



**PMI GREAT LAKES**

# Baseline Newsletter January 2026

## **From the President's Desk**

**Happy New Year! As we welcome 2026, I am excited for the year ahead and the opportunity to serve as President of our chapter.**

**This year, we aspire to enhance our commitment to social good by launching community-driven projects that make a positive impact. Collaboration will be at the heart of our efforts, leveraging the incredible experiences of our volunteers to foster teamwork across all levels and we welcome more members into our volunteer community.**

**Member engagement will be a key priority, and we plan to implement fresh initiatives to deepen connections within our community, alongside identifying meaningful events where our volunteers can represent our chapter proudly. I'm especially thrilled to introduce 1:1 President events for new members, offering a chance for personalized engagement and support as they begin their journey with us.**

**If you have not already, you should be getting the 2026 Survey I mentioned during the Annual Meeting to collect your inputs regarding how we can improve our chapter events. I look forward to your responses.**

**Together, let's make 2026 an extraordinary year of growth, impact, and shared achievements!**

**Please meet the 2026 BOD team that will help support all of us during 2026.**

**LeighAnne Martin**  
**President, PMI Great Lakes Chapter**  
**[president@pmiglc.net](mailto:president@pmiglc.net)**



# 2026 Chapter Leadership



**LeighAnne  
Martin**  
President



**Synthia Adams**  
Past President



**Rodney  
Johnson**  
President-  
Elect



**Michele  
Patera**  
VP  
Administration



**Gia Todd**  
VP  
Communications



**Carla  
Patrick-Fagan**  
VP Finance



**Srinivas  
Pinnameneni**  
VP Marketing



**Nina Miller**  
VP Membership



**Michelle  
Baker**  
VP Outreach



**Suja Joseph**  
VP  
Professional  
Development

[Click here to learn more](#)

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Volunteering Opportunities

PMIGL has the following volunteer opportunities available:

### Manager of Marketing Volunteers

#### Manager Onboarding

- Further develop the process, institutionalize, and manage new volunteer on-boarding.
- Work with leaders in other PMIGL functions to acquire new volunteers or promote existing volunteers to new positions.
- Establish an on-boarding meeting agenda, date, and publish the meeting invitation to all involved with initially on-boarding the new volunteer.
- Chair the on-boarding phone call.
- Publish minutes and action items from the on-boarding session.
- Track on-boarding metrics and present to the BOD.
- Periodically assist Director, Volunteer Management in other activities related to volunteer acquisition.

Join us to help improve our chapter while making new friends and having fun.

[Click Here](#) to learn more about these opportunities and to apply.



# PMIGL Mentorship Program 2026

## Program Overview:

The Mentorship Program is designed to connect Project Managers to Mentors who are experienced Project/Program Managers. These mentors will guide their mentees through their career development as well as guide them on how to navigate through difficult situations.

## 2026 Program Details:

A mentor is someone who provides guidance to another person. A Mentee is someone looking for someone to offer guidance / advice based on prior experience. The Mentorship program is a 10-month commitment, and mentors / mentees meet at least once per month. Mentees set up meetings and complete goals with input from their mentor.

If you are interested in the program, please fill out one of the following forms, depending on your situation.

**The deadline for form submission is 2/28/26**

## 2026 Mentor Registration Forms:

- [Mentee intake form](#)
- [Mentor intake form](#)

## Key Dates:

- Mentorship pairings communicated – First week of March 2026
- Virtual 2026 Mentorship Program Kickoff – March 17, 2026
- Mentorship wrap-up and celebration – TBD January 2027





## PMIGL Bylaws Update

PMI Great Lakes, like most organizations, has a set of Bylaws that govern how the organization is run. Occasionally, these Bylaws need to be reviewed and updated to reflect changes in our organization. The Board has spent many hours reviewing our chapter's Bylaws to develop an updated version; that version was recently approved by PMI. Now, these Bylaws need to be voted on for approval by the PMIGL membership.

