



Granite State Newsletter – May 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

May marks the close of the spring membership meetings with some exciting meetings.

Two topics of major interest to members are auditing and AI. Our May 14 meeting in Portland ME brings these together with Laura Halleck's "AI in Action: Enhancing Risk Based Audit Planning". As an auditor she has used AI tools to help plan internal audits for her clients. She will explain her methods and the success she achieves.

The AI theme continues in the context of medical devices. Our May 26 meeting (joint with Merrimack Valley) in Dracut MA explores this combination with Attrayee Chakraborty's "Case Study: Engineering Safety for AI-Enabled Medical Applications". She will demonstrate how FMEA can systematically identify, assess, and mitigate AI-specific risks. Her case study involves an AI-enabled medical device.

Our April meetings had some very interesting topics.

The Maine meeting had Rip Stauffer present "Your World is Not Red or Green – Best Practices in Data Display". He explained data presentation and some of the ways it can go wrong, including some very entertaining examples.

The New Hampshire meeting had Laura Halleck present "The Future of ISO 9001: What's Changing and How Organizations Should Prepare". She took us through some of the proposed changes in ISO 9000 and ISO 9001,

pointing out that neither issued and can still change. It was practical advice to help companies prepare for the new versions.



The section will continue the Granite State Quality Reading Group in May with the article “Remote Audit Readiness” in the April 2026 issue of *Quality Progress*. The announcement will include instructions to download the article and join the conversation.

After May, the section is on summer break. We are already working on the program for the fall and anticipate noteworthy topics that you will want to attend.

The section continues to announce on-line events from other sections and divisions. This gives our members opportunities to earn RUs without having to travel. 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
May 14, 2026	AI in Action: Enhancing Risk Based Audit Planning	Granite State Meeting Maine	In-person
May 14, 2026	STEM Night at RICM	Rhode Island	In-person
May 21, 2026	Root Cause Analyses (RCA) and Corrective and Preventive Actions (CAPA)	Worcester	On-line
May 21, 2026	Root Cause Analyses (RCA) and Corrective and Preventive Actions (CAPA)	North Jersey	On-line
May 21, 2026	From Differences to Strengths	Rhode Island	In-person
May 26, 2026	Case Study: Engineering Safety for AI-Enabled Medical Applications	Granite State Meeting Joint with Merrimack Valley	In-person
May 26, 2026	Case Study: Engineering Safety for AI-Enabled Medical Applications	Merrimack Valley Joint with Granite State	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 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: <https://mp.gg/ficrfzavp>

Tuesday May 26, 2026

Meeting in New Hampshire (Joint with Merrimack Valley and actually in Massachusetts)
Case Study: Engineering Safety for AI-Enabled Medical Applications by Attrayee Chakraborty
Venue: Lenzi's Catering & Function Facility
810 Merrimack Ave
Dracut, MA 01826
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/ssxvwgrbo>

NEARBY SECTION EVENTS

Merrimack Valley Section

Meeting in New Hampshire (Joint with Granite State)
Case Study: Engineering Safety for AI-Enabled Medical Applications by Attrayee Chakraborty
Venue: Lenzi's Catering & Function Facility
810 Merrimack Ave
Dracut, MA 01826
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/ssxvwgrbo>

North Jersey Section

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

Rhode Island Section

Date: May 14, 2026 Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Rhode Island Computer Museum
Topic: STEM Night at RICM (Co-presented with WiM RI)

Registration: <https://app.memberplanet.com/#!/event/asqrhodeislandsection/riasqwimstemnight>

Description

What do retro games and modern virtual reality demos have to do with quality in manufacturing?



They're both part of a terrific night of hands-on STEM fun for ages 8–14 at the Rhode Island Computer Museum! This interactive Retro Game Night is designed to help young attendees start seeing connections between gaming and the rewarding career opportunities available in manufacturing.

Co-presented by RIASQ and Women in Manufacturing Rhode Island (WiM RI), this event has limited space—so be sure to act fast!

Date: May 21, 2026 Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Madeira Restaurant

288 Warren Ave

East Providence, RI 02914

Topic: From Differences to Strengths: Navigating Generational Perspectives in the Workplace

Registration:

<https://app.memberplanet.com/#/event/asqrhodeislandsection/fromdifferencetostrengthsnavigatinggenerationalperspectivesintheworkplace>

Description

Please join us for a panel discussion on generational bridging led by the RIASQ Young Professionals Committee: From Differences to Strengths: Navigating Generational Perspectives in the Workplace.

