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APICS Pittsburgh Chapter #31 Newsletter

July 2015

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Current Membership

APICS Pittsburgh Chapter:
372 members

New Members:

Daniel Beatty
Paul Meade Jr.
Sarah Shurina

APICS membership update: May membership totals came in at 42,605. New members totaled 1,290 and new student members totaled 356.

Dear Paul,

Here is the latest from the APICS Pittsburgh Chapter!

President's Message

With the new fiscal year starting for the Pittsburgh Chapter there are a few changes that have occurred to the Board of Directors. The elections resulted in Kevin Little moving to the Executive Vice President position formally held by Jack Martis. Jack will continue as Vice President of Education, which he has done admirably over the years. Filling the VP of Membership will be William (Bill) Geisler. Bill will leverage his experiences to lead in the creation of a new event, in addition to the normal PDM schedule, that will focus on job advice for transitional and student members. Please watch the newsletter and website for additional information as it is provided. Wendy Serapiglia has also accepted a general Board position. Wendy will be assisting all other areas where needed. Wendy brings a wealth of talent and energy so we would like her to get a feel for all the roles before setting into a standard position. Assisting Jan Hanchak, VP of Programs will be Duquesne University student Matthew Schuetz. Matt has worked with the chapter over the last two years as a liaison for to Duquesne Student Chapter. Joe Zambon will focus his efforts in assisting Dr. Matt Drake in building stronger Student Chapters. Please welcome the new Board Members in their new positions.



APICS 2015 international conference is scheduled of October 4-7 in Las Vegas. Early registration has ended but you can still register using the following link. <http://www.apics.org/events-landing-page-2015/2014/10/31/apics-2015>. I look forward to seeing other Pittsburgh Chapter members at the conference.

Let us know how we can improve. If you have any questions

Introducing the new SCOR Quick Reference App!

The APICS SCC Supply Chain Operations (SCOR) Framework is recognized as the worldwide standard for supply chain efficiency. The new [SCOR app](#) puts the power of the framework onto your phone. APICS SCC designed the mobile application to enable you to easily access the four main areas-process, performance, practices and people-or simply search for a level one or level two definition. It's easy to quickly view definitions and to understand the relationships between interrelated elements.

The SCOR app is available for 99¢ from iTunes and Google Play and all proceeds go toward APICS student programs. We encourage you to download the new app and to see for yourself how this valuable knowledge resource will strengthen the SCOR offering.

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING APICS EVENTS IN 2015



[APICS 2015](#)

October 5-7, 2015 | Las Vegas, Nevada

(If you need help

or comments, please feel free to contact me at 1-866 MY APICS extension 100 or thomassbrown@eaton.com.

Education

APICS Pittsburgh Chapter Upcoming Class Schedule

Detailed Scheduling and Planning

Special Pricing Applies

Dates: Friday, August 7 through August 21, 2015 (3 full day sessions)

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: NWIRC, Meadville, PA

Instructor: Jack Martis

Basics of Supply Chain Management

Dates: August 13, 27, Sept 3 (3 full day sessions)

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: MSA Safety, Murrysville, PA

Instructor: Jim Dobos

CSCP Exam Preparation Class

Dates: September 3 - November 12, 2015

Time: 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Location: Eaton Corporation, Moon Township, PA

Instructors: Jack Martis/Jim Arena

CSCP Exam Preparation Class

Dates: September 3 - November 12, 2015

Time: 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Location: Greensburg/New Stanton area

Instructor: Jim Dobos

Master Planning of Resources

Dates: TBD, starting early September, 2015

Time: 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Location: Bayer HealthCare, Indianola, PA

Instructor: Oda Bolden

Strategic Management of Resources

Dates: September 10 - October 29, 2015

Time: 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Location: Eaton Corporation, Moon Township, PA

Instructor: Kevin Kilmer

convincing your boss to go to APICS 2015, try [this!](#))

[Principles of S&OP - Chicago](#) August 20, 2015 | Chicago, IL

[Principles and Practices of MRP - Chicago](#) September 7, 2015 | Chicago, IL

[Principles and Practices of Demand Management - Chicago](#) October 22, 2015 | Chicago, IL

[Supply Chain Risk Management - Dubai](#) 18 November 2015 | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Visit apics.org/seminars to view upcoming APICS seminars. APICS 2015 conferences are presented by APICS and the APICS SCC.

