

IIBA Informant

News from the Denver Chapter of the IIBA

June 15, 2015

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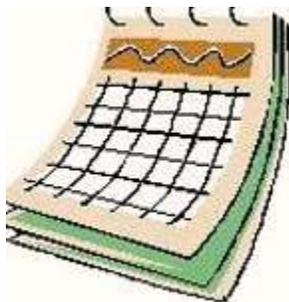
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Dear Analyst,

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](#).

July Chapter Meeting



July Chapter Meeting

Date: Wednesday, July 15

5:30 - 6:00 - Check In, Networking, Food
6:00 - 6:30 - Announcements and Chapter Business
6:30 - 8:00 - Presentation

Topic: BA Toolkit: Top Models for Complete Requirements Elicitation

Many organizations think that business analysis is all about asking questions and documenting the requirements. Although important, those skills are not enough. If we want a complete set of requirements, we need to model them. This presentation provides the key modeling techniques, their importance in elicitation, and tips for using them for project success.

[Click here to register.](#)

Presenter: Elizabeth Larson, PMP, CBAP, CSSM
Co-Principal and CEO
Watermark Learning

Elizabeth Larson has over 30 years experience in project management and business analysis. Elizabeth is a popular speaker at PMI and IIBA International conferences, professional development days, and chapter meetings.

Elizabeth co-authored the *Practitioners' Guide to Requirements Management*, *The Influencing Formula*, and *CBAP® Certification Study Guide*. She also writes articles and blogs regularly for Project Times, BA Times, and Modern Analyst. Elizabeth was a lead author for the *BABOK® Guide Version 2.0*, as well as an expert reviewer for the *BABOK Guide Version 3.0*. She also served as a lead author for the *PMBOK Guide - Fourth and Fifth Editions* and for the *PMI-PBA Practice Guide*.

In her spare time, Elizabeth enjoys spending time with family and grandsons, traveling, and hiking.

Location:
Business Tech Center
8301 East Prentice Avenue, #400
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
[303-996-2849](tel:303-996-2849) (call for directions if needed)

Click [here](#) to view maps and images of the meeting facility.

New Meeting Format:

We tried a new meeting format for the May meeting, and felt it was successful. At the beginning of the meeting, we are holding a 10 minute Q&A regarding any pressing issues you may have regarding your BA practice. Ask the group for help with any particular issue you may be facing, or insight into a new topic you'd like to know more about. Be prepared with your questions and tap the collective knowledge of the group.

Event Sponsors:

Food generously provided by [MODIS](#).
Business space sponsor is [Business Tech Center](#).
Meeting Sponsor: [Progressive](#)

Letter from the President

by Monte Malenke, President

There has been more sun than rain for the last few days as I write this, which has been such a nice change - almost feels like summer might actually get here! This month I am announcing in an article below the results of the 2015 Denver Chapter election. This year, we did not require a vote as there was only one candidate for each position up for election, so a big thanks to those who have stepped up!

If you attended our chapter meeting last month, you were no doubt impressed with our wonderful new meeting facility at the The Business Tech Center. If you weren't able to attend last month, you won't want to miss the July meeting so you can see the new meeting location, and to hear Elizabeth Larson give her presentation. Elizabeth is one of the founders of Watermark, one of the best known names in Business Analysis and CBAP training, so you definitely won't want to miss her presentation.

We have multiple learning opportunities. In order to help our chapter members become more familiar with the BABOK, beginning with this month's newsletter we are starting a periodic series on the BABOK v3. Various chapter members have volunteered to write articles summarizing the sections. We hope that

these summaries will help peak your interest to begin your own study of BABOK v3. Also we have started our final study session for certification using BABOK v2. See the article in this newsletter.

Volunteer of the Month

This month I wanted to recognize Susan Futey, one of our chapter volunteers who is currently serving as Vice President of the Membership Committee. Susan has served the chapter for many years and been very proactive and provides exemplary leadership of her committee by recruiting new members, meeting with the members of her committee and setting membership growth goals for the committee for the year. She has also taken the initiative to enlist her employer as a Meeting Sponsor, which will be a big help to the chapter. Susan is wonderful to work with and has a lot of vision for supporting you and all the Front Range business analysts in her role with our chapter. Next time you check in at the registration desk at a chapter meeting, give a big thanks to Susan. We appreciate you Susan - you are gem!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the July chapter meeting. Have a great June!

MODIS Job Search Feature

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.

[Search for jobs.](#)

For more information, please contact:
Kristen Short
Resource Development Manager
720-244-5309
7887 East Belleview Avenue, Suite 400
Englewood, CO 80111



Bridging the Gap

Denver IIBA is proud to announce a new Gold Sponsor for 2015! The company is [Bridging the Gap](#), a leading provider of virtual business analysis training founded by a long-time chapter member.