Please take a few minutes to review the proposed Bylaws. A copy of the document with a list of proposed changes can be found [here](#).

Watch for an email inviting our membership to vote on the proposed Bylaws. Thank you for supporting our chapter!





Project  
Management  
Institute.  
Great Lakes

# Coming Soon

*Online Store*

## PMIGL Online Store – Coming Soon!

We're excited to share that PMIGL will be launching a new online merchandise store, offering members exclusive apparel and event-themed items — including our 2026 Symposium T-shirt, inspired by this year's AI theme. In the coming weeks, you will begin seeing sneak peeks, design reveals, and pre-launch announcements. Stay tuned for your opportunity to support the chapter and represent PMIGL with pride wherever your projects take you.





# UPCOMING EVENTS



Project  
Management  
Institute.<sup>®</sup>  
Great Lakes



# SPRING SYMPOSIUM

04.17.2026

🕒 7:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

📍 **Vibe Credit Union Showplace**  
(aka Suburban Collection Showplace)

Princess Castleberry is CEO of Castleberry Global, a professional speaker, author, AI enthusiast, and leadership strategist. She is disrupting the leadership capacity crisis with her Live, Lead, and Build Leverage™ Framework. Today, Princess partners with corporations and associations to deliver keynote talks, workshops, and immersive experiences for leaders who want to make better decisions, stress less, and perform well under pressure. She's also the author of The Truth Is in the Trigger™, the bold new playbook helping leaders decode what's driving their stress and burnout.



Project  
Management  
Institute.  
Great Lakes

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

**PRINCESS  
CASTLEBERRY**





Project  
Management  
Institute.  
Great Lakes

2026 PMIGL Symposium is coming!

The 2026 PMIGL Symposium promises to be an exciting and informative event that you won't want to miss. To give you an early look at what is planned, here are brief descriptions of the Opening and Closing Keynotes that you will experience!

### Opening Keynote:

#### AI-READY LEADERSHIP: Managing Projects in the World of Generative, Predictive, and Agentic AI

AI is transforming how project work is planned, executed, and delivered. In this session, Princess Castleberry equips project professionals to lead with discipline in an AI-enabled environment—where technology anticipates needs, interprets context, and takes action.

Attendees learn the differences between generative, predictive, and agentic AI; how to integrate AI across the project lifecycle; and how to evaluate AI readiness through data integrity, ethical governance, and human adaptability.

### Closing Keynote:

#### THE TRUTH IS IN THE TRIGGER™: LEADING UNDER PRESSURE IN THE AGE OF AI

As AI accelerates project complexity, behavioral pressure—not technical ability—often determines performance. In this keynote, Princess Castleberry reveals how hidden triggers shape decisions, communication, and collaboration during high-stakes project cycles.

Participants learn how pressure flips high-performing traits, how to identify triggers impacting their leadership, and how to apply a practical framework to make stronger decisions, reduce stress, and sustain performance in AI-driven environments.

Early registration is open now.

Early bird registration for PMIGL members is \$225 and non-members is \$281 so don't delay.

[Click here](#) for registration and more details about keynotes and other events.



Project  
Management  
Institute.  
Great Lakes

# LUNCH & LEARN

Monday February 9th 2026

---

with speaker Jason Lampkin  
**SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN  
AGILE ENVIRONMENTS**

This session examines how servant leadership enables high-performing Agile teams by focusing on empowerment, trust, and removing obstacles. Learn practical ways Agile leaders can support teams, encourage ownership, and deliver business value more effectively.

Through real-world IT examples, participants will learn practical behaviors that support self-organizing teams, improve collaboration, and drive continuous improvement in fast-changing environments.

[Learn More & Register](#)







Project Management  
Content Development  
Consulting  
Private Training

## Professional Certifications Offer

As we head into 2026, many professionals are thinking about meaningful goals for the year ahead and earning a **project management certification** is one resolution that can pay dividends well beyond the calendar year. Whether you're looking to advance your career, pivot into a new role, or strengthen your credibility as a project leader, a recognized certification signals commitment, competence, and continuous growth. For many members of the PMI Great Lakes chapter, this is an ideal time to invest in yourself and your professional future.

