

## **CHAIR'S CORNER – INVITATION TO ALL COLUMBIA BASIN ASQ MEMBERS**

### **SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 18**

by Denise Fast

Networking meetings are structured gatherings that bring together professionals to connect, build relationships, and learn from one another.

Our section member networking event is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm at 3-Eyed Fish in Richland. For planning purposes, please RSVP to me ([Denise.Fast@msn.com](mailto:Denise.Fast@msn.com)) by June 12 if you plan to attend.

There will be complimentary appetizers (covered by the section). All beverages or other food items will be no-host.

This is a great opportunity to meet and network with other section members! We will share some information about our section and discuss ideas for possible future meeting topics and site visits/tours, based on results from the recent member survey. We are also currently looking for members to serve on the 2026 section leadership team and can answer questions about the required and desired roles.

DATE: Wednesday, June 18

TIME: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

LOCATION: 3 Eyed Fish Kitchen + Bar - 1970 Keene Road, Richland

You can view their website (and food and drink menus) [here](#).

## **WHAT IS NETWORKING? WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?**

(from a Coursera article)

In career development, networking is building relationships with others in and around your field or industry. Unlike mentorship and sponsorship, these connections are typically mutually beneficial, with each person sharing resources, expertise, and information with the other. They also tend to be more informal. Your network is your set of professionally aligned friendships.

Some commonly cited benefits of networking include:

- Meet new people and/or reconnect with others
- Explore interests with like-minded individuals
- Practice your interpersonal skills (communication, active listening, empathy, etc.)
- Learn about new job opportunities/obtain job referrals

Building mutually beneficial relationships usually requires some time and effort. (Read the full article [here](#).)



## **LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS**

by Steve Prevette  
Section Nominations Chair

We are looking for our ASQ Section Officers for 2026. At a minimum, we need a Section Chair (the leader of the organization), a Secretary, and a Treasurer (the money person). Also part of the official leadership team are the Membership Chair and the Nominations Chair.

**Why is this important?** Your section would not exist if not for the leadership team, so it is crucial to the survival of the section for folks to step forward for these roles.

**WIIFM?** What's in it for me (you)? I can speak (write!) from personal experience in volunteering for two national organizations over the past 30 years, that there are many personal rewards. Through volunteering for ASQ I have made many friends and network contacts. Volunteer work was crucial for my application for "Fellow" status in ASQ. My "I love me wall" (come on, we all have one of those, be honest) has many memories of work, efforts, and accomplishments from over the years. On travels, I've been able to visit with other members of these organizations and talk, reminisce, and have fun.

**How do I become a Section Volunteer?** Simply contact me by email ([prevettejs@gmail.com](mailto:prevettejs@gmail.com)) or phone (803-594-5079). You may self-nominate (aka volunteer) for the role of your choice. I can supply you with background information about what to expect in the role, or feel free to contact the person currently in the position. The ASQ614.org website lists the current section leadership team members. If more than one person expresses interest in the same position, we will hold an official election.

**What happens if no one volunteers?** Bottom line is the section will be decertified/dissolved by ASQ, since we cannot operate without a leadership team. An alternative might include merging with a neighboring section, but our nearest "neighbors" are a considerable distance away. That would eliminate many local opportunities for our members such as ASQ certification exam monitors, local meetings/events, and networking opportunities. Our section actually went through the dissolution process in the 1990's, and a good amount of effort was required to reformulate our section and get the group up and running again.

I hope you all believe in the value of having local Quality professionals and peers available to communicate and network with. I look forward to hearing from many of you.

# Invitation from ASQ Inspection Division June 3, 2025 Virtual Webinar

**DATE:**

Tuesday,  
June 3, 2025

## Stakeholder Analysis and Communication Strategies

This is a virtual/online  
webinar via Webex. Log-in  
information will be provided  
on the registration  
confirmation email.



### Natella Isazada, CMQ/OE Regional Director, ASQ Canada and Greenland

**TIME:**

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm PDT

(check website to confirm time)

**There is no charge for ASQ  
members or non-members**

[Advance registration](#) is  
required for planning purposes  
and to receive RU credit  
following the meeting.

