



Greater El Paso
Section

Amigo
Quality
Volume 28 Number 10

Welcome to the July 2008 issue of the Newsletter! Your local provider of information and learning opportunities related to quality professionals.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

LOCATION: EPCC Valle Verde ATC
REGISTRATION & SOCIAL HOUR: 8:00am-12:00 noon
DATE: July 12, 2008
SPEAKER: Executive Meeting
TOPIC: N/A

MEETING IS FREE FOR EVERYBODY (MEMBERS OR NON-MEMBERS)

THE CHAIR SPEAKS ALFONSO ENRIQUEZ

We had our picnic meeting on the date it was planned a year ago. It was good to learn about each others status in our lives, i.e. one of our members just came back from England and testified that the cost of gasoline is about three time what we pay here. I also made a trip to south Mexico and visited a blast furnace, it is incredible how all the mineral floats inside the furnace due to the injected high temperature air. I did a little surfing on the internet and learned that the blast furnace was originated in China hundredths of years ago, also on public television there was a show explaining how the Japanese samurais made perfect swords, by taking a religious attitude towards the quality of the steel in the swords. Quality is our profession, and we must always strive towards zero defects by broadening our vision of processes, visiting other places physically or via internet or TV.

I want to thank all section members for their support during my year as chair of the section. Next month, Joe Lissberger will be writing this section in the newsletter.

AUTOMOTIVE SECTION

HECTOR LUGO

I want to ask one question that I think everyone in this industry is wondering: Could General Motors tap the prospective UAW retiree health care fund for cash? JPMorgan analyst Himanshu Patel thinks so. In a report and conference call, Patel said GM could raise \$3 billion to \$6 billion in cash by withdrawing the money from a \$14.5 billion internal voluntary employee beneficiary association.

Banks cut automaker ratings, oil climbed to a record high, and stock prices in the auto industry plummeted today. General Motors shares closed at \$9.98, their lowest close in more than 50 years after a Merrill Lynch analyst said bankruptcy is "not impossible" for the world's largest automaker if the U.S. auto market continues to slump.

At supplier level the following is happening: Johnson Controls Inc. said it expects the joint venture it formed to buy the interiors business of Plastech Engineered Products Inc. will break even in 2009 and turn a profit by fiscal 2010. JCI owns 70 percent of the joint venture, and some of Plastech's term lenders own the rest.

Russian investor Oleg Deripaska has not shown any interest in obtaining a majority stake in Canadian car parts maker Magna International, Magna's co-CEO Siegfried Wolf was quoted as saying on past days.

"I have not noticed an interest from his side that he wants the majority," Wolf was quoted as saying in an interview with Austrian newspaper Die Presse. "He bought a stake because he needed technological know-how. He is very happy with that."

Deripaska last year bought a 20 percent stake in Magna in return for a \$1.54 billion investment in the company.

Last, but no least, James Vandenberghe, 58, vice chairman of Lear Corp. since 1998, has retired after 35 years with the auto supplier. He will spend a year as a consultant to the company.

EDUCATION SECTION

KIM PRIES

I know most of us grow impatient with the “there are two kinds of people” statement, but occasionally this situation is, in fact the case. One of these cases occurs when we need to test a change. One group, whom Sir Karl Popper called the “verificationists” would like to believe that once they have “verified” that all is well by testing, their job is done. The other group Popper called the “falsificationists” and they think it is necessary to pose the new situation as an hypothesis ripe for attack by testing. I have seen this situation over and over again in manufacturing and development /design of new products. Most people want to know “did it pass” during test sequences. Unfortunately, a test that “passes” tells us virtually nothing about the product, particularly when we deal with the small sample sizes prevalent in automotive and aircraft testing.

A failure on the part of the units under test is vastly more informative than a pass. If nothing else, the test group should strive to identify the behavior of the parts at 1) the design limit; 2) the fail limit; and 3) the destruct limit. Only then do we truly know something about the product (be it software or hardware). The same situation applies in all industries, including the medical and the food industries. The local school systems say “failure is not an option” but I would prefer to say “non-failure is not an option” when it comes to product testing.

RE-CERTIFYING AND ASQ CERTIFICATIONS

STEVEN SCHAFER

Out of a total of 7 member(s) whose certifications expired December 2007, 0 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of June 2008, 2 member(s) re-certifications are being processed and 5 member(s) completed their re-certifications

Out of a total of 11 member(s) whose certifications expired June 2008, 8 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of December 2008, 0 member(s) re-certifications are being processed and 3 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

Out of a total of 15 member(s) whose certifications will expire December 2008, 15 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of June 2009, 0 member(s) re-certifications are being processed and 0 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

Members can re-certify early! As long as you have enough points to re-certify early, you can. Your Certifications will be extended 3 years beyond the certification expiration date you

currently have for your certification. So you don't lose anything by re-certifying early. Out of a total of 8 member(s) whose certifications will expire June 2009, 8 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of December 2009, 0 member(s) re-certifications are being processed and 0 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

If anyone has questions on how to re-certify to extend their ASQ Certifications and/or how to synchronize them if they have more than one, please let me know. Re-certifying by exam now costs more money, since the prices went up January 2005 and is a lot more difficult than re-certifying. You can reach me, the Re-Certification Chair, at 915-612-7392 during working hours and at 915-584-0033 after hours. Both numbers have answering machines and if I don't answer, I will call you as soon as I can. You can also reach me via the Internet at spikeguate@sbcglobal.net. I am ready to help with any questions you might have about Re-Certifying or about any ASQ Certifications you might have, call me. The Re-Certification Journal is at the following link and will guide you in the re-certification process <http://www.asq.org/certification/recertification/rucredits/index.html>.

Potential meeting and dinner schedule

YEAR	MONTH	DAY	TOPIC	LOCATION
2008	July	12	Executive Committee Meeting 1 (8:00 am - 12 noon)	EPCC Valle Verde ATC
2008	August	16	Executive Committee Meeting 2 (8:00 am - 12 noon)	EPCC Valle Verde ATC
2008	September	17		TBD
2008	October	15		TBD
2008	November	19		TBD
2008	December	17	Christmas Meeting	TBD
2009	January	21		TBD
2009	February	18		TBD
2009	March	18		TBD
2009	April	15		TBD
2009	May	20		TBD
2009	June	24		TBD
2009	July	22	Executive Committee Meeting 1	TBD
2009	August	19	Executive Committee Meeting 2	TBD

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