About APICS 2015

APICS 2015 is the premier event for supply chain and operations management professionals.

Supply chain and operations management professionals are expected to achieve maximum productivity, meet consumer demand, and remain agile amid instability and unpredictability. Each year, the APICS annual conference offers relevant education, best practices, and thought leadership to help attendees lead their organizations and reach these goals.

Attend APICS 2015 to

- ADVANCE your knowledge with best practices to create more sustainable, resilient, strategic, and value-driven supply

Detailed Scheduling and Planning

Dates: September 17 - October 1, 2015 (3 full day sessions)

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: MSA Safety, Murrysville, PA

Instructor: Jim Dobos

Master Planning of Resources

Dates: September 29 - November 17, 2015

Time: 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Location: Eaton Corporation, Moon Township, PA

Instructor: Jack Martis

Execution and Control of Operations

Special Pricing Applies

Dates: Friday, October 2 through October 16, 2015 (3 full day sessions)

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: NWIRC, Meadville, PA

Instructor: Jack Martis

Strategic Management of Resources

Special Pricing Applies

Dates: Friday, December 4 through December 18, 2015 (3 full day sessions)

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: NWIRC, Meadville, PA

Instructor: Jack Martis

CPIM class fees are \$500 for APICS members, \$625 for non-members. CSCP class fee is \$1,600 for APICS members, \$1,900 for non-members.

If you are interested in any of these classes and have not already registered, please contact Jack Martis at jfm2620@comcast.net or call at 1-866-MY-APICS x102 or 724-331-0866. Also, we are always looking for organizations to host classes. If you're interested in bringing APICS education directly to your employee base, please contact me directly.

Special Savings on APICS SCOR® Professional Training

APICS Pittsburgh is your connection to APICS industry-leading training - preparing supply chain professionals and companies to perform at their peak. Companies that implement the Supply Chain Operations Reference (SCOR) model consistently realize measurable improvements in supply chain performance, driven by best practices and the most widely recognized standard for supply chain management.

APICS SCOR Professional (SCOR-P) endorsement enables

chains.

- ADVANCE your career by networking with professionals who are shaping the future of supply chain and operations management.
- ADVANCE your company by gaining innovative solutions and applying them in your organization.

APICS 2015 will attract more than 2,000 attendees from 40 countries, offering a vast range of learning and networking opportunities.

Do you have a CSCP Success Story?

Successful CSCPs can inspire other supply chain professionals with their message about how the CSCP has impacted their career and their company. If you have a success story you'd like to share, you can do it by accessing a simple online form: [CLICK HERE](#) Comments will be reviewed and some submissions will be developed into success stories that we'll post and share with the Pittsburgh Chapter network.

Introduction to Supply Chain Management - One Day Class

The Pittsburgh Chapter proudly announces our newest class offering, "Introduction to Supply Chain Management". This one day class is designed to provide an overview of a

individuals to:

- * Apply APICS SCOR model to establish benchmarks for evaluating supply chain effectiveness
- * Measure and manage a global supply chain to dramatically increase supply chain performance

Gain the knowledge to make SCOR a driving force of improvement.

APICS Pittsburgh customers receive \$100 USD off the price of SCOR-P public classes through the end of 2015. [Find a SCOR-P public class near you.](#) Register through www.apics.org and use the APICS Pittsburgh discount code: SCR1500052E9B to take advantage of this offer.

Learn more about the [APICS SCOR framework](#) and benefits of the [SCOR-P endorsement](#).

Center for Supply Chain Management Breakfast Event

Announcing the next Breakfast Networking and Informational Event, which is being organized by the Center for Supply Chain Management at the University of Pittsburgh.

