Project Management Institute. Buffalo, NY	**PMI BUFFALO CHAPTER** **FALL PDD – NOVEMBER 14, 2023 - EVENT DETAILS**

The PMI Buffalo Chapter is excited to announce its Fall PDD line-up to help you supercharge your career!

@ The Grapevine Banquets, 333 Dick Road, Depew 14043

~ Tentative Agenda ~

Time	Presenter	Agenda Item & Room
7:45–8:30am		**Lobby: Check-in is open** - Continental breakfast is available
8:30–8:40am	PMI Buffalo Chapter's President – Dan Augustynek VP, Professional Development – Susan Czyrny VP, Membership & Volunteerism – Kelli Wilson	**Ballroom II: Welcome & Opening Remarks**
8:40–9:55am	AKG Deputy Director – Jillian Jones AKG Director of Facilities Planning & Management – Jamie Robideau	**Ballroom II: Keynote –** **Becoming the Buffalo AKG** Overview of the transformation of the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, including the addition of the Gundlach building. (1.25 pdus – Ways of Working)
9:55–10:15am		**Lobby: Break** - Coffee, tea, water, healthy bars available
10:15–11:30am	Turner Construction Co. VP & Operations Manager - Brouck Amerga Project Manager - Matthew Vallone	**Ballroom II: Keynote –** **New Bills Stadium – 1st and Goal!** Overview of how this $1.5 billion project is being managed. Go Bills! (1.25 pdus – Ways of Working)
11:30–11:45am	Event Sponsors	**Ballroom II: Sponsor Highlights**

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11:45am – 12:30pm	Facilitator: Melissa Thornley	**Ballroom II: Lunch & table exercise** (.5 pdus – Power Skills)
12:30–1:45pm	Mark Kwandrans & Jeff Manhardt John Stenbeck Melissa Thornley	**Breakout Session #1 Topics: (1.25 pdus)** Ballroom I: Beyond the PMP (Business Acumen) Ballroom II: Supercharging Your Career – The 4th Industrial Revolution (Business Acumen) Ballroom III: Bridging the Communication Divide (Power Skills)
1:45–2:00pm		**Lobby: Break** Coffee, tea, water, snack bags available
2:00– 3:15pm	Same speakers as in Breakout #1	**Breakout Session #2 Topics: (1.25 pdus)** Same rooms/topics as in Breakout #1
3:15-3:25pm		**Lobby: Break** Coffee, tea, water, snack bags available
3:25–4:55pm	Local PM Professionals: - IBM - Jim Pokoj - IHA - Garrett Manhart, Josh Zalen - Moog – James Steffan - Lighthouse – Brenda Czyz - … possibly more! Moderator: John Stenbeck	**Ballroom II: Project Management Panel** A panel of local industry professionals, that have PM hiring/recruiting/development responsibilities, answer a variety of questions, including some from you. (1.25 pdus – Business Acumen) **Day's Debrief** (.25 pdus – Business Acumen)
4:55-5:00pm	PMI Buffalo Chapter's VP, Professional Development	**Ballroom II: Closing Announcements**

TOTAL PDUS OFFERED: 7.00

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Presentation Synopses

Keynote: Becoming the Buffalo AKG

Presented by: Jillian Jones & Jamie Robideau

Hear from Jillian Jones, Deputy Director, about the physical and philosophical transformation of the Albright-Knox to the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, a cornerstone of our region's rich cultural landscape since 1862. Jillian will speak to the museum's positioning in the years before the project, the tactical process of pursuing the largest expansion in the museum's history, and how the reassembled campus has reinvented nearly everything the AKG does and how it does it.

Jamie Robideau – the AKG's Director of Facilities Planning & Management – will also be presenting.

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Keynote: New Bills Stadium – 1st and Goal!

Presented by: Brouck Amerga & Matthew Vallone

Brouck Amerga, Vice President & Operations Manager of the Turner Construction Co., will present his company's work on this $1.2 billion construction project. Brouck is currently serving as the Procurement Manager for this project.

He will speak to what methods they are using to manage this monumental construction project, accomplishments to-date, challenges, diversity goals, handling of contractual and change orders with the owner's representative, etc.

