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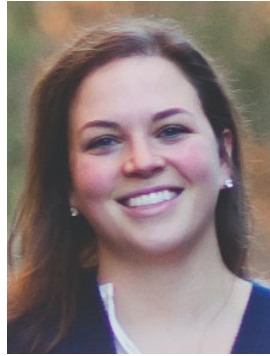
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### President's Message

By Mary Jane Lawton, PMP



***Hello and Happy New Year to all of our SNEC-PMI Members!***

If we take a page out of Mother Nature's book, Winter is a time for rest, reflection, and preparing for the reawakening of the Earth when Spring arrives in just a few short months. While a quieter time of year, Winter isn't without celebration as we recognize and honor Black History Month, Lunar New Year, and Women's History Month to name a few.

Here at SNEC-PMI we too are spending our time preparing for Spring as we finalize plans for New England's premier project management event, our very own SNEC-PMI conference in April! As you can probably imagine, hosting a professional event of this size and caliber takes a dedicated, talented, and passionate team and I would be remiss not to share my gratitude for the extraordinary individuals bringing this event to you. Please join me in sharing a HUGE thank you to: Darwyn Azzinaro, Fola Orims, Sal Caruso, Deborah Ketai, Mona Heredia, Allan Ram, Maria Hulbert, Neil Weiss, Ellen Wolfe, Michael Smith, Amy Paros, and the Bee Local marketing team. This incredible team is working hard for you, our members, to bring this event to life!

Now, I would like to introduce you to your 2024 SNEC-PMI Board of Directors and Leadership team. These individuals are all planning a fun and fulfilling year of offerings and events for you all.

Please join me in a warm welcome for the 2024 SNEC-PMI Board of Directors!



**Greg Gregonis** joins us for his second year with the Board, and is our new **Vice President & Chief Operating Officer**. While newer to the Board, Greg is a long time volunteer for SNEC-PMI and has done a wonderful job building up our Programs portfolio over the past few years. I am excited for Greg to join me as a partner on our leadership team.



**Phil Bradford** rejoins us this year and is beginning his first term on the leadership team as our **Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer**. In this role, Phil ensures the financial health, security, and future of SNEC-PMI by managing the money for our mission.

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Previously, Phil oversaw our Volunteers portfolio,



**Sharon Okoye** returns to us in her second year of her first term as the **Chapter Secretary**. Sharon ensures our calendars, documents, and plans are always organized and precise so we can be the most effective team possible. She comes to us from the Education Portfolio.



Long time chapter member and volunteer, **Darwyn Azzinaro**, rejoins us as **Vice President of Conferences** and the **Director of Outreach** portfolio. Darwyn also oversees many core functions of our chapter. He 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.



**Amy Paros** also returns this year in her second term to lead the crucial work of our **Marketing Portfolio**. Without Amy and her team, you would not be reading this article right now! Amy and her team are our communicators, marketers, and out of the box thinkers that bring SNEC-PMI directly to YOU via newsletters, marketing campaigns, and social media posts.



**Mona Heredia** is one of our newest board members and is starting her first term with the SNEC-PMI Board of Directors this year. Mona is a warm, passionate, experienced leader and will serve as the **Director of the Volunteers** portfolio. Mona is also a long time SNEC-PMI volunteer and most recently has shared her time and talents on the conference team.



**Deborah Ketai** is another new addition to this awesome team and is serving her first term this year. Deborah will be taking over from Greg as the **Director of Programs**. Deborah is also volunteering her time this winter on the conference team. We cannot wait to see what she cooks up for Programs across our region in 2024!

Finally, I would like to take moment of gratitude for our outgoing Board members that have served our membership over the past few years. Thank you to Kerry Wills, Jeff Pierson, and Jay Fakilede for your hard work and contributions to this chapter. We are grateful for your service and hope to see you at the conference!

As you will note, this newsletter is focused on our April conference and all of the exciting speakers, breakouts, networking, and fun you can expect from our 2024 event! We hope to see you there and I look forward to 'unlocking our potential' together in April!

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Jane E. Lawton'.