Colleagues from different generations will share real stories and perspectives on how we communicate, collaborate, and learn from one another in different ways. The discussion will explore how to address differences, challenge assumptions, and leverage our diverse experiences to strengthen teamwork.

Come ready to listen, ask questions, and take part in an open and engaging conversation.

Vermont Section

No meeting scheduled

Worcester Section

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 – 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 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
October 1 - 31, 2026	September 14, 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 MAY 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 Granite State SLT did not meet in May 2026.

- The section’s account balance is \$9,338.00.



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	Vacant
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							
Member Retention Rate	Percentage ≥ 95%		88.9%	94.7%	100.0%	88.0%	95.3%							
Account Balance	\$10,000 or more		\$11,716.93	\$12,244.27	\$11,326.62	\$11,175.77	\$9,338.00							
Meetings Held - ME	6 or more	—			Yes	Yes								
Meetings Held - NH	6 or more	—			Yes	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	Yes								
Newsletters Published	8 or more	—		Yes	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				Yes									

SECTION DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographics from the May membership list are below.

Members by Country

Country	Count	Percent
US	195	99.5%
CA	1	0.5%
Total	196	100.0%

Members by State (US only)

State	Count	Percent
NH	130	66.7%
ME	40	20.5%
MA	16	8.2%
VT	3	1.5%
NM	2	1.0%
WI	2	1.0%
FL	1	0.5%
NY	1	0.5%
Total	195	100.0%

Members by membership type

Member Type	Count	Percent
Professional Membership	139	70.9%
Senior Membership	38	19.4%
Retired Senior Membership	15	7.7%
Retired Professional Membership	2	1.0%
Student Membership	2	1.0%
Total	196	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: How can I develop an incoming inspection method for off the shelf components that doesn't only include inspecting for CoC? What are other ways to set up incoming inspection for off the shelf components?

Response: Incoming inspection of off-the-shelf components is insurance, so you need to ask what you are insuring against and how much insurance you are willing to buy.

In a typical situation you are insuring against getting the wrong off-the-shelf part into stock because the supplier shipped the wrong item.

The problem is typically caused by a picking error on the supplier's side. Checking the CoC doesn't protect you against this error because the CoC is usually generated by some process that is not linked to the content of the shipping container. Typically, the CoC is a copy of a form that is already signed and just put into the box.

Incoming inspection should check the part marking on the product or its package, not the pack slip or CoC. In a picking error the whole order is usually wrong (but not always). This suggests using a c=0 sampling plan with a high AQL.

For example, the *Zero Acceptance Number Sampling Plans* published by ASQ will work. Start with an AQL of 2.5 (or even higher) and implement the switching rules.



The switching rules recognize good suppliers by reducing the sample size, *i.e.*, the cost of the insurance. However, since picking errors are random, and not systemic, they can still occur.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Simple Linear Correlation

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

Certified Quality Engineer BoK

VI. Quantitative Methods and Tools

E. Relationships Between Variables

1. Simple linear correlation

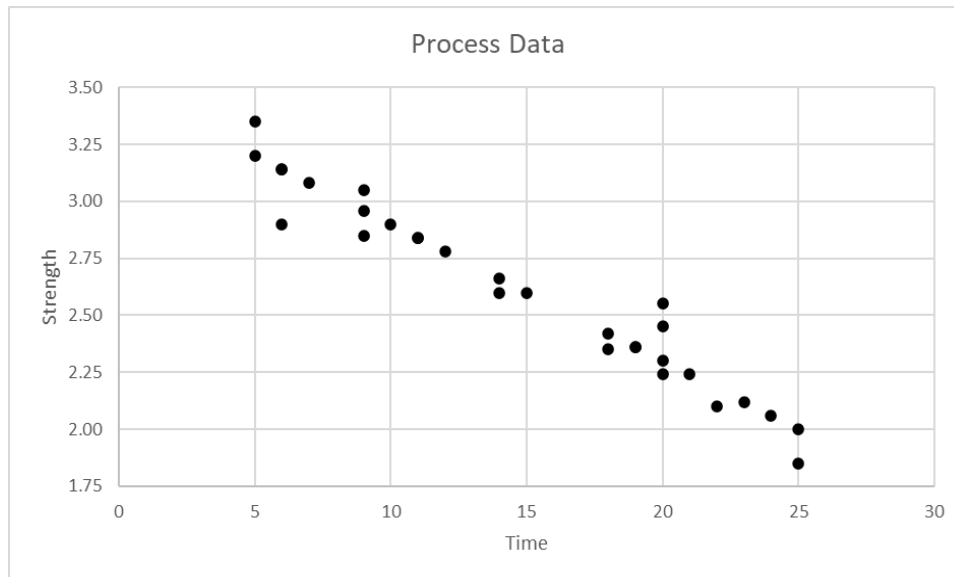
Calculate the correlation coefficient and its confidence interval and illustrate a hypothesis for correlation statistics.

