



Greater New Orleans Chapter

2008 State of the Chapter Address

On behalf of the 2008 Board of Directors, I welcome the opportunity to tell you about the PMI Greater New Orleans Chapter's accomplishments for this year. This is the Chapter's 18th year of service to the regional members of the Project Management Institute. There are 360 Greater New Orleans Chapter members along with an approximate 1200 PMI members residing within the Chapter's PMI service area.

We once again had an excellent year of serving the Chapter's members.

We started in January by preparing a 2008 Business Plan to guide the Chapter through the year in support of PMI's direction and to ensure compliance with the Chapter's by-laws. The Operations Plan was updated with measurable goals for the services the Chapter intended to deliver to its members. The Chapter has a Vision statement that is proudly displayed on a banner at every meeting. Alfred, I thank you for your diligence with this honor.

Our statement is

Greater New Orleans Chapter is the project management center of excellence that drives economic prosperity.

Aligning with PMI's core purpose, we want to advance the practice, science and profession of project management throughout our community until all corporations, government agencies, academia, private organizations, etc. embrace the value and utilize project management and attribute their success to it.

We have made great progress toward this vision with our accomplishments in 2008. There are four accomplishments that deserve special acknowledgement.

The **most visible accomplishment** of 2008 was the introduction of the Chapter's new website that was designed and constructed by **Mark Duck**, VP of Communications. The website has Chapter information on events, education, newsletters, job postings, and also houses the Chapter's Document Library and email for Board members. Please visit **www.pmigno.org**

The **most significant accomplishment** of 2008 is the revision of the PMI-Greater New Orleans Chapter by-laws. This effort was led by **Alfred Cannon** and **Bryan Bice** with participation from the entire Board of Directors. The Chapter's governing document is current with PMI's strategy and direction to deliver core services to its members and is current with the methodology through which the Chapter conducts its business. This is

an excellent example of the dutiful team work among the Board members. The revised document was submitted to PMI for approval. The approved document was submitted to the Chapter members for approval and finalized at the October monthly meeting.

The **most prestigious accomplishment** was received from PMI Global Operations Center that recognized the Greater New Orleans Chapter as a Project of the Year finalist. This was announced at the PMI Global Congress in Denver that was held in October. The "Southeast Louisiana Hurricane" project was submitted by Evans-Graves Engineering on behalf of the US Army Corps of Engineers. PMI invited Michael Parks, USACE, to give a presentation on the awarded project at the PMI Global Congress. **Alfred Cannon** participated with the introduction of Mr. Parks. The complete presentation can be found on the Chapter's website. **Alfred Cannon** was instrumental in making this happen for the Chapter with his dedicated assistance to Evans-Graves in the preparation of this outstanding story.

The **most advancement accomplishment** was the establishment of the Jackson Community led by **John Mahoney**. Since January, the Jackson Community Leaders have been hosting programs at monthly dinner meetings and have served the PMI members in Jackson with great pride. The GNO Board of Directors mentored the newly-formed organization of the Jackson Community Leaders and is honored to extend its services to the Jackson community. Mississippi is part of the Greater New Orleans Chapter region as defined by PMI.

Congratulations to those who have achieved these notable accomplishments.

To **serve the members of PMI and the Greater New Orleans Chapter**, the Board of Directors have given their greatest effort in the following areas:

- To promote the education of Project Management, **Angela Nelson, VP of Education and Certification**, organized four study groups during the year allowing 32 attendees to learn about Project Management principles and practices. Out of this group, there are several that received their PMP certification. We await the final count from PMI.
- To promote Project Management lessons for the convenience of PMI members not to have to leave their offices or home, **Angela Nelson** hosted five webinars.
- To promote the project management profession, **Deborah West** organized 11 monthly programs and one membership meeting with latest Project Management topics along with invaluable experiences from Project Management peers and civic leaders. **Hartman Holliman** organized 12 monthly programs for the Jackson community.
- To encourage membership growth, **Janel Levet, VP of Membership**, hosted a Membership Drive in April. Many of the attendees are now Chapter members and attending the Chapter's events. **Melinda Simmons** relentlessly worked to organize the members of the Jackson community.
- To recognize the Chapter's members, **Janel Levet** is presenting awards to those that received their PMP certification in 2008. The same acknowledgement will be given to the members of the Jackson community at next week's meeting.

