

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

from the Leadership Team

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 has now begun. It will likely take some time, as information has to be submitted through our Regional Director to the ASQ Geographical Committee Council for review, and then it has to 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 will 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.

AS THE NEW YEAR APPROACHES...

submitted by Robert Boykin



This is the time of year when we make lists of things we want to change in our lives. Things such as exercising more, quitting smoking, reading more and/or better books, and (perhaps) drinking less alcohol.

We don't always accomplish our resolutions, though, because many of the goals we set for ourselves are too ambitious. This is not to suggest that we should not strive to improve our conduct and character, but rather to say that maybe we ought to set goals that we are more likely to accomplish. When we fail to meet our goals, we often end up feeling bad about ourselves and then we may return to the very behaviors that we vowed to stop.

An article I recently read suggests that ethical responsibilities we have to others, including our co-workers, family and friends, are called the five principles of ethical intelligence - ethical principles that apply in all of our professional and personal relationships. The principles are:

1. Do no harm.
2. Make things better.
3. Respect others.
4. Be fair.
5. Care.

In that light, what often gets overlooked in discussions about ethics is the duty we have to ourselves. After all, the five principles concern how we treat *everyone*. If it is wrong to talk to a colleague disrespectfully, it is also wrong to talk to ourselves that way. Just as we should not harm others, we should refrain from harming ourselves. In other words, negative talk not only injures the person that it is directed toward, but it also injures the reputation of the messenger.

The message here is to *Accentuate the Positive*. We are more likely to achieve our New Year's resolutions by simply being kinder to ourselves. Once we commit to treating ourselves the way we'd like others to treat us, the other goals we seek might become a lot easier to reach.

So, in 2026, let's vow to go a little bit easier on ourselves. We might be pleasantly surprised by what happens as a result.

Be well and be safe.

December 10, 2025 Invitation from ASQ's Lean Enterprise Division Virtual Webinar

DATE:

Wednesday,
December 10, 2025

This is a virtual/online
(Webex) webinar. Log-in
information will be provided
on the registration
confirmation email.

Time: 10:00 am to 11:00 am
PST

(check website to confirm time)

There is no charge for ASQ
members or non-members.

[Registration](#) is required for
planning purposes and to
receive RU credit following
the event.

More information about ASQ's
Lean Enterprise Division is
available [here](#).

For more information about
our Columbia Basin ASQ
section and other upcoming
events: www.asq614.org/ or
our [myASQ community site](#).

The Invisible Knife: What's Sabotaging Your Projects and How to Stop It



Taryn Shipley, SSBB
Founder and CEO of Lean HealthTech

Projects often fail for reasons that have nothing to do with tools, funding, or timelines. The real culprit is harder to see: mental energy.

Silent meetings, endless rabbit holes, and resistance to change all point to the invisible forces that drain teams and derail progress.

In this thought-provoking session, we will uncover the hidden barriers that cut into project success. We will learn how to recognize the symptoms of a "mental energy crisis," why familiarity often beats innovation, and how to grow capacity - for yourself and for others - to make change sustainable.

Join us to discover practical ways to shift your mindset from protecting time to protecting energy, increasing buy-in, and building resilience against the subtle forces that sabotage projects.

About the speaker: Taryn Shipley is the founder and CEO of Lean HealthTech. She works with healthcare organizations across the U.S., optimizing their processes by better leveraging analytics and their EMR (electronic medical record).

Taryn earned her bachelor's degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Spanish, and acquired her MBA with specializations in analytics and digital marketing from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Taryn is Six Sigma Black Belt certified, MIT certified in Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare, and also holds seven Epic certifications. She is the author of "Process Improvement in Healthcare" and the host of the Lean Healthtech podcast.

December 17, 2025 Invitation from Temecula, Inland Empire & San Gabriel Valley ASQ Virtual Webinar

DATE:

Tuesday,
December 17, 2025

Surprising Mitigations from Fault Tree Analysis - Don't Stop with the Fault Tree!

This is a virtual/online
(Webex) event. Log-in
information will be provided
with registration confirmation.

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm PST

(check website to confirm time)

There is no charge for ASQ
members or non-members.

[Registration](#) is required for
planning purposes and to
receive RU credit following
the event.

More information about Inland
Empire ASQ 0505 is available
[here](#).

Information about Temecula
ASQ 0713 can be found [here](#).

Information about San Gabriel
ASQ 0702 is available [here](#).

For more information about
our ASQ section and other
upcoming events:

www.asq614.org/ or our
[myASQ community site](#).