**Attendance at this meeting  
earns RUs toward ASQ  
recertification.**

**More information about ASQ's  
Inspection Division is  
available [here](#).**

**For more information about  
our ASQ section and other  
upcoming events:  
[www.asq614.org/](http://www.asq614.org/) or our  
[myASQ community site](#)**

Starting a new project can be an exciting journey, but without a clear understanding of those who stand to gain or lose, success may remain elusive. This is where the pivotal practice of stakeholder analysis comes into play.

This presentation is designed to elevate your stakeholder management skills and stakeholder analysis techniques.

You can learn to prioritize effectively with stakeholder salience and discover tailored communication strategies for diverse stakeholder groups.

Whether you are managing projects, leading teams, or shaping organizational strategies, this session will provide actionable insights to strengthen your relationships and achieve results.

Don't miss the opportunity to sharpen your expertise and connect with fellow quality professionals and project managers.

This session will discuss:

- What stakeholder analysis is and why it is important
- How to identify internal and external stakeholders and assess their interests and expectations
- The importance of effective communication strategies

*About the speaker: Natella Isazada has 20 years of experience in Quality, Risk, and EHS Management in a number of industries. As a consultant, she has helped many businesses and non-profit organizations with process improvements, QMS, ISO 9001 compliance, and streamlining business communications. Natella is the author of Quality in Quality Out and Quality 4.0 Are you Prepared? She is ASQ CMQ/OE certified and has been trained as a CQA and IRCA certified Lead ISO 9001 Auditor. Natella has been an ASQ member since 2024 and served her home section ASQ Vancouver (Canada) in multiple leadership roles prior to assuming her current position as Regional Director of ASQ Canada and Greenland in 2022.*

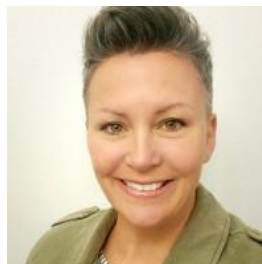
# Invitation from Phoenix ASQ Inspection June 12, 2025 Virtual Webinar

**DATE:**

Thursday,  
June 12, 2025

## Food Safety Culture as a Strategic Asset: Driving Excellence Beyond Audits

This is a virtual/online  
webinar via Zoom. Log-in  
information will be provided  
on the registration  
confirmation email.



**Jennifer DuCree, CFSQA, LSSGB**  
Senior Manager, Crisis and Risk Management, RQA, Inc.

**TIME:**

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm PDT

(check website to confirm time)

**There is no charge for ASQ  
members or non-members**

[Advance registration](#) is  
required for planning purposes  
and to receive RU credit  
following the meeting.

**More information about the  
Phoenix ASQ section is  
available [here](#).**

**For more information about  
our ASQ section and other  
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[www.asq614.org/](http://www.asq614.org/) or our  
[myASQ community site](#).

In today's fast-evolving food and beverage industry, the demands of regulatory compliance and consumer expectations for transparency and quality have elevated food safety culture from a "nice-to-have" to a strategic imperative.

Cultivating a robust food safety culture not only ensures adherence to standards such as Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) but also drives operational excellence and fosters competitive differentiation. By embedding food safety values into the core of an organization, companies can move beyond reactive compliance to a proactive approach that enhances decision making, reduces risks and builds trust with stakeholders. A strong food safety culture is built on key elements including leadership commitment, employee engagement, cross-functional collaboration, and continuous improvement.

Real-world examples will illustrate the tangible benefits of integrating food safety culture into business strategy, from minimizing recalls to improving brand loyalty. Attendees will gain actionable insights and real-world strategies to proactively strengthen food safety culture, ensuring compliance and operational excellence.