- To promote the professional services of the PMI Greater New Orleans Chapter to area businesses, to professional associations and to government offices, **Russell Ardeneaux** is communicating and involving organizations to value our project management principles, practices and Chapter services. **John Mahoney** promoted the Chapter to the Jackson community.
- To keep our members informed, **Mark Duck** delivered 60 email communications to the PMI and Greater New Orleans Chapter members. **April Blackwell** communicated with the members of the Jackson community
- To promote the professional development of the PMI and Greater New Orleans Chapter members, **Ana Boudreaux** organized a one-day workshop in April. Mr. Vijay Verma gave an exceptional presentation on the “Power and Influence in Project Management.” The attendees left with new insight to successfully accomplish their challenging work
- To promote the professional development of the PMI and Greater New Orleans Chapter members, **Ana Boudreaux** served as a lead to organize a two-day Professional Development Seminar in October. The seminar hosted a dialy keynote speaker, three Project Management tracks and lunch-time presentations that were filled by 18 spectacular presenters. The PDS attendees arrived with great enthusiasm and left with an overwhelming amount of knowledge and best practices.
- To make the October Professional Development Seminar become a reality for the members, **Russell Ardeneaux**, **Deborah West** and **Ana Boudreaux** secured corporate sponsorships that provide the resources required to fund the event. **Emmet Bartholomew** secured the venue for the PDS events and ensured that the visual and audio equipment required for the production were in place. The remaining logistics to accomplish the state-of-the-art conference setting were divided among the Board of Directors to provide:
 - a solid program (**Alfred Cannon**, **Russell Ardeneaux**, **Ana Boudreaux**, **Angela Nelson**, **John Mahoney** and **Bryan Bice**)
 - a smooth registration process (**Mark Giardina**)
 - a gracious welcome to the PDS presenters and sponsors (**Bryan Bice**)
 - communications and public relations for the event (**Mark Duck**)
 - the financials (**Robert Springmann**)
 - the printing of the programs, posters and banners, and the acquisition of conference give-aways (**Angela Nelson**)

The set up of the PDS event is a huge undertaking and the Board is very proud of their work and major accomplishment.

In conclusion of the services provided to the PMI members, there were over **3000 PDUs** awarded to the certified Project Management Professionals.

To serve the professional development and continuing education to the Board of Directors that give their time and commitment to the Chapter, PMI provides continuing learning opportunities for the leaders of the Chapter communities.

- **PMI's Leadership Institute Meeting** was held in Denver in October and was attended by five GNO Board members and two Jackson Community Leaders. The conference conducted tracks on
 - association governance which is specific sessions to our roles on the board,
 - individual Leadership Development and
 - PMI Institutional Knowledge – PMI drives the vision and strategy to be executed by the local PMI Chapters and Special Interest Groups
 Additionally, the PMI event allowed for a great opportunity to meet fellow leaders and learn from our peers.

- The Greater New Orleans Chapter hosted **PMI's Region 6 Conference** in March which holds an annual event for the 22 Chapters included in Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Colorado and Arkansas. Nine of the GNO Board members and three Jackson Community Leaders attended. This conference provided specific sessions for each board position and offered great learning opportunities on how other Chapters run their business.

To **serve the administration of the Greater New Orleans Chapter**, there are many areas that deserve acknowledgement for the amount of work accomplished over the year. The Board of Directors updated the governing documents starting with the revisions of the Chapter by-laws, Business Plan and Operations Plan.

The **President** conducted 12 Board Meetings addressing the Chapter's business administration and progressing work of the Board members.

To keep the Chapter moving towards organizational maturity, **Bryan Bice** structured the Chapter's document library, ensured that the contents are complete and authored policies and procedures to ensure that all Board members follow the same principles and guidelines. **Donna Hamilton** administered the Jackson community.

To keep the Chapter financially viable, **Robert Springmann** maintained the Chapter financial responsibilities. Robert analyzed and consolidated the Chapter's banking and investment accounts for the best returns that are possible in today's financial market. With the arrival of the Jackson community, Robert moved accounts to one bank that is accessible to both New Orleans and Jackson. The Chapter funds have been stable over the past year. The main revenue stream for the Chapter is from PMI as members join the Greater New Orleans Chapter. The \$30 membership is deposited directly into the Chapter's bank accounts. You can figure that \$30 times 360 members gets us over the \$10,000 mark. This includes funding of the Jackson community which is administered by **Kimberly Conerly**. The Board members direct the funds to support project management programs, educational events, professional development seminars, Board member leadership meetings, advertisement and to operate the Chapter.

Allow me to give you specifics on additional revenue sources and where your funds have been spent in 2008.