Barry Craner
ASQ Pacific Region Director
FASQ, CQE, CQA, CMDA, RAC(US), MS+, MBA

The Fault Tree Analysis (FTA) is a tool for any problem from an event or hazard when one desires to understand possible future or past causes. It can be used in Root Cause Analysis (like a Fishbone analysis), and in Risk Management in device design and process development.

One starts with an event or hazard, then proceeds through a few levels of possible succeeding causes. However, if one stops there, the “product” is only a list of possible (even probable) potential causes one wants to avoid. So, “Where’s the Beef?” The next step is creating a list of potential “mitigations” that can be used in the product or process design process to ensure the probability of a future event is significantly lowered - or for a past event we can see why it happened, and more importantly, likely prevent it from happening again.

Join us on December 17 to learn more. Takeaways will include a blank template and an example of a completed template.

About the speaker: Barry Craner is a Certified Quality Engineer, Certified Reliability Engineer, Certified Quality Auditor, and Certified Biomedical Auditor. With over 40 years of experience in quality and related fields, an MBA with emphasis on Computer Information Systems and MS+ in Biology (Cardiac Physiology), Barry has consulted in medical device quality assurance and regulatory affairs and taught risk management and other courses at the collegiate level and to Fortune 500 companies. He has published numerous papers and is well-known as a U.S. and international speaker. He is on the Medical Device and Diagnostic Industry list of “100 Notable People in the Medical Device Industry.”

In 2008, Barry was awarded the Simon Collier Quality Award by the ASQ Los Angeles Section. He is an ASQ Fellow and has been active in ASQ for several decades at both the local/section and national/division levels. Barry currently serves as the ASQ Pacific Region Director.

FREE GIFTS FOR ASQ MEMBERS

ASQ Member Gifts are an exclusive benefit for all ASQ members. Each monthly gift bundle addresses a specific quality hot topic, method, or tool and can include dozens of valuable resources from ASQ's vast and ever-growing knowledge repository including in-depth expert webcasts, Quality Press eBook samplers, journal articles, industry case studies and benchmarking reports, and downloadable templates.

The November gifts (available through November 30) focused on World Quality Month and ASQ benefits and included downloadable wallpapers, email signatures, and more.

You can also earn Recertification Units (RUs) for watching ASQ webinars and videos, reading e-books, etc. Be sure to [access](#) this month's resources by December 31.

UPCOMING ASQ CERTIFICATION EXAMS

Have you been thinking about applying for an ASQ certification? Why not stop thinking about it and just do it! As an ASQ member, you'll save \$100 off the usual (non-member) fee for each exam.

Applications are now being accepted for the following exams scheduled for February 1-28, 2026. The application deadline is January 12.

- CQA (Quality Auditor)
- CQE (Quality Engineer)
- CQIA (Quality Improvement Associate)
- CSQE (Software Quality Engineer)
- CSSGB (Six Sigma Green Belt)
- CQPA (Quality Process Analyst)
- CCT (Calibration Technician)
- CPGP (Pharmaceutical GMP Professional)
- CCQM (Construction Quality Manager)

Click [here](#) to sign up or for more information.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"When you improve a little each day, eventually big things occur. When you improve conditioning a little each day, eventually you have a big improvement in conditioning. Not tomorrow, not the next day, but eventually a big gain is made. Don't look for the big, quick improvement. Seek the small improvement one day at a time. That's the only way it happens - and when it happens, it lasts."

~John Robert Wooden

GETTING EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY

Less Stressed Club Virtual Event

December 1 at 11:30 am to 12:00 noon PST

The Less Stressed Leaders Club is a community for managers and professionals who want to lead well without running themselves into the ground. It's not another "hustle harder" pep talk. It's about building the habits, rhythms, and mindset that make leadership sustainable.

Can you relate to the following?

- You wake up tired.
- The day is a scramble.
- You can't think long term because you're too busy putting out fires right in front of you.
- Team morale is low, and you don't have the patience or the brain space to address it.

Join Paul C. Casey (Growing Forward Services) and Garth Reed (ExperienceBetter) on December 1. The 30-minute Zoom session will help you discover small, practical ways to build your emotional strength so you can show up with focus, patience, and purpose.

There is no charge, but [registration](#) is required,

THE TRILLION-DOLLAR QUESTION: WHY OUR PROJECT MACHINES ARE DESIGNED TO FAIL

PMI-Columbia River Basin Hybrid Meeting

December 2 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm PST

(Virtual Zoom presentation starts at 6:30)

Globally, project waste costs organizations over \$1.5 trillion annually, a staggering figure rooted not in technical failure but in an organizational culture addicted to speed without learning.