Correlation measures the strength of the relationship between two or more variables. The *correlation coefficient* is the measure of that strength. In this piece, we look at linear relationships although the concept applies to other types such as quadratic or exponential.

The correlation coefficient is a dimensionless number between -1 and +1, denoted by r . It's positive when the variables increase together and negative when one increases and the other decreases.

Brigid is a Quality Engineer investigating the relationship between processing time and strength in a production process. She has this data set and wants to try regression analysis as one element in her investigation. To help decide she makes a scatter plot using Excel.

Time	Strength	Time	Strength	Time	Strength
11	2.84	9	2.85	25	1.85
5	3.20	5	3.35	6	3.14
22	2.1	14	2.60	9	2.96
23	2.12	18	2.35	20	2.30
20	2.55	6	3.14	14	2.66
20	2.24	9	3.05	19	2.36
10	2.90	24	2.06	21	2.24
19	2.36	25	2.00	7	3.08
15	2.60	12	2.78	11	2.84
18	2.42	6	2.90	20	2.45



Looking at the scatter plot she decides to use linear regression. Because there are two variables, it is a simple linear regression. Looking at the scatterplot she expects a negative correlation coefficient.

The Excel function is CORREL(array1, array2) where array1 and array2 are ranges of cell values. Both arrays must be the same size.

Excel returns the correlation coefficient as -0.976. This shows a strong negative correlation.

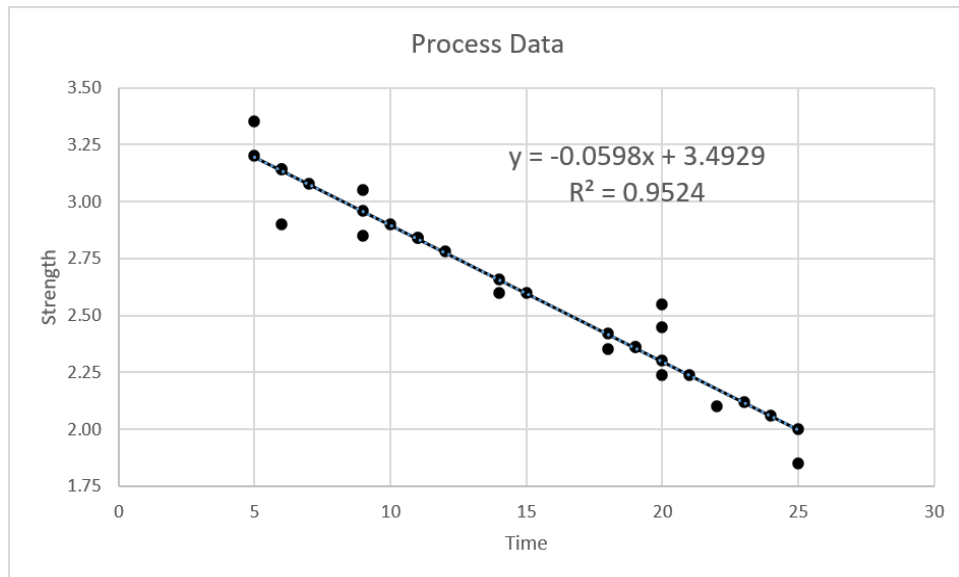
Another common measure is the coefficient of determination which explains how much the variability is explained by the regression line. It is a dimensionless number between 0 and +1. It is the square of the correlation coefficient and denoted by r^2 .

The Excel function is RSQ(known_y's,known_x's) where known_y's and known_x's are each an array of datapoints. Both arrays must be the same size.

Excel returns the coefficient of determination as 0.952.

To help in the analysis we would like the equation of the straight line. The Excel functions are SLOPE and INTERCEPT which use the same arrays as RSQ.

Excel also provides a graphical analysis showing the equation of the regression line and the coefficient of determination, shown as R^2 .



Excel's Data Analysis, using CORRELATION, also provides the correlation coefficient.