



## COLUMBIA BASIN SECTION 614 NEWSLETTER

Serving Central and Southeastern Washington  
and Northeastern Oregon



Issue 08-08

August 2008

### CHAIR'S CORNER

Rich Higgins  
CH2M HILL, Hanford Inc.

Greetings all,

We recently closed the financial books for the fiscal year ending June 30, and, for the first time in recent memory, we finished the year with more money in the treasury than we started with. The surplus was only a couple hundred dollars, but it left us with about \$10,000 in the bank. So we can keep providing what we have in the past monthly dinner meetings with interesting and worthwhile topics of value to our participating members. I will work hard with the other members of the leadership team to keep that tradition alive.

I would like to invite any and all officers and members to start planning next year's activities on Thursday 7/31/08 from 5:00 p.m. at the Shilo Inn in Richland for an hour or so. If you have any thoughts about a program, or ideas for a presentation, or would like to make a presentation yourself, please join us. Appetizers and beverages (adult and otherwise) will be provided.

We are in somewhat of a state of flux at Hanford these days. It happens about once every decade when we play musical chairs with the contracts. Fluor Hanford was awarded the contract at Savannah River, displacing Washington Group (now URS); URS was awarded Hanford's Tank Farm contract, displacing CH2M HILL, who in turn was awarded Hanford's Plateau Remediation Contract (PRC), displacing Fluor Hanford with Fluor Federal Services staying with the PRC. The last contract for Mission Support Contract will be awarded sometime before October 1, and the music will stop. When the dust settles, it seems that all the contractors will still have Hanford work to do. An interesting process to observe, but one that brings lots of opportunity to reevaluate how we are organized, and to assess how we manage the work and the relationships between companies and unions, between management and employees, and between companies and their external regulators and stakeholders. Change means

opportunity. I am looking forward to it.

For Section 614, we should see little change. The programs we provided in the past were very good. As Chairman, I hope to continue that tradition. So, please join us on Thursday and we will kick off the year with a good start. I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Warm regards,

Rich

### SECTION MEMBERSHIP

As of July 2, 2008 we have 93 members in our Section. Our newest member is:

**Mary Clements, Richland WA**

Welcome to the Columbia Basin Section! If you are in town for a meeting, please be sure to drop by, and you will receive your first dinner meeting for free. The 2008-2009 season will run from September 2008 through June 2009.

### ASQ NEWS

The following are compiled from various messages from ASQ Headquarters that may be of interest to the general membership.

#### ASQ President Outlines ASQ Board Initiatives

Roberto Saco, ASQ's president, welcomes the 2008-09 member leader community in an important message. He also addresses the major and critical initiatives that the board approved for this coming year.

[http://www.asq.org/members/leaders/president-saco-letter.html?WT.mc\\_id=&WT.dcsvid=1929992109](http://www.asq.org/members/leaders/president-saco-letter.html?WT.mc_id=&WT.dcsvid=1929992109)

#### New Quality Report: Olympic Trainers Look to Quality

With the Olympic games on the horizon, the latest ASQ Quarterly Quality Report explores just how performance

improvement strategies commonly used by businesses are also helping to prepare athletes for the Olympics in Beijing. The report shows how quality methods can give athletes the edge they need to bring home the gold.  
[http://www.asq.org/quality-report/reports/200807.html?WT.mc\\_id=&WT.dcsvid=1929992109](http://www.asq.org/quality-report/reports/200807.html?WT.mc_id=&WT.dcsvid=1929992109)

### Call for Judges and Teams - International Team Excellence Award Process

**Judges:** You have an opportunity to become a preliminary round judge and use your quality knowledge to assist in choosing the winning teams for the 2008-09 International Team Excellence Award Process.

[http://wcqi.asq.org/team-competition/participants.html?WT.mc\\_id=&WT.dcsvid=192992109](http://wcqi.asq.org/team-competition/participants.html?WT.mc_id=&WT.dcsvid=192992109) **Deadline: August 20, 2008**

**Teams:** Showcase your organization's commitment to quality by entering your team in the preliminary round of the 2008-09 International Team Excellence Award Process. [http://wcqi.asq.org/team-competition/participants.html?WT.mc\\_id=&WT.dcsvid=192992109](http://wcqi.asq.org/team-competition/participants.html?WT.mc_id=&WT.dcsvid=192992109) **Deadline: September 10, 2008**

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Steve Prevette  
Fluor Hanford  
ASQ CQE

By the time most of you receive this newsletter, the leadership planning meeting scheduled for July 31 will have already been completed. I apologize that this word didn't get out faster. We do have a list of emails of those members who have expressed an interest in these planning meetings and got the word out to them. If you'd like to attend a planning meeting, just drop Rich or I a note, or tell us at a dinner meeting. We'll add you to the notification list. You don't have to be an officer to attend.

