

## Special Announcement - Logistics

**APLN Houston** monthly meetings are at **Sysco**. Networking is at 6 PM, program from 6:30-7:30. Parking is available in front of the Sysco buildings (1370 & 1390 Enclave Parkway) with additional covered parking in the garage behind the 1390 Sysco building off Forkland Drive. When parking in the garage, please press the call button for entry, park and walk through back door from garage (look for APLN sign) or around the street to the front entrance of 1390 Enclave Parkway if garage door is locked.

## Events

**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 clients to adopt Agile methods. As an in-the-trenches practitioner, he has managed Agile projects of over one hundred people, trained thousands of agile practitioners and coached numerous project teams. Sanjiv is author of **The Lean-Agile PMO: Using Lean Thinking to Accelerate Agile Project Delivery**.

Please register at:  
<http://aplnhouston20100218.eventbrite.com/>

## Contents

Special Announcement - Logistics.....	1
Events .....	1-3
Helpful Resources.....	3
Thanks to Our 2010 Sponsors.....	4
Make Your Voice Heard – Check out Jobs!.....	4
APLN Houston Leadership Team .....	4
APLN Member Services .....	4
Volunteer Opportunities .....	4

**3/18/10 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm**

### **The 25 Minute Sprint: The Pomodoro Technique and Agility**

In every aspect of our lives things are moving and changing faster. There's more to do and still only 24 hours in the day. Everyone is playing multiple different roles. We rarely get the time we think we need, and yet we still have to get things done. We have all become jugglers of time, some of us experts, most of us just hoping we don't drop too many of the important balls.

Every once in a while someone comes up with a novel perspective on how to solve challenging problems. The Pomodoro Technique relies on the Agile concepts of a simple process, simple tools, sustainable pace and reflection to manage time more effectively. This session will introduce the core concepts of the Pomodoro Technique and include an exercise in which everyone will participate in a Pomodoro/sprint.

**Tony Akins** has spent over 25 years in the software industry in R&D, direct marketing and sales, product development, training and development, project management, process improvement and technology transition. He is currently the Director of Software at Behavioral Recognition Systems overseeing the day-to-day operations of Research, Development, Quality Engineering and Deployment staffs. Previously Tony was a Senior Consultant at Valtech Technologies where he provided expertise in agile project management.

<http://aplnhouston20100318.eventbrite.com>

**4/15/10 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm**

## **Facilitation Patterns and Antipatterns**

Facilitation skills are essential for anyone who works on a team, manages an organization, or otherwise works with others. Steven “Doc” List will lead APLNH to explore the common patterns & antipatterns that come up in facilitation. We’ll have some fun by taking on roles and exploring behaviors that work and that don’t work. The session will include specific activities and techniques used for effective facilitation.

After a short presentation on the fundamentals of facilitation and an introduction to Patterns and Antipatterns, small group discussions will start. Each person will represent a pattern/antipattern, and will be expected to behave in that style in terms of motto, beliefs, behaviors, and characteristics. The participants will then identify other group member’s pattern/antipattern by name after the discussion.

This will be followed by large group discussion, of experience and with discussion of how to deal with, encourage, discourage, or otherwise address that pattern/antipattern..

**Steven “Doc” List** is a principal consultant with ThoughtWorks. Doc’s focus is on organizational transformation and agile adoption, including coaching, assessment, and training.



Doc is an experienced software professional who has worked on all types of hardware and operating systems, multiple languages and environments. Doc maintains a long-term focus on the core skills and

strategies of management, leadership, team-building, and individual growth. Doc is a recognized expert Open Space facilitator.

Please register at:  
<http://aplnhouston20100415.eventbrite.com/>

## **Rescheduling Mike Cohn**

With great disappointment Mike Cohn has informed us of an unavoidable schedule change that won’t allow him to be in Houston in April. He has promised an **APLN Houston** appearance later this year.

Download videos of Mike’s past presentations at [www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/presentations-tag/video-recorded](http://www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/presentations-tag/video-recorded).

## **Other Agile Events**

### **Where Will You Be in 2010?**

Have you thought about what Agile conferences you will attend in 2010? Now is the time



The premier event will be **Agile 2010** held this year at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville August 9-13, 2010.

Stay tuned at [agile2010.agilealliance.org](http://agile2010.agilealliance.org).



Two great conferences from **SQE** are co-located at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas June 6-

11, 2010. Register for one and attend both! See more at [sqe.com/conferences](http://sqe.com/conferences).



Join the **Lean Software & Systems Consortium** for their inaugural conference in Buckhead (Atlanta) April 21-23, 2010. This is the first formal

community event of the broad based community forming around application of Lean Thinking to software development and systems engineering. For details visit: [atlanta2010.leanssc.org](http://atlanta2010.leanssc.org).

## **2/16-2/17/2010 - Certified ScrumMaster Training with Sanjiv Augustine - Houston, TX Also a session on 3/22-23**

Learn the essential concepts and tools of Scrum 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).

## **3/24-3/25/10 Certified Scrum Product Owner Training Houston, TX**

Lithespeed’s Product Owner certification course provides everything needed to be an effective customer to a Scrum team. On completion, participants are registered as Certified Product Owners (CPOs), and receive a one-year membership in the Scrum Alliance.

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

## 2/17-2/19/2010 - Agile Boot Camp , Austin, TX

For 20% discount use code [VersionOne](#).  
[Register here](#).

