Granite State Newsletter – February 2026

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SECTION MISSION STATEMENT

To be recognized as the primary source for information and education in the Quality Sciences in the States of New Hampshire and Maine.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

For this year it is important to support the members from the Pine Tree section who transferred to Granite State at the end of last year. The integration is a major activity for 2026 including events in Maine.

The section is planning some interesting programs for this year.

For membership meetings we anticipate 6 in-person meetings in New Hampshire and 6 in-person meetings in Maine. Recognizing that for many members, travel to meetings is difficult, we are also collaborating with other sections to offer their on-line meetings. This should provide multiple opportunities for both in-person and on-line attendance.

We are also planning a significant education program. This will include on-line courses typically six to eight weeks long. We expect a full day in-person course in both New Hampshire and in Maine. We are planning a few webinars during the year. The quarterly Quality Reading Group will also continue.

Collaboration with others is important, so we are working with other sections and with ASQ divisions. We intend to strengthen ties with other professional societies in both New Hampshire and in Maine including joint events.

2026 should be an eventful year for the section.

There are many opportunities to get involved. We need people to join the SLT, to speak at Membership Meetings, present at Educational Events, and write Professional Development articles for the newsletter. To become involved please contact Dan O'Leary, the Section Chair, at doleary@memberleader.asq.org

Dan O'Leary CMDA, CQA, CQE, CRE, CSSBB
Chair, Granite State Section

MEETING AND EDUCATION SUMMARY CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Section	Method
Feb 18, 2026	Quality Management System Regulation	Merrimack Valley	On-line
Feb 19, 2026	Future Challenges and Opportunities: Mastering AI, People Skills, and Purpose to Win the Next Decade	Worcester	On-line
March 12, 2026	Complaints and Adverse Event Reporting for Medical Devices	Granite State Meeting in Maine	In-person
March 17, 2026	Complaints and Adverse Event Reporting for Medical Devices	Granite State Meeting in New Hampshire	In-person
March 19, 2026	AI Governance & Risk Management	Worcester	On-line
March 25, 2026	Webinar on Acceptance Sampling	Granite State	On-line
April 16, 2026	Transition to ISO 14001:2026	Worcester	On-line
May 7, 2026 Tentative	Data Analysis Using Excel	Granite State Presented in Maine	In-person Full Day
May 12, 2026 Tentative	Data Analysis Using Excel	Granite State Presented in New Hampshire	In-person Full Day
May 14, 2026	AI in Action: Enhancing Risk Based Audit Planning	Granite State Meeting in Maine	In-person
May 21, 2016	Effective Root Cause Analysis and CAPA	Worcester	On-line
June 18, 2026	Transition to ISO 9001	Worcester	In-person

GRANITE STATE MEMBER MEETINGS

Thursday March 12, 2026
Complaints and Adverse Event Reporting for Medical Devices by Dan O'Leary CMDA, CQA, CQE, CRE, SSBB
Venue: Hilton Garden Inn Portland Airport – Portland, ME
Networking: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Presentation: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Registration: https://mp.gg/3a2xtc8bni

Tuesday March 17, 2026
Complaints and Adverse Event Reporting for Medical Devices by Dan O'Leary CMDA, CQA, CQE, CRE, SSBB
Venue: Puritan Restaurant – Manchester, NH
Networking: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Presentation: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Registration: https://mp.gg/vfrnsmyg

Thursday May 14, 2026
AI in Action: Enhancing Risk Based Audit Planning by Laura Halleck
Venue: TBD
Networking: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Presentation: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Registration: TBD

GRANITE STATE EDUCATION

Tuesday March 25, 2026
Webinar on Acceptance Sampling – CQE BoK IV.C
Presenter: Dan O'Leary CMDA, CQA, CQE, CRE, SSBB
Venue: On-line
Time: 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm
The registration fee is $30. You do not have to be a member of Granite State to attend.
Registration: Provided later

Description: The webinar covers the concepts of acceptance sampling including operating characteristic (OC) curves, producer/consumer risk, and AQL. It describes sampling using Z1.4, c=0, and Z1.9 plans.

