

IIBA Informant

News from the Denver Chapter of the IIBA

December 16, 2014

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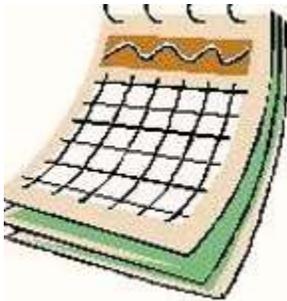
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Dear Business Analyst,

If you enjoy reading this newsletter and think that other Business Analysts, Project Managers, or Directors in your organization might enjoy it as well, it's easy to share. Just forward it to your colleagues.

Did someone forward this newsletter to you? Would you like to receive upcoming issues of this newsletter and learn more about IIBA and the Business Analysis profession? Just click on the **Join Our Mailing List** link on the [IIBA Denver Chapter website](#).

Upcoming Meeting



January 2015 IIBA Denver Chapter Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 21

5:30 - 6:00 - Check In, Networking, Food

6:00 - 6:30 - Announcements, Chapter Business

6:30 - 8:00 - Presentation

Topic: "Writing Better Requirements: Beyond Traceability, Templates, and Formats"

Presenter: Rex Lexvold, Co-founder of Sirius Requirements

Bio: Randy has 25 years of experience in all aspects of software development across a range of domains and markets sectors, from real-time robotics navigation to on-line grocery web applications. Before founding Sirius Requirements, Randy had senior leadership roles with The Emphasys Group and CenterPoint Care Solutions. Randy also worked for 8 years at IBM Rational Software as a worldwide subject matter expert in Software Architecture.

Abstract: Capturing quality requirements is an eternal (and much too often, elusive!) goal for Business Analysts. Good requirements can increase productivity, improve quality and reduce

cost. However, ensuring quality of requirements is not easy and BAs face unprecedented challenges in writing good requirements. Through the delivery cycle, every BA maturing in the discipline requires continuous evaluation and analysis of what constitutes a good requirement (and, conversely, what is a poor requirement). If this important step is neglected, too often, the requirements are poorly written which results in requirements churn and costly project overruns and failure.

Further, too often, tooling leads us into a false sense of completeness and quality. A large collection of managed and linked requirements is not necessarily a good set of requirements. It is needless to state that experience has shown us that successful BAs always honor a well-defined set of good practices to help them write good quality requirements. In this session, we'll look at practical and proven practices that you can take away to improve the quality of your requirements. Regardless of the approach you are using in the delivery of your software development (whether it is an agile, hybrid or traditional approach), the presenter will provide you with a wealth of guidance, key success factors and proven tool capabilities that extend beyond usual requirements managements features to help you reach your goal of "good quality requirements".

Location: 7887 East Belleview Avenue, Englewood. **Note that this is a new location!**

Cost: There are two levels of membership: 1) IIBA National and 2) IIBA Denver Chapter with IIBA National. The meeting cost is free for members of the Denver Chapter. The cost is \$10 for non-members of the Denver chapter. Snacks are generously provided by our sponsor MODIS. [Click here to register.](#)

Letter from the President

by Monte Malenke, President

It's hard to believe that the year is almost over and Christmas is just around the corner! Starting with our January 19th meeting in 2015, we will be meeting at a new location for our chapter meetings in the DTC, at 7887 East Belleview Avenue, Englewood, CO 80111. This is the building that our premier sponsor Modis is in, who has made arrangements for us to meet in a large conference room there, so additional thanks to Modis for making this arrangement. We plan to be at this location for at least the first three chapter meetings of 2015, and possibly for the entire year, so stay tuned.

If you are thinking of getting your CBAP or CCBA designation, you will want to consider getting that before April 2015 when version 3.0 of the BABOK comes out, so you can take advantage of all the version 2.0 study materials. Don't forget about the ongoing CBAP study group meetings that occur monthly to help you prepare.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our January meeting.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

New Chapter Website Released This Fall!

The new Denver Chapter website was released in October. Please feel free to check this out at <http://denver.iiba.org>.

This site includes features such as a Twitter feed, news feed, integrated event registration, and document distribution. Please leverage the new platform for chapter information and events.

