

APLN Houston Events

8/19/10 - APLN Houston - WITI Houston Joint Meeting - 6:00 – 8:00 pm

*This meeting has been extended beyond our normal time and will **end at 8:00pm.***

Presented in association with the Houston chapter of **Women in Technology International. (WITI)** see <http://www.witi.com/houston>.



6:00 - 6:30pm - Network while enjoying refreshments provided by **Sysco**.



Agile Planning: It's About Value

How long with that take? What will that cost? What is that really worth? Although we get asked these questions all the time, answering them with absolute values is hard, rarely accurate as we would like, and sometimes even a little misleading. Agile planning answers these questions is a different way and respects the fact that we often don't know much about a project when we get asked these questions.

Come learn about an evolutionary planning cycle that focuses teams on doing the right work at a reasonable cost, and participate in an on-hands exercise that will help identify the value of the work we take on.



Robbie Mac Iver, Owner and Principal Consultant of [The Mac Iver Group, LP](#), helps organizations understand agile principles and values, and then create collaborative work environments in which agile practices can thrive. He brings business and technology teams together to create innovative business solutions by providing practical, sensible, and effective project leadership. Robbie improves teams and processes to achieve visible, predictable results.

As Agile Advisor with Corpus Optima, he is incorporating agile principles into the organization's service offerings, delivery methods and internal operations to help clients accelerate the advanced process and culture transformation practices of Superperformance.

Robbie is President of the Agile Project Leadership Network (APLN), co-founder of the Houston APLN chapter, and is serving as the Agile Adoption Stage Producer for Agile2010.

9/16/10 - APLN Houston - PMIH Westside Joint Meeting - 6:00 – 8:00 pm

APLNH is proud to share our **second anniversary celebration** with PMI Houston who sponsored our first meeting venue until APLNH moved to Sysco in 2009.

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The Impact of your Valuing Habits on Delivering Project Value

Agile project management is highly focused on value. Agile projects are value-driven whereas traditional projects are plan-driven. Agile also requires that its participants are value-driven as well. The valuing habits of the team **MUST** be aligned with what adds value in the world.

Axiology shows us that is not always true. There is a mathematical hierarchy of value that is as immutable as the law of gravity. Understanding this and implementing it in your projects (and your life) will ensure that you **ADD VALUE**.

- Align your valuing habits with your values.
- See the thinking and valuing that affects you, your team and your stakeholders.
- Join a **group exercise** to show how a 'need to be right' impacts your ability to add value.
- Learn the value of Axiology to Agile Projects.

Traci Duez applies her background in science and coaching to help Project Managers and executives measurably improve their thinking and leaderships skills using the breakthrough science of neuro-axiology

Please register for APLN meetings at <http://aplnhouston.org/chapter-meetings>

Chapter Meeting Logistics

APLN Houston monthly meetings are at **Sysco**. Networking is at 6 PM, program at 6:30. Park in front of **either Sysco** buildings (1370 & 1390 Enclave Parkway). If front lots are full, park on the street along Forkland Drive and walk around the street to the front entrance of 1390.

Other Agile Events

8/17-18/2010 –Lithespeed ScrumMaster Workshop – Houston, TX

Join **Arlen Bankston** for this two-day ScrumMaster certification course that provides everything you need to begin leading or participating in a Scrum team. On completion, participants are registered as Certified ScrumMasters (CSMs).

Use the discount code '**APLN**' (without the quotes) to receive a 15% discount at http://www.lithespeed.com/CSM_Detail.htm

8/25/10 12:00 pm PDT - webinar

The Role of Management in Lean-Agile Transformations – NetObjectives
www.netobjectives.com/free-seminar-schedule/session-7-bdsd-role-management-lean-agile-transformations-aug-2010-webinar

8/27/10 - AgilePalooza - Dallas



AgilePaloozas are a fun, low cost event that brings internationally recognized coaches and trainers into communities for a day of learning and advancing agile methods. If there are any funds left over after the event they will go directly back into the AgilePalooza program or be donated to the local agile user groups supporting AgilePalooza. These events are about serious learning in a fun atmosphere. To learn more and register please visit: www.agilepalooza.com