This presentation by Dr. Joshua Cunio, challenges the fundamental flaw in modern project management: treating lessons learned as a mandatory checklist for the archive, the "Knowledge Cemetery," rather than a Causal Engine for future success. Drawing on his doctoral research which establishes a statistically significant correlation between applied lessons learned practices and organizational revenue, the presentation provides irrefutable evidence that knowledge hoarding is a financial betrayal.

Attendees will learn how to move beyond basic documentation and adopt the three critical organizational architectures - Trust, Inquiry, and Sharing - required to unlock the human signal and decode the true why behind project setbacks.

This is a hybrid event; [advance registration](#) is required. Cost is \$30 for the in-person meeting (at CG Public House in Kennewick), or \$15 for the virtual option. More information is available [here](#).

NAVIGATING THE PATH TO ASQ FELLOWSHIP

ASQ Statistics Division Webinar

December 3 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am PST

If you've been an ASQ member for a while, you are probably aware of the various levels of membership, including fellow, senior, professional/full, and student. There are specific requirements for each, including years of membership, quality-related experience, and more.

This webinar with Jim Spichiger, ASQ Fellow and Immediate Past Chair of the ASQ Society Examining Committee, is being offered to raise awareness of the criteria for Fellow membership and the nomination/evaluation process.

The session will provide:

- Understanding of what an ASQ Fellow is
- Benefits of being an ASQ Fellow
- Description of the Fellow nomination eligibility, criteria, process, and timeline
- Helpful resources and Fellow Coaches
- Hints to help and common pitfalls to avoid

There is no charge to attend, but [registration](#) is required.

VISIT TRI-CITIES ANNUAL MEETING & TOURISM SHOWCASE

December 3 from 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm PST in Kennewick

This year's annual event will shine a spotlight on tourism's vital role in strengthening the Tri-Cities community and fueling transformational growth across the region.

The program will feature a keynote presentation by Tony Award-winning actor and singer Santino Fontana, best known for his dynamic performances on Broadway (Tootsie, Cinderella), film (Frozen), and television (Crazy Ex-Girlfriend). He will share insights on creativity, connection, and the art of storytelling, discussing how shared experiences can inspire and unite communities. Also celebrated will be the announcement of the 2025 Tourism Award winners, recognizing exceptional individuals and businesses who elevate the Tri-Cities through hospitality, innovation, and service.

Following the presentation, guests are invited to explore the Tourism Showcase, featuring engaging displays from local hotels, wineries, museums, and attractions. Enjoy a variety of heavy hors d'oeuvres and local wines as you connect with partners and discover new opportunities to collaborate and celebrate all that makes our region thrive.

Cost is \$45/person or \$140 for a group of four. More information about the events and purchasing tickets can be found [here](#).

STAY CONNECTED WITH ASQ'S PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES

Zoom Event for ASQ Members

December 9 from 10:00 am to 10:45 am PST

Are you interested in expanding your quality network?

ASQ offers several free Member Benefit Sessions each year, designed to help ASQ members unlock the full value of their membership. These interactive sessions highlight key benefits, walk through valuable tools and resources, and share best practices for applying membership features to support organizational goals.

In this session, Lauren Von Euw, ASQ's Senior Membership & Community Director, will explore ASQ's Professional Communities and how you can gain access.

With myASQ, the ASQ online community connecting quality professionals worldwide, you can engage with technical and geographic communities and unlock exclusive content all designed to enhance your learning and collaboration anytime, anywhere.

This exclusive event is available to ASQ individual and organizational members. Register by December 5 to save your spot. Registrants will receive an email from Zoom with their unique join link one week before the event. [Reserve Your Seat!](#)

LEADING WITH EMPATHY: THE NEW COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Ask the Experts Hybrid Event

December 9 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm PST in Kennewick (or via Zoom)

Ask the Experts is a series of monthly workshops that provide information on crucial business topics, offered free of charge to the Tri-Cities business community through the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce and funded by STCU. Each session features local professionals who have demonstrated expertise in the featured monthly topic and are willing to share what they have learned, as well as answer questions from participants.

Discover how empathy serves as the secret sauce for leadership success. This session will explore how understanding others, blending personal and work lives, and leading with intentional kindness can cultivate trust, boost engagement, and inspire remarkable results.

