



Greater El Paso  
Section

*Amigo*  
*Quality*  
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Welcome to the August 2008 issue of the Newsletter! Your local provider of information and learning opportunities related to quality professionals.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**LOCATION:** EPCC Valle Verde ATC  
**REGISTRATION & SOCIAL HOUR:** 8:00am-12:00 noon  
**DATE:** August 19, 2008  
**SPEAKER:** Executive Meeting  
**TOPIC:** N/A

MEETING IS FREE FOR EVERYBODY (MEMBERS OR NON-MEMBERS)

**THE CHAIR SPEAKS**

JOE LISSBERGER

To all members and executive committee members:

The Saturday morning of August 16th will be our second executive training session and we are looking forward to having Belinda Chavez, Regional Director of Region 14 of ASQ as a guest at that meeting. She will be here to observe our training and planning for the upcoming year. All members are welcome and the executive committee is necessary for this meeting to be beneficial. The meeting will be held in Room 101 of the ATC Center of El Paso community College starting at 8:00 AM and should last until 12:00 noon. Hope to see all there. Joe

**AUTOMOTIVE SECTION**

HECTOR LUGO

Every other industrialized nation and even emerging markets understand that a prosperous auto industry, with its accompanying good-paying manufacturing and engineering jobs, is the best-proven

engine of economic growth of the last 100 years. But Barack Obama and John McCain want as little to do with it as possible.

It should not be a surprise. Except for a honeymoon with President Bill Clinton, who made meeting with Detroit auto executives his first priority after taking office, U.S. politicians have treated the auto industry like it is the cause of our energy woes.

The U.S. response to soaring fuel prices today — as it was in the 1970s — is the unfunded mandate known as corporate average fuel economy. It is a rule that hurts auto makers and has no impact on demand, but it allows politicians to look like they are accomplishing something when they really are not.

Obama and McCain, Democrats and Republicans, should be debating the merits of various financial incentives and disincentives that encourage consumers to buy more fuel-efficient vehicles and auto makers to build and sell them.

Conservatives say General Motors is just trying to scam its way into a government bailout when it talks about tax incentives for the Chevy Volt plug-in hybrid.

Both Obama and McCain believe states should be allowed to set their own emissions and fuel-economy rules, which could cost the Detroit Three, alone, \$85 billion. Obama and McCain answer with token gestures and a \$300 million prize for a miracle car battery.

Before it's too late, both candidates need to realize what is known on the U.S. campaign trail as corporate welfare, bailouts and outrageous taxation is what the rest of the world calls an energy policy.

See you next month at the meeting!

## **EDUCATION SECTION**

KIM PRIES

Growing versus imposing test regimes: which is better? Is the question even meaningful? The sole purpose of testing is detecting error, so how we get there is not necessarily relevant.

An imposed system often occurs when naïve testing

organizations foolishly rely solely on test standards. For example, in the automotive world, the SAE J1455 standard specifies many different environmental, mechanical, and electronics tests. The document in itself is not terrible. The issue lies with the blind reliance on conducting tests only to the levels specified. To properly characterize a product, we need to test to the design limit, the failure limit, and the destruct limit (if that is different from the failure limit). In short, once we show compliance to the standard, it is incumbent on a mature test organization to push the product. In some cases, non-standard extreme conditions are appropriate. For example, over the years, some states have switched from using sodium chloride rock salt to using the more aggressive magnesium chloride. Most of the standards do not specify the salts to be used.

A grown system generally evolves as new conditions and requirements occur. Because it adapts to real conditions, it has some advantages over the imposed system. The occasional difficulty with a grown system lies in the myriad inefficiencies that are overlooked because they are part of the business culture. Additionally, the evolved system is missing the ability to compare tests that the standards provide.

So what is the best solution? I would suggest that we begin with the standardized, imposed system and always baseline to those results first. Then we follow with our special knowledge to fully characterize the product. That way we get the best of both worlds.

## **RE-CERTIFYING AND ASQ CERTIFICATIONS**

STEVEN SCHAFER

Out of a total of 7 member(s) whose certifications expired December 2007, 0 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of June 2008, 0 member(s) re-certifications are being processed and 7 member(s) completed their re-certifications. **100% Re-certification Achieved – Congratulations to all!!!!**

Out of a total of 10 member(s) whose certifications expired June 2008, 7 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of December 2008, 0 member(s) re-certifications are being processed and 3 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

Out of a total of 15 member(s) whose certifications will expire

December 2008, 15 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of June 2009, 0 member(s) re-certifications are being processed and 0 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

**Members can re-certify early!** As long as you have enough points to re-certify early, you can. Your Certifications will be extended 3 years beyond the certification expiration date you currently have for your certification. So you don't lose anything by re-certifying early. Out of a total of 8 member(s) whose certifications will expire June 2009, 8 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of December 2009, 0 member(s) re-certifications are being processed and 0 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

If anyone has questions on how to re-certify to extend their ASQ Certifications and/or how to synchronize them if they have more than one, please let me know. Re-certifying by exam now costs more money, since the prices went up January 2005 and is a lot more difficult than re-certifying. You can reach me, the Re-Certification Chair, at 915-612-7392 during working hours and at 915-584-0033 after hours. Both numbers have answering machines and if I don't answer, I will call you as soon as I can. You can also reach me via the Internet at [spikequate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spikequate@sbcglobal.net). I am ready to help with any questions you might have about Re-Certifying or about any ASQ Certifications you might have, call me. The Re-Certification Journal is at the following link and will guide you in the re-certification process <http://www.asq.org/certification/recertification/rucredits/index.html>.

### Potential meeting and dinner schedule

| YEAR | MONTH     | DAY | TOPIC                         | LOCATION             |
|------|-----------|-----|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2008 | August    | 16  | Executive Committee Meeting 2 | EPCC Valle Verde ATC |
| 2008 | September | 17  |                               | TBD                  |
| 2008 | October   | 15  |                               | TBD                  |
| 2008 | November  | 19  |                               | TBD                  |
| 2008 | December  | 17  | Christmas Meeting             | TBD                  |
| 2009 | January   | 21  |                               | TBD                  |
| 2009 | February  | 18  |                               | TBD                  |
| 2009 | March     | 18  |                               | TBD                  |
| 2009 | April     | 15  |                               | TBD                  |
| 2009 | May       | 20  |                               | TBD                  |
| 2009 | June      | 24  |                               | TBD                  |
| 2009 | July      | 22  | Executive Committee Meeting 1 | TBD                  |
| 2009 | August    | 19  | Executive Committee Meeting 2 | TBD                  |

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