



# Northern Virginia Section 0511



## Newsletter

December 2009

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Please visit us at <http://www.asq0511.org/>

### Table of Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Message from the Chair .....                  | 1 |
| Exam Proctor Report.....                      | 1 |
| Reporters Wanted! .....                       | 2 |
| EDUCATION CORNER.....                         | 3 |
| Lean Six Sigma SIG Meeting.....               | 4 |
| Board Members, Committee and SIG Chairs ..... | 5 |

### Message from the Chair

*Larry Wilkins, Chair, Northern Virginia  
Section 0511*

Previously in this column, I promised that we would attempt to attract senior personnel from the National Headquarters to discuss important quality issues. I am happy to announce that Paul Borowski, Executive Director and Chief Strategic Officer of ASQ, will speak to us at the January meeting on the topic of the Future of Quality Study. The study is comprised of three main components: Key forces that will most likely shape the future of quality; Alternative scenarios describing how these forces might unfold; Implications for organizations and the quality field, for quality professionals, and for ASQ. It is conducted once every three years. I believe Paul will provide an interesting discussion that everyone in the

section will find of value. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the January meeting!

For more detailed information, and to register, check the meeting webpage at <http://www.asq0511.org/Meetings/announce.html>.

### Exam Proctor Report

*Mike Coleman, Proctor Chair, Northern  
Virginia Section 0511*

**Thank You!** We would like to thank those members who volunteered to proctor the certification examinations on October 17, 2009. They were Alan Baker, David Falletti, and Karl Trunk.

We would also like to thank those members who volunteered to proctor the certification examinations on December 5, 2009. They were Kathy Eaves, David Falletti, Carol Loulis, and Mark Yeo.

**Certification Questions** - Do you have questions about certification? Do you know which certification would be the most appropriate for you? Do you understand how the questions are developed, how the certification examinations are scored? If you don't know the answers to these questions, you should! The answers to these and other questions about certification are available in the ASQ Certification Handbook available at <http://www.asq.org/pdf/certification/certification-handbook.pdf>. The Handbook also provides advice for how to prepare for an examination and shows you how to interpret the results.

**Important Notice** - The final date for registering for the March 6, 2010 certification examinations is Jan 15, 2010. You can sign up late until Jan 20, 2010 for an extra \$50. The examinations that are available on March 6, 2010 are:

- Certified Biomedical Auditor (CBA)
- Certified HAACP Auditor (CHA)
- Certified Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence (CMQ/OE)
- Certified Quality Inspector (CQI)
- Certified Reliability Engineer (CRE)
- Certified Six Sigma Black Belt (CSSBB)

## Reporters Wanted!

*Christine Kurowski, Newsletter Editor,  
Northern Virginia Section 0511*

Do you have quality news or information you'd like to share? We're looking for people to submit content for the ASQ Section 0511 newsletter. Newsletters are

published on the Section website, [www.asq0511.org](http://www.asq0511.org). As a member, you are invited to submit articles and announcements for inclusion in this quarterly newsletter.

Some guidelines:

Topics should be relevant to quality and of general interest to ASQ membership. Examples: case studies, how-to tips, highlights of conferences you attended, SIG news, or trends, subspecialties & developments in quality. We cannot accept advertisements or content promoting your company, products or services.

Include a short title.

Articles should be brief, optimally 500 words or less.

Pictures and graphics should fit in a half page or less.

Use proper grammar and spelling, and define technical terms and acronyms.

Cite all sources used.

Format in Word and submit as an attachment.

Although an effort will be made to have authors review changes, the Newsletter Editor reserves the right to make changes as needed before publication. The Newsletter Editor reserves the right to select which submissions will be published. Articles may be reserved for future issues. Please submit articles and announcements via e-mail to the Newsletter Editor at [Newsletter09@asq0511.org](mailto:Newsletter09@asq0511.org).

