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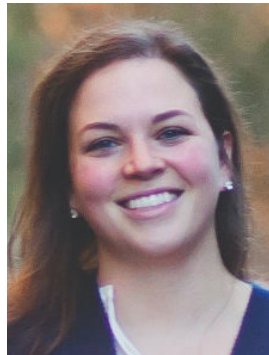
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President's Message

By Mary Jane Lawton, PMP



A Message from the President: Embracing Collaboration for a Thriving Summer

As the warm summer months approach, I'm filled with a sense of optimism and excitement for the season ahead for SNEC-PMI. Summer brings with it an opportunity to connect with our fellow members, explore new industry developments, and foster a spirit of collaboration that will propel us all

forward.

Building on the momentum of our exceptional April conference, SNEC-PMI is committed to providing a diverse range of events and programs that cater to the interests of all our members. The energy at the conference was palpable, and the insightful presentations from industry leaders like Seb Terry and Manley Feinberg left a lasting impression.

Here are some highlights to look forward to this summer, building on the strong foundation laid at the conference:

- **International Institute for Learning Agile Con2024:** Agile frameworks and methods are increasingly favored by organizations seeking flexibility and responsiveness in the face of accelerating business changes. Join us with our partner, IIL, at AgileCon2024 as we dive into the intersection of Agile methodologies, AI integration, and adaptive leadership. Available to stream through September 10th, 2024.
- **Certification Prep Courses:** For those looking to up their game with a new certification, we are hosting a series of prep courses for our members. Whether you are interested in PfMP, PgMP, PMP, or CAPM, we have your needs covered! Register today to jump start the next step in your career!
- **Breakfast Roundtables:** We recognize the importance of building strong relationships within our industry. This summer, we'll be hosting several roundtable events that will provide a platform for members to connect, share ideas, and forge valuable partnerships, just like we did at the conference.

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In addition to these planned events, I encourage you to actively participate in our chapter meetings and volunteer opportunities. By getting involved, you not only contribute to the growth of our chapter but also gain valuable leadership experience and broaden your professional network.

As we embark on this exciting summer season, let's embrace the power of collaboration. By working together, sharing our knowledge, and supporting each other, we can achieve great things and ensure a thriving summer for SNEC-PMI.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and continuing to build a strong and vibrant chapter together.

With Gratitude,



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



Spring Programs Draw Enthusiastic Participation

by Deborah Ketai

Fifteen SNEC satellite events have enlightened and entertained our members this Spring, with more to come in May and June. (Find them at <https://snec-pmi.org/meetinginfo.php>.)

Formats varied, from formal presentations to roundtable discussions and virtual breakout rooms. Topics ranged from semi-technical subjects, like value stream mapping, to power skills, like active listening, and from case studies to how to get the most out of tools such as Microsoft Teams.

The Central Connecticut satellite attracted several non-members by bringing in an external speaker. Matt Louis, an expert on military-to-civilian career transitions (Purepost.com), highlighted the benefits of hiring veterans as project managers.

Besides learning new skills (and earning free PDUs), members valued the ability to build their networks by meeting people from outside their own organizations. (Hint: Next time you attend one of these virtual sessions, engage in the chat, and invite people to connect with you on LinkedIn or in real life over a cup of coffee.)

Meanwhile, as part of an effort to engage more college students and bring them into our organization, several SNEC members have spoken to classes and groups at area universities. A panel discussion at the University of Hartford addressed “Digital Horizons: Navigating the Future of Work,” while some of the other offerings focused on the use of generative AI in our profession.

All these events are the product of our dedicated volunteers...and we can always use more! If you'd like to help plan our programs—or speak at an upcoming session—please contact me at: deborah.ketai@snec-pmi.org.

SNEC Lower Fairfield Volunteer Spotlight

by Felicia Keeton for the Lower Fairfield County Team

We're excited to introduce two of three new volunteers that will ultimately be taking over the steering wheel for Lower Fairfield County events. You'll find their bio's below. We'll publish the bio of our third volunteer next issue.

As you read this, you might be thinking – “I am too busy to volunteer.” Yes, we understand this perfectly. Yet we want you to re-consider the benefits of- volunteering with SNEC PMI:

- Expands your network and professional contacts.
- Develops transferable skills like leadership, communication, presentation and interpersonal.
- Provides social interaction and a sense of belonging and purpose.
- Builds confidence and self-esteem knowing your time and actions positively impact others.

