

The Scioto Valley Voice

American Society for Quality
Scioto Valley Section 0815

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Upcoming March Meeting

Jenn Thomas, Executive Director of the Ross County Humane Society, will educate us about quality in a nonprofit organization concerned with the general welfare and humane treatment of animals.

Dinner is free! Those holding certifications will receive 0.3 recertification units. Not only that, Ms. Thomas is planning to bring a shelter dog to the meeting!

Contact [Tom Houk](#) or [Dan Longpre](#) by COB Monday, March 20 for reservations. For more information about the meeting, check your email for the meeting notice.

Thursday, March 23rd

6:00 PM Dinner
6:30 PM Presentation
7:15 PM Depart

Endeavor Center, Room 160
1862 Shyville, Rd., Piketon, OH

Are you ready to let your car do the driving?

Driver-assist features on new cars are becoming the norm among car manufacturers. Such things as automatic emergency braking, lane-departure warnings, collision warnings, and blind-spot monitoring are oftentimes seen in TV advertisements these days. Self-driving cars are coming soon.

Recently, Germany's transport minister outlined three legal guidelines for self-driving cars.

- The vehicle will choose to damage property over injuring people.
- People will not be classified by age, size, or any other means when cars make decisions.
- If something malfunctions, the manufacturer is liable.

The minister articulated that the driver is expected to be aware of the driving, but will not be expected to be attentive. For example, the driver can read a book, but cannot sleep. Meanwhile, in September 2016, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued its own document outlining policies for driverless vehicles. These are primarily common-sense rules, such as cars must adapt to local laws and resist cyber-attack, but policies also set an expectation that cars will be able to make ethical decisions and act on them. Some experts insist that getting bogged down in arguments of morality will delay the arrival of self-driving cars in the U.S. market.

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October 2016 Meeting: Speyside Bourbon Cooperage



We had a great turnout for the October meeting at Speyside Bourbon Cooperage in Jackson, Ohio. Production Manager, Alberto Ramirez, explained the production processes, inspection, testing, acceptance criteria, causal analysis, and corrective action. Alberto and Debbie Moore, Office Manager, gave members a tour of the facility. With about 36 people attending this meeting, it was a fun and informative event.

The plant in Jackson is Speyside's first facility to manufacture barrels specifically for the bourbon industry. The barrels are made of Appalachian white oak. Jackson is an ideal location because the facility is close to raw materials suppliers and close to customers. Kitchen cabinets were made in the facility prior to its overhaul to incorporate state of the art technology for producing barrels.



Alberto Ramirez explains acceptance criteria for barrels at Speyside.



September 2016 Meeting: Print My Threads

After taking a summer break, our section resumed meetings in September. We convened in Wurtland, Kentucky at McConnell House, constructed prior to the Civil War by John McConnell, a state senator, attorney, and businessman. Before dinner, Marlena Ross gave members a tour of the house and described the rich history of the McConnell family and others who visited the home. Despite the rainy evening, about 20 members attended this meeting.

Did You Know?

There are many ASQ professional groups on LinkedIn. Two of these are ASQ Women in Quality Network, and ASQ Scioto Valley Section 0815.

The 50-50-90 rule:
Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

He decided that instead of trying to do something and failing, he would succeed at nothing.

The tall ceilings, gigantic leaded glass windows, and ornate woodwork of McConnell House were a fine venue for our main presentation. Kyle Robinson, owner of Print My Threads in Flatwoods, Kentucky, explained the evolution of his screen printing business from his home garage to a much-larger facility that employs 14 people. He described the many challenges of producing quality merchandise with little time to get orders completed in terms of materials, design, process, work environment, customer service, and sales. After the presentation, members visited the Print My Threads facility where Kyle showed us the screen printing equipment and explained more about the process.



Kyle Robinson (in the corner) discusses Print My Threads with ASQ members.

ASQ Regional Director, Jim Creiman, was passing through our area and stopped to attend the meeting. Mr. Creiman has attended several of our section's leadership committee meetings and has offered valuable advice.



