

Granite State Newsletter – October 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 underway and is off to a good start.

We completed the election cycle and you, the members, have selected the new Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer for 2027. See the results below.

On September 29, the section had a plant tour of Masimo Semiconductor in Hudson, NH. The presentation included a history of the company including the recent acquisition of Masimo by Danaher. The discussion before the tour included plans for ISO 9001:2026, EH&S issues, difficulties in the supply chain related to rare earth materials, and company metrics. The tour allowed us to observe wafers in progress using highly specialized capital equipment in a variety of clean rooms up to class 100 (and operators in bunny suits!).

On October 1 we had an on-line joint meeting with the Vermont section where Francis J. Boero Ph.D., CFS presented Six-Sigma Journeys Through the Cannabis Industry. This had been planned as an in-person meeting in Maine, but had to be cancelled on short notice. This gave our section an opportunity to join the Vermont section's meeting on the topic. Dr. Boero's presentation had three parts: Society and Science in Cannabis Today, Pharmacology, and Quality Journeys. The presentation was very well received, generating many interesting questions.

On October 13 we had a joint meeting in New Hampshire with the Society of Manufacturing Engineers to hear a presentation by Chiara Pulice; she had presented at our joint meeting last year. Her subject was Crossed Sheilds, a large annual NATO cybersecurity session. Two opposing forces, Red Team and Blue Team, are engaged in cyber warfare. Her team was engaged in data analysis



after the session to help determine distinguish legitimate messages from threats using machine learning. She described methods for anomaly detection and signal recognition.

Our next 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 Section Leadership Team, SLT, is planning the activities for next year with dates and locations. We will, with member's help, have interesting speakers and topics.

The quarterly Granite State Reading Group continues. The 2026Q4 article is not yet selected. When it is announced, add your comments to 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
11/5/2026	BOSCON 2026 A two-day in-person conference	Boston Section	In-person
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

Boston
BOSCON 2026
Location: Hilton Boston/Woburn
Dates: November 5–6, 2026
Conference Tracks:

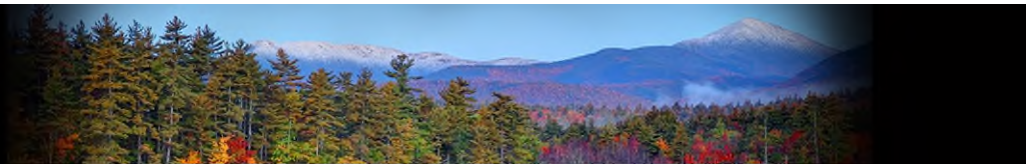
- AI & Digital Transformation – Exploring the impact of AI, data analytics, and digital tools on quality systems, process optimization, and predictive insights.
- Quality in Life Sciences & Medical Devices – Sharing strategies for quality management, lean practices, and embedding a culture of quality 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

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 swww.asq104.org. If you have a job to post, please contact doleary@memberleader.asq.org

Current job postings: Director of Quality and Compliance at Accutronics in Chelmsford, MA

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

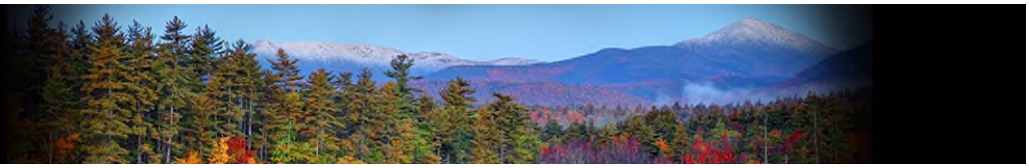
GRANITE STATE MEMBER CERTIFICATIONS

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.

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

THE OCTOBER 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 account balance on Oct 3 is $7,198.19 and is below the $10,000 warning limit.
- We discussed the election results (see below) and the 2027 SLT membership
- 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.
- We are working on submitting the 2027 Business Plan and Budget. ASQ has a new significantly more complicated Excel workbook for the submission.
- We are working on the 2026Q3 Business Plan Update for submission to ASQ.

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

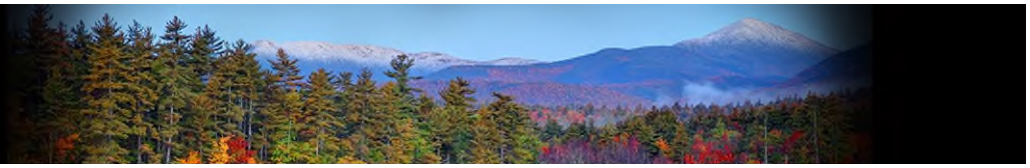
The Section metrics help measure success against the plans for 2026. The results are in a Red/Yellow/Green format scorecard. Sparklines provide the trend.