*About the speaker: With over 20 years of experience, Jennifer DuCree's background spans several food sectors including bakery and snack foods, fruit and vegetable processing and repacking, nuts and confections, food ingredient manufacturing, recipe meals and meal kits, cereal grain processing, nutraceuticals, and spirits. Before joining RQA, Jennifer led QuickQuestion LLC, a consultancy focused on food safety and quality compliance within the food and beverage industry. Jennifer has also held FSQA leadership roles at companies including Diageo, Anthony Marano Company, Glanbia Performance Nutrition, and Ingredient where her efforts led to measurable outcomes including SQF/BRCGS/FSSC certification(s), significant process improvements, and multimillion-dollar savings.*

*Jennifer holds an MS in Management and Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University and a BS in Biology from the University of Minnesota. She is a Certified Food Safety and Quality Auditor, Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, SQF Practitioner, PCQI Human Food certificate, FSVP Certificate, FSSC/FSMS Lead Auditor with advanced training in Crisis Management & Food Defense, and CAPA/Root Cause Analysis.*

# June 18, 2025 Invitation from ASQ Quality Management Division Virtual Webinar

DATE:

## Sustaining Efforts in an Evolving AI Era

Wednesday,  
June 18, 2025

This is a virtual/online webinar via Webex. Log-in information will be provided on the registration confirmation email.



**Shruti Patil, PMP, LSSBB**  
**Senior Informatics Data Analyst**  
**Chair, ASQ Government Division**

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm PDT

(check website to confirm time)

Cost: No charge for ASQ members and non-members

[Advance registration](#) is required for planning purposes and to receive RU credit following the meeting.

More information about ASQ's Quality Management Division is available [here](#).

For more information about our ASQ section and other upcoming events: [www.asq614.org/](http://www.asq614.org/) or our [myASQ community site](#).

Embark on a journey with us as we delve into the dynamic world of artificial intelligence and explore strategies to sustain progress amidst rapid technological advancements. As AI technology continues to evolve, organizations face the challenge of maintaining momentum and ensuring lasting impact.

This webinar will provide practical insights, expert advice, and real-world examples to help you navigate the complexities of the AI landscape and sustain growth.

Attendees will learn about:

- The evolving AI landscape
- Effective strategies and collaborative partnerships to sustain
- Real-world case studies of successful AI implementations

Don't miss this opportunity to stay ahead of the curve and ensure your efforts in the AI era are impactful and enduring.

*About the speaker: Shruti Patil is a certified Informatics Data Analyst specializing in Big Data, serving a local city government in Texas. She excels in creating interactive dashboards, building custom applications, and conducting statistical analyses to support data-driven decision-making.*

*With dual Master's degrees in Computer Engineering and Industrial Management, Shruti leverages a unique combination of technical and managerial skills. As a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt and Project Management Professional, she spearheads performance excellence projects, mentors Green Belts, and drives successful project outcomes. Her leadership roles extend to the ASQ Government Division, where she has held various influential roles and currently serves as Chair, championing a vision of efficient, fact-based governance. Shruti has also contributed to the Baldrige Excellence Framework as an application evaluator and serves as an ANSI G1 Designated Examiner.*

## GET YOUR FREE MONTHLY GIFTS!

Be sure to check out the free ASQ Member Gifts this month.

Every month the focus is on a different aspect of quality, and the gifts include a variety of valuable resources.

The May gifts (available through May 31) focused on change management tools and resources.

You can also earn Recertification Units (RUs) for watching ASQ webinars and videos, reading e-books, etc. Be sure to [access](#) this month's resources by June 30.

## ASQ CERTIFICATIONS – UPCOMING EXAMS

Have you been thinking about applying for an ASQ certification? Why not stop thinking about it and just do it! As an ASQ member, you'll save \$100 off the usual (non-member) fee for each exam.

Applications are now being accepted for the following exams scheduled for August 1-31. The application deadline is July 14.

- CQA (Quality Auditor)
- CQE (Quality Engineer)
- CQIA (Quality Improvement Associate)
- CSQE (Software Quality Engineer)
- CSSGB (Six Sigma Green Belt)
- CQPA (Quality Process Analyst)
- CCT (Calibration Technician)
- CPGP (Pharmaceutical GMP Professional)
- CCQM (Construction Quality Manager)

Click [here](#) to sign up or for more information.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Whatever you do in life, surround yourself with smart people who'll argue with you."