Are you Ready? (continued from p. 1)

In 2015, 38,000 people were killed and more than four million were injured on roads in America. We know that driverless cars will save lives regardless of the ethics behind the decisions they make. Foxx, secretary of the Department of Transportation, stated that automated cars could “save thousands of lives, driving the biggest leap in road safety that our country has every taken.”

AAA released a study earlier this year regarding attitudes of drivers in the U.S. about self-driving cars. According to their results, only 20% of drivers would trust a car to drive itself; however, 60% want semi-autonomous technology in the next vehicle they purchase.

A hybrid approach has worked well for Seegrid, a fork-lift manufacturer. Seegrid has been selling vision-guided, autonomous forklifts since 2003, but these machines are hybrid meaning they can be used manually, autonomously, or semi-autonomously. This flexibility has increased industry acceptance of autonomous features. Seegrid asserts that use of autonomous forklifts improves productivity and safety in the workplace, increases throughput, eliminates product damage, and reduces labor costs.

Tesla currently offers an Autopilot feature that gives drivers the choice to drive manually or autonomously. Some Ford models now offer park assist that, with a push of a button, controls steering, shifting, and braking for parallel parking and backing into perpendicular parking places. As part of Ford’s Smart Mobility plan, the company plans to have the largest fleet of self-driving test cars by the end of this year as compared to any other car manufacturer.

Very recently, a Silicon Valley startup company, Comma.ai, publicized its innovation - a green box that can replace the rear-view mirror to give a car the ability to drive itself. The CEO of Comma.ai announced that the device would be for sale by the end of year. That same week, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration told Comma.ai that they must provide proof that the device is safe. If unable to comply, the company would be fined \$21,000 per day. The CEO has decided to avoid legal issues in the U.S. and pursue markets overseas.

Fully autonomous cars have potential to benefit elderly and disabled people in marvelous ways, but these people may not be able to benefit from the technology if regulations require that a driver be able to take command at all times. In California, where Google is testing self-driving cars, new regulations require that a driver be able to control the car at all times. Several groups that advocate for the disabled in America have requested that car manufacturers consider adding technology to enable disabled and elderly to operate self-driving cars.

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ASQ Changes to Computer-based Certification Exams

In recent months, ASQ changed from paper-based certification exams to computer-based exams that are delivered and proctored at Prometric testing sites. Regarding ASQ members who will be taking certification exams, research shows that people who are familiar with computer technology and who have experience taking computer-based exams may perform better.

ASQ listed many benefits for making this change from paper and pencil to computer-based exams.

- Testing is conducted six times per year rather than two.
- Candidates can schedule exams on 102 days per year rather than four.
- Candidates may retest after two months rather than waiting for six months.
- The number of testing locates increased from 350 to 8,000.
- Test results may be received within four days of taking the exam rather than 10 days.

Prometric is a company that develops and delivers tests for more than 350 organizations around the world. The company serves not only professional organizations, but also industries such as healthcare, financial, government, academic, and information technology.

Much research has been conducted to determine if computer-based exams measure skills and knowledge as well as paper-based exams. In K-12 education, many school districts have reported that test scores are lower on computerized exams as compared to the same exam administered in paper format. One researcher asserted that a computer-based test should not have comparable results to a paper-based test, primarily because use of technology should result in tests that can measure problem solving and critical thinking skills more accurately. In reality, evidence is growing that a test taker's familiarity with technology influences his performance on a computer-based test. In K-12, children who have little or limited access to computers at home and school tend to have lower scores on computer-based tests as compared to paper-based tests.

It seems that the adage, practice makes perfect, may apply to taking computerized tests. In a study of nurse anesthetists who took a computer-based national certification exam, higher exam scores were associated with students who had prior experience with computer-based tests. The benefit of having taken computer-based exams prior to the certification exam was more pronounced in the students with grade point averages below 3.5.

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A message from the Editor...

Please send any corrections, comments, and recommendations for improvement to me at lh_fish_11@yahoo.com
If you have any suggestions for articles or would like to submit something you've written, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Lisa Henderson