

Join the ASQ
Section 1216
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Dear ASQ 1216 Section
Members,

We still need to fill several positions on the ASQ 1216 Board for next year. We especially need someone to step up to the Secretary's position. It's a great way to get started with learning about the governance and processes of your ASQ Section. Ask a Board member for more details. Next year's chair, Denise Wermager, and I are more than willing to tell you everything you need to know. You can find our e-mails, plus those of other position holders that might be able to tell about their particular job, at the end of this newsletter.

Daniel Rand, Ph D
Section 1216 Chair



May Meeting: Food Quality at Lettner Family Farm

When: Tuesday, May 10, 2011, 5:30 pm
Where: Lettner Family Farm
N16777 State Road 93
Galesville, WI 54630

Please join us for a tour of the Lettner Dairy Farm, located on Highway 93, about a ½ mile north of Centerville, Wisconsin. Food quality and safety have been regular topics in the news, here's a chance to witness how modern farming takes place in our community.

The farm began in the early 70's when Karl's parents, Robert and Phyllis began milking around thirty cows on this farm. It consists of just over two hundred acres, plus rented land, at the mouth of the Tamarack Valley. The Lettners typically raise around 300 acres of corn, 150 acres of soybeans, and 100 acres of alfalfa hay, in addition to managing the 120 cow herd. Marie and Karl Lettner moved to his family farm in May of 1993.

In the fall of 2009 Karl and Marie broke ground for the new milking facility. The 96'x180' barn sits atop an 87'x132'x12' deep precast concrete manure pit capable of storing almost a million gallons of waste. The barn provides 114 stalls for roughly 120 cows. The floor of the stall is fitted with a mattress simulating the comfort of pasture.

The cows receive most of their feed using a partially mixed ration at the feed rail. The balance is fed via the automated feeding equipment. A typical cow will consume close to one hundred pounds of feed per day. Cows will consume thirty to fifty gallons of water per day depending on ambient temperature and milk production. A cow will routinely produce over 2000 gallons of milk in a year.

Two robotic milking units milk about sixty cows each targeting between 2.5 and 3 milkings per cow per day. High producing cows may average more than three times per day while low producing cows may milk less than two times. The units are available to milk twenty-four hours a day with the exception of two twenty minute sessions while they shut down to wash themselves and the lines carrying milk. Datum is collected on each cow. The data include flow rates, quantity, udders health, and milking duration. Each cow wears a collar with both a machine-readable ID tag and a device monitoring their activity. The activity sensor enhances the herd managers' ability to diagnose the cows' health status more effectively.

Cows are permitted to enter the holding area any time they choose. When they enter a milking station, it determines if they have permission to milk based on the time of their last milking or their expected yield. Depending on that determination they are either fed and milked or released. When an animal successfully completes milking, or does not have permission to milk, the 'Smart Gate' directs her out of the holding area, which includes a hoof bath to enhance hoof health. From that point she is free to eat some roasted beans at the feed stations or return to the main barn to eat, drink, use the cow brushes, or lie down.

continued...

CERTIFICATION LINKS

ASQ Certification Exam Dates: <http://www.asq.org/certification/dates.html>
Recertification Information: <http://www.asq.org/certification/recertification/index.html>

May Meeting: Food Quality at Lettner Family Farm

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Come see what modern farming is like. Directions to the farm and dinner location are included at the end of the newsletter in the May Meeting Map. *Remember to check the weather & dress appropriately.*

Dinner and socializing will follow at Beedles Bar & Grill, Centerville, WI. The cost is \$15.00 for ASQ Members and guests, and \$8.00 for Students with ID. Please RSVP by replying to the Evite, or contact Shannon Hunt at shannon.hunt@bench.com.1

Pay for this meeting and other events with **PayPal™**
on the section website: <http://asq1216.homestead.com/SectMtgs.html>

ASQ 1216 20th Anniversary Celebration A Night on the Mississippi

MAY 31st, 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Please join us for our celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of our section. We have invited all past chairpersons and all founding members for a two hour cruise on the *Mississippi Explorer*, a 98 passenger riverboat based in La Crosse, WI. Meet past chairpersons and long-lost acquaintances from the 20 years that our ASQ Section has been operating. Dan Rand will review what we have accomplished over the past 20 years, and you can tell us about your favorite ASQ meeting ever while enjoying samples from an organization that we toured recently, the Pearl Street Brewery.

