

Granite State Newsletter – November 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 section's activities are winding down, as we plan for hibernation. We won't be asleep the whole time, continuing to announce activities of divisions and other sections to help our members in professional development and to earn RUs.

The section will wake up in spring 2027 and plan for the year.

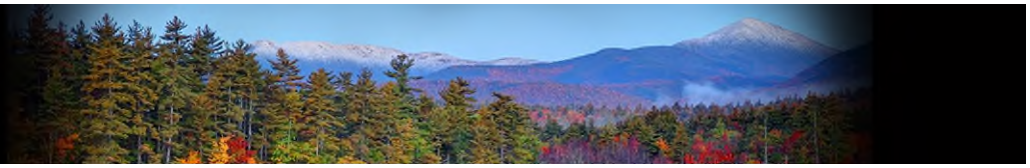
For in-person meetings we are planning 6 in New Hampshire and 6 in Maine. Some of them may be on-line meetings, perhaps joint with another section.

We also anticipate conducting 6 webinars and 2 workshops.

As always, we will be looking for topics and speakers to support the program.

Our last 2026 meeting is planned for November 17 in New Hampshire with Rip Stauffer's presentation *Your World is Not Red or Green – Best Practices in Data Display*. He gave this most interesting presentation early this year in Maine. He discusses data visualization, identifies some common errors, and provides information to avoid them. He has many interesting examples.

The quarterly Granite State Reading Group continues. The 2026Q4 article will be announced shortly. Be sure to participate using Granite State's discussion list on myASQ. We don't plan to continue the Reading Group in 2027.



There are many opportunities to get involved. We need people to speak at Membership Meetings, present 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
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**
11/19/2026	Artificial Intelligence in Quality Management by Jay Patel	Worcester Section	On-line

GRANITE STATE MEMBER MEETINGS

Thursday Nov 17, 2026
Meeting in New Hampshire
Your World is Not Red or Green – Best Practices in Data Display by Rip Stauffer
Lots of organizations use lots of metrics, but not always well. In my Quality career, I have seen many metrics and dashboards. Few, however, provide truly useful insights. A few years ago, I began to see too many "stoplight" dashboards and developed this presentation to discuss better ways to use and present data. First presented at the ASQ World Congress in Pittsburgh in 2012 (and revised several times since), this presentation covers common mistakes people make when displaying data, and how to do it better. The underlying information is based on the latest ergonomic science on how our brains process visual information.

Meeting Date and Time
Tuesday November 17, 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

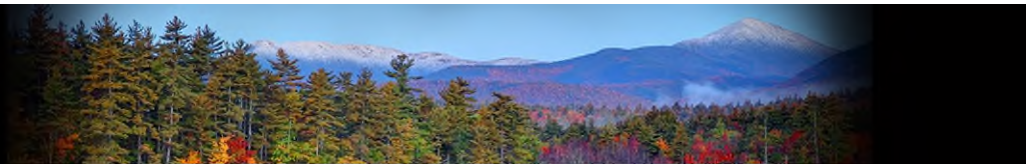
Cost is $30.00 with the dinner option, free without dinner

Meeting Location
Puritan Backroom – Canotas Room in Manchester, NH

Registration: https://mp.gg/lac4stc

NEARBY SECTION EVENTS

Worcester Section
November 19, 2026 12 PM to 1:15 PM
Artificial Intelligence in Quality Management by Jay Patel



Description:
Artificial intelligence is moving from a topic of discussion to a working tool for quality professionals. Generative AI, machine learning, and intelligent automation can now draft, analyze, monitor, and summarize in minutes what once took days. Yet without sound method and human judgment, the same tools can produce confident but wrong results. This session shows how to put AI to work across the full quality system while keeping people accountable for the decisions.

Participants will see how AI supports each pillar of quality management. In quality planning, it helps define customer requirements, build quality plans, and anticipate risks. In quality control, it supports inspection, statistical process control, control chart interpretation, and early anomaly detection. In quality assurance, it speeds audit planning, checklists, reports, and supplier oversight. In quality improvement, it accelerates root cause analysis, corrective, and preventive action, FMEA, and Lean Six Sigma projects. Across the quality management system, it helps draft and maintain procedures, risk registers, and the documented information required by ISO 9001, ISO 13485, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, and ISO/IEC 42001.

The core of the program is practical. Using ready-to-use prompt examples, the presentation demonstrates how to generate an audit plan, an audit checklist, an audit report, and a corrective action request; how to prepare quality plans and standard operating procedures; how to build an FMEA and a risk register; and how to interpret control charts. A prompt framework, a human-in-the-loop review model, and guidance on data confidentiality, bias, hallucination, and AI governance make sure the results are accurate, auditable, and defensible.