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

# 2024 SNEC-PMI CONFERENCE



**unlock** YOUR  
**potential**  
2024 SNEC-PMI CONFERENCE

**REGISTER NOW**



## UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

**EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR SNEC-PMI ANNUAL CONFERENCE!**

As we eagerly anticipate the Southern New England Chapter of Project Management Institute’s (SNEC-PMI) Annual Conference on April 8-9, 2024, we asked some of our distinguished attendees what excites them the most about this transformative event. Here’s a sneak peek into the buzz surrounding this year’s conference:



“Every year I look forward to bringing students to the SNEC Annual Conference to connect real work meaning with those aspects we discuss in the classroom. Our school always supports connecting career to college and the students even value the conference so much that they fundraise throughout the year to attend!”

**Dr. Amy Paros, PMP, DASM - Associate Professor of Management at Quinnipiac University**

“We’re going beyond the conference this year to amplify the experience for registrants! I can’t wait to attend the VIP Vertical Momentum Session hosted by one of our esteemed keynote speakers, Manley Feinberg. This post-conference session will help me turn the key takeaways into actionable steps for success.”



**Darwyn Azzinaro, Senior Vice President, EPMO Leader**



“I can’t wait for Manley’s keynote as he delivers fresh, relevant, and actionable ideas that will help me unlock my potential.”

**Neil Weiss, PMP, SAFE SA- Past President, SNEC-PMI**



“It’s refreshing to be able to participate in an event that focuses on project management from all different perspectives. The quality of the speakers and participants always exceeds my expectations and supports me in delivering to high standards.”

**Lou Sapia, long-time SNEC-PMI member**



“After volunteering on the Conference Team for many years and working with our wonderful sponsors, this year I am excited that the International Institute for Learning (IIL) will be giving away free on demand sessions valued at \$900 to 2 lucky conference registrants.”

**Ellen Wolfe, PMP, MBA**

We really value our partnership with SNEC PMI and appreciate the opportunity to sponsor this acclaimed event. Over the years we’ve built great relationships through our connections with SNEC PMI. We’ve been able to reach a highly qualified audience, demonstrate our value to them, and we’ve had a lot of fun and made some great friendships too.



**Rocco Santopietro, Bridge Talent - SNEC-PMI Conference Sponsor**

As the excitement builds, we encourage you to join us at the conference to unlock your potential, connect with industry leaders, and take your professional growth to the next level. Project Management Professionals (PMPs) and other PMI credential holders can earn up to 10.25 PDUs; 6.25 PDUs on April 8th and 4.0 PDUs for the workshops on April 9th.

Don’t miss out—register now to secure your spot for an inspiring and immersive experience!



# JOIN US APRIL 8TH & 9TH!

CONNECTICUT CONVENTION CENTER

Register Today at [sne-cpmi.com/conference](https://sne-cpmi.com/conference)



# Charting New Horizons: Embracing Uncertainty & Exploring Different Career Possibilities

by Erica Ryan, PMP, MBA

*“I am pleased to present you with an employment offer.”* Reading these words in an email from a hiring manager was both exhilarating and terrifying. On the one hand, after months of searching, an offer had finally arrived! On the other, it meant leaving a position I excelled in and colleagues who felt like family. The last few months of job searching gave me lots of time to process my career up to this point.

After over nine years as a PM in the non-profit sector, I had started to feel stuck. I was proficient in my role and received great feedback, but I felt my growth had plateaued. I saw my peers, many of whom I had worked alongside for years, rise to senior positions, and I was left wondering why I wasn't standing out. I began to realize that maybe I had outgrown my career with that organization and my unhappiness stemmed from the fact that I was no longer being challenged. Eager to find excitement and re-energize my career, I began to scour job listings.

Early in the process I decided not to limit my options. I applied to PM positions all over the spectrum: insurance firms, software companies, healthcare institutions – you name it. After several promising interviews without a successful offer, I was starting to feel discouraged. I worked and re-worked my resume using feedback and advice from experts and kept at it.

A couple months into my search, I discovered a company in the medical device manufacturing sector that piqued my interest. Admittedly, I felt that the job was a little out of my league as I had no manufacturing background and had never worked in a for-profit environment. I almost didn't apply, however, believing that my eight years of project management experience and my recently earned PMP certification would still make me stand out, I threw caution to the wind and applied. Six weeks later, that pivotal email from the hiring manager had me suddenly questioning myself.

