



[www.pmi-snc.org](http://www.pmi-snc.org)

# Project Charter

Serving Southern Nevada's Project Management needs for over 10 years

May 2008

**2008**

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## Our Mission

*Provide an active forum for promoting Professional Project Management knowledge and standards in Southern Nevada.*



## President's Message

Exciting news for all PMI-SNC members! Thanks to the hard work of our volunteer Julia Lazarek and VP of Programs Paula Ellsworth, we have a wonderful family day planned for you! This event is on May 31<sup>st</sup> and is restricted to PMI-SNC members & family only. Please register early because we have limited availability for this event.

Another piece of exciting news is we are competing for the medium size "Chapter of the Year" for 2008. This is based on all the great work done in 2007. Our volunteer Paul Bruno and VP of Finance Greg Shaffer have worked very hard to track and submit all the necessary documents for this award.

Some of you may have noticed we are now using a new mailing service for all our email blasts. iContact is the service we have selected. VP of Public Relations Annie McDonald along with VP of Finance Greg Shaffer helped set this up for us.

Komen Race for the Cure for 2008 is now over. Karen Brown (former President PMI-SNC) had coordinated this event. We had 15 participants from PMI-SNC (9 members and 6 non-members).

If any of you experienced and PMP certified Project Managers are interested in teaching a PMP Prep class, please contact our VP of Education Lynn Carlson for details. We would like to increase our pool of instructors. Lynn is planning a special class on Program/Portfolio management session in August – stay tuned for more information.

Remember we are always looking for volunteers. So, if you are interested in getting involved with the chapter, please contact us.

*Swadha Rath, PMP 2008 President – PMI-SNC*

## 2008 Programs At A Glance

January 25	
February 28	Scott Hove, "Problem Solving in Project Management"
March 20	Gary Cawn, "Managing the Mega-Project"
April 17	Mike Lane, "Introducing a PMO into an Online Business"
May 15	Julie Grabb, "Enhancing project performance: by asking the right questions"
June 19	Raquel Shoheit
July 17	Greta Blash
August	Dark – No Meeting
September 18	Rick Duggan
October 16	
November 13	

All programs are held at: Palace Station Hotel & Casino  
2411 W. Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89102

For information, contact: [vpprograms@pmi-snc.org](mailto:vpprograms@pmi-snc.org)

### Important Message on PDU Reporting for Dinner Meeting Attendance

Beginning May 2007, the board will no longer automatically report the one PDU earned for attending the PMI Monthly Dinner meetings. Although it was a great idea at one time, the reporting process was not "automatic" - and has been performed manually by coordination among VP of Finance, VP of Education and PMI National. Registration of the dinner meetings on the Acteva did not automatically update the PMI Records database with PMI National. A lot of rework was involved to mine the attendance log collected from Acteva and the meeting walk-ins. All of this has been extremely time consuming and problematic. Please report your meeting PDU. Instructions are on the home page of [www.pmi-snc.org](http://www.pmi-snc.org).

### Family Day at the Springs Preserve - May 31

Spend a day at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve and you will be amazed by the facts and history about our community.

- Your day will start at 10am where we will meet at the entrance to the park.
- Tickets will be distributed and you will be given your tour time.
- There will be 2 private tours for our group and you will be scheduled for either the 10:30am or the 2:00pm tour.
- Lunch will be provided at 12:30pm.

When you are not touring, you are free to explore the Springs and be fascinated by what is at your back door.

This event is restricted to members and families. Pricing includes park admission, private tour, and lunch: Adults: \$20 & Children: \$5



Sign up on Acteva by Friday, May 23.

### In this Issue:

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### April 17, 2008 Program

Our April 2008 dinner meeting was held at the Palace Station Casino. The speaker for this session was Mike Lane, COO of [SellingSource.com](http://SellingSource.com). Mike discussed what it takes to introduce a PMO into an online business.

