Certification 101 – Demystifying Board Certification

The ABFDE is holding an optional workshop at the AGM hotel on Saturday, August 18, the day prior to the opening of the ASQDE meeting. If you or someone in your lab is not an ABFDE Diplomate, this is a great workshop on the process.

All ASQDE members and invited guests may register for this workshop for $175, which includes lunch and materials. The ASQDE registration form includes the information on the optional ABFDE workshop, and you may also register for both (or either) online at the ASQDE website’s AGM page.

The box lunch entree choices (all include a pickle, fruit, chocolate fudge brownie and a soft drink) to be selected when you submit your registration are:

- **Roast Beef Wrap** - deli fresh roast beef, mozzarella cheese, caramelized onion relish, and baby arugula, in a spinach tortilla with apricot mustard; or

- **Double Tree Club** - roasted turkey, smoked ham, applewood smoked bacon, and provolone cheese with lettuce and tomato on a pretzel roll; or

- **Grilled Portabella** - Marinated portabella mushroom with roasted red bell peppers and mozzarella cheese on sourdough bread.

Each attendee will receive two practical problems in the month prior to attending the workshop. Both of the practical problems must be completed and returned for evaluation one to two weeks prior to the date of the workshop. Both practical problems will be representative of what one can expect during the Practical Testing phase of Certification.

**Lecture (first half):**

The workshop will discuss and clarify how different organizations (ASQDE, MAAFS, SWAFDE, etc.), Working Groups (SWGDOC, ASTM, etc.) and the ABFDE (a certifying body) are working to strengthen Questioned Documents as a profession. At this time, the instructor will also walk attendees through the application process, as well as all three phases of testing; Written, Practical and Oral examinations.
Hands-On (second half):

During the second half of the workshop, multiple ABFDE Diplomates will interact with workshop attendees:

• Each attendee will receive and complete a written test, representative of what can be expected during the Certification process. Review will be covered as a group.

• Attendees will separate into small groups (two attendees per Diplomate). Here Diplomates will discuss the process of Practical Test evaluations and the guidelines that are used during the process.

• Attendees will remain in the small groups and each attendee will give an oral presentation of what was involved during one of their examinations, as well as, what their examinations revealed. It is here that scientific basis for their conclusions will also be presented by the attendees.

If you have any questions about the workshop, please contact Lisa Hanson at lisa.hanson@state.mn.us.