

CHAIR'S CORNER

Alvin Langstaff

Greetings to all you quality practitioners.

I'd like to first inform you about our new slate of officers for the coming year. **Deborah Coffey** will take over the duties as Section Chair beginning in July. Deborah has been a consistent contributor to the section since joining in 2007, and we look forward to her leadership over the coming year. **Barb Gillespie** will serve a second year as treasurer. She now knows all the ropes with respect to stewardship of our section finances as well as the ins and outs of keeping HQ happy. **Donna Sinks**, who recently joined our section after transferring to a new job in the Tri-Cities, has agreed to serve as secretary for the section. We look forward to her participation on the leadership team.

For the three committee chair posts that we are required to fill per our Section Operating Agreement with ASQ, we will have **Clark Beus** as Audit Committee chair and yours truly as Nominating Committee chair. **John Verderber** has stepped forward to take on the Membership Committee chair position and again, we look forward to his participation on the leadership team. As always, we enjoy the unflagging support of Robert Boykin, Howard Rew, and Jo Haberstock in making sure that the newsletter gets out, that we attract high quality speakers and topics for our monthly meetings, and that certification/recertification tests are available as scheduled.

That said, we can still use the talents of any of the rest of our members who would like to make a difference in our community. It only takes a few hours per month and gives you an opportunity to network with others, both locally and nationally, who really care about advancing quality principles. And speaking of quality, the ASQ annual conference was held in Pittsburgh, PA during the week of May 16. We were not able to find a section representative to attend this year but if you sign up for a leadership position you will increase your chances of being our representative next year. I have attended this conference the past two years and found it very worthwhile. Something to think about.

We will be on hiatus (from monthly dinner meetings) until the fall. Stay tuned for announcements of next season's speakers and activities.

- Alvin

VICE - CHAIR'S CORNER

Jo Haberstock

We had a great Site Visit to Rattlesnake Mountain Brewing Company and Kimo's in Richland on May 7! It was a good-sized group, including some members who came from as far away as Ellensburg and Selah to be part of this meeting. There were even a couple of brand new guests as well (whom we like to also think of as "potential new members").

After a very educational tour (special thanks to our host, Brewmaster Doug Ryder), we got to sample any that we wanted to. After that, most folks stayed around and also had lunch there, and we were able to continue discussions about quality (as it applies to beer as well as many other aspects of quality).

And now here it is, almost June already. Is it just me, or does it seem like the first five months of 2011 have gone by very quickly? There just never seems to be enough time to do all the things we think we'll get done or that we want to get done – all those home improvement projects, not to mention self improvement activities such as taking a class or learning something new (Dancing? Yoga? Photography? Guitar? Cooking? Scroll Saw?) or maybe even just reading a book.

Speaking of books, I came across an interesting article online about "7 Vastly Overrated Books." In the article, author Geoffrey James, says: "Most business books are awful, some are mediocre and a (very) few are truly useful. And then there are business books that aren't exactly dreadful, but have reputations that have been bloated way out of proportion. You see them on corporate shelves everywhere and they're cited at meetings, conferences and seminars, but when you dig a little deeper, and think about their contents, you're forced to wonder [what] the fuss is all about." I found his article to be interesting and thought-provoking (probably would have made for some great discussions over lunch at Kimo's on May 7). I'm sure many of you have read most if not all of the books that in James' opinion are "absurdly overrated." What do YOU think?

1. The One Minute Manager
2. Jack Welch: Winning
3. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
4. Atlas Shrugged
5. Who Moved My Cheese?
6. The Art of War
7. The Wealth of Nations

If this has piqued some interest (perhaps you loved one or more of these books? or you totally agree with the article's author and want to read more from him), you can [check out](#) his whole article with the details as to why he thinks these books are so overrated. Happy reading to all!

- Jo

WHAT IF...?

Submitted by Deborah Coffey

This is the time of year when the Columbia Basin Section 614 calls for nominations for officers for the next year. Like any organization, people are busy and a few seem to volunteer year after year to provide the necessary leadership to keep the Section functional. These hardy souls seem to swap the jobs around so there continues to be a core team. During regular meetings the Chair encourages anyone with an interest to be an officer to say so in an attempt to encourage newcomers and to have a contested position or two.

Keeping a core leadership team means a few make all the decisions for the many. (Did you know there are over 100 members in our Section?) And while this may generally work, the leadership team doesn't really know if we are meeting the needs of the members and providing monthly meeting subjects and speakers that interest the majority. A Section survey was sent out a few months back and about 15% of the members responded. Likely, the leadership team members were a big fraction of the responders and again, the leadership team is left wondering if we are satisfying the majority and not knowing what could be done differently or better.

Someone recently mentioned that there was a time when the 614 Section officers were the Quality Managers from the various Hanford contractors, but over time these managers have not been associated or involved with ASQ which is interesting. (Did I hear a gauntlet being thrown down? Does anyone even remember what this phrase means?)

We have a few members with a long historical memory who remind us that maintaining the Section has had its ups and downs and some lean years. This last 2010-2011 year was notable for increased attendance at meetings which was gratifying. The "What if ...?" query listed as the subject of this message is because I wonder what might happen if no one stepped up for the elected Section positions. I personally appreciate the monthly meetings, speakers, site visits, and interactions that the Columbia Basin 614 Section provides. I'd be sad if it ceased to exist.

The leadership team just wants you to know that any input you want to provide, whenever you want to provide it will be welcomed and valued. When we announce leadership team meetings we really do mean that those meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend (and yes, there is usually food involved), and any involvement you desire will be welcomed. So, let us know if you have suggestions for speakers, areas of interest, courses that you want to take locally and so on for the next year. The old ASQ year ran from July to July, but at the end of 2011, the year will move to a traditional January to December year, so the next leadership team will have 18 months to hear and act on your ideas.

Enjoy your summer.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR MAY 7 BREWHAHA!



SECTION 614 MEMBERSHIP

As of May 22, 2011, we have 108 members in our Section.

2010-2011 SECTION 614 LEADERSHIP TEAM	
Section Chair (and Programs & Publicity)	Alvin Langstaff
Vice Chair and (and Programs & Publicity)	Jo Haberstock
Treasurer	Barbara Gillespie
Secretary (and Programs & Publicity)	Deborah Coffey
Division Liaison and Section Historian	Dennis Arter
Certification/Recertification	Howard Rew
Audit	Clark Beus
Webmaster	Barbara Gillespie
Newsletter (and Programs & Publicity)	Robert Boykin

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

This newsletter is published on a regular basis to inform members and potential members about Section 614 activities and other news/information that might be of value to quality professionals. To be considered for the next newsletter, input must be received by the 15th of the month.