Also presenting will be 1-2 Turner Construction Co. project managers. They will speak about "a day in the life of" one of this project's PMs.
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Breakout: Beyond the PMP…
What certifications are there, what does it take to earn them, and how can they help you in your career?

Presented by: Mark Kwandrans, Jeff Manhardt

This session will provide attendees with an overview of the various PMI certifications and micro-certifications, as well as insights from two of our chapter's most senior members into what it takes to earn them, and how they may help you grow your skills and build your career. There will also be some discussion of PMI vs. Scrum Alliance vs. SAFe agile certifications, and PMI's Career Roadmap.

Have you ever wondered whether you should pursue PMI or other certifications above and beyond the CAPM or PMP? Are you aware of all of the new certifications & micro-certifications introduced by PMI over the last few years? Have you ever wondered what the difference is between PMI's Agile-related certifications and those from other organizations such as Scrum Alliance and SAFe? Is one better than the other? Would you like to be able to ask candid questions of people who know what it takes to earn more advanced certifications? And whether they have found them to be worth it? Would you like to hear about the real-life experiences and insights on this topic from two senior PM professionals?

Attend this event if you would like to learn the answers to these and more questions from Mark Kwandrans and Jeff Manhardt. Both Mark and Jeff are former presidents of the PMI Buffalo, NY Chapter and have a total of 52 years of PM experience between them.

- Mark Kwandrans is currently (Senior Director of Delivery Management at Avande, Inc. and has these certifications: PMP, PfMP, PgMP, AH-MC, OTF, CSM, SAFe LMP.
- Jeff Manhart is currently Director of Project Management at Compass Group USA and has these certifications: PMP, DASM, DASSM, PMI CD (Citizen Developer) & ATP, CSM, SAFe SA and SFC from Scrumstudy

Session's Learning Objectives:

- Provide an awareness of the various certifications available from PMI.
- Provide a better understanding of how Program management, Portfolio management and other certifications can help you in your career.
- Provide an awareness of the differences between the certification offerings from PMI and some other organizations.
- Share PMI's Career Roadmap for career advancement.

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Breakout: Supercharging Your Career – What the Fourth Industrial Revolution Requires "Good Enough" is no longer… Good Enough!

Presented by: John Stenbeck

When the PMBOK® Guide, Seventh Edition aligns with the biennial CHAOS Report, the seminal project management assessment since 1994, and intersects with World Economic Forum (WEF) research and guidance, all pointing to the same conclusion, **YOU CAN BET YOUR CAREER** that C-suite decisions are being impacted.

The CHAOS Report 2020 analysis of 60 years of data that validated the implications in the PMBOK® Guide, Seventh Edition that a new evolutionary period, a period the WEF calls the **Fourth Industrial Revolution** has dawned. Everything that concerns your projects, your organization – and your career – could be trapped by agile frameworks with too many shortcomings for the real-world problems and challenges coming your way.

This reality-based, technically-sophisticated presentation gives you a jumpstart to boost your profile when and where it counts! You will quickly learn how to become an influential advisor and demonstrate your unique value as you show how to avoid the "Good Enough" trap. Don't miss it!!

Session's Learning objectives:

1. Describe how to create enterprise agility as the Fourth Industrial Revolution dawns.
2. Summarize the leadership challenges and learn the behavioral practices to accelerate career opportunities.
3. Apply the principles, practices and tools that engage and energize your project teams.
4. Outline the next steps required to achieve your career goals.

Breakout: Bridging the Communication Divide

Presented by: Melissa Thornley

Are you tired of having conversations that don't seem to go below the surface? Let's practice ways to communicate with clarity, candor and kindness.

We all have those conversations that only happen in our heads. We want to talk about "that thing" that feels daunting and we just don't know where to start. Maybe we typically avoid conflict or we've felt that we've been burned when we've tried to dialogue about certain situations or topics.

This interactive session will provide a framework and opportunities to practice it so that we have more communication tools in our tool kit to prepare and have conversations with depth, meaning and understanding.

