



Welcome to the June 2009 issue of the Newsletter! Your local provider of information and learning opportunities related to quality professionals.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

LOCATION:

Microtel Inn-East
(915) 858-1600
12211 Gateway Blvd W, El Paso, TX 79936
Confirmation number 107724

SCHEDULED HOUR: 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

DATE: June 24, 2009

SPEAKER: Chairman

TOPIC: What should the section meeting topics be next year?

MEETING IS FREE FOR EVERYBODY (MEMBERS OR NON-MEMBERS) AND THE
SPEAKER STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

THE CHAIR SPEAKS

JOE LISSBERGER

Well we have once again come to the last meeting for this year before the summer training of the new executive committee and this month I would like to have a discussion with all of you over the plans for the new year which will start with the Sept. meeting. Friends please remember that the section belongs to all of you and the subjects that we provide at the monthly meetings are for your benefit. I am asking each of you to come to the meeting this month and give the executive committee some input as to what you would like for us to cover in the next 10 meetings and where you would like for these meetings to be held. We also need for you to give some input into what education or classes you would for us to present. It is your section so let's have some guidance into the operation of it. Thank you and have a good summer.

Joe

AUTOMOTIVE SECTION

HECTOR LUGO

Well, as all of you know, General Motors' bankruptcy filing will do what its past chief executives could not: cleanse the century-old company of burdensome labor costs, unprofitable old factories and a boatload of debt.

The price was one that no GM chief was willing to pay until now. The slimmed-down company will be a ward of the U.S. government, 60 percent owned by the Treasury, with half its eight brands just memories.

Industry analysts, GM executives and even President Barack Obama say GM now has the cost structure to compete in the global automotive market and one day return to profits. The company says it can make money even if U.S. auto sales stay weak.

The question is whether General Motors Corp. can generate enough profit to free itself of government control before the president or Congress rethinks promises not to muck around in day-to-day management of the company.

First, though, GM needs people to start buying cars and trucks again. Worldwide sales are around historic lows, and GM has to convince buyers in its home market that its cars are as good as those made by the Japanese.

See you at the meeting!

EDUCATION SECTION

KIM PRIES

Do we have reasonable alternatives to using designed experiments? The answer is yes. Alternative approaches to process and product optimization exist. Let's assume that we do not have the software to perform a response surface experiment. One alternative to performing RSM is to use a sequential simplex approach. In the sequential simplex approach, we select some control factors for at least 3 levels or points on the hypothetical surface (picture a triangle). We then choose a fourth point that is a reflection of the triangle we have already created. The response will either get better, worse, or remain stationary. Either way, we know more than we knew before. We can continue this process until we believe we have found the

'sweet spot' in the process/product. Occasionally, the simplex will wander around and never find an optimal region or point—that is when we need to use a designed experiment.

The sequential simplex can be performed using a spreadsheet for the bookkeeping. Keeping track of the numbers is a little tedious but the payoff is that we do not need to use dedicated software. A 400-page book on the topic is available for free at http://www.chem.sc.edu/faculty/morgan/pubs/WaltersParkerMorganDeming_SequentialSimplexOptimization.pdf. The explanation is very straightforward and the authors present some nice examples.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Alfonso Enriquez

TAKS is a controversial concept in Education; people against TAKS complain that teachers focus on students passing the test, and not in really learning the concepts. Yes TAKS is a standard. But, how can you distinguish between a student that obtained good grades because he or she gained the sympathy of the teacher, and a dedicated student. That is where TAKS comes at hand. A computer far away from the interest of the faculty evaluates the TAKS test. If TAKS score states that the student was commended, we are sure that it is a true statement. It is independent of any bias from the teacher. In the same way a certification from ASQ is guaranteed to be free of bias. Employers must be confident that the Engineer or Auditor has assimilated the body of knowledge of his (her) profession.

A customer knows that a plant with an ISO 9001 certificate has an established Quality Management System that helps to guarantee the quality of the product

RE-CERTIFYING AND ASQ CERTIFICATIONS

STEVEN SCHAFER

Out of a total of 15 member(s) whose certifications expired December 2008, 4 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 11 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

Out of a total of 8 member(s) whose certifications will expire June 2009, 7 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of December 2009, 1 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 7 member(s) whose certifications will expire December 2009, 7 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of June 2010, 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 spikeguate@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>

CRE Course for Fall 2009. Requests have been received to offer a CRE course and if there are at least 5 firm commitments, preparations will be made. The 8-week course would be given on Saturdays consisting of ~6 hours per Saturday of lecture at a fee of \$495, excluding material. Contact Hector Lugo, Chair of Refresher Classes, by June 1

Potential meeting and dinner schedule

YEAR	MONTH	DAY	TOPIC	LOCATION
2009	July	22	Executive Committee Meeting 1	TBD
2009	August	19	Executive Committee Meeting 2	TBD

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Our Section is on-line! Make a suggestion – win a FREE meal! <http://asq1401.org>