Now, 10 months on, as I write this piece, I have spent a lot of time contemplating this transition. Changing your career direction at the age of 40 is no small feat. It would be misleading to say that the initial step is the toughest; reshaping your entire work ethos is filled with many challenges. Yet, this shift can also provide unparalleled opportunities, allowing you to harness your PM skills in a fresh setting, possibly better aligned with your abilities. Through this process, there are so many opportunities to discover new things about yourself, your unique skills, and leadership style that you never saw before.

PM competencies are universal across sectors so if you're feeling stuck and contemplating a change, don't limit yourself. What may seem like an out-of-reach opportunity might be just the challenge you never knew you needed to re-energize your career and open yourself up to a world of new possibilities and growth potential.

## 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 June 2024:

- February 21<sup>st</sup> – [Veterans: Significant Sources of Project Productivity](#) with Matt Louis
- February 29<sup>th</sup> – [Microsoft Teams for Project Managers](#) with Lauren Barraza, PMP and Felicia Keeton, PMP
- March 1<sup>st</sup> – [How Agile Are You?](#) facilitated by Joseph Carfagno, PMP
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – [The Future of Project Management](#) with David Mantica
- March 28<sup>th</sup> – [The Power of Active Listening](#) with Felicia Keeton, PMP
- April 2, 4, 11, 16 – [Disciplined Agile Scrum Master Certification with PMO Advisory](#)
- April 5<sup>th</sup> – [AI and the Project Manager](#) facilitated by Joseph Carfagno, PMP
- April 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – [PfMP Exam Prep Course Boot Camp by PMOAdvisory](#)
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup> – [SNEC PMP Exam Preparation Course – Evenings Virtual via Zoom](#)
- June 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> – [PgMP Exam Prep Course Boot Camp by PMOAdvisory](#)
- June 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – [PfMP Exam Prep Course Boot Camp by PMOAdvisory](#)

January							February							March							April							May							June						
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28	29	30	31																																						

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW SNEC-PMI CHAPTER MEMBERS!

November 2023 through January 2024

Juliana Allen  
Erica Anderson  
Nicholas Andriola  
Victoria Baez  
Fairy Bagga  
Skylar Berry  
Joyce Bileau  
Alixandra Borgert-  
Herleikson  
Rhona E Bryant  
Leslie Burby  
Chance Burk  
LaShawn Bushay  
Riley Carey  
Johann Castro Remolina  
Venkata Sai Chandu  
Chitikam  
Luis Alex Cisneros  
Domenika Coku  
Kaynan Conrod  
Nick Conte  
Deanne Corris  
Abigail Cunningham  
Carolyn Daley  
Amith Dandanayakula  
Hannah Davis  
Javier Diaz  
Gunnar Donovan  
Robert Dube  
Patricia Dunn  
Brandi Durity  
Tobore Emede  
David Emery  
Roger Farley  
Jessica Fernandez  
Grace Foti  
Zachary Gallipoli

George Ganzenmuller  
Elizabeth George  
Mark Gildea  
Mohan Gopal  
Martin Grealis  
Cameron Guerard  
Gamuchirai Farida Gute  
Jenn Harding  
Chris Huydic  
Lauren Infantine  
Angela Gail Jackson-  
Summers  
Curtis Johnson  
Jessica Kaleta  
Prathamesh Karandikar  
Seana Kenefick  
Gowtham Ravi Komatla  
Sandra LeTourneau  
Sofia Lomax  
Nandita Mani  
Allison Marler  
Chris Martino  
Jake Marzarella  
Carol Anne McGowan  
Alexander Mochalov  
Hailey Molin  
Sean Murnane  
Stephanie Muzulu  
Ryn Nicol  
Ephemia Nicolakis  
Oluwatobi Ojo  
Micheal Okite  
Polly Painter  
Christopher Parker  
Dominick Passanante  
Leeyen Rose Peralta  
Katherine Peters