PMI offers several well-respected certifications to match different career stages and interests, including the **PMP®**, **CAPM®**, **PMI Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP®)**, and **Professional Scrum Master (PSM)**. Each certification serves a different purpose --whether you're building a foundation in project management, validating years of experience, or deepening your expertise in agile and adaptive approaches. No matter where you are in your career, there is likely a credential that aligns with your goals and the type of work you want to pursue.

To help our members succeed, PMI Great Lakes has partnered with **Peak Business Management**, which offers **exam preparation courses at a discounted rate for PMIGL members**. If earning a certification is on your 2026 roadmap, I encourage you to explore their offerings at <https://peakbusiness.org>. You are also welcome to reach out to me (Ron Papa) directly at [director.certifications@pmiglc.org](mailto:director.certifications@pmiglc.org). I am happy to answer questions, discuss certification options, or help you take the next step toward achieving your professional goals.



# **PM Musings: When Resistance Meets Resilience: A Project Manager's Perspective**

***By April Callis-Birchmeier for PMI Great Lakes Chapter***

We often talk about resistance to change as if it is a barrier to eliminate. In project work, resistance can feel like a stalled approval, late feedback, or yet another stakeholder who wants to "wait and see." However, resistance is rarely a refusal. More often, it is information. It signals that something important may be unclear, unaddressed, or at risk.

Projects, especially those involving systems or process transformation, require people to adjust how they work. Even positive change can trigger hesitation. When familiar routines feel threatened, people look for stability. They want to understand what will change, how it will affect their work, and whether they will be supported along the way.

Years ago, I experienced a personal change that I did not choose. It left me feeling unsteady, and the tools I used professionally did not feel helpful in that moment. Eventually, I sought support and found myself listing everything I believed was wrong with how I was reacting. I shared that list with a close friend. After listening, she paused and said, "What if nothing is wrong with you? What if this is how you are built?"

That question shifted my thinking. It reminded me that discomfort is not dysfunction. In organizations, resistance is not incompetence, rebellion, or lack of commitment. It is often a protective response. People may be safeguarding confidence, control, credibility, or relationships. When we take time to understand what sits underneath the hesitation, resistance becomes valuable insight.

In the READY Framework, the "Y" stands for Why to reduce resistance. People are far more likely to engage when they understand the purpose, timing, and relevance of a change. The Why brings meaning to the What and the How. When people do not see the Why, resistance becomes the default response.

Every strength has a shadow side. A person who is highly detailed can help prevent errors but may take longer to adopt a new process. A highly empathetic communicator can build trust yet feel overwhelmed by uncertainty. A driven project leader can accelerate delivery but risk moving faster than people can follow. None of these qualities are flaws. They are capabilities that may need adjustment during transition.

This is where resilience becomes essential. Resilience is not about ignoring feelings or rushing to recover. It is the ability to pause long enough to understand what is happening and respond with intention. During that difficult time in my own life, I learned that I did not need to change who I was to move forward. I needed to understand myself and work with my natural responses.

The same applies to project teams and stakeholders. The goal is not to force quick acceptance. The goal is to support thoughtful adaptation. When we acknowledge resistance, seek to understand it, and create space for learning, we turn hesitation into clarity. That clarity becomes engagement. Engagement fuels adoption. Adoption supports sustainable results.

Resistance is a form of feedback. It tells us where alignment, communication, or support may be missing. When we treat resistance as valuable input rather than opposition, we strengthen relationships and create the conditions for successful and lasting change.

Project success is not only about delivering on time, on budget, and in scope. It is also about ensuring that people are ready, willing, and able to adopt the results of the work. Resistance can help us get there, if we are willing to listen.

