



PMI GREAT LAKES

# Baseline Newsletter May 2026

## From the President's Desk

Hello PMI Great Lakes Members,

I first want to thank all the volunteers, guest speakers and members who made all our April events a success. It is all of these folks that make the event meaningful and if you see any of them at future events, please thank them.

This month, I wanted to add an element of what the PMI CEO is communicating to all of Project Management professionals. That is “Doing M.O.R.E.: The Future of Project Management.

PMI describes M.O.R.E. as a way of thinking about project success beyond the traditional measures of scope, schedule, and budget.

It stands for Manage perceptions, Own success, Relentlessly reassess, and Expand perspective.

In May, Relentlessly reassess seems to fit especially well. As we project professionals continue navigating rapid change in technology, strategy, and ways of working, we are challenged with navigating each change. Whether your organizations are exploring AI, modernizing PMOs, or balancing agile and hybrid delivery approaches, successful leaders are the ones who regularly revisit assumptions, priorities, risks, and stakeholder needs to ensure their projects remain aligned with business value.

It is the project managers that take on a lot of responsibilities in their organizations. You have the support of the Great Lakes Chapter to be SUCCESSFUL!

Please join us for one of our May events and enjoy some outdoor time when we get that occasionally beautiful spring day.

Thank you,

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



# Volunteer Spotlight

Congratulations to Patrick J. Cavanaugh – PMI Great Lakes Q1, 2026 Volunteer Spotlight Honoree!

Patrick is a long-standing member of the Project Management Institute, joining in 1986 and earning his PMP certification in 1998. With nearly four decades of involvement in the PMI Great Lakes Chapter, he has held multiple leadership roles, including VP of Publicity and, most recently, Director of Member Retention. He is passionate about continuous improvement, with a focus on enhancing member engagement, improving onboarding, and strengthening long-term value for a diverse membership base.

In addition to his leadership contributions, Patrick has served as a PMP Prep instructor and helped establish the chapter's early web presence. Professionally, he is a retired project management executive with experience across the automotive and IT sectors, leading large-scale infrastructure, transformation, and global development initiatives. He holds degrees from The Ohio State University and Central Michigan University.

PMI Great Lakes is fortunate to benefit from Patrick's ongoing dedication and contributions.





## **Implementing AI in a Project Management World: A Recap of our 2026 Spring Symposium**

**On April 17, 2026, the PMIGL community gathered for our highly anticipated 2026 Spring Symposium. Hosted at the beautiful Vibe Credit Union Showplace (formerly the Suburban Collection Showplace), this year's theme, "Implementing AI in a Project Management World," brought together project professionals, sponsors, and chapter members for an incredible day of forward-thinking strategy.**

**The energy in the building was electric as attendees explored how artificial intelligence is actively reshaping how project work is planned, executed, and delivered.**

### **Keynote Highlights: Leading in the Age of AI**

**We were thrilled to welcome Princess Castleberry, CEO of Castleberry Global and author of *The Truth Is in the Trigger™*, as both our opening and closing keynote speaker. Princess delivered two phenomenal sessions in leadership strategy.**

### **Deep Dives with Our Breakout Speakers**

**Beyond the main stage, our specialized breakout sessions were a massive success. A diverse group of industry experts led dynamic tracks throughout the day, covering everything from practical AI integration into daily workflows to advanced agile methodologies and change management. These sessions gave attendees a deeper dive into niche topics and provided actionable strategies to take straight back to their teams.**

## **Power Networking & Exceptional Dining**

The symposium wasn't just about learning—it was about community. Our dedicated networking events throughout the day allowed professionals, chapters members, and sponsors to connect, share industry challenges, and swap success stories. Keeping everyone fueled and energized through the day was a lineup of delicious food, beverages, and top-tier catering provided by the venue, from the morning coffee/breakfast kickoff to a fantastic lunch presentation, to the afternoon snacks.

