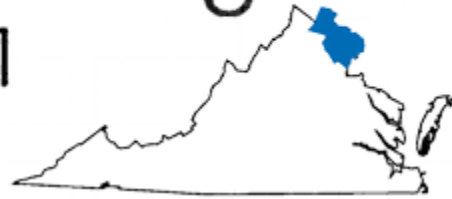




Northern Virginia Section 0511



Newsletter

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

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Message from the Chair

*Bill Eastham, Northern Virginia
Section 0511*

As the year begins, we are planning a variety of opportunities for our members over the next several months. The January meeting will be held at the Micron facility in Manassas, Virginia, a new venue for our members. Micron Technology, Inc. has agreed to provide an overview of their operation and conduct a tour of their state-of-the-art semiconductor manufacturing facility. Please visit our website, <http://www.asq0511.org/Meetings/announce.html>. for details. I would encourage you to

join us for this special event. Dinner will be catered and the guest speaker, Ernesto Roccatagliata, is Micron’s Quality and Workforce Development Manager for the facility.

We are rapidly approaching our timeline to nominate and select our next slate of officers for the ASQ Northern Virginia Section 0511. If you are interested in the Chair-Elect, Secretary, or Treasurer’s position, please let one of our elected Board Members know of your interest in supporting our Section. We are always looking for committee volunteers; please visit our website for the various committees, <http://www.asq0511.org/>.

We want to ensure we are continuing to meet your expectations in regard to speaker topic, venue and schedule. Please take a moment and think about the topics you would like to hear, and possibly a recommended speaker to address that topic, the venue and the best timing for the event. Send me (chair10@asq0511.org) a message with your thoughts and request; we will try our best to arrange for a speaker on that topic in the near future.

We are also interested in finding a speaker that would like to address current quality trends in the service and government contracting environment. If you have expertise and would like to address current quality in federal government contracting and the service arena please contact us at chair10@asq0511.org.

And finally, if you have a “quality story” where quality practices or principles made a difference and you would like to share them with the group, please send them to chair10@asq0511.org. We will publish them in our next newsletter. We need to share the impact quality is having in our work and daily lives.

Nominations Open for Member Leaders

Larry Wilkins, Nominations Chair, Northern Virginia Section 0511

Elections are coming soon! Every year in April, we elect member leaders to serve as our section officers. This year our section will elect a Secretary, Treasurer and Chair Elect. The Chair Elect position serves as the understudy to the Chair (Section Leader) in the year that he or she is elected and then will automatically become the Chair in the following year. Each one of these positions

requires a significant amount of time and energy to accomplish the requirements of the positions. These positions provide superior networking opportunities, recertification credits, and the ability to influence the future direction of our Section.

Criteria for nomination include: being a member of the section; being a paid-up member of ASQ; having a quality background or at least one ASQ certification; willingness to attend all monthly meetings and devote at least 10 hours a month outside of the meetings to Section business.

In order to be nominated, an individual must submit a petition with the signatures of at least 20 regular members of the section supporting his nomination. A copy of the Nomination Petition Form can be found on the section website. To run for one of the positions, please send an e-mail to the Nomination Chair. Nominees should strive to attend meetings in Jan, Feb, or March to network with other members and collect signatures. All nominations must be received at Nominating@asq0511.org before 1 April 2011 to be considered valid.

Exam Proctor Report

Kathleen Eaves, Chief Proctor, Northern Virginia Section 0511

Section 0511 proctored exams for ASQ certifications on December 4, 2010, at the NVCC Manassas, VA campus. A total of 46 persons took exams. The number of examinees per certification exam was:

Certified Green Belt	23
Certified Software Quality Engineer	5
Certified Quality Improvement Associate	1
Certified Quality Process Analyst	3
Certified Calibration Technician	3
Certified Quality Auditor	10

Thank You!

We would like to thank those members who volunteered to proctor the certification examinations in December. The assistant proctors were Vincent Colbert, Richard German, George Schiano, and Mark Yeo.

New Master Black Belt Certification

The ASQ Master Black Belt (MBB) certification is a mark of career excellence and aimed at individuals who possess exceptional expertise and knowledge of current industry practice. Master Black Belts have outstanding leadership ability, are innovative, and demonstrate a strong commitment to the practice and advancement of quality and improvement. Obtain an ASQ MBB for acceptance and recognition from your peers.

For more information, please visit www.asq.org/certification/index.html.

