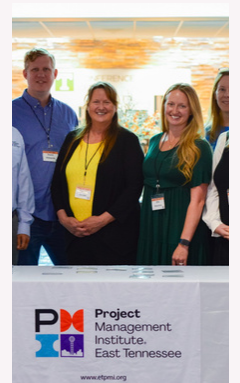
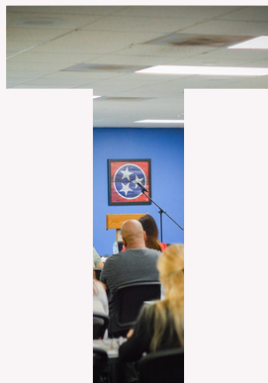
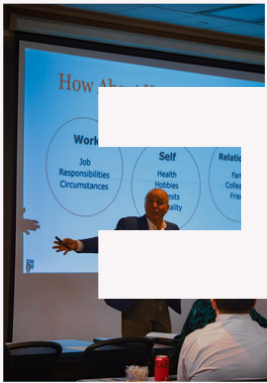




East TN PMI *pdd* 2025 CONFERENCE



OCTOBER 14, 2025

600 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

Thank You to Our Supporters

Happy Hour Sponsor



Table Sponsors

StaffSource



Ready, Set, Grow: Enhance Excellence and Expand Horizons

Program Layout

Welcome

Your ETPMI Board

Join ETPMI

Volunteer

Agenda

Keynote Speakers

Session Descriptions

Feedback

WELCOME

Welcome to the East Tennessee PMI Professional Development Day 2025!

We are pleased to have you with us today. Within this booklet, you will find essential information about today's agenda, our sponsors, raffle prizes, and details on how to join our chapter.

We will begin the day with a welcome and a light breakfast, followed by an engaging lineup of speakers, networking opportunities, lunch, and breakout sessions.

This event presents an excellent opportunity to network and explore innovative ideas and concepts related to project management.

We hope you have a rewarding experience today. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to one of our board members, who will be available throughout the event and introduced as we commence.

The ETPMI Board

YOUR ETPMI BOARD

ETPMI is governed by a rotating Board of Directors that is elected by the ETPMI membership on an annual basis.