Thursday May 7, 2026 – Tentative
Data Analysis Using Excel
An in-person hands-on full-day course in Maine
Presenter: Dan O'Leary CMDA, CQA, CQE, CRE, SSBB
Venue: Provided later
Time: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
The registration fee is $295 including lunch and the course material.
You do not have to be a member of Granite State to attend.
Registration: Provided later

Description: This in-person course covers data analysis using Excel. Excel has some solid capabilities, is easy to use, and you already have it. The course covers statistical functions, descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, pivot tables, goal seek, solver, and the Analysis ToolPak.

Participants should bring a computer with Excel, know the basics of working with Excel, and have basic knowledge of statistics. The course uses data sets provided on-line and on a flash drive. Participants need to access the data sets during the course, so ensure your computer will allow you to get the data.

Thursday May 12, 2026 – Tentative
Data Analysis Using Excel
An in-person hands-on full-day course in New Hampshire

Presenter: Dan O'Leary CMDA, CQA, CQE, CRE, SSBB
Venue: Provided later
Time: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
The registration fee is $295 including lunch and the course material.
You do not have to be a member of Granite State to attend.
Registration: Provided later

Description: This in-person course covers data analysis using Excel. Excel has some solid capabilities, is easy to use, and you already have it. The course covers statistical functions, descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, pivot tables, goal seek, solver, and the Analysis ToolPak.

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NEARBY SECTION EVENTS

Merrimack Valley Section
Quality Management System Regulation by Jon Saltonstall, Senior VP from AlvaMed
Wednesday 02/18/2026 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm EST.
Registration: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/zfDR6rFeQGekeIMTlJwwzQ

Vermont Section
Planning VQ2026 for the 3rd week of October; this will be a 1-day conference. Stay tuned!

Worcester Section
Future Challenges and Opportunities: Mastering AI, People Skills, and Purpose to Win the Next Decade by Jay Patel
Date: Feb 19, 2026 Time: 12 to 1 PM EST
Via Zoom ID: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7034877252 Meeting id 7034877252
REGISTRATION: NOT REQUIRED

AI Governance & Risk Management by Greg Hutchins, PE, CERM, CEO & Author
Date: March 19, 2026 Time: 12 to 1 PM EST
Via Zoom ID: https://us02web.zoom.us/my/qpsinc Meeting id: 7906904984
REGISTRATION: NOT REQUIRED

North Jersey Section
Information not available

ASQ CONFERENCES

Lean and Six Sigma Conference
February 22 - 24, 2026
Phoenix, AZ – In Person

Collaboration on Quality in the Space and Defense Industries Forum
March 10 – 11, 2026
Cape Canaveral, FL

World Conference on Quality & Improvement
May 17 - 20, 2026
Orlando, FL – In Person

2026 Audit Division Conference
September 23 – 24, 2026
Rosemont, IL

For more information on these events go to https://asq.org/events

GRANITE STATE MEMBER CERTIFICATIONS

If you recently received a new ASQ certification, please let us know. The Section would like to congratulate you in the newsletter. Send your name, the new certification, and your current certifications to Dan O'Leary doleary@memberleader.asq.org.

ASQ CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHEDULE

Certification: CQT, CQI, CRE, CFSQA, CMDA, CMQ/OE, CSSBB, CSSYB, CSQP

Testing Window	Application Deadline
May 1 - 31, 2026	April 13, 2026
July 1 - 31, 2026	June 8, 2026

Certification: CQA, CQE, CQIA, CSQE, CSSGB, CQPA, CCT, CPGP, CCQM

Testing Window	Application Deadline
April 1 - 30, 2026	March 9, 2026
June 1 - 30, 2026	May 11, 2026
August 1 - 31, 2026	July 13, 2026

To apply, go to https://www.asq.org/cert/dates

Download the *ASQE Candidate Handbook and Application Process* from
https://p.widencdn.net/j5hi1o/Certification-Candidate-Handbook

GRANITE STATE MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR PAPERS

If you recently published a paper, made a presentation, or spoke at a professional society meeting, please let us know. The Section would like to congratulate you. Send your name, and the information about your accomplishment to Dan O'Leary doleary@memberleader.asq.org.

THE FEBRUARY 2026 SLT MEETING

Granite State members are welcome to participate in SLT meetings and to join the SLT. Contact Dan O'Leary doleary@memberleader.asq.org.