Certification Questions

Do you have questions about certification? Do you know which certification is the most appropriate for you? Do you understand how the questions are developed, and how the certification examinations are scored? The answers to these and other questions about certification can be found in the ASQ Certification Handbook 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.

Deadline for Spring Exams

Deadlines for the March 5, 2011 ASQ certification exams are near! **Register by January 14, 2011**, or pay the extra \$50 fee for late registration until January 19, 2011. See <http://asq.org/certification/index.html> to register for an exam.

Lean Six Sigma Special Interest Group Meeting

*Norma Myers, Lean Six Sigma SIG Chair,
Northern Virginia Section 0511*

The Lean Six Sigma SIG invites you to attend their upcoming meeting on Jan. 26, 2011, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The meeting is hosted by TEQCORNER, 1616 Anderson Road, McLean. The topic for this meeting is "Security within the Systems Development Life Cycle (SDLC)". Learn how you can gain a better appreciation for addressing quality and security concerns in a multi-phased approach. The presenter is Ms. Rhonda Farrell, Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton, CSQE, CISSP, CSSLP and JD. She is a Senior Member of ASQ, Membership Chair of Section 0509, and co-chair of the LSS SIG. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.asq509.org/ht/display/EventDetails/i/56534/pid/581>. Meeting registration and light refreshments are complimentary and open to the public.

And the Winner Is....

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

Bob Orkin! Bob correctly identified the most quality champions on the photo montage on the Section 0511 home page, <http://www.asq0511.org/>. For his winning entry in the contest, Bob will receive a free dinner at a Section 0511 meeting. Congratulations!

EDUCATION CORNER

Larry Wilkins, Education Committee Chair,
Northern Virginia Section 0511



"Learning is what most adults will do for a living in the 21st century."

-- Perelman

ASQ Certification

I continue to receive a large volume of e-mail concerning preparing for a certification exam and the resources available. To ensure everyone gets a chance to see the opportunities available for certification training, we have decided to repeat the education corner from the last newsletter.

In this column, I will provide you with answers to the most often asked questions. The first of these is who provides training and where can I go to find out when and where this training is offered. The first source to consider for certification training is ASQ National. ASQ National lists all of their training courses and schedules on their ASQ Learning Institute web site: <http://www.asq.org/learninginstitute/> or simply go to the ASQ web site and navigate to the Learning Institute. This site not only allows you to view and select courses to take; it also allows you to track your training history and plan your training. ASQ offers classroom, webinars and individual courses that you can take to study for a certification exam. The downside to an ASQ National

course is the expense. There are other organizations that teach certification courses. We are unable to comment on these, as we do not know the quality of their courses. The next resource is local ASQ sections such as Section 0511. In the past, we have taught CQA, CSQE and CMQ/OE. We currently only offer the CQA course, as our instructors in the other courses are unable to devote time to teach the course. We will send an e-mail out announcing the start of a CQA course approximately one month in advance. We will also post it to our web page. Other sections also offer courses. The nearest sections are Section 0509 (Washington DC <http://www.asq509.org/>) and Section 502 (Baltimore <http://www.asqbaltimore.org/>). Finally, you can prepare for the exam by individual study. If you plan to do that, we recommend that you use the Quality Council of Indiana primers and study material (<http://www.qualitycouncil.com/>). I used the CQI primers to prepare for the Six Sigma Green Belt exam and passed on the first try. Finally, the only way to pass a certification exam is through long hard hours of preparation, no matter what method you choose!

Quality Education

While ASQ certifications are a great way to gain expertise and formal recognition, there are other venues that provide education in quality subjects. We recommend you check out the local institutions of higher learning. Almost all of them offer degrees in management with instruction on quality included in the courses offered. Others offer degrees in software engineering, manufacturing, etc. that closely align with the ASQ certification categories. Students can take individual courses or complete a degree program to gain more knowledge of the subject area and quality principles.

Check out the web sites of the local colleges and universities to discover how they can help you become more professional.

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 Education10@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 Education10@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 in which to conduct our Certification Preparation Courses. If you are planning to take one of our courses and have a facility that you can provide for the course, please contact the specific instructor or the education chair at Education10@asq0511.org

ASQ Learning Institute:

If you have not had an opportunity to view what the Learning Institute has to offer, below is a page that is copied from the ASQ web site that shows you what the Institute has to offer:

My Learning

It's all about you. Create your learning plan. Track your progress. Make adjustments. You can do it all from right here.

Track your training history. Here's your entire history of learning events - including courses taken outside of the Learning Institute.