If you have any feedback on the new layout or content, please send

tocommunications@denver.iiba.org

Modis Salary Guide for 2015 Available

As a global provider of IT staffing services, MODIS connects the very best IT professionals to great opportunities at leading companies. And we do it every single day - for both temporary and permanent assignments and across virtually all industries. We use our insight, flexibility and expanded resources to anticipate the needs of leading tech companies and help them make exceptional connections with top tech talent.

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[Get a copy of the 2015 salary guide.](#)

For more information, please contact:

Kristen Short

Resource Development Manager

720-244-5309

7887 East Belleview Ave.

Suite 400, Englewood, CO 80111

Denver Chapter Education News

by Heidi McLaughlin, VP Education

Lean In Group

You may be familiar with the book "Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead" that Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook, wrote which reached No. 1 both on the New York Times Bestseller list as well as on Amazon. She was inspired to write the book based off of the success of her 2010 Ted talk entitled, "Why We Have Too Few Women Leaders." The book has in turn inspired Lean In circles to be formed across the country for purposes of helping people gain peer coaching in their careers. As described on the [Lean In site](#), "Lean In Circles are small groups who meet regularly to learn and grow together. Circles are as unique as the individuals who start them, but they all share a common bond: the power of peer support." The Denver IIBA would like to begin its own Lean In group. This is not for women only - our group would be co-ed and would meet virtually. We're looking for a circle manager, circle facilitator, and 8-10 additional members. If you're interested, please contact Heidi at Education@denver.iiba.org.

Call for Speakers

We are looking for speakers to speak at our chapter meetings on topics relevant to business analysts. If you have an interest in being a speaker, being part of a panel of speakers, or if you know someone who would make a great speaker, please contact Heidi at Education@denver.iiba.org. Some topics that have been suggested are listed below, but of course our interests are not limited to this list.

- BABOK Review
- Agile Extension to the BABOK
- Process Mapping
- BA Diagramming & Modeling
- Elicitation
- Enterprise Analysis

Certification Study Group

by Mary Anne McSweeney, CBAP

New CBAP® Study Group In Session! Still time to join!

The IIBA Denver Chapter CBAP study group is a virtual study group, so there is no need to drive

anywhere to meet as we connect via web conferencing. The goal of this study group is to cover the complete BABOK in preparation for taking the CBAP exam.

This will be the last group to meet before CBAP Certification is based on the new 3.0 version of the BABOK, which is scheduled for Spring of 2015. We are meeting the 2nd Wednesday of every month, from November through April. Please see the [Study Group page](#) for the complete schedule.

Sessions consist of a review of BABOK content and group discussion to resolve specific questions. Give yourself, your company and your clients a huge benefit by getting certified. Hope to see YOU there! It's more fun doing it as a group!

Primary content is the IIBA Business Analysis Body of Knowledge (BABOK). In addition, the study group has specific study materials and a practice exam for each chapter.

To join the Study Group, you must be a member of IIBA and also a member of the Denver Chapter. If you are interested, please email CBAPStudyGroup@denver.iiba.org and include the following details:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Phone
- 3) Email Address
- 4) IIBA member number
- 5) Any special areas of desired interest or focus

Membership News

by Susan Futey , CBAP , VP Membership

Welcome new Denver Chapter members!

Christine Dharmawardhana
Debra Jones

Active Member Count: 95

Not a member yet but interested in joining the IIBA Denver Chapter?

You'll find that it is a great way to network, share business analysis knowledge and experience, and learn about new techniques and processes. Best of all, membership is just **\$25/year!** [Join now!](#)

Benefits of being a local chapter member:

- Attend chapter meetings free or at reduced cost.
- Participate in Denver Chapter elections (as candidates or as voters).
- Participate in members-only offers such as volunteer opportunities at BA World.
- Get to wear a snazzy name badge at the meetings!
- Be the proud owner of the "IIBA Denver Chapter" mug!

When you are an IIBA member, but *not* a Denver chapter member, your cost = \$10 per meeting.