## EDUCATION CORNER

Larry Wilkins, Education Committee Chair,  
Northern Virginia Section 0511



*The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn. Alvin Toffler*

### Prepare for ASQ Certification

I recently sat for ASQ's certification for Green Belt Six Sigma. Hopefully, I passed. There were about 15 people in the classroom with me. Prior to the start of the test, one of the others asked me what the large three ring binders were that I and a few others had. I explained to them about the Quality Council of Indiana (QCI) and the Primers they have to help people prepare for ASQ certification exams. I also noticed that very few people had copies of the ASQ Certified Six Sigma Green Belt Handbook. A large number of people had taken a certification prep course from their company or had procured a training manual from a non-ASQ source. I had a six-sigma pocket book from a non-ASQ source in my reference material. I noticed that there were subtle differences in what was presented and how it was presented and that it was not very useful during the exam. While I have found issues with the QCI products, I believe that the best way to prepare for a certification exam is to use the QCI material in conjunction with the ASQ Certification Handbook. Please pass this information to anyone that you know

who is preparing to take an ASQ Certification Exam.

### VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT:

**Education Volunteer:** – In the past, the Section 0511 Education Chair has been concerned with providing training for section members who are trying to prepare for a certification exam. The section would like to expand our education role by moving into the Quality Education arena. We are looking for people who work in the Education field (any level, public/private, teacher or administrator) who would like to assist the section in providing liaison to local schools, setting up and running an Education Special Interest Group, etc. Qualified candidates should have a certification in one of the following areas: CMQ/OE, Quality Auditor, Six Sigma Black Belt, or Quality Improvement Associate. The level of participation is entirely voluntary. As always, participation as a committee member earns recertification points. Please contact the Education chair at [education09@asq0511.org](mailto:education09@asq0511.org)

### **Certification Exam Preparation Course**

**Instructors:** The section is looking to expand its certification exam preparation course selection. If you would like to be a lead instructor for a new offering or be an assistant instructor in an existing offering, please contact the education chair at [education09@asq0511.org](mailto:education09@asq0511.org)

Instructor qualifications include a certification in the BOK you desire to instruct, several years of on the job experience in that field, and experience as an instructor/teacher. Instructors receive recertification units for teaching as well as a small stipend.

**Venues for Certification Course:** Section 0511 is constantly looking for a classroom facility to conduct our Certification Preparation Courses in. If you are planning to take one of our courses and have a facility that you provide for the course, please contact the specific instructor or the education chair at [education09@asq0511.org](mailto:education09@asq0511.org)

**ASQ Learning Institute (Another Reminder):**

In October 2005, the need to create a unified vision for how ASQ carries out its education and training emerged from a Member Leader Summit. The previous system, where HQ, sections, divisions, and forums all operated independently, lacked standardization and failed to maximize ASQ's talents and capabilities. As a result, the ASQ Learning Institute was developed and approved by the ASQ Board of Directors. It was determined that ASQ would start with a clean slate and develop a vision and long view for its training and education efforts. It needed to be modern, something responsive to the needs of customers and members, and something that makes the best use of ASQ's tremendous talents and capabilities. Check out what the Learning Institute has to offer you at: <http://www.asq.org/learninginstitute/>

**Lean Six Sigma SIG Meeting**

*Willie T. Davis, Lean Six Sigma SIG Chair,  
Northern Virginia Section 0511*

On Wednesday, 27 January, 2010, the Lean Six Sigma SIG hosts Jim Duarte, CQE, CSSBB, LSSMBB, and ASQ Fellow, to speak on Advanced Analytics for Lean Six Sigma. Advanced analytics tools take Lean Six Sigma projects to the next level of using the best data with the most advanced analysis methods. Collectively, these tools give the organization the ability to make

their strategic plans actionable, measureable and sustainable.

This event is jointly sponsored by ASQ Section 509 (MD & DC) and Section 511 (N.VA). For more information, directions, and to register for the event, please click <http://www.asq509.org/ht/d/sp/i/197/pid/197> and follow additional links as needed.

## Board Members, Committee and SIG Chairs

### ASQ Northern Virginia Section 0511

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