Learning Objectives
After this session, participants will be able to:
► Explain where AI adds value in quality planning, quality control, quality assurance, quality improvement, and the QMS.
► Apply a structured prompt framework (role, context, task, format, constraints) to quality documents and analyses.
► Generate and critically review an audit plan, checklist, report, and corrective action using AI.
► Use AI to draft quality plans and SOPs, and to build FMEAs, risk registers, and control chart interpretations.
► Extend AI use to other management systems, including environmental, safety, information security, and AI management systems.
► Set up governance, validation, and human oversight so AI use stays compliant and trustworthy.

Key Takeaways
► Human in the loop. AI is a powerful assistant. People remain accountable for quality decisions.
► Prompts are the new procedure. Specific, structured prompts produce usable first drafts and analyses.
► Governance first. Protect confidential and customer data, and verify every output.
► Start small, scale fast. Start with one high-value, low-risk use case, measure the result, then scale.

Presenter:
Jay P. Patel is the Founder, President, and CEO of Quality & Productivity Solutions, Inc. (QPS), a Massachusetts-based international training, consulting, and auditing firm. An ASQ Fellow, Master Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, PMP, and recipient of the ASQ Lancaster Medal, he brings more than 30 years of global consulting experience in ISO management systems, Lean Six Sigma, AI strategy and governance, and



organizational excellence. He has authored more than 15 books and developed more than 200 specialized courses. He is a trustee of Bhagyoday Charity Trust, which operates a medical college and hospital in Kadi, Gujarat, India.

Date and Time: November 19, 2026 12 PM to 1:15 PM

RUs: 0.2 RUs will be provided

Cost: No charge

Location: On-line

Registration: Not required
Zoom meeting link: https://us02web.zoom.us/my/qpsinc
Meeting ID: 7906904984 , no passcode is required

JOB POSTINGS

Granite State has job postings on its web site www.asq104.org If you have a job to post, please contact doleary@memberleader.asq.org

There are no current job postings.

GRANITE STATE EDUCATION

Granite State Webinars
None planned for 2026.

Granite State Workshops
None planned for 2026.

ASQ CONFERENCES

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.

Congratulations to **Cate Rickard Barr** who earned a CQIA in June 2026.

ASQ CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHEDULE

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

Testing Window	Application Deadline
January 1 - 31, 2027	December 7, 2026
March 1 - 31, 2027	February 8, 2027

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

Testing Window	Application Deadline
December 1 - 31, 2026	November 9, 2026
February 1 - 28, 2027	January 11, 2027
April 1 - 31, 2027	March 8, 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

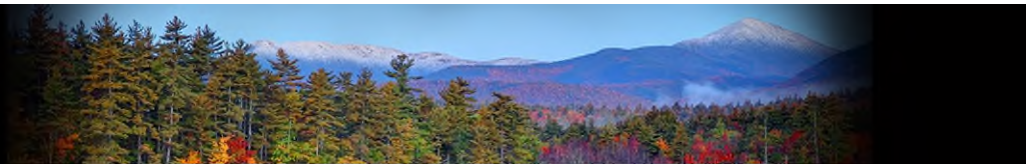
GRANITE STATE MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR PAPERS

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 in the newsletter. Send your name, and the information about your accomplishment to Dan O'Leary doleary@memberleader.asq.org.

NOV SLT UPDATE

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 account balance on Nov 3 is $6,888.95 and is below the $10,000 warning limit.
- The section didn't have a meeting in Maine in October or November. We have had low attendance so there is a DMAIC project to understand why and improve the situation.
- We sent a survey to members who joined the section in the first half of 2026. The intent is to learn why members joined the section and their expectations. The plan is to conduct the new member survey every six months.



- We submitted the 2027 Business Plan and Budget. The plan calls for 6 in-person meetings in Maine, 6 in-person meetings in New Hampshire, 6 webinars, and 2 workshops in 2027.

THE 2027 ELECTION RESULTS

The election is complete and the positions for 2027 are:

Chair	Sai Ranjith Ramakrishnan
Secretary	Charlie Killiam
Treasurer	Dan O'Leary

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. Sparklines provide the trend.



Metric	Target	Sparklines	Count - YTD	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	190	194	
Member Retention Rate	Percentage ≥ 95%			88.9%	94.7%	100.0%	88.0%	95.3%	95.9%	98.4%	93.8%	93.6%	97.4%	98.4%	
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	$7,198.19	$6,888.95	
Meetings Held - ME	6 or more		2			Yes	Yes								
Meetings Held - NH	6 or more		5			Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes		
Meetings Held - Online	Not set		1									Yes			
Event with another section or division	1 or more events		2					Yes				Yes			
Event with another professional society	1 or more events		1										Yes		
Chair's Message	One each month		9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Newsletters Published	7 or more		8		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
On-line courses held	1 or more courses		0												
Webinars held	6 or more		2			Yes						Yes			

SECTION DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographics from the November membership list are below.

