

Dear Members of the Lakeshore Chapter,

Let me begin by thanking the members of the Lakeshore Chapter, for electing me, twice, as the Director on the Board. I also wish to thank the Board of Directors (past & current) for their vote of confidence in electing me as the SVP last year, moving to the President position this year. It is my honor to be the President of the Lakeshore Chapter. I am pleased to introduce you to the new Directors for this upcoming Chapter year April 2008- March 2009.

The Lakeshore Chapter held their On-Line elections between 14 to 28 February, communicating results on 29th Feb via email & then introducing the 5 new Directors during March 10th Dinner Meeting.

Rishi Kumar was re-elected as Director for another term of 2 years. We now have 4 new Directors joining the Board for the first time; they are George Cescon, Francesco DiGiuseppe, Swaroop Dogra & Sonja Slijepcevic.

The new Board met on March 29th 2008 to elect the Chapter officers for specific positions & assign individual portfolios for the 2008-2009 Chapter year. We had two nominations for the position of Senior Vice President this year; an indicator of a maturing chapter. Richard Birchall was elected as the SVP for the year 08-09 (moving on to the President position in the next year 2009-10).

Last January 2007, the Board took the crucial decision to limit the President's term to one year. This will ensure a healthy turnover among the professional resources at the Board level, giving leadership opportunities to more professionals, but at the same time ensuring that a Director gets a solid 3 year window as Senior Vice President → President → Past-President (each a 1 year term), to transition, conceptualize & implement projects/initiatives at all levels. I personally wish to thank each of the Directors, particularly Angelo Baratta, in facilitating, steering & helping the Board implement this Governance structure.

George Cescon is the new Secretary and Francesco DiGiuseppe with a solid Finance background is the Treasurer for this year. The Professional Development FAC will be lead by Swaroop Dogra, Events FAC by Ian McGregor, Marketing FAC by Rishi Kumar, Membership FAC by Sonja Slijepcevic and Communications/ Infrastructure FAC by one & only Kiron Bondale. The complete organization structure is available on the Chapter website.

We had 4 Directors departing the Board as of April 2008, namely Joseph Zielinski, Dave Freeman, Gillian Prieur & Pamela Nixon. Dave Freeman, one of the co-founders of this chapter, stepped down from his recent role as the Treasurer; we will miss him and his hard work, dedication & leadership. Gillian Prieur ended her 3rd consecutive term as the Director of Lakeshore chapter. In her 5 years of service, she has immensely contributed in various areas of Chapter operations & new initiatives. Pam Nixon did a fantastic job in area of Marketing in a short time frame of 5 months as the Director, getting Sponsors,

developing Banners & rolling out the new Chapter logo. The Chapter wishes all of them the best in their individual endeavors.

Joseph Zielinski has stepped down as the Past-President handing the reins to Angelo Baratta. However, he has graciously accepted the position of Vice President - Finance. We sincerely thank him for his continued support.

We have a much stronger organization structure this year compared to last year, with approximately 40 Officers supporting the Chapter at various levels. Last year we identified some new initiatives & projects. The Symposium 2008 is the result of one such strategic initiative. Gale Ryckman, the Project Manager of Symposium 2008 & her all-new-and-young team have shown an exemplary performance in making Symposium 2008 a success and a showcase project worth emulating. The Mentoring Program, sponsored by Joseph is another Project on the floor.

For the coming year, we would like to focus on 3 specific areas as below:

- 1) Growing the membership & delivering more member benefits (@ 1700 members we are at an inflection point, waiting to move up on another growth trajectory).
- 2) Strengthen Volunteer base (human resource assets – these are the people who make things happen).
- 3) Build new Partnerships & strengthen existing collaborations with various Partners (Peer Organizations, Content Providers, Sponsors & Service Providers/ Vendors).

We plan to drive continuous improvements at operational level simultaneously delivering new offerings, projects & initiatives at strategic level. We look forward to your (members) support in all the initiatives the chapter undertakes over next few years.

Thanking you,

Sudesh Kothare (PMP, CFA, SSBB, FRM)

President 2008-09

PMI Lakeshore Chapter