



Granite State Newsletter – March 2026

CONTENTS

SECTION MISSION STATEMENT	1
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR.....	1
MEETING AND EDUCATION SUMMARY CALENDAR	2
GRANITE STATE MEMBER MEETINGS	2
GRANITE STATE EDUCATION.....	3
NEARBY SECTION EVENTS	4
ASQ CONFERENCES.....	5
GRANITE STATE MEMBER CERTIFICATIONS.....	5
ASQ CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHEDULE ...	6
GRANITE STATE MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR PAPERS.....	6
THE FEBRUARY 2026 SLT MEETING.....	6
THE 2026 SLT	6
CALL FOR SLT MEMBERS	7
SECTION METRICS.....	7
SECTION DEMOGRAPHICS.....	7
CALL FOR SPEAKERS.....	8
CALL FOR AUTHORS.....	8
QUALITY QUESTION	9
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	10
SECTION METRICS INFORMATION.....	11

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

March kicks off the Granite State program for 2026. For New Hampshire we have speakers for three of the three planned meetings, and for Maine we are also three for three. See the Granite State Member Meetings section below.

We are also working on education events in the upcoming months. There is a webinar on *Acceptance Sampling*, an on-line *CQA Exam Prep* course, and an in-person course on *Data Analysis using Excel* with one session in New Hampshire and one session in Maine.

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.

There is a planned joint meeting with Merrimack Valley. The *CQA Exam Prep* course is joint with the Vermont section.

An issue for members is earning recertification units. Because of the large geographic area of the section, many members find it difficult to attend membership meetings. There are many on-line events that members can attend, so the section provides information about them. These could be other sections or ASQ divisions. If you know of an ASQ on-line event of interest to members let us know by contacting the Chair.

There are many opportunities to get involved. We need people 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
April 15, 2026	Root Cause Investigation for CAPA	Merrimack Valley	On-line
April 16, 2026	Your World is Not Red or Green – Best Practices in Data Display	Granite State Meeting in Maine	In-person
April 16, 2026	How to Define the Right KPIs for Your Supply Chain and Escape the KPI Paradox	Worcester	On-line
April 21, 2026	Upcoming Changes to ISO 9001 Standard & How It Affects Your Organization	Granite State Meeting in New Hampshire	In-person
April 29, 2016	CQA Exam Preparation Course	Granite State Education	On-line Start of a 7 session course
April 30, 2026	North Jersey Spring Quality Conference 2026, with the theme "The Human Side of Artificial Intelligence"	North Jersey	On-line Full Day
May 7, 2026	Data Analysis Using Excel	Granite State Education Presented in Maine	In-person Full Day
May 12, 2026	Data Analysis Using Excel	Granite State Education 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	Root Cause Analyses (RCA) and Corrective and Preventive Actions (CAPA)	Worcester	On-line
May 26, 2016	TBD	Granite State Meeting in New Hampshire	In-person
June 18, 2026	Transition to ISO 9001	Worcester	In-person
October 22, 2026	VQ2026 conference.	Vermont	In-person Full Day

GRANITE STATE MEMBER MEETINGS

Thursday April 16, 2026

Meeting in Maine

Your World is Not Red or Green – Best Practices in Data Display by Rip Stauffer

Venue: Hilton Garden Inn Portland Airport

145 Jetport Blvd

Portland, ME 04102

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

Tuesday April 21, 2026

Meeting in New Hampshire

Upcoming Changes to ISO 9001 Standard & How It Affects Your Organization by Laura Halleck

Venue: Puritan Backroom – Canotas Room

245 Hooksett Rd

Manchester, NH 03104

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

Thursday May 14, 2026

Meeting in Maine

AI in Action: Enhancing Risk Based Audit Planning by Laura Halleck

Venue: Hilton Garden Inn Portland Airport

145 Jetport Blvd

Portland, ME 04102

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

Tuesday May 26, 2026

Meeting in New Hampshire

TBD by Attrayee Chakraborty

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

Thursday April 29, 2026

CQA Exam Preparation Course

Instructor: Tim King; LSSBB; CMQOE; CQA; CQI, 2026 ASQ Approved ConnEx™ Instructor

Venue: On-line, 7 sessions starting on Thursday April 29, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The registration fee is \$565.00. It does not include the ASQ Certified Quality Auditor Handbook nor the exam fee. You do not have to be a member of Granite State to attend.

