

COLUMBIA BASIN SECTION 0614 NEWS... THE END OF AN ERA

From the Section Leadership Team – November 24, 2025

As you all are aware, we have been attempting to keep our Columbia Basin ASQ section going for several years now ... and not maintaining the status quo, but we have really been hoping to get more members to step up and serve on the leadership team ... to *actively* serve and to be willing to work to keep our section going – and growing – and thriving.

Unfortunately, there has not been enough interest from our current members to do this. The response to our many calls for 2026 volunteers over the past five months has been underwhelming.

Our leadership team has had to make the difficult decision to dissolve the section. This was a very difficult decision to make, but it is not fair to continue to expect the few members who have served for so long (in some cases, 15+ years) to continue putting in so many hours every month to keep the section running with no active involvement or additional support from the rest of the members.

The dissolution process is now underway. It will likely take some time, as ASQ policy requires that information be submitted through our Regional Director to the ASQ Geographical Committee Council for review and approval, and then it will be submitted to the ASQ Board of Directors for final review and approval.

We will continue to keep our members informed through our monthly newsletters or via email as the process continues.

What does this mean for Columbia Basin section members? Based on ASQ policy, when a section disbands, members are reassigned to another section based on geographic location. Thus, most of our members will likely be assigned to the Spokane section. Some members live in the Yakima area and in northeastern Oregon, so they may be assigned to either the Seattle or PNW Cascades (Vancouver/Portland) sections. It is important to note that members are always allowed to choose which section they wish to be assigned to.

Although the writing has been on the wall for some time, it is sad to see this happen. However, there is also a reason to be positive about the future. We have already met with the Spokane ASQ leadership team, and they have expressed a warm welcome and inclusive attitude. There may be opportunities to hold quarterly Tri-Cities area meetings or site visits in 2026 if some of you are willing to help plan them.

A big “Thank You” to our current/2025 section leadership team members – and to the many others who have served in the past. Your hard work and dedication to Quality has been and continues to be appreciated.