



Project Management on the Gulf Coast

Emerald Coast Chapter's Journey

I thought that I would kick-off the first edition of our chapter's newsletter with a little history of how our chapter came to be. A little over two years ago, in September 2006, a small group of engineers at the Air Armament Center on Eglin Air Force Base started discussing their desire to have a PMI chapter nearby. The then President of the Steering Committee, Lakecia Gunter, PMP recruited me in November 2006 to serve as the Community Formation Liaison with PMI. I initiated our first request to form a chapter the same month with PMI, but we were told that new chapter formation was still on hold until January 2007.

In January 2007 we were informed by PMI that we would be the test chapter to prove that the new formation processes were viable. Off we went. Over the past two years we have had over 14 dedicated volunteers working to bring this chapter to life. Unfortunately some have left the area for new careers and never had the chance to see the results of their efforts, but they deserve and have our gratitude none the less.

– Continued on page 2 –

Why Certification is Important to You

Like many of us here on the Emerald Coast, you have probably been working in the Project or Program Management career field for many years, and have never known about Project Management Institute (PMI), much less the array of professional certifications PMI offers.

Now that you've been introduced to PMI and know there are professional certifications out there, the logical, next train of thought has to be – Why is certification important to me? I've been involved in Project/Program Management for years!

I too had this question in mind, so I began by going to PMI.com for answers, then talked to others in my community who'd achieved one of the five credentials (certifications) offered by PMI. The bottom line is, the credentials you receive will make you a more effective and valued performer.

– Continued on page 3 –

PMI Emerald Coast
Florida Chapter
P. O. Box 1265
Shalimar, FL 32579

Volume 1, Issue 1
March 2009

- Emerald Coast FL Chapter no longer "proposed" chapter
- Certification
- Chapter Board
- Study Tips

Inside this issue:

Chapter's Journey	1-2
Certification	1, 3
Board Members	2-3
Website	4
Chapter Branches	4
CAPM/PMP Study	4

Emerald Coast Chapter's Journey

Just to give you a sense of the level of effort it took to get us here, here are a few facts for your consideration:

- 13 revisions of the Chapter Business Plan
- 3 revisions of the Chapter By-laws
- 5 revisions of the Chapter's Three-year Budget and Spending Plan
- 5 revisions of the Chapter's Strategic Plan
- 7 teleconferences with PMI
- 16 Steering Committee Meetings
- Numerous small group meetings too frequent to count

And while we were progressing along our internal schedule, we assisted PMI with a major revision of the chartering process and their milestone list. I traveled to the PMI North American Leadership meeting in Atlanta where I briefed other PMI National and Global Component leaders on our progress and lessons learned as they were starting their own chartering activities under the new guidelines.

So, as we enter 2009, where are we? Well, our business plan, strategic metrics, By-laws and budgets are approved by PMI. We are incorporated by the State of Florida as a Non-Profit entity. We have a bank account, a PO box and an Internet presence. As of the 8th of February we have an electronic event registration system on-line to allow you to conveniently register and pay for events.

We have come a long way from an idea that started as a "what-if" by a few dedicated engineers to becoming PMI's first chartered chapter in over three years. So, next time you see a board member, take a second to say thanks and consider becoming part of the effort yourself. There is still much to do to bring the Panama City, Pensacola and Mobile branches online with us.

Regards,

Mark E Wentling, MSPM, PMP

President, PMI Emerald Coast Florida Chapter

Contact Your Board

President	Mark Wentling, PMP	president@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org
VP (President Elect)	Ron Foskey, PMP	presidentelec@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org
VP Finance	Cheryl Archer, PMP	vpfinance@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org
VP Communications	Caroline Pepa, PMP	vpcommunications@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org
VP Public Relations	Bonnie McClure, PMP	vppublicrelations@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org
VP Programs	Narda Vega	vpprograms@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org
VP Professional Development	Serena Schwin, PMP	vpprofdevelopment@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org
VP Membership	Ivin Lett, PMP	vpmembership@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org

Why Certification is Important to You

There are many tools and skills you need to master to be the best of the best, and the credentials offered teach a disciplined, comprehensive set of common terminology, repeatable processes, and practices that will increase your knowledge, proficiency, and confidence. By taking time to make the investment in your professional development, you'll be on top of the latest best practices globally. This all leads to repeatable successes in your career that will do more than get you noticed - you'll be someone your organization can't do without!

Don't get left behind. There are nearly 300,000 people with credentials worldwide. Go to the PMI website and sign up for the credential package(s) that best fits you.

The five credentials offered are:

- Certified Associate in Project Management
- PMI Scheduling Professional
- PMI Risk Management Professional
- Project Management Professional
- Program Management Professional

Worried about how to study and pass the exam(s)? Don't. In addition to member support, the PMI Emerald Coast FL Chapter teams with private companies who specialize in preparatory review, study techniques, and even practice tests to help train you to focus on what you already know for success. Study teams are beginning now. To sign up or learn more, contact our Vice President of Professional Development, Ms. Serena Schwin (vpdevelopment@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org) or any PMI member.

Ron Foskey, PMP

President-Elect, PMI Emerald Coast Florida Chapter

Contact Your Board - continued

VP Operations	Kristy Marconi, PMP	vpoperations@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org
Past President	Lakecia Gunter, PMP	pastpresident@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org
Director at Large	Mike Sorial	magdy.sorial@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org
Director at Large	Nancy Droz	nancy.droz@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org
Director, Mobile Branch	To be determined	
Director, Pensacola Branch	To be determined	
Director, Panama City Branch	To be determined	

PMI Emerald Coast Chapter

P. O. Box 1265
Shalimar, FL 32579

*Yes, we're on the web.
Check us out @
www.pmiemeraldcoastfl.org*

...making project management
indispensable for business results©



CAPM/PMP Study Help

Mark Wentling, MSPM, PMP

Do you aspire to earn your CAPM or PMP? Have trouble studying? There are a number of free resources that you can use both before and after your exam preparation course.

The PMP® exam is one tough test: four hours, 200 questions, and a 40% failure rate for first-time takers. You will also notice I mentioned the exam preparation course...statically you have a much better chance of being in the 60% passing group if you have the benefit of a live instructor leading you through the knowledge required. Having said this, a preparation class will not get you through the exam if you do not have the requisite background, education and experience of being a PM, in other words the course cannot make you into a PM.

-Some tips from my experience
-Take your exam within 3-6 weeks of your course
-Do study independently before and after the course

-Do get a partner to help if that technique has helped you in the past
-Do spend time on the formulas and process groups they are not as simple as you think
-Seek help from more experienced PMs that have taken the exam. They are forbidden from divulging the questions, but they can easily mentor you through the sticky spots.
-Do not study (cram) the day before, relax and give your brain a rest
-On test day, schedule early and eat a good breakfast, your brain needs food to think

As you work through the exam, answer what you know and then go back to those you missed

For some online help try:

-http://www.headfirstlabs.com/PMP/free_exam/

-<http://www.thepmpodcast.com/>

-http://www.crosswindpm.com/cart/index.php?p=page&page_id=free_tips

We are proud to be the Project Management Institute's newest US chapter and look forward to serving the Project/Program Management Professionals within the Emerald Coast Region. Over the course of the next several months we will begin operations in earnest, so please check back often. Also, be on the lookout for our branch operations in Panama City and Pensacola, Florida, as well as in Mobile, Alabama during the spring and summer months of 2009 if you should reside in one of these areas.

Remember, many of us have already passed, so it can be done.

Good luck and I hope to announce you in the future as one of chapter's newest PMPs!