The event is scheduled for Friday, September 8th from 7:00 am to 9:15 am at Alumni Hall, University of Pittsburgh. As in the last event, the first hour would be reserved for registration and networking. Subsequently, we will be having a case study presentation on reverse logistics. Representatives of Dell Computer and GENCO will present.

For more information, please contact Jack Martis at jfm2620@comcast.net or 1-866-MY-APICS x102.

Professional Development

2015 Professional Development Meeting Schedule

You can register for future PDMs by clicking on the highlighted Presentation information starting in August.

June to August	No PDMs due to Summer Break		
September 9, 2015	Rivertowne Pour House	Monroeville, PA	Brewing Tour and Discussion

number of important supply chain topics, such as the nature of planning, sales and operations planning, master scheduling material and capacity planning, inventory management and execution control and monitoring. We are offering this class on site to organizations who have a minimum of ten attendees. Potential candidates for the class include people who are new to the supply chain function, non-supply chain members of the organization looking for insight to the function, and anyone interested in the scope of the APICS Operations Management Body of Knowledge. A bound participant workbook is provided to each attendee, which will be a valuable resource to anyone interested in supply chain-related context, processes, and verbiage.

Special introductory pricing is \$2,500 for the first 10 people, \$200 per person for any additional attendees up to 20. If you're interested in bringing this class to your people or if you'd like more information, please contact Jack Martis, VP Education at jfm2620@comcast.net or call at 1-866-MY-APICS x102.

Reminder:

Just a reminder from the Pittsburgh Chapter Board of Directors regarding the policy on providing past PDM attendance confirmation evidence for the membership.

It has and will continue to be the responsibility of the attendee to keep proof of their attendance to PDMs. We (Pittsburgh Chapter

October 14, 2015	Eaton Crouse-Hinds	Washington, PA	Presentation and tour
November 11, 2015	USA Premier Pan	Crescent, PA	Presentation and Tour
December	No PDM due to the holidays		

Membership

APICS and AST&L Merge

Dear Member,

I'm very pleased to share exciting news. The merger of APICS and American Society of Transportation and Logistics (AST&L) is final.

The merger expands, extends and deepens the end-to-end supply chain body of knowledge that fuels APICS global supply chain research, education and certification programs. The merged organization offers unmatched content and subject matter expertise that will enable individuals and organizations to meet key supply chain challenges.

This agreement acknowledges the importance of transportation and logistics, and the tremendous innovation impacting delivery processes today. It also reflects our commitment to keeping our content and capabilities at the forefront of our industry, providing our members, customers and the supply chain community at large the most up-to-date, relevant and complete body of knowledge. This is a strategic combination that paves the way for us to fortify supply chain education and certification in the areas of transportation and logistics.

While we are excited about the possibilities ahead, our main objective is to continue to provide excellent service to our members and customers. Thank you for your support as we move forward with these exciting changes.

Best regards,

Abe Eshkenazi, CSCP, CPA,CAE
 Chief Executive Officer
 APICS | APICS Supply Chain Council
 8430 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 1000
 Chicago, Illinois 60631 USA

Networking Opportunity

APICS) offer receipts at the door and email confirmations during registration that should be acceptable. We (Pittsburgh Chapter APICS) are not unique, other professional originations such as PMI also puts the recording of attendance on the attendee. We (Pittsburgh Chapter APICS) really do not have an easy process to see if the member paid or how. That would be a manually intensive process.

PAPEN

PA Professional Employment Network
Serving the Western PA (USA) Region since 1994

Meetings every Monday

PAPEN North

Hampton Presbyterian Church,
2942 East Hardies Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044

9:30-11:30 AM

PAPEN South

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2040 Washington Road - Dining Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

7:00-9:00 PM

New APICS membership model in 2016

This summer, APICS will launch a new, tailored membership experience for our members. Our website will consult with each member at the time of membership renewal to discern his or her primary motivation for affiliating with APICS.