Members by Country

Country	Count	Percent
US	193	99.5%
CA	1	0.5%
Total	194	100.0%

Members by State (US only)

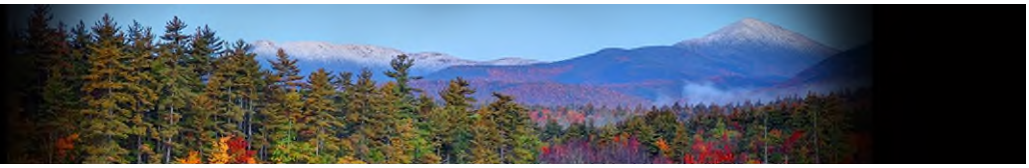
State	Count	Percent
NH	126	65.3%
ME	38	19.7%
MA	18	9.3%
VT	5	2.6%
NM	2	1.0%
WI	2	1.0%
FL	1	0.5%
NY	1	0.5%
Total	193	100.0%
ME/NH		30.2%

Members by membership type

Member Type	Count	Percent
Professional Membership	138	71.1%
Senior Membership	36	18.6%
Retired Senior Membership	16	8.2%
Retired Professional Membership	2	1.0%
Student Membership	2	1.0%
Total	194	100.0%

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Granite State is planning its in-person membership meetings for 2027 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: My company is considering implementing a dock-to-stock program for some parts and some suppliers so we don't need incoming inspection. What are some of the things we need to consider?

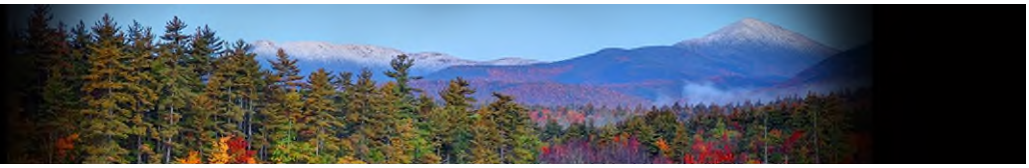
Response:
First, understand why you want to make the change. It is usually a good idea because it can reduce the cost of incoming inspection and make your inventory flow more quickly.

For cost saving, this usually means lowering the workload at incoming inspection. To see a cost saving the people need to do other work so you don't need to hire another person, in other words you prevent a cost increase. Typically you won't change the total headcount in quality, only increase the capacity. Accounting may not see this as a cost reduction.

Some would argue that you will increase risk, so you need to be clear about this. The risk is that a nonconforming part (or many of them) will get into stock and eventually create a problem in production.

I infer that you are using an attribute sampling plan such as Z1.4 or c=0. Since they don't use 100% inspection, there is already risk of accepting lots with nonconforming items, *i.e.*, nonconforming items that were not in the inspection sample. They will go to stock and eventually show up in production.

Pick some candidate items and review the history. For this evaluation I use the criteria from the sampling plans to switch to reduced inspection. The item should have 10 or more lots in a row accepted. I would also look at the experience in production to see if there were any nonconforming items. Here the criterion is disruption to the production line. If the operator can set aside the bad part and get another, there is little disruption. If it means disassembly and rework there is greater disruption. (These are the considerations to set the AQL at incoming inspection, but many companies use one AQL by default.)



If the item satisfies both criteria (lot acceptance and small disruption), then there is little risk in switching the item to dock-to-stock.

At the supplier level, the story is a little different. A supplier that provides multiple items could have multiple production processes. In this case, qualify the production process not the individual items. The method is the same except you want to collectively review all the items from the production process. One rejected lot or too many problems on the floor says the process is not acceptable for dock-to-stock. Consider lowering the AQL for items from that process.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Material segregation

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

Certified Quality Engineer BoK
IV. Product and Process Control
B. Material Control
2. Describe material segregation and its importance, and evaluate appropriate methods to apply it in different situations.

Material Segregation

Material Segregation refers to separating material from other material based on some attribute. In most cases the attribute is "nonconforming". Other cases include segregating material waiting test or inspection from material that has passed. The concept is to prevent mixing material with one attribute with material from another.

Situations

The situations to apply segregation may differ. For example, tests or inspections are usually part of the normal production flow and the concern is to prevent mixing material from different parts of the production flow, *e.g.*, before and after test. In contrast, nonconforming material should be removed from the normal production flow and enter its own process. In this case, mixing processes could result in incorrectly mixing material.

Methods

The most common methods for material segregation are physical segregation and identification segregation.

In physical segregation the items are moved to a different physical location. For example, consider a test operator's station, items to be tested are on a shelf to the operator's left, items that passed test are on a shelf to the operator's right, and items that failed test are on a shelf away from the operator's station. The material to the operator's left and right are in the normal production flow. The material "on a shelf away" has entered a different process.

In identification segregation the items are marked in some way. Individual items may have a tag that shows their status in the various processes. Another common method is a barcode which, when scanned, identifies the item's status.



Often, physical segregation and identification segregation work together. For example, a nonconforming item in the physical segregation area also has a red tag for nonconforming material as identification segregation. In another example, an item that has passed a test and is on the "passed shelf" has at flow tag with the test operator's initials.

The most common approach is that physical segregation and identification segregation are used together as redundancy to prevent reduce misidentification.