



Granite State Newsletter – September 2026

CONTENTS

SECTION MISSION STATEMENT	1
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR.....	1
MEETING AND EDUCATION SUMMARY CALENDAR	2
GRANITE STATE MEMBER MEETINGS	3
NEARBY SECTION EVENTS	4
GRANITE STATE EDUCATION.....	8
ASQ CONFERENCES.....	9
GRANITE STATE MEMBER CERTIFICATIONS.....	10
ASQ CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHEDULE .	10
GRANITE STATE MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR PAPERS.....	10
THE SEPTEMBER 2026 SLT MEETING	10
THE 2026 SLT	11
CALL FOR SLT MEMBERS	11
SECTION METRICS.....	11
SECTION DEMOGRAPHICS.....	12
CALL FOR SPEAKERS.....	12
CALL FOR AUTHORS.....	13
QUALITY QUESTION	13
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	13

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

As the seasons turn, the section is planning the fall and winter programs. We anticipate members will find the programs interesting and enjoy participating.

The election for the 2027 elected positions (Chair, secretary, and Treasurer) is underway. Members can vote for the Nominating Committee's slate, since this is an uncontested election. When you receive the ballot, vote following the instructions.

We have a program for each of three planned New Hampshire meetings.

- September is a plant tour of Masimo Semiconductor in Hudson, NH on September 29.
- 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 upcoming paid (\$30) webinars are:

- Sep 23 – Optimization Using Excel's Solver
- Oct 20 – Understanding Risk in FDA's QMSR
- Nov 11 – TBD
- Dec 9 – Conduct an Effective and Efficient Management Review

The upcoming paid (\$275) workshop is:

- Nov 19 – Seven Excel Data Analysis Techniques



The quarterly Granite State Reading Group continues. The 2026Q3 article is “Unlocking Improvement” from the April 2026 issue of *Quality Progress*. Make your comments in the thread on Granite State’s discussion list on myASQ.

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
9/17/2026	Soft Skills for Success in the AI-Driven Economy	Worcester Section	On-line
9/17/2026	ISO 9001:2026 Preparing Your QMS for the Next Revision	Rhode Island Section	In-person
9/23/2026	Optimization 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
10/15/2026	Migrating from ISO 9001:2015 to ISO 9001:2026	Worcester Section North Jersey Section	On-line
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	TBD	Granite State Webinar	On-line
11/12/2026	Quality Top Dog – Trivia Night	Hartford Section	In-person
11/12/2026	TBD	Granite State Maine Meeting	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
11/19/2026	Seven Excel Data Analysis Techniques	Granite State Workshop	On-line



Date	Topic	Section	Method
12/9/2026	Conduct an Effective and Efficient Management Review	Granite State Webinar	On-line

GRANITE STATE MEMBER MEETINGS

Thursday Oct 6, 2026

Meeting in Maine

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

Francis Boero will introduce the audience to the evolving licensed cannabis industry from the point of view of an organizational and quality professional.

Attendees will receive insight into basic cannabinoids, the current regulatory environment, and the overall process of converting cannabis into adult use products. Drawing on real-world experience, Francis will demonstrate how quality management, continuous improvement, and data-driven decision-making can be applied throughout the cannabis value chain.

Meeting Date and Time

Tuesday October 6, 2026

Networking from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Dinner from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

The presentation is from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Cost is \$30.00 with the dinner option, free without dinner

Meeting Location

Hilton Garden Inn Portland Airport

145 Jetport Blvd

Portland, ME, 04102

Stop at the front desk and say you are attending the ASQ meeting to avoid the \$10.00 parking fee.

Registration: <https://mp.gg/oxmql3qe4>

Tuesday Sep 29, 2026

Meeting in New Hampshire

Plant Tour of Masimo Semiconductor in Hudson, NH

Our hosts will guide us through the Masimo Semiconductor production facility followed by dinner catered from a local restaurant.

Masimo Semiconductor specializes in wafer epitaxy, foundry services, and device fabrication for the healthcare, industrial, energy, datacom/telecom, security, and consumer products markets.