The revenues collected for monthly meetings are to pay the venue. Most months, we break even and sometimes make a few dollars. Any expenses for speakers, acknowledgements, credit card process fees and other program-related activities come out of the Chapter funds.

The minimal revenues collected for the Study Groups cover the expenses of the facilitator and snacks that are available for the evening sessions.

The registration fees collected for Professional Development seminars cover the expenses for the venue, logistics, meals, speakers, etc. and are set to make a profit. This is the only money-making event for the Chapter. We depend on the Chapter's sponsors as incremental funds to operate the Chapter in the next fiscal year.

With the profits from 2007 and 2008 PDS events, the Chapter invested in upgrading the Chapter's technology, advertised with partnering professional organizations and permitted Board members to attend PMI's leadership events. Most importantly, the funding allowed for the Chapter to maintain excellence in the quality programs presented at monthly meetings and at the PDS. There is a 10 page document summarizing the Programs delivered in the past two years. It is available on the website for you to review the impressive list of speakers and topics hosted by the Greater New Orleans chapter.

For the first time in the PMI Greater New Orleans Chapter history, we have a home office to conduct Chapter business and educational events. The home office is a 20' x 20' room located in the W.S. Nelson building and is a great place to display the Chapter's awards, government proclamations, banners, to house the Chapter's educational library, and to store equipment and supplies. The room is mostly furnished with what we found in the building's storage room. **Bryan Bice** and **Robert Springmann** did a great job making the room presentable and functional. To finish the room, the Board purchased 12 chairs, a refrigerator, a telephone line and internet access. A Board policy governs the use of the office for Board-related activities and for Registered Education Providers to conduct project management classes.

To conclude on the finances, there are the normal operating expenses of banking fees, PayPal service fees, conference call and webinar services, internet provider fees, rent, post office box and chapter insurance. The Chapter purchased audio and visual equipment to support the Jackson community and the professional development seminars.

The Nominating Committee was established in September with the purpose of setting the election ballot for each Board position. Special thanks to Karl Weyer for leading the committee; and to Mary Whitfield and Carlos Zervigon for assisting with the process. Gerald Davey and Andrew Bernard served on the committee but resigned as they became candidates on the ballot.

With his return to this year's PDS, Ben Voivedich, Past President of the Greater New Orleans chapter, requested to fund a Scholarship in the name of Saralee Newel, founder of the Chapter. Arrangements for the scholarship are in progress.

As the Board conducted the end-of-the-year review, there are goals documented in the Operations Plan that were not accomplished this year. Unfortunately, we did not have the opportunity for community service. The Chapter Board of Directors stepped out to increase our awareness through professional Public Relations services, but did not achieve the set goals of outreach to business, academia and civic organizations to promote the value of project management. We also did not implement a Chapter Volunteer program to encourage and reward membership participation. This does not dismiss the volume of work that was accomplished this year, but emphasizes that the Board member volunteers cannot do all of the work. We need your help to extend core services to the members of the Chapter.

In conclusion, there is a message for the PMI members in Louisiana and Mississippi that are not members of the Greater New Orleans Chapter. I encourage you to consider joining. When you join or renew your membership with PMI, there is a two step process. First you join PMI and then you are given an option to join your regional Chapter which is the Greater New Orleans Chapter. If you are not sure about your membership, please contact a member of the Board of Directors and they will gladly guide you through the process. Many non-members enjoy the same services as Chapter members for a higher cost. Your \$30 will easily pay for itself with your participation in Chapter events.

I thank you for your involvement in the Chapter. I trust that you have heightened your professional self. I again want to thank the 2008 Board of Directors. I've mentioned all of them throughout this address, but please allow me to acknowledge them once more: **Alfred Cannon, Angela Nelson, Bryan Bice, Deborah West, Emmet Bartholomew, Janel Levet, Mark Duck, Mark Giardina, Robert Springmann and Russell Ardeneaux.**

I also want to thank the Jackson Community Leaders for their efforts in standing up the community. Acknowledgements go to **John Mahoney, April Blackwell, Melinda Simmons, Hartman Holliman, Kimberly Conerly and Donna Hamilton.**

I thank you for the opportunity that you have given to me to serve as your President for the past two years. It has truly been a rewarding experience.

I welcome the newly-elected Board of Directors and wish them professional fulfillment as they lead the Chapter into 2009 and beyond. We all have to work toward making the Greater New Orleans Chapter reach its vision of being the project management center of excellence that drives economic prosperity.

Ana Boudreaux, PMP
2008 Chapter President