

# Quality Quest

[www.time2meet.com/asq1508/index.shtml](http://www.time2meet.com/asq1508/index.shtml)

February 2007 Volume 48 Issue 6

## **ASQ Section 1508 St. Petersburg/ Tampa DINNER MEETING Monday, February 12, 2007**

**Speakers: Richard Sweat and Chris Warner  
CEO and Sr. Vice President, .decimal, Inc.**

### **How .decimal, Inc. is Serving Cancer Patients**

.decimal, Inc. is an Internet-based medical device manufacturer. The company currently employs 35 people and manufactures custom filters used in radiation therapy for cancer. Each filter is unique and is ordered, engineered, manufactured, and shipped in approximately 5-6 hours. The company manufactures between 70 and 130 filters every day. .decimal currently serves ~150 cancer centers around the country, including M.D. Anderson Cancer Center – Orlando, University of Colorado, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Oncology, US Oncology.

You will be introduced to .decimal, Inc., who they are, what they do and how they do it. .decimal is very unique in that all the business orders are received via the Internet and each custom filter is customized for a particular patient, each one unique. Because the turnaround on orders is so quick (5-6 hours), each day's orders are completed that night. The result is that each day is a lot like going fishing; .decimal never knows what orders are going to come in, who will be ordering, how complex, etc. The patented process and proprietary software helps manage the orders from Sales, Engineering, Manufacturing, Shipping, and Invoicing.

As a result of variation from clinic to clinic, and with the goal of benchmarking capabilities and the commissioning of each new site, an implementation software program/database was created. This software will be used at each site to capture the critical points along the commissioning process and as a tool for both the customer and .decimal personnel to gain confidence in the implementation process.

Richard Sweat is CEO/President of .decimal, Inc. Richard started the company in 1986 while working as a dosimetrist at Boca Raton Community Hospital. Richard's education includes an AS from Seminole Community College in Paramedics, an AA from Palm Beach Community College, and Six Sigma Black Belt Certification.

Chris Warner, M.S., is Sr. Vice President of .decimal, Inc. After completing a 1 year residency in Medical Physics, Chris took a job as a staff Medical Physicist at Florida Hospital Orlando, FL in 1991. After spending 8 years at Florida Hospital, he then took a job as staff Medical Physicist at MD Anderson Cancer Center Orlando. After 5 years, Chris was then offered the position of Senior Medical Physicist back at Florida Hospital. In January 2006 Chris changed his status at Florida Hospital to per diem and started with .decimal as Senior Vice President. Chris' education includes a BS from the Citadel, MS in Medical Physics from Univ. of Kentucky, and Diplomate American Board of Radiology.

*Message from the Chair*

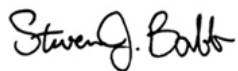
Dear members:

As I am writing this letter this time, I am in Santiago, Chile. I just completed a Quality Systems audit here and found it interesting that we spoke both in Spanish and English as needed to get the job done. I must admit I found auditing in another language strange- and tougher than usual! However, the underlying language of "Quality" was a big help. At least we understood the questions and desired answers, regardless of anything else.

Maybe sometimes we all take for granted a few things, such as the standardization that has happened around the world in our profession. I would also at this time like to recognize the fine job your ASQ Section 1508 Board is doing for you. This is also easily taken for granted. Every month arrangements are made for meetings, the financial matters are settled, newsletters are produced, programs and speakers decided, communications made, members are assisted in placement, education, and certification, and more! If you have even a small interest in helping on the Board, please speak with us. Your contributions would be valued, your commitment would not need to be high, and I can certainly promise you will feel satisfaction.

On behalf of the Section, I would like to thank Dr. Lois Jordan and Ed Pagnott for speaking at the January meeting. Please see Ed Pagnott's summary in this newsletter. I hope to see you at the February meeting. Muchas gracias!

Sincerely,



Steve Babb  
Chair, ASQ Section 1508

## *Summary of January Presentations*

Our Speaker on January 8 was Dr. Lois Jordan whose topic was “Common Misuses of Statistical Six Sigma Project Analysis – The implication to the Bottom Line”.

In her presentation, Dr. Jordan pointed out that not following the rules when performing statistical analysis can lead to results that are not only skewed but may also be flat wrong!

A recommendation was made that Six Sigma project results be evaluated by comparing projected savings to actual savings when the project is completed. It was also noted that the statistical tools and methods used in Six Sigma may have new names but are basically the same as those used in the TQM era.

