

Project Charter

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

June 2006

2006 Board of Directors

Karen Brown
President

Review Journal
president@pmi-snc.org

Greg Shaffer
Executive Vice President
CreditOne
executivevp@pmi-snc.org

BJ Willeford
Treasurer
Bechtel Nevada
treasurer@pmi-snc.org

Peter Fiala
Vice President of Programs
Fiala Project Resources
vpprograms@pmi-snc.org

Gopal Ramakrishnan
Vice President of Education
Metavante
vpeducation@pmi-snc.org

Annette Levin
Vice President of Public Relations
IBM
vppublicrelations@pmi-snc.org

Swadha Rath
Vice President of Membership
Water District
vpmembership@pmi-snc.org

Veronika Green
Secretary
secretary@pmi-snc.org

Our Mission

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

June 2006 President's Message

It's faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes life worth living. - Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr

In case you have not heard, the PMI Global Congress is open for registration. It will be held October 21-24 in Seattle, Wa. There are many worthwhile seminars before and after the congress, networking opportunities, and trade exhibits worth visiting. Visit www.pmi.org for more information about this valuable learning and sharing experience and yes, did I mention PDUs?



Watch for news on some upcoming events that the board is planning: a golf outing at Angel Park, a visit to the Mandalay Shark Reef, and our annual volunteer event at Habitat for Humanity. We sure can use volunteers. If interested, please contact us!

In this Issue:

- President's Message
- 2006 Programs at a Glance
- New Passing Score for PMP Exam
- 2006 International Project Management Day
- Regional Conference Highlights
- June Program – Henderson LIMS
- CAPM Certification Requirements
- July Program – Shark Reef
- Membership Updates
- Last Word

2006 Programs At A Glance

Thursday, June 15	Paul Bruno – Henderson LIMS
Saturday, July 15	Mandalay Bay Shark Reef
Thursday, August 10	Program Meeting
Thursday, September 21	Program Meeting
Thursday, October 19	Program Meeting
Thursday, November 9	Program Meeting
Friday, December 8	Holiday Party joint party with AITP

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

For information, contact:
vpprograms@pmi-snc.org

New Passing Score for PMP Exam

We have received some inquiries about the new passing score for the PMP exam. This is a response from our regional mentor, Ray Frohnhoefer.

This is correct -- the answer to why is complex. Briefly, PMI psychometricians target a certain percentage of people to pass the exam the first time. I believe this is somewhere around 70-80%. After monitoring the new exam, it was found that only 40% were passing. PMI re-reviewed the exam, the passing rate, etc., then re-graded the exams and passed more people. Statistical studies showed they needed to lower the passing rate to 61% to allow more people to pass.

It's clear that the new exam is much harder. There are 25 questions at random that are not graded but are used to validate the questions for future entrance into the question bank (the SAT operates this way), so there are only 175 questions out of 200 actually scored. There is also a very careful process by which the questions are written, reviewed in the global context, weighted for the exam, and entered into the question bank.

If members still want further information, the person to contact at GOC is Denny Smith. I spoke to Denny personally at the beginning of the year and the Certification Department is carefully monitoring the situation and working to maintain the integrity of the exam.

- Ray Frohnhoefer, Regional Mentor

Advanced planning in the works for 2006 International Project Management Day.

Although the second annual International Project Management (IPM) Day is five months away, project managers know a successful project depends on advance planning.

With that in mind, this year's IPM Day, to be held on 2 November, will follow in the footsteps of last year's inaugural day. Many events around the globe to celebrate project management are already in the planning stages. "What we're looking to do is make this as big as possible, whether organizations want to sponsor a Webinar, be part of planning a local event, or do an event of their own," said IPM Day founder Frank Saladis, PMP. "I've been talking it up at every professional development day I've been at."

IPM Day is a voluntary event that companies and organizations can participate in. The purpose of the day is to recognize project managers, project teams and the project management profession overall. According to Mr. Saladis, "A lot of the work project managers do is taken for granted, or not even noticed. In addition, project management has become a valuable part of business, and much more strategic."

IPM Day sponsors have events in the works as well. Two of last year's sponsors - the International Institute for Learning Inc. and PM Forum - have already signed up to participate as sponsors for 2006.

