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ABPMP Chapters Becoming Active

In November of 2003 we described the establishment of a new organization, the Association of Business Process Management Professionals (ABPMP), a non-profit, vendor independent professional organization dedicated to the advancement of business process management concepts and practices. The founders of ABPMP hope to expand the ABPMP to an international organization with chapters in major cities around the world.

It isn't easy getting a new international professional organization started. It takes time and lots of work on the part of volunteers, all of whom have many other responsibilities. However, ABPMP is generating lots of interest among BP practitioners and the Association is growing.

The ABPMP organization was established in Chicago in 2003. Thus, it makes sense that the first active chapter would be the Chicago chapter. The president of the Chicago chapter is David Heidt, (ChicagoPresident@abpmp.org) of BeggsHeidt Enterprise Consulting. The chapter holds half-day meetings on the third Thursdays of odd-numbered months. So far, the Chicago chapter has heard presentations from Howard Smith, author of *Business Process Management: The Third Wave* and CTO EMEA for CSC, John Parkinson, CTO America of CGEY, Brett Champlin, President of ABPMP, and other local speakers.

The next meeting of the Chicago chapter will be May 27th. Pat Dowdle, chair of the Process-Based Management Research Program of CAM-I (Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing International) and President, Process Advantage, Inc. will be the speaker. (See www.abpmp.org/Chicago/ for details and registration.)

Recently, two more chapters have become active. The Bay Area chapter, representing BP practitioners from San Jose, San Francisco, the East Bay and Marin has held two meetings, and selected Keith Mattioli of CSC as acting president (kmattioli@csc.com). In an effort to understand the concerns of the members, the second meeting of the Bay Area chapter, which meets in the evenings, heard short presentations from Keith Mattioli of CSC, Ken Pulverman of Siebel, and Steve Stephansen of WebV2. The chapter is just getting underway with a big push leading up to the June Brainstorm BPM

conference in San Francisco. Our goal is to use the conference as a launching pad for increased membership in the San Francisco/San Jose/Bay Area chapter. The chapter's next meeting is scheduled for April 29th in San Bruno. Ismael Ghalimi, Director and Chair of BPMI.org. will be speaking on the State of BPM. We will also have presentations from three of our members providing their points-of view on BPM. If you would like more details, please contact Keith Mattioli at kmattioli@csc.com.

A third chapter has begun to meet in Philadelphia. Trevor Naidoo, Director of Consulting Services, IDS Scheer, has become the president of the Philadelphia chapter. (T.Naidoo@ids-scheer.com). The Philadelphia chapter meets quarterly in the evenings. Their next meeting is scheduled for May 20th at 6:30pm. Tom Davenport, one of the leading figures in Business Process Improvement, will address this meeting.

In addition to these chapters, ABPMP members in Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, New York, and Toronto are working to set up local chapters.

Meanwhile, the national board has been busy with a several new initiatives: (1) developing a new website which will provide online membership applications, (2) developing a process model for chapter operations, (3) producing a New Chapter Startup Kit, (4) developing a professional code of ethics and good conduct, (5) setting up committees to develop a common body of knowledge, (6) developing a professional certification program and a BPM Maturity Model, and more. The board has also arranged member discounts to BPM conferences including the BrainStorm Group's BPM Conference Series, DCI's BPM conferences and seminars, IQPC's BPM Seminar, and others. Most importantly, the board is working hard to build communications and relationships with all of the other organizations, associations, academic institutions and influential individuals in the BPM arena and to establish ABPMP as a focal point for BP professionals.

The president of the international ABPMP is Brett Champlin of Allstate Insurance Company. (president@abpmp.org). Brett is also co-chair of this year's Brainstorm Business Process Management Conference Series that will be held in Chicago on April 13-14, San Francisco on June 22-23, and New York on November 3-4.

I've been attending the Bay Area ABPMP meetings in San Francisco and have already made several valuable contacts and heard some interesting new ideas from the presentations and discussions at the last meeting. The interest in business process management and improvement is growing rapidly. Joining a local group in order to exchange information with other practitioners is a well-established way of filling the need for up-to-date information and practical advice. ABPMP plans to fulfill

that need for BP practitioners in the years ahead.

If you are in the Chicago area, the Philadelphia area, or the Bay area, you should contact the local chapter presidents for information about the next meeting. If you live anywhere else, you should contact Brett Champlin (president@abpmp.org) about joining the ABPMP or about working with others to form a local chapter in your area.

For more information about ABPMP, check their website at www.abpmp.org.

Till next time,

Paul Harmon

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