Misuse of statistical tools and methods has already caused disappointing bottom line results that resulted in some companies abandoning the entire Six Sigma process. A very sobering thought! Proper use of statistics in the Six Sigma process can be extremely useful but misuse can be “career limiting”.

Thanks to Dr. Jordan for a very interesting and useful presentation.

**\*\*\* Anyone interested in having a copy of Lois’ presentation may request one by sending her an e-mail: [loisjordan@transformationtech.com](mailto:loisjordan@transformationtech.com) \*\*\***

\*\*\* As Dr. Jordan is also our education chair, she noted that we will be starting a number of workshops for ASQ certification exams. Details to follow. \*\*\*

### *Pre-Dinner Presentation Summary*

A pre dinner presentation on Bovie Medical was also made by Ed Pagnott. The presentation provided a brief description of the products produced by Bovie Medical Corporation and also a description of the Bovie St. Petersburg facility.

The pre dinner presentation allowed us to award .6 recertification points for the meeting.

Ed Pagnott

**ASQ Section 1508 St. Petersburg/Tampa**  
**Next Meeting: *Monday, February 12, 2007***  
***Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore***  
***2225 North Lois Ave***  
***Tampa, FL.***

Due to the board meeting running from 4:30-5:30, Registration for the meeting will not start until 5:30.

**5:30pm Registration**

**5:30-6:00pm Appetizers/Networking \*\***

**\*\* Appetizers are provided at no cost to members by the section.**

**6:00- 6:30 Pre-Dinner Topic**

**6:30pm -7:30 Dinner**

**Entrée - Hearts of Sirloin w/ wild mushrooms sauce**

**Salad - Mixed field greens w/ pink raspberry dressing**

**Dessert - Strawberry cheesecake**

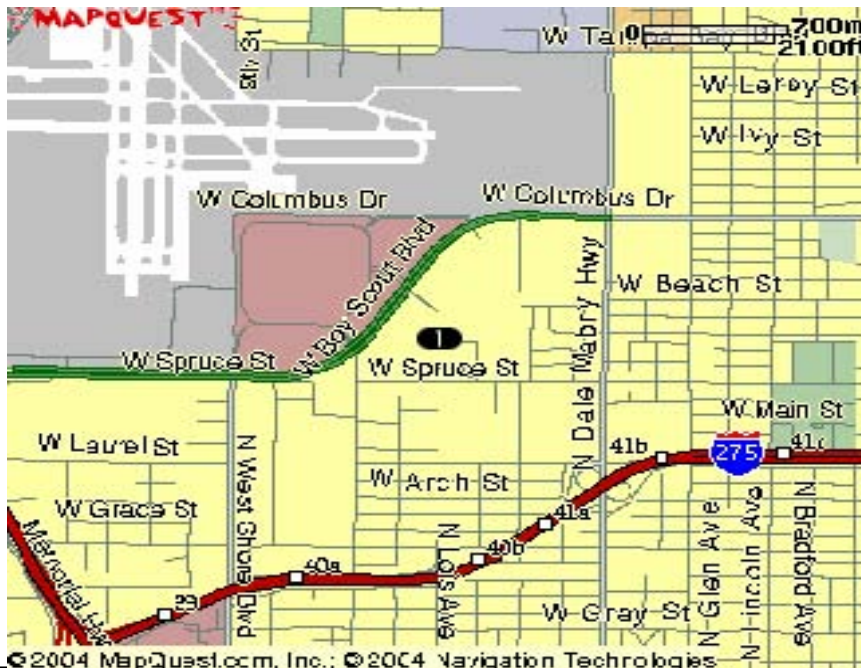
**7:30pm-8:30 – Speaker**

♥ ♥ ♥ **Since there is a Valentine's theme for the dinner, we are reminding members that spouses/significant others are always welcome as guests to the meetings. ♥ ♥ ♥**

**Directions :**

.FROM 275 NORTH TAKE EXIT 40B/LOIS AVE. WHEN EXITING TURN LEFT ONTO LOIS AVE. HILTON IS LOCATED 1/2 MILE ON RIGHT.

FROM TPA - FOLLOW AIRPORT EXIT TO SPRUCE STREET TO THE THIRD LIGHT- LOIS AVENUE. TURN RIGHT AND LEFT. THE HOTEL IS ON THE



On-line Reservations: [www.time2meet.com/asq1508/index.shtml](http://www.time2meet.com/asq1508/index.shtml)

Reservations should be made by 4:00PM, Thursday, February 8, 2007

If you experience a problems using the website for making a reservation, send an e-mail with your phone number, company name and address to Heike.

