



## Special Announcement - Logistics

**Note: Special Dec 10 Date**

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

**APLN Houston** monthly meetings are at **Sysco**. Networking is at 6 PM, program from 6:30-7:30.

Please watch for information on **refreshments and door prizes** with your EventBrite meeting reminder.

## Events

**12/10/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm**

**“Oracles” and “Moles”:** How to Manage Key Performers across the Knowing-Doing Gap

In the 21st century, organizations succeed or fail on the strength of two currencies: (1) information and knowledge, and (2) proper execution to deliver results. In many organizations individuals sometimes morph into those who are either: information-focused (to the neglect of timely execution) – “Oracles”, or execution-focused (to the neglect of the bigger-picture) – “Moles”. Join us to help you gain a clearer understanding of the Oracles and Moles in your organization and find ways to manage them effectively across the information and execution gaps.



**Donald J. Minnick of Interpersonal Skills Laboratory** returns in a Joint Meeting with the **West Side PMI Houston** group! Register at <http://aplnhouston20091210.eventbrite.com>

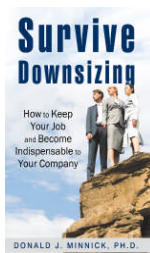
Don has a broad background in individual, organization/system dynamics, facilitation, leadership development and training.

Refreshments provided by Apex Systems.



**Don's Aug presentation, Managing the Human Dynamics of Change** is on the APLNH web site.

See Don's new book, [Surviving Downsizing](#).



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**1/21/2010 - APLNH Chapter Meeting 6:00pm**

**Beyond Scope, Schedule, and Cost: Rethinking Performance Measures for Agile Development**

A Business Week article proclaimed, “There is no more Normal.” With businesses in the throes of pervasive change, the traditional emphasis on “following the plan with minimal changes” must be supplanted by “adapting the plan to inevitable changes.” If agile development practices are about focusing on and delivering customer value, then how can adherence to traditional scope, schedule, and cost be a good way to measure performance? It can't. Jim explains the need to move beyond the classic Iron Triangle measures to focus agile software development success on value, quality, and constraints.

**Jim Highsmith, Cutter Consortium** is author of

- *Agile Project Management: Creating Innovative Products*
- *Agile Software Development Ecosystems*
- *Adaptive Software Development: A Collaborative Approach to Managing Complex Systems*



Jim has over thirty years of experience as an IT manager, product manager, project manager, consultant, and software developer. He is a founding member of the Agile Alliance, and cofounder and first president of the Agile Project Leadership Network.

## 2/18/10 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

### **The Agile PMO: Scaling Agile through Adaptive Governance**

How should we scale Agile methods beyond individual projects? How can PMOs avoid being process police and instead truly support Agile teams, enable enterprise rollout of Agile methods, and sustain long-term Agile adoption? Learn how industry leaders are scaling Agile to:

- Support and empower agile teams through training, coaching, and removing obstacles
- Track project portfolios using Agile techniques
- Bring lean discipline to project prioritization
- Move towards a stable teams model of resource management



**Sanjiv** Augustine is the President of LitheSpeed, an innovative Agile and Lean training, consulting and coaching company; and an industry-leading Agile and Lean expert. For over 10 years, Sanjiv has assisted several leading clients adopt Agile methods,

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### **Meeting Sponsorships Still available.**

**APLN Houston** promotes the growth of agile practices, shares real world experiences with agility, and provides a networking forum for like-minded professionals.

### **Other Agile Events**

#### **12/8-12/9/09 - Certified ScrumMaster Training with Sanjiv Augustine - Houston, TX**

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.

Use code **APLN** to get a 20% discount at [http://www.lithespeed.com/CSM\\_Detail.htm](http://www.lithespeed.com/CSM_Detail.htm).

#### **1/12/10 – Webinar - Facilitating Distributed Agile Meetings [Click for details.](#)**

#### **1/11-1/15/2010 - Advanced Superperformance Workshops: "Super Projects Boot Camp" with Dave Guerra – Houston**

APLNH members receive a \$100 discount on each segment with code **SUPERAPLN**. See <http://corpsoptima.com/seminars/super-projects-boot-camp>

#### **2/3-2/4/2010 - Mike Cohn's Certified Scrum Product Owner Training - Dallas, TX**

<http://www.mountangoatsoftware.com/training/139-certified-scrum-product-owner>

### **APLN Houston November Special Event at Waste Management!**

Thanks to **Gary Baumgartner** and **Jean Thornton** of Waste Management, and **Allan Watty** and **Kerry Ellison** of PROS Revenue for their efforts in making this downtown venue possible.

Thanks also to DISYS for their sponsorship of the Nov. refreshments.



**Planning Poker anyone?** Many thanks to **Peter Borsella** of Winnow Management for a very enlightening look at Agile Estimating and Planning at our November **APLN Houston** Special Event. Peter did a great job of engaging the group with hands-on exercises that gave us all a chance to practice estimating relative effort.



Thank you to **Prakash Roopani**, Development Manager, **Shaji John**, Senior Technical Architect and **Sejal Desai**, Quality Assurance Specialist for their October presentation: **Petris: An Agile Experience Report**. This was a most enjoyable and revealing look at agility in action.