Laura Brandenburg, CBAP® is passionate about business analysis and about helping you find your place within it. Laura is the author of *How to Start a Business Analyst Career*, *Professional Development for Business Analysts*, and *How to Earn Your CBAP or CCBA in 3 Months*.

Laura offers business analysis courses to people who want to get started in a business analyst career or make sure they succeed in their current business analyst position. She is also providing exclusive discounts for those involved with the Chapter - check out the [sponsorship page](#) for more information.



Meeting Sponsor

[Progressive](#) is our meeting sponsor for the July meeting. Progressive began in 1937, and over the years, they have worked hard to build a superior proposition for auto insurance consumers through competitive pricing and by continuously improving our products and services.



Today, they offer competitive rates and 24-hour, in-person and online services to all drivers throughout the United States.

Thank you Progressive!

View From the BABOK

by Barbara Griffith

Introduction

The introduction to the BABOK Guide v3 has been somewhat restructured and contains some surprises. The new knowledge areas are Business Analysis Planning and Monitoring, Strategy Analysis, Requirements Analysis and Design Definition, Elicitation and Collaboration, Solution Evaluation, and Requirements Life Cycle Management.

The Underlying Competencies section is expanded with a more detailed discussion of the categories of technical tools needed: office productivity, communication tools, and tools that specifically support business analysis activities. While no specific brands are mandated, there is greater detail given as to the functionality that each class of tool should provide, such as modeling and issue tracking.

Some new terms are Collaboration, Design, and Strategy. Collaboration has been added to Elicitation, and describes ongoing efforts to communicate with stakeholders and support the project throughout its life cycle, not just at the beginning. Strategy is used to tie in the efforts of the business analyst to collaborate more effectively with the stakeholders. It involves a much broader understanding of the business and its overall needs than any one technical role.

The use of the term Design has acquired a new emphasis in the BABOK Guide v3. It is now acknowledged that business analysts actually participate in designing a solution, at the very least by helping to define the solution's design. The actual level of design work performed by a business analyst in any given organization will vary greatly, but this competency is something for a business analyst to develop as needed. A design is described as a usable representation of a solution. This may tie in with the increased emphasis on technical tools needed by the business analyst in the Underlying Competencies section. Examples are given in the BABOK, most of which can involve some sort of software, encouraging some level of expertise.

Finally, the Business Analysis Core Concept Model (BACCM) in each phase of an initiative is a description of the relationships among six core concepts: Change, Need, Solution, Stakeholder, Value, and Context. The business analyst's activities for each concept change somewhat: for example, in response to the implementation of a solution, there should be an evaluation of whether the business analyst contribution was a significant factor in the solution's success. Overall, the BABOK Guide v3 is a somewhat more "big picture" approach to the profession of Business Analysis, and thus, in these times, a welcome enhancement to the value of this profession.

Denver Chapter News: Election Results

by Grant Warden, VP Communications

New Board Member Terms

July first marks the beginning of the two-year term for about half of the IIBA Denver Chapter board members every year. This year, the following board positions were up for election, and only one nomination for the Events Committee VP was received, so no vote was necessary. As a result I'm happy to announce that the following board members are either continuing in their current position for another two year term or joining the board as a new board member as follows:

- Heidi McLaughlin, Vice President, Education Committee - Continuing for another two year term
- Gary Weiss, Vice President, Events Committee - New board member
- Aaron Nieman, Vice President, Marketing Committee - Continuing for another two year term

- Monte Malenke, President, Denver Chapter - Continuing for another two year term

Please join with me in congratulating these folks for investing into the Denver Chapter and into each of our professional lives - thanks so much!

Denver Chapter News: Become a Meeting Sponsor!

by Monte Malenke, President, IIBA Denver Chapter

One of the chapter sponsor types is a Meeting Sponsor. We would like to invite you to ask your employer to join with us in serving the local Business Analyst community by sponsoring one or more of our bi-monthly chapter meetings. Our chapter meetings are the most important events on our calendar each year. This is where the local Business Analyst community in Denver, Colorado Springs and the Front Range gathers to learn current business analysis best practices, share knowledge, experiences and promote the Business Analyst profession.

The main thing a Meeting Sponsor does is provide \$350 in financial support to offset the cost of our meetings. All the details are available at the following link, which contains information you can use to enlist your employer as a Meeting Sponsor.

[More](#)

CBAP® Study Group Underway

by Mary Anne McSweeney, CBAP

This will be the last study group to meet before the CBAP and CCBA Certification exams are based on BABOK v3.

New Accelerated Schedule: Instead of meeting once a month, we will be meeting twice a month to prepare for taking the test before it changes to BABOK version 3. The sessions began on June 10th and will continue until August 26th 2015, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.

This is a virtual study group, so there is no need to drive anywhere to meet as we will be connecting via web conferencing. The goal of the study group is to cover the complete BABOK in preparation for taking the CBAP or CCBA exam.