~ John Robert Wooden

## OFFICIAL CALL FOR 2026 COLUMBIA BASIN ASQ OFFICER NOMINATIONS BY AUGUST 10

by Steve Prevette, Nominations Chair

This serves as the official call for nominations for 2026 Columbia Basin ASQ Officers – Section Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Other positions that must also be filled are Membership Chair and Nominations Chair.

Nominations are required for the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer positions, if more than one individual is interested in the position. The section's Nominations Committee can also nominate current members who meet the position requirements (Full/Professional, Senior, or Fellow members). Any regular section member may also nominate another eligible member (or themselves) for one of these positions by submitting a nomination petition to the Nominations Committee.

All required section positions must be filled and names submitted to ASQ for our section to continue to operate in 2026. We would really like to see more members become actively involved in our section.

Please consider stepping up to serve in a leadership position. For more information about the nomination and election process, or about the duties of a specific position, contact any current section leadership team member or send a message to me: [prevettejs@gmail.com](mailto:prevettejs@gmail.com)

## WASHINGTON WORKPLACE SUMMIT 2025

### CALL FOR SPEAKER PROPOSALS BY JUNE 6

The Washington Workplace Summit is a dynamic half-day event, designed to empower professionals with cutting-edge workplace best practices. This year's Summit will be held on July 22 at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick.

Whether you're looking to enhance your skills or transform your organization's culture, the Summit offers invaluable insights and networking opportunities.

Past Summit topics have included mental health and well-being, generational workforce dynamics, coaching and mentorship, strategic planning, and AI in the workplace.

If you have a message, experience, or strategy to share that can inspire and equip Summit attendees you are encouraged to submit a proposal. Additional information can be found [here](#), or call Ricki at 509.491.3230





## MEET QUINCY!

### Exclusive Benefit for ASQ Members

ASQ is dedicated to empowering quality professionals. The latest new benefit is Quincy, a go-to tool for all things quality. Quincy is more than just an artificial intelligence (AI) assistant; it's a dedicated

member resource designed exclusively to support ASQ members in achieving quality excellence.

Quincy offers 24/7 access to expert insights, tailored recommendations, and ASQ's extensive content library at your fingertips. From solving quality challenges to offering deep dives into hot topics, Quincy is here to elevate your experience as a quality professional.

### What Can Quincy Do for You?

**Expand Your Knowledge:** Dive into resources such as [Quality Progress articles](#), Lean and Six Sigma tools, and member-exclusive content. Whether you're seeking knowledge on specific methodologies or broad industry trends, Quincy has you covered.

**Provide Tailored Solutions:** Need guidance on tackling quality challenges? Just ask Quincy, and you will get personalized, actionable insights.

**Multilingual Support:** Collaborate with Quincy in multiple languages, which ensures this innovative tool supports your needs wherever you are in the world.

**Why Choose Quincy?** Quincy isn't just another AI tool - it's a platform built exclusively for quality professionals. Unlike other AI solutions, Quincy is trained on ASQ's proprietary content, meaning it offers insights and solutions you won't find anywhere else.

Additional information about Quincy, what it knows (and doesn't know) and how to start using it can be found [here](#)

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS – NETWORKING EVENTS

**June 12 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm PDT in Kennewick  
AND June 26 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm in Benton City**

The Tri-City Regional Chamber offers monthly opportunities to meet and network with other business professionals at existing and new businesses in our area. Each month a different sponsor hosts the event and has an opportunity to showcase their goods and services amid a fun and social atmosphere.

There will be TWO events this month!

The June 12 event is being hosted by Grace Clinic, located at 800 West Canal Drive in Kennewick.

The June 26 event will be hosted by Sugar Pine Barn at Tucannon Cellars, 40504 N. Demoss Road in Benton City.

