

DECEMBER 2024

Section Member Meeting

Tuesday

December 3rd, 2024

6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

In-Person Meeting.

Speaker : Matthew Kroll

Establishing Continuous Improvement:

Getting the Basics Right.

Location

Courtyard Banquets

3s200 State Route 59

Warrenville, IL 60555

<http://www.courtyardbanquets.com>

Schedule

05:30 - 06:00 Check-in / Networking

06:00 - 06:30 First Presentation

06:30 - 07:30 Dinner

07:45 - 08:30 Second Presentation

Please See our Website to Register for the dinner.

Registration closes at the end of day (midnight) three days before the meeting to give the venue enough time to order food and the section volunteers enough time to prepare meeting credentials. If you do not see the Register Now button, registration has been closed for the meeting. Walk-ins are welcome, though we cannot guarantee a meal.

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Please indicate vegetarian option and any other needs as the answer to the first question on your reservation ticket.

Friends and colleagues are always welcome.

If you are paying in advance for multiple people, please register each person as a member or non-member/guest. Note the name(s) of the person/people for whom you are paying as the answer to the first question on your reservation ticket.

Pricing

There is no charge for the meeting itself. The price applies only if you choose to purchase a meal. Please choose the appropriate ticket when registering.

- \$35 per meal - members and non-members
- Prepaid with a 5-meal punch card - see terms and conditions (below).
- \$150 - purchase a 5-meal punch card for use now or later - see terms and conditions on our website.
- Complimentary meals for new and unemployed members - see terms and conditions on our website.
- Students - we offer students a discount on their meal - see terms and conditions on our website.
- . Online, payment-in-advance is not available. Pay at the door.
- Veterans - we offer US military veterans a discount on their meal - see terms and conditions on our website. Online, payment-in-advance is not available. Pay at the door.

Payment Options

- In advance:
- MasterCard
- Visa
- Discover
- American Express
-

Our registration system is not connected to the ASQ system for making on-line payments. **If you are paying on-line**, complete your registration on this site before making your payment at <https://app.memberplanet.com/#/event/asqfoxvalleysection/202412asqsectionmembermeeting>. Using the ASQ payment system at that link does not create a meeting registration on this site. The systems are not connected.

- At the door:
- Cash
- Check



Letter from the Chair

November 2024

Fox Valley Section 1208 Members,

It was great to reconnect with some of you and to meet several new people at the November meeting. December will also be an in-person meeting, so if you weren't able to join us in November, come join us in December.

As a reminder, meeting RU's will be changing in 2025 to meet the new ASQ requirements. RU's will be reverting to 0.1 RU/hour. This translates to 0.3 RU's for in-person meetings and 0.2 RU's for virtual meetings. December is the last opportunity to earn 0.5 RU's for a meeting before this change. One more reason to join us in December.

December's topic will be "Establishing Continuous Improvement: getting the basics right". This is a timely topic as we reflect on the year behind and plan for the year ahead. Come learn some tips about continuous improvement that you can put into use as you are making those plans for the new year. Yet another reason to join us in December!

Have we given you enough reasons to join us in December? I hope so!

I also hope you are all able to enjoy some downtime and time with friends and family over the holidays! I look forward to seeing you all again or meeting you for the first time.

Dani Hestermann

Chair, Section 1208



Pre-dinner Meeting:

Enabling Continuous Improvement - Part 1

Matt Kroll
Principal and Founder
Chalmers St. Consulting

This presentation will explore the essential steps required to embed continuous improvement within an organization. Continuous improvement is not something that simply happens; it requires a formal, structured approach to be effective and sustainable. The speaker will introduce a comprehensive model designed to foster continuous improvement, highlighting five key focus areas: Roles and Responsibility, Team Governance, Workflow Management, Performance Review, and Process Improvement. These areas form the foundation for creating a culture of accountability, efficiency, and ongoing development across teams and processes.

Attendees will gain practical insights into how this model can be applied within their own organizations, regardless of size or industry. Through real-world client examples, the speaker will demonstrate how companies have successfully implemented this approach to drive meaningful improvements. The session will also provide actionable takeaways for establishing governance frameworks, managing workflows, and regularly reviewing performance to ensure continuous growth and operational excellence.

Post-dinner Meeting:

Enabling Continuous Improvement - Part 2

Matt Kroll
Principal and Founder
Chalmers St. Consulting

Biography

.Matt Kroll is principal and founder of Chalmers St. Consulting. Chalmers St. helps companies achieve their growth potential by aligning their operations with their aspiration and engaging their employees to achieve their full potential. Chalmers St. has return hundreds of thousand to millions of dollars back to client's margins.

