012, the end of the Mayan calendar! Some predicted disaster on that day, others the end of the world. The day came and went with little fanfare and so we chalked it up to yet another predictive mistake... much ado about nothing.

If we equate 12/21/12 as a target on the grand project plan scale and associate the date with a task (the end of the world), it is safe to assume we have missed the date. The estimate-to-complete was incorrect and thus has left us questioning the importance of the task. For once, we have *not* run out of time, rather we have gained time. How often does that happen? There wasn't any buffer time built into the estimate that I know of. We patiently waited hundreds of years executing the preceding tasks of daily living across the changing centuries. We handled exceptions and mitigated risks along the way and still nothing happened. We even had a movie produced in 2009, a sort of quasi-guidebook as to what we should expect as the date grew nearer, and still nothing happened.

Accurate estimates are not only the backbone of other planning activities, they are also a factor in determining the feasibility of a project or an initiative before it is undertaken. And yet, estimates are often far from accurate and fail. Why? Whether you are doing a single point estimate or a range bound estimate, it is important to note that they are still just estimates. They should not be confused with commitments or constraints. Maybe the Mayans just miscalculated. If this is true, disaster may still be looming.

Estimates, like risks, need to be revisited and re-validated as the project or initiatives progress. Estimates that were provided by the Mayans during project initiation may no longer be current. The Mayan society was destroyed shortly after the 12/21/12 forecast making it impossible for them to revisit and re-validate the estimate.

Sometimes teams are either over confident or over pessimistic with their estimates. An experienced project manager will validate and reconcile these estimates before using them as a source for planning or any other decision making. Estimates that are not based on historical project data, industry standards or any other generally accepted rule of thumb is not an estimate, are just a guess. Since the world had not ended prior to the Mayan prediction, there was no common frame of reference. Therefore, the estimate had no empirical foundation.

Finally, estimates should not be obtained in a vacuum. A project manager should not be doing the entire estimate alone. Estimation is about getting consensus and I've not heard of the Mayans involving any other civilizations in their final prediction. The more involved the team is in gathering estimates, the better the chances of the estimates being accurate. So, remain cautiously optimistic! The sun is still rising and the world is still spinning and for that we should be thankful the original Mayan estimates were not correct.

From VP of Membership:

Ed Turley

Hello,

As the VP of Membership for the PMI Michigan Thumb Chapter (MTC), I am writing to let you know that our next chapter meeting will be a Bonus Program meeting. We are having a special "Spring Opener" meeting with reduced rates.

We have reduced the rate for the dinner/presentation from \$25.00 to \$19.00 just for you. Also, if you can't attend dinner then we are offering the presentation or webinar for FREE. You can earn 1 PDU for just attending the presentation or watching the webinar from home.

We are also having a "Bonus Program" which can earn you another .5 PDU.

Our Spring Opener chapter meeting will be on:

April 10, 2013, at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth.

Dinner is 6:00pm – 6:30pm.

Bonus program presentation is 6:30pm – 7:00pm (.5 PDU)

TOPIC: Welcome to the Chapter

SPEAKER: Jim Donovan, Chapter President

Presentation is 7:00pm – 8:00pm (1 PDU)

TOPIC: Hints and Tips for the PM

SPEAKER: Donna Iding

About The Program Speaker:

Donna is a Project Manager with demonstrated skills in managing, leading, and developing projects in the Financial, Government, Chemical, Manufacturing/Auto industries. Currently work for VACO supporting Ally. Project is to sell off and eliminate the GMAC ResCap mortgage business.

Recently was working for Ciber as a Program and Sr. Project Manager supporting UnitedHealthCare. Projects are for large businesses or Federally mandated. Worked for EDS both in Lansing and at the RenCen.

In Lansing was a CMMI Level 5 site, did tech support for all 50 states U.S. Post Offices, taught computer classes, worked the Auto Show, and worked with the Better Business Bureau and the State Attorney General Offices.

Managed projects at the RenCen that were in the news or so highly visible that Wagoneer's secretary would be providing input!

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

Michigan Thumb Chapter

Professional Development Day (PDD)

50 Shades of Project Management – Managing the Grey Areas

Michigan Thumb Chapter

Professional Development Day (PDD)

September 23, 2013

"50 Shades of Project Management – Managing the Grey Areas "



2013 Training Opportunities

Classes		
The Basics of Project Management 14 PDUs Location: ITT Technical Institute - Swartz Creek	4/20/2013 08:00 AM - 04:00 PM	\$350.00
Advanced Project Management 14 PDUs Location: ITT Technical Institute - Swartz Creek	5/11/2013 08:00 AM - 04:00 PM	\$350.00
PMP Exam Preparation 10 PDUs Location: ITT Technical Institute - Swartz Creek	6/1/2013 08:00 AM - 01:00 PM	\$300.00
Scope and Requirement Engineering 7 PDUs Location: ITT Technical Institute - Swartz Creek	7/20/2013 08:00 AM - 04:00 PM	\$300.00

More data on classes can be found at the MTC website:

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

PMI
MICHIGAN THUMB CHAPTER

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Event

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- Event Listings
- Past Meeting Presentations

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Michigan Thumb Chapter

2012-13 Board of Directors

Title	Name	MTC Email Address
President	Jim Donovan	president@pmi-thumbchapter.org
President Elect	Doug Kiracofe	preselect@pmi-thumbchapter.org
Past President		pastpresident@pmi-thumbchapter.org
VP Finance	Helen Myers	vpcomptroller@pmi-thumbchapter.org
VP Professional Development	Doug Kiracofe	vpeducation@pmi-thumbchapter.org
Director Education	Rick Crawshaw	direducation@pmi-thumbchapter.org
Director Special Events	Stephane M. Rundell	dirspecevents@pmi-thumbchapter.org
VP Admin	Anita Kenworthy	vpcommunication@pmi-thumbchapter.org
Director Logistics	Dave Verbeek	dirlogistics@pmi-thumbchapter.org
Director IT	Diane Schiefer	vpwebmaster@pmi-thumbchapter.org
VP Membership	Ed Turley	vpmembership@pmi-thumbchapter.org
Director Volunteers	Annette Blegen	dirvolunteers@pmi-thumbchapter.org
Director Director Newsletter	John Jerome	dirnewsletter@pmi-thumbchapter.org
Director Marketing	TBD	dirmarketing@pmi-thumbchapter.org