

PMI TALLAHASSEE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



**Project
Management
Institute.**
Tallahassee, Florida

April 2026



2026

Looking Ahead

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, June 1, 2026 @ 6pm

Chapter Meeting

Capital City Country Club

1601 Golf Terrace Drive, Tallahassee

Guest Speaker: Heather Nelson,
Senior Aviation Construction Project Rep,
Kimley-Horn

Upcoming Speakers

August 3, 2026 - J. Byron Greene

Director for Institutional Transformation at
FAMU

October 5, 2026 - Rabieh Razzouk

Director, Learning Systems Institute at FSU
and Director of Florida Center for Research
in Science, Technology, Engineering and
Mathematics (FCR-STEM)

PMI Tallahassee Chapter Members and Friends:

I am happy to report that our yearly chapter planning, and charter renewal processes have gone well. We are aligned with PMI at large and are on a mission to sustain our successes while still finding new ways to connect with you. Your PMI Board is at full strength with the leaders that you have elected, with all these board members trained, connected and contributing at a high level. We wasted no time delivering content for you starting early January this year! Our plan is to continue bringing you the best of PMI combined with Tallahassee's local distinctiveness to further the profession, to help you get or keep your certifications and to provide opportunities for leadership and business and technical growth.

**Register at
www.pmitlh.org**

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President's Message (continued from pg. 1)

We plan to bring you the same high level of engagement as last year and add additional opportunities to interact with us through online experiences, volunteer work and fun and engaging special pop-up events. PMI has recognized, and we fully embrace, the fact that we cannot always adopt a "build it, and they will come" approach. We must also add our message to events run by partner organizations and other smaller focused activities led by other professional groups and educators. As such, expect to see us at career nights, community meetings and focused service events. In short, we want to engage with you, your associates, and mentees in the community.

We are very committed to keeping project management relevant and valuable in this pivotal time in history. This year is shaping up to be a transformative one. It seems as though everywhere that we look we see systems, businesses, associations and organizations as well as complete paradigms undergoing transformative change. Some of these undertakings are under control, and some are not. It was not long ago when we felt liberated and powerful thinking that we could make small managed changes, which in turn would add up to significant and beneficial products, processes or results. Before that, we had thought that predictive planning and faithful execution across some 49 key processes shaped successful and intended outcomes. As it turns out, no matter what way of working one may choose, transformation is challenging and no single approach or doctrine is going to get the job done.

At the same time, we see that the principles of project management and key process groups have evolved from PMBOK version 7 to the new version 8. This enhanced way of looking at the principles and domains reemphasizes the "thinking" part of project management. We must continually adapt! Put another way, we strongly advocate for the active, cognizant, and situationally responsive application of the knowledge, tools and techniques of Project Management. We maintain that PMBOK 8 gives us the best and most flexible way to plan, manage and achieve controlled, resilient and successful transformative change.

Your PMI Tallahassee Chapter is leaning into this year of transformation. We are bringing you speakers and other professional development content that will add to your existing understanding of transformations. We want to hear from these experts why some transformations seem well managed, and some seem driven by externalities. We aim to learn with you about what transformations were successful, which weren't and why. We will highlight lessons learned from all corners of the project management profession that help our members to recognize transformational patterns, both good and bad. Our so equipped members will recognize those who overpromise and are likely to miss, and those who are just as likely to miss opportunities to make real and beneficial transformational change. Spoiler alert: we expect that the successful transformational leaders are using patterns derived from, or at least consistent with, the best practices found in PMBOK 8.

We hope that you will join us in our endeavors, both large and small, to further the profession, learn and have some fun while we are at it.

Hope to see you soon!



The PMI Tallahassee Professional Development team has been busy, and we're just about ready to pull back the curtain. This May, June, and July, we're bringing a summer series of events designed to sharpen your skills, expand your network, and give you experiences you won't find anywhere else in our chapter. Here's a sneak peek at what's heading your way:

MAY | LEARN

Coming Soon: What's New in the PMBOK® Guide – 8th Edition

Big changes are coming to the project management profession, and we're getting you ahead of them. We're hosting a virtual panel discussion featuring Authorized Training Partners and seasoned practitioners breaking down what's new in PMBOK® 8th Edition and what it means for your practice and your PMP credential. Lunch hour. Real talk. Practical takeaways.

Featuring: Authorized Training Partners & experienced voices in the field

Focus: Real insights, practical takeaways, and what's changing in the profession

Format: Virtual panel discussion – Lunch Hour Session

Targeting: May 2026 | Date & registration details coming soon



JUNE | CONNECT

Coming Soon: PowerHour Networking Experience

This isn't your typical stand-around-with-a-nametag event. PMI and the Association of Change Management Professionals (ACMP) are partnering to bring Tallahassee's first-ever PowerHour, this is a structured, intentional networking event designed to spark real conversations and build connections that actually last – across industries, roles, and career stages.