When you are an IIBA member and a chapter member (annual membership fee of \$25) your cost = **free**. *Take advantage of this deal today!*

You do have to be a member of the IIBA International Organization in order to join the IIBA Denver Chapter. Join IIBA through their website at www.iiba.org. IIBA [Membership benefits](#) include:

- Free copy of the [Business Analysis Body of Knowledge® \(BABOK® Guide\)](#)

- Free access to the [Online Library](#) where you will find hundreds of books
- Knowledge sharing and networking opportunities through the [IIBA Community Network](#)
- Exclusive IIBA monthly publications such as the [IIBA BA Connection monthly newsletter](#)
- Eligibility to join a local [IIBA Chapter](#)
- Access to a free copy of the [Business Analysis Competency Model](#)
- Access to [IIBA Webinars](#) on a range of professional development topics
- Job search capabilities using [Career Center](#)

If you have any questions about membership or renewal, please feel free to send an email using the [Contact Us](#) link on the IIBA Denver Chapter website.

BABOK version 3

IIBA national would like to announce that the BABOK Guide version v3 is available in April. [Click here for more information.](#)

Joining IIBA Denver Chapter Committees

Joining IIBA Denver Chapter Committees

Do you want to support local Business Analysts, the profession, and increase visibility to your company? The Denver chapter is looking for help on numerous committees. There are currently openings for both VP Marketing and Corporate Programs. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please respond to President@denver.iiba.org.

Technology Volunteer

The chapter would like to be able to stream and/or record chapter meetings presentations, but we need help to do it. Do you have the skillset/ equipment to stream or record our chapter meetings? If you can help, please contact Heidi McLaughlin (VP of Education) at Education@denver.iiba.org or any board member.

Companies Seeking BAs

Are you following the chapter's Linked In community? New job opportunities are posted there when information is available.

Future 2015 Meetings

After the January meeting, the next general meeting is scheduled on March 18, 2015.

Topic: How to Start a BA Career: Debunking the 5 Myths

Presenter: Laura Brandenburg, author of "How to Start a Business Analyst Career"

Future meetings are scheduled every other month. Keep an eye on this newsletter for future times and dates!

Certification News

by Debbie Rasor, CBAP

There are two new CBAPs in Colorado:

- J. Carpenter
- Soo Ok Maeng

Congratulations!

Need Help with your CBAP or CCBA application?

Need another set of eyes to review your application before you submit it? Tips on applying for recertification? I can answer your questions, review your application, and offer feedback on it before you submit it. Contact me at debrator@yahoo.com.

Endorsing and Recognizing the CBAP and CCBA®

The IIBA Denver Chapter is continuing to support the CBAP as the highest designation in the field of business analysis. CBAPs must meet requirements for experience, education, knowledge, skill, and ethics. The IIBA is looking for organizations that support the CBAP designation, and we would love to see strong company support right here in Colorado! If your organization reimburses you for CBAP exam fees, recognizes the CBAP or CCBA as a professional certification, promotes the certification as part of its professional development goals, or otherwise endorses the designation, please let us know!

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Rasor, CBAP
Associate Editor: Jay Galecki

If you have a contribution to make to the IIBA Informant, please email us
ateditor@denver.iiba.org.

If you are interested in advertising BA-related services in the IIBA Informant, please email us
atinfo@denver.iiba.org.

Produced by the Denver Chapter of the IIBA

President (president@iiba.denver.org)
Monte Malenke

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VP-Finance and Treasurer: Felicia Arambula

Education Committee
VP-Education: Heidi McLaughlin
Technology Volunteer for Meetings: open

Marketing Committee
VP-Marketing: open
Director - Corporate Programs: open

Membership Committee
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Communications Committee
VP-Communication: Grant Warden

Technology Committee
AVP: Grant Warden
Webmaster: Linda Meserve

Events Committee
VP-Events: Debra Urban

The International Institute of Business Analysis is a non-profit organization for Business Analyst professionals. The goal of the local Denver Chapter is to support IIBA by (1) advancing the role of the Business Analyst as a recognized profession, (2) support opportunities for members to network with, and gain knowledge from, seasoned BA practitioners as well as industry and government leaders, (3) provide access for members to a formal "knowledge base" as well as forums for sharing expertise, expressing professional opinions and building a reputation within the industry, (4) provide pathways to learn about business analysis best practices, and (5) obtain and sustain a level of financial security, sustainability, and autonomy at the local level.

