

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
March 3, 2011

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT on March 3, 2011. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes for February 22, 2011. All present voted in favor.

3. Federal Register Notice

Jerry had previously sent out a Federal Register notice from EPA requesting input on improving regulations. It was the consensus of the committee that TNI should respond to the notice in support of a national lab accreditation program. Comments and suggestions for the response included:

- Point out that the DW program requires lab accreditation, but not other programs.
- EPA requires a lot of data, but there is no assurance that it is good data.
- Need to harmonize the fragmented requirements of other programs with DW.
- Requiring lab accreditation in all programs would not require building any infrastructure in EPA.
- Lab accreditation ensures the effective use of resources spent for monitoring.

Jerry and Carol will work on a first draft of the response. The response deadline is March 20 and they will try to have something out by March 14. Note: The deadline was subsequently extended to April 4.

4. Newsletter status

Paula reported that she had sent notices to all newsletter authors, and that she would send reminders out next week.

5. State information project

Jerry advised the committee that TNI had contracted with Suzanne Rachmaninoff to survey all states for information on their lab accreditation programs. Suzanne had done a pilot using FL, GA, and NC and the results looked good, so Jerry is recommending that we pursue the project. We will plan to put the information

online as a member benefit and also to use the database for targeted outreach. We should be able to generate some useful statistics with this information.

6. Kentucky legislation

Jerry reported that in light of the pending legislation for lab accreditation in KY, a standards workshops will be held there on April 18. It is reported that the impetus for the new legislation was data generated by coal mines.

7. Policy statements

Jerry advised the advocacy committee of the following discussion from a recent TNI Board meeting:

Based on a recommendation from Lynn Bradley and subsequent discussion at today's Board meeting, the TNI BOD will begin to generate a set of "Core Values" or "Policies" or "Position Statements" that members of TNI can use during their outreach for TNI, so that anyone can go out and speak for TNI using these Statements and be confident that they are portraying the organization properly.

They do not have to be generated by the same committee – any committee can draft a policy. We will need an SOP to manage the approval of these statements. Example: "We believe in the quality systems approach."

Jerry will include in this topic/exercise in the next strategic planning session. Judy Duncan – Advocacy Committee will start working on developing topical areas.

Jerry suggested that these position statements could be brief one page documents that will explain TNI's position on a number of topics. Some ideas for topics included:

- Why national accreditation is important.
- Why we believe in the quality systems approach.
- The importance of a PT program.
- Why periodic onsite assessment of labs is important.
- Lab assessors need to be qualified.
- AB's need to be evaluated to an international standard.
- Performance based methods
- The importance of field activities.
- Method validation
- Mutual recognition
- Small labs can have good quality systems
- The appropriate role of state government in managing lab accreditation programs.

The Advocacy Committee needs to report back to the Board with a format and suggested topics and get direction on how to proceed. Jerry and Lynn will work on this.

8. Seattle meeting

Jerry reported that Keith Chapman wants a slot on the agenda for a SLAG meeting in Seattle. Jerry proposes to take one of the Advocacy time slots for this meeting.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on April 7, 2011, at 12 noon CDT. The agenda will include discussion and work on outreach brochures.

Attachment 1

#	LastName	FirstName	Stakeholder Group	Present	Term
1	Autry	Lara	Other	N	1
2	Coats	Kevin	Other	N	2
6	Bradley	Lynn	Other	Y	1
7	Duncan	Judy	AB	Y	1
8	Jackson	Kenneth	Other	N	2
9	Shields	Aurora	Lab	Y	3
10	Wyatt	Susan	AB	X	1
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	N	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	N	3
14	Hogg	Paula	Lab	Y	1
	Turner	Elizabeth	Lab	N	
15	Ward	Gary	Lab	Y	2
16	Wichman	Michael	Lab	Y	3
17	Keith	Chapman	Small Lab Advocate	Y	
18	Parr	Jerry	ED	Y	
19	Batterton	Carol	PA	Y	
			ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
	McCracken	Kirstin	Lab	N	
	Morgan	Judy	Lab	N	
	Steve	Arms	AB	Y	