Setting: Local Tallahassee venue (to be announced)

Audience: 25–60 professionals across industries

Format: Structured, high-energy networking designed for real interaction

Targeting: June 2026 | Venue & registration details coming soon

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PMITLH Summer of Learning

LEARN | CONNECT | EXPERIENCE

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JULY | EXPERIENCE

Coming Soon: Agile Poker Night – Scrum Poker Edition

No slides. No passive learning. Just cards on the table and conversations that matter. Our July pop-up brings Scrum Poker (Planning Poker) to life, a live, gamified Agile estimation experience where participants estimate, debate, and align in real time. Fast, fun, and rooted in real-world practice.

Experience: Live Scrum Poker simulation

Outcome: Learn estimation through doing, not watching

Vibe: Fast, fun, and rooted in real-world Agile practice

Targeting: July 2026 | Facilitator & registration details coming soon

CALLING ALL AGILE COACHES & SCRUM MASTERS

We're looking for experienced facilitators who can lead dynamic Scrum Poker sessions and bring this experience to life. If that's you, or someone you know, reach out! Facilitator interest details and event registration coming soon.



Questions?

Contact: Daniella Cross-Wilkins
VP of Professional Development, PMI Tallahassee Chapter
vppd@pmitlh.org



VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS, RABIH CHEHAYEB



I am honored to serve as your newly elected Vice President of Programs for the PMI Tallahassee Chapter, starting January 2026. Building on the great work of our previous board, my goal is to keep our meetings high-impact by featuring experienced professionals who share hands-on insights and real-world project leadership stories that help us all grow.

My journey began in Lebanon, where I earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the American University of Beirut. After building a foundation in engineering and operations across various industries, I moved to Tallahassee in 2016 and completed a Master's in Finance at Florida State University. This blend of technical and financial expertise has shaped my career at the intersection of business and technology.

Currently, I am a Senior Project Manager at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, where I lead enterprise-level initiatives and system-wide data integrations. I am deeply passionate about healthcare project management and dedicated to helping fellow PMs navigate and transition into this complex, rewarding domain. My commitment to the discipline is reflected in my PMP, PMI-ACP, and PSM certifications.

On a personal note, I live here in Tallahassee with my wife and our seven-year-old daughter. We love exploring the local lakes and nearby beaches. When I'm not managing projects, you'll likely find me learning sailing or baking bread (Are there any fellow sailors or bakers in the chapter?)

Please find me at our next meeting or reach out to share your ideas on how we can build on our success to make our chapter events even more valuable, engaging, and fun.

Connect with me:

- Email: vpprog@pmitlh.org
- LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/rabihchehayeb](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rabihchehayeb)

I look forward to meeting you!

*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.*



Volunteers

Making a Difference

Our Chapter has recently established a dedicated Volunteer & Membership Committee to strengthen and support our volunteer and membership ecosystem, ensuring it remains vibrant, effective, and aligned with our mission.

The Volunteer – Membership Portfolio plays a key role in supporting the growth, engagement, and retention of PMI Tallahassee Chapter members, with focus on enhancing the member experience, strengthening relationships with new and existing members, and contributing to initiatives that promote value across the Chapter.

Volunteers will work closely with the VP of Membership, the VP of Volunteers, and Communications Team to deliver a positive and supportive journey.

We are seeking additional individuals who demonstrate dependability, collaboration, positivity, strong organization, clear communication, flexibility, mission-driven focus, empathy, and a commitment to personal growth. If this describes you, we invite you to apply and contribute to the continued success of our Chapter.



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



On the Move: PMITLH Technology Director

Raj Prahast Maheswarapu, PMP had the honor of being selected for the American Council for Technology and Industry Advisory Council (ACT-IAC) AI Hackathon: AI in Action, a national competition that took place on March 27, 2026, in Reston, Virginia.

ACT-IAC brings together federal agencies and industry partners to collaborate on high-priority technology challenges and improve government mission performance.

Raj submitted the original concept titled "Secure Small Language Models for AI-Assisted Audit Log Analysis and Fraud Detection in Government Systems." From among hundreds of submissions from industry professionals, Raj's proposal stood out and was accepted by the ACT-IAC Steering Committee. Ravi Gourineni, Industry Chair of the ACT-IAC AI Working Group, noted that the concept addresses an important government mission area around **cybersecurity monitoring** and **investigative analysis**. ACT-IAC converted the concept into an official challenge brief for the hackathon, making it one of five published use cases that teams could build solutions around.

The team has built an AI-powered solution that enables government investigators to analyze audit log data using natural language queries, with anomaly detection powered by machine learning. The entire solution runs on-premises with no cloud dependency, preserving full data sovereignty for agencies handling sensitive information.

Raj will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to demonstrate the solution alongside Kranthi Mitta, Technical Solution Architect from Meta Jabel.

The event features keynote addresses from Brian Brotsos, Acting Chief Data and AI Officer, and Gil Alterovitz of the Presidential Innovation Fellows Foundation.

2026 CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

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