This event will be FREE for anyone who has either participated on the section board or attended at least 2 meetings over the course of the year. A separate invitation with additional details about this event will be sent later in May. You can make your reservation using the invitation, or contact Shannon Hunt at shannon.hunt@bench.com. *This event will be limited to 75 participants.* The cost is \$15.00 for ASQ Members, their guests, and Students with ID who do not qualify for free admission.

Achieving Excellence through Innovation: 20th Annual MN Quality Award Events 5/17/11

Early Bird registration extended to May 6 (but event is nearly sold out!)

Are you interested in learning from and networking with organizations on the journey to performance excellence? How do high performing organizations continue to innovate, making meaningful changes to their products, services, process, and business models to improve customer satisfaction, workforce engagement, financial results, productivity, and competitiveness? Would your organization benefit from hearing how businesses, healthcare providers, schools, and governmental agencies are integrating Baldrige, Six Sigma, Lean, Scorecard, and other tools to improve outcomes and results during these tough times?

You are cordially invited to the 20th Annual Minnesota Quality Award recognition, celebration, and learning event Tuesday, May 17, at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. Come learn and network with organizations on their journey to excellence -- organizations from all sectors and of all sizes. Hear from over a dozen organizations how they use a variety of improvement techniques to improve customer satisfaction; workforce engagement; financial/budgetary results; product, service, program outcomes; and operational results.

Luncheon, afternoon workshops, and evening reception feature keynotes by five recipients of the prestigious Baldrige National Quality Award for their high performance results: AtlantiCare (healthcare, New Jersey), MEDRAD (med device manufacturer, Pennsylvania), Montgomery County Schools (K-12, Maryland), Studer Group (small service business, Florida), and UW-Stout (higher ed, Wisconsin). All five are considered role models in their sectors, and will share best practices for innovation, customer focus, and achieving and sustaining superior results. *continued...*



In addition, leaders from Minnesota organizations such as Memorial Blood Centers, Winona Health, Cargill, Minnesota State University Mankato, SMDC/Essentia Health, Rochester Community & Technical College, Pillsbury United Communities, and many others will share how they are improving their outcomes and processes (see <http://www.councilforquality.com/2010mqaprogram.cfm> for an agenda/schedule). The day ends with a networking/celebration reception and Award ceremony to recognize performance excellence in our State. Governor Dayton invited to deliver remarks.

Details...

Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Time: 11:30 AM to 6:30 PM (attend afternoon workshops, evening reception, or both!)

Location: Landmark Center, 75 5th Street W, St. Paul 55102

Cost: Member, non-member rates for both afternoon and evening; early bird and group discounts available

To register, please email brian.lassiter@councilforquality.org with your name, organizational affiliation, desired events (workshops and/or reception), and preferred method of payment. We expect 300+ leaders and professionals to attend. The events are open to the public, but space is limited. Spread the word within your organization and register today!

FREE - ASQ Member Gift for May

This month's gift is a comprehensive collection of environmental management resources that will help you understand environmental standards as well as provide answers and tools to help you find the solutions to any environmental challenges your organization may have, including:

- An overview of the requirements of the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and Occupational Health & Safety (OHSMS) management system standards.
- A detailed document that addresses some of the most frequently asked questions surrounding the U.S. ISO 14000.
- A clear explanation of each requirement imposed by ISO 14001:2004 and describes how it compares to the comparable requirement in the original standard.
- Audit checklists and tools for quick and easy ISO 14001 implementation.
- Bonus webcast: An overview of green and its impact on business.

