

PMI TALLAHASSEE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



**Project
Management
Institute.**
Tallahassee, Florida

December 2025



2025 *in Review*

***A Message from
Chapter President,
Frank Pugh***

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ **Thursday, January 22, 2026 @ noon
Lunch and Learn**
The Regulated Leader:
Breath, Digestion, and Stress in a New
World of Work
- ▶ **Monday, February 2, 2026 @ 6pm
Chapter Meeting**
Capital City Country Club
1601 Golf Terrace Drive, Tallahassee
*Guest Speaker: James Taylor,
CEO of The Florida Technology
Council*

**Register at
www.pmitlh.org**

PMI Tallahassee Chapter Members and Friends:
The holidays are upon us. This is a busy time for celebrating good times and preparing for the new year. During all this hustle and bustle, we wanted to take some time to recount what this year has brought to our chapter. We also want to give you a preview of what we plan to bring next year.

This was a great year for PMITLH. Chapter membership grew to more than 550. Participation in our events hit post pandemic highs as well. Our chapter meetings often topped the 40-person level, and our professional development events at times reached more than 50 participants! Our networking social events not only gave us a chance to network with one another but also attracted new members to attend future events. In all, we made something good happen every month, and you provided us with positive feedback by attending. (continued pg. 2)



President's Message (continued from pg. 1)

And how lucky we were with our speakers this year! We heard from two major local entrepreneurs, a practicing multistate real estate attorney, an experienced local trial lawyer, a C-Suite executive from a major international company, a partner with a nationally known media relations firm, multiple experts on artificial intelligence, and multiple philanthropic professionals serving the region.

You also confirmed that you prefer in-person professional development content to be held on Saturdays. We collaborated with the Association of Change Management Professionals and Tallahassee State College to bring long form professional development events both virtually and in person on Saturdays in May and September. They were well attended and provided us with rich feedback. Using this guidance, we want to continue these partnerships into the new year and develop more fun in-person learning opportunities.

Every year we have term limits and elections that necessitate changes to our board. With thanks for four years of service as our VP of Administration, we say goodbye to Deidra Jones whose term expired this year. We hope to see her in some form of emeritus service in the years to come. As far as incoming board members, we welcome Rick Owen and Rabih Chehayeb to their new roles as VP Administration and VP Programs respectively. Rick made a difference on our Military Outreach Committee and is now ready to help us maintain our important administrative processes. Rabih distinguished himself this year by helping us recruit new participants in the Guardian Ad Litem Foundation diaper drive. He will no doubt bring the same high level of energy and engagement to running our chapter meetings.

You will recognize Shameeka King. Shameeka has served as the VP of Programs and is now moving to the VP of Membership area. We are thrilled that she is staying on the Board. You will read more about Shameeka later in this newsletter.

We have a great deal in store for you in calendar year 2026. We have discussed an overarching strategy of identifying and recounting real world implementations of project management to amplify the power and relevance of our professional message.

This strategy of using successful PM examples will guide us in several of our goals:

- Doing targeted member surveys to assess interest in several topics
- Making succession planning a reality and a teachable case study
- Streamline roles and responsibilities to stay lightweight and vital
- Expand high order service commitments to further empower PMI:Next
- Build additional depth on committees
- Recruit State Government, TSC, FAMU and FSU Speakers
- Expand the number of fun learning events

We will waste no time getting started on these goals. Our Tallahassee Board Annual Planning Meeting is on Saturday January 10, 2026. It is a four-hour facilitated workshop designed to confirm our strategy in how we will serve you, our members. From a tactical perspective, we aim to produce action plans for all the confirmed strategic goals. Again, this year, emeritus PMITLH past president David Davis will be our facilitator.

In closing, I want to say on behalf of the board how privileged we feel in serving you the members of the Tallahassee PMI chapter. All of us want to thank you for making this a great year, and we commit to you that we will make 2026 even better.

We hope that your holidays are marked by joy and peace and that your new year brings a sense of optimism and energy.

See you in 2026.

Service...

Why We Serve:

We recently asked people of different board tenure times about what they expected to get out of board service versus what they actually got out of the experience. Here are the benefits that some new board members said that they expect out of the experience:

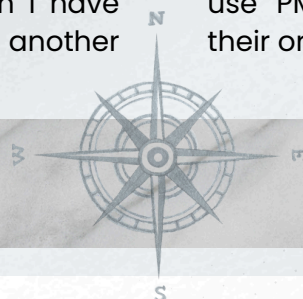
- I hope that I will gain “lifelong friends, have a direct positive impact on my community, and grow my personal and professional skills on multiple levels”.
- I expect that my service will closely tie to my professional interests as a Project Manager.
- I hope to collaborate with leaders in the project management field across multiple industries, and to see more closely how organizations like PMI operate and innovate.
- “I am looking forward to working with the board on serving our chapter members, and coordinating for them opportunities to grow, learn, and have fun.”

According to some long-serving board members, here are the benefits they realized:

- A chance to meet and learn from other leaders: I can't believe how many local leaders that I have met at PMI events. There is no single event in which I have not learned something from another leader.



- Growth that stretched me in the best ways: Board service pushed me outside of my comfort zone, strengthened my leadership skills, and helped me grow both professionally and personally.
- Stronger time management and prioritization: Balancing board responsibilities alongside work, school, church, and life sharpened my time management skills—even though I didn't always get it right, the experience taught me how to adjust, refocus, and keep moving forward.
- Relationships that truly matter: I am beyond thankful that serving on the board helped me to build meaningful connections with people who care deeply about service, integrity, and supporting others in their professional journeys.
- A deep sense of purpose and gratitude: Serving on the board was rewarding because it allowed me to give back, contribute to something bigger than myself, and help create value for our members
- Seeing project management make a difference: My board service gave me direct exposure to professionals who either consciously or through “muscle memory” use PMBOK tools and techniques to help their organizations produce better results.