President

David Olds

Vice President, Marketing

Iwona Montgomery

Immediate Past President

Connie Inman

Vice President, Finance

Maranda Brock

Vice President, Governance & Policy

Anneliese Mondorf

Director, Programs

Christina Cieri

Vice President, Membership

Janet Miles

- **Director:** Joseph Stoppelbein

Director, Corporate Outreach

Ivy Estes

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Melanie Geenen

Director, Analytics & Reporting

Christopher Colvin

Vice President, Technology & Communications

Gautam Bhatia

Military Liaison

Scott Byers

Vice President, Administration

David Edwards

- **Director:** Steven McClaugherty

Vice President, Volunteers

Steven Downey

- **Director:** Aarti Pradeep

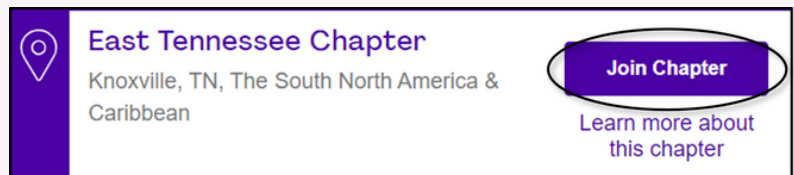
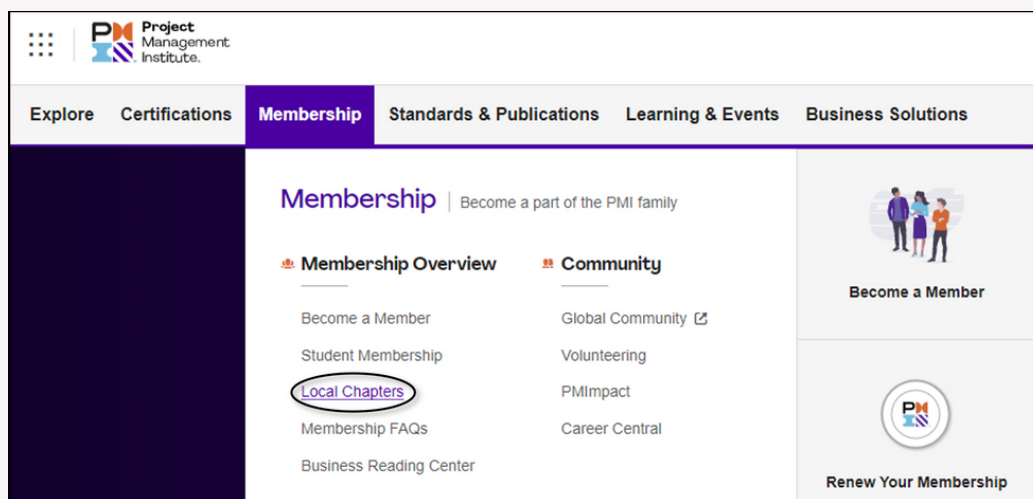
JOIN ETPMI

Your local chapter is at the heart of your membership. You can connect with others locally or virtually to achieve great strides in your career and in your industry. Share solutions and ideas while enjoying professional development and networking events.

Member Benefits

Take advantage of the many chapter opportunities for you to:

- **Connect:** Meet fellow project managers at chapter-sponsored events and monthly meetings. Build your professional network and gain insider connections at companies in your area who can help you find new opportunities.
- **Develop:** Continue to be relevant and stay up-to-date on emerging trends in the project management field. As the project management field changes with the demand of new skills, chapters provide opportunities to upskill and advance your professional development.
- **Give Back:** Social activities organized by your chapter enable project managers to drive change. You can make an impact by dedicating your skills, expertise and time to help your local community.



VOLUNTEER WITH PMI

Support the local Project Management community by volunteering today!

ETPMI has a variety of open positions, including upcoming board positions. Time investments range from specific short-term projects to VP and Director positions.

Board elections are held annually for two-year terms, with duties to begin the following January. PMI Global will be sending voting links and details via email to all ETPMI members.

Open positions for the 2026-2027 term include:

- President
- VP of Operations
- Membership
- Communications



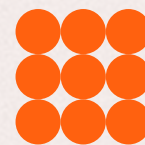
Learn from other experts in your area

Take advantage of professional & career development



Appointed

- Community Engagement
 - This role will be elected for 2027-2028, along with Finance and Professional Development



Grow your professional network

Benefits of Volunteering

- Build your professional network by forging new relationships with other project management professionals.
- Earn PDUs annually to apply toward your certification renewal requirements.
- Share your project management knowledge with others and broaden the scope of community knowledge.
- Gain skills and experience, including leadership, collaboration, and team-building skills to enhance your resume.

Getting Started is Easy!

Simply fill out a short Volunteer Application form at:
<https://etpmi.org/volunteer-application>

For all questions, contact: Volunteers@etpmi.org

PDD 2025 AGENDA



Event	Location	Time
Breakfast, Registration & Welcome	Atrium	8:00 - 8:30 am
Keynote: As the Pentagon Burned; Leadership and Human Excellence in the Face of the 9/11 Attack Speaker: Ambassador (Ret.) Matthew S. Klimow	Ballroom	8:30 - 10:00 am
BREAK		10:00 - 10:15 am
Breakout Sessions: - Communicate to Connect: Elevating Stakeholder and Team Engagement – Amy McCarroll - From Boomers to Zoomers – Tanisha Baker - Organizational Culture Change – Chris Whaley	403 406 400 A	10:15 - 11:15 am
LUNCH	404 A	11:15 am - 12:15 pm
AI Panel Discussion The Future of AI in Project Management Panelists: Barbara Wing (Clayton Homes), Gary Jackson (Qualex Consulting), Jared Meredith (Red Stag Fulfillment), Russ James (Tennesyn)	Ballroom	12:15 - 1:45 pm
Keynote: Ready, Set, Grow. Practical strategies to unlock personal and professional growth Speaker: Dr. Kelly Drummond	Ballroom	1:45 - 3:15 pm
BREAK		3:15 - 3:30 pm
Breakout Sessions: - Tactical to Transformational: Elevating Your Influence – John Newcomb - How PMs Can Design Their Own Next Chapter – Tom Kirkpatrick - Conflict to Collaboration: Turning Tension into Project Results – Michael Smith-Porter	403 406 400A	3:30 - 4:30 pm
Happy Hour & Prizes	Atrium	4:30 - 5:30 pm