You have access to this bundle through May 31, 2011.

Visit http://asq.org/member-gift/index.html?WT.mc_id=&WT.dcsvid=1180775719 to access this member benefit.

Ideas Are Free! Win higher productivity from ideas in your firm

I went to a statistics seminar in Chicago yesterday. The material will get used, perhaps, in a project I haven't even heard of yet. Most of you focus on immediate problems better than that. We want to pin a problem down and fix it, soon, so we and our co-workers can get back to work. *Ideas Are Free* and Dean Schroeder, the co-author, are much more valuable to us today than my new statistics. Dean can help us focus and wipe out those problems.

Most of the problems we encounter are small each one gets little visibility and offers low potential savings. If one part in ten needs rework, the regular production stream can bury that, even though the labor cost of finished product is over 10% higher than need be. Perhaps you can stand that extra cost if you are supplying to CNH as they ramp up for a second shift. Perhaps. The rest of us need to work on wasted expense.

But each idea adds to the total benefit. When you make five or six changes and the rework drops to 1 percent, a few more can eliminate a some extra steps, get the paperwork to the shipping dock faster, and suddenly they add up to substantial gains. Year after year, and only you know it's not magic. Call it waste, non-value added work, muda, whatever those losses sap your company and your effectiveness. It's time to remove them.

The *Ideas Are Free* seminar will help you cut those costs by bringing out the ideas for improvement that only people very close to the operation can know. With Deans experience as a CEO and other positions in private business, he understands the pressures you have. He can help you work out the principles so everyone in your firm is pulling to improve the company.

I want local companies you to get ahead of these wasteful costs. I want you to develop and adopt the hundreds and thousands of ideas for doing your work better, ideas that are waiting to boil up for use. I know they will add up, fast. I've seen it happen in my own consulting work, when I didn't know why it all worked. Now I want you to attend the seminar, so you can bring out those ideas in your own firm with knowledge and control.

The seminar is, *Ideas Are Free*, with Dean Schroeder.

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

8 a.m. - noon

CATI, Renaissance Business Park

2320 Renaissance Blvd.,

Sturtevant, WI

The cost of \$45 includes continental breakfast and a pdf copy of *Ideas Are Free*. This seminar can be found on the Gateway Technical College professional development page at

<https://admin8.gtc.edu/wa/wa?&TOKENIDX=2494493643&type=M&constituency=WBCE&pid=CORE-WBCE>.

Jay Warner, CQA, CQE, CSSBB
Program Chair, ASQ Section 1204

JOB OPENING

Deco Products Company, Decorah IA, has a position opening for Quality Assurance Manager. Experience in setting up effective procedures and systems. Experience in working with customers, vendors and co-workers. Strong oral and written skills. Proficient in "Windows" based environment, including word processing, spreadsheets and data bases. BA or BS Degree and/or 4 years experience in Quality Assurance required.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. The Quality Assurance Manager, under supervision of the General Manager, selects, trains and schedules all three shift's personnel, analyzes each department and shift's quality control requirements, and establishes procedures to properly cover those requirements.
2. This supervisor jointly with the assembly and die cast supervisor, establishes and maintains the quality control manual covering all procedures to be followed. Logs all activities, analyzes the results and discusses all problems with that immediate supervisor.
3. Does performance rating of all department personnel.
4. Determines department's needs to insure all procedures specified by the quality assurance manual are followed for equipment and personnel.
5. Plays the major role in selecting new department personnel.
6. Assigns, trains, assists, and supervises those personnel.
7. Documents all activities and insures a record is maintained.
8. Communicates directly with the customer, or through other department personnel assigned the various tasks by standard forms or verbal means as needed.
9. Communicates and works closely with other management personnel.
10. Communicates all recommendations in procedural alterations with immediate supervisor for approval prior to implementation.