There will be refreshments and beverages at both events. Bring your business card to enter to win a door prize. No reservations are required. It's free to attend - bring a friend! More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

## MENTAL WELL-BEING AND BUILDING A RESILIENT WORKFORCE

### Ask the Experts Hybrid Event

**June 17 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm PDT in Kennewick (or via Zoom)**

*Ask the Experts is a series of monthly workshops that provide information on crucial business topics, offered free of charge to the Tri-Cities business community through the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce and funded by STCU. Each session features local professionals who have demonstrated expertise in the featured monthly topic and are willing to share what they have learned, as well as answer questions from participants.*

Would you like to learn more about how to promote overall well-being in the workplace through practical and actionable strategies?

Panelists Lena Garza (Nourished by Design), Laurell Kaiser (Association of Washington Cities), and Kat Lawrence (Pacific Clinic) will discuss practical steps for supporting mental wellbeing, promoting life-work harmony, and fostering a resilient and values-driven workplace culture. This session is intended to empower employers and team members to prioritize mental health and to help organizations thrive.

Ask the Experts is offered in hybrid format - in-person at the Bechtel Board Room at the Tri-Cities Business and Visitor Center building in Kennewick (with light refreshments), as well as live on Zoom. There is no charge. Register [here](#).

## BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN YOUR PERSONALITY STYLE

### Webinar Wednesday

**June 18 at 3:00 pm PDT on Zoom**

Most change efforts struggle because leaders and teams aren't given the tools or clarity they need to succeed. Each month, in this [free](#) training session, Paul D. Casey of Growing Forward Services shares a roadmap on a variety of topics to help individuals overcome resistance, build buy-in, and communicate vision clearly.

Every personality type has strengths and weaknesses. In this webinar, Paul will show you how to embrace your unique personality strengths and use them to build authentic connections, communicate effectively, and navigate challenges with confidence. This involves self-awareness, continuous growth, and learning how to adapt your natural tendencies to different situations. Additional information and [registration](#) can be found on the Growing Forward Services [website](#).

## THE TOP 4 QUALITY INSPECTION NIGHTMARES AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT THEM

### Buffalo ASQ Section Virtual Meeting

June 19 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm PDT

Quality inspection refers to the preventive measures companies use to detect defects in manufactured products or services before they reach the end user. Manufacturing companies implement a variety of inspection approaches to examine and test product quality to ensure that the product achieves the desired specifications and customer expectations.

Inspections are important, but they can also be a bit intimidating, especially for those who may not have a lot of experience with them.

Presenter Rebecca Keller will discuss some inspection-related nightmares and the associated prescriptive solutions gathered from years of experience working with quality engineers in manufacturing organizations. She will also share how many companies are pursuing software solutions to these and other challenges.

There is no charge, but [advance registration](#) is required.

## CARS & BBQ – CARS, MOTORCYCLES, AND FOOD!

### Fundraiser for Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton & Franklin Counties

June 29 from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm PDT in Kennewick

Bring your classy car or motorcycle to show off – or just hang out with fellow admirers while enjoying a chef-prepared BBQ lunch. There will also be a raffle and awards.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin Counties has been serving our region since 1996. In 2023, Boys & Girls Clubs served over 4,000 youth in our community - a feat made possible through generous community support.

This event will be held at Marineland Plaza in Kennewick. Grab your car or motorcycle buddy and pre-register your vehicle by calling 509.301.8441. The entry fee for vehicles is \$25 and includes vehicle registry and lunch. Lunch for non-exhibitors will be available for a flat fee.

For more information about the event, contact sponsoring company Tsunami Catering at [info@tsunamicatering.com](mailto:info@tsunamicatering.com)

Has your email address changed? Help us keep you informed of Columbia Basin ASQ events and information by updating your contact information and email preferences at <http://www.asq.org/>. Log in and click "My Account" to update your membership record. You can add or make email, address, and phone changes in the "Contact" tab, and then click on the "email preferences" tab to be sure you are subscribed to receive future Section communications.

## CONNECTING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

### Virtual Masterclass with Peter Block

Five sessions from July 8 – August 5

In a time of fragmentation, polarization, and deep institutional mistrust, our work in community is more urgent than ever. This masterclass invites participants to dive deeper into where and how the protocols of connection and engagement can make a positive difference. It is in our hands to create an alternative world - one rooted in relationships, agency, and the radical possibility of the common good.

