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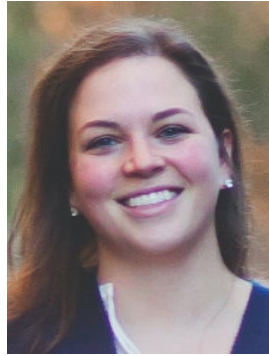
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President's Message

By Mary Jane Lawton, PMP



Hey, hi, hello and happy summertime wishes to our members!

As we head into the thick of the summer months, I hope you all are enjoying what fun the long, warm days have in store. This time of year also is a time of strategizing and planning for your Board of Directors and SNEC-PMI volunteers. The team is hard at work ensuring that our upcoming fall season is full of new, exciting, high value offerings for you all. From our conference and programs to exam prep offerings and networking, we are confident there is something on deck for everyone.

SAVE THE DATE! Our 16th annual conference will be held this Fall on October 23rd and 24th at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Registration will soon open, so keep an eye out! Our conference team is in serious planning mode and is currently vetting potential speakers for the event. If you are interested in being considered as a presenter, please [click here](#) to download the required form and instructions. The deadline for submitting your proposal form to speakers@sneccpmi.org is Sunday, August 13, 2023.

DID YOU KNOW that as a member of SNEC PMI you are eligible for discounted educational programs and events through the International Institute for Learning (IIL)? That's right, as part of your membership with SNEC-PMI you enjoy an exclusive discount on all IIL courses using code "PMISNEC". Additionally, visit our SNEC-PMI IIL [partner site](#) today and receive a free e-book, "Grateful Leadership: Using the Power of Acknowledgment to Engage All Your People," by Judith W. Umlas. Pretty cool, right? You can check out all of IIL's current discounted educational offerings by [clicking here](#). Happy learning!!

LEADING FROM THE FRONT. Do you know an SNEC-PMI member that exemplifies servant leadership? Are YOU that leader? Election season is upon us and we are once again calling for all nominations for Board of Director positions by July 28th. Submissions will be vetted through our Election Committee and then made available to members in mid-August. Polls will open on August 28th and will close September 22nd. More information about our elections process, candidate requirements, job

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description, etc. can be found by [clicking here](#).

If you think Board service may call to you, I encourage you to be courageous and lead from the front. The current Board of Directors are happy to answer any questions you may have about what Board service is like so please take us up on it!

STRATEGIC PLANNING TIME! Your Board of Directors will be spending a retreat day together in August to begin strategic planning for FY24 (I know, I can't believe I'm talking about 2024 either!). We are excited to spend time thinking about the year and years to come and planning ways to continue to evolve and grow our offerings to our members and our community at large.

DON'T MISS OUT! Be sure to check out our newsletters and website for our calendar of other upcoming offerings, including PMP/CAPM prep sessions, New Member Orientation, Round Table programs, and an in-person networking event in September at the famous J. Timothy's Taverne in Plainville! Also, take a peek at the photos below to see some of what your Board members have been up to this quarter while attending the PMI Regions 2 and 3 Leadership Institute Meeting in Minneapolis.

Before I close, I would like to leave you with a quote from the late, great poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou

'As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands: one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.'

In this quote, Maya first reminds us to take time and make time for ourselves. As project managers we tend to be highly driven, and are used to working at fast paces. We also tend to forget to (or avoid) taking time off to recharge. I highly encourage you to take the time this Summer to slow down, make time for yourself and your wellbeing, practice self-care, and smell the proverbial roses. So, what act of self-care and compassion will you commit to doing for yourself this season?

Secondly, Maya reminds us to contribute and assist others through service. It is through volunteerism and servant leadership the SNEC-PMI is run and we are ALWAYS looking for those who want to help. How will you give back to your community, professional or otherwise this season?

I hope you all get to enjoy the best of what Summer in New England affords us and that your season is safe, rejuvenating, and full of joy.

