

Making Southern New England Better through Project Management™

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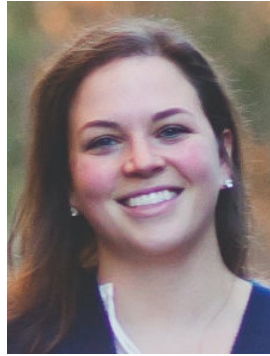
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SNEC Mission and Vision

President's Message

By Mary Jane Lawton, PMP



Hello and Happy Autumn to all of our SNEC-PMI membership,

This is my absolute favorite time of year, and I am always struck by how lucky we are to reside in one of the most beautiful places to enjoy it. As Mother Nature celebrates with a final blaze of glory before retiring for the quiet winter months and preparing for the new year ahead, I am reminded that letting go can be done gracefully and that endings are

necessary for new beginnings. In that spirit, it is with deep gratitude and respect that I thank our outgoing Directors for their contributions and service to SNEC-PMI and its members. Without the selfless volunteerism these folks epitomize, it would not be possible to offer the events, services, and community that we pride our chapter on. Please join me in wishing Kerry Wills, Jay Fakilede, and Jeff Pierson the best of luck in their future endeavors and be sure to thank them should you see them around at chapter events.

While endings are bittersweet, beginnings are joyful and it is truly with joy that I introduce you to your 2024 SNEC-PMI Board of Directors and Leadership team. This year we are privileged to welcome three new Directors in addition to our returning team. This talented and committed team of professionals is excited to get to work for you in 2024.

Greg Gregonis joins us for his second year as a Director and is our new Vice President & Chief Operating Officer. Greg comes to us from the Programs portfolio and is the man behind the curtain for all of the excellent programs and university events that we hold throughout the year. While I know that he will be sorely missed by the Programs team, I am thrilled to bring him on as my partner. Greg will support me in executing on our core organizational offerings and driving our strategic priorities for the chapter.

Phil Bradford returns to us for his third term with the Board this year and begins in his new role as our Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer in January 2024. In his role, Phil will support the financial health, security, and future of SNEC-PMI by managing the money for our mission. While this is always a strategic focus for us as a non-profit organization, this year we will be doubling down on our efforts to drive revenue so that we can continue to

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invest in and recognize YOU, our membership.

Sharon Okoye returns to us for her second year as a Director and will serve as our new Chapter Secretary. Sharon will support the coordination and organization of the chapter governance team and Board of Directors in this role. As you may imagine, this is a critical role to keep the Board of Directors on track and moving ahead throughout the year, and we thank her for taking on this position next year.

Long time chapter member, volunteer, and Board member, Darwyn Azzinaro, rejoins us wearing multiple hats in 2024. Darwyn will oversee the Operations portfolio (technology, elections, data management, etc.), the Outreach portfolio, and our Conference team. Last but not least, Darwyn will serve as the interim Director of the Membership & Mentoring portfolio this year as well. As many members know, Darwyn has served multiple terms on the Board in roles including President, COO, and CFO and we are so grateful to have his experience and wisdom on our team.

Mona Heredia joins us as a brand-new Board member and will be leading the Volunteer portfolio. Engaging with, supporting, and recognizing current volunteers and recruiting new ones is a crucial task for a volunteer run organization like SNEC-PMI. In this role Mona brings a fresh perspective and a warm leadership style that combined with her years of volunteer experience, will benefit our BoD team and chapter as a whole.

Amy Paros rejoins us this year as our Director for Marketing & Communications. Amy has led this portfolio for the past three years and has done an excellent job working with our SNEC-PMI team and marketing partners to modernize and optimize the way we reach you and our community at large. Amy's creativity and down to earth leadership style has been a vital success factor for the small but mighty Marketing team. In fact, if it weren't for Amy and her team, you wouldn't be reading this newsletter today!