Based on this primary motivator, APICS will suggest a listing of "featured" benefits that are specifically tailored to help the member reach his or her stated goals. In addition, APICS will release a mobile app this summer to allow APICS members easy access to specific member benefits.

In summer 2016, APICS will begin offering tailored "benefit bundles" to individuals based on their motivator. Each member will be able to add additional benefits to his or her base benefits bundle as desired. Our intent is to provide APICS members with the

Featured PAPEN South Meeting

When: Monday, August 03, 2015 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Speaker: Amber Alke

Amber has an MBA and holds professional certifications in online marketing, cultural benchmarking, and contingent workforce management.

Description: Project Execution Network is a professional services and technology start up based in Pittsburgh, PA. We are dedicated to bridging the gap that exists between small and mid size businesses and the growing number micro service providers in today's business market. By recruiting highly skilled, professional, independent contractors and connecting them to SMB's and Fortune 1000 businesses utilizing our highly intuitive tools and technologies, we intend to create a network focused on executing high impact business development projects.

We are currently offering free charter memberships - on a limited basis - to independent professionals with skills in business, information technology, human resources, marketing, operations and sales, in an effort to build a robust network of independent professionals seeking project based engagements.

Please feel free to learn more about Project Execution Network by visiting our membership page at <http://membership.projectexecution.com/>.

Featured PAPEN North Meeting

When: Monday, August 03, 2015 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Speaker: Patrick Ferraro; CDC; Employer Relationship

specific tools needed to succeed at every stage of their careers.

APICS 2015 Scholars Program now open

Please remember student members that you can apply today to become an APICS 2015 Scholar.

The APICS Scholars Program gives students a chance to participate in APICS annual conferences. APICS Scholars network with industry professionals, attend educational and academic sessions tailored to their needs, and gain valuable knowledge about the supply chain industry.

The APICS Supply Chain Council sponsors a limited number of student members with complimentary conference registration to APICS 2015. Scholars also receive a stipend and hotel accommodations either fully or partially paid.

Learn more at apicsconference.org/students.



Chapter Management Excellence is an integral component to enhancing the member experience. Successful APICS chapters provide their members with opportunities for stellar

Consultant

Description:How to find and make the most use out of Executive Recruiters ---- Get on track regarding executive networking opportunities, how to find executive networking groups/individuals. Weekly accountability and network event sharing.

9:30 - 11:30; Meet in room 306 of HAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH on E. Hardies Rd in Hampton Twp.

APICS CPIM Test Preparation by Wendy M. Serapiglia, CSCP

In 2013, I completed the CSCP (Certified Supply Chain Specialist) program through self-study. While I was successful, the process of studying was long and difficult. Having the opportunity to take an instructor-led class for the first two CPIM sessions was invaluable and definitely increased my confidence level going into the initial two CPIM tests. There are a group of 6 of us from MSA that have been taking classes through the Local APICS Pittsburgh Chapter. Each session consists of 3 full day classes held one day per week.

For the BSCM (Basics of Supply Chain Management) I successfully took the exam about 5 weeks after we had completed the instructor led-sessions. For the MPR (Master Planning Resources), real life got in the way of studying and I procrastinated. We completed the instructor led classes in mid-March. I made the mistake of not beginning to study until April and ultimately took the test in late June. With such a long break from looking at the material, I had a lot of catching-up to do.

During my study efforts, I used three different tools to supplement my reading:

1. The APICS On-Line study information that is provided with the Instructor Led Courses
2. MPR Pocket Prep
3. APICS MPR Exam Simulator

APICS On-Line study (provided with Instructor Led classes)

Students that take instructor-led classes are given access to the CPIM On-Line study tool. This study tool has the following:

- Untimed Pre-Assessment Exam
- Solution Slides and Answer Keys to the problems presented in the Manuals
- Post -Assessment Exam Untimed
- Post -Assessment Exam Timed
- Post-Assessment Exam Explanations

education, career development, and networking.

The APICS Chapter Benchmarking and Recognition (CBAR) program recognizes chapters that have exceeded minimum standards and exemplify excellence in overall chapter management. We are proud to announce the APICS Pittsburgh Chapter received the 2014 CBAR Platinum Award designation, an admirable accomplishment for an APICS chapter.