Keynote Speakers



Ambassador (retired)
Matthew S. Klimow

Ambassador Klimow served his country with distinction for over 50 years as a soldier and diplomat. A West Point graduate, he commanded infantry troops at every level from platoon to brigade and was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in combat. As a diplomat he served as Special Advisor to the Vice President of the United States, a Deputy Assistant Secretary General of NATO, and for five years, the United States Ambassador to Turkmenistan until his retirement in 2024.



Dr. Kelly Drummond

Dr. Kelly Drummond is a seasoned expert in Human Resources with over 35 year of progressive HR leadership, certified by both the HR Certification Institute and the Society for Human Resource Management. As the Director of Human Resources for the City of Knoxville, she leads a comprehensive range of HR functions, including compensation, talent acquisition, employee training, and succession planning. In addition to her HR leadership role, Dr. Drummond is a dedicated educator. She teaches at the UT Center for Professional Education and facilitates SHRM Certification and HR Essentials courses at Roane State Community College. She holds a doctorate in Education with a focus on Human Resource Development from Lincoln Memorial University.

Dr. Kelly Drummond is the founder of My Soul In Bloom, providing career, professional, and personal development services for high achievers and driven individuals who want to live, work, and grow in their soul's purpose. A Board-Certified Coach (BCC), Dr. Drummond specializes in empowering professionals to find deeper fulfillment and authentic success in both career and life.

Session Descriptions

As the Pentagon Burned; Leadership and Human Excellence in the Face of the 9/11 Attack

Those old enough to remember the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 have a story to tell, but few can claim to have been at the center of the storm. Our Key Note Speaker, the Honorable Matthew S. Klimow, retired Army Colonel and former United States Ambassador, transports us into the heart of the Pentagon on 9/11—the National Military Command Center—where he served as the Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Matt will give us a firsthand account of the initial shock and chaotic moments after Flight 77 slammed into the Pentagon, and how America's senior leaders struggled to understand and then respond to events.

PDU Claim # 0070PNZ32P

Ready, Set, Grow

For project managers who aspire to lead their teams with greater emotional intelligence, this dynamic presentation combines actionable content with interactive activities, giving participants real-time opportunities to reflect, engage, and connect. Through assessments and team-building exercises, you'll learn practical tools for improving trust, communication, and collaboration—core elements for thriving, resilient project teams.

This session will empower you to align personal purpose with professional impact, fostering a culture where each team member feels valued and motivated. Whether you're seeking new ways to resolve conflict, deepen relationships, or elevate performance, this experience offers the insights and energy needed to transform your leadership approach. Step away with confidence, ready to inspire both yourself and your team to flourish with passion and peace.

PDU Claim #007005VVMJ

Session Descriptions



Amy McCarroll

Communicate to Connect: Elevating Stakeholder and Team Engagement

Effective communication fuels project success and organizational excellence. In this session, you will explore practical strategies to enhance communication with stakeholders, employees, and clients, while also strengthening your own self-awareness and public speaking skills. Learn how to improve clarity, build trust, and foster meaningful connections that drive project success.

