



November 2007

PMO SIG Local Interest Group Meeting - Minutes

Main Topic: General Discussion of PMO Challenges

Secretary:

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - We welcomed two, new, participants to the group: Margaret Rubick and Roya Riaz (new PMP)
2. Member Announcements
 - Job opportunities (within our companies, industries, etc.)
 - None shared
 - Tools – Project, time management, specialty, ...
 - Mike mentioned two tools from Projity (<http://www.projity.com>), “OpenProj”, a free, open source desktop alternative to Microsoft Project, and “Project-ON-Demand”, a Software as a Service (SaaS) solution to which you subscribe. On a related note, a few meetings back, Kimberly mentioned that her organization was piloting an open-source project planning alternative called “Open Workbench” (<http://www.openworkbench.org>). We need to check back with her to see how that’s coming along.
 - Articles of Interest
 - Carol mentioned one article titled (something to the effect of) “The Business Analyst: The Pivotal Role of the Future” (http://theiiba.org/library/resources/papers/kathleen_Hass_BA_Paper.pdf)
 - Though no specific article was mentioned, a few sources for articles were, such as Projects@Work (<http://www.projectsatwork.com>) and Gantthead (<http://www.gantthead.com>).
 - Other meetings/seminars of interest
 - Gus mentioned that the Microsoft NY Metro Area will be doing a webcast on Microsoft Office Project Portfolio Server 2007 on Thursday, November 29, 2007 from Noon to 1 PM ET. You can earn 1 PDU for attending! You can register at <http://>
 - Carol attended “Brainstorm NY” last week and shared some of her experiences such as learning about “the Walt Disney way” where:
 - a. Ideas are generated by a group of people – NO idea is invalid – everything counts
 - b. Planners figure out how to execute those ideas, and, finally,
 - c. Critics figure out how any weakness in the plans (not the ideas)

And a sort of “think tank” tucked away in Merrill Lynch than can aid with projects and project management.
3. Success (or Blunder) of the Month
 - Nothing shared
4. Problem/Challenge of the Month
 - A few items were discussed this month: One member mentioned that their organization was just now warming up to using a project management approach to address their needs/issues. They are looking forward to more formalized activities in this regard.
 - Another member spoke about a unique challenge in defining their role in the organization. Based on the details provided, the title “Process Integration Manager” seemed to do a good job of capturing the role.



5. Main Topic

- Unfortunately, there was no main topic for this month. However, Gus shared that he was reading a book on Enterprise PMO titled “Simple Solutions”, by Lisa DiTullio (note: see her article on the front page of “Projects@Work”) and would summarize it for the group next time.

Other

1. The topic planned for December will be: “Simple Solutions”, by Lisa DiTullio – a review by Gus