As a member of an APICS Platinum Award Winning Chapter, the CBAR designation signifies your chapter's commitment to providing an exceptional membership experience.

Quick Links

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[Job Postings](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Phone Number: 1 866 MY APICS

(leave a message based on your question or comment and a Board Member will call you back)

The On-Line study tool provided a great basic way to enforce what you learned in the instructor led class. The level of difficulty in the Post Assessment questions is very comparable to the actual exam.

The tool itself is not as sophisticated as the On-Line study Program for the CSCP Self Study. It's a bit clumsy in how you access it, and there are only a limited number of questions in the test banks. The Post Exam Timed and the Post Exam Untimed seem to pull from the same bank of questions. If you are someone that remembers a question and answer once you've seen it one time, you may become frustrated with the limited variety of questions. However, this is "free" once you've signed up for the instructor-led class, it's a nice tool to use.

MPR Pocket Prep

I found MPR Pocket Prep was one of the most convenient ways for me to study. The application can be downloaded from your iTunes or other application store to your mobile device. I could do a quick practice test while eating lunch or at my son's karate lesson.

There are several nice features to the Pocket Prep program:

Practice screen - Here you can create custom exams. You can specify whether you want the answers to show as you go or at the end of the test. You can also designate the number of questions that you want to review. For MPR, you could designate whether you wanted questions on all four of the categories: Demand Management, Distribution Planning, Master Scheduling, Sales & Operations Planning. When I needed to focus just on the Master Scheduling part, I could have the source of my test be only questions that were associated with Master Scheduling.

QOTD Question of the Day - Each day there would be a random question that would be generated for you to practice with. The application would send an alert to your phone to prompt you to answer the QOTD.

Reminders - You could also use the settings to allow the application to prompt you to study at a specific time. For better or worse, the application will also send you an alert if you haven't studied recently!

History - On the history button, the application keeps track of all of the tests that you've done and the overall percentages for each of the four categories for MPR. It's nice to see improvement in the scores.

The free version gives you 50 questions and then you can open up the remaining questions for a total of 220 test bank questions for \$19.99.

While this is not an APICS product offering, the content was

comparable to the content in the other two methods of study. The level of difficulty on the MPR Pocket Prep questions was very close to the level of difficulty to that of the actual exam.

APICS MPR Exam Simulator

The APICS MPR Exam Simulator is available for purchase from apics.org at a member cost of \$47. The Simulator is broken out into three sections: Self-paced Practice Exam, a Timed Practice Exam and a Timed Final Exam.

The Self-paced practice exam and the timed practice exam appear to pull from the same bank of questions. There are greater than 50 questions in this test bank, as you will see a few differences between the Self-Paced and Timed Practice exams.

As soon as you click on the answer for the Self-Paced Practice exam, the program will show you whether your answer was correct or incorrect. There is also a link for you to click on a rough explanation or background for the question. These explanations are a bit vague, but will point you in the right direction.

The third part of the APICS MPR Exam Simulator program was the Final Exam. This was the section that caused me significant consternation due to the high level of difficulty of the questions. Frankly, I never did pass the MPR Final Exam Simulator, but I did pass the actual MPR test with a reasonably good score. Another downside to this portion of the program is that you never know the correct answers on the Final Exam Simulator. I can understand the rationale for setting it up this way, but it didn't help as much in my studying efforts.

My recommendations:

If you have the chance to take an instructor-led course, this will significantly aid your likelihood of success in taking the CPIM tests and will definitely increase your level of confidence in your preparation. My favorite and most convenient option for studying was the MPR Pocket Prep. Even though the MPR Exam Simulator program put me through the ringer with the level of difficulty of the questions, I'll still buy the DSP Exam Simulator to have the additional questions and practice.

Most importantly - make sure that you thoroughly understand the general concepts. Having that solid foundation will increase the likelihood of success in passing the exams.

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