Session's Learning Objectives:

- Set the stage for a successful, meaningful conversation
- Separate the facts from feelings and stories
- Name a mutually rewarding outcome (to bridge the communication divide)
- Better understand key EQ skills to support meaningful conversation (assertiveness, independence, empathy, stress tolerance

SPEAKER BIO

Jillian Jones



Jillian Jones is the Deputy Director at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum. In this role, Jones serves on the museum's Leadership Team, managing most aspects of the visitor interface and general business operations. She works closely with the Peggy Pierce Elfvin Director and the Board on all key museum initiatives such as project implementation, strategic planning, equity and diversity, and sustainability.

Prior to this role, Jones served as the Director of Advancement, which is the Buffalo AKG's chief fundraising officer. She shared leadership responsibilities with the Peggy Pierce Elfvin Director and Board President for the museum's $230 million capital campaign, the largest such campaign for a cultural institution in the history of Western New York. She extensively worked with, and continues to liaise with leadership donors, including individuals, corporations, foundations, and public sector representatives, to ensure that the museum's operations are adequately and sustainably funded.

Prior to joining the Buffalo AKG, Jones served as Manager of Major Gifts and, later, Manager of Individual Giving at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. She began her professional career at the George Washington University School of Business, Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Jones received her MA in Museum Studies with a concentration in Public Administration from George Washington University. In 2021, Jones was named one of *Buffalo Business First*'s 40 under 40. She has received a Certificate in Fundraising Management from the Lilly School of Philanthropy at Indiana University and is a member of the Art Museum Development Association, the Western New York Planned Giving Association, and the Western New York Women's Foundation.

SPEAKER BIO

Brouck Amerga



Brouck Amerga began his career at Turner Construction Co. in 2005 as an engineer, after completing his mechanical engineering degree at Polytechnic University and MBA from Baruch College, Zicklin Business School. In the years that followed, Brouck held various positions including project engineer, project manager, procurement agent, regional procurement manager and currently serves as Vice President, Operations Manager.

In this role, he is responsible for construction operations, monitoring and coordinating the activities of all staff, safety, EEO and labor relations for the New York Business Unit with an annual revenue of two billion dollars.

In addition to his day-to-day responsibilities, Brouck serves as an executive sponsor of Turner's Building Voices employee resource group. Building Voices' mission is to develop a supportive culture and provide resources for employees that are of African descent who want to advance their careers and make a greater impact at Turner.

SPEAKER BIO

Mark Kwandrans



Mark Kwandrans is a long-time PMI volunteer, completing his second three-year term on the Certification Insight Team. He previously served two terms on the PMI Ethics Review Committee, including a term as President. Previously, he volunteered for the PMI Buffalo, NY Chapter, serving as president from 2010–2014.

In his professional career, Mr. Kwandrans serves as Senior Director of Delivery Management for Avanade, Inc. where he currently manages a $33 million Dynamics365 implementation. He was previously an infrastructure portfolio manager for M&T Bank, where his efforts resulted in the department's first vision, mission and strategic goals. He has also served as a Project Manager for Moog Inc, the Director of Program Management for Delaware North, a portfolio and program manager for M&T Bank, the Director of IT Project Services for Merchants Insurance Group, and the PMO manager for Adeptiv Solutions. He also held positions at Oracle Corporation and KPMG Peat Marwick.

Mr. Kwandrans serves as President of the board of directors for Buffalo Arts Studio, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to build cultural connections through exhibitions, educational programs and public art. Mr. Kwandrans is an adjunct instructor at the State University of New York, teaching graduate-level IT project management.

Mr. Kwandrans is certified as a PMP, PgMP, PfMP, CSM, SAFe Lean Portfolio Manager, and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.

SPEAKER BIO

Jeff Manhardt



Jeff Manhardt is from Buffalo, N.Y., and is the Director of Project Management for Compass Group USA - a global food service company based in North Carolina. He has over 18 years of success achieving project, program & Portfolio management objectives while utilizing situational leadership to manage international teams. He has led 3 PMOs, dozens of projects & programs and is an acquisition specialist. Jeff's award-winning, results-oriented, process-driven leadership approach has culminated with projects, programs & portfolios completed within 10% of time and cost.

Jeff received his Bachelor of Science in Business Management from D'Youville University, is a 2013 LIMC graduate, frequent conference speaker, and Adjunct professor at the University of Buffalo, Canisius College, Daemen College & Medaille College.