PDU Claim #00709PQ4U5



Tanisha Baker

From Boomers to Zoomers

From “Boomers to Zoomers” highlights multigenerational dynamics in the workplace. Today’s workforce is more generationally diverse than ever before. From the tradition-driven Boomers to the tech-native Zoomers, each group brings unique perspectives, strengths, and expectations to the workplace. Connecting the “tried and true” to the “now and new” can be challenging without intentional efforts toward bridging the generational divide. In this interactive session, participants will explore the core traits, communication styles, and workplace values of each generation. Through real-world scenarios and strategies, uncover how to reduce friction, foster mutual respect, and tap into the full potential of multigenerational teams.

Key Takeaways Include:

- Power Skills (Leadership): Leading blended generational teams through empathy, flexibility, expectations, and effective communication
- Ways of Working; Adapting leadership, expectations, and communication to multigenerational team dynamics
- Business Acumen: Understanding how blended generations impact workplace culture and performance

PDU Claim #00705LW20D



Chris Whaley

A Case Study in Organizational Culture Change

“Culture eats strategy for breakfast” is a well known statement attributed to Peter Drucker. Some organizations build a specific culture fit-for purpose from their start. Other times, companies find they either do not have a coherent culture or have one that no longer serves the needs of the business. This session explores the basics of organizational culture and change management. A case study of a multi-billion euro business illustrates how the two topics can be effectively employed to create business value and improve employee experience.

Key Takeaways Include:

- Understand the basics of organizational culture
- Review the fundamentals of organizational change management
- Learn from a case study of Royal Philips

PDU Claim #0070TEXFLS

Session Descriptions



John Newcomb

Tactical To Transformational: Elevating Your Influence

All of us would like to be more impactful in our organizations. As project managers, very often we are more about the tactical execution than about the becoming a strategic influencer. In this presentation we'll explore the traditional nature of project management and contrast that with some strategies for becoming a transformational influencer while building our executive presence.

PDU Claim #0070EVGNUN



Tom Kirkpatrick

How Project Managers Can Design Their Own Next Chapter

Your PMP toolkit isn't just for delivering projects, it's a career superpower. In this session, we'll explore how planning, risk management, and stakeholder engagement skills can help you lead more effectively in your current role and open doors to new opportunities when the time is right. Using my own journey from corporate PM to business owner as a case study, I'll share practical lessons to help you grow, adapt, and create impact wherever your path leads.

PDU Claim #0070NCUWFU



Michael
Smith-Porter

Conflict to Collaboration: Turning Tension into Project Results

Conflict is a natural part of project management — arising from competing priorities, shifting stakeholder expectations, and the pressure of tight timelines — but it doesn't have to be destructive. In this interactive session, you'll learn how to transform tension into opportunities for growth, trust, and collaboration.

You'll walk away able to:

- Reframe conflict as energy that can be redirected toward shared goals.
- Use appreciative inquiry to uncover common ground and break down silos.
- Apply a clear framework to coach teams through disagreements and keep projects on track.

By the end, you'll be prepared to turn friction into forward momentum.

PDU Claim #00705DPZJI

Session Descriptions

AI Panel Discussion

The panelists will explore the transformative potential of AI in project management, highlighting the challenges project managers face when integrating AI into their workflows and how they can overcome them. They will also discuss how AI can improve project planning, forecasting accuracy, and risk management. Ethical considerations, the balance between AI and human judgment, and the skills needed for project managers to leverage AI effectively will also be covered. Additional topics such as how AI can enhance team collaboration and communication, as well as how to measure the success and ROI of AI implementations will be covered. And they will explore the management of AI projects versus traditional software projects and whether certain methodologies (like lean or agile) are more suited to using AI in the project management process.

PDU Claim #007004WMNB

PANELISTS



Barbara Wing

Internal Audit, Director
Clayton Homes



Gary Jackson

VP AI Modernization
Qualex Consulting Services



Jared Meredith

Sr. Dir., Engineering &
Architecture
Red Stag Fulfillment



Russ James

Founder & Principal Consultant
Tennesyn

FACILITATOR



Marcus Blair

Founder
Omega Business Solutions

FEEDBACK

We would love to receive your feedback about the event. Please scan the QR code below to respond.