Also, in Lower Fairfield we co-volunteer. In other words, we divide and conquer – share the burden. Other chapters are likely open to this model also. So, if you are interested, please inquire!

Our newest Lower Fairfield volunteers

Kathryn Kadri, PMP, DASM, ISC2 CC, is a seasoned professional with a strong background in business management and administration. With over 18 years of experience, she has successfully led projects while managing her own business and specializing in mortgage pipeline management.

In her current role at TD, Kathryn excels in mortgage pipeline management, overseeing and optimizing pipeline progress using effective strategies and tools. Her proactive approach to identifying workflow enhancements and providing comprehensive training has resulted in notable process improvements and increased operational efficiency. Kathryn's strategic engagement with stakeholders ensures high customer satisfaction and adherence to quality control procedures.

Previously, Kathryn owned and managed a successful martial arts center for over a decade, demonstrating her proficiency in operational optimization and team leadership. During this time, she spearheaded marketing strategies that significantly boosted membership and revenue, showcasing her ability to deliver tangible results through strategic initiatives.

With a strong commitment to professional development and community engagement, Kathryn is eager to volunteer with the Lower Fairfield County SNEC-PMI. She seeks to contribute her expertise, enhance her skills, and expand her network within the project management community.

Kathryn's background encompasses financial analysis, team leadership, and operations management, reflecting her versatility and capability in driving organizational success. She is known for her exceptional organizational and prioritization skills, making her a valuable asset in any professional capacity.

Antonia Jascowski, PMP, holds degrees from Connecticut College and Southern New Hampshire University, specializing in Psychology and Project Management and Operations. As a Strategic Initiatives Project Manager for Construction Services at Travelers, she previously held roles in healthcare and financial services. Antonia is looking forward to volunteering with the Lower Fairfield County group, and is hoping to enhance her skills, foster connections, and contribute to the growth of this community.

Beyond the Horizon: Strategies for Effective Change Navigation

by Quinnipiac University's School of Business Students:
Jason Bupp, Logan Fass, Omar Saad, Finnian Carlson, Michael Cimis

Good management is what makes or breaks a company's workforce. It affects retention, work efficiency, your workplace environment, and overall happiness of your employees. Without good management, a company is doomed to suffer the consequences. Change in the workplace is inevitable. New employees, new technologies, new customers; it is a constant battle to adapt and overcome these changes. This is where change management comes into play.

Change management involves the approach that organizations utilize in order to effectively plan and work around the transformations occurring within the workplace. The primary goal of change management is to reduce the negative effects of change, which can be done with a combination of different tactics.



Strategies being devised to combat negative effects of change | Unsplash.com

One method is DPIS; define, plan, implement, and sustain. This simple, yet effective outline can be done at the inception of an organizational change plan and make the implementation much more successful.

A common barrier to effective organizational change is effective communication. A lack of clear communication from upper management to the employees causes a breakdown in the momentum created by the new changes. One of the more effective communication methods is "Underscore and Explore". This involves a couple clear and concise messages linked to organizational success and employees can explore their implications.

The primary idea to keep in mind is that change is inevitable. No facet of life, let alone business, is immune to change. Advancements and barriers surrounding industries, technology, and people alike are destined to change in the most unpredictable and game-changing ways. To successfully manage change one needs to learn how to embrace it. Once that is completed the boundaries to what an individual or company can do are limitless.

In conclusion, the importance of change management in an organization's overall management strategy cannot be understated, and as new strategies become developed it is crucial to implement them into the workplace.

Sources:

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Streamlining Projects, One Block at a Time: How Blockchain is Redefining Project Management

by Quinnipiac University’s School of Business Students:
Michaela Cowing, Rachel Fians, Teresa Quinci, Madison Stack, Nicole Stout

In the complex world of project management, blockchain emerges as a transformative force, reshaping traditional practices with its fixed ledger and high data security. Simply, blockchain is a kind of database that links to itself and builds. Each block contains data, a hash, and the hash of the previous block in the chain. A hash is a signature of that block that distinguishes it from others. Using something we all know of, the hit show Friends, we can see an example of how data in blockchain is implemented in the sequence:

Block #1	→	Block #2
Data: Season 1 of <i>Friends</i>		Data: Season 2 of <i>Friends</i>
Hash (signature): 1a		Hash (signature): 2b
Previous Hash: N/A		Previous Hash: 1a

The hashes ensure the chains are secure, easy to track, and prevent sneaky tampering with data.

