

CPM TENNESSEE VALLEY (CPMTV) CHAPTER QUARTERLY MEETING – DECEMBER 1, 2015

By Norman Dean

The CPMTV chapter held its winter quarterly meeting on Tuesday, December 1 in Huntsville, Alabama. Over 25 individuals attended the meeting with others joining via telephone. In spite of the cold, rainy day there was good representation from industry, government and education. The meeting was graciously hosted by forProject and the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Alumni Association with forProject providing speakers and refreshments and DAU providing the meeting space at their training facility. The meeting was emceed by Bob Wasser of BCF Solutions with presentations by Michael Tarrant, Stuart Trahan, Glenn Gallop, and CPT Rafael Chagolla.

Bob Wasser kicked off the meeting and Judd Fussell, DAU Professor of Earned Value, welcomed everyone to the facility and made some administrative remarks. Mr. Wasser then thanked DAU and forProject for sponsoring the meeting, and he discussed CPMTV become a full-fledged chapter, including going through the steps of getting a chapter chartered. Bob mentioned CPMTV will become an official chapter in January, and he encouraged those in attendance to consider joining CPM and volunteering for CPMTV officer positions. He concluded by asking for sponsors and speakers for future meetings.

Michael Tarrant, Program Manager at VACCO Industries, opened the presentations by discussing his experience implementing an Earned Value Management System at his company. It was a very informative discussion as Mr. Tarrant was able to share his lessons learned on everything from choosing the right EVMS software to conducting an IBR for the first time.

Glenn Gallop, President of forProject, and Stuart Trahan, Vice President of Scheduling Services of forProject, then partnered for an interesting overview of EVMS forProject version 3.0. Their presentation provided attendees a preview of some of the many useful features of the forProject EVMS software. Following the presentation, Mr. Trahan surprised attendees with a meal of delicious homemade chicken and sausage gumbo.

CPT Rafael Chagolla, APM for the Joint Attack Munitions Systems (JAMS) Project Office, closed out the presentations with a fascinating talk about the Army Acquisition Corps. Thanks to his many years of military service, CPT Chagolla was able to give presenters an informed look into the Army Acquisition Corps.

Bob Wasser closed the meeting by thanking the presenters, forProject, and DAU. He also reminded meeting attendees to let him know if they are interested in speaking at or sponsoring a future CPMTV meeting. Lastly, Mr. Wasser encouraged non-members to join CPM.

The next CPMTV quarterly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1 from 3:00-5:00. More details will follow.