With Gratitude,



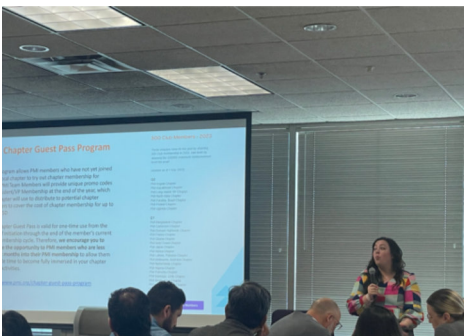
[Mary Jane 'MJ' E. Lawton](#), PharmD, RPh, PMP, DASM
President & CEO, Southern New England Chapter - PMI

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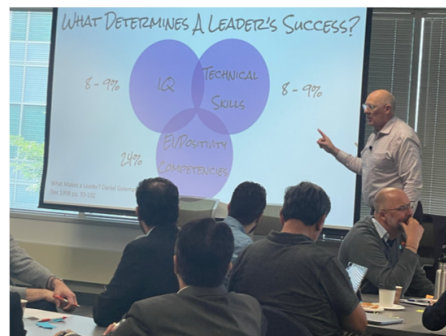
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SNEC PMI Board Members attending the PMI Regions 2 and 3 Leadership Institute Meeting in June in Minneapolis, MN
From Right to Left: Jay Fakilede, CFO; Sharon Okoye, BOD-Education, MJ Lawton, CEO, Darwyn Azzinarro, BOD-Operations, Conference & Outreach; Greg Gregonis, BOD- Programs



Toby Utermohlen, PMI Region 3 Chapter Engagement Partner, updating the R2/R3 leadership team on what's new and exciting at PMI



Spencer Horn, guest speaker, leading a Board leadership session in Minneapolis at the R2/R3 meeting



Team dinner in Minneapolis following the PMI Regions 2 & 3 Leadership Meeting



The PMI Regions 2 & 3 Leadership team in Minneapolis, MN this June.

Why We Volunteer

by the SNEC Lower Fairfield County Breakfast Meeting Planning Team

The SNEC Lower Fairfield County Breakfast meetings are held monthly from September through May, typically on the third Thursday of the month. The meetings are organized by four volunteers who have worked together for a number of years to deliver the program. In this article will introduce you to the volunteers and have them answer the question, in their own words, “Why do you volunteer?”

Lauren Barraza



Lauren Barraza is a management consultant specializing in organizational effectiveness, change management and program implementation. She has spent most of her career in the government sector, leading project teams most recently focused on digital transformation and Agile software development.

Lauren volunteers because “Although I’ve been fortunate to have the flexibility to work remotely since 2016, I was looking for a way to build local connections. Volunteering with the Lower Fairfield County group has been a great way to grow my network while providing me with numerous opportunities to continue to learn from and contribute to the project management community.”

Ken Carlson



Ken Carlson is the principal of Carlson Project Management Consulting. He specializes in providing project management services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as he has worked in the industry for over 40 years.

Ken volunteers because “I really like project management and continuous learning. By volunteering on the Lower Fairfield County program committee, I pair these two passions and to help shape the monthly program. Also, it’s fun to work with the other program committee members, who all pitch in a positive way to share the work of developing the program.”

Ken Dougherty



Ken Dougherty is a technology business management professional mainly experienced in the operations of major financial industry firms. He has held many positions in project management, application support, and line management over several decades. Ken has been a certified PMP only since 2020 and has been the principal of Willspoint Group LLC since 2018.

Ken volunteers because “I believe in the mission of SNEC-PMI to accelerate professional growth through connecting, learning, and fostering new ideas, but I also believe in learning from one’s mistakes; and thru volunteering, I have a platform to meet and encourage younger professionals to set aside time to become certified and engage as a volunteer at the earliest possible point in their career. The payback can be enormous.”

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Felicia Keeton



Felicia Keeton has over forty years of leadership and management experience in revenue enablement functions across sales, marketing, and business development. She currently heads up Revenue Enablement at Bamboo Health, a healthcare technology company. Felicia’s interest in project management started at AT&T and led to PMP certification in 2014.