### Meeting Winners:





**PMI Binder:**

Jeff Morrison, David McDonald,  
Dave Reichert, Javier Cabrejos

**PMI-SNC Hat:**

Leon Siekerka, Richard Schlueter

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## May 15, 2008 Program

Our speaker will be Julie Grabb, PMP, who will be presenting "Enhancing Project Performance: by Asking the Right Questions".

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## Volunteers Needed!

The strength of any organization lies with its volunteers. The board of directors continues to look for help with various activities that will keep our chapter growing, and continue to make it a worthwhile organization.

We are looking for help with this newsletter, the website, mentoring, and special events.

If you have some free time and are interested in making your chapter even better, please see our website for an application and contact information.

**Go to the website see a list of Volunteer Opportunities and for the application**  
[volunteer@pmi-snc.org](mailto:volunteer@pmi-snc.org)

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## PMI Name Badge

Members may order a PMI name badge for \$25 each.



Interested in Joining the Microsoft Project Association? We are looking for members to start a Las Vegas chapter.

<http://mpa.lasvegas.googlepages.com/>

## Membership Update

The current membership report finds 356 members in the PMI Southern Nevada Chapter.

### ***Welcome New Members as of April 16, 2008***

Anthony Santivasci  
Bettina Howell  
Brian Dixon  
Cheryl Ballou  
Cheryl Seminara  
Dan Marshall  
James King  
James Sharpless  
Janelle Lee  
Jennifer Esher  
Kat Wisnosky  
Linda Caldwell  
Mark Dittman  
Melissa Hunt  
Richard Duggan  
Robert Rosas  
Scott Hill

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## **[Check out the PMI-SNC Lending Library](#)**

The List is on the website

- **Borrow PM/Leadership books**
- **PMP Self Study Resources**

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## Education Update

We have 13 students signed up for the Spring 2008 PMP Prep class being taught at the Selling Source campus.

## Emotional Intelligence (EI)

Emotional Intelligence (EI), often measured as an Emotional Intelligence Quotient (EQ), describes an ability, capacity, or skill to perceive, assess, and manage the emotions of one's self, of others, and of groups. It is a relatively new area of psychological research. The definition of EI is constantly changing.

The most distant roots of Emotional intelligence can be traced back to Darwin's early work on the importance of emotional expression for survival and adaptation. As a result of the growing acknowledgement of professionals for the importance and relevance of emotions to work outcomes, the research on the topic continued to gain momentum, but it wasn't until the publication of [Daniel Goleman's](#) best seller *Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ* that the term became widely popularized.

To learn more visit:

<http://www.eq.org/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emotional\\_intelligence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emotional_intelligence)

<http://eqatwork.com/>

<https://www.talentsmart.com/>

Submitted by Lynn Carlson, PMP

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Part 1 of 2

### DO YOU HAVE THE GREATEST PROJECT MANAGEMENT ABILITY?

*The ability to anticipate is by far the greatest project management ability.*

By Dr. James T. Brown PMP, President of SEBA® Solutions, Inc.

The ability to anticipate is by far the greatest project management ability. Anticipation is an ability that is a culmination of knowledge, experience and skill. The ability to anticipate is not only what separates great project managers from good project managers; it is what separates great from good in most professions. The best hitters in baseball have the ability to anticipate what kind of pitch will be thrown to them and where the ball will be when it is time to swing the bat. The best soccer goalies have the ability to anticipate where the ball will be kicked so they can block it. This really comes into play during penalty kicks and this ability to anticipate will determine the goalies success or failure.

What the baseball batter and the soccer goalie have in common is that they cannot be successful trying to cover every possible outcome. The batter cannot possibly hit the ball with power and control trying to protect the entire strike zone. He has to limit the strike zone to maximize the chances of getting a hit. The goalie cannot possibly guard the entire net. He has to determine what part of the net he will defend and what part will be left unprotected. The batter and goalie that can most

effectively anticipate and plan their response to the future circumstances get the best results. This is also true of project managers.