Travis Phillips  
Ron Powell  
John Preiss  
Macy Prince  
Atcharaporn Puccini  
Chiranjeevi Pydi  
Julie Rallo  
Michael Rambala  
Jessica Ramos  
Monil Rana  
Jordyn Raymon  
Melanie Reed  
Tenell Rhodes  
Amanda Schiessl  
Steven Sedlet  
Nicholas Simpson  
Ryan Slesinski  
Evan Smith  
Alicia Solis  
Shaurya Sood  
Dawn Swagger  
Justice Tagoe  
Bruce Taylor  
Jillian Thibodeau  
Stephanie Todd  
Jennifer Tomaino  
Kimberlie Torres  
Traci Totten  
Daniel Velek  
Norberto Vieira  
Mackenzie Vorel  
Geri T. Williams  
Patrick Wrinn  
Barbara Zerillo  
Joshua Zike

## SNEC-PMI MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

SNEC-PMI would like to acknowledge long term chapter members celebrating their 5, 10 and 15+ year anniversaries from November 2023 through January 2024.

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

### **5 Year Anniversaries**

Linda Adams  
Lucas Adler  
Lauren Barraza  
Mehmet Coban  
John Dunleavy  
Thomas Fanciullo  
Susan Feeney  
Michael Fraser  
Katherine Frasier  
Lynn Furioni  
Kevin Gallagher  
Guy Gaudiosi  
Dejshona George  
Kristina Giannini  
Richard Korab  
Craig Laudadio  
Beth Matonak  
Angela McCartney  
Brian Ordway  
Ganesh Ram Raja  
Chidambaram  
Mario Varela

### **10 Year Anniversaries**

Steven Carty  
Kevin Hanrahan  
Shane Humphries  
Michael McCann  
Corrie O'Donnell  
Kelli Simmon  
Kenneth Walton

### **15 Year Anniversaries**

James Hill  
Susan King  
Peter Krala  
Denise Muggleston  
Emma Orton  
Dale Walters  
Gary Wenner

### **20 Year Anniversaries**

Lynne Cerrotti  
Susan McLean  
Donald Murphy  
Gregory Russo  
Virginia Tierney

## SNEC-PMI CERTIFICATION UPDATE

Congratulations from our Board of Directors and our Membership to those obtaining PMI Certifications November 2023 through January 2024 in our chapter:

Lindsey Atkins, PMP  
Mustapha Bello, PMP  
Johann Castro Remolina, PMI-ACP  
Christina DiBacco, CAPM  
Sarah Dungey, OTI  
Enrique Espinoza, CAPM  
Candace Figueroa, PMI-ACP  
Mark Gildea, DASM  
Keumok Heo, PMP  
Elaine Hornby, CAPM  
Antonia Jascowski, PMP  
Kathryn Kadri, DASM  
Azhar Khan, PMI-RMP  
Kevin LaVigne, PMP  
Allison Marler, PMP  
Oyindamola Ndukwe, PMP  
Brendan O'Reilly, PMP  
Marshall Ripley, PMP  
Douglas Schwan, PMP  
Stephanie Todd, PMP  
Betsy Volg PMI-ACP

### Membership Certification Facts

As of February 2024 we have 1,712 chapter members!

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

Credential	Count
PMP	1,021
PMI-ACP	50
CAPM	46
DASM	31
PMI-RMP	9
PfMP	6
PgMP	4
AH-MC	7
AM-MC	3
PMI-SP	3
OTF	4
PMI-PBA	4
OTI	4
OTO	3
DASSM	3
DAVSC	1
CD-MC	2
ECC	2
DAC	1
BETI	2
BEPM	1

# SNEC-PMI 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Jane Lawton, PMP  
Membership  
[Mary.Jane.Lawton@sneccpmi.org](mailto:Mary.Jane.Lawton@sneccpmi.org)

Phillip Bradford  
CFO/Treasurer  
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Dr. Amy Paros, PMP  
Marketing  
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Neil Weiss, PMP  
Past-President  
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Sharon Okoye, PMP  
Corporate Secretary  
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Mona Heredia  
Volunteers  
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Greg Gregonis  
Vice President and COO  
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Darwyn Azzinaro, PMP  
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Deborah Ketai  
Professional Development  
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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

### 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](mailto:content@sneccpmi.org).

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