

Chair's Corner

Steve Prevette
Fluor Hanford
Chair, ASQ Section 614

The Section held its planning meetings in July and August to start working up events for next year. Jo Haberstok, Robert Boykin, Howard Rew, Rich Higgins and I were in attendance in July, Jo, Howard and I in August. All agreed that last year was a very successful year for the Section. I believe we have overcome the difficulties of four years ago that threatened to cause the Section to shut down. Today, I believe we are one of the more active Sections in the Society, and certainly are very prolific for our size (still around 95 members).

In the past year, Rich Higgins has overhauled the newsletter, and shifted it to an electronic format. This has saved the Section considerable money in postage and copying costs, and the electronic format appears to have been acceptable to you, the members. Jo and Rich have added original content to the newsletter this year, giving you something to read other than just my comments here.

Dennis Arter redesigned the Section website this year. If you haven't seen it lately, please drop by at <http://www.asq614.org/>. Dennis has really given a professional look to the website.

Howard Rew continues on with certification and recertification duties. We continue to arrange for exams for new certifications, and signoffs on recertification packages. By going to Howard with your recertification package, you save the expense and difficulty of mailing all your recertification point materials to ASQ HQ. Howard can review them, and sign off a single page which you then send on to headquarters.

Jo and Robert Boykin have been instrumental in setting up the speakers and visits for this past year, and are well underway with next year's schedule. I've been glad to see the increase in participation in the past year in the dinner meetings. We've generally come close to meeting the 15 dinner commitment that the Shilo requires, so we've been paying for less uneaten meals this year. Though, the Shilo still seems to put out enough food to serve an army, and it continues to be very good food.

I'm going to continue to keep an eye out for new members to the Section and send out welcome notes and an invitation to one free dinner meeting. If I did somehow miss you this past year (and you joined the Section in the past 12 months), let us know, and we'll cover your costs for one dinner meeting in the coming year.

With these successes come ongoing challenges. The same small group of volunteers is doing the work to keep the Section alive and well. Now, we enjoy doing it, but it would be nice to see some new people get involved. I've now been Section Chair for 4 of the past 5 years. I'd love to see someone else get a chance to hold the prestigious title of "Section Chair". If you'd like to take an active role in the Section, let any of the officers know by email, phone, or just talking to us at the next dinner meeting. Oh, yes, and we will be doing more planning sessions at the Shilo Inn this Fall. Feel free to join us for planning our activities. Free drinks and snacks. If you'd like to be involved, but don't make it to the Tri Cities very often, we have other roles such as writing newsletter or website content, contacting new members, helping to find speakers, and probably many things we haven't thought of doing, but could do if there was an interested person in doing them.

- Steve Prevette