Work on your learning plan. Plan your training over an extended period of time. Includes scheduled courses, courses in progress, and future courses you would like to take.

Plan your quality career. Identify gaps in your knowledge and choose the appropriate training to get from where you are to where you want to be.

Add CEUs you've earned outside of the Learning Institute. Include additional CEUs and classes you've taken outside of the Learning Institute to create your comprehensive learning profile.

Check out what the Learning Institute has to offer you at:

<http://www.asq.org/learninginstitute/>

Did You Miss It?

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

If you've missed our meetings the past few months, please check the Past Presentations (<http://www.asq0511.org/Presentations/presentations.html>) on the ASQ Section 0511 website to view an archive of presentation materials. The October meeting featured a presentation by Gregg Monaco, who discussed aviation accidents and how they are investigated in order to make improvements to prevent future mishaps. In November, Robert Orkin gave his presentation from the ASQ Audit Division Conference on how to create checklists that uncover information germane to the purpose of an audit. Our December meeting was a lively gathering to celebrate the accomplishments of those who achieved certification in the past year and network with peers.



Members enjoy great hors d'oeuvres and conversation at the December meeting

Upcoming Meetings

Join us as we kick off the 2011 programs with a special meeting and tour at Micron Technology, Inc., 9600 Godwin Drive, in Manassas, on Wednesday, January 19!

Ernesto Roccatagliata, Quality and Workforce Development Manager of Micron's premier 300mm semiconductor manufacturing facility, will speak on Quality at Micron Technology. We will enjoy dinner onsite, learn how quality is implemented at Micron, and take a walking/window tour of Micron's premier manufacturing facility, guided by a Micron ASQ Certified Six Sigma Black Belt. Email Programs10@asq0511.org by Friday, January 14, to register for this dinner meeting and presentation.

For information on upcoming meetings, check the Section 0511 website at <http://www.asq0511.org/Meetings/announce.html>. Please also join the Northern Virginia Section of the American Society for Quality group on LinkedIn to connect with other local quality professionals. http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=21215&trk=anet_ug_hm

Chapter Member Authors Book

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

We caught up with chapter member Jim Bowie to discuss his forthcoming book from ASQ Press, "Lean Acres". Jim grew up in Poolesville, MD, surrounded by farms. As a continuous process improvement consultant, Jim often drew examples from farm life to explain organizational improvement and quality management concepts to clients. One day he was struck with the inspiration to compile and expand these examples into a full-length book. His intent was to illustrate the strategic integration of several methodologies such as Lean, Six Sigma, Theory of Constraints and Business Process Reengineering in an entertaining, understandable manner that would be accessible and appealing to people who are

put off by a “guru on the mountain” academic approach.

“Lean Acres” is a fable about how a colorful collection of people and animals living on the farm approach their daily work and deal with competition and the need to change. Its central message is the criticality of personalities and the human element in successfully using and integrating quality methodologies, and that all groups, from churches to multi-national organizations, need to consider this. Jim makes the point that we need to recognize the “voice of the enemy” as well as the “voice of the customer”. The competition is always watching what we do and using it to their advantage. Complacency is dangerous.

When asked if he had a favorite character, Jim chuckled and said “The interactions between Owl and the Jackass were fun to write. They represent two extremes – the Owl is knowledgeable and objective, and the Jackass is cemented in place. Everyone who reads this will recognize an Owl and a Jackass, but nobody is just one of the animals - we are ALL of the characters on the farm sometime!”

Look for “Lean Acres” on ASQ Press in January, 2011. More about the author and a description of the book can be found at <http://leanacresonline.com/>.

Board Members, Committee and SIG Chairs

ASQ Northern Virginia Section 0511

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Chair Elect	Larry Wilkins	ChairElect10@asq0511.org
Secretary	Yvonne Fernandez	Secretary10@asq0511.org
Treasurer	Michael W. Coleman	Treasurer10@asq0511.org
Immediate Past Chair	Larry Wilkins	PastChair10@asq0511.org
Arrangements	Marie Rondot	Arrangements10@asq0511.org
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Certification & Recertifications	Robert Zimman	certification10@asq0511.org
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Examining	Kathleen Eaves	Examining10@asq0511.org
Finance	Jeff Parnes & Joe Tullington	Finance10@asq0511.org
Historian	Rick Wells	Historian10@asq0511.org
Lean Six Sigma SIG Chair	Norma Myers	SixSigma10@asq0511.org
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