Jeff has served as the President of the PMI Buffalo chapter from 2017-2021 after serving in positions of VP of Programs, VP of Professional Development, VP of Technology & Business Services, and VP of Finance.

Jeff has also served on the boards of the Buffalo Chapter of the IIBA, BA/PMWorld Toronto Board of Advisors, Graycliff Conservancy, and is currently serving on the Habitat Buffalo Board.

Jeff Manhart is currently Director of Project Management at Compass Group USA and has these certifications: PMP, DASM, DASSM, PMI CD (Citizen Developer) & ATP, CSM, SAFe SA and SFC from Scrumstudy.

SPEAKER BIO

John Stenbeck



John G. Stenbeck, PMP, PMI-CDAI, PMI-ACP, CSP, CSM, is the Founder of Great PM. John became a four-time ***Amazon #1 Best Selling*** author with the release of his tenth book – *Agile Government Contracting, 2nd Edition*.

His industry-leading enterprise agility and project management books have reached almost $3 million in sales. They include the *Agile Almanac Book 1* and *Book 2, Distilled Insight: Enterprise Agility in Healthcare* and, most recently, *Agile Government Contracting 2nd Edition*. He has also contributed 71 video lectures to Villanova's online certificate programs.

John is a sought-after Keynote speaker because his expertise in Enterprise Agility enables him to help executives and technical professionals become ***powerfully productive leaders!*** He has been a guest on Good Morning America, the Today Show, Fox News and the Oprah Winfrey Show. John has been featured on the front page of both the Los Angeles Times and the San Diego Union.

A partial list of John's ***coaching*** and ***consulting*** clients includes: Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., McLean, VA; County of Orange, Orange, CA; Hewlett-Packard Company, Palo Alto, CA; Lucent Technologies, Allentown, PA; Nike Corp., Beaverton, OR; Oracle Corp., Redwood Shores, CA; Qualcomm, Inc., San Diego, CA; U.S. Army – Space and Terrestrial Communications Directorate, Fort Monmouth, NJ; U.S.D.A. – National Finance Center, New Orleans, LA; U.S. Marine Corp. Systems Command, Stafford, VA; Visa – Smart Cards, Foster City, CA.

John holds PMI's Project Management Professional (PMP®) credential, is a PMI Certified Disciplined Agile Instructor (CDAI), and an Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP®). He also holds Certified Scrum Master (CSM) and Certified Scrum Professional (CSP) designations from the Scrum Alliance and an ITIL v3 Foundations certification.

SPEAKER BIO
Melissa Thornley



As a film and music industry veteran, **Melissa Thornley** found that leveraging emotional intelligence was the secret to successful projects for high profile clients like McDonald's, Nike, and Coca-Cola. After 2 decades leading teams, projects and organizations in Chicago, NYC and London, she shifted gears to focus on emotional intelligence and creative leadership.

In 2013, Melissa started her firm Melissa Thornley Consulting to focus on leadership initiatives for organizations like Publicis, Comcast, and Great Wolf Lodge. She also adapts these leadership frameworks to empower creative entrepreneurs.

She sees the biggest impact on her clients when they deepen their self awareness and emotional intelligence skills so they can drive better results for themselves and the communities they serve.

In addition to her traditional business background, she draws upon her training in improv, positive neuroplasticity and yoga.

- Melissa was featured in Reel Chicago's 2023 Reel Women series
- You can find Melissa's five part blog series on Emotional Intelligence here.
- Authority Magazine Feature: Emotional Intelligence; What It Is, Why It Is So Essential, And How We Can Increase It

OUR PANELISTS

Brenda Czyz



Title: Client Partner/Sr. Technology Talent Manager – Lighthouse Technology Services

Brenda Czyz is a seasoned Talent Management Leader with over 10 years in the International Project Management space complemented with 20 years in Human Resources and Technical Recruiting. With experience as a Certified Technical Recruiter coupled with a diverse skill set in the project delivery space, Brenda has a proven track record of using AI for efficient and effective recruiting solutions as well as screening professionals in the AI space.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, she cherishes moments with her husband and four children, celebrating the recent addition of a granddaughter. Furthermore, Brenda dedicates her free time volunteering for local charitable organizations, including Make A Wish WNY, Empower Camp, Eden Schools Technology Committee, and various school sports and parent-teacher programs.