Registration: <https://mp.gg/xa22rl3>



Description: The course covers the CQA 2026 BoK in depth and with clear examples and questions to practice to ensure concepts are well understood and questions are answered correctly.

Thursday May 7, 2026

Data Analysis Using Excel

An in-person hands-on full-day course in Maine

Presenter: Dan O'Leary CMDA, CQA, CQE, CRE, SSBB

Venue: TBD

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: TBD

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

Participants must 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

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 powerful capabilities, is easy to use, and you already have it. The course covers statistical functions, descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, pivot tables, goal seek, scenarios, solver, and the Analysis ToolPak.

Participants must 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.

NEARBY SECTION EVENTS

Merrimack Valley Section

Date: April 15, 2026 on-line section meeting from 6:30 to 8:00 PM Eastern time

Topic: Root Cause Investigation for CAPA

Presenter: Rob Weaver, the president of Weaver Consulting



Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/evafk0R0REi0AagLefQOiw>

North Jersey

SQC 2026 a one-day on-line conference on Thursday April 30th, 2026, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. For more information go to <https://www.asqnorthjersey.org/products/spring-quality-conference/>

Vermont Section

VQ2026 a one-day in-person conference on October 22, 2026 in South Burlington, VT.

Worcester Section

Date: April 16, 2026, Time: 12 PM to 1 PM EST

Topic: How to Define the Right KPIs for Your Supply Chain and Escape the KPI Paradox

Presenter: Manickavasagam Natarajan Quality & Manufacturing Expert | Digital Transformation Advocate | LinkedIn Global Influencer

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/my/qpsinc>

ZOOM MEETING ID: 7906904984

For questions, contact Jay P Patel: jayp@qpsinc.com

Date: May 21, 2026, Time: 12 PM to 1 PM EST

Topic: Root Cause Analyses (RCA) and Corrective and Preventive Actions (CAPA)

Presenter: Steven S Prevette, ASQ Fellow, Lecturer at Southern Illinois University

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/my/qpsinc>

ZOOM MEETING ID: 7906904984

For questions, contact Jay P Patel: jayp@qpsinc.com

ASQ CONFERENCES

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
September 1 - 30, 2026	August 10, 2026

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

Testing Window	Application Deadline
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 March 10, 2026.

- The section’s account balance is \$11,326.62.
- We welcomed Peter Heang, the Program Chair for Maine. He is the first SLT member from Maine.
- The discussion included:
 - 3 spring membership meetings in NH
 - 3 spring membership meetings in ME
 - The spring education program (courses and 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. Information on the metrics is in the last section of the newsletter.

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	208									
Member Retention Rate	Percentage ≥ 95%	✓	88.9%	94.7%	100.0%									
Account Balance	\$10,000 or more	∧	\$11,716.93	\$12,244.27	\$11,326.62									
Meetings Held - NH	6 or more				Yes									
Meetings Held - ME	6 or more				Yes									
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	Yes									
Newsletters Published	8 or more	—		Yes	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	206	99.0%
GB	1	0.5%
IE	1	0.5%
Total	208	100.0%

Members by State (US only)

State	Count	Percent
NH	135	65.5%
ME	45	21.8%
MA	16	7.8%
VT	3	1.5%
NM	2	1.0%
WI	2	1.0%
AR	1	0.5%
FL	1	0.5%
PA	1	0.5%
Total	206	100.0%

Members by membership type

Member Type	Count	Percent
Professional Membership	150	72.1%
Senior Membership	39	18.8%
Retired Senior Membership	15	7.2%
Retired Professional Membership	2	1.0%
Student Membership	2	1.0%
Total	208	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: We are having a discussion in our department about measuring corrective actions. Some people want to count them closed when we have implemented the actions while others say they are not closed until a successful effectiveness check. What is the best way to handle this problem and to show aging?

Response: This is a common concern because there are two important steps in corrective action – when the actions are complete and when you know they worked.

