

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
June 8, 2012

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT June 8, 2012. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. Sharon Mertens was also present.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the May 3, 2012, meeting were reviewed, but could not be approved due to lack of a quorum. Minutes from the March and April meetings have not yet been approved yet either due to lack of quorum. Carol will attempt to get approval of minutes by email before the next meeting.

3. July newsletter

Keith Chapman is the editor for the July newsletter. There was consensus that we need to do a short newsletter, one or two pages. The following articles and authors were agreed upon:

TNI NEWSLETTER 2012 -2			
Featured Topics	Assigned to	Email	Due Date for Draft
Outreach on MUR (including updated method table)	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	June 29
Reminder to register for NEMC	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	June 29
Training Calendar	Ilona Taunton	ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org	June 29
Update on standards	Ken Jackson	ken.jackson@nelac-institute.org	June 29

Due date for articles is June 29. Judy Duncan suggested that the training calendar become a regular feature in the newsletter and also be posted on the website.

4. Florida Request for Information (RFI)

Jerry had previously circulated the Florida Department of Health's RFI on privatizing assessors and PT data evaluation. Jerry indicated that some had indicated concern that the proposed contractual arrangements with third parties might be expensive for labs. As a result, Jerry had drafted a response to the RFI from TNI offering our services to assist the FL DoH in re-designing their

program. The RFI will emphasize our staff experience and the work of the Accreditation Body Task Force in identifying ways to help state accreditation bodies. Jerry proposed that the draft RFI be presented to the TNI Board for their consideration and possible submission to FL DoH. The Advocacy Committee concurred.

5. Outreach to Non-NELAP States

The committee discussed sending an email invitation to non-NELAP state representatives inviting them to the summer meeting. If necessary, TNI may be able to provide a small amount of travel assistance to a few states. Carol and Lynn will work out an agenda for the non-NELAP states meeting on Wednesday. Topics suggested for the agenda include:

- Update on PT program
- Update on standards
- How to use the TNI standards to meet essential QC elements in MUR
- Update on training
- Update on method/analyte codes
- How do I become involved in TNI?
- What can TNI do to help you?

This session will be on Wednesday afternoon, August 8, 2012, from 1:30 to 5:00 pm.

6. Method Update Rule (MUR)

Jerry developed an RFP for training on the MUR and received two proposals. He will select a panel of three to review the proposals. Jerry noted that there seemed to be confusion on the 12 essential QC elements and on the various versions of the rules.

The webinar by Jerry Parr of Catalyst will be held on Friday. EPA staff will sit in and WEF has indicated interest. Jerry also believes that a guidance document is needed in addition to the training. We may need to consider an RFP for that as well, or add that to the trainer's contract.

7. Policy/position statements

Carol developed draft definitions of policy and position statements along with an outline of process based on discussions at the last meeting. After discussion and editing, the committee agreed that the input was ready to go back to the Policy Committee. Carol will incorporate the edits and Judy Duncan will send back to Alfredo.

9. Travel restrictions for federal employees

Judy asked members to review the latest ASAE update on legislation restricting federal employees travel to association meetings that was provided with the meeting agenda and to remain vigilant on this issue.

10. SLAG update

Keith Chapman was unable to attend this meeting but provided an update by email. SLAG discussion items included the need for a SLAG article in the newsletter, the MUR, and the SLAG PowerPoint presentation.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee should be on July 5, but there was concern that committee members may not be able to attend due to vacations related to July 4 holiday. Judy asked Carol to poll the group for availability on July 12.

Attachment 1

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

	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present
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