## November Meeting



Thanks to **Roy Carnes** of **Outsystems** for a provocative presentation for our November meeting. Roy's presentation is now available. [www.aplnhouston.org/documents/presentations/RoyCarnes-EvangelizingAgile-2009-11-19.ppt](http://www.aplnhouston.org/documents/presentations/RoyCarnes-EvangelizingAgile-2009-11-19.ppt)

Thanks also to the folks at **TEKsystems** for providing food and refreshments.

Congratulations to **Richard Allen** who won a copy of Mike Cohn's new book **Succeeding with Agile**; and to **Nayan Patel** who won a copy of **Evaluating Project Decisions** by Carol L. Hoover, Mel Rosso-Llopert, and Gil Taran.

## Helpful Resources

### Did you know?

If you're traveling, check out other APLN chapters on the national website: [www.apln.org/localchapters.html](http://www.apln.org/localchapters.html)

If you're in Illinois, check out IRAUG [www.meetup.com/IRAUG-ORG/](http://www.meetup.com/IRAUG-ORG/)

Don't forget PDF versions of 2009 speaker presentations are on the APLN website for you to review at any time. [www.aplnhouston.org/chapter-meetings/past-meetings](http://www.aplnhouston.org/chapter-meetings/past-meetings)

Agile Houston is in FaceBook and LinkedIn for technical discussions around Agile. [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7528974641](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7528974641)  
[www.linkedin.com/groupInvitation?gid=47494&sharedKey=57D2FB78AA41](http://www.linkedin.com/groupInvitation?gid=47494&sharedKey=57D2FB78AA41)

**How Unstated Customer Needs May Drive Innovation**—some thoughts for BA's & PO's. [www.sei.cmu.edu/library/assets/120309Webinar.pdf](http://www.sei.cmu.edu/library/assets/120309Webinar.pdf)

### **The Agile PMO: Bridging the Divide**

[https://www1.vtrenz.net/imarkownerfiles/ownerassets/1013/WP\\_Agile%20PMO\\_final.pdf](https://www1.vtrenz.net/imarkownerfiles/ownerassets/1013/WP_Agile%20PMO_final.pdf)

### **Think Differently about Agility**

by Cindy Bloomer, Agile University newsletter

"Agility conjures certain images for me... a cheetah eating up ground with long strides; pure poetry in motion; an F18 blazing across a brilliant blue sky then shooting sharply up into the heavens. In all reality, a snail can be just as agile—if it's compared to something in its own class!

So it is in business... just how fast and responsive you need to be depends on your particular industry, your particular needs and your particular competition.

In today's market, agility is more than the ability to produce value, produce it faster and respond to change. It is inherently tied to a company's ability to not just foresee change, but to seek it out; to have a workforce that's not only prepared for uncertainties, but also eager to take them on."

### **Death by Team Room, or Teamroom-A-Cide**

Ever been in "anti-pattern; productivity-robbing team rooms that please no one?" <http://lithespeed.blogspot.com/2009/10/death-by-team-room-or-teamroom-cide.html>

**Leading a Self-Organizing Team** by Mike Cohn

[www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/presentations/94-leading-a-selforganizing-team-january---in-apln-dallas](http://www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/presentations/94-leading-a-selforganizing-team-january---in-apln-dallas)

Joe Krebs' blog

<http://jochenkrebs.com/agileportfolio/>

## **Personal Kaizen: 15 Tips for your continuous improvement**

Kaizen (改善) means "improvement"

"kai" (改) means change/make better, and

"zen" (善) means good

As the term is used as a business process it more closely resembles in English "continuous improvement." See tips at

[www.presentationzen.com/presentationzen/2009/09/personal-kaizen-tips-for-your-continuous-improvement.html](http://www.presentationzen.com/presentationzen/2009/09/personal-kaizen-tips-for-your-continuous-improvement.html)

## Thanks to Our 2009 Sponsors

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



APEX is providing food for the December Event  
[www.apexsystemsinc.com](http://www.apexsystemsinc.com).



Think Green: Think Waste Management  
([www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com)).



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

**Sponsorship opportunities are available.**

Contact a member of the leadership team or see  
[www.aplnhouston.org/sponsors](http://www.aplnhouston.org/sponsors).

Agility is NOT just flexibility and adaptability: Agility requires proactively monitoring the changing landscape.

The agile business focuses on current action, while methodically stepping back and getting a broader perspective. Then, reflecting on what's been learned, it re-engages and takes appropriate action.

## APLN Member Services

### Continuing Certification Requirements

PMPs may file for 1 PDU under Continuing Certification Requirements, "Category 4: Other Providers" for attending APLNH events.

### User Group Discount Programs!

O'Reilly User Group Program!

Pearson Education User Group Program!

Contact us if you have others to recommend.

For more information on Member services visit:  
<http://aplnhouston.org/member-services>.

## Make Your Voice Heard – Check out Jobs!

Join and participate in our LinkedIn Group today!  
Check out discussions and JOBS Listings



Search the groups directory for APLN Houston.

## 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

To share your talents and help **APLNH** grow contact a member of the leadership team.

### APLN Houston Leadership Team

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