Panelists Delores Broeske (Harborstone Credit Union), Michelle Holt (Benton-Franklin Council of Governments), and Avonte Jackson (Grace Clinic) will discuss practical ways to harness empathy as a powerful tool to transform your leadership approach and create a thriving, connected workplace.

Ask the Experts is offered in hybrid format - in-person at the Bechtel Board Room at the Tri-Cities Business and Visitor Center in Kennewick (with light refreshments), as well as live on Zoom. There is no charge. Register [here](#).

GIVING MACHINE TRI-CITIES

Vend Some Extra Joy this Holiday Season

Fairchild Cinemas in Richland – through December 10

The Giving Machine is a one-of-a-kind holiday giving experience! This is not your average vending machine by any means. Instead of snacks or sodas, you can purchase life-changing items like meals for families, warm coats for kids, or clean water for communities in need. With the swipe of a card, you'll see your donation come to life as a card drops representing the real impact you are making.



It's fun and fast - and 100% of each donation goes straight to local and global charities. You can purchase items to provide local support to Grace Clinic, Grace Collective, Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin Counties, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, and Safe Harbor - My Friends Place.

If you haven't seen it yet in person, be sure to check it out at Fairchild Cinemas in Richland (Queensgate). The Giving Machine is open during regular theater hours. Learn more about it [here](#) and [here](#).

ACCELERATING CLEANTECH THROUGH AI SYNERGY

2025 CxO Leadership Summit

December 9 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm PST in Santa Clara, California

The ASQ Silicon Valley section invites everyone to their Annual Leadership Summit. Located in the melting pot of creativity and innovation and operating in the emerging technologies space, the section provides a powerful platform to network with more than 1000 members and 5000+ quality professionals in the Bay Area.

There will be opportunities for Summit attendees to network with experts and witness conversations about pressing challenges and opportunities in emerging technologies.

Key topics for this in-person event include:

- Sustainability Ecosystem Evolving Landscape
- Cleantech Technology Maturity for Scale-up and Speed
- AI Synergy for Accelerated Cleantech Operational Excellence
- Cross-pollination of Industries Expertise (Semiconductors, Cleantech, AI)

The primary speaker will be Dr. Arun Majumdar. Other presenters include Dr. Luca Fasoli, Karen Maxwell, Tom Stepien, Dr. Sunil Roy, Prabhat Mishra, and Aruna Ghildiyal.

Cost is \$30 for ASQ members or \$40 for non-members. [Reserve](#) your spot soon!

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS – NETWORKING EVENT

December 11 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm PST in Richland

The Tri-City Regional Chamber offers monthly opportunities to meet and network with other business professionals at existing and new businesses in our area. Each month a different sponsor hosts the event and has the opportunity to showcase their goods and services amid a fun and social atmosphere.

This month's event is being hosted by Marsh McLennan Agency, located at 390 Bradley Boulevard in Richland.

There will be refreshments and beverages. Bring your business card to enter to win a door prize.

No reservations are required. It's free to attend - bring a friend! More information is available [here](#).

AI ESSENTIALS FOR QUALITY LEADERS: TOOLS, TRENDS, AND TACTICS

ASQ Phoenix Virtual Meeting

December 11 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm PST

The rapid and widespread adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) requires today's quality leaders to understand both its potential and its limitations.

This presentation with Dr. Rick Hefner will explore the dual mandate facing modern quality professionals: leveraging AI to enhance quality and ensuring the quality of AI systems themselves. He will demystify the core principles and profound implications of AI for Quality (AI4Q), where AI is used to improve quality management practices. Also discussed will be the emerging discipline of Quality for AI (Q4AI), which applies quality principles to the development of systems and services with AI components.

There is no charge to attend this Zoom event, but [advance registration](#) is required.

HELP DELIVER JOY TO LOCAL SENIORS

Meals on Wheels/Senior Life Resources Holiday Wish List

While the holiday season brings joy to many, for some seniors in Benton and Franklin Counties it can be a time of deep loneliness. Many no longer have family nearby, and some no longer receive even a holiday card or phone call.

That is why the local Meals on Wheels annual "Holiday Wish List" bags mean so much. Each year, over 500 holiday bags are prepared and given to seniors in our communities. The bags, filled with thoughtful goodies, provide joy, hope, and a reminder that someone still cares.

Your generosity can bring a smile to someone who may not hear from anyone else during the holidays. Together, let's make sure every senior feels seen, valued, and loved.

