

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
March 7, 2013

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CST March 7, 2013. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the February 7, 2013, meeting were reviewed. Lara Phelps moved that the minutes be approved. Keith Chapman seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Letter from TNI to the FEM

At the last meeting of the TNI Board, the Board approved Jerry's proposal that rather than respond to ELAB's letter to the FEM, the Advocacy Committee should develop a letter to the FEM summarizing TNI accomplishments over the past 1-2 years.

After discussion of a draft outline provided by Jerry, we agreed on the following paragraphs, content and authors for the letter. The committee agreed that the letter shouldn't be overly long, 2-3 pages at most, with a focus on TNI's major accomplishments within the past 1-2 years. We want this to be short, readable, and written so that there is opportunity for follow up.

Due date: Paragraphs are due to Carol on **March 22**, so that we can assemble the letter and finalize at our April 4 Advocacy meeting and forward to the TNI Board to approve at their April 10 meeting.

1. Background and introduction, just a couple of sentences – Carol

- Purpose of letter
- Brief description of mission, members and organization

2. Standards Development – Ken

- Laboratory standard recognized as American National Standards
- We are now focusing on technical requirements for microbiology, radiochemistry, chemistry
- SSAS very close to recognition for air program

3. NELAP – Lynn

- Added 2 new states (MN and VA) for a total of 15
- xx other states accept program
- EPA person added to AC
 - o EPA regions continue to participate in AB Evaluations
- National database developed and implemented

- How TNI dealt with EPA's concerns
- AB task force recommendations and actions

4. Outreach tools – Steve

- WEF articles, outreach to non-NELAP states
- Small Lab Handbook, QA Manual template
- Accreditation Process (in development)
- Small Laboratory Advocacy Group

5. NEFAP – Marlene

- New program with 4 ABs recognized, using 3rd parties
- FSMOs now being accredited
- Will be focusing on outreach

6. PT program – Paula/Stacy

- Fields of Proficiency Testing
 - o Used by all states – do we know the number?
 - o Adding cryptosporidium
- PT Provider Accreditors approved
 - o PTPA Database

7. Training program – Jerry

- Laboratories and Assessors
- Live training events
- Regional meetings
- Webinars
- Webcasts
- Demographics for 2012

8. Closing

- We are happy to meet with you to provide additional information or answer any questions.

4. Newsletter status

Michael Wichman is editor for the March newsletter. He reported that Kerry Miller is still working on a article and has promised to complete it. Michael is following up with Richard Burrows on his article. Jerry is still working on the EDS article. We have had no response from Robin Cook, but Steve Arms has offered to follow up. Jerry indicated that we will try the new format for this edition, and he hopes to have the newsletter out by March 14.

5. Position Statements

There was no time left to work on position statements, and Steve suggested that we complete this item by email.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be in April 4, 2013, at 12 Noon CST.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Steve Arms	AB	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Stephanie Drier	AB	Present
5.	Judy Duncan	Other	Absent
6.	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Absent
7.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
8.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
9.	Paula Hogg	Lab	Present
10.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
11.	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Present
12.	Gary Ward	AB	Present
13.	Michael Wichman	Lab	Present
14.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
15.	Keith Chapman	Small Lab Advocate	Present
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Present
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present