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		
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%		
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		
Meetings Held - ME	6 or more		3			Yes	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	8 or more		7		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 May membership list are below.
Members by Country

Country	Count	Percent
US	189	99.5%
CA	1	0.5%
Total	190	100.0%



Members by State (US only)

State	Count	Percent
NH	124	65.6%
ME	37	19.6%
MA	17	9.0%
VT	5	2.6%
NM	2	1.1%
WI	2	1.1%
FL	1	0.5%
NY	1	0.5%
Total	189	100.0%

Members by membership type

Member Type	Count	Percent
Professional Membership	135	71.1%
Senior Membership	35	18.4%
Retired Senior Membership	16	8.4%
Retired Professional Membership	2	1.1%
Student Membership	2	1.1%
Total	190	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.

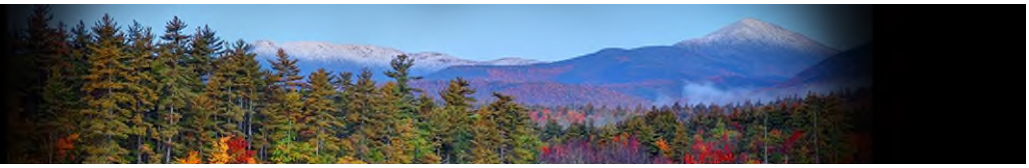
CALL FOR AUTHORS

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: I recently attended a Merrimack Valley webinar on ISO 9000:2026. The speaker talked about using a data warehouse for process information and improvement projects. Can you tell me more about this idea?

Response:
The webinar was about the QMS principles in the new edition of ISO 9000. The presenter explained each of the principles and provided practical advice about implementation. At the end, he pulled together some related ideas. One was the use of a data warehouse.

One of the principles related to the process approach. The recommendation was to map processes and sub-processes, to identify interrelationships and linkages. For each process assign a process owner.

Another principle related to process effectiveness and efficiency. Identify key process indicators, KPIs, for the process including targets, warning levels, and action levels. For process improvement set year-over-year improvement rates in the KPIs including the warning and action levels.

For improvement projects develop a standardized improvement methodology using quality tools and a standardized report format for an improvement project's success. Provide recognition and reward for successful projects.

All of this provides valuable information that should be known throughout the company. The data warehouse is one way to provide the information to employees.

Employees can easily find out how their process is doing and learn about other processes. They have an opportunity to learn about improvement projects. If a person is working on an improvement project, successful examples can achieve results.

The information should be readily available to company employees and not accessible from outside the company.

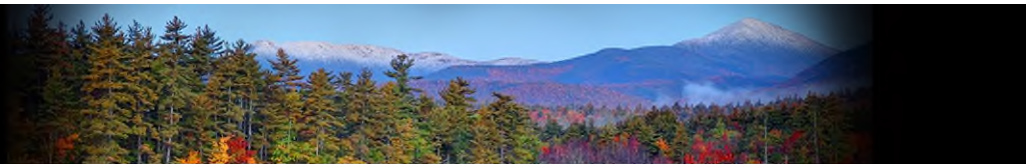
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Material identification, status, and traceability

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

Certified Quality Engineer BoK
IV. Product and Process Control
B. Material Control
1. Material identification, status, and traceability
Define and distinguish between these concepts, and describe methods for applying them in various situations.

<u>Identification</u>
Identification typically refers to item identity where an item is assigned some characteristics to distinguish it from other items. All items have a unique identifier such as an item number.



When it is necessary to distinguish one unit of the item from another, assign a serial number. When the item is modified, there are two common identification approaches. In one the serial number remains unchanged and the item number is adjusted to reflect the change because it is now different. In the other the item number remains unchanged and the serial number is adjusted to reflect the change. The first method is preferred for inventory management since most systems don't record the serial number.

A series of like units may have a lot number or a date code when it is unnecessary or impracticable to identify individual units but necessary to connect them to, for example, a production process.

The identification information is marked on the item and is often supported by a database that can provide additional information about the item.

For medical devices, FDA requires a Unique Device Identification, UDI, system. Each version or model has a unique number and the system allows for serial numbers, lot numbers, and other identifying information. There is also a database that provides about 60 characteristics based on the device identifier.

Status

Status typically refers to an individual item's relationship to some part of the production process. For example, an item ready for Test #3 would have the status "Awaiting Test #3". If the item passes the test the status would change to "Passed Test #3". Some systems incorporate the process flow so, for an item that passed, change its status to "Awaiting Test #4".

For an item that failed, its status could be "Failed Test #3" or "Failed Test #3 – Awaiting Disposition". This could lead to "Awaiting Rework" or "Awaiting Repair" depending on the disposition.

The status information is **not** marked on the item because it changes through the production process. It may be a physical traveler that stays with the item or it may be in a database accessible through the item identification.

Traceability

ISO 9000:2026 defines traceability as the "ability to trace the history, application, or location of an [item]".

Traceability can extend backwards to the source of an item used in production. For critical items it might include the item number, serial number, and date received. For less critical items it might include the lot number and date received. For common commodity items, traceability may not be required.

Traceability can also extend forward from shipping an item. For critical items it might include any distributors, the customer's identity, and, in some cases extends to the individual user. Other items may not require traceability. An implantable heart pacemaker could be traced to an individual patient while a lot of mechanical pencils may not be traced.