OUR PANELISTS

Garrett Manhart



Garrett Manhart, MBA, PMP has been immersed in the program / project management environment for nearly two decades, predominantly in the health insurance industry. After initially starting his career performing project lifecycle process audits, he began managing complex projects and programs.

In 2011, Garrett was promoted to a PMO Specialist role which introduced ownership of the project management lifecycle (PMLC) for the organization. In 2013, Garrett was promoted to EPMO Performance Manager which incorporated enterprise project financial oversight and development / implementation of a EPMO metrics program.

In 2014, Garrett was promoted to Manager, IT PMO responsible for IT project delivery along with managing a department of 12 project managers. Most recently, in 2018, Garrett was promoted to Director, Enterprise Project Delivery, responsible for delivery of our enterprise programs and projects along with management of a project budget nearing $20 million.

Garrett holds a bachelors degree in Applies Statistics and a masters degree in Technology Management from Rochester Institute of Technology and currently resides in Buffalo, New York.

OUR PANELISTS

Jim Pokoj



Title: Senior Managing Consultant, Extreme Automation practice, IBM Consulting Services

Jim Pokoj is a digital transformation leader and operational excellence professional with over 35 years experience with extensive business and technology experience in driving business value by working with business partners supporting business process reengineering, technology enablement and entire business transformation across multiple industries.

Jim is both certified in waterfall (PMP - 2005), agile (PMI-ACP - 2019) and most recently Disciplined Agile Senior Scrum Master (PMI-DASSM - 2023). Jim's area of expertise at IBM (for the past 10 years) is Business/Digital Transformation leading engagements in BPM, RPA, Process Mining and Generative-AI capabilities across many industries.

Prior to joining IBM, Jim worked at Fidelis Care, Independent Health and EDS/HP respectively.

OUR PANELISTS

James Steffan



Jim Steffan has worked in the automotive and aerospace/defense industries for the past 33 years in various engineering, operations, quality and program management roles. Steffan is currently a Program Management Director for Space programs at Moog Inc. in East Aurora, NY.

Steffan has been involved in program management roles for the past 24 years. He is a past recipient of the PMI Buffalo Chapter's Project of the Year Award while at Delphi Automotive. At Moog, Steffan previously led a development program on actuation and avionics hardware which recently flew in November 2022 on the NASA Artemis I mission around the moon.

Steffan holds Industrial Engineering and M.B.A degrees from SUNY at Buffalo. Steffan received his PMP certification in 2006.

OUR PANELISTS

Josh Zalen



Josh Zalen, PMP is an IT executive with over 20 years of leadership experience at regional health plans and Fortune-500 companies while at Accenture. Josh has managed global IT teams, implemented best practices and has project managed complex multinational projects some with direct reports and others influencing resources assigned to the project from multiple departments.

Josh started his career at Accenture where he worked his way up to Senior Director. His projects included an SAP implementation at Kodak, an airline command and control system at UPS Airlines and implementation of software testing best practices at Walgreens. Josh also managed the UK branch of a European acquisition by a big box retailer, relocating to Manchester, England for a period of time which included the birth of his first child.

Following his stint at Accenture Josh landed at CDPHP, a not-for-profit regional health plan in Albany, NY. At CDPHP Josh was the project manager for the implementation of a care management solution before being promoted first to Program Manager and then to Director of Global Sourcing. Today, Josh is the Vice President of IT Service Operations at Independent Health, where he oversees the infrastructure, operations, production support, and service management of the organization. Most recently Josh built out the IT solution for Independent Health's Care For You program, a complex care at home initiative where Josh now operates as their Chief Technology Officer.

Josh graduated from the University of Buffalo summa cum laude and was a recipient of the University at Buffalo Medal for Academic Excellence. Josh is passionate about leveraging technology to improve business outcomes and customer experience. He is always open to new challenges and opportunities to learn and grow. Josh is a board member at the Greater Buffalo Counseling Center and spends his off hours tending to his four children or traveling the globe.