

“Region 6 Kicks on Route 66”
PMI Region 6 Spring Leadership Conference 2006

Theme-Connected Through Volunteers

The 2nd Annual PMI Region 6 Spring Leadership Conference was held in Oklahoma City March 31 – April 2, hosted by Red Earth PMI. The event, offering 11 PDUs, was attended by over 110 PMI Board Members and Volunteers from 18 of 20 Chapters and one SIG in the Region 6 area. The Meeting featured two keynote speakers and a variety of sessions of both local and national interest.

To start things off right, an informal reception was held in the Bricktown Brewery where attendees had a chance network in a relaxed environment. The Bricktown area was the former site of Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show.

The next morning, Chapter Presidents kicked off the meeting with brief presentations highlighting the achievements and vital statistics of their components. The leadership conference also focused on PMI Global by bringing in Anne Jenemann and Dan Tuten to talk about CTP & LMS. Anne later spoke on the topics of component handbook and policy guide. PMI International Board Member Martin VanDerSchouw representing PMI briefly discussed the role of the 15 PMI BoD, and offered to answer any issues and concerns that were on the minds of people in Region 6.

To help the local chapters better understand the needs of their members, Chuck Tryon handed out a survey during his talk on Modern Project Management. The survey was designed to draw out the “real” issues members face in the “real” world of project management. During lunch, keynote speaker Ellen Castro talked about how important trust is in any working relationship.

The break out sessions in the afternoon allowed chapter leaders to share best practices and lessons learned. Each board role had a chance to come up with its biggest challenge and brainstorm best solutions to solve issues. This information was then shared with the entire group of attendees.

One of the highlights of the leadership conference was the presentation given by Eric Wenger on the rejuvenation of Oklahoma City. Eric was the lead project manager for the multi-million dollar Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS) and MAPS for Kids efforts that brought life and a major face-lift to the city, along with new and remodeled schools and school services. Teresa Kleb then shared with the volunteer leaders her experiences in creating a North Houston Section to augment the long-established Houston chapter and provide a more geographically-friendly alternative to the long commute downtown.

Saturday evening was spent eating a leisurely buffet meal while listening to Mike Price discuss the state of PMI. This was followed by a rousing game of PM Jeopardy, hosted by Frank Saladis, President of the New York City chapter. Band and Dancing rounded out the night with a sighting of Elvis, and Elvis paraphernalia floating around!

Sunday morning started off bright and early with a presentation from AJ Collier of the Clear Lake/Galveston sharing lessons learned from their inaugural Seminar at Sea. Watch for details on next year's cruise. Clear Lake/Galveston will be teaming with the Houston chapter to expand upon this unique and rewarding experience.

The event was rounded out by Peter deJager. Peter spoke on change management with a fresh and unique perspective. His mantra: ‘people don't resist change, they resist *being changed*’. He had some fun examples to help prove his point.

For more on the highly successful Region 6 Leadership Conference, visit the website at www.pmirregion6.org. Next year's conference will be in beautiful Austin, Texas, hosted by the PMI Austin chapter.