Matt's formal background is in Industrial Engineering. He earned his bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Northern Illinois University in 1999. He joined Motorola directly after completing college where he earned both his Black Belt and Master Black Certification. In 2009, he earned a Master's in Business Administration from the Chicago Booth School of Business.

Continuous improvement has been his passion for over 20 years. As a Master Black Belt, Matt has been responsible for developing improvement programs that deliver millions of dollars in operation efficiencies and revenue enhancement. He has worked in a variety of settings from manufacturing to police departments, to call centers, to healthcare. He has seen firsthand that every environment can benefit from the application of continuous improvement.

Matt resides in the far west suburbs of Chicago, USA with his wife and two children. He produces and distributes free content on continuous improvement and looks for opportunities to help other people develop. He believes it is important to be active in the local community. He is President of the Fox Valley Children's Choir and Committee Member for Boy Scout Troop 60 in Geneva. He spends most of his free time with his family.

Website: <http://www.chalmersst.com/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/matthewrkroll/>



ASQ Fox Valley Section 1208
Training Information

ASQ Fox Valley Section 12 Training Courses Remaining This Year.

1. **Certified Quality Auditor (CQA) Exam Prep Course**
2. **Certified Quality Engineer (CQE) Exam Prep Course**
3. **Certified Six Sigma Black Belt (CSSBB) Exam Prep Course**
4. **Certified Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence (CMQ/OE) Exam Prep Course**
5. **Project Management Accelerated Certificate Course**
6. **Statistical Process Control Accelerated Certificate Course**
7. **Lean Six Sigma Accelerated Certificate Course**
8. **Continuous Process Improvement Accelerated Certificate Course**
9. **Statistical Process Control Workshop**
10. **Project Management Workshop**
11. **Lean Six Sigma workshop**
12. **Continuous Process Improvement Workshop**

See our website for the fees and tentative schedule.

Contact education@asq-foxvalley.org with questions.



Call for Speakers

Our section is actively seeking speakers/presenters for our dinner/meeting programs and we need your help. If you have:

A success story, case study, or new technique in the field of Quality

A failure story with analysis

Practical application and technical implementation of quality tools, methodologies, and techniques

Strategies for building and sustaining a culture of quality

Real applications, real results, and real solutions based on quality principles or theory

.....we want to hear from you!

We are seeking speakers/presenters to share their knowledge and experience in any area of the *Quality Body of Knowledge* (QBOK), including quality principles/tactics, technical topics, standards, real-world case studies, “war stories”, successes/failures, examples/stories, application of tools and hands-on experience. Other topics and subjects could be in the area of personal/professional enrichment and development, insights and subject matter relevance.

If you are interested, please submit your name, contact information and topic. If you know of a colleague or someone who is a “subject matter expert”, recognized as an industry leader, or has knowledge of a subject/topic our members would be interested in, please submit their name, contact information, and their topic or subject knowledge.

Submit all suggestions via our website, at <http://asq-foxvalley.org/>

We seek articles members may have written for a magazine or journal. If a member is making a presentation at a seminar or conference, we would like to list it . They can be forwarded to : newsletter@asq-foxvalley.org

Workshops, Certificate Programs, and Certification Prep Web Interactive

ASQ Fox Valley Section Web Interactive Exam Preparation Courses

This is still the perfect time to receive customized, flexible, and virtual ASQ Training for your next certification! More and more people are getting ASQ certified in the Fox Valley Section! Now may be a great time to invest in your career development with a flexible Prep Course taught by our own Education Chair, Chuck Gates. Chuck brings over 40 years of experience in various quality management roles, and he teaches Quality Management and ASQ Certification courses to several colleges and businesses in Illinois. Reach out to the Education Chair for more details.

Please review the Training Catalog on our website -<https://www.asq-foxvalley.org> and select the Education tab for more information regarding the schedule of courses and workshops.

Web Interactive Courses can be scheduled on flexible dates and times. Participants must purchase the study materials and pay for Certification Exams.

The Fox Valley Section of ASQ welcomes you and anyone interested in volunteering their time, to attend one of our Section Leadership Committee (SLC) meetings. It is during these meetings where decisions and updates are managed for the section. All feedback and participation are appreciated. For more information or if interested in attending a meeting, please contact help@asq-foxvalley.org.

Date 2024/2025 6:30pm	Location
December 17	Virtual
January TBD 2025	TBD
February 18	TBD
March 18	TBD
April 15	TBD
May 20	TBD

Region Pulse Call

November 21st

December 19th

UPCOMING CERTIFICATION EXAM DATES

Please check exam dates & deadlines carefully as we will not make exceptions for late applications. All deadlines are at 11:59 p.m. US CST on the date specified.