Jim McGennis joins us for his first term this year as our Director of Education. As part of our larger strategy we will be focused on meeting the current educational needs and desires of our members. Jim is an accomplished project professional and we look forward to seeing where he takes the Education team in 2024. Stay tuned!

Deborah Ketai also comes to us for her first term and will assume the role of Director of Programs. Programs is at the heart of our core offerings to our membership, and we are excited to welcome Deborah and her wealth of experience in the project world to this role.

Finally, I must thank YOU, our members. Whether you're new to us today or you've been with us for years, you are the driver that keeps our chapter engine running strong. I am honored to serve you all again in 2024 as President and CEO. It is my goal and commitment to you that in addition to our core offerings, we will also work to modernize our chapter services, address your needs and desires as chapter members, and pave the way for wherever the futures may lead us and our profession.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” -African Proverb

With Gratitude,



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

Welcoming the 2024 Board of Directors for SNEC!

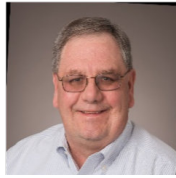
Governance Committee



President

[Mary Jane E. Lawton](#)

PharmD, PMP, DASM



Vice President & COO

[Greg Gregonis](#)



CFO & Treasurer

[Phillip Bradford](#)

Ph. D, PMP



Secretary

[Sharon Okoye](#)

PMP

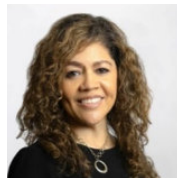
Directors



**BOD Member - Outreach,
Conference, Operations,
Mentoring & Membership**

[Darwyn Azzinaro](#)

PMP, SAFe, OPM3



BOD Member - Volunteer

[Mona Heredia](#)



BOD Member - Marketing

[Amy Paros](#)

Ph.D, PMP, DASM



BOD Member - Education

[James J. McGennis](#)

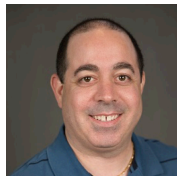
MPA, MS, MA



BOD Member - Programs

[Deborah Ketai](#)

PMP, RMP, CMS



Past President

[Neil Weiss](#)

PMP, SAFe SA

PUReengagement: The “U”

by Chris Zak, PMP

In the Fall 2021 SNEC-PMI newsletter, I introduced what I find to be three common things that contribute to a successful engagement of a team: patience, understanding and respect, or; PUReengagement.

Understanding (Oxford Dictionary): (noun) the ability to understand something; comprehension; (adj) sympathetically aware of other people’s feelings; tolerant and forgiving; (verb) perceiving the intended meaning of; interpret or view in a particular way.

Without understanding, one cannot assimilate new information and adapt their worldview by seeing connections and the importance of those connections.

Understanding is not compromising your values or core beliefs. It builds upon those to create a foundation upon which an individual, group or organization can grow and evolve over time. Without the growth that stems from understanding, people, projects and even cultures can become stagnate, over time can become divided, feelings of mistrust and lack of cooperation can set in. The “we” mentality will shift to “us vs. them” and goals and progress will suffer.

This can happen in families, among friends, in organizations, schools, and in teams. The root of understanding lies in one’s ability to not only comprehend but to empathize, self-assess and shift perspective when necessary. This is not necessarily innate for all, but it is a skill that can be, and should be, learned and honed.

When you add patience and respect to the equation, it becomes a triple advantage for the individual, group or situation. Understanding assists in bridging differences – whether cultural, language, or idea based. Understanding, assists in communicating with various audiences, in various medias on various levels.

PUReengagement has “U” as one of its anchors and at the same time, this all begins with you. It’s up to you to initiate the open, tolerant dialog and conversations that move projects and ideas forward.

Engage with Patience, Understanding and Respect and see what happens!



Note: This article was written in collaboration with Gioia Zack.