**This is a salaried position. Benefits: Life, Health, Dental Insurance, Vacation, Holiday, 401(k) Plan and Incentive Compensation Plan. EOE Employer.

Open Date: 3/23/2011

Experience 48 Months

Education: Degree Required, Bachelors

Skills Computer Literate, Windows, Employee Supervision, Training, Quality Control

Shift Day

Availability Full Time

Days Off Sat, Sun

Openings 1 Work Schedule 8:00am-5:00pm, M-F

Apply through Iowa Workforce Development - Decorah, <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/> or send resumes to:

Iowa Workforce Development Center

1111 Paine Street

Decorah, IA 52101

Spring Conference Presentations - Now Available Online

All the presentations from the ASQ La Crosse - Winona Section 2011 Spring Conference are now available online at the section web site.

Presentations can be accessed at <http://asq1216.homestead.com/index.html>.

The QC Group - Course Offerings

To see a list of quality-related courses please visit <http://www.theQCgroup.com/training>.

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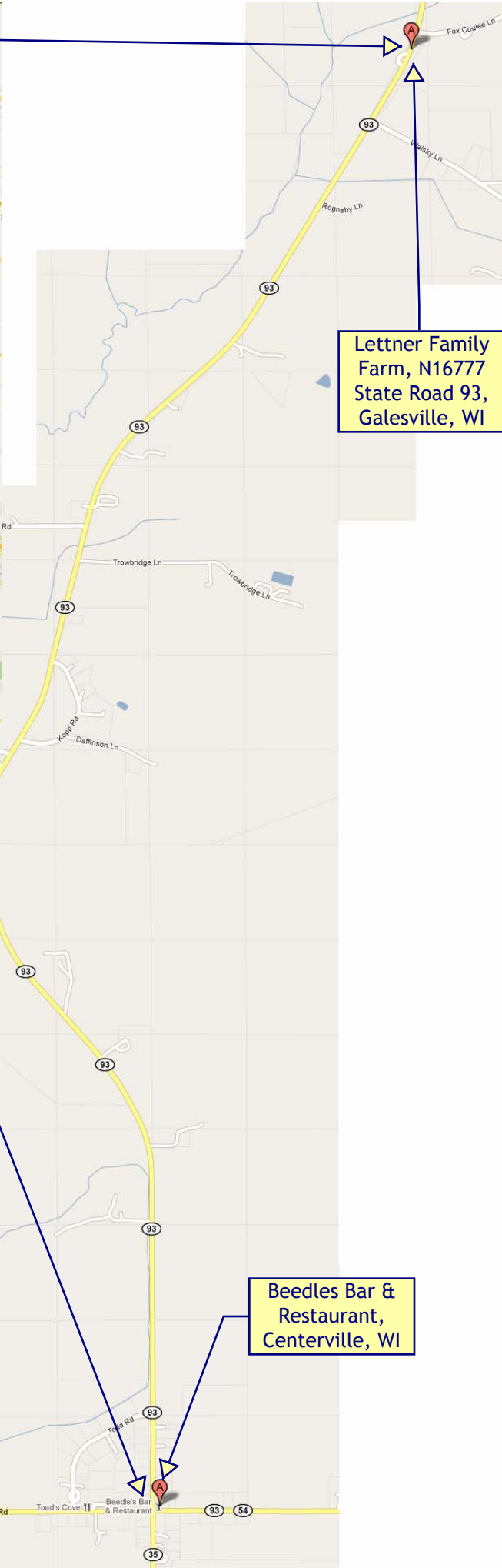
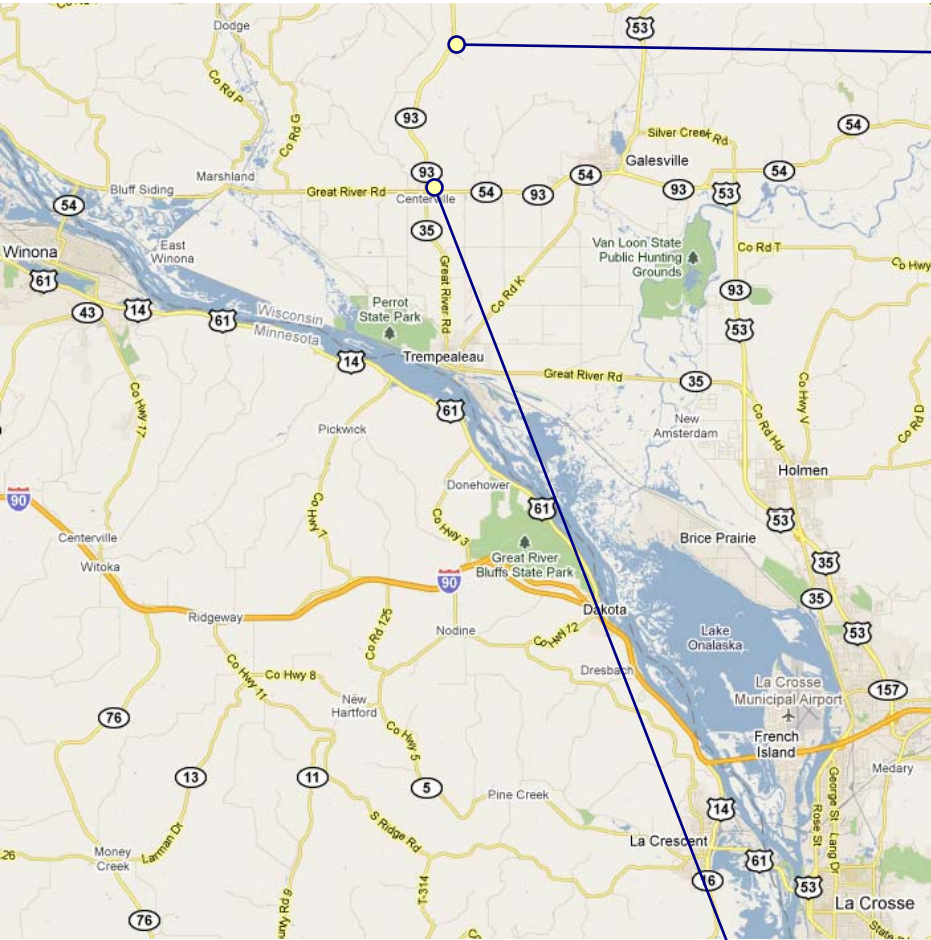
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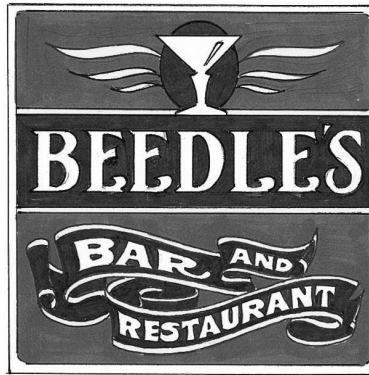
Please check out the section website at: <http://www.asq1216.homestead.com/>



Lettner Family Farm, N16777 State Road 93, Galesville, WI

Beedles Bar & Restaurant, Centerville, WI

ASQ Section 1216 La Crosse - Winona May Meeting Map



Welcome!

**American Society for Quality
La Crosse – Winona Section**

*All entrees include bread with soup & salad bar
& choice of: Baked, French-Fries or Au Gratin*

Cod Dinner

*6 oz of broiled or batter fried white fish served
with tarter sauce & lemon*

Ground Sirloin

8 oz of fresh lean ground beef cooked to your liking

Broasted Chicken

One quarter chicken, marinated and pressure cooked to perfection

Big Beautiful Soup & Salad Bar

Over 40 items to choose from with homemade soups!