The Granite State SLT met on February 10, 2026.

- The section's account balance is $12,244.27
- The 2026 plans include:
    - 6 membership meetings in NH
    - 6 membership meetings in ME
    - At least one on-line course
    - At least one in-person course in NH and in ME
    - At least three webinars
    - Continue the quarterly Quality Reading Group

THE 2026 SLT

The 2026 Section Leadership Team, SLT, is:

Chair	Dan O'Leary
Secretary	Sarah Matloff
Treasurer	Charles Killam
Arrangements	Dan O'Leary
Database	Dan O'Leary
Education	Dan O'Leary
Member at Large	Scott Neal
Member at Large	Chris Carr
Membership	Dustin Dulac
Newsletter	Dan O'Leary
Nominating Committee	Bharat Arora
Program Chair - NH	Sai Ranjith Ramakrishnan
Program Chair – ME	Peter Heang
VoC Chair	Dan O'Leary

CALL FOR SLT MEMBERS

Granite State is looking for members who would like to join the Section Leadership Team, SLT. It is a volunteer position to help manage the section. SLT members are involved in the planning and operation that make the section a success.

Members who live in Maine are particularly welcome as we work to support that geography

If you are interested in joining the SLT, please contact the Chair by e-mail at doleary@memberleader.asq.org. Volunteers can earn recertification units, RUs, for membership on the SLT.

SECTION METRICS

The Section metrics help measure success against the plans for 2026. The results are in a Red/Yellow/Green format scorecard.

Members – The number of members in the section based on the monthly membership list.
     Green 150 or more members
     Yellow 125 to 150 members
     Red   fewer than 125 members

Member Retention Rate – The number of retained members for the month divided by the total number of members for the prior month, expressed as a percentage.
     Green 95% or greater
     Yellow 92% to 95%
     Red   less than 92%

Account Balance – The BillHighway account balance at the beginning of the month.
     Green $10,000 or more
     Yellow $8,500 to $10,000
     Red   less than $8,500

Meetings Held-NH – The number of in-person meetings held in NH. Joint meetings with another section, division, or professional society count regardless of the location.
     Green 4 or more meetings
     Yellow 3 meetings
     Red   2 or fewer meetings

Meetings Held-ME – The number of in-person meetings held in ME. Joint meetings with another section, division, or professional society count regardless of the location.
     Green 4 or more meetings
     Yellow 3 meetings
     Red   2 or fewer meetings

Event with another section or division – The number of joint events with another part of ASQ.
     Green Event held
     Red   No event held

Event with another professional society – The number of joint events with an organization outside ASQ.
     Green Event held
     Red   No event held

Chair's message – Chair's message posted on myASQ and included in the newsletter when it is published.
     Green 12 months
     Yellow 10 or 11 postings
     Red 9 or fewer postings

Newsletters Published – The number of Granite State newsletters published
     Green 8 or more newsletters
     Yellow 7 or 6 newsletters
     Red   5 or fewer newsletters

Full day workshops in NH – The number of full-day workshops held in NH
     Green 1 or more workshops held
     Red   No workshops held

Full day workshops in ME – The number of full-day workshops held in ME
     Green 1 or more workshops held
     Red   No workshops held

On-line courses held – The number of on-line courses held
     Green 1 or more on-line courses held
     Red   No courses held

Webinars held – The number of webinars held
     Green 3 or more webinars
     Yellow 1 or 2 webinars
     Red   0 webinars

Cells have no fill until the first scheduled event. Sparklines provide the trend.

Metric	Target	Sparklines	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Members	150 or more	\	208	201										
Member Retention Rate	Percentage ≥ 95%	/	88.9%	94.70%										
Account Balance	$10,000 or more	/	$11,716.93	$12,244.27										
Meetings Held - NH	6 or more													
Meetings Held - ME	6 or more													
Event with another section or division	1 or more events													
Event with another professional society	1 or more events													
Chair's Message	One each month	–	Yes	Yes										
Newsletters Published	8 or more		Yes											
Full-day workshops in NH	1 or more workshops													
Full-day workshops in ME	1 or more workshops													
On-line courses held	1 or more courses													
Webinars held	3 or more													

SECTION DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographics from the February membership list are below.