Project managers can use blockchain management as a secure way to store and build upon their plans. With this tool, suppliers and subcontractors involved in the project can verify scheduling and supplies using the ledger and subsequent blocks (cite 3). This tool of centralized information cloud storage allows plans to be streamlined and those involved to be kept accountable for their deliverables and sensitive information.

Project management is not the only field that utilizes blockchain management; it is used everywhere, in almost every industry! Food-carrying stores, such as Walmart, use blockchain

management in the managing of suppliers of fresh produce. The blockchain may have data for the produce all the way back to when the seed itself was planted, and to how long the produce sits on the shelves of the store before being bought. If there is a defective product, the blockchain can track where said produce was sourced from. Doesn’t that seem like a lot of useful data that should be easily tracked? (cite 8).

For project managers, maintaining awareness of blockchain’s emerging applications will allow for better-informed planning, particularly in areas of technology impacted by the blockchain.

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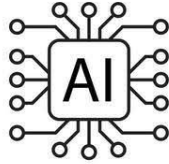
Above is a photo of Quinnipiac University's south quad project, which is an example of a big Project Management endeavor that may need to use BlockChain to stay on track

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Navigating the Future: AI's Role in Transforming Project Management Strategies

by Quinnipiac University's School of Business Students:
Anthony Berejik, Keegan MacDonnell, Allison Marino, Luke Pinone, and Amy Sherman



This is a drawing of an AI processor chip, which symbolizes the different processes that AI does for project management. (Kimsue)

By 2030, it is projected that 80% of project management tasks will be automated by AI (Gartner Says 80 Percent of Today's Project Management Tasks Will Be Eliminated by 2030 as Artificial Intelligence Takes Over, 2019). This arises the question, "What aspects of project management will be affected by AI?"

Selection and Prioritization

The first aspect that will be affected is selection and prioritization. AI can assist project managers in detecting which projects will have the highest success rate. This is beneficial because it helps the team be more efficient when choosing tasks in the early stages (Nieto-Rodriguez & Vargas, 2023).

Improved Detection of Risk

The second aspect is having improved detection of project risk. Using AI will help leaders detect any risks that may occur, and from there adjust their plans to prevent any issues from happening (Nieto-Rodriguez & Vargas, 2023).

Virtual Assistant Bots

The last aspect is the introduction of virtual assistant bots (Nieto-Rodriguez & Vargas, 2023). It was recently announced that Oracle is creating a project management digital assistant, to help managers update and keep track of their tasks (Oracle Adds AI Smarts to Increase Oracle ERP Cloud's Market Lead, 2019).

Overall, AI should not be feared but rather seen as a tool to streamline tasks for project managers to become more efficient in their jobs. AI can help spark new innovative ideas to further help project managers thrive.

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SNEC's 16th Conference

by Darwyn Azzinaro, PMP - 2024 Conference Lead

I am happy to share that the SNEC's 16th Conference was very well received! Survey scores were overall 4.3 out of 5, the Keynote speakers were ranked high, as well as the breakout speakers, networking opportunities, and the venue. Highlights of the day included:

- Seb's inspiring stories
- Watching the eclipse
- Manley's guitar solo
- Fun networking sessions and reception
- The wonderful food
- And many more!

It was an amazing day spent with a wonderful professional community. Thank you to all that participated, the sponsors for their support, and the volunteers that made it happen!



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Interview with Felicia Keeton

by Thauan Rodrigues



From her home in Connecticut Felicia Keeton engaged in a conversation with PMI SNEC for our traditional volunteer interview.

Felicia grew up and received her education in Southern California. She started working at AT&T straight out of college. Her initial job was to project manage the installation of telephony systems working closely with sales the installation teams. She continued this work for several years then moved into more senior roles in sales and sales operations while also getting her MBA and starting a family. In 2003, her husband's job prompted a relocation, with their two young children, from California to Connecticut. Felicia was able to

continue her AT&T career journey and building project management along with other skills and experience. In 2014, Felicia certified as a Project Management Professional. Although her primary job functions at AT&T were not usually traditional project management roles, she often leveraged these skills and knowledge until her departure in 2017 from AT&T after 36 years.

