

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
August 12, 2008

1. Call to order

Aurora Shields called the meeting to order in Washington, DC, at the Environmental Measurement Symposium. The following members were