



Greater El Paso  
Section

*Amigo*  
*Quality*  
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Welcome to the May 2009 issue of the Newsletter! Your local provider of information and learning opportunities related to quality professionals.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**LOCATION:**

Furr's Family Buffet at 11925 Gateway West  
(near Zaragoza)

**SCHEDULED HOUR:** 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

**DATE:** May 20, 2009

**SPEAKER:** N/A

**TOPIC:** Recognize the winners of the Sun Country Science Fair

MEETING IS FREE FOR EVERYBODY (MEMBERS OR NON-MEMBERS) AND THE  
SPEAKER STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

We start our social hour at 6:00p.m.

**THE CHAIR SPEAKS**

JOE LISSBERGER

This month we are going to get together to recognize the winners of the Sun Country Science Fair to whom we awarded savings bonds. Each year we try to invite these winners to come to our meeting and tell us what their projects were and give us a look into their plans for the future. In the past this has been a real eye opener into what these youngsters are doing and their plans for the future. So please all come and enjoy an evening with the top of the pile from our schools. We will be able to have a meal and enjoy good company while interacting with these kids.

## **AUTOMOTIVE SECTION**

HECTOR LUGO

Thanks to all the members for asking about the future of domestic automakers. Well, Chrysler LLC is offering sales incentives of up to \$6,000 per vehicle for the month of May in a bid to prop up revenue during its bankruptcy restructuring. Chrysler, whose U.S. sales fell 48 percent in April amid heightened uncertainty over its survival, said the offers include as much as \$4,000 in "consumer cash" on 2009 model-year vehicles.

Also, General Motors has started to notify 2,600 dealers of plans to eliminate them, and a dealers group is trying to block the effort by getting elected officials to intervene. GM CEO Fritz Henderson said the company will work through the summer to contact dealers to be closed.

Last but not least, Ford Motor Co. is spending \$550 million to retool its Michigan Assembly Plant for production of the redesigned 2011 Ford Focus.

See you at the meeting!

## **EDUCATION SECTION**

KIM PRIES

What is taxonomy? We usually represent any taxonomy as a tree-like structure as a way to classify knowledge. The most famous of the taxonomies is probably the Linnaean classification of the various forms of animate life. In the Linnaeus approach, we see the following hierarchical categories:

- Kingdom
- Phylum
- Class
- Order
- Family
- Genus
- Species

The taxonomic approach lends order to analysis, but it also has its flaws; for example, some taxonomies (Periodic *table*, Linnaeus, etc.) may become so engrained that it becomes difficult to conceive of any other arrangement. The philosopher Michel Foucault made this point in *The Order of Things*. He points out that the Linnaean system was based largely on sexual viability (the ability to mate and reproduce) instead of, for example, using the ability to fly or swim as

discriminants.

The same kinds of issues can occur when we classify defects in software, warranty returns, and other quality issues. Sometimes it pays to try and look at the issue from a different perspective. We can even use the Fox Mulder (*X-Files*) approach where we examine our problem on its own terms before applying any prejudices or 'common knowledge' we may have.

## **RE-CERTIFYING AND ASQ CERTIFICATIONS**

STEVEN SCHAFER

Out of a total of 15 member(s) whose certifications expired December 2008, 5 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 10 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

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.

**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 7 member(s) whose certifications will expire December 2009, 7 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of June 2010, 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](mailto: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

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**CRE Course for Fall 2009.** Requests have been received to offer a CRE course and if there are at least 5 firm commitments, preparations will be made. The 8-week course would be given on Saturdays consisting of ~6 hours per Saturday of lecture at a fee of \$495, excluding material. Contact Hector Lugo, Chair of Refresher Classes, by June 1

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**Potential meeting and dinner schedule**

YEAR	MONTH	DAY	TOPIC	LOCATION
2009	June	24	Unknown	TBD
2009	July	22	Executive Committee Meeting 1	TBD
2009	August	19	Executive Committee Meeting 2	TBD

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Our Section is on-line! Make a suggestion – win a FREE meal! <http://asq1401.org>