Volunteers

How Our Volunteers Add Value:

According to PMI:Next, the highest value a PM Practitioner can offer a volunteer organization is project management guidance or implementation of methods, tools and techniques. We would like to highlight the work of one of our volunteers, Dharmin Kukadia. Dharmin assisted the Guardian Ad Litem Foundation with their Holiday Drive. This assistance fell in the areas of documenting and streamlining processes. Here are examples of his work, performed over the last half of calendar year 2025:

Documenting the Project

- Created the full Project Charter for the Holiday Drive, including purpose, scope, approach, timeline, roles, and deliverables.
- Developed the Stakeholder & Communication Plan, outlining stakeholder groups, communication methods, frequency, draft emails, and the donor list.
- Documented key processes, such as volunteer coordination and donor pickup logistics, so they can be reused next year.



Find current PMITLH volunteer opportunities at
<https://volunteer.pmi.org> (search Tallahassee)

Streamlining Processes

- Organized and consolidated all donor, sponsor, and volunteer information into a single structured list so the team could easily track outreach and responses.
- Standardized the communication timeline (initial outreach, follow-ups, confirmations) so everyone followed the same sequence.
- Created a clearer workflow for gift pickup coordination, including who contacts whom and when.

The project owner commented favorably on Dharmin's work. She noted that this value will live on beyond the period in which he contributed.

This type of work is a pitch perfect reflection of PMI's recommended approach to PM practitioner volunteer work. Think about this next time you volunteer: is there a "force multiplier" or reusable body of work, knowledge, tool or technique that you as a project manager can contribute?

"This value will live on beyond the period in which he contributed."



VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

Shameeka King



We are pleased to have Shameeka King poised to serve as Vice President of Membership. She previously and graciously served the Tallahassee Chapter as Vice President of Programs. Shameeka brings over a decade of dynamic experience across diverse professional environments, from innovative startups to the structured demands of government sectors. She holds dual bachelor's degrees in Business Administration Management and Criminal Justice and is a Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM). This unique blend of expertise enables her to lead teams and execute initiatives with precision, creativity, and integrity.

Serving as VP of Programs has been a rewarding opportunity to strengthen the quality and consistency of our chapter events. Over the past months, Shameeka has:

- Enhanced Presentation Delivery – Streamlined processes to ensure sessions are clear, engaging, and impactful.
- Strengthened Vendor Collaboration – Built reliable partnerships to support seamless event logistics.
- Applied Quality Control – Established consistent standards across programs to deliver polished, professional experiences.

These improvements ensure every event meets high standards and provides lasting value to our community.

Shameeka deeply appreciates the opportunity to volunteer on the board. Through this role, she has gained valuable and transferable skills that will continue to benefit her professionally and personally. Most importantly, she looks forward to continuing her volunteer journey in her new role with the PMI Tallahassee Chapter, contributing to its growth and fostering a welcoming, connected community for all members.

The mission of the PMI
Tallahassee Chapter is to
create an engaging
community built on supportive
relationships that foster
professional growth.
Community. Culture.
Knowledge Sharing.

A Partnership Success Story: Two Professional Development Days

The PMI Tallahassee Chapter, the Association of Change Management Professionals (ACMP) Florida Chapter and Tallahassee State College (TSC) collaborated to host two events this year. The May 17th event was virtual, and one in-person was on September 13th.

The May meeting "Elevate Your Project Management and Change Management Skills," was a virtual event format that allowed attendees to customize their learning experience by choosing topics from one of two virtual rooms over 6 hour-long sessions. The keynote speaker was Dana Brooks, Shareholder at Fasig Brooks Law Offices. Dana led the first of the sessions designed to provide practical strategies on topics ranging from leadership mindsets and healthcare technology management to organizational change and dynamic planning frameworks.

Building on that momentum, we brought professionals together in person in September at Tallahassee State College (TSC). Dr. Angela Long, renowned educator and author, delivered an inspiring keynote on the exciting and potentially challenging future of Artificial Intelligence. After that keynote, participants chose breakout sessions in Project Management and Change Management tracks. After a networking lunch, the day concluded with a Gamified Project Management Workshop—bringing concepts to life through high-energy, hands-on collaboration.

The success of these professional development days demonstrates the strength of collaborative partnerships and the hunger our professional community has for accessible, high-quality learning opportunities. Look for PMI, ACMP and TSC to offer similar events in 2026. As we look to the future, we remain committed to providing our members with innovative professional development experiences that deliver real value—both in PDUs earned and in practical knowledge gained.

Announcing... **2026 CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS**

Frank Pugh
Chapter President

Kent Whittington
First Vice President

Rick Owen
Vice President of Administration

Alana Giesecke
Vice President of Communication

Tamara Anderson
Vice President of Finance

Shameeka King
Vice President of Membership

Danielle Cross-Wilkins
Vice President of Professional Development

Rabih Chehayeb
Vice President of Programs

Debbie Rivenburg
Board Liaison

David Davis
Webmaster

***VP of Membership & VP of Volunteers to be appointed
January 2026***

**For more information regarding the chapter, please visit:
www.pmitlh.org**