

PROJECT MAINE

A Newsletter of the **Maine Chapter, Project Management Institute**

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www.pmimaine.org

207-766-5511

Project of the Year awards next week

Four projects get preliminary honor; POY to be named

PMI Maine will complete its inaugural celebration of project management in Maine with a program April 17 at the University of Southern Maine, and you're all invited.

Four projects have been adjudged worthy of recognition, and the further designation of Project of the Year among them will be announced at the April 17 event.

The organizations that have received the preliminary honor of Distinction in Project Management are:

Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield for its Consolidated East System, an information technology project.

Cianbro for the Portland Jetport Parking Garage construction project.

HNTB Corporation for management of the Rand Road Interchange construction project on the Maine Turnpike.

Shalom House for its development of the Brannigan House residential project.

At the April 17 program, the additional award of Project of the Year is to be made. The 9 a.m. program will be at the Woodbury Center on Bedford Street, part of USM's Portland campus. There is no admission fee, but RSVPs are required to jim-milliken-training@worldnet.att.net.

Also during the program, each winner will briefly describe the project management work that earned the award.

The purpose of the Maine Project of the Year 2002 competition is to publicly honor the effective innovations

that are the driving force of a strong economy and an effective social infrastructure.

The four projects to be recognized are among a number that were considered for the competition, and a final total of eight that were reviewed by a panel of independent judges.

The judges were asked to consider the entrants' use of project management practices as well as their level of achievement in an atmosphere of risk and uncertainty. The PMI Maine Project of the Year 2002 project team provided project management guidelines, which the judges were asked to apply in combination with their own expertise.

Maine Project of the Year 2002

AWARDS PROGRAM

9 a.m. Thursday, April 17, 2003

Woodbury Center, USM

RSVP

jim-milliken-training@worldnet.att.net

The judges were:

Karen Bricklemyer, senior vice president and chief development officer, United Way of Greater Portland.

John B. Jensen, associate professor of management science, USM.

Eva Polisner, principal, Project Solutions (a PMP and a member of PMI Maine).

James Smith, chair, Electrical Engineering program, USM.

Brad Woods, director, engineering services and consulting, AEP Pro Serv.

The PMI Maine project team is chaired by Jim Milliken. Its members are Bob Laliberte, chapter president Steve MacIsaac and Jim Stevens. All are PMPs.

They created big web site . . . & a project management system

MaineToday.com is the largest web-based news and information service north of Boston, and the challenge of building it from scratch required invention of an original project management system.

Joe Michaud, founder and president of MaineToday.com, told its story in the March program of PMI Maine.

Michaud, originally an editor on the Portland newspapers, has led the project from its beginning in 1995. His presentation to the project managers reviewed the challenges and uncertainties that had to be overcome. The project team members knew that, to be successful, they would have to create a web site that not only displayed the

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How MaineToday.com manages as a project

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daily news, but would be seen as a valuable information source by the intended audience.

They needed to sell advertising, which would be the only source of revenue for the web site. Further, on the internet, the audience expected constant technical and content improvements to the site.

The project team has learned a lot over the past seven years about project management, and in the process has created its own system, including numerous templates and procedures to ensure that projects fit with strategic objectives and achieve their desired outcomes.

Currently, Maine-Today.com – a subsidiary of Blethen Maine newspapers – operates with its own profit-and-loss statement. As a result of increasing its audience and advertising sales every year, it is close to profitability.

One key to this was recognizing that the youth of today do not typically read the newspaper, but prefer to go to the web site and choose what they wish to read. MaineToday.com's response to that demand resulted in a successful page devoted to the interests of teen-agers.

Some major challenges for the future include constantly increasing the audience, providing and managing useful content that will drive advertising sales, supporting the parent company's newspapers to help them reach their goals and – importantly – to make only new mistakes, not ones from the past.

As part of the program, Michaud demonstrated the site's capability. It's excellent, and well worth a look.

-- By Bob Laliberte, PMP

PMI Maine Meetings 2003

*Check pmimaine.org
for meeting locations and directions
if site isn't specified*

April 17 (Thursday) – Project of the Year 2002

-- PMI Maine's first awards program

Jim Milliken, Project Manager

RSVP: jim-milliken-training@worldnet.att.net

May 14 – The Downeaster

-- Lessons Learned and the Future
of Rail Passenger Service in Maine

Steve MacIsaac, Host

June 11 – Chapter Strategic Planning Meeting

Steve MacIsaac, Host

***Project of the Year program April 17
at USM – Be There!***

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