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1. Networking as Core Element of the APLN:

- a.) To distinguish itself from already existing organizations, it becomes a core (read: mission-critical & market differentiating) part of the APLN to : be on the forefront in (ideas and implementations for) creating and binding social-professional groups.
- b.) APLN builds the *context* for interactions, not the content (although, as with e.g., farming, part of building context is creating seed content)

2 The 2D Grid of APLN networking activities

APLN board and core members will initiate, *or find someone else (read: locate, motivate, help) to initiate* each of the (currently 10) activities listed in the 2D grid.

		<i>What is the delivery mechanism?</i>	
		Social <i>(face-to-face)</i>	Technology <i>(online)</i>
<i>Why are people interacting?</i>	Topical	Mini-conferences / Camps / Workshops	Threaded discussions Expertise library on topics of interest FAQ <i>migrate</i>
	Local	Local groups <i>(social/technical gettogethers)</i> “How to set up a local group” List themes/topics/ questions for localgroup to address	Organize local meetings Report out from local meetings

3. Explanation of the 2D Grid

People will network on the basis of *geography* or *themes* (find local people to talk to, or find people anywhere interested in a topic). In either case, APLN can help them interact face-to-face or online. Similarly, the actions the APLN needs to take are either of a social-action nature or of a technology-mediated nature.

This makes a 2x2 grid that serves as framework for discussing the APLN networking initiatives. We will want to see both that every quadrant is served, and also that there is flow and balance across quadrants (e.g., local groups and mini-conferences report on their meetings online; that the online services support people organizing local groups and mini-conferences).

Starting at the lower left, we see ideas for **local-social** interactions as including: particularly

- Local group meetings.

Viewing a local group of APLN as a social-professional group, we can hope that they engage in not just sitting around a conference table, but also meeting around pubs, hikes, outings, etc. to help the people get to know each other as people, as well as trading ideas related to the DOI.

How the APLN board & core can help local groups:

1. Start a local group; Find, motivate, or help someone else start one somewhere else.

It might or might not be in the zone of passion for every single APLN board or core member to start a local group, but it might be in their reach to keep their eyes and ears open for someone to become a leader in a locale, and to support them with morale and material.

The APLN board should keep a list of groups started and near starting, to support them and broadcast their presence.

2. Write a "starter's guide" on how to set up a local group (Kent McDonald has signed up for this)

The APLN board & core can create a white paper showing an interested person how to get a group started. Kent McDonald has started one in Iowa, and is writing an experience report on that, which he is happy to evolve into such a starter's guide. Possibly David Anderson or Ashley Johnson might contribute their experiences into Kent's white paper and let him edit their and other people's experiences into the guide.

3. List themes, topics, questions, problems for local groups to tackle.

The APLN board & core can create a list of discussion topics for groups to spend time on, or open problems, papers needing writing, etc. We need a mechanism to create and hold such a list.

Moving to the lower right, we see ways that **online mediation can support local-social interactions, and feed outwards** to marketing and global effect.

- Online tools (calendar and threaded discussion) that help the organization of local get-togethers
- Reports out from local meetings

Local people who miss a get-together will be interested in a synopsis of what they missed; People thinking of joining a local group will become interested by seeing what a group did and discussed; Other local groups will gain ideas and become more motivated by seeing what a local group did and discussed; Remote people may be interested in browsing discussion ideas coming out of a local group's get-together.

Therefore, we should actively encourage local group leaders to report outward, online, what they did and either themes or results discussed.

How the APLN board & core can help:

4. Create calendar and online discussion tools for local groups
5. Interact socially with the leaders of either the group or the get-together and encourage a report-out of the activity into the group's online discussion area, so other people can see it.

Moving to the upper right, online interaction, we see

- Threaded discussion
- Migration from threaded discussion to archive-value FAQ and expertise library
- Pieces for expertise library and FAQ (with good search capability)

How the APLN board & core can help:

6. Initiate a number of discussions
7. Locate people who will migrate information into a digest of archive value
8. Create a few sample FAQ notes and expertise library
9. Create a "starter's guide" on how to format a FAQ entry

Moving to the upper left, theme-based face-to-face interaction, we see

- Mini-conference / camp / workshop

The space of "meetings" is already filled with local chapter meetings and significant annual agile and project management conferences. One idea for the APLN is to support mini-conferences, workshops or camps organized a topic (probably running on a low budget) to attract people to come and participate face to face. There might be a regional theme (the DOI in the Northeast, Southwest, Midwest, England, Alberta, etc.) or work on open problems (selling the DOI ideas to managers; integrating incremental with waterfall projects; how to start an effective local group; etc.)

The mini-conference/camp/workshop should result in a report-out to the larger community.

How the APLN board & core can help:

10. Create online calendaring and organizational tools
11. Provide moral, social, financial, expertise assistance for mini-conferences and camps
12. Provide encouragement and tools to report out

4. List of Activities for APLN members to Sign up to lead or find a leader for

The APLN board & core needs to create and maintain a sign up list for the action items listed:

1. Start a local group; Find, motivate, or help someone else start one somewhere else.
2. Write a "starter's guide" on how to set up a local group (Kent McDonald has signed up for this)
3. List themes, topics, questions, problems for local groups to tackle.
4. Create calendar and online discussion tools for local groups
5. Interact socially with the leaders of either the group or the get-together and encourage a report-out of the activity into the group's online discussion area, so other people can see it.
6. Initiate a number of discussions
7. Locate people who will migrate information into a digest of archive value
8. Create a few sample FAQ notes and expertise library
9. Create a "starter's guide" on how to format a FAQ entry
10. Create online calendaring and organizational tools
11. Provide moral, social, financial, expertise assistance for mini-conferences and camps
12. Provide encouragement and tools to report out

There are probably others. The table and list can/should be maintained as a live document.