"International Project Management Day is the opportunity to take the time to recognize project managers and teams, and understand that project management is really what drives progress around the world," said Mr. Saladis. He said companies and organizations can take a myriad of steps to mark the day, "from a simple e-mail memo or thank you card to a coffee break or luncheon, or a simple phone call to say thanks."

More suggestions on how to get involved can be found on the IPM Day website:

<http://www.internationalpmday.org/index.htm>.

No matter what form IPM Day takes, Mr. Saladis asks that those who are planning to celebrate contact him msaladismpm@msn.com with their plans or events, along with a PDF of their chapter or company logo.

Source: PMI's Friday Facts, <http://pmi.org>

Region 7 Conference

The board had a great success hosting this year's regional conference. We had a record breaking attendance of 75 participants from all states in our region (Nevada, California, Hawaii, Arizona, and New Mexico). My personal thanks to the board and all of the other volunteers who made this such a huge success.

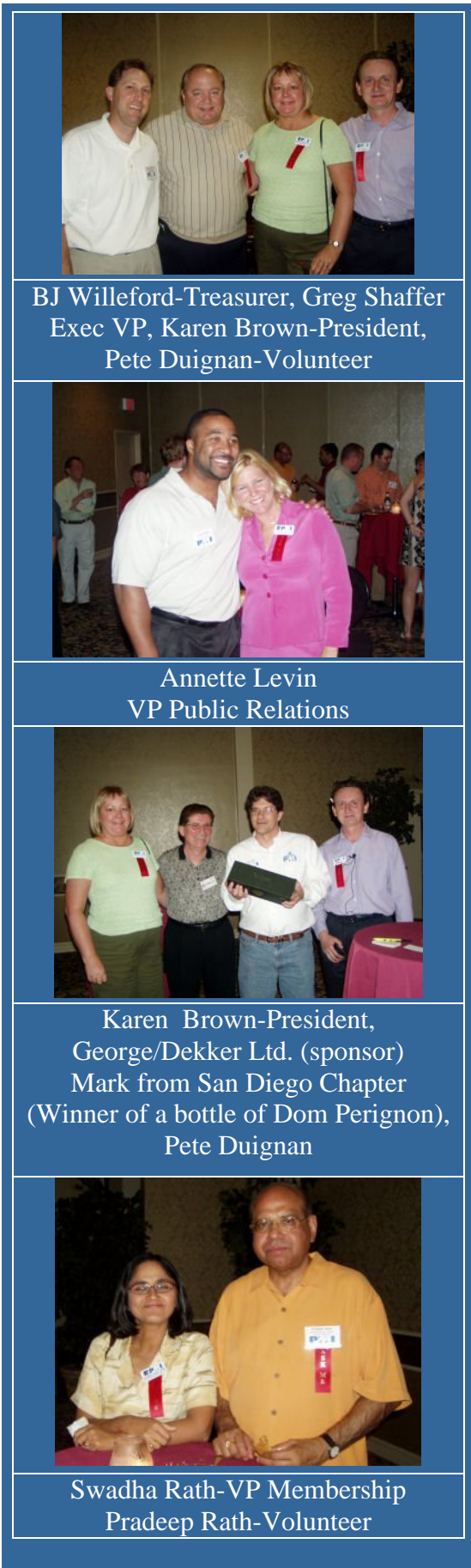
To the right are a few pictures from the reception at Palace Station and the subsequent dinner cruise on Lake Mead.

The board has come back with a lot of great ideas that we hope to implement, but we are going to need some volunteers to succeed. Stay tuned as we discuss these at upcoming meetings.

-Karen Brown,
President PMI-SNC



Looking for up to the date local PMI news and information? Check the chapter website at <http://www.pmi-snc.org>



BJ Willeford-Treasurer, Greg Shaffer
Exec VP, Karen Brown-President,
Pete Duignan-Volunteer

Annette Levin
VP Public Relations

Karen Brown-President,
George/Dekker Ltd. (sponsor)
Mark from San Diego Chapter
(Winner of a bottle of Dom Perignon),
Pete Duignan

Swadha Rath-VP Membership
Pradeep Rath-Volunteer

June Program

Palace Station
Thursday, June 15th 5:30-7:30p
Paul Bruno - Henderson LIMS

“Real World” Proof of Concept Project

An important mission of the City of Henderson's Department of Utility Services Laboratory is to monitor and test Henderson's wastewater as part of the valley's commitment to environmental protection and water conservation. Paul Bruno, former PMI Southern Nevada Chapter President and Special Projects Manager for Henderson's Utility Services Dept. was given the project of selecting the best Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) to support this mission. As usual, several vendors claimed to provide software systems to meet their requirements - but how could the City of Henderson determine the definitive solution for their unique requirements?

