



Granite State Newsletter – August 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

The Fall Season is shaping up to be very exciting.

We have programs lined up for our three planned meetings in New Hampshire.

September is a plant tour of Masimo Semiconductor in Hudson, NH. October is our Joint Meeting with NH MEP. Chiara Pulice is scheduled to present. December is *Your World is Not Red or Green – Best Practices in Data Display* by Rip Stauffer.

For Maine, the September topic is *Six-Sigma Journeys Through the Cannabis Industry* by Francis J. Boero Ph.D., CFS. October and November are still in the planning stage.

The education program is not complete, but we are planning four paid webinars in the fall as well as one on-line workshop.

We are continuing with the quarterly Granite State Reading Group. The 2026Q3 article is “Unlocking Improvement” from the April 2026 issue of *Quality Progress*. Make your comments in the thread on myASQ.

The elections for some of the leadership positions are underway. The nomination period closes on Monday August 24, 2026, so be sure to make your nominations.

The election period will run from September 14, 2026 to October 12, 2026. When you receive the ballot, be sure

to vote by following the instructions.



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

MEETING AND EDUCATION SUMMARY CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Section	Method
8/20/2026	Transitioning to ISO 14001:2026: Improve Your Environmental Management System	Worcester Section	In-person
9/10/2026	6 Sigma Belt Overview and Certification	Hartford Section	In-person
9/23/2026	Supply Management Analysis Using Excel's Solver	Granite State Webinar	On-line
9/24/2026	Six-Sigma Journeys Through the Cannabis Industry by Francis J. Boero Ph.D., CFS	Granite State Maine Meeting	In person
9/24/2026	Quality Jeopardy	Merrimack Valley Meeting	In person
9/29/2026	Plant Tour of Masimo Semiconductor in Hudson, NH	Granite State New Hampshire Meeting	In person
10/8/2026	Quality in the Fire Department	Hartford Section	In-person
10/13/2026	Joint meeting with the NH Society of Manufacturing Engineers	Granite State New Hampshire Meeting	In person
10/14/2026	Understanding Risk in FDA's QMSR	Granite State Webinar	On-line
10/15/2026	TBD	Granite State Maine Meeting	In person
10/22/2026	VQ2026 A one-day in-person conference that includes both pre-conference workshops and post-conference tours.	Vermont Conference	In-person
11/5/2026	BOSCON 2026 A two-day in-person conference	Boston Section	In-person
11/11/2026	Using Excel Goal Seek and Solver for Quality Data Analysis	Granite State Webinar	On-line
11/12/2026	Quality Top Dog – Trivia Night	Hartford Section	In-person
11/17/2026	Your World is Not Red or Green – Best Practices in Data Display by Rip Stauffer	Granite State New Hampshire Meeting	In person
11/12/2026	TBD	Granite State Maine Meeting	In person
12/9/2026	Conduct an Effective and Efficient Management Review	Granite State Webinar	On-line

GRANITE STATE MEMBER MEETINGS

Thursday Sep 24, 2026

Meeting in Maine

Six-Sigma Journeys Through the Cannabis Industry by Francis J. Boero Ph.D., CFS

Details forthcoming



Tuesday Sep 29, 2026

Meeting in New Hampshire
Plant Tour of Masimo Semiconductor in Hudson, NH
Details forthcoming

Tuesday October 13, 2026

Meeting in New Hampshire
Joint meeting with the NH Society of Manufacturing Engineers
Details forthcoming

Thursday October 15, 2026

Meeting in Maine
TBD

Tuesday November 17, 2026

Meeting in New Hampshire
Your World is Not Red or Green – Best Practices in Data Display by Rip Stauffer
Details forthcoming

NEARBY SECTION EVENTS

Boston

BOSCON 2026

Location: Hilton Boston/Woburn

Dates: November 5–6, 2026

Conference Tracks:

- AI & Digital Transformation – Exploring the impact of AI, data analytics, and digital tools on quality systems, process optimization, and predictive insights.
- Quality in Life Sciences & Medical Devices – Sharing strategies for quality management, lean practices, and embedding a culture of quality across organizations.
- Supply Chain & Logistics – Addressing quality assurance, process efficiency, and risk mitigation across complex supply chains and distribution networks.

Registration

https://app.memberplanet.com/#/event/asqbostonsectioncommittee/boscon2026_2

Hartford Section

6 Sigma Belt Overview and Certification

Thursday, September 10, 2026 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM EST

Nutmeg Restaurant and Banquet

297 S Main St

East Windsor, CT 06088

Cost: \$20.00



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

Quality in the Fire Department
Thursday October 8, 2026
Details forthcoming

Quality Top Dog – Trivia Night
Thursday November 12, 2026
Details forthcoming

Holiday Gathering
Joe Trowbridge Award
December
Details forthcoming

Merrimack Valley Section

Quality Jeopardy
Thursday, September 24, 2026, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM EST
Wamesit Masonic Lodge
70 Victor Drive
Tewksbury, MA
Cost with dinner is \$15
Quality Jeopardy and meeting only is free
Registration: <https://app.memberplanet.com/#/event/asqmerrimackvalleysectioncommittee/qualityjeopardy>