Donate items (through their Amazon wish list), sponsor a bag, or make an online donation. Every gift helps deliver joy. More information can be found [here](#).

GENERATION Z: IGNITING THE FUTURE OF WORK & ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

ASQ Government Division Webinar

December 12 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am PST

Generation Z isn't just the newest wave of talent entering the workforce, they are a catalyst for transformation. With their fluency in digital tools, fresh perspectives on purpose-driven work, and readiness to tackle complex challenges, Gen Z is uniquely positioned to help organizations innovate, adapt, and thrive.

Rather than viewing Gen Z as a retention challenge, presenter Zac Jarrard reframes them as a strategic advantage, bringing agility, entrepreneurial thinking, and future-ready skills to the forefront of industries like public service, construction, and energy.

This session will explore how organizations can unlock Gen Z's potential as leaders, problem solvers, and collaborators, by creating environments that empower them to contribute meaningfully from day one. Learning objectives include:

- Understanding the forces that shaped Gen Z and how these factors influence their values, expectations, and work style
- Exploring actionable strategies to harness Gen Z's digital fluency, adaptability, and passion for meaningful work
- Identifying ways to engage and elevate Gen Z talent to strengthen your workforce pipeline across public service, construction, energy, and more
- Discovering how Gen Z can increase organizational agility and drive innovation in legacy systems and industries

There is no charge, but [advance registration](#) is required.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

Imagine this:

If you had \$86,400 in an account *and someone stole \$10 from you*, would you be upset and throw all of the remaining \$86,390 away in hopes of getting back at the person who took your \$10? Or move on and live?

Right, move on and live.

See, we have 86,400 seconds each day. Don't let someone's negative 10 seconds ruin the remaining 86,390.

Don't sweat the small stuff. **Life is bigger than that.**

~Dr. Miro Bada

ADOPT A FAMILY EXPERIENCE AT CHRISTMASTIME

A few days before Christmas we went to this place,
With toys and gifts all wrapped in good taste.

Our adrenaline was flowing and our hearts were a-pumping,
When we confirmed to the family that we were a-coming.

We traveled by truck filled with joy and goodwill,
With toys, food and clothing filled above the windowsill.

The children were restless while waiting for us,
They fiddled with whatnots and made quite a fuss.

We arrived at the house around five thirty-eight,
A record for us because we're known to be late.

The kids sprang from the sofa and flew down the stairs,
Happy to see us and especially the three teddy bears.

They helped carry the bags and boxes inside,
And also tried to take the bikes for a ride.

All the gifts were delivered without much of a glitch,
And we stayed with the game plan, the same as Saint Nick.

There were four kids in the family, and we brought gifts for all,
Clothing, gift certificates, even a little baby doll.

The family was appreciative and said thanks a lot,
"We really do appreciate all the gifts that you brought."

It's hard to explain how we all felt inside,
On the surface our emotions were difficult to hide.

But we stayed on course, and we braved it all through,
It was a drop in the bucket based on all we could do.

The art of giving without gain can be a rush,
Such a feeling can make the harshest person blush.

We all know the feeling that kindness can bring,
Like a sense of warmth at the first dawn of Spring.

*"As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations,
compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be
reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this
aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same."*

– Donald E. Westlake

Consider adopting a family this holiday season!

Has your email address changed? Help us keep you informed of Columbia Basin ASQ events and information by updating your contact information and email preferences at <http://www.asq.org/>. Log in and click "My Account" to update your membership record. You can add or make email, address, and phone changes in the "Contact" tab, and then click on the "email preferences" tab to be sure you are subscribed to receive future Section communications.

SOME FUN CHUCKLES...



2025 COLUMBIA BASIN ASQ LEADERSHIP TEAM January 1 - December 31, 2025	
Section Chair	Denise Fast
Secretary	Denise Clements
Treasurer	Robert Boykin
Membership Chair	Jo Haberstk
Nominations Chair	Steve Prevette
Newsletter Editor	Robert Boykin
Publicity Chair	Jo Haberstk
Webmaster	Steve Prevette
Programs Chair	Vacant
Social Media Chair	Vacant
Voice of the Customer Chair	Vacant

WHAT DO YOU CALL AN ALLIGATOR THAT WEARS
A VEST?



AN INVESTIGATOR!



PUBLICATION INFORMATION

This newsletter is published on a regular basis to inform members and potential members about Columbia Basin ASQ activities and other news/information that may be of value to quality professionals. To be considered for the next newsletter, input must be received by the 20th of the month.