## **A Heartfelt Thank You**

An event of this scale requires immense dedication and collaboration. A huge thank you to Princess Castleberry, our phenomenal breakout speakers who generously shared their time and expertise, our incredible sponsors who filled the room with innovation, and the outstanding volunteer committee whose seamless execution kept our entire schedule on time and on scope.

Most importantly, thank you to our members. Your passion for driving strategic value ensures our chapter remains at the forefront of the industry.

**Teresa Walker, PMP**

**PMIGL Director, Symposium**

Missed a session or want to keep the conversation going? Share your favorite takeaways and photos on LinkedIn using our chapter hashtag! **#PMIGL**





The 2026 PM Community Day of Service was another very inspiring event. The planning committee, led by CDoS Director Pam Hartsell, along with Roseanne Dolega as Registration/Feedback Coordinator, Holly Kargula as Communications Coordinator, Reagan Beyer as Sponsorship Coordinator, and Ro Porter and Bedel Desruisseaux as event coordinators. Pam, Holly, and Roseanne were all past Planning Committee Members, so their insight from previous events helped the team create a really meaningful experience for all who attended.

Our 4th Annual event, held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, included Nonprofit Leaders from Dream of Detroit, Black Legacy Advancement Coalition, LACASA Center and First Step Wayne County who spent the day with volunteer Project Managers, planning initiatives for their organizations. It was an experience filled with purposeful curiosity, thoughtful analysis, intensive project scoping, and warm-hearted laughter. Based on the comments received at the end, the results were far more than anyone expected. All expressed their gratitude, said they found great benefit in working the PMCDoS Team and would be interested in participating again in the future.

Members of the PMIGL Executive Committee, including Chapter President LeighAnne Martin and VP Outreach Michelle Baker, came to show their support. It was a privilege to have them share in the experience, and their praise and encouragement was appreciated by all the volunteers who dedicated their time and talent to making the day such a success.

The event received renewed sponsorships this year which allowed the volunteers to enjoy healthy and delicious food, once again catered by Ador'ed Custom Events, as well as some nice swag items to show appreciation for their efforts. Special thanks go out to IT Serve Alliance for their monetary support, and Kingscott Associates for providing a beautiful space to hold the event.

**Kudos to all of these amazing PMs who made a difference in our community: Chinpei Tang, Bala Murthy, Fawad Khan, Anand Gopi, Christine Hall, Debbi Kowalski, Aditi Kumar, and Angela Clemons.**

We were also honored to learn that this year's event is being featured for its Social Impact. A professional photographer and videographer were sent to capture the day, and a video recap is being created to share at the PMI Global Summit here in Detroit in October.

In all, a total of 20 people attended the event, with 4 Nonprofits receiving valuable assistance to further their missions, and 12 Volunteer PMs having a memorable experience using their professional skills to help these worthy causes, all while earning PDUs for giving back to their communities. It was fun and full of purpose, and we look forward to hearing updates from the nonprofits as they begin to execute their projects!

# Invest in Yourself: Explore PMI's 12 Certifications

Have you taken a moment to explore the full range of certifications offered by the Project Management Institute? PMI currently offers 12 globally recognized credentials designed to support professionals at every stage of their career: CAPM®, PMP®, PMI-ACP®, PMI-RMP®, PMI-SP®, PMI-PBA®, PgMP®, PfMP®, PMI-PMOCP™, PMI-CP™, PMI-CP™-I, and PMI-CP™-M. Whether you are just entering the profession or leading enterprise-level portfolios, there is a certification aligned with your experience and career goals.

Earning a PMI certification is more than adding letters after your name. It signals credibility, validates your knowledge, demonstrates commitment to the profession, and often leads to increased career opportunities and earning potential. Certifications can also strengthen your confidence, expand your professional network, and position you as a leader within your organization. In today's competitive environment, continuous professional development is not optional... it's essential.