Felicia volunteers because “although I have never held a project management title, I continuously leverage the knowledge and frameworks in my work. I also enjoy collaborating with the presenters and attendees in our monthly meetings and sharpening my knowledge and skills. And, like Ken Carlson said, it’s fun to work with the other program committee members. We each contribute equally to the Lower Fairfield program success.”

As you can see, the four people who organize the SNEC Lower Fairfield Country Breakfast meetings find the time they spend volunteering for SNEC very rewarding. There are many ways to volunteer to support SNEC. We are confident that if you volunteer, you will have a rewarding experience as well.



Learn more about available volunteer positions in the chapter at: vrms.pmi.org or email us at: volunteer@sne-cpmi.org.

SNEC-PMI Expands its University Partnership with Central Connecticut State University

by Chris Zack, PMP

On April 18, the Southern New England Chapter of Project Management expanded its partnership with local universities by holding a [Professional and Student Roundtable Discussion at Central Connecticut State University \(CCSU\)](#).

The event was a great success, with 50 students, 19 project professionals, and 8 faculty in attendance. We started the evening with a panel of industry experts who shared their insights and experiences by answering student-submitted questions. Following the panel, we took time for dinner where students had the opportunity to network with project management professionals. These professionals provided the students with valuable insights, best practices, and personal experiences. Students were also given an overview of PMI and were told of the benefits of obtaining a student membership.

According to Professor Abdullah Oguz, who invited SNEC-PMI to the university, “The event was an amazing chance for our undergraduate and graduate students to engage with project management experts from all over Connecticut.” He believes “that the connections made and information gained during the event will be highly advantageous for our students as they begin their careers in project management. We appreciate our partnership with SNEC-PMI and anticipate collaborating on more events like this in the future.”



A special thank you to Terri Schoen for taking the lead for the chapter, Greg Gregonis for providing guidance, Professor Abdullah Oguz for inviting us and facilitating, and PJ Rossitto for hosting us at CCSU's Memorial Hall. The event was thoughtfully planned and executed. We also thank the speaker panel, our members, the CCSU students and faculty for making this a successful night.

The chapter will continue to foster our relationship with local universities, with plans to organize more events like this one at CCSU, as well as speaker panels and networking events similar to those held at the University of Hartford. (See articles in the [Spring 2023](#) and [Winter 2023](#) Newsletter). Future events will be added to the Event Calendar on our website, so please check the site regularly.

As always, these events need volunteers. If you are interested in leading one of these academic engagements or being a member of a speaker panel, please send an email to one of the Academic Engagement committee members: [Greg Gregonis](#), [Chris Zack](#), [Raphael Deh-Atheba](#), or [Terri Schoen](#).

Save The Date - SNEC Conference Returns to Hartford in October



We are excited to announce that the SNEC Conference will be returning to Hartford on Monday, October 23rd for a full-day event, followed by half-day workshops on Tuesday, October 24th.

This highly anticipated conference brings together industry experts, thought leaders, and professionals in the field to discuss the latest trends and advancements in our industry. Attendees can expect a wide range of informative sessions, engaging keynotes, and networking opportunities.

Mark your calendars and join us for two days of valuable insights and connections at the SNEC Conference at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford this October!

Registration will be opening soon!

MEET OUR KEYNOTERS



Sebastian Terry

The Passion Effect:
Unlocking Passion, Performance and Transformation



Manley Feinberg

Reaching your next Summit:
7 Vertical Lessons to Lead in the Unknown

[Speaking Opportunities](#)

and

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

are now available for the SNEC Conference!

Central Connecticut Satellite Mid-Year Recap

by the Central CT Satellite Team



Under the passionate care of Chris Zack, the Central Connecticut Satellite jumped to support the myriad of topics facing Project Managers today. As we all know, a Project Management career is never dull, often full of competing agendas, and highly variable to the point of insanity. Add to that, some of the corporate negativity and post Covid stress that has floated into our environment, and day to day frustrations and all Project Managers seek solutions to ease the challenges.

This is where the Central Connecticut Satellite team has set a goal to provide value to their constituents by securing a variety of speakers with strong experience and always a tidbit of knowledge to take away.

