Executive Board Meeting Minutes
American Society for Quality – Saginaw Valley Section 1004
Texan Restaurant, Saginaw, MI, April 23, 2003

Present: Pete Hudeck, Bill Menzl, Karl Eckerle, Chris Eckerle, Jim Galm, Scott Near, Shelly Bennett, Anita Kenworthy, Rudy Salinger

Meeting called to order at 5:05 P.M. by Chair-elect Rudy Salinger.

Reminder: The June Planning Meeting is set for June 28, 2003, from 8 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the Holiday Inn Express on Tittabawasee Road in Saginaw, same location as last year.

Jim Galm reported that the Black Belt Training committee consisting of Jim, Bill Menzl, Karl Eckerle, and Pete Hudeck has met several times and is making good progress. A write-up will be distributed to the Board at the May meeting to allow for review prior to the annual planning meeting. Brief discussion on how to assure that suitable projection equipment is available. The committee will report back on its needs. The possibility of students, not currently employed, being a marketing target for this course was discussed. An issue would be the incorporation of a project into the course syllabus, since this would be needed for people going for certification. The committee will work on defining who are the “customers” and then defining the course requirements.

Bill Menzl explained that much money could be saved if we replaced the printed paper newsletter with a postcard that gave basic dinner meeting details and included a reference to the full newsletter which is available at our web site. It was suggested that Troy Rohn, publicity chair, get a quotation on the printer making up and mailing post cards instead of the full newsletter. We should make a decision in June, but are considering making this change on at least a trial basis.

Subsequent to the Board meeting we received an email fro headquarters telling us that one “new member” reported not receiving any communication from our section. I asked for details but none are available, this is an anonymous survey. It was suggested that the ASQ (we do), should send periodic communications (we do), and have a new member welcoming process (we do not). This is a topic for June.

After extensive discussion, the Board decided that it would be appropriate to select a non-Board member for the “contributing member of the year” award, and Ken Johnson was elected for his yeoman efforts in teaching the CQT class and offering to run a CQE class as well. His prize will be a year’s membership dues.

We plan to use the New China Buffet (Bay and Shattuck Rds) for one dinner meeting. They have a separate room for us, at no cost, and this will let us provide a lower cost dinner meeting.

Pete mentioned that he has a volunteer to speak on software quality: Paul Zoric.
Scott Near queried his tablemates at a previous dinner meeting and gleaned the following suggestions for “more responsive” things we could do: active participation in group activities, team building, “take away” things, discuss quality techniques, lower cost ($10) dinners, hold to 2 hour.

We will discuss in June whether the board meetings could be held on another day, as Pete will likely have a conflict in subsequent years. He graciously offered to continue to maintain the section web site regardless.

Chris mentioned that the North Central College Accreditation Board is now requiring that schools have a quality improvement program. This should heighten academic interest in the quality discipline.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 28th, same time, same place.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rudolf M. Salinger
Secretary and Chair-Elect.