Felicia became active in SNEC PMI about this time. In 2018, Felicia started working for Gartner Events leading a Sales Enablement team. Once again, her project management skills and experience were invaluable in executing her work. When COVID hit, Gartner largely shut down its conferences and Felicia took an unplanned sabbatical. In 2022, she moved to Bamboo Health, a healthcare technology firm specializing in interoperability and care coordination software, to again lead a Sales Enablement team. In this current role, she continues to advocate for team members to consider both joining PMI chapters and getting certified. You don't have to have a project manager title to leverage these crucial skills and knowledge in other functions.

Today, Felicia continues to partner with others to co-lead the Lower Fairfield County events on the fourth Thursday of each month. She's been able to do this for over 7 years because she has great partners to share the workload. Co-leading programs is the best model in today's busy world.

Reflecting on her career, Felicia shares valuable advice for those starting their professional journey. She underscores the significance of learning from both positive and negative experiences, emphasizing the importance of patience and adaptability in today's rapidly changing work landscape. While advocating for continuous learning and growth, she also cautions against idealizing new opportunities, recognizing the inherent pros and cons of any workplace. She stated that every situation, even challenging ones, presents an opportunity to learn. If you can muster the patience to navigate through difficult times, even the most painful ones, you'll undoubtedly glean valuable lessons and emerge stronger for it.

Felicia's journey serves as a testament to the value of resilience, adaptability, and continuous learning in navigating the complexities of the modern workplace.

#SNEELECTIONS | @SNECPMI

Call for Candidates



Become a Chapter Leader

For More Information, Please See: <https://sne-cpmi.org/Elections>



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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 2024:

- May 23rd – [Three Strategic Reframes: How to Share Your Revised Project Goals](#) with Jack Nevison
- June 7th – [Working with External Resources](#) facilitated by Joseph Carfagno, PMP
- June 18th and 25th – [PgMP Exam Prep Course Boot Camp by PMOAdvisory](#)
- June 21st and 28th – [PfMP Exam Prep Course Boot Camp by PMOAdvisory](#)
- Sept. 6th and 13th – [PfMP Exam Prep Course Boot Camp by PMOAdvisory](#)
- Sept 10th - Oct 15th – [PMP/CAPM Exam Prep Course via Zoom in Partnership with PMO Advisory - September / October 2024](#)
- Oct. 4th and 11th – [PfMP Exam Prep Course Boot Camp by PMOAdvisory](#)
- Nov. 11th – [PgMP Exam Prep Course Boot Camp by PMOAdvisory - November 2024](#)

January							February							March							April							May							June						
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28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SNEC-PMI CHAPTER MEMBERS!

February 2024 through April 2024

Joseph Adamski	Julie Kelley	Kevin Rogers
Oyenyi Ajao	Rebecca Kimball	Wayne Roma
Veronica Beaupre	Vartika Kumar	Alexandra Ross-Reid
Amin Behzadi	Darcy Kurys	Ozlem Salihoglu
Byron Branning	Joseph LaBelle	Ravi Sankar
Alia Bukhowa	Jill LaBranche	Simisola Sanni
Brandon Carr	Egi Lagji	Ruth Savinelli
Richard Caudill	Isabella Laque	Matthew Sciarappa
Douglas Ceci	Julian Lavoie	Tao Shen
Terry Chase	Sharine Lawrence-Mcleod	Debra Sluzas
Jaynalis Chevere	Joseph Lepper	Katherine Sokol
Kethwlyn Crocco	Elizabeth Lopez-Colon	Federico Sotomayor
Brendan Cronin	Benjamin Lowenfels	Joseph Staub
Caitlin Demore	Jaclyn Magnuszewski	Jamie Stewart
Diego Di Gilio	Sarah Maiocco	Rebecca Stratton
Emily DiFranco	Brandy Martinez	Litto Thomas
Meghan Duddu	Bryan McClanahan	Maria Toyofuku
Torin Early	Samantha Mendence	Aruna Venkatasubramaniam
Megan Engle	Zorina Mobley	Sharon Ward
Janet Evans	Cole Murphy	Ryan White
Jhonah-George Felipe	Jessica Nhong	Christine Wong
Erik Gallo	Jon Nieman	Noella Wynter
Vicky Gelinias	Olanrewaju Olamuyiwa	
Jill Gorsh	Joshua Ortiz	
Alexandra Grzybowski-Judson	Paul Otieno	
Andrew Guay	Kartik Pedapati	
Damla Gunes	William Philippon	
Gouri Sampath Mahidh Gurram	Todd Plourde	
Christina Headley	Lisa Podurgiel	
Kathryn Hunyor	Prameela Potu	
Karen Iverson	Joshua Powell	
Velmurugan Karunagaran	Lisa Reigle	
	Exequiel Rodriguez Zamora	