Starting with April Schmidt in January, discussing how Event Management and Project Management are hyper aligned as a Career in Event Management requires, almost demands conformity to the traditional framework of Project Management – domains, documents and all.

Then Bob Graham discussed mentoring and coaching others, a skill that Project Managers are encouraged to do, but few have the time. Bob's words of wisdom – it's not as easy as it looks. Take mentoring and coaching seriously.

Emre Evren came next, reminding us how hard it is to develop relationships in the digital age. Another topic that warns us of the dangers of thinking relationship management is easy. It's not and will never be.

The satellite ended its spring season with Bill Greider, 30-year NCAA Football Referee and Lean Consulting expert. If you think your job is filled with haters and you are tempted to lose your control, Bill reminds us on his tactics to point 50,000 fans and an irate football coach within degrees of violence, towards calm. Bill left us understanding the human element of Monkey Mind – the restless, agitated, and confused state of our constantly thinking minds. A common place for project managers to be, is a challenge to manage conflict - a dimension of all our projects.

When the Central Connecticut Satellite team returns from summer break, they will have more great speakers as well as some great opportunities for Sharing Best Practice and Networking. Don't miss out.

If you know of anyone who would like to speak or are interested in volunteering to help find speakers, please reach out to Chris at cpzack35@aol.com.

Interview with volunteer Greg Gregonis, PMP

Gregory J. Gregonis, PMP, CSM, CSPO, MBA, BSIE



Throughout Greg's career he has used project management as the conduit for accomplishing business goals and change. As a result, he established a project and process management freelance LLC called Transition2Done. He has been successfully leading and directing projects and project work for more than 30 years. His training and experience in Management, Industrial Engineering, Project Management, and Lean Six Sigma has provided the knowledge and experience to hold senior management roles and to work with teams to implement a diverse portfolio of projects and initiatives throughout North and South America and Europe. Greg's vision is to provide project management leadership solutions that support teams to successfully transition their desired changes to done. His core values embrace, Results, Responsiveness, Innovation, Transparency, Simplicity, Collaboration and Change.

As Vice President for Programs Greg was responsible for helping satellite teams manage professional speaking events where experts spoke on various project management topics. He also helped develop the Education Engagement Team, engaging four Universities in 2023 where students could meet and interact with Project Management Professionals. Recently, Greg was elected to the Board of Directors, Professional Development, Programs position. When asked about his motivation for volunteering at PMI SNEC, Greg expressed that he wanted to give back to the profession and contribute to the Southern New England chapter. He emphasized the importance of creating a platform where professionals could gather, learn, and interact with each other to share information and insights.

Greg has benefited immensely from volunteering at PMI SNEC and considers it a vital component of his lifelong learning. He has gained knowledge from fellow professionals, webinars, students, and educational opportunities. Greg believes that making a difference for other professionals while working with teams is paramount and he firmly believes that collective teamwork amplifies individual strengths. Greg emphasized that volunteering offers everyone the chance to learn, experiment, find satisfaction, and aid both students and professionals. These opportunities are truly rewarding. GO Volunteer!!!!

SNEC Website Changing to StarChapter



The SNEC Web Site will be migrating to a new software platform hosted by Star Chapter on or before September 1st. We are excited about this change and will be sending our members more information on new features and changes via email as we approach “go-live”.

Beyond a new look and feel, the primary change you will notice are in the Event registration area. To register for an event, you will now “add” ticket(s) to a “Cart” and then check-out, similar to how you would on most e-commerce sites (Amazon, Wayfair, etc) today. Credit card payments will now be taken directly on our web site, rather than taking you over to PayPal.

Register for SNEC-PMI Networking Event - September 2023 on September 12, 2023

Contact Information → Tickets & Products → Review Order → Payment Information → All Done!

Available Tickets

SNEC Members (\$0/each)
1

Non-SNEC Members (\$20/each)
1

Add "Tickets" to your Cart on the right...