Members by Country

Country	Count	Percent
US	199	99.0%
GB	1	0.5%
IE	1	0.5%
Total	201	100.0%

Members by State (US only)

State	Count	Percent
NH	130	65.3%
ME	45	22.6%
MA	14	7.0%
NM	2	1.0%
NY	0	0.0%
VT	3	1.5%
WI	2	1.0%
AR	1	0.5%
FL	1	0.5%
PA	1	0.5%
Total	199	100.0%

Members by membership type

Member Type	Count	Percent
Professional Membership	145	72.1%
Senior Membership	37	18.4%
Retired Senior Membership	15	7.5%
Student Membership	2	1.0%
Retired Professional Membership	2	1.0%
Total	201	100.0%

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Granite State is planning its in-person membership meetings for 2026 and seeks presenters.

If you are working on a project, have an interesting case study, developed an exciting approach to a quality tool, implemented an AI application, are experienced with a standard, or knowledgeable about some quality topic, then your Granite State colleagues are interested in learning about it. If you would like to present at a meeting please contact Dan O'Leary at doleary@memberleader.asq.org (or dan_judie@msn.com).

CALL FOR AUTHORS

Granite State members are invited to write a Professional Development article for our newsletter. Submit your draft article to doleary@memberleader.asq.org.

In addition to recognition by other section members, writing an article can refine your skills and may support your ASQ certification. Become a recognized subject matter expert and showcase your knowledge.

QUALITY QUESTION

This area of the newsletter responds to quality questions from Granite State members. The question could be about best practices, implementing a method, using a statistical technique, *etc*. Submit your quality question to Dan O'Leary, doleary@memberleader.asq.org.

Question: Our company makes medical devices and we are implementing FDA's Quality Management System Regulation, QMSR. A question arose about complaints. A quality engineer was in the finished goods warehouse and noticed that some of the boxes had the wrong label. We pulled them from inventory and are investigating the cause. The question came up about whether this nonconformance is also a complaint. Can you provide some guidance?

Response: As you say, the boxes with the wrong label are nonconforming items. To determine whether they are a complaint, apply the QMSR definition. A complaint is a written, electronic, or oral communication that alleges deficiencies related to the identity, quality, durability, reliability, usability, safety, or performance of a medical device that has been released from the organization's control …

The Quality Engineer provided the communication so that part matches.

The Quality Engineer is alleging a deficiency in identity (the incorrect label), so that part matches.

The medical device has not been released from the organization's control. That part doesn't match because your company still has control inside your warehouse. The evidence is that you can easily take them back. However, the answer would be different if any of them had shipped because they are no longer in your control.

The last phrase was different in the former regulation. It said "released for distribution" which was a distinct process step in the acceptance part of the regulation.

I conclude that you have nonconforming material, but you do not have a complaint.

For the nonconformance, follow section 8.3.2 Actions in response to nonconforming product detected before delivery.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)
Dan O'Leary CMDA, CQA, CQE, CRE, CSSBB

Certified Quality Engineer BoK
VI. Quantitative Methods and Tools
      D. Statistical Decision-making
            5. Analysis of variance (ANOVA)
            Define, use, and interpret ANOVA and interpret the results (Analyze)

This article explores One Way ANOVA which is a common application. It compares groups of data to see if there is a difference. The method is a hypothesis test and used for design of experiments. The article explains the method using Excel, and doesn't include the underlying computations.

ANOVA, simply put, calculates the variance of each data set and the variance of all the data sets combined. If the data sets are the same, then the variances will be the same. If there is a big difference between combined variances and the individual variances, then something is different.

The method has some assumptions, but is robust, meaning that it can handle small violations – each data set comes from a normal distribution with the same variance and all the values are independent.

Because it is a designed experiment, collect the data in random order to eliminate any hidden bias.

Because it is a hypothesis test, set up the null hypothesis. It is that the mean of each data set is the same. The example uses three data sets so the null hypothesis is:

$$H_0: \mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3$$

The test statistic is a ratio and the underlying distribution is the *F* distribution. Excel calculates the factors in the ratio and the *F* distribution, so the formulas are not in this article.

Example
The Quality Engineer wants to improve the yield of a process by selecting different levels of an input. She calculates the yield and uses ANOVA to help determine whether there is a statistically significant difference.