Sessions consist of a review of BABOK content for each session and group discussion to resolve specific questions and insights we have. Attendees will facilitate each of the 6 sessions. Materials are provided by IIBA. Give yourself, your company and your clients a huge benefit by getting certified!

If you are interested, please send an email to CBAPStudyGroup@denver.iiba.org, including:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Email
- 3) IIBA member number
- 4) Indication of whether or not you are an IIBA Denver Chapter member
- 5) Phone
- 6) Any special areas of desired interest or focus

Note: In order to participate, you must either be a Denver Chapter member, in addition to your IIBA membership, or pay the \$25 Study Group fee. The cost to join the Denver Chapter is \$25/year. To register, please go to our Membership Application page: [http://denver.iiba.org/Get-Involved/Membership-\(1\).aspx](http://denver.iiba.org/Get-Involved/Membership-(1).aspx)

Hope to hear from you soon!

Bike MS! Please sponsor me by Wednesday June 17th!

by Monte Malenke, President, IIBA Denver Chapter

As many of you know, the National MS Society graciously provided the meeting space for our chapter during 2014. We were not able to participate in any of their fundraisers that year, but this year I am happy to announce that I am participating in the Bike MS fundraising bike ride. This is a two-day, 150 mile bike ride from Westminster to Fort Collins and back. I have set my fundraising goal at \$1,075, and I need your help!

Would you consider giving back to the National MS Society for their investment in the Denver Chapter and to support the significant work they do to eradicate Multiple Sclerosis? Please sponsor me with a tax deductible donation for whatever amount you are comfortable with by going to my personal Bike MS personal web page:

http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/COCBikeEvents?px=14384692&pg=personal&fr_id=25572

Just click on the "Donate to Me" button above my picture and you can be a part of my bike ride and the mission of the MS Society. Thank you so much - your support is vital to help me reach my goal!

Please note that online donations must be submitted by Wednesday June 17th!

Monte Malenke, President, IIBA Denver Chapter

May Meeting Recap

by Debbie Rasor, CBAP

The meeting was held on May 20th, and we had 44 people in attendance.

The meeting started with a new feature where attendees asked BA-related questions of the other attendees. This new process was well received and will continue. For example one of the questions was about best practices for organizing requirements and another was about tips for using Visio.

Kym Bryon gave a very informative presentation on BABOK v3. Kym stated that BABOK v2 has been used since 2009, and the new test based on BABOK v3 will possibly be in place starting in October. The theme of the BABOK is change!

For specific information on version 3 and the presentation, the slide deck can be found on the [chapter website](#) (beneath the map).

Membership News

by Susan Futey, CBAP, VP Membership

Welcome new Denver Chapter members!

Janet Bishop
Rebecca DeSantis
Jeff Ferron
Frank Fitch
Paul Hoemke
Matt Madison
Stephanie Vinton

Active Member Count: 100

Not a member yet but interested in joining?

It's 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
- 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

IIBA member, but *not* a Denver Chapter member, your cost = \$10 per meeting. IIBA member *and* a Denver 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.

Denver Chapter Education News

by Heidi McLaughlin, VP Education

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

Get involved!

Do you want to support local Business Analysts, the profession, increase visibility to your company, or gain recertification credits? The Denver chapter is looking for help on several committees.

VP Events

This position will be open starting in July. If you would like to make our two networking events each year a reality for the next two year term, please let me know about your interest and we'll make sure you are considered during our elections this summer. You could even help Debra with our next event happening this April to get a head start on seeing what she does.

Corporate Programs

There is currently an opening for Corporate Programs in the Marketing Committee. If you are

interested, contact marketing@denver.iiba.org.

Future 2015 Meetings/Events

Future meetings are scheduled every other month. The remaining meetings are:

- July 15 - Meeting @ Business Tech Center (Wednesday)
- September 16 - Meeting @ Business Tech Center (Wednesday)
- Fall Networking event - Not scheduled
- November 18 - Meeting @ Business Tech Center (Wednesday)

Certification News

by Debbie Rasor, CBAP

Certification

Per the IIBA [website](#), "The certification exams aligned to BABOK® Guide v3 and the revised certification program will be announced approximately 4-6 months in advance." Per Kym Byron in May, she anticipates October for the cutover.

Steps to becoming a BA

See this IIBA article for tips on how to transition to a BA career.
<http://www.iiba.org/Careers/Becoming-a-Business-Analyst.aspx>

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 debrasor@yahoo.com.

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Rasor, CBAP

Associate Editor: Jay Galecki

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

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

Produced by the Denver Chapter of the IIBA

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Monte Malenke

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VP-Education: Heidi McLaughlin

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Webmaster: Linda Meserve

Events Committee (events@denver.iiba.org)

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.