Meeting Date and Time

Tuesday September 29, 2026

5:45 – 6:00 pm Registration

6:00 – 6:45 pm Tour

6:45 – 7:45 pm Dinner / networking

Cost: \$30 for dinner, catered from a local restaurant

Meeting Location

Masimo Semiconductor

25 Sagamore Park Rd.

Hudson, NH 03051

Registration: <https://mp.gg/faih48qtt>

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

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

Meeting Date and Time

Thursday, September 24, 2026, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM EST

Meeting Location

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

October 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM ET

Migrating from ISO 9001:2015 to ISO 9001:2026 by Ed May, ASQ Fellow, Master Black Belt

Joint with the Worcester Section

Description:

ISO 9001:2026 includes many changes that impact quality management. I will present the updated standard, and the changes it contains, in a concise and detailed manner.



ISO 9001:2026 arrived in a world shaped by global supply chain volatility, rapid digitalization, heightened customer expectations, and the integration of Artificial Intelligence into everyday business processes. The standard was updated to address these realities head-on.

ISO 9001:2026 does not abandon the foundational principles of previous versions. It builds upon them — adding depth, clarity, and modern tools to ensure organizations can deliver consistent quality in a complex world. The release date is October 2026. The history of ISO 9001 reflects the evolution of quality management from product inspection to a comprehensive, process-based management system used by organizations worldwide.

Date and Time: October 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM ET

Cost: No charge

Location: On-line

RUs: 0.2 certificate will be provided

Registration:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3930331980>

MAYCON Personal Zoom Room 393 033 1980

Rhode Island Section

September 17, 2026

ISO 9001:2026 Preparing Your QMS for the Next Revision

Date and Time:

Thursday, September 17, 2026

5:30 PM Networking

6:00 PM Dinner

Location:

River Falls

74 S. Main St.

Woonsocket, RI

Registration:

<https://tinyurl.com/yvh9esda>

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

September 17, 2026 12 PM to 1:15 PM

Soft Skills for Success in the AI-Driven Economy by Dr. Manu Vora

Description:

In this webinar, Dr. Manu Vora will provide guidance on Soft Skills for Success in the AI-Driven Economy for professionals. He will share the importance of Soft Skills and spotlight important skills such as Leadership, Communication, Decision Making, Time Management, Teamwork (including Problem Solving), and Project Management (including Risk Management). In a recent webinar from Harvard College it was emphasized that AI will not replace Communication, Collaboration, Judgement, Ethical Decision Making, Negotiation, Passion, Perseverance, Compassion, Empathy, Creativity, Curiosity, and Wisdom. In the AI-driven economy, these essential skills are increasingly critical for academic and career success across the globe.

Date and Time: September 17, 2026 12 PM to 1:15 PM

RUs: 0.2 RUs will be provided

Cost: No charge

Location: On-line

Registration:

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

Meeting ID: 7906904984

October 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM ET

Migrating from ISO 9001:2015 to ISO 9001:2026 by Ed May, ASQ Fellow, Master Black Belt

Joint with the North Jersey Section



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Date and Time: October 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM ET

Cost: No charge

Location: On-line

RUs: 0.2 certificate will be provided

Registration:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3930331980>

MAYCON Personal Zoom Room 393 033 1980

GRANITE STATE EDUCATION

Granite State Webinars

The registration fee for each webinar is \$30.00.

Sep 23, 2026 – Optimization Using Excel’s Solver

Optimization is a common problem in quality and production where the goal is to optimize some result subject to constraints. Constraints are limits on resources such as people, equipment, or raw material. Excel has a powerful built-in optimization engine, Solver. The webinar uses an example optimization problem and obtains the solution using Solver.

Date and Time: Wednesday September 23, 2026 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

Cost: \$30.00

RUs: 0.15



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

Zoom link and course material will be provided before the webinar.

