



Special Announcement - Logistics

We hope you enjoyed **APLN Houston's** new meeting venue at Sysco Corporation, 1390 Enclave Parkway. Meetings will now be the third Thursday, with networking at 6 PM and the program from 6:30-7:30.

Parking is available in front of the buildings (1370 & 1390). To park in the garage off Forkland Dr. [press the call button](#) for entry, park and walk around the street to the front of 1390.

Please help us speed check in by registering for the meeting at least 24 hrs in advance.

Win an iPhone!

TEKsystems has generously donated an iPhone as the August door prize. Come try your luck at our drawing!

You must pre-register and be present to win.

A minimum of 45 people must attend to award the door prize.

Events

8/20/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Managing the Human Dynamics of Change



Join **Don Minnick** of Interpersonal Skills Laboratory to learn how to address the natural resistance to change and the type of leadership companies need to successfully manage any change initiative.

Each of us, at one time or another, has wrestled unsuccessfully with some change initiative. We're experienced at the technology of change. Why then does research show that more than half of all change initiatives fail?

Donald J. Minnick, Ph.D. has provided organization consulting, leadership development and succession planning, executive coaching, team facilitation, change management, and training design and delivery to organizations for over 25 years. With a broad background in individual, organization/system dynamics, he has served a wide spectrum of clients.

Please preregister by Aug 19 at: <http://aplnhouston20090820.eventbrite.com/>

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9/17/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Join us for our 1 Year Birthday Bash!

The Dancing Agile Elephant Meets Collaborative Leadership

Twenty-five thousand developers transitioning to Agile? How does that happen?

Join **Pollyanna Pixton**, Principal at Accelinnova and **Sue McKinney**, VP of Development Transformation at IBM as they discuss the enterprise wide adoption of agile practices at IBM. Learn how to inspire and motivate change in large organizations steeped in tradition, identify change agents, and discover the tools needed to enable the masses.

Please register at: <http://aplnhouston20090917.eventbrite.com/>

Mark Your Calendars! Date Changed!

10/22/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Due to a schedule conflict with Sysco's auditorium, the October meeting of **APLN Houston** is moving to the 4th Thursday.

October 22, 2009 at 6:00pm.

This change is effective only for October only.



August 2009 Newsletter

8/5-8/7/09 – Practical Product Management – Houston, TX

Practical Product Management fully explores the role of technology product management with tools and processes designed to bring products to market more efficiently and effectively. Emphasizing market-driven techniques, this seminar analyzes critical product management and marketing activities in detail using the Pragmatic Marketing Framework, offering tips for how to be effective at the strategic elements and how to manage multiple tactical tasks.

http://seminars.pragmaticmarketing.com/schedule_by_date.asp

8/11-8/12/09 – ASPE Certified ScrumMaster Workshop – Houston, TX

Learn, understand and execute on the three overarching principles behind Scrum: iterative development, self-management, and visibility. After successfully completing this class, participants will be registered with the Scrum Alliance (sm) as Certified Scrum Masters.

Collaborating & Communicating Agile Requirements - ASPE 8/24-8/25 - Austin, TX 8/17-8/20 Virtual

Learn to save time and develop better software that really meets users' needs.

Use discount code **VersionOne** to get a 20% discount on either ASPE registration at <http://www.aspe-sdlc.com/courses/4400/index.html>

9/14-9/15/09 - Certified ScrumMaster Training with Sanjiv Augustine - Houston, TX Additional dates 10/14-15 and 12/8-9

Learn the essential concepts and tools of Scrum, differences between agile processes and traditional "waterfall" methodologies, and how to build a roadmap for adopting. Learn how to lead development teams towards agile operations by: managing product backlogs, planning releases and sprints, tracking and reporting progress, and conducting retrospectives. . On completion, participants are registered as CSMs, with a one-year membership in the Scrum Alliance.

Use code **APLN** to get a 20% discount at http://www.lithespeed.com/CSM_Detail.htm.

8/7/09 – Entrepreneur Camp Houston (HTC)

Participate in a community-driven un-conference with the goal of bringing together entrepreneurs, investors, VC's, business leaders, and anyone interested in starting a business to network, share ideas, and explore opportunities.

For additional details and preregister visit: <http://entrepreneurecamp.eventbrite.com/>

8/11-8/12/09 – Winnow Certified ScrumMaster Workshop – Houston, TX

Peter Borsella's SCM class is suitable for those practicing or looking to practice the art of the ScrumMaster, but is highly valuable for anyone involved in Scrum (Managers, Team Members, Product Managers, etc.). While no experience is necessary, attendees should have some familiarity with Scrum.

Use discount code **APLN\$D** to get a \$150 discount from Winnow Management. <http://www.winnowmanagement.com/classDetailsCSM.php?id=285>

Advanced Superperformance Workshops: "Super Projects Boot Camp" with Dave Guerra – Houston

- 9/21/09 – Introduction to Superperformance**
- 9/22/09 – Understanding Super Projects**
- 9/23/09 – Leveraging Agile Principles**
- 9/24/09 – Management Habits of Superperformance**
- 9/25/09 – Leadership Habits of Superperformance**

Learn to transform Projects into Super Projects through a more agile and dynamic paradigm which considers leadership and personal relationships as important as schedules, milestones, and budgets. Super Projects are defined by their outcomes - and their cultures. For details on this weeklong boot camp from Corpus Optima and Alphaware Training Centers see <http://corpusoptima.com/seminars>

8/31/09-5/11/10 Project Management Training 9/3-12/18/09 Business Analyst Training

University of Houston-Clear Lake and PMCentersUSA are currently offering 20% off on all tracks. Register in July and pay by August 31, for an additional 5% off. Use Discount Code: **UHCLFall095***. (Classes are Six Weeks Apart) <http://www.pmcentersusa.com/RegisterNow/tabid/134/Default.aspx>

9/26/09 Houston TechFest 2009 – 8am – 6pm

The 2009 TechFest will be held at University of Houston, University Center on Sat, Sept. 26. TechFest's are about the community at large. They are meant to be a place for developers AND IT Professionals to come and learn from their peers. Topics are always based on community interest. Look for the APLNH members assisting with the Agile track.