As your PMI Great Lakes Chapter Director of Certifications, I encourage you to visit [PMI.org](https://www.pmi.org) and explore which credential might be right for you. Our chapter is actively evaluating how we can better support members through training programs, mentorship opportunities, study groups, or simply answering your certification questions. If you are considering taking the next step in your professional journey, I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to reach out to Ron Papa at [director.certifications@pmiglc.org](mailto:director.certifications@pmiglc.org) — let's work together to help you achieve your certification goals.





## **PM Musings**

**By: April Callis Birchmeier MCMP, ACC, PMP, CCMP™**

### **What spring teaches project professionals about readiness, adoption, and real results**

Spring reminds me that change rarely arrives all at once. It unfolds over time. The days get longer. The ground softens. Trees begin to bud. Color slowly returns. What was dormant starts coming back to life. Even then, spring is not always predictable. This year it seems we have warm stretches followed by cold snaps, or a day that feels like progress followed by one that feels like a setback.

That pattern offers a useful reminder for project professionals. Transformation does not happen simply because a plan exists. It happens when the right conditions are created for people to understand the change, engage with it, and begin working in new ways.

Project managers understand change. They manage shifting priorities, changing requirements, new systems, updated processes, stakeholder expectations, resource constraints, and business pressures. They know how to build timelines, track milestones, manage risks, coordinate teams, and keep work moving.

But managing the work of change and leading people through change are not the same thing. Managing change is recognizing what needs to happen and organizing the work to get there. Leading change well is helping people move through the transition with clarity, confidence, and practical support.

A new system does not create adoption on its own. A project launch does not guarantee usage. A training session does not mean people feel ready. A completed deliverable does not always mean the organization has achieved the intended result.

As many project professionals have experienced, a project can be technically complete while the people side of the change is still very much in progress. That is where adoption can quietly determine whether the investment delivers real value.

Too often, organizations move from decision to execution with surprising speed. A business case is approved. A project plan is created. A team is assembled. Communication goes out. Training is scheduled. A go-live date is added to the calendar. Everyone assumes the plan will carry the change across the finish line.

Then reality shows up.

Stakeholders are confused. Managers are not sure how to answer questions. Communication lands unevenly. Some employees move forward while others wait, worry, or resist. Adoption slows. Leaders become frustrated because they expected the decision and the plan to settle what people still need time and support to understand.

Spring does not argue with the soil. It prepares it.

Successful projects require more than scope, schedule, budget, and risk management. They require readiness. People need meaning, context, visible leadership, practical support, and a clear understanding of how the change connects to the work they do every day.

Strong project professionals help create those conditions. They do more than move tasks through a project plan. They help sponsors stay visible and credible. They make sure stakeholders understand not only what is changing, but why it matters. They equip managers to have honest conversations instead of simply passing along talking points. They listen for resistance and treat it as information about what people still need.

That kind of leadership grows from intention and practice, not from checkbox activity. Status reports, slide decks, steering committee meetings, and completed deliverables are important. Project discipline matters. There is a reason timelines, governance, risks, and milestones have stood the test of time. They help organize the work and keep teams accountable. But those tools are not substitutes for building commitment, confidence, and readiness.

People do not move through transition because a project plan exists. They move when leaders help them make sense of the change and give them what they need to participate successfully.

This matters now more than ever. Projects are moving faster. Technology is changing rapidly. AI, automation, workforce expectations, customer demands, and business priorities continue to shift. Project managers are increasingly asked not only to deliver outputs, but to help organizations achieve outcomes.

And outcomes depend on adoption.

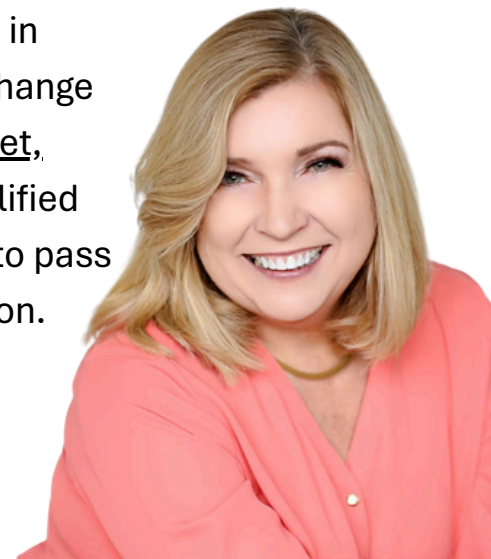
When project professionals create the right conditions, stakeholders respond differently. They ask better questions. They begin to see themselves in the future state. They test new behaviors. They use new tools and processes with greater confidence. Over time, what once felt unfamiliar becomes normal, and what once felt difficult becomes possible.