9/27-28/2010 – Winnow Certified ScrumMaster Workshop – Houston, TX

This 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 **APLNDIS** to get a \$150 discount from Winnow Management.
<http://winnowmanagement.com/classes.php>

Practical Product Management 10/18-10/20/2010 – Houston, TX

Learn to analyze critical product management and marketing activities in detail using the [Pragmatic Marketing Framework](#). For registration details see <http://aplnhouston.org/>

APLN Houston Volunteers

If you would like to get involved please contact Jaynee at volunteers@APLNHouston.org.

Agile Resources

For a list of current opportunities see <http://aplnhouston.org/volunteers>.

Looking for Agile project management tools? See Mike Cohn's list at <http://www.userstories.com/products>

Looking for Agile references? See Mark Levison's list of Agile chat groups <http://agilepainrelief.com/notesfromatooluser/2009/06/agile-mailing-lists.html>.

For help on requirements, see IAG webinars: <http://www.iag.biz/resources/webinars/on-demand-webinars.html>

Learn more about Kanban from NetObjectives www.netobjectives.com/blogs/real-difference-between-kanban-scrum

Webinars on Lean from LEI
<http://www.lean.org/Events/WebinarHome.cfm>
<http://logipi.com/Logipi-SCM.aspx?newsId=254006&pageId=1>

APLN National Website

Join the national discussion at www.APLN.org

Recent Meetings

Accelerating Agile Transformation – Reusable Patterns and Solutions - July 15, 2010



Thanks to **Ravi Verma** of [SmoothApps](#) for sharing his knowledge and personal experiences in successfully implementing Agile in organizations by focusing on three key patterns – change, personality and conflict – which

form the pillars of transformation. Ravi – “the Org Whisperer” - provided approaches and tips to address these pillars to achieve successfully adoption of agile methods to organizations resistant to or unfamiliar with Agile.

Thanks to **TekSystems** for sponsoring Ravi's trip to Houston as well as **CPP, Inc.** publisher of the Myers-Briggs®, for providing food and refreshments for our networking session.



The people development people.

August APLN Houston to Go

Thanks to **Tony Akins** for his encore presentation at our August [APLN Houston to Go](#). Once again he helped us understand that we are in more control of our time than we might think, and that by using some simple techniques along with a little focus we can all make more effective use of it. Do you have your Activity Lists and Do Today Lists ready to go? How many Pomodoros is that task? How many Pomodoros can you fit into today? Try out the **Pomodoro Technique** today!

We also want to thank **PROS** for sharing their facilities and generously providing food and refreshments.



APLN Houston Speaker presentations

PDF copies of 2009-2010 [APLN Houston presentations](#): www.aplnhouston.org/chapter-meetings/past-meetings.

Thanks to Our 2010 Sponsors

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



APLNH appreciates **Sysco's** continuing support in hosting our meetings again in 2010.

Sponsorship opportunities are available

Contact a member of the leadership team at leaders@alnhouston.org or see our Sponsorship Program information at: www.aplnhouston.org/sponsors.

August Event Sponsors:

PROS

TekSystems

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September Event Sponsors:



Growing APLN in 2010

Houston's **Robbie Mac Iver** was elected President of APLN at the July national board meeting. In keeping with APLN's new vision statement: “**Accelerate Agility: Connect and Engage to Transform Your Enterprise**”, the new board has selected several 2010 initiatives starting with:

- Reaching out to executives and managers
- Compiling and publishing case studies
- Focus on Being agile versus Doing agile

APLNH Book Club

If you like to read and want to keep up with the latest agile innovations, **APLNH** can help. We have a collection of the latest releases available. Stop at the **Book Club** table during the pre-meeting networking session. Select a book to read and provide a book review for the website and newsletter.

APLN Houston Newsletter Editors

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Send announcements, Agile events or articles to

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