

March 2021 Volunteer Spotlight

Welcome 2021! The stories created by PMIGL volunteers are always interesting, vibrant, and offer true reasons to volunteer.

Jerry Gusmano is currently employed as a Manager in Program Management at Verizon Wireless, HQ. He brings his expertise to large wireless network projects around the U.S. such as tunnel systems, airports, government buildings, and universities. Combined with Jerry's 24 years of service in the U.S. Navy and 12 years in the Electrical Wholesale industry, he has over 40 years of practical experience in project management, sales management, and leadership.

Jerry is in his 4th year as a volunteer with PMIGL and earned his PMP certification in 2018. He is currently studying for his Agile certification (PMI-ACP), with an expected completion date in late summer.



Jerry's former volunteer roles were assisting with the 2018 Annual Symposium, followed by his election as the Vice President of Professional Development. In this role, Jerry added world-class events to PMIGL chapter membership and enhanced the portfolio of events/training. Jerry revived the membership benefits during COVID with virtual relevant speakers, networking, continuing education, and volunteer opportunities.

As President-elect, Jerry is charged with supporting the current president in establishing PMIGL chapter goals for 2021. Jerry collaborated with sister chapters to create elevated experiences for Michigan chapters, including working with the Board of Directors on PMIGL's Charter and policies.

Jerry recalls when he first volunteered, he was intimidated to stick his neck out among so many Project Management Professionals. He realized the people within PMIGL were accomplished and talented. "I felt like I couldn't hold a candle in comparison to the education or length of time of the current volunteers with PMPs," said Jerry.

"I quickly learned that if I asked enough questions, I would receive enough answers to become a vital part of PMIGL's operations. I was encouraged to run for a highly challenging position, the VP of Professional Development. Volunteering for this role has given me more confidence in both my position at Verizon Wireless and within PMIGL. Working with other PMs has revealed to me that my volunteer experience has generated confidence and high value for my work outside of PMIGL. We bring results!! I have seen the difference between PMs who procrastinate, and those who take the bull by the horns and say, 'This is mine!' Accountability and responsibility in what we do makes a huge difference in the outcome of our projects. Personally, I have loved the challenge. Life is never boring when I am collaborating with my colleagues on the PMIGL Board of Directors. We have such a good time working together. I cannot imagine not being involved in volunteering with the PMIGL team. I consider them family."