Leading change well turns project delivery into business value. It supports not only the launch of a change, but the daily work of making that change real. That requires structure, empathy, communication, discipline, and follow-through.

Projects succeed when people understand the change, engage with it, and begin to use it in their day-to-day work. That is the difference between managing change and leading it well.

If you want to strengthen that ability, this season is a good time to invest in your practice. My next training cohort begins June 1 and supports project, change, and business professionals who want to move beyond managing change activities to building the skills to lead real adoption in real organizations, with real people, and real complexity.

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)





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# MAY LUNCH & LEARN

**Speaker: David Barrett**  
**The Strategic Mindset – For  
Your Organization, Your  
Career and Your Life**



**MAY  
22**

[Register now](#)



This session will show us how strategic planning is a key to our success at work, as well as to our careers and our lives. We will learn how to create a solid plan for any of the three legs and we will leave with the start to our own Professional Strategic Plans.




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# JOIN OUR AI POWERED HAPPY HOUR!

*Part happy hour. Part hands-on workshop.  
100% worth your Thursday night.*




**Cost: \$10 Member, \$15 Non-Member**  
Registration will be capped at 45

 **Pizza + NA beverages included**  
(first come, first served)

 **Cash bar available**

**June 18, 2026**  
**6pm - 8:30pm**

Mother Handsome,  
14661 W ELEVEN MILE  
Rd. SUITE 500. OAK  
PARK, MI 48237

-  AI Icebreakers — Let AI write your elevator pitch. Own it. Share it. Cringe together.
-  "Human or AI?" — LinkedIn bios, project summaries, elevator pitches. You guess. We judge.
-  Prompt Bar — Walk up, write a prompt, watch the magic happen. Networking emails, stakeholder updates, risk assessments — all fair game.
- A facilitator keeps the energy high and the conversations flowing — no lectures, no PowerPoints, just good vibes and genuinely useful AI tips woven in.

**Event Sponsor**

*Mother  
Handsome*





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11<sup>th</sup> Annual

# GOLF OUTING

Aug 8, 2026

RAFFLES  
Grand  
Prize  
LUNCH

OPEN  
Event &  
Hole  
SPONSORSHIP

Join us for a day of golf,  
relaxation, food and  
networking! All on a stunning  
18 hole course right in your  
neighborhood at Farmington  
Hills Golf Club!



Saturday Aug 8, 2026



Tee-off at 8 AM sharp

Early-bird pricing ends Jul 15<sup>th</sup>

Register at: [www.pmiglc.org](http://www.pmiglc.org)