SNEC-PMI MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

SNEC-PMI would like to acknowledge long term chapter members celebrating their 5, 10 and 15+ year anniversaries from February 2024 through April 2024.

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

5 Year Anniversaries

Samuel Bardhan
Dina Curran
Mark DeMaio
kehinde Falobi
Michael Giuggio
John Havens-
McColgan
Theresa Jones
Uyen Thy Joyner
Chaitanya Kulkarni
Steffen Kutz
Lucilia Leandres
Kevin Mangiafico
Lisa Mangiafico
Leo Moreau
Sara Nasshan
Sharon Okoye
Diane Perry
Donald Rakevicius
Mark Reider
Joseph Ruotolo
Jeffrey Wentzell

10 Year Anniversaries

Kris Barnard
Wayne Benjamin
William Dorish
Elizabeth Dunn
Katie Erickson
Jeffrey Ferraro
Henry Forte
Melissa Jolly
Susan Lathan
James McGennis
Lacie Pagan
Jeri Pantalone
Jennifer Paul
Gregg Peters
Suresh Rajendram
Vrinda Saxena
Christopher Toal
Cely Vano

15 Year Anniversaries

Howard Altmann
Joseph Carfagno
Randy Cartier
James Clark
Anthony Falsetta
Karen Frisk
Sebastian Giarratana
Debra Mitchko-
McCall
John Pellicano
Sabina Sitaru
Pamela West

20 Year Anniversaries

Kathleen Finnigan
Robert Leyden
Brian Parent
Robin Ragusa
William Salvatore
Matthew Santacroce
Gary Saunders
Gene Sogliuzzo
Sandra Stevens
Joyce Therieault
Ryan Todd

SNEC-PMI CERTIFICATION UPDATE

Congratulations from our Board of Directors and our Membership to those obtaining PMI Certifications February 2024 through April 2024 in our chapter:

Oyenyi Ajao PMP
Nicholas Andriola PMP
Crystal Blass PMP
Byron Branning PMP
Alia Bukhowa PMP
Johann Castro Remolina DASM
Johann Castro Remolina DASSM
Nicholas Clark PMI-SP
Hester Darcy PMP
Janet Evans PMP
Jhonah-George Felipe PMP
Jhonah-George Felipe PMI-ACP
George Ganzenmuller PMP
Brooke Grant PMP
Brandon Hendzel PMP
Roxanne Huff PMP
Chris Huydic PMI-ACP
Dawn Kenney PMP
Gowtham Ravi Komatla PMP
Monica Lee CAPM
Brandy Martinez PMP
Justin Niles PMP
Christopher Parker PMP
Dulcely Ponce DASM
James Salemi PMP
Tao Shen PMP
Litto Thomas PMP
Michael Tumminello BETI
Rebecca Watson PMP
Ryan White PMP
Denise Yost PMP
Joshua Zike PMP

Membership Certification Facts

As of May 2024 we have 1,693 chapter members!

Of our members, 71% are certified, and of those 60% are PMPs.

Credential	Count
PMP	1,019
PMI-ACP	51
CAPM	45
DASM	33
PMI-RMP	8
PfMP	5
PgMP	5
AH-MC	7
AM-MC	3
PMI-SP	4
OTF	3
PMI-PBA	4
OTI	3
OTO	2
DASSM	3
DAVSC	1
CD-MC	2
ECC	3
DAC	1
BETI	3
BEPM	1

SNEC-PMI 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

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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.