Led by renowned author and community builder Peter Block, and joined by visionary co-hosts from across disciplines, this five-session series will explore how we can reframe the way we engage with our communities, workplaces, and institutions - shifting from control to trust, from doing *for* to building *with*.

The class is based on Peter's most recent book, ["Activating the Common Good."](#)

Cost is \$199. Additional details about the upcoming class are available [here](#).



## WHAT IS FLAG DAY?

(from the History website)

When the American Revolution broke out in 1775, the colonists weren't fighting united under a single flag. Instead, most regiments participating in the war for independence against the British fought under their own flags. In June of 1775, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to create the Continental Army - a unified colonial fighting force - with the hope of a more organized battle against its colonial oppressors. This led to the creation of what was, essentially, the first "American" flag, the Continental Colors.

For some, this flag, which was comprised of 13 red and white alternating stripes and a Union Jack in the corner, was too similar to that of the British. George Washington soon realized that flying a flag that was even remotely close to the British flag was not a great confidence builder for the revolutionary effort, so he turned his efforts toward creating a new symbol of freedom for the soon-to-be fledgling nation.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress took a break from writing the Articles of Confederation and passed a resolution stating that "the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white," and that "the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Over 100 years later, in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson marked the anniversary of that decree by officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day.

For more information, including some very interesting facts about "Old Glory," click [here](#).

## 100 SAFEST DAYS OF SUMMER CAMPAIGN

(from the WTSC website)

The summer months are the most dangerous months on roadways in Washington. In 2024, there were 253 fatal crashes between June and September, making the summer months the deadliest four-month period of the year. In Washington, 31% of fatal crashes involved a driver speeding. Fatal crashes involving speeding drivers in Washington have increased 52% since 2019.

The Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) has launched a campaign called the "100 Safest Days of Summer" to urge drivers to follow the speed limit to save lives. The campaign will launch with PSAs, airing statewide and at select gas stations, and an invitation to compete against other Washingtonians in a safe-driving app called Safe Roads Challenge. Simple changes like just following the speed limit will increase the safety of everyone who uses our roads and sidewalks.

People are not always aware of their own speed and how dangerous it can be. An increase of just 5 miles per hour above the speed limit reduces the amount of time available for a driver to react, while also increasing the amount of space needed to come to a stop. With less time to slow or stop, drivers who speed are more likely to crash at a higher speed and cause severe harm to themselves and others.

Speed limits are set for each stretch of road based on a number of factors like curves, hills, sight distance, pavement condition, the road's usage by pedestrians and bicyclists and its history of crashes. The posted speed limits are designed to keep everyone safe by giving drivers more time to react and brake, thereby decreasing the amount of deadly force in a crash. Rather than follow the flow of traffic, it is far safer for everyone to adhere to the posted speed limit, which exists to decrease the risk and severity of crashes on a particular road.

Washingtonians can download a [mobile app](#) that provides a report card on how safe your driving really is. By joining the app, users can also compete against other Washington drivers, earn rewards for safe driving, and square off on the leaderboards. By competing in the Safe Roads Challenge between now and Labor Day, Washington drivers can earn a chance to unlock big prizes, including a drawing with a top prize of up to \$100,000.

Additional safe driving resources can be found [here](#).

### 2025 COLUMBIA BASIN ASQ

#### LEADERSHIP TEAM

January 1 - December 31, 2025

<b>Section Chair</b>	Denise Fast
<b>Secretary</b>	Denise Clements
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Boykin
<b>Membership Chair</b>	Jo Haberstk
<b>Nominations Chair</b>	Steve Prevette
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Robert Boykin
<b>Publicity Chair</b>	Jo Haberstk
<b>Webmaster</b>	Steve Prevette
<b>Programs Chair</b>	Vacant
<b>Social Media Chair</b>	Vacant
<b>Voice of the Customer Chair</b>	Vacant

#### Publication Information

This newsletter is published on a regular basis to inform members and potential members about Columbia Basin ASQ activities and other news/information that may be of value to quality professionals. To be considered for the next newsletter, input must be received by the 21st of the month.