**April Callis Birchmeier MCMP, ACC, PMP, CCMP™** is a Global Guru in Organizational Culture, and internationally known organizational change management expert. She's also the bestselling author of READY, Set, Change! Simplify and Accelerate Organizational Change. As a Qualified Education Provider, she prepares and trains project professionals to pass the CCMP™ Certified Change Management Professional certification.

You can reach her at [April@Springboard-Consult.com](mailto:April@Springboard-Consult.com)

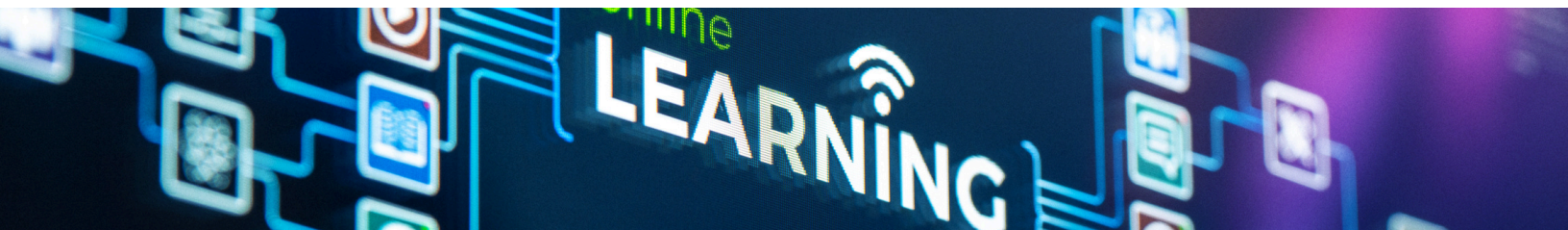




A banner image showing a close-up of a document with the words "Job Opportunity" in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the word "EMPLOYMENT" is partially visible. In the background, there are some blurred text elements like "Inventory" and "Legal Administration".

# Job Opportunity

The PMI Job Board has enhanced features, making it easier to connect job seekers and employers in the project management industry. You can access PMIGL's Job Board of local postings at <https://pmiglc.org/job-postings>



## **What is Disciplined Agile Certification?**

As a leader in project management education, we are working with Peak Business Management to offer the official PMI Disciplined Agile workshop and DASM certification program for individuals looking to pass the exam and become a Disciplined Agile Scrum Master (DASM). Learn more at <https://pmiglc.org/peakbusinessmanagement>

## **Earn Free PDUs!**

Peak Business Management, is offering chapter members free PDUs! Please [visit their website](#) for more details. Be sure to use the password PeakPDU0922 to access this offer.

## **PMIGL is thrilled to shine a light on our partnership with IIL.**

Members have access to an incredible array of benefits and amazing opportunities such as discounts on courses, free webinars, and so much more. Please visit the IIL/PMIGL website

## **What is KICKOFF™?**

KICKOFF™ is a free, interactive project management course that only takes 45 minutes to complete. Use it to get up to speed on project management basics. Once you're done, you can share a badge that shows you know the basics of managing projects from start to finish. Please visit <https://www.pmi.org/kickoff/> for more Information.

## **Stay Up to Date with PMIGL**

Help promote PMIGL by following us on [Facebook](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and share our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities as you see posted. You never know what door may open!



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Ahmed Alnasir  
Kelly Burch  
Masai Butts  
Jolene Castillo  
Jared Chimovitz  
Neil Crosato  
Brian Delaney  
Clinton Derringer  
Audrey Evans  
Kevin Fleming  
Craig Gossman  
Janamarie Hamerquist  
Candace Hazely  
Kelly Herron  
Haroon Iqbal  
Andria Jeter  
Nathaniel Latowski  
Marc Liebisch  
Briana Lucido  
Sitaraman Madras