I read an interesting story about ASQ in the Elsmar Cove discussion board. The person related that at their Section meetings, everyone was to stand up, state their name, their company affiliation, and list their ASQ certifications. The person relating the story felt rather overwhelmed by the experienced folks, and felt shall we say less than welcome. I hope that everyone here with our Section feels welcome, no matter your experience level. I know I have had folks "tell something interesting about yourself" rather than just an ASQ thing. I hope folks will feel welcome at our Section activities and please consider dropping a line about an interesting thing you are doing for the newsletter.

One rather unlikely thing I am working on is an article on traffic flow design for model railroads. This will be published (if all goes well) by the "Operations Special Interest Group" of the "National Model Railroad Association". Interestingly, the article gets into such things as the Poisson distribution, standard deviations, and how to determine the amount of sorting tracks you need to support the level of operations you'd like to run on your model railroad. I believe this is a rather unique application of statistical and quality principles.

Rich did mention the contract changes at Hanford. As I write this column, I do have a job change occurring. As of August the 4<sup>th</sup> I will no longer be an employee of Fluor Hanford, but instead will transfer to Fluor itself and be an employee of Fluor Federal Services. This will allow me to continue on with statistical support I have been performing at Hanford, and open up the availability to support other contractors. Also, I will be helping from a distance institute Statistical Process Control at the Savannah River site in South Carolina. Fluor will assume its new contract there on August 1. I've actually gone ahead and joined the August GA section of ASQ as the second section that I receive as a benefit of being a Senior Member. By the way, be sure to check out the Senior Member benefits which you receive at the same price as a Regular Membership. You may apply for **Senior** membership status if you meet the following criteria:

- Been an ASQ **Full** member in good standing for one year
- Have 10 years of professional experience
- Meet one of four professional criteria outlined on the Senior membership application

<http://www.asq.org/membership/individuals/advanced.html>

A short newsletter this month, but we will pick back up as the first meeting for 2008 – 2009 will be announced in the next newsletter. I also want to get the delivery of the newsletter out early enough for folks to be able to plan for the meetings. If you do need to know prior to receiving the newsletter, keep an eye on the website <http://www.asq614.org/>

- Steve

## WEBSITES FOR OTHER ASQ SECTIONS

Seattle Section (#606): [www.asq-seattle.org](http://www.asq-seattle.org)  
 Spokane Section (#619): [www.spokaneasq.org](http://www.spokaneasq.org)  
 Southwest Washington – Vancouver Section (#627):  
[www.asqswwa.org](http://www.asqswwa.org)  
 Portland Section (#607): [www.asqpdx.com](http://www.asqpdx.com)

## PUBLICATION INFORMATION



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The ASQ Columbia Basin Section 614 newsletter is published on a regular basis to inform members (and

potential members!) about Section 614 activities and other news/information we feel may be of value to quality professionals. To be considered for the next newsletter, input must be received by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month.

## CAREER CONNECTIONS

*To be considered for posting in the newsletter, announcements must be submitted by an ASQ member and be of potential service to other members. Announcements may include job postings, training opportunities, or requests for assistance. Due to space limitations, please keep them brief.*

## 2008-2009 SECTION 614 LEADERSHIP TEAM

<b>Section Chair and Publicity</b>	Rich Higgins	<b>Audit</b>	Clark Beus
<b>Vice Chair and Programs</b>	Alvin Langstaff	<b>Division Liaison, Web Team Lead, Section Historian, and Examining</b>	Dennis Arter
<b>Treasurer</b>	Howard Rew		
<b>Newsletter Editor and Secretary</b>	Rich Higgins	<b>Certification/Recertification</b>	Steve Prevette

You can find out more about Section 614, including contact information for Leadership Team members, on our website at [www.asq614.org](http://www.asq614.org). If you are interested in helping with any of the Section teams, please contact the team lead or an officer. We are always looking for willing volunteers!