Added Tickets and Products

Item	QTY	Price	Total
SNEC Members			
Member ticket			
Member: Michael G Smith	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
michael.smith@sneccpmi.org			
Subtotal:			\$0.00

Total Registrations: 1 Order Total: \$0.00

When your cart is complete, hit Continue to check-out (and pay if necessary)

Also changing are how documents are stored and presented... they are still accessible from the members area, but will now be listed by category with inline descriptions:

Downloads

2023 Newsletters

- [SNEC Newsletter Winter 2023](#)
- [SNEC Newsletter Spring 2023](#)

SNEC Miscellaneous

- [Project Help for PM's by Rick Stockwell, PMP](#)
- [PMI Start Build Advance Flyers](#)
- [SNEC-SOI-BOD-Application-Materials-2023](#)

ZIP file containing Statement of Interest form, and associated documents needed to apply for the 2023 Southern New England Chapter of PMI Annual Elections, with two-year term beginning on January 1, 2024 and running through December 31, 2025.

Stay tuned to your email for more details!

SNEC ONLINE and IN-PERSON LEARNING



SNEC-PMI has re-started our in-person programs and is also offering virtual learning sessions via ZOOM for SNEC-PMI members and non-members. Full information on our upcoming events can be found on the [SNEC Website](#). Below are the programs and educational sessions scheduled through October 2023:

- September 8th – [*Principles of Project Management: Embrace Adaptability and Resiliency*](#) with Joseph Carfagno, PMP
- September 12th – [SNEC-PMI Networking Event](#) – In-Person
- Sept 14 - Oct 12 – [PMP/CAPM Exam Prep Course via Zoom in Partnership with PMO Advisory - September / October 2023](#)
- October 16th – [*Principles of Project Management: Enable Change to Achieve the Envisioned Future State*](#) with Joseph Carfagno, PMP

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December						
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31						

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SNEC-PMI CHAPTER MEMBERS!

May through July 2023

Lindsey Atkins	Balaji Kandala	James Salemi
Elvis Selase Azangodo	Leona Konieczny	Gary Scharf
Babatope Babalola	Michelle Lanney	Alka Sharma
Laura Burchell	Sarah Larivee-Winslow	Michelle Smith
Alex Burgeson	Adam Lawrence	Patrick Streck
Robert Carpentier	Elaine Lefebvre	Julie Vaine
Valentina Ciotto	John Lydon	Daniel Valois
Jeffrey Clark	Timothy Marshall	Charles Varricchio
Jessica D'Angelo	Erin McCann	Dan Weinstein
Michael DeVito	Danielle McCann	Xiangli Zhang
Miguel Diaz	Robert Melko	
Christina DiBacco	Daniel Michaud	
Claire Dixon	John Modi	
Adrian Dobre	Damali Morgan	
Donna Ertel	Tyler Napper	
Jessica Frease	Ikenna Nedosa	
Mariah Gagnon	Lucas Netuschil	
James Gancarz	Richard Nguyen	
Spencer Gerowe	Meredith Oliveira	
Kim Goulet	Brandon Piche	
Diana Haynes	William Pietras	
Charles Henson	Maciej Popielarz	
Alena Higgins	Carla Presz	
Gary Higginson	Glenn Reichart	
Tyler Hoke	Kristen Ritchie	
Anthony Holt	Beth Ritter	
Andrew Horner	Jasmin Rodriguez	
Colleen Jarish	Elena Rodriguez	
Antonia Jascowski	Heather Ruel	
Jessica Joseph	Alissa Rybicki	

SNEC-PMI MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

SNEC-PMI would like to acknowledge long term chapter members celebrating their 5, 10 and 15+ year anniversaries from May through July 2023.

Congratulations to everyone and thank you for your continued and valued membership!