North Jersey Section

Information not available

Rhode Island Section

Information not available

Vermont Section

VQ2026 – Vermont Conference on Quality
October 22, 2026
Delta Hotel and Conference Center
S. Burlington, VT
A full day of keynote speakers and three tracks of presentations
There are two pre-conference tutorials on Oct 21, 2026
There is a “Tour of Tours” visiting four manufacturing sites on Oct. 23, 2026
The registration link includes conference pricing and the hotel registration link
Registration
<https://app.memberplanet.com/#/event/asqvermontsection/vq2026vermontconferenceonquality>



Worcester Section

Transitioning to ISO 14001:2026: Improve Your Environmental Management System by Jack Reardon

Date: Thursday, Aug 20, 2026, 6 PM to 8 PM

Location: QPS, 28 Lord Road, Suite 205, Marlborough, MA 01752

Cost: Worcester Section Member: FREE Non Member: \$25

Registration: Required by sending an e mail to Jay Patel, Section Chair (include name, employer, work phone number, e mail, membership number if ASQ Worcester member) jayp@qpsinc.com

GRANITE STATE EDUCATION

Granite State Webinars

The registration fee for each webinar is \$30.00.

Sep 23, 2026 – Supply Management Analysis Using Excel's Solver

Excel has a powerful built-in optimization engine named Solver. The webinar sets up an optimization problem for a production process and works through the solution using Solver.

Details forthcoming

Oct 14, 2026 – Understanding Risk in FDA's QMSR

FDA's QMSR, now a variant of ISO 13485:2016, has multiple meanings of risk. The webinar explains each one and provides examples to help implementation. It also looks at some Warning Letters and FDA 483s to illustrate the issues. The webinar explains the role of ISO 14971:2019, which has caused much confusion.

Details forthcoming

Nov 11, 2026 – Using Excel Data Analysis Tools for Quality Data Analysis

Quality Analysts often have large data sets from which they look for trends, outliers, and relationships. Excel has some effective data analysis tools, some of which are not well known, that can provide solutions to the analysis problem. The webinar explains some of these tools.

Details forthcoming

Dec 9, 2026 – Conduct an Effective and Efficient Management Review

Management systems, such as ISO 9001 and ISO 13485, include a requirement for Management Review. While the inputs and outputs may differ the underlying concepts remain the same. The webinar provides the concepts and explains how to use them in planning, conducting, and reporting Management Review.

Details forthcoming

Granite State Workshops

TBD

ASQ CONFERENCES

2026 Audit Division Conference

September 23 – 24, 2026

Rosemont, IL – In Person



Women in Quality
December 3, 2026
On-line

Lean and Six Sigma Conference
February 28 – March 2, 2027
Louisville, KY – In-person

World Conference on Quality & Improvement
May 23 – 26, 2027
Dallas, TX – In-person

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 any 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
November 1 - 31, 2026	October 12, 2026
January 1 - 31, 2027	December 7, 2026

Certification: CQA, CQE, CQIA, CSQE, CSSGB, CQPA, CCT, CPGP, CCQM	
Testing Window	Application Deadline
October 1 - 31, 2026	September 14, 2026
December 1 - 31, 2026	November 9, 2026
February 1 - 28, 2027	January 11, 2027

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 AUGUST 2026 SLT MEETING

Granite State members are welcome to participate in the Section Leadership Team, SLT, meetings and to join the SLT. Contact Dan O’Leary doleary@memberleader.asq.org.

- The section’s account balance is \$7,312.37.
- For the section metric, we use a Red/Yellow/Green system with Green above \$10,000, Red below \$8,500 and Yellow between.
- Because the metric is now Red, we will ask the Region Director for \$4,000. The section no longer receives dues allocations from ASQ. The balance is declining because the cost of membership meetings is below what members pay to attend.
- We are in the election season, in the call for nominations period, which ends on August 24, 2026.
- We are planning to conduct a survey of new members (who joined the section this year) to learn why they joined and their expectations for the section.

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	Dan O’Leary
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.

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	191	196	191	193	183				
Member Retention Rate	Percentage ≥ 95%		88.9%	94.7%	100.0%	88.0%	95.3%	95.9%	98.4%	93.8%				
Account Balance	\$10,000 or more		\$11,716.93	\$12,244.27	\$11,326.62	\$11,175.77	\$9,338.00	\$8,349.11	\$7,257.47	\$7,312.37				
Meetings Held - ME	6 or more				Yes	Yes	No							
Meetings Held - NH	6 or more				Yes	Yes	Yes							
Event with another section or division	1 or more events						Yes							
Event with another professional society	1 or more events													
Chair's Message	One each month		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					
Newsletters Published	8 or more			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes							
On-line courses held	1 or more courses													
Webinars held	6 or more				Yes									

SECTION DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographics from the May membership list are below.