Central Connecticut Satellite Fall Update by the Central Connecticut Satellite Team

We don't seem to talk anymore. At least that's how the Central Connecticut Satellite feels. This is fine, and for good reason as most of our events are remote and the casual, conversational networking part of in-person meetings is missing in Zoom. To help reengage members in conversation, our satellite designed the October and November workshops as open discussion forums that have both whole group and small group discussion opportunities.

The October workshop topic was "Eliminating Problems in Project Management". Instead of a guest speaker presenting the topic, attendees were given two questions, split up into breakout rooms, brainstormed and talked. After 25 minutes, the whole group reassembled and shared thoughts. In this session, one item we all agreed upon was the importance of soft skills. More specifically, the skill of understanding the people you are working with to find the best way to collaborate; and secondly, being able to present to various audiences.

November's open discussion workshop will have discussions about how the project manager must evolve or else risk their career.

In December, we'll be back to the speaker format and have a manufacturing expert speak about project management in manufacturing.

For 2024, the feedback from our October and November workshops will be used to determine our topics for workshops and meetings. We are already working on lining up speakers and coaches in the area of soft skills.

There is a lot going on in the background so, as always, keep checking the SNEC-PMI [calendar](#) for these announcements.

We hope to talk to you soon,

The Central Connecticut Satellite team



Interview with volunteer Sundar Varadaraja

VP Education / Special Events



In this edition, we have the privilege of getting to know Sundar Varadaraja, originally from India and relocated to the USA in 2005. Currently, Sundar holds the role of VP Education/Special Events at SNEC PMI, where his extensive background in project management and technology, backed by over two decades of experience, shines through. Sundar boasts PMP and PMI ACP certifications, showcasing his commitment to professional excellence.

In 2014, Sundar found the opportunity to embark on a journey of volunteering, driven by his personal convictions and dedication to giving back. In his current capacity, Sundar plays an instrumental role in advancing education for the SNEC Chapter through various channels, including webinars and other innovative initiatives. His primary responsibilities revolve around collaborating with education providers, negotiating contracts, and curating a diverse portfolio of classes and educational events. This comprehensive offering is designed to benefit both Southern New England PMI members and non-members alike.

Sundar's team convenes biweekly to meticulously evaluate the existing portfolio, pinpoint areas for enhancement, and chart a course for future offerings and opportunities. Sundar fondly reminisces about the pre-pandemic days, a time when organizing in-person classes demanded meticulous coordination, logistical prowess, time investment, and unwavering effort. However, the educational landscape has evolved dramatically in recent times. The sector has witnessed an explosion of online offerings, with PMI no longer standing as the sole provider. Now, various vendors and third-party entities have entered the scene, offering a plethora of virtual classes. This shifting landscape underscores the importance of maintaining competitiveness in our educational offerings.

Reflecting on his decision to volunteer, Sundar's motivation was deeply rooted in his desire to give back to the community. Volunteering is not just a means to accrue PDUs and maintain certification; it represents a rewarding and relatively straightforward path to making a positive impact. Beyond the realm of professional development, volunteering presents a unique opportunity to expand one's professional network, forge connections with new members, and potentially unlock a treasure trove of opportunities within the field.

By leveraging the leadership skills honed over the course of his professional career, Sundar brings valuable expertise to his role as a volunteer with the Southern New England Chapter of PMI. This engagement not only allows him to contribute his skills but also fosters interactions with a diverse group of individuals. These interactions, in turn, introduce fresh ideas and innovative problem-solving approaches, enriching his overall experience and nurturing both personal and professional growth.

Lessons Learned vs. Retrospective

by Felicia Keeton, Lower Fairfield County

Last month the Lower Fairfield meeting participants held an open discussion on lessons learned. We shared different approaches used to capture insights on “what worked and what didn’t.” Approaches ranged from the more formal lessons learned report to the less formal retrospective meeting. Both are valuable tools for project documentation, but they have different purposes, formats, and audiences.