The challenge of project management is so daunting that the project manager's ability to anticipate and plan has a direct correlation on their ability to execute. A lot of project management books will state that everything needs to be planned in detail and every risk needs to be covered with a risk plan. This is good in theory and for a very small percentage of projects it is good in practice. However, most project managers live in a world characterized by uncertainty. Uncertain requirements, resources, risks, etc. The role of the project manager is to minimize or eliminate this uncertainty, but it is rare when uncertainty doesn't exist at significant levels. Therefore the best project managers anticipate. They are able to visualize and plan through the fog. They make aggressive decisions based on what they anticipate. The average and poor performing project manager waits on the fog to clear. They complain or whine constantly about the uncertainty and it becomes an excuse for inaction.

The great project managers anticipate then act. The great baseball hitters sometimes swing and miss wildly. The great soccer goalie sometimes leaps to the wrong end of the net. They make mistakes just like the great performing project manager will make mistakes. To anticipate and act means that you will occasionally make mistakes. Over the course of a project, program or career these mistakes will be small compared to the number of good decisions that were made due to excellent anticipation. The successful project manager is a continual learner, not afraid to make decisions based on what they know to be true and what they anticipate to be true.

The ability to anticipate can really be summed up with one simple phrase. "TOP" (**T**raini**ng**, **O**bservation, **P**ractice.) The combination of these three activities aggressively deployed provides the ability to anticipate and the confidence to act.

**Training** – There are always rare exceptions, like someone born with a gift that can play the piano masterfully without training. As a rule though, expertise and even basic proficiency cannot be achieved without training. If it wasn't so prevalent and sad, the number of companies that expect their project managers to be successful without training would be amusing.

*Do you know any project management quacks (PMQ's)?* Would you go to a medical doctor who had no formal training but said "I have been doctoring on people for 15 years". Most would quickly identify this doctor as a quack. There are a lot of project management quacks out there. The doctor without training may indeed be able to practice medicine with minor or perhaps moderate success but certainly not at the level of someone that is a trained physician. What would you think of the football coach who told his team we'll learn as the game goes along because we don't have the time or budget for training?

Part of what makes Tiger Woods the golf champion that he is, was training from an early age. In the absence of that training he would not have been a child prodigy or dominating golf as he does today. In fact, he still values training and still submits himself (even at his level of expertise and accomplishment) to coaching. I am always amazed when I come across project managers who don't feel the need for training. Projects involve lots of variables including technology, resources and the most complex variable of all – people. Project management is so complex it is worthy of life long study if you choose to excel at it. There is a marked difference between proficiency and excellence. *A PMP doesn't make you or anyone else a good project manager!*

Yes, the basics are easily acquired. PMP certification is in fact readily acquired with effort. A PMP certification by itself does not make you a great project manager or even capable of managing a challenging project. Greatness in any endeavor is the application of the basics and the summation of a large number of little things done well. This is what characterizes the masters in any field of endeavor. When I go to training (and I do) I am looking for the little things that take the basics to another level.

In the next issue of this newsletter, we will discuss **the O and P of TOP (observation and practice)** and their role in obtaining the greatest project management skill of anticipation.

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[Dr. James T. Brown PMP](#) is president of [SEBA® Solutions Inc.](#) a Registered Education Provider with the Project Management Institute and is the author of [The Handbook of Program Management](#) published by McGraw-Hill. He provides project management training and keynote speeches worldwide and may be reached at [jtbrown@sebasolutions.com](mailto:jtbrown@sebasolutions.com).

**PMI Southern Nevada Chapter PROJECT CHARTER**

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**PROJECT CHARTER-SNC** is published for members and potential members of Southern Nevada for notification of meetings, Chapter activities, educational opportunities, and to provide current, relevant information of interest to the Project Management community. Advertising is welcome, but publication in the Chapter newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by the Chapter or the Project Management Institute.

### Last Word

Have something to say? Something that you'd like to see in the newsletter? Please feel free to send all submissions to: [Newsletter@PMI-SNC.ORG](mailto:Newsletter@PMI-SNC.ORG)  
All submissions are given equal consideration and included as space may permit.