Members by Country

Country	Count	Percent
US	182	99.5%
CA	1	0.5%
Total	183	100.0%

Members by State (US only)

State	Count	Percent
NH	122	67.0%
ME	35	19.2%
MA	16	8.8%
VT	3	1.6%
NM	2	1.1%
WI	2	1.1%
FL	1	0.5%
NY	1	0.5%
Total	182	100.0%

Members by membership type

Member Type	Count	Percent
Professional Membership	130	71.0%
Senior Membership	33	18.0%



Retired Senior Membership	16	8.7%
Retired Professional Membership	2	1.1%
Student Membership	2	1.1%
Total	183	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.

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 have a part supplier who sent some non-conforming product, but we didn’t find them until using them in production. We sent a Supplier Corrective Action Request, SCAR. What is the best way to evaluate its effectiveness?

Response:

When you send the SCAR two things should happen. Your company needs to increase its scrutiny at receiving/incoming inspection and your supplier should enter the SCAR into their own corrective action system to work the problem and report the results to you.

If the parts go through incoming inspection sampling, you need to lower the AQL to increase the sample size. Both Z1.4 and c=0 have switching rules, so go to tightened inspection. Also, until you know the cause of the problem, assume it applies to all product from that supplier, so use tightened inspection for parts. If you don’t currently send the parts through incoming inspection sampling, then start inspecting them. If the part is critical (a safety issue, the problem shuts down production, *etc.*) then use 100% inspection.



The supplier should initiate a corrective action in their own system resulting in both determining the cause and an effectiveness check. You need to review both results. If the cause doesn't involve other products you can revert them to normal inspection.

To verify the supplier's effectiveness, continue with the tightened inspection until the switching rules say to revert to normal inspection. Start with the first lot received after corrective action implementation and continue tightened inspection until you accept 5 consecutive lots.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Risk Management Plan

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

Certified Quality Engineer BoK

VII. Risk Management

B. Risk Planning and Assessment

1. Risk Management Plan

Analyze and interpret a risk management plan and its components (objectives, risk criteria, stakeholder identification, and team member roles / responsibilities) to identify and prioritize risks.

Risk management is an integral part of a Quality Management System, QMS, to help understand uncertainty in processes and products and to control those risks. A risk management plan is an essential element of risk management.

The risk management plan supports risk-based thinking described in ISO 9001:2015, clause 0.1 as an approach which "enables an organization to determine the factors that could cause its processes and its quality management system to deviate from the planned results, to put in place preventive controls to minimize negative effects, and to make maximum use of opportunities as they arise".

A risk management plan typically has the components identified and described below.

Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

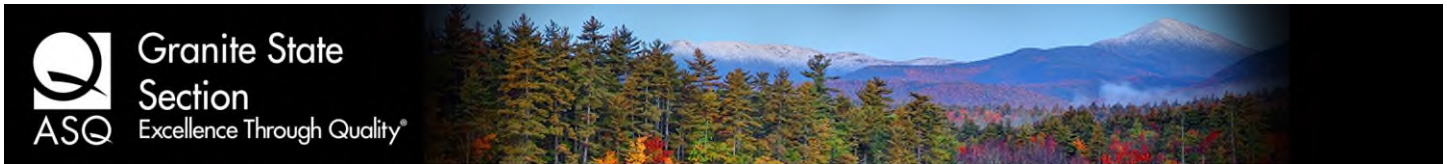
Defining the roles and responsibilities is important to help assure the effective implementation of the plan. The roles and responsibilities may be organized by phases. For a product, the phases might be design, manufacturing, shipping, installation, and post-production information collection. A common quality tool is the RASI matrix where tasks are characterized by **R**esponsible, **A**uthority, **S**upport, **I**nform.

Responsible – The person responsible to complete the task

Authority – The person with the authority to accept or reject the results of the task

Support – A person who supports the responsible person

Inform – A person who is informed about the task, its progress, and its status



Likelihood and Severity

Likelihood measures how often something is likely to happen. It could be a “bad” event or a “good” event. Likelihood is usually measured on a three-point or a five-point scale; either qualitative or quantitative. It is sometimes (incorrectly) termed probability.

Severity is a measure of the effect of the event, should it happen. Severity is usually measured on a three-point or a five-point scale, most often using qualitative terms.

Risk Acceptability Criteria

Risk describes the combinations of likelihood and severity, usually with a descriptive word on a two-point or three-point scale. Risk acceptability identifies which combinations are acceptable and which combinations require further action such as risk reduction or management approval.

A common approach uses a table with the cells colored red, yellow, or green. The table with colors is often called a heat map.

Event Categories

A common method groups similar events into pre-defined categories for analysis ease. Rather than having events with small differences analyzed individually, grouping reduces the analysis work and makes the plan easier to follow.

Budgets

Risk management activities consume resources to analyze, track, and reduce risk. A budget helps identify the required resources and the level of effort.

Activity Frequency

Risk management involves regular activities such as analysis, review, and reporting. A plan and schedule are important to keep the activities on track. For example, the schedule would include when risk management is an agenda item for Management Review.