

About ASQ and Columbia Basin Section 0614

A world of improvement is available through ASQ (American Society for Quality), providing information, contacts, and opportunities to make things better in the workplace, in communities and in people's lives. Established in 1946, and headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, ASQ has been the sole administrator of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Program Award since 1991. ASQ marked the 30th anniversary of its International Team Excellence Award at the World Conference on Quality and Improvement in 2015. ASQ's participation and influence in international standards includes providing support to the development of international and American National Standards, such as ISO 9001 and ISO 9001-2015, ISO 26000, and ISO 14001.

ASQ Excellence (ASQE) was founded in January 2020 as a trade association whose mission is to set the standard for quality-driven offerings and insights worldwide, inspiring the organizations it serves to achieve excellence. ASQE provides expertise, insights, thought leadership, networks and resources to a global membership of organizations and their affiliated individuals representing a wide range of industries and cultures. ASQ and ASQE complement and enhance each other by providing member value for both individuals and organizations.

- As a **global quality community**, ASQ advances the professional development, credentials, knowledge and information services, membership community, and advocacy on behalf of millions of individual and organizational members in 130 countries. ASQ offers 18 certifications, and has issued over 300,000 certifications to professionals worldwide. ASQ supports membership services and business operations through ASQ Global, ASQ China, ASQ Mexico and ASQ India; with ASQ WorldPartners® around the globe.
- As **champions of the quality movement**, ASQ provides support to a number of volunteer groups that develop and approve international and American National Standards. This includes the most widely known standards, such as ISO 9001, ISO 26000, and ISO 14001, as well as other standards and technical reports that apply quality management principles, tools and technology.

ASQ membership, currently numbering around 50,000, is broken down geographically into more than 200 local member communities and typically into more than 25 forums and divisions. Geographic communities, run by volunteer member leaders in several countries, allow members to come together to share and learn on all topics related to quality. Member benefits include substantial discounts on training, certification exams, conferences, books, and access to many valuable resources.

Most ASQ member units offer meetings, newsletters, online information, and resources regarding educational courses, seminars, conferences and certification exams. All of our leadership comes from within, and members can get involved by becoming a volunteer member leader or serving on a team or committee. This allows opportunities to not only support the quality movement in a profound way but also to enhance leadership, communications and teamwork skills.

Our Columbia Basin section is based in Richland, Washington, and currently includes around 70 members from the Tri-Cities and surrounding areas – the geographic area includes the Tri-Cities, Yakima, Walla Walla, Moses Lake, Wenatchee, Hermiston, Pendleton, LaGrande, and other nearby communities. Site visits and dinner meeting presentations our local group has offered in recent years include:

Site Visits

Permobil – Pasco WA
AutoZone Distribution Center – Pasco WA
Wild Horse Wind Farm – Ellensburg WA
Greenwood Tree Farm – Boardman OR
Caldwell Industries – Kennewick WA
Second Harvest – Pasco WA

Other Presentations/Topics

What Makes an Effective Team?
Assessment Principles: How to Look, Ask & Tell
Quality of (Online) Life: Be Careful out There
Overview of Lean Six Sigma and CI Methodology
Integrated Internal Auditing
Software Quality Assurance

To learn more about the Columbia Basin section and our activities, check our website at <http://www.asq614.org/> and/or our Community Site within ASQ.org at my.asq.org/communities/home/235. Additional information about the ASQ global community of quality, including information about membership types, is available on the ASQ website at <http://www.asq.org/> and <https://asq.org/membership/individuals>.