In a corrective action there is a detected nonconformity; the task is to investigate why it happened, determine the cause (which is usually a chain of events), and put measures in place to prevent recurrence. The measures should break the chain.

With the measures implemented the next question is whether they worked, *i.e.*, did the measures prevent recurrence. This is the effectiveness check, and usually requires some time (perhaps months) after implementation.

Implementing the measures is important and has its own term, usually “implemented”, “implementation complete”, or “complete”. After a successful effectiveness check, the term is usually “closed”.

During the period up to implementation, somebody is actively working on the corrective action. Between “complete” and the start of the effectiveness check, there is no activity. After the successful effectiveness check, the corrective action can be closed, meaning there is no more work to do on that corrective action.

The issue is the “dead time” from “complete” to the start of the effectiveness check. The analogy is baking bread. When it is set to rise, there is no work to do until baking.

When you measure the aging of corrective actions it is best to measure from the date it was initiated until the date complete. Including the time to closure brings in the dead time and distorts the metric.

A good visual uses box plots, one for each month, showing the aging from initiation to complete.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Goodness of Fit Tests

Dan O’Leary CMDA, CQA, CQE, CRE, CSSBB

Certified Quality Engineer BoK

VI. Quantitative Methods and Tools

D. Statistical Decision-making

4. Goodness-of-fit tests

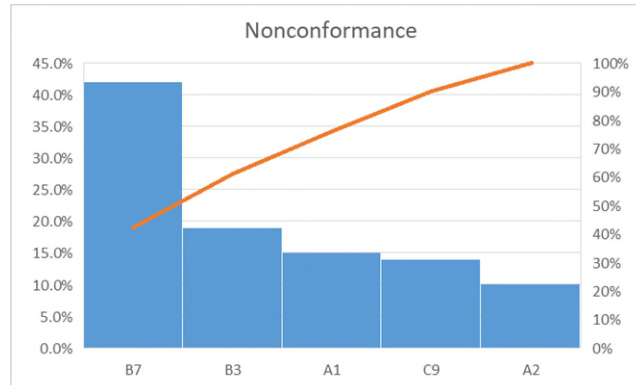
Define and use chi square and other goodness-of-fit tests, and understand the results (Apply)

This article provides an example of a goodness-of-fit test using Excel. The example uses a historical analysis of the frequencies of product nonconformities to determine whether the current nonconformity distribution follows the historical one.

The Excel workbook below shows the analysis followed by an explanation.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Nonconformance	Percent	Observed	Expected	
2	A1	15.0%	13	18.6	
3	A2	10.0%	17	12.4	
4	B3	19.0%	42	23.56	
5	B7	42.0%	11	52.08	
6	C9	14.0%	41	17.36	
7	Total	100.0%	124		
8					
9	Test	5.35E-17			
10					

The Nonconformance column names the nonconformance using coded values. The Percent column lists the historical distribution. Use these two columns to make a Pareto chart.



The Observed column is the number of currently observed nonconformances. The task is to compare this distribution to the historical to test whether it is the same.

The Expected column is the number of nonconformances if the distribution didn't change. The Excel workbook calculates it by multiplying each percentage in the Percent column by the total in the Observed column.

For example, for nonconformity A1, expect 15% of the current total, 128, or 18.6 nonconformances. The formula is =B2*\$C\$7.

This is a hypothesis test.

The null hypothesis, H_0 , is that the distribution hasn't changed and the alternate hypothesis, H_1 , is that it has changed.

For the example set $\alpha = 0.05$.

The test statistic is the Chi Square, χ^2 , statistic.

For the test use the Excel function CHISQ.TEST. The syntax is CHISQ.TEST(actual_range,expected_range).

The formula in cell B9 is =CHISQ.TEST(C2:C6, D2:D6). The range C2:C6 is the observed values and the range D2:D6 is the expected values.

In this case, Excel returns 5.35E-17.

Because the result is less than 0.05, we reject the null hypothesis. In other words, the probability of getting these results by chance is so small that we would sooner believe the distribution has changed.

SECTION METRICS INFORMATION

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 Bill Highway 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