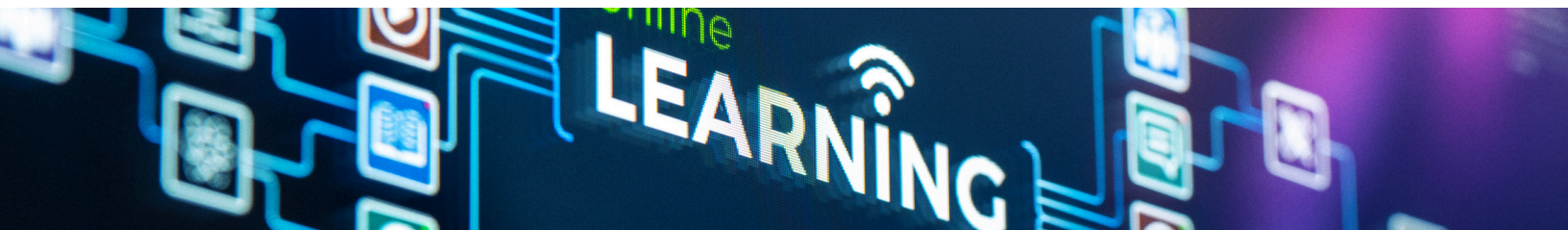
Farmington Hills Golf Club

37777 11 Mile Ct,  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335



# 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



David Becker

Rex Bell

Shane Berkholz

Anand Bhattar

Christopher Boelzner

Thomas Butler

Christopher Carpinelli

Elizabeth Castle

Tangela D. Cheatham

Veronica Cliett

Jaylyn Coleman

Rachel Cross

Sandor Darvai

Erica Davis

Ashley Dilucchio

Thomas Doll

Mediha Dzanic

Kirkland Ellens

David Elya

Maureen Feuti

Kelly Flemming

Ebony Givhan

Chris Gmerek

Chris Guardyak

Lashaunta Hairston

Stephanie Hill

Jon Holland

Richard Hunt

Naga Satyendra Javvadi

Eric Johnson

Katherine Kakoz

Annie Kamau

Thomas Kanthe / Jr

Gage Kienitz

Lee Kizer

Kristina Kozusko

Chyanne Laldee

Alexander Lessnau

Raquel Maclin

Jake Mandel

Antonio Marietti

Daniel Mclean

Christopher Miller

Brian Obot

Charles Ogbeifun

Abraham Oommen

Thomas Orosz

Miniece Ragin

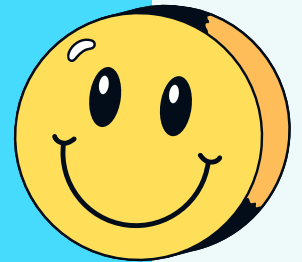
Ritwik Sattoor

Carrey Schupp

Erin Shanteau

Charles Smith

Danielle Smith



Priscilla Tatum

Patrick Thomas

Prakash Ravji Vaid

Mackenzie Verbeke

Liz Vidal

Lauren Warren

Danielle Williams

Adbyenne Wilson

Mark Wittbrodt

Karl Zager



# MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



## Year 1

Megan Abramzon-  
Levitsky

Jason Austin

Robert Campion

Joshua Curtis

Thomas Guibert

Hannah Hawthorne

Gershan Head

Stephanie Hibbs

Timothy Killeen

Courtney Martin

Lauren Mcilwain

Lisa Miller

Katherine Obrien

Daniella Owens

Dante Palmieri

Alexander Peck

Julie Raisch

Petra Reinhardt

Meagan Stokan

Sharon Sturtz

Joseph Zilafro



# MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



## Year 3

Jeff Calvank  
Cheryl Engfehr  
Curtis Gregory  
Jessica Haeusler  
Olga Kolokolova  
Adam Kwiatkowski  
Kaitlin Macneill  
Bob Marquis  
Marina Nevryueva  
Karen Polacek  
Kelly Sattler  
Robert Smeaton  
Tyler Tinsey  
Irene Tucker  
Hermine Turner

## Year 5

Joshua Holmes  
Stephanie Mitchell  
Lisa Muscat

## Year 10

Michelle Kehrig  
Edmond Kole-James  
Kashmira Patel  
Michelle Smith

## Year 15

Subrato Dhar  
Susan Gordon-Jackson  
Robert Romanczuk  
Lorin Sommer

## Year 20

Lisa Maiz

## Year 30

Patrick Cavanaugh



# 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.

All event partners invited for the Golf outing, PDDay, and Symposium 2027, as well as year-long annual sustained sponsorships, are allowed participation in the PMI Global Summit being held in Detroit on October 21-24 2026. For more information, please contact [director.marketing@pmiglc.net](mailto:director.marketing@pmiglc.net).

### GOLD LEVEL



### COPPER LEVEL

