



# Northern Virginia

## Section 0511



### Newsletter

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Please visit us at <http://www.asq0511.org/>

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### Message from the Chair

*Jeff Parnes, Chair, Northern Virginia Section 0511*

Have you ever had a task that you knew you needed to get done, but you avoided due to its unpleasant connotations? Well, writing this column has been that task for me. After serving on our section’s board for over ten years, I had looked forward to becoming chair this July, but, sadly, our Section Chair, Larry Wilkins, recently passed away after resigning for health reasons in January. His passing has left several vacancies, as Larry served Section 0511 in various capacities.

As the Chair Elect, I have been approved by the Board to officially serve as Chair for the remainder of the current term as well as the upcoming term. To backfill the Chair Elect position, the Board is recruiting for a Vice Chair to serve for the remainder of this term, who will become Chair Elect in the 2012-2013 term.

Larry Wilkins had also served as the Education Chair for many years. After his resignation in January, Gregg Monaco volunteered and was approved by the Board as Education Chair. Please welcome Gregg into his new role.

The section also has openings for a Finance Chair and a Section Management Plan Chair. Please contact me at [Chair12@asq0511.org](mailto:Chair12@asq0511.org) if you would like to volunteer for one of those positions.

## **Nominations Open for Member Leaders**

Every year in April, we elect member leaders to serve as our section officers. This year our section will elect a Chair Elect, Treasurer Elect, and Secretary with nominations due in February.

The Elect positions serve as the understudies to their positions in the year that he or she is elected and then will automatically become the officer (Chair or Treasurer) in the following year.

Each one of these positions requires a significant amount of time and energy to accomplish the requirements of the positions. These positions provide superior networking opportunities, recertification credits, and the ability to influence the future direction of our Section.



Criteria for nomination include: being a member of the section; being a paid-up member of ASQ; having a quality background or at least one ASQ certification; willingness to attend all monthly meetings and devote at least 10 hours a month outside of the meetings to Section business.

The section has a Nominations Committee chaired by the past chair that recommends a slate of section members for the upcoming years' officer vacancies. If you're interested in serving as an officer please contact our nominations chair at [Nominating@asq0511.org](mailto:Nominating@asq0511.org) before 1 April 2012.

It's been years since we've actually had a contested election, but if you wish to be considered as a nominee without being selected by the nominations committee, you must submit a petition with the signatures of at least 20 regular members of the section supporting your nomination. A copy of the Nomination Petition Form can be found on the section website. To run for one of the positions, please send an e-mail to the Nomination Chair. Nominees should strive to attend the meeting in March to network with other members and collect signatures. All nominations must be received at [Nominating@asq0511.org](mailto:Nominating@asq0511.org) before 1 April 2012 to be considered valid.

## **Note from the Programs Chair**

*John Mullins, Programs Chair, Northern Virginia Section 0511*

I want to take this time to thank our members for their recent participation in our monthly meetings. Since my appointment to the board a little over six months ago, I have made it my charge to reinvigorate these meetings by bringing high level government, academic and private sector leaders in quality to speak to and engage our members in open dialogues around quality and performance.

I am pleased to say, that over these past months we have seen our attendance increase and I hope this has been in part due to the quality of our speakers. We have also attempted to break-out from our standard dinner speaker model to holding our meetings at the work-site, e.g. Sunset Hills Vinery. This meeting was held on a Saturday and had excellent participation. In addition to learning about the quality controls applied to wine making, participants had the opportunity to partake of the product— a beautiful day of wine, food and Virginia’s natural surroundings.

Our goal for this year is to continue to bring high-level speakers and new venues for our meetings. I hope you will continue to participate and invite others that are equally excited and committed to quality and performance to attend and get involved. For example, in February, Ms. Gloria Parker, former CIO at Education and Housing and Urban Development, spoke to us on IT and Organizational Performance. She is a gifted speaker and is highly recognized in her field.

If you have suggestions for speakers and other venues, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you, and I hope to see you and a few new friends at our meeting.



*Section dinner meeting attendees*

## **Voice of the Customer**

*Robert Orkin, Voice of the Customer Chair, Northern Virginia Section 0511*

As we start the 2012 year, I would like to thank all the new and long time members that have come to the 0511 meetings for their ongoing support and interest. I would also like to present a one question survey to all of you:

***What do you want 0511 to do for 2012 and how can our meetings fulfill this for you?***

The section leadership hopes to offer services that are useful and beneficial to the membership. Please e-mail [VOC12@asq0511.org](mailto:VOC12@asq0511.org) with your suggestions!



## Deadlines for May and June Exam Applications

Are you interested in pursuing a certification? All ASQ certification exams are offered at the [World Conference on Quality and Improvement](#) in May, 2012. For a list of other exam dates and locations for each certification, please check the [Exam Dates website](#). Pay attention to application deadlines, as these are 6-8 weeks prior to the exam date!

## Recertification

*Robert Zimman, Recertification Chair, Northern Virginia Section 0511*

ASQ certification is a formal recognition by ASQ that an individual has demonstrated a proficiency within, and comprehension of, a specific body of knowledge. ASQ has issued nearly 150,000 certifications to dedicated professionals worldwide.

To ensure that you maintain the same level of knowledge demonstrated in your first exam, ASQ requires that you recertify most certifications every three years. ASQ provides the following two ways to recertify:

- [Recertification Unit \(RU\) Credits](#): Obtain a minimum of 18 Recertification Units during your three-year certification period.
- [Examination](#): Sit for the exam. (Required if your certification expired and is past the six-month grace period.)

### Recertify By Recertification Unit Credit

To recertify by Recertification Unit credits, you must obtain 18 Recertification Units (RUs) within your three-year certification period. You can accumulate credits from professional activities that increase your understanding of the Body of Knowledge or enhance your job.