Computer-Based Testing Dates

ASQ certification examinations are delivered by ASQ's testing partner, Prometric. The examination scheduling instructions in your eligibility letter will direct you to a section of Prometric's website, where you can select and schedule your examination date and location.

ODD MONTH EXAM

[CQT](#), [CQI](#), [CRE](#), [CFSQA](#), [CMDA](#), [CMQ/OE](#), [CSSBB](#), [CSSYB](#), [CSQP](#)

January 1 - 31, 2025	December 8, 2024
March 1 - 31, 2025	February 9, 2025
May 1 - 31, 2025	April 13, 2025

The [Certified Master Black Belt \(CMBB\)](#) certification exam is available twice a year, in the July & November testing windows.

EVEN-MONTH EXAMS

[CQA](#), [CQE](#), [CQIA](#), [CSQE](#), [CSSGB](#), [CQPA](#), [CCT](#), [CPGP](#), [CCQM](#)

Testing Window	Application Deadline
February 1 - 28, 2025	January 12, 2025
April 1 - 30, 2025	March 9, 2025
June 1 - 30, 2025	May 11, 2025

**Contact our Education Chairperson –
Charles Gates for training classes.**

Please review the Training Catalog on our website -<https://www.asq-foxvalley.org>



2025 Future Meeting Dates and Locations

DATE	Location	Speaker	Topic
February 4th	204 W. Wesley St. Wheaton, IL 60187	Mion Artisan Soap Company	Plant tour With Olga Boldyreva
March 4th	Virtual	Dani Hesterman	Update on ISO 9001
April 1st	Virtual	Jay Arthur	How to Turn Data into Dol- lars
May 6th	Virtual	Renee Webb	Section Scholarship Presentation
May 6th	Virtual	Steve Gompertz	Operations and Resourcing

**Watch this section for upcoming
Scholarship information.**

We are always looking for opportunities for Plant Tours.

Please contact help@asq-foxvalley.org for more details and assistance to pursue this opportunity.

What are we looking for?

Companies that would like to have 25-30 pairs of Quality eyes visit their operations for networking and dialogue on Quality applications, tactical ideas and new exposure of the great companies in the Fox Valley Area.

What do we need?

Fox Valley Section members that can sponsor a tour at their company or business site.

What is our goal?

Provide a Quality networking and educational event that is a win-win opportunity for both Fox Valley ASQ Section 1208 membership and companies in the Fox Valley Area.

What is our target area?

Most of our section's members work or live between Elgin to the north, Yorkville in the south, Maywood to the east, and Dekalb to the west. We believe we will get the best turnout for a tour in this area.

What is needed for a tour?

Tours are most productive when there are Quality contacts working at the company to assist with completing the details. It is best if it is an area that doesn't require extensive safety gear or high security restrictions. New projects, new ventures, new equipment and continuous improvement implementations are great opportunities for Quality feedback and networking exchanges. Early evening tours allow for good participation for our membership who work during the day.

What is the suggested layout of a tour (actual time frame is determined by the companies needs)

- 15 minutes introduction with organizational staff.
- 45 minutes of guided tour through the areas to be reviewed.
- 30 minutes for snacks and networking.

30-60 minutes of questions and dialogue on quality ideas and suggestions.

Contact help@asq-foxvalley.org to pursue this opportunity.



Section Leadership Volunteers - Pay It Forward or Pay It Back

The Fox Valley Section Leadership Committee (SLC) is comprised of member-volunteers who work to provide services to section member, including creating educational opportunities, finding speakers for section member meetings, publishing newsletters, providing networking opportunities, selecting scholarships award-ees, and doing the behind-the-scenes work needed to deliver these services. We welcome new committee members and chairs, and the new ideas they bring. **We have multiple open positions, which need to be filled to continue to provide these services.**

Becoming a part of the SLC is an opportunity to get involved with ASQ, work with a great group of people, and have some fun. Benefits include seeing your ideas become real, learning, networking, expanding your resume, and earning recertification units.

There is a position for the interests, skills, and experience you have. Some roles are member-facing, others work in the background. Performing the mandatory functions of most roles takes a few hours a month on average. For a few hours more, you can make a greater impact by improving existing services or developing new ones.

A current list of committees and officers is on the [leadership page](#). If you would like to learn more or would like to sit in on a (virtual) leadership committee meeting, please contact Dani Hestermann, section chair, at chair@asq-foxvalley.org or to help@asq-foxvalley.org.