

# Ally News

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael B. Bender, PMP



Well, the recession continues, training classes are being cancelled left and right, projects are still on hold, but I do see a change in attitudes. More people seem to be

feeling a bit better about the future than a few months ago.

We have a guest author for our featured article this issue. Ms. Kimi Ziemski, PMP, has just released her book, *When Opposites Collide, Leadership Beyond Gender*. It is an excellent collection of lessons on leadership from successful business leaders. It is available from Barnes & Noble and Amazon; the ISBN-10 is 0595525512.

My book, *A Manager's Guide to Project Management* will finally be released July 20th and should be in stores by July 24. You can still pre-purchase the book from both Barnes & Noble and Amazon at a substantial discount. The ISBN-10 is: 0137136900.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please feel free to offer comments and suggestions at your convenience through our web site: [www.AllyBusiness.com](http://www.AllyBusiness.com).

## UPCOMING CLASSES

Ally Communications Department

### PRO-1 Series Classes

- Writing Project Requirements Pro-1
  - July 2, Chicago - Schaumburg
  - Aug 3, Chicago - Warrenville

- Project Risk Management Pro 1
    - July 3, Chicago - O'Hare
    - Aug 4, Chicago - Warrenville
  - PMP Exam Prep Boot Camp
    - July 13-16, Chicago - Warrenville
  - Successful Project Management
    - Aug 5-7 Chicago - Schaumburg
- Check Ally's web site ([www.AllyBusiness.com](http://www.AllyBusiness.com)) for details.

## PMP EXAM 4TH EDITION START JULY 1

Ally Communications Department

Don't forget that the PMP exam switches to the 4th edition starting July 1. While the core concepts haven't changes, PMI has made several changes to the processes, inputs, tools and techniques, and outputs in the new test.

**IF YOU STUDIED FOR THE 3RD EDITION TEST AND PLAN TO TAKE THE TEST AFTER JUNE 30, YOU WILL HAVE TO RE-STUDY!**

PMI cleaned up a lot of the confusing sections of the PMBOK, but in doing so, made many sections more vague. They fixed one issue which was sorely needed -- they standardized the process names using a verb-noun format.

### Changes to the PMBOK® Guide

For a complete list of changes, refer to the new *PMBOK® Guide*. PMI publishes the list as an appendix in the back. PMI Members can download a PDF copy from the PMI website.

## No Grandfathers

Many students in my PMP exam prep classes have been asking about grandfathering. For example, let's say you apply for the test towards the end of May, but are being audited. You won't complete the audit in time to take the 3rd edition. Can you be grandfathered?

Or, you failed the 3rd test the first time (you certainly weren't one of my students) and want to re-take it after June, can you re-take the 3rd edition?

The official answer from PMI is NO!

**ALL TESTS, REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION, WILL BE ON THE 4TH EDITION STARTING JULY 1.**

## NEXT SERIES OF TOPICS: PROJECT METRICS

Michael B. Bender, PMP

The next set of newsletters will feature articles on project and project management metrics. These articles result

## CONTENTS

### From the President

Guest writer: Ms Kimi Ziemski

### Upcoming Classes

Ally's Open-Enrollment Seminar Schedule

### PMP Exam 4th Edition Starts July 1 Next Series of Topics: Project Metrics

Learn simple metrics to maintain project success.

### Featured Topic:

Project Leadership, Kimi Ziemski, PMP

Submit comments, suggestions or opt-out requests by visiting: [www.AllyBusiness.com](http://www.AllyBusiness.com)

from work I started while writing the book. I discovered that a very small set of metrics, rigorously tracked is all you need to determine how well your projects are progressing and what areas you should address.

The goal for the series is to present tools to help you identify trends in your projects, in your project methodologies, and in your organization's culture.

During the series, I'll be soliciting opinions from other project experts through Linked-In. I encourage all my newsletter readers to participate. I'll let you know when and where the discussions will take place.

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## FEATURED TOPIC: PROJECT LEADERSHIP

*Kimi Ziemski, PMP*

Project leadership is a phrase you hear bandied about a lot these days. This has resulted from an interesting combination of elements. The economic meltdown has made our awareness of the effect of global economics on our home environment. The growing awareness of the importance of projects well managed to the achievement of their strategies has hit senior management. At the personal level there is the growing the surety within each and every professional that they must keep a sharp lookout on their skills and their abilities or be a casualty of the fast pace of changes in our business and technology.

Doubting the value of leadership skills in today's project environment is simply a waste of time. It is unfortunate to note that this is a waste of time that a number of my colleagues are happy to indulge in.

In my role in the local PMI Chapter first as Vice President of Community Relations and then as a Director under Ray Ju, the current VP of Community Relations, we have been sadly surprised at this over and over again. Bringing speakers and events to the membership constituency we consistently get comments about how we are "going in the wrong direction" and that we need to "take these issues up with our senior management - not us".

Luckily this is a minority opinion. Hopefully that minority will continue to shrink. If the population with this opinion continues to hold fast then it is quite probable that the laws of economic evolution will take care of that problem. Those who believe that their best asset is the ability is the technical competence with a scheduling tool or simulation application will have jobs - absolutely. Just don't be surprised if those jobs are increasingly found at lower levels of the power structure of organizations while project leadership will take others further up. This is because of the following facets:

- Fewer and fewer teams are co-located - placing an even higher premium on the ability to communicate well, and the ability to garner and grow trust with distant team members and nurture the ability of those team members to execute without constant oversight.
- Continuing focus from senior management, investors, and regulatory stakeholders will hold our feet to the fire to deliver better and at higher execution standard levels.
- The generation coming into their business maturity will continue to test our understanding and management of the world - on the community and business fronts - that we share. This new generation is filled with a level of technical savvy that is both a product of our own making and the outshoot of the work of generations.
- The double edged sword of increasing visibility of the importance of project management well done is this: Each time you raise the bar it stays there - until you raise it again.

Given these factors:

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### ***I CHALLENGE YOU TO LOOK AROUND YOURSELF, TAKE STOCK.***

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Is this a fairly reasonable representation of the environment in which you do business?

Will how you have succeeded thus far be sufficient to succeed going forward?

What can you learn from the other professionals in your field? What are the common traits of those who survive times like this with more of their sanity intact?

What skills and competencies are you in need of?

How are you going to address this deficiency?

You have the opportunity to turn the situation to your advantage. It will take a number of hard moves on your part.

It will take courage - you will have the chance to hear feedback that you might not have otherwise gotten. Some of it will be positive and gratifying. Some of it will not. Some will be hard truths that you might not even believe at first. Verify then believe. Only then can you begin to effect the changes that are necessary.

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### ***IF YOU ARE COMMITTED THEN MAKE A PLAN***

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Heck, you're a project manager! This part should be easy. As part of the agreement with Ally Business you have access through the website to templates for professional improvement listed under [www.AllyBusiness.com/PM\\_Tools.html](http://www.AllyBusiness.com/PM_Tools.html). Feel free to download:

- Professional improvement charter
- Stakeholder analysis
- Professional contacts record
- Risk register

If you are serious, when you go to your colleagues for support, you will begin a worthwhile journey to build your personal brand of leadership in project management.

In a world where applications, technology, and social factors change constantly and quickly one thing has not - the value of being able to work well with and in charge of people.

Are you prepared to become invaluable?