#### 1. Review the Recertification Journal/Application.

You may document your activities in your [Recertification Journal Application](#).  
(Note specific instructions on [how to fill out the Recertification Journal Application](#).)

#### 2. Earn Recertification Units.

Recertification Units can be earned for many different activities. If you are employed full-time for the entire three-year period you can claim 10.8 RUs of the 18 RUs needed. You can earn additional RUs by attending meetings; professional development; teaching; taking a course; etc.

(Review a list of [activities and the recertification units associated with each](#).)

#### 3. Submit Your Completed Journal/Application or Recertification Application.

You may mail or drop off your recertification packet, including supporting documentation and payment, using the following address:

**Robert Zimman**  
**10704 Midsummer Drive**  
**Reston VA 20191**

If no one answers the door, just leave it between the screen and front door. It'll be safe till someone arrives home.

*Please DO NOT send by any means that requires a delivery signature. We're volunteers and this is a residence address. Most of the time during the day, no one is available to sign for packages, so your recertification journal processing will be delayed if you require a delivery signature or post office pickup.*

**Be sure to retain copies of all material submitted. Submitted material will be destroyed after processing rather than returned.  
Please send ONLY the applicable pages of Recertification Journal and supporting documentation.**

ASQ offers the option of paying by check or credit card. If you pay by credit card the recertification will be processed and forwarded to ASQ Headquarters electronically, however, if you pay by check the recertification must be sent by mail to ASQ Headquarters. To save money our section only forwards approved applications that are paid by check rather than credit card to ASQ HQ for processing at the end of each quarter.

You may only claim RUs for the period of three years immediately preceding the expiration date of your certification except in the case of your first recertification when you may claim all activity from the initial certification date until the expiration date. Please remember that you may not claim RUs for things in the future such as Employment. RUs for Employment may only be claimed from the beginning of the recertification period until the date of the letter from your employer.

The ASQ 0511 Recertification Chair must receive your completed ASQ Recertification Journal Application by the end of the six-month grace period following the expiration of your certification.

Recertifying in this manner can result in a substantial savings to you in both time and money. Recertifying by exam will cost you from \$125 to \$400 per examination as well as the time to study for and take each exam. Recertifying by RUs will cost you only \$30 for one certification and only \$50 for two or more certifications.

### **Recertify By Exam**

You may opt to sit for the exam rather than earn recertification units. Recertification by exam is REQUIRED for those whose certification(s) have expired and are past the six-month grace period for submitting the recertification journal/application and documentation.

**Application**—Fill out the special [Recertification by Exam Application](#).

Each certification has exams twice a year. There are also special exam dates. Review a complete list of [exam dates and application deadlines](#).

You are allowed up to one year before and after your certification expiration date(s) **just** to recertify by exam.



If you pass the exam, you will be issued a new card and certificate with the same certification number as before.

If you don't pass the recertification by exam, you will be decertified and will need to certify by exam as a new applicant. If you choose to certify as a new applicant and pass, you will receive an entirely new certification number, along with a new card and certificate and new three-year recertification start date.

## **Did You Miss It?**

*Christine Kurowski, Newsletter Editor, Northern Virginia Section 0511*

One of the best ways to receive value from your ASQ membership is to attend section meetings regularly for networking, education and fellowship with other quality professionals. If you've missed our meetings the past few months, please check the Past Presentations link (<http://www.asq0511.org/Presentations/presentations.html>) on the ASQ Section 0511 website to view an archive of presentation materials.

Also check out the [Photo Gallery](#) on our website for pictures from our meetings at the Amphora and this past year's "field trips" to Micron Technology, Sunset Hills Vineyard, and the Lost Rhino Brewery!



*Lost Rhino Brewery Tour*

## Webmaster Report

*Jeffrey Parnes, Webmaster, Northern Virginia Section 0511*

In order to allow me to focus on my duties as section chair, I have asked for volunteers to help manage our website. Gene Allen stepped up and after an introductory session, is now learning via on the job training how our site is managed. Emails sent to [Webmaster12@asq0511.org](mailto:Webmaster12@asq0511.org) are now routed to the both of us. If anyone else would like to join us in this effort, there is always room for more!

## Finance Committee

*Jeffrey Parnes, Finance Chair (and jack of many trades but master of few)*

Over the last few months, our section, in response to direction by the section board that we ensure credit card transactions are handled securely, now accepts prepayments on our website using PayPal and at our meetings using Intuit's GoPayments. Tell us what you think of these changes – the board is always interest in improving our services to our members. You can contact me at [Finance12@asq0511.org](mailto:Finance12@asq0511.org).



## Upcoming Meetings

*Christine Kurowski, Newsletter Editor, Northern Virginia Section 0511*

Do you have an ASQ Certification or are you thinking about trying to get one? Have you ever wondered about the process ASQ uses to develop Certification exams? If so, then you will want to attend our March speaker's presentation, "ASQ Certification: The Basics and Benefits". Robert Zimman, CQA, who is also our Recertification Chair, recently participated in an item-writing workshop at ASQ Headquarters for the Certified Quality Auditor exam. In this presentation, he will convey to you what he learned about the process of creating and maintaining ASQ certification examination materials. Please register for the 21 March 2012 section meeting on the section website by Friday, 16 March.

As always, for information on upcoming meetings, check the Section 0511 website at <http://www.asq0511.org/Meetings/announce.html>. Please also join the Northern Virginia Section of the American Society for Quality group on [LinkedIn](#) to connect with other local quality professionals.

## Board Members, Committee and SIG Chairs

### ASQ Northern Virginia Section 0511

Chair	Jeff Parnes	<a href="mailto:Chair12@asq0511.org">Chair12@asq0511.org</a>
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