5 Year Anniversaries

Leopoldo Adduci
Francis Allen
Scot Bearss
Christopher Boino
Corrie Brindamour
Christopher Chenard
Douglas Clark
Nicholas Clark
Arunava De
Natalie Desrochers
Maria de Izarra
Sarah Hannah
Jason Hansen
Kai Jiang
David Lewis
Gerald Palmer
Jeffrey Pierson
Andrew Scott
Deanna Walsh
Michael Wilmes
James Zientek

10 Year Anniversaries

David Baer
Jessica Beaulieu
Michael Belcourt
Patrick Chase
Arnold Dalene
Ulrich Decher
Charles Giampietro
David Grady
Dan Hannon
Lynn Karounis
Tracy Maus
Cory OBrien
Stacey Schindler
Laura Shine
Katherine Walker
Lisa Wessler

15 Year Anniversaries

Daniel Fontaine
Courtney Stearns

20 Year Anniversaries

Laurie Codianne
Amy Keach
Carole Kokoszka
Regina Lumia
Jill McKeon
Rosario Reale
Ann Willauer
Ellen Wolfe
Joseph Zavorskas

SNEC-PMI CERTIFICATION UPDATE

Congratulations from our Board of Directors and our Membership to those obtaining PMI Certifications May through July 2023 in our chapter:

Mr. Daniel Bergstrom, DASM
Mrs. Cynthia Caporale, PMP
Michelle Crandall, PMP
Pratik Dahule, PMP
Mrs. Diane Damino, PMP
Michael DeVito, PMP
Valerie Fields, PMP, CAPM
Prof. Azhar M. Khan, PMI-ACP
Debra Koczon, PMP
Dr. Leona Konieczny, PMP
Brandon Piche, CAPM
William Pietras, PMP
Jason Pondugula, CAPM
Carla Presz, CAPM
Saravana Kumar Rajendran, PMP
Mr. Mohamed Ramzy, PMP
Karena Rumble-Carter, PMP
Alissa Rybicki, PMP
Michael Salamone, DASM
Ms. Maria Sette, DAC, DASSM
Muhammad Rauf Shaker, PMP
Julia Tsaoussis, PMP
Justin Watson, PMP
Dan Weinstein, PMP
Taylor Wrye, PMP
Xiangli Zhang, PMP

Membership Certification Facts

As of July 2023 we have 1,654 chapter members!

Of our members, 70% are certified, and of those 61% are PMPs.

Credential	Count
PMP	1,005
PMI-ACP	47
CAPM	42
DASM	29
PMI-RMP	9
PfMP	6
PgMP	4
AH-MC	4
AM-MC	3
PMI-SP	2
OTF	5
PMI-PBA	4
OTI	3
OTO	3
CDBA	1
DASSM	2
CD-MC	1
ECC	2
DAC	1

SNEC-PMI 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Jane Lawton, PMP
Membership
Mary.Jane.Lawton@sneccpmi.org

Neil Weiss, PMP
Past-President
Neil.Weiss@sneccpmi.org

Dr. Amy Paros, PMP
Vice President and COO
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Jay Fakilede, PMP
CFO/Treasurer
Jay.Fakilede@sneccpmi.org

Jeff Pierson, PMP
Corporate Secretary
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Darwyn Azzinaro, PMP
Vice President and COO
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Phillip Bradford
Volunteers
Phillip.Bradford@sneccpmi.org

Sharon Okoye, PMP
Education / Special Events
Sharon.Okoye@sneccpmi.org

Kerry Wills
Professional Development
Kerry.Wills@sneccpmi.org

SNEC-PMI MISSION AND VISION

Mission Statement

Empower, Engage, and Inspire a community of transformational leaders

Vision Statement

To accelerate professional growth through connecting, learning, and fostering new ideas

QUICK LINKS

[SNEC Web Site](#)
[Get Involved](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Register for Events](#)
[Knowledge Center](#)
[Newsletter Archive](#)
[Contact Us](#)



If you were forwarded or downloaded our newsletter and would like to receive your own copy every month, just click [here](#) or on the graphic above to subscribe!

Seeking your PM Stories, Tips, Techniques or Experiences!

The SNEC-PMI Newsletter aims to reflect our outstanding membership.

Please feel free to submit a story, tip, technique, or experience that you have found particularly helpful as a project manager. Submit your content (50-250 words) to our editor at: content@sneccpmi.org.

All items are subject to change at the discretion of the editor.