## 2/19/10 - Scrum Project Management Webinar

<http://learn.gotomeeting.com/forms/021910-NA-G2MC-WBR-L?ID=701000000005IXn>

## 2/19/10 - Get Projects Done Faster: How Agile Development Creates a Culture of Performance Webinar

Jeff Sutherland, inventor of Scrum  
Dan Greening, Citrix Online

<http://learn.gotomeeting.com/forms/021910-NA-G2MC-WBR-S?ID=701000000005JQn>

## 2/24/10 How to Get Started with Agile Webinar

by VERSIONONE

[www1.gotomeeting.com/register/851687528?mkt\\_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRolu6jLZKXonjHpfsX96e4pWKag38431UFwdcjKPmjr1YECRMU%3D](http://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/851687528?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRolu6jLZKXonjHpfsX96e4pWKag38431UFwdcjKPmjr1YECRMU%3D)

## 2/24/10 - Houston Java User Group 6:30 pm

### Peer Code Review – An Agile Process

Peer code review is an effective ways to find defects – but is it Agile? Lightweight peer code review aligns well with the central tenets of Agile including keeping feedback close to the point of creation, increasing team velocity by finding defects faster, and improving collective code ownership through frequent collaboration. Share some of the research on code review and best practices for an agile approach – how much time to spend, how much code to review at a time, the value of annotation, which code to review, and how to set goals. Get specific advice for building checklists and dealing with the social effects of code review in an agile environment.

**Gregg Sporar** has been a software developer for over twenty years, working on projects ranging from mostly Agile to hideously rigid and is currently Senior Product Manager at Smart Bear Software.

Meeting Location: PROS Pricing, 3100 Main, 10th floor, Houston, TX.

Please preregister at  
<http://hjug02242010.eventbrite.com/>

## 4/13/10 The Superperforming CEO Book Tour & Executive Seminar Houston

<http://corpusoptima.com/book-tour/>

## 6/14-6/16/10 – PMI Houston Conference, GRB

### January Meeting

Speaking to our largest crowd yet **Jim Highsmith** wow'ed our January audience with an intriguing new look at measuring value. Helping us understand that there is "no more normal", Jim challenged us to be more focused on outcomes and work toward satisfying the Agile Triangle. We are very grateful to Jim for making time in his busy schedule to visit APLN Houston.



Congratulations to **Ram Chada** and **Brent Walker** on winning copies of Jim's latest book **Agile Project Management: Creating Innovative Products**. The book is available to **APLNH** members from our **Pearson** user group at a 35% discount.

Thanks to **TekSystems** for January refreshments.



### Helpful Resources

PDF versions of 2009-2010 speaker presentations at [www.aplnhouston.org/chapter-meetings/past-meetings](http://www.aplnhouston.org/chapter-meetings/past-meetings)

### [Keys to Successful Release Planning: A Guide for Agile Teams](#)

### [Lean-Agile Straight Talk](#)

[www.netobjectives.com/resources/books/lean-agile-software-development](http://www.netobjectives.com/resources/books/lean-agile-software-development)

Net Objectives Podcasts

[www.netobjectives.com/taxonomy/term/38](http://www.netobjectives.com/taxonomy/term/38)

### [Scaling Software Agility: Best Practices for Large Enterprises](#) by Dean Leffingwell

<http://www.infoq.com/presentations/scaling-best-practices>

### [Self-organizing Teams](#) by Jim Highsmith

<http://blog.cutter.com/2010/01/26/understanding-the-nature-of-self-organizing-teams/>

### [Beyond the Team](#) – podcast Sanjiv Augustine

<http://lithespeed.blogspot.com/2009/04/podcast-beyond-team.html>

**Book Review: Stand Back and Deliver** By: Pollyanna Pixton, et al. Reviewed by: Matt Gelbwaks

[www.stickyminds.com/r.asp?F=DBOOK\\_1185](http://www.stickyminds.com/r.asp?F=DBOOK_1185)

## 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.

### Sponsorship opportunities are available.

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

## Growing APLN Houston in 2010

**APLNH** membership has grown from 100 to 600 during 2009 and meeting attendance increased from 25 to over 60. In 2010, **APLNH** will incorporate as a non-profit. We will keep meetings free or low cost. We value our volunteers and hope to keep them involved in 2010.

We are committed to offering special workshop events that will help those new to agility come up to speed. In addition we plan to expand the reach of **APLN Houston** by initiating "**APLN To Go**" and seek out additional locations around Houston to host special events such as those conducted downtown at Waste Management.

Contact the leadership team below if you'd like to host an **APLN To Go** or get involved as a volunteer.

## Make Your Voice Heard – Check out Jobs!

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



### APLN Houston Leadership Team

**Robbie Mac Iver:** [rmaciver@swdecisions.com](mailto:rmaciver@swdecisions.com)  
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## 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>.

## 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.

"Beyond Toyota. ... Lean methods for product development, fulfillment from order to delivery, supply stream management, customer support, and management of the overall enterprise are now well known and widely accepted in concept.... But creating management systems and organizations that can practice (not just preach) lean every day year after year turns out to be a lot harder. And it's harder for Toyota as well. Many observers have recently noted a gap between the Toyota Production System as an ideal and Toyota's actual system." -- James P. Womack, Lean Enterprise Institute, Inc.

### APLN Houston Newsletter Editor

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Send announcements, book reviews or articles for the APLNH newsletter to [Newsletter@APLNHouston.org](mailto:Newsletter@APLNHouston.org)