[Going From Good to Great in the IT Project World](#) by Dave Guerra

[Maturing Your Organization's Agile Adoption](#)
by Bryan Campbell and Robbie Mac Iver

[What's This Thing Called Agility?](#) by Robbie Mac Iver

[Building the Business Case for IT Projects](#) by Barbara Brown

For program information and registration:
<http://houstontechfest.com/dotnetnuke/Home/tabid/37/Default.aspx>

Collaborative Leadership: A Secret to Agile Success

Watch our September speaker **Pollyanna Pixton's** keynote address to the **2008 Agile Development Practices Conference**.

<http://www.stickyminds.com/Media/Video/Detail.aspx?WebPage=128>

When members of a development project are asked to become a self-directed agile team, some claim that leadership and leaders are obsolete. Or, is a different type of leadership exactly what agile teams need to truly flourish?

Pollyanna Pixton's collaborative principles will empower you and everyone on your team to become better leaders and deliver the business value that stakeholders deserve.

Agile Leadership Summit

11/9-11/13/09 – Co-located at Agile Development Practices Conference – Orlando, FL
www.sqe.com/agiledevpractices/Default.aspx



Agile2009 Conference

Making Agile Real

Agile 2009 (Aug 24-28) will be an exciting international conference about techniques and technologies, attitudes and policies, research and first-hand experience, from both the management and technical sides of agile software development. The agile approach focuses on delivering business value early in the project lifetime and being able to incorporate emergent requirements. It accentuates the use of rich, informal communication channels and frequent delivery of running, tested systems, while attending to the human component of software development.

For more details and registration visit:
<http://agile2009.agilealliance.org/>

Articles-of-the-Month

[Living in an Agile World](#) by Steve Johnson, Luke Hohmann and Rich Mironov

You may download info on the Strategic Role of Product Management When Development Goes Agile describing the yin-yang of APO-APM at http://www.pragmaticmarketing.com/pdf/Living_in_an_Agile_World.pdf

[Timing Matters in Managing Change](#) by Naomi Karten from StickyMinds.com

Examine how the timing of a change effort can significantly influence how readily people accept the change and adjust to it.

www.stickyminds.com/r.asp?F=W15099

["Avoiding Catastrophic Software Failures during Rapid Development and Deployment Cycle."](#)

How can you reduce the probability of deploying catastrophic software defects during rapid software development and deployment cycles?

<http://www.stickyminds.com/WNGSSoft7709>

[Lean-Software Development](#) – Online Course recordings available August 16 (FREE)
www.netobjectives.com/lean-software-development-online-re-broadcast

[Differences in Beliefs Results in Differences in Approach](#) – see blog by Alan Shalloway

Thanks to Our Sponsors

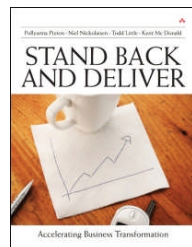
Please join APLNH in thanking the following sponsors for their generous support.



Thanks to **TEKsystems** for providing the July meal. Visit www.teksystems.com.

APLNH appreciates **Sysco's** continuing support in hosting our meetings.

Thanks to **Triad Resources** for donating the July door prize. Congratulations to **Brenda Giddings** on winning the 2 Astros tickets. Visit www.triadresources.com.



Winning copies of Todd Little's new book [Stand Back and Deliver](#) were **Medhat Karkour** and **Ricardo Granie**. Both books were donated by the [Pearson Education User Group Program](#).

Additional winners of "agile-ware" donated by Todd Little were **Walter Milke**, **Barbara Brown**, **Evelyn Ona**, **Sudev Vasudevan** and **Elizabeth K**. Thanks Todd.

To become a sponsor, contact a member of the leadership team.

Don't Miss Out – Make Your Voice Heard Too!

Join and participate in our LinkedIn Group today!



Search the LinkedIn group directory for APLN Houston.

APLN Houston Leadership Team

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Risk and Risk Management

Thanks to Todd Little for a thought provoking July program. Review his presentation at <http://www.aplnhouston.org/documents/Presentations/ToddLittle-Risk%20Management-20090716.ppt#484,5,New Product Development>

Also look for Todd at the Agile 2009 Conference.

APLN Member Services

Visit the new APLN Houston website!

We have updated the website. Check it out! We'd appreciate your comments and feedback. www.APLNHouston.org

User Group Discount Programs!

APLNH is a member of the **Pearson Education User Group Program!** Receive **up to 35% off** from informIT.com and their partner imprint sites (ciscopress.com and ibmpressbooks.com)!

APLNH has just established a similar program with **O'Reilly**. See the website for details.

For registration instructions visit: <http://aplnhouston.org/member-services>

Contact us if you have others to recommend.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for a few good volunteers!

- ❖ Newsletter Contributors
 - Articles on real-world agile experiences
 - Book reviews
 - Blog references
- ❖ Event coordinators
 - Program coordination
 - Speaker recruitment
 - Event announcements
 - Check in meeting attendees
 - Traffic control at Sysco.
- ❖ Webmaster
 - Content management

If these sound interesting or if you have other talents you want to share, come help APLNH grow. Contact a member of the leadership team.

APLN Houston Newsletter Editor

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Send announcements, book reviews or articles for the APLNH newsletter to Newsletter@APLNHouston.org