She collects the data and enters it in the table shown below.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
65	73	59
68	72	63
67	73	64
63	75	65
63	69	60
62	74	
67	69	
	74	
	69	

She visualizes the data by creating a box-and-whisker plot.
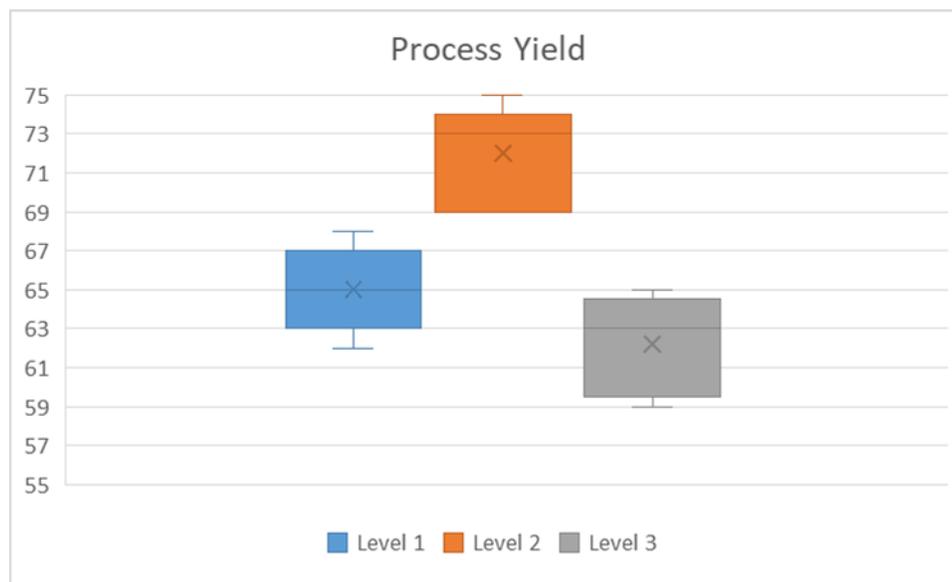
From the plot she has a pretty good idea of the results, but needs the ANOVA analysis to provide an analytical portion of her report.

The steps for the analysis are:

1. Enter the data into an Excel workbook.
2. Choose Data | Data Analysis.
3. In the dialog box scroll to find Anova: Single Factor and select it.
4. Select the data (in columns with headers). Use the Alpha box default of 0.05. Select cell E1 as the upper left corner for the result.
5. Click OK to generate the results.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3								
2	65	73	59		Anova: Single Factor					?	X
3	68	72	63								
4	67	73	64		Input					OK	
5	63	75	65		Input Range:		$A$1:$C$10				
6	63	69	60		Grouped By:		● Columns			Cancel	
7	62	74					○ Rows				
8	67	69			☑ Labels in first row					Help	
9		74									
10		69			Alpha: 0.05						
11					Output options						
12					● Output Range:		$E$1				
13					○ New Worksheet Ply:						
14					○ New Workbook						
15											
16											

6. Display the results after adjusting the column widths.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3		Anova: Single Factor						
2	65	73	59								
3	68	72	63		SUMMARY						
4	67	73	64		Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance		
5	63	75	65		Level 1	7	455	65	5.666667		
6	63	69	60		Level 2	9	648	72	5.75		
7	62	74			Level 3	5	311	62.2	6.7		
8	67	69									
9		74									
10		69			ANOVA						
11					Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
12					Between Groups	365.8667	2	182.9333	30.83146	1.54E-06	3.554557
13					Within Groups	106.8	18	5.933333			
14											
15					Total	472.6667	20				

7. Review the result to determine whether there is a difference.

The SUMMARY table includes the mean and variance of each data set. Notice that the variances are close, so they satisfy the assumption. Also notice that the mean of Level 2 seems to be different from the other levels.

The ANOVA table has the results of the calculations. On the right it gives the value of the F distribution, the critical value, and the P-value.

If the P-value is less than 0.05, reject the null hypothesis, H_0. In this case the P-value is well below 0.05 indicating that there is a statistically significant difference in the data sets. It doesn't tell which ones are different, but the box plot provides information.