A lessons learned report is a formal document that summarizes the main outcomes, challenges, and best practices of a completed project. It’s intended to inform and guide future projects. On the other hand, a retrospective is an informal meeting intended to reflect and learn from the project experience. Participants consider what went well in the project, what did not go well, what was learned from the project, and what can be done differently or better in the future.

Both approaches capture key learnings and enable project managers and teams to improve future performance. Yet, these approaches have distinct differences. For instance, a lessons learned report is usually done after the project closure, while a retrospective can be done at any stage of the project lifecycle. A lessons learned report is a written document that follows a standard template and style, while a retrospective can be a verbal discussion or a creative exercise that uses various tools and techniques.

A lesson learned report and a retrospective are complementary tools for capturing and documenting insights. Combining them can create a more holistic and effective learning process. For instance, the retrospective can be used as a source of data and input for the lessons learned report, while the latter can be used as a follow-up and action plan for the retrospective. Both documents should be reviewed and updated periodically to identify and address new opportunities or challenges. This continuous improvement cycle can help you monitor and implement changes or improvements for future projects.



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

SNEC Conference Returns to Hartford in April 2024



unlock YOUR **potential**
SNEC-PMI CONFERENCE

**EVENT
RESCHEDULED**

**APR 8-9
2024**
CONNECTICUT
CONVENTION
CENTER

We are excited to announce that the SNEC Conference will be returning to Hartford on Monday, April 8th for a full-day event, followed by half-day workshops on Tuesday, April 9th.

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 in April 2024!

[Registration is open!](#)

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

See Complete Conference information at:
sneccpmi.org/conference

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)
are still available for the SNEC Conference!

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:

- November 3rd – [Differences Between Projects run by Technical People and Projects run by Business People](#) with Joseph Carfagno, PMP
- November 7th – [Disruptive Impact of Digital Transformation on Project Management \(includes AI conversation\)](#) with David Mantica
- Nov 8, 15 and 22 – [PgMP Exam Prep Course Boot Camp by PMOAdvisory](#)
- November 15th – [Evolve and adapt or risk your career](#)
- November 16th – [Opportunity or Threat? The Role of CHAT-GPT in Project Management](#) with Paul Clapis, PhD
- December 1st – [Generative AI and Project Management](#) with Joseph Carfagno, PMP

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December						
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31						

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SNEC-PMI CHAPTER MEMBERS!

August through October 2023

Dwight Atherton	Ambarish Hejib	Francisco Perrotta
Jasmine Barnes	Brandon Hendzel	Cassandra Pierce
William Barry	Keumok Heo	Renee Proulx
Maggie Bekele	Stephen Hicks	Alicia Ramharack
Mustapha Bello	Kevin T. Hinderleider	Marshall Ripley
David Bible	Kaitlyn Hirtle	Nicholas Robinson
Kristen Bouzaid	Veronica L. Hoard	Robert Rutkowski
Yaima Braga	Lawrence Hoffman	Cari Santamaria
Joanne Brunelle	Jamie Houle	Walter Schwarz
Kathleen Capra	Carl Jackson	Helen Louise Schweitzer
Bhavani Shankar Charllapally	Josephine Johnson-Moore	Stephanie Siraco
James Coclin	Radhakrishnan K	Erina Smith
John Coleman	Kathryn Kadri	Julia Snyder
Hester Darcy	Bridget Kesling	Cheri Stevenson
Candice Day	Kevin Kromash	Stephen Studer
Angela Daye	Ajanai lang	Emily Su
Jessica DeGregorio	Brianne Lanzieri	Mary Beth Swindell
Lauren Dominique	Kunal Lawangare	Joseph Symcak
Luca Donadi	Monica Lee	Vaishnavi Tiwari
Jennifer Lin Dums	Yuan Lin	Matthew Troxell
Lori Esernia	Brandon Ly	Shekhar Varma
Charles Felder	Leah Mackay	Nicole Voll
Stephen Filkoski	Pamela McNary	Matthew Wade
Thomas Foley	Michael Mengler	Liming Wang
Andrew Fox	Sumit More	Denise Whelan
Christopher Eduardo Aquino	Kevin K Muller	Victoria White
Emily Glatt	Olugbenga Orimogunje	Daniel Wunderlin
John Gordon	Benjamin Orrell	Brian Zebarth
Brooke Grant	Deepthi Pai Manoor	
Michael Greer	Dipa Patel	
Lydia Griffin	Nehal Patel	
	Renni Pavolini Chacon	