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 – TBD

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

Nov 19, 2026 – Seven Excel Data Analysis Techniques

Location: On-line

Cost: \$275.00

Details forthcoming

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
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November 1 - 31, 2026	October 12, 2026
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January 1 - 31, 2027	December 7, 2026
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Certification: CQA, CQE, CQIA, CSQE, CSSGB, CQPA, CCT, CPGP, CCQM

Testing Window	Application Deadline
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December 1 - 31, 2026	November 9, 2026
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February 1 - 28, 2027	January 11, 2027
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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>

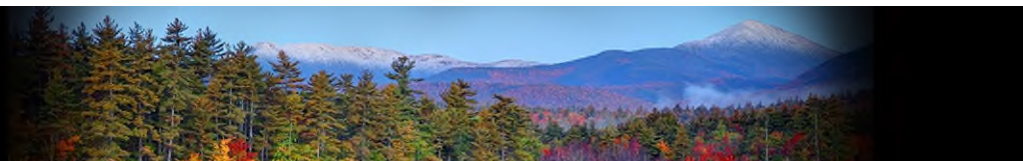
GRANITE STATE MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR PAPERS

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 SEPTEMBER 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 \$7,397.27.
- 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 asked the Region Director for \$4,000. Section no longer receive dues allocations from ASQ. The balance is declining because membership meetings cost more than we collect to attend.
- We are in the election season, in the elections period, which lasts until October 5, 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	189			
Member Retention Rate	Percentage ≥ 95%		88.9%	94.7%	100.0%	88.0%	95.3%	95.9%	98.4%	93.8%	93.6%			
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	\$7,397.27			
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	Yes				
Newsletters Published	8 or more			Yes	Yes	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	188	99.5%
CA	1	0.5%
Total	189	100.0%

Members by State (US only)

State	Count	Percent
NH	127	67.6%
ME	36	19.1%
MA	16	8.5%
VT	3	1.6%
NM	2	1.1%
WI	2	1.1%
FL	1	0.5%
NY	1	0.5%
Total	188	100.0%

Members by membership type

Member Type	Count	Percent
Professional Membership	135	71.4%
Senior Membership	34	18.0%
Retired Senior Membership	16	8.5%
Retired Professional Membership	2	1.1%
Student Membership	2	1.1%
Total	189	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, lower the AQL to increase the sample size. Z1.4, Z1.9, 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 all of the supplier's products. 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 or no 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 Assessment

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



Certified Quality Engineer BoK

VII. Risk Management

B. Risk Planning and Assessment

2. Risk Assessment

Apply characterization methods and evaluation tools to assess risk such as failure mode and effects analysis. Identify and apply evaluation metrics including the use of risk matrices, risk priority numbers, and acceptability criteria.

Risk Assessment has three main components: identification, analysis, and evaluation. Together they provide an implementation framework.

Identification

This step determines the risks that affect the goal. The step includes finding, defining, and documenting the risks including current and future risks. Consider a) what could affect reaching the goal and b) what could go wrong.

Finding the risks can use quality tools such as brainstorming or reviewing similar projects and programs.

Defining the risk includes determining the level of detail. Too little detail, a statement too broad, makes it difficult to identify the actions to take. Too much detail clutters the picture, makes it hard to see relationships, and results in too many, potentially overlapping, actions.

Analysis

Analysis determines the constituents of risk – probability and consequence.

Probability determines the likelihood that the identified risk will occur. Select a convenient scale. One common method is qualitative with either 3 or 5 levels. Each level has an operational definition that clearly distinguishes the level without ambiguity.

Consequence determines the result if the identified risk were to happen. Again a convenient qualitative scale with 3 or 5 levels is common. Each level has an operational definition that clearly distinguishes the level without ambiguity.

The analysis (with its levels of probability and consequence) leads to evaluation.

Evaluation

Evaluation helps determine what to do about the risk. The result could range from, for example, accepting the risk to abandoning the objective. Evaluation determines the risk level (the combination of probability and consequence) and comparing it with the risk acceptability criteria.

A common method uses a risk matrix as shown in the figure below. Probability (using the analysis scale and consequence using its analysis scale) are combined in a table format. The body is the risk level for each combination.



		Consequence				
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Probability	Level 5	Medium	Medium	High	High	High
	Level 4	Medium	Medium	High	High	High
	Level 3	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	Level 2	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
	Level 1	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

The table is commonly called a heat map, because it suggests temperature from a cool green to a hot red.

Just as in the other scales, each risk level has an operational definition and includes the action to take.

For example:

Low – Accept the risk without action, but monitor the situation.

Medium – Take action to reduce the probability or the consequence (or both) to get to a better box (down and to the left).

High – Unacceptable, consider changing the goals or objectives. Implement close monitoring.

The dividing lines between the risk levels depends on the project and the organization's risk tolerance.