The City chose to do a simultaneous "Proof of Concept" evaluation of the top 3 rated solutions in a near "real-life" environment. This involved actual users evaluating the performance of the software as well as the vendors support structure during implementation, training and a 90-day full-featured trial. This approach can be much more credible than simply previewing scripted demos and requesting customer references, but has to be carefully orchestrated to ensure a fair, complete and productive evaluation and assessment.

Paul Bruno will describe the unusual "proof-of-concept" methodology used to choose the Lab's LIMS and the ensuing unique project management challenges and solutions that undertaking a "proof-of-concept" software project engendered.

- Peter Fiala, VP of Programs, PMI-SNC

Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM®) Certification Requirements

A CAPM Credential can benefit professionals from all disciplines by demonstrating clear direction to their work and by gaining knowledge of project management processes and terminology.

You can benefit from a CAPM if you are a:

- Project team member;
- Junior project management practitioner or new to the project management profession;
- Undergraduate or graduate student with an interest in project management.

Professionals with project management skills are increasingly seen on the leadership track, and earning the CAPM from PMI is one of the best ways to advance your career. This credential can go a long way toward enhancing your employment and/or project assignment responsibilities — and getting you recognized in the workplace.

CAPM candidates must first meet specific educational and project management related experience requirements and then pass a comprehensive 150 question computer-based examination.

CA/PM Education/Experience Requirements	
Educational Background	High school diploma or equivalent
Project Management Experience	1,500 hours of work on a project team
Project Management Education	OR 23 hours of formal education

For more information, see the CAPM Credential Handbook at http://pmi.org/prod/groups/public/documents/info/pdc_capm.asp.

Source: PMI Website, <http://pmi.org>

PMI Southern Nevada Chapter PROJECT CHARTER
 Copyright 2006, PMI-SNC, <http://www.pmi-snc.org>

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.

July Program

Mandalay Bay Shark Reef
 Saturday, July 15th - 10:00a-1:00p

Jack Jewell - Planning the Shark Reef Facility

Where do you get 1.6 million gallons of seawater in the desert? How do you transport a six-foot hammerhead shark over two thousand miles? And how do you ensure that the exhibits created 7 years ago stay fresh for repeat visitors? Careful planning! We've asked Jack Jewell, the curator for the Shark Reef, to give us a presentation on the planning that went into the design, construction and operations of the facility. In addition to the presentation, Jack has arranged for a special tour for our members and their families. Obviously this special presentation will take place on-site at the Mandalay Bay Shark Reef.

Normally, admission to the Shark Reef is \$10-16. The Mandalay Bay Shark reef is offering this education presentation to PMI members and their families at no cost. Due to space constraints - we are limited to a total of 60 members and family - so this presentation will fill up quickly. Be a hero - sign up your family for the tour of a lifetime of one of Las Vegas' most entertaining attractions. More details to follow.

- Peter Fiala, VP of Programs, PMI-SNC

Membership Update



As of June 1, 2006 there are 338 Southern Nevada Chapter Members.

Welcome new members: Greta Blash, Anthony Raimondo, Jeff Jimenez, Nathan Eatherton, Pul Barton, Ronald Duplex, Robbin Sanchez, Deanna Snyder, and Tracy Williams.

Welcome back: Vern Del Carlo, Susan Holmes, Sandra Lamb, Raymond Newcomb, Shirley Williams, William Wood, and J. Kathryn Zabinski.

And we're so sorry to see you go: Edward Aiken, Silvia Alfonso, Fred Brown, James Cloud, John Harris, Laurel Jimenez, Mary Wagener McCrary, Jerry Pennington, Sheila Richardson, Joseph Riego, Jaime Ruiz, Carl Schenk, Dennis Stransky, Richard Yount.



- Swadha Rath, VP Membership

Last Word

Last month we missed thanking Veronika Green for all of her hard work on the updated chapter website at www.pmi-snc.org. Thank you Veronika and sorry for the oversight.