

REGIONAL REPORT – FLORIDA, USA



Project Management News from Florida

By Saralee Newell

Orlando to Get a Downtown Makeover

Orlando’s City Council has agreed to hire **Tim Ackert** of Miami to serve as project director overseeing the \$1.1 billion design and construction of Orlando’s new arena, performing-arts center and upgraded Citrus Bowl. Mr Ackert who has worked on performing-arts centers, convention centers and other big public projects, has a two-year contract that can be renewed until the venues are completed.

Ackert has more than 30 years of project and construction-management experience, most recently as operations manager for URS Corporation, the country’s largest engineering design firm. He headed a URS team that in 2003 was brought in by Miami-Dade county midway through the construction of the Miami performing-arts center. The project was substantially over its budget and behind schedule, and Ackert’s team recommended changes to get it back on track.

Mr Ackert also directs a team that is helping Miami-Dade negotiate a baseball-stadium deal with the Florida Marlins. Ackert said city and county officials have already taken important steps to ensure the venues don’t go over the budget by building safeguards into the contracts.

There is other project management news going on around the state of Florida. There are a total of 7 PMI chapters active in the state. The following is a schedule of some of their activities:



Central Florida PMI Chapter

Sept 15, Sept 22, Sept 29, 2007 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
PMP Prep Certification and PMP Refresher Course
DeVry University, 4000 Millenia Blvd. Orlando, Florida

October 2, 2007, 6:00pm - 9:15pm
Bi-Monthly Meeting - Sheraton Downtown Orlando, 60 S. Ivanhoe Blvd
Speaker Peter DeJager

NE Florida PMI Chapter

Project Management: [Challenges of Producing Large Scale Events](#)

Monday, September 17th at 5:30 PM, the regularly scheduled monthly dinner meeting of the chapter will be held at the Marriott Hotel. The speaker is Theresa O'Donnell Price.

Theresa O'Donnell Price is the Director of Special Events for the City of Jacksonville. Ms. Price has produced dozens of large scale events for the city, including the Jazz Festival, Sail Jacksonville, Jacksonville Sea & Sky Spectacular, July 4th Celebration, and the annual Georgia/Florida Game festivities. She was also part of the team that prepared Jacksonville's bid for Super Bowl XXXIX, and headed up the Events Committee.

Tampa Bay PMI Chapter

Tampa Bay 2007 Symposium

The PMI Tampa Bay chapter is having a two-day seminar filled with Project Management topics presented by successful PM practitioners. The 2007 symposium will offer attendees the opportunity to fine tune essential project management and leadership tools, network, and view the latest tools in the vendor showcase. They will be able to listen and learn from industry acclaimed keynote speakers and participate in several speaker tracks covering various topics.

The monthly dinner meeting will be held September 17th at the Marriott Tampa Westshore, 1001 N Westshore Blvd., Tampa, FL. Registration is at 5:30 PM with dinner at 6:00. Speaker **Charles W. Bosler, Jr.** whose topic will be "Project Risk Management: Seeing the Process as the Product."

South Florida PMI Chapter



Risk Management Seminar

The chapter is partnering with Seba Solutions to have Dr. **James T. Brown** present his one day Risk Management seminar on Friday, November 2nd. Dr. Brown was well received this past May when he shared his Effective Leadership Skills for Project Managers with the chapter.

The South Florida PMI Chapter is also presenting a series of training classes:

Sat, Sep 1st, @8:30am - 04:30PM

[PMP Booster](#)

Sat, Sep 8th, @8:30am - 04:30PM

[CAPM Preparation Course - Session 1/2](#)

Sat, Sep 15th, @8:30am - 04:30PM

[CAPM Preparation Course - Session 2/3](#)

Sat, Sep 22nd, @8:30am - 04:30PM

[CAPM Preparation Course - Session 3/3](#)

Sat, Sep 22nd, @9:00am - 05:00PM

[Project Management Jumpstart](#)

Sat, Sep 29th, @9:00am - 05:00PM

[MS Project Jumpstart](#)

Fri, Nov 2nd, @8:00am - 04:30PM

[Risk Management Techniques for Project Managers](#)

PMI Suncoast Chapter (St Petersburg, FL)

There will be a PMP Certification Exam Prep Course presented on October 6th, 13th, and 20th

For information about any of the above activities, contact **Saralee Newell, PMP**,
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Sara Lee Newell

PM World Today Correspondent



Saralee Newell, PMP, PMI Fellow, is an international correspondent for www.pmforum.org and **PM World Today**. She has extensive experience in consulting and training related to IT project management, Microsoft Project and traditional project planning and control methodologies. Founder and former president of the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI®), Saralee served on the PMI board of directors during 1997-1999. Saralee has been active in PMI for many years and was elected a Fellow of PMI in 2005. Additional information about Saralee can be found at www.pmforum.org/blogs/news/2006/11. Saralee lives in Davenport, Florida, USA, and can be reached at snewell@psmconsult.com.