SNEC-PMI MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

5 Year Anniversaries

Sarah Arunski
Anand Baghel
Scott Brooks
Steven Clarkson
Michael Co
Eric T Cowan
Pratik Dahule
Jennifer Domaradzki
Margaret Donnelly
Daryl Gross
Julia Jack
Richard Lewicki
Brooks Markert
John McDonnell
Maria A. Oliveira
Joshua Rehrig
Kathleen Robbins
Paul Stoltze
Vincent Tycer

10 Year Anniversaries

Ryan Belmont
Michael Carbonetta
Butch Dixon
Alistair Duguid
Elizabeth Fecko-Curtis
William Hess
Jeffrey Liggett
Douglas C Macdonald
Kenneth J McInerney
Terry Nichols
Patrick Roach, Sr.
Leslie Weber
James Wolff, Jr.
Natalie A. Wood
Erika Young

15 Year Anniversaries

Olaf Casperson
Midge L Colombo
Edwin Macaraeg
Diane Wishart

20 Year Anniversaries

Dean S. Ascioti
Ellen Belitzky
Deborah Boucher
Neil R. Bradley
Stephen D. DeBenedet
Bernard J. Johnson
Kevin E Riley
Audrey Thibodeau

SNEC-PMI CERTIFICATION UPDATE

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

Dwight Atherton, CAPM
Kristine Bishop, DASM
Kristen Bouzaid, PMP
Ann Brierley, PMP
Raquel Carrasco Puerto, PMP
Bhavani Shankar Charllapally, PMP
Jeffrey Clark, PMP
Luca Donadi, PMP
Jennifer Dums, CAPM
Adrienne Figus, PMP
Marissa Flynn, DASM
Lynn Furioni, AH-MC
Alena Higgins, PMP
Gary Higginson, PMP
Kathryn Kadri, PMP
Jennifer Katus, AH-MC
Ajanai Lang, PMP
Michelle Lanney, PMP
Brienne Lanzieri, PMP
Daniel Montagna, PMI-ACP
Ikenna Nedosa, OTI
Folashade Orimogunje, CD-MC
Kristen Ritchie, PMP
Beth Ritter, PMP
Eddie Rivera, PMI-ACP
Maria Sette, PMI-RMP, DAVSC
Shaby Siddiqui, AH-MC
Emily Su, PMP
Andrew Tomasello, DASM

Membership Certification Facts

As of October 2023 we have 1,684 chapter members!

Of our members, 72% are certified, and of those 62% are PMPs.

Credential	Count
PMP	1,044
PMI-ACP	48
CAPM	39
DASM	31
PMI-RMP	8
PfMP	6
PgMP	4
AH-MC	7
AM-MC	3
PMI-SP	2
OTF	5
PMI-PBA	3
OTI	4
OTO	3
DASSM	2
DAVSC	1
CD-MC	2
ECC	2
DAC	1
BETI	1

SNEC-PMI 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Jay Fakilede, PMP
CFO/Treasurer
Jay.Fakilede@sneccpmi.org

Phillip Bradford
Volunteers
Phillip.Bradford@sneccpmi.org

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

Jeff Pierson, PMP
Corporate Secretary
Jeff.Pierson@sneccpmi.org

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

Dr. Amy Paros, PMP
Vice President and COO
Amy.Paros@sneccpmi.org

Darwyn Azzinaro, PMP
Vice President and COO
Darwyn.Azzinaro@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.