



President's Message

PMI Tallahassee Chapter Members and Friends:

It is amazing how fast this year is going by. Since the beginning of the year, we have conducted one long-form professional development event focused on leadership, and a lunch and learn about executive leadership. There were two book club meetings, one about leading in adversity and the other about how to teach artificial intelligence (AI). At our three chapter meetings, we hosted an entrepreneur, a real estate attorney and a college professor, all of whom surfaced ideas useful to the profession of project management. All our events touched the PMI Talent Triangle, addressed contemporary issues and where applicable featured speakers with deep domain experience. These events were well attended and received high ratings in our follow up surveys. We have also maintained a steady hand on governance, by successfully submitting our chapter renewal application and logging seven board meetings. The board work product spanned mandatory organizational activities, event planning and execution, and guidance for the operational activities of our multiple committees (e.g., military outreach, technology, programs and more!).

Two major themes have emerged this year, one being the emerging utility of artificial intelligence to the enterprise of project management, and the other being the applicability of project management to a wide variety of businesses. We will further explore these themes. Indeed, the remainder of the year promises to be exciting and educational. It is replete with opportunities for volunteering and recognition of the same. Inside our expanded volunteerism section of this newsletter, we highlight two present opportunities to apply project management skills to gain experience and earn PDUs. One involves serving the Guardian Ad Litem Second Circuit, and the other involves serving on the board of this chapter.

We also want to welcome Daniella Cross-Wilkins to the chapter board. She assumed the role of VP of Professional Development in April and is already making a big difference. She is committed to understanding the training needs of our members and tailoring our professional development events and programs to address those needs. The survey Daniella sent out confirmed that you are very interested in training for certifications as well as learning about key project performance domains such as managing change. She has taken this information and organized meetings with speakers and training providers to match their offerings with your needs. This advanced approach is only one example of the beneficial change Daniella is bringing to this chapter. There is more about Daniella later in this newsletter.

We are very happy that certifications continue to be attractive. PMI has called this season "Certification Summer" and we share their enthusiasm while congratulating our newest certification holders. Speaking of membership, this newsletter also contains an article about how PMI will soon be announcing a new and beneficial membership model for all PMI chapters and members.

Finally, I want to conclude by noting that it has been nearly a year since we lost Shajil Kalathil, who was at that time the PMI Tallahassee Chapter President. It was a very sad time for all. We resolved at that time to keep Shajil in our hearts by creating a lasting honor in his name. Later in this newsletter, we provide more information about the first Shajil Kalathil Commitment to Service award for this fall. We hope you will honor Shajil by providing pro bono professional development services and mentoring to others, and in a smaller but still significant way, nominate a volunteer member for the award.



Upcoming Chapter Events



August Chapter Meeting

An Entrepreneur's Journey

In-Person at Capital City Country Club & Virtual

August 4 @ 6pm-7:30pm

[Registration open now!](#)



Lunch & Learn: Construction Management

November 13th @ 12pm-1pm, via Zoom

Attendees will hear from Heather Nelson and the next chapter of her career in construction management. Last time we heard from Heather, she was deeply involved in the improvements at the Tallahassee airport.

Professional Development Day

Saturday September 13th at Tallahassee State College

This in-person event will kick off with an address from Dr. Long, an expert on artificial intelligence from Tallahassee State College, followed by focused test taking / certification preparation sessions for the PMP and ACMP. The afternoon will bring fun and games centered on reinforcing PMBOK Way of Working concepts. Lunch will be provided. This ¾ day long event will confer 5 PDUs. Registration will open August 4th.



October Chapter Meeting

PMI Commitment to Service

In-Person at Capital City Country Club & Virtual

October 6 @ 6pm-7:30pm



Coming Soon: A New Membership Model

PMI will soon be announcing a new membership model for chapters. In the past, chapter membership was optional for PMI members. After this upcoming change, chapter membership will become automatic for all PMI members. Members are free to choose which chapter they want to join, whether it is local or remote. We hope of course that you will choose our chapter, and we vow to work hard to earn and reward your loyalty. This change is coming next year, and in the meantime, your PMITLH board is busy updating its bylaws to reflect this new membership model. As is customary, we will submit these new bylaws to PMI for review, and when approved they will go to you for a vote.