[Heike @ e-imagestudios.com](mailto:Heike@e-imagestudios.com)

Cancellations should be made by noon on the Friday before the meeting but every effort will be made to accommodate late cancellations. If you have a special dietary request - vegetarian or low fat. - please indicate this at the time you make your reservation. **\$21.00** per member with a reservation or **\$26.00** at the door for guests and members without a reservation. **Only cash or check accepted at the door.**

If you make a reservation and **do not attend**, the section must still pay for your meal.

In this event you should reimburse the section by sending a check, payable to ASQ, for **\$21.00** to our treasurer,

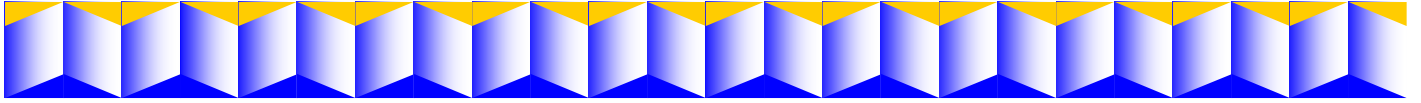
**Glen Cavanaugh, 9212 Rustic Pines Blvd. W, Seminole, FL. 33776**

**CERTIFICATION EXAM DATES 2007**

| <b><i>EXAM</i></b>                             | <b><i>EXAM DATES</i></b>     | <b><i>APPLICATION DEADLINE</i></b> |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Biomedical Auditor                             |                              |                                    |
| HACCP Auditor                                  | March 3                      | Passed                             |
| Manager of Quality / Organizational Excellence |                              |                                    |
| Quality Inspector                              | April 29<br><b>(Orlando)</b> | March 16                           |
| Quality Technician                             |                              |                                    |
| Reliability Engineer                           |                              |                                    |
| Six Sigma Black Belt                           | October 20                   | August 17                          |
| Calibration Technician                         |                              |                                    |
| Quality Auditor                                | April 29 <b>(Orlando)</b>    | March 16,                          |
| Quality Engineer                               |                              |                                    |
| Quality Improvement Associate                  | June 2                       | April 6,                           |
| Quality Process Analyst                        |                              |                                    |
| Six Sigma Green Belt                           | December 1                   |                                    |
| Software Quality Engineer                      |                              | October 5,                         |

Note: Orlando based exams will be conducted at the World Quality Conference on Quality and Improvement. For more information, go to

<https://secure.asq.org/wcqi-2007-certification-application.html>



## Section News and Local Events

**If you have inputs for the newsletter, please send them to  
Camie Williams  
for consideration at [c4cwill@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:c4cwill@tampabay.rr.com).  
The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 2nd. Friday of each month.**

### **Recertification**

#### **Recertification Chair: Heike Johnson**

Please send all recertification packets to:  
Heike B. Johnson, ASQ 1508 Recertification Chair  
e-image Digital Studios, Inc.  
2106 Climbing Ivy Drive  
Tampa, FL 33618-1709

To contact Heike for questions, her e-mail address is as follows: [Heike@e-imagestudios.com](mailto:Heike@e-imagestudios.com)

### **APICS-Sponsored Six Sigma, Lean, and Supply Chain Seminars**

Your ASQ Section is in cooperation with APICS (The Association for Operations Management) and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) for four seminars over the coming months at a reduced cost.  
\*\*\* Note that each seminar will yield 0.8 ASQ re-certification credits:

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Lean Manufacturing</b>   | <b>February 14, 2007</b> |
| <b>Supply Chain Management</b>                                      | <b>April 11, 2007</b>    |
| <b>Integration of Lean, Six Sigma &amp; Supply Chain Management</b> | <b>May 9, 2007</b>       |

All seminars are local, full-day, in-depth, and feature national speakers!

Please visit the APICS website for a brochure (PDF) and more details about each seminar,  
at [www.apics-flwc.org](http://www.apics-flwc.org)

#### **REGISTER NOW!**

**All seminars will be held in the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area, 8am - 5pm**  
**Registration 727.209.0890**  
**Email: [seminar@apics-flwc.org](mailto:seminar@apics-flwc.org)**



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Milwaukee, WI. 53201-3005

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|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Regular    | 399   |
| Fellow     | 4     |
| Senior     | 173   |
| Associate  | 11    |
| Student    | 16    |
| Sustaining | 3     |
| Forum      | 1     |
|            | ===== |
| Total      | 607   |