



Hello to all of our members, prospective members and followers! What a year! This year will be forever remembered for COVID-19 & social injustice and PMI Buffalo's **25**th anniversary!. Last year at this time we were fearless, nurturing and optimistic about what we had in store for 2020. We had just introduced a new board, logo and website. We shared stories from our past presidents and announced the great events we had planned.

### **Then the world changed**

My next message to our membership on March 9th, had an entirely different tone. It talked about the COVID-19 situation which was rapidly evolving. It talked about uncharted territory, travel restrictions, event cancellations, and disruptions with planned engagements. We held our last in person event on March 10th.

We quickly pivoted and 5 days later, we canceled the PMP Prep, all breakfast meetings, and the spring Professional Development Day and moved our dinner meetings online for the first time in our history. We shared information from the CDC, and PMI membership hardship assistance through [customercare@pmi.org](mailto:customercare@pmi.org) (which is still offering assistance today).

In May & June we acknowledged the pain of racism which threatens to tear our city of good neighbors apart. We recognized the hurt and pleaded for peace and a moment of silence. We called on project managers to be the change agents for our community.

Over the summer we did just that! In August, we shared our bikes and dollars as the PMs Ride for Roswell raising over \$2,000 and our weight in food by donating over 400 pounds to FeedMore WNY through our social good program.

### **We carried on!**

Throughout 2020, we carried on. We held every scheduled dinner meeting (with the most total attendance of any year since we started counting), a PMP Prep class, a PMI-ACP prep class and our first ever all virtual Professional Development day totalling over **20** PDUs by my count!

And - yes - we celebrated our **25**th anniversary! Sure - it was virtual, but we were graced with leadership from the global organization and Nancy Mingus who took us on a fantastic walk through our history. And still gave away bottles of wine and \$25 gift cards.

We also continued to give back by sponsoring a brick for the Ronald McDonald house, participating in the Future City competition, sponsoring the project manager of the year in

partnership with InfoTech WNY, awarded the Steve Tunmore scholarship and developed a project management basics course for non-profits in conjunction with the United Way.

### And the beat goes on.

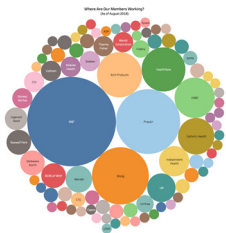
While we continued with the member-focused initiatives above, another side of the Board's work is internal and largely unseen. This work was even more important this year as we drew upon the financial reserves our past boards diligently saved for hardships like 2020 and focused on remaining a viable, operational organization. We continued marketing, reviewing chapter analytics, adhering to financial principles and leveraging technology. While the details are too numerous to mention, I can say this - the PMI Buffalo chapter continues to have a strong balance sheet with necessary reserves, the right technology to meet our needs and a commitment to succession and transition planning through uniform record keeping.

As we look to the future, we take a moment to thank **Mary Harris** - one of our longest serving Board members, **Erin Keding**, **Tony Pappagallo**, **Pat Walsh**, **Julie Lang**, and **Sreeni Gadhar** for their time on the Board. Their contribution, however large or small, is imprinted on this chapter. Thank-you!

**NOW** we look to the future! We welcome **Sara Creenan** - our VP of Professional Development, **Dan Augustynak** - our VP of Technology, **Angela Korczynski** - our VP of Finance, **Jeff Raugh** - our VP of Marketing and **Kirk Brauch** - our VP of Certification! All joined the Board this year alongside **Christa Jueckstock**, **Susan Czyrny** and our Trustees JoAnn Boehm & Ellen Hagerty. We have a dream team!!

### Let's be bold

As we dive into 2021, let's do our part to reduce the spread of Covid-19 & get vaccinated when available. Let's be bold about our future and lean into what comes next, because hope springs eternal!



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**Our mission is simple** - to provide a forum to promote PMI standards and to strengthen stakeholders' knowledge, awareness and understanding of Project Management principles, tools and techniques. **I hope you make our mission - your mission.**