PMI Tallahassee Chapter Spotlight – Meet Our New Vice President of Professional Development

The PMI Tallahassee Chapter is proud to spotlight Daniella (Dan-yell) Cross-Wilkins, PMP, as the Chapter's new Vice President of Professional Development. Daniella brings more than 15 years of experience in organizational change management, leadership development, and project execution, spanning both the public and private sectors. She currently serves as the Organizational Change Management Supervisor for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), where she leads a high-impact team driving enterprise-wide change initiatives, stakeholder engagement, training, and workforce readiness strategies.



In addition to her government leadership role, Daniella is the Director of Learning & Development and co-founder of Alpha Design & Consulting LLC, a boutique consulting firm specializing in training, change management, process improvement, and leadership development. Her expertise combines a unique blend of strategic thinking, operational execution, process improvement, and a deep understanding of how to help individuals and teams navigate complexity, solve problems, and lead with confidence.

Daniella is a Certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and Certified Public Manager (CPM). She holds two degrees from the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University in Political Science and a Master's in Instructional Systems & Learning Technologies from Florida State University. With a passion for building capacity and cultivating meaningful professional growth, Daniella has also spent over a decade teaching as an adjunct professor, helping to develop the next generation of leaders.

In her role as VP of Professional Development, Daniella is focused on curating intentional, engaging, and impactful learning experiences that meet the evolving needs of project professionals at all levels. Her goal is to help members strengthen their skill sets, build confidence, and leverage practical tools to thrive in their careers, whether managing traditional, creative, or unconventional projects.

If you have been paying attention — you may have already seen her hitting the ground running by sending out a training needs assessment survey to our members so she can identify what our chapter members need to level-up in their careers. She is also currently in the process of recruiting speakers/ presenters talent to support those training and professional development goals. If you haven't yet completed her training needs survey, please take a few moments to do so by clicking [PMI Tallahassee Training Needs Assessment Survey](#).



Volunteerism – how we sustain the chapter!

Some of the articles today will reference the VEP. We have included directions for this new system.

The **PMI Volunteer Engagement Platform (VEP)** is an easy-to-use portal that we use to advertise areas of need. The VEP is easy to use, just follow the [link](#) and use your pmi.org credentials for access.

On the main page, you can search on "Tallahassee" to find our postings or search using a keyword to see the offerings of multiple chapters.

- You will see postings appear in the left-hand column of the page. For example, currently the Tallahassee chapter has posting for VP of Communications and a Project Manager.
- Clicking on the posting will bring up the details, check your status, and allow you to apply by clicking the "Apply" button. When submitted, the system will route your application to the chapter; we will in turn contact you.

Get Involved!

Project Management Support for Guardian Ad Litem Second Circuit

As envisioned by the global organization planning document PMI:Next, there is a renewed emphasis of providing volunteer project management functions pro-bono to organizations that serve the community. The Guardian Ad Litem Foundation for the Second Circuit has provided us with an excellent opportunity to employ PM skills in helping them plan their holiday fund drive. In response, the PMI Tallahassee board has offered to recruit such a volunteer from our thousand or so current and former members. Project managers looking to gain experience in all aspects of planning for nonprofit events are encouraged to apply. Upon execution of duties, "Giving Back" professional development units will be available. Please see the posting "Project Manager - GALF2 Holiday Drive" at <https://volunteer.pmi.org> to apply.

Be Influential!

Become the Next VP of Communications for Our Chapter

The Tallahassee Chapter of PMI has an immediate opening in communications. The position is a very important one, namely the VP of Communications. This position keeps the chapter in touch with our members through multiple communications channels. Historically, the volunteer in this role has been at the center of event planning, quality assurance and chapter governance. Put most succinctly, the right candidate volunteer will work with the board to promote PMI initiatives and local chapter events. If you thrive on creating and publishing content on a website, social media, email and sometimes in print, this is an ideal position for you. Please see the "VP of Communications" posting at <https://volunteer.pmi.org> to apply.