Michael Mistretta  
Brian Oppmann  
Matthew Peace  
Sheritha Rayford  
Craig Roe  
Sarah Scorzo  
Matilde Soto Chacon  
Cory Sullivan  
Domenic Sutter  
April Topolewski  
Rafal Urbaniuk  
Matthew Vaitkevicius  
Marshawna Webb  
Jared Wells  
Michelle Wong  
Heather Woodcock  
Steven Zak





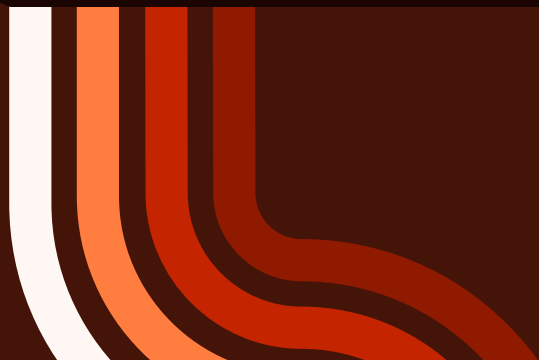
# MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



## Year 1

Haitham Ali  
Emmeline Birchall  
Sean Bowden  
David Clements  
Brian Downey  
Leith Fakhouri  
Calleigh Fisher  
Rachel Fitch  
Nelida Flores  
Andrew Fylak  
Manal Geibig  
Bryan Harris  
Katharine Harrow  
Cameron Hedges  
Lane Henderson-Mainor  
Anna Hojdila  
Ricardo Jackson  
Shannon Jett

Priya Johnson  
Krista Koors  
Cory Labombarbe  
Joshua Leteff  
Morgan Levitas  
Mostafa Makke  
Maryjane Mbugua  
Annette Mclane  
Jennifer Morikawa  
Dominique Muse  
Daniela Alejandra Ornelas  
Canchola  
Krithika Rajaraman  
Kent Simpson  
David Strong  
Michael Tembreull  
David Ziemer







# MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



## Year 3

Supraja Anchala  
Chad Andrews  
Naveed Ashraf  
David Belian  
Christina Colletti  
Julie Donnellon  
Ismael A Garcia Irene  
Lewis Gardella  
Todd Hare  
Candice Hatfield  
Teri Hunter  
Travis Johnson  
Jason Jordan  
Jason Lafreniere  
Sara Martin  
Greg Mercier  
Patrick Miller  
Kevin Regan

Elizabeth Rizzo  
Doug Rupp  
Ivy Siaw

## Year 5

Fernando Grajales  
Eric Griffin  
Austin Mccarty  
Sulove Patel  
David Shulkin

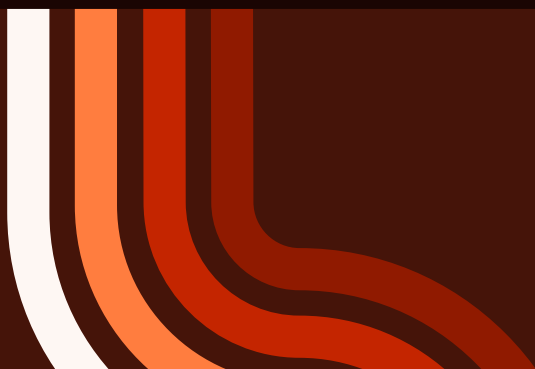
## Year 10

Laymon Bates  
Lekalvin Harris  
Michael Lane  
Stefano Morandotti  
Danielle Phillips  
Robert Richard  
Stephen Webster



## Year 15

Jennifer Avery  
Mary Barrett  
Sonya Moore  
Leon Williams  
Bryan Young



# thank you SPONSORS

## **Sustained Annual Sponsorship Opportunities for 2026**

**Sponsors and recruiters are invited to connect with the PMIGL marketing team ([director.marketing@pmiglc.net](mailto:director.marketing@pmiglc.net)) to participate in PMIGL events,**

### **GOLD LEVEL**



### **COPPER LEVEL**



**Digital Technology Solutions LLC**  
Your partner for technology solutions