Volunteerism – it's all about service to others!

Board Elections

Election season is nearly upon us. This year, the Tallahassee Chapter of PMI has four board positions up for election. These are volunteer roles that require a commitment of time and dedication to the profession of project management. These working volunteer roles provide board governance for the chapter, event planning and execution, and most importantly service to chapter members. The only requirement for running is to be a member of good standing with PMI and the Tallahassee chapter. The roles that will soon be open for nomination are:

Role	Term
First Vice President (President-Elect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 year term begins Jan. 1, 2026• Followed by 2-year term as President (2027-2028), then 1-year term as Past President (2029)• Preferred: Previous Board position in another VP capacity
Vice President Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-year term Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2027
Vice President Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-year term Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2027
Vice President Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-year term Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2027

The nomination period runs from August 4th through September 18th. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please visit our website and click to Volunteer! / Board Elections 2026 or go directly there by clicking [Board Elections 2026 | PMI Tallahassee](#)

Recognition of Service

Shajil Kalathil Commitment to Service Award (SKCSA)

The SKCSA was created by the board last October in memory of Shajil Kalathil, former PMITLH Chapter President. Shajil was a very strong advocate of service to the community. Under his leadership the chapter gave support to healthcare providers during the pandemic, and continued support to the local Guardian Ad Litem program. The SKCSA award is presented to the PMITLH chapter member who best exemplifies the commitment to service, volunteerism and leadership in philanthropic projects. Keeping true to form, the SKCSA will confer a \$500 donation to the nonprofit cause chosen by the winner. Nominations will come from chapter members and the winner will be chosen by the chapter board. Board members and their families are not eligible.

Nominations will open in late August and close September 27 with the winner announced at the October Chapter meeting.



Certification Corner

New PMI Certifications

Congrats to our newest PMI certification holders!

Todd Dzicek, Caroline Miller, Matthew LaGala, Clinton McComb, Joseph Gaines, Sushma Kavarthapu, Jessica Daniels, Ebony Fountain, Allison Muench, Eric MacDonald, Christopher Austin, Nithya Balasubramanian, Carlton Jones, Eric MacDonald, Brenda Tomblin, Malik Johnson, Agnes Blanton, Karen Bickford, Wendell Presha

Membership Minute

New PMI TLH Chapter Members

Welcome to our newest PMI TLH Chapter members!

Lourdes Van Aken, Benjamin Beha, Eric Bothwell, Sushma Kavarthapu, Andrew Morton, Daniel Bishop, Jennifer Killingsworth, Amber Higuera, Jesus Valdivia, David Pienta, Jacob Roberts, Angela Harrold, Alexander Rowney, Timothy Lee, Ana Pieper, Eugenio Hernandez, Matthew LaGala, Kristy Farina, James Latham, Nithya Balasubramanian, Sofia Bernal, Deashia Rogers, Christopher Miller, Jacob Martin, Brooke Stone, Mackenzie Ehrhardt, Jennifer Long, Wendell Presha, Eric MacDonald, Ian Paul, Gadea Guidicelli, Vincent Valentine, Caroline Miller, Morgan Runion, Malik Johnson, Patrick McCabe, Lori Quinn, Manishkumar Asrani, Timothy Emmons

Book Club Discusses Leadership Guide for AI

The PMI Tallahassee Chapter Book Club met on Thursday June 12th from 6:00 - 7:30 PM at the Northside Library. This meeting carried on the June theme of Artificial Intelligence. Once again, the club meeting was comprised of an equal number of local and virtual attendees. The club carried on a deep and educational discussion of the book "The Ultimate Guide for Mastering AI for Leaders" by Narciso Silva.

Described by one member as a lesson plan for teaching AI to others, the Ultimate Guide provided background, learning points, exercises and deep discussion ideas for teams to use in adopting AI. The practical examples were cumulative and applicable to the several specialties in AI. All attendees agreed that this book is worth purchasing and using to learn and teach AI to others.

This meeting was enhanced by discussion of PMI offerings in AI, ranging from specialty courses all the way to the online PMI AI engine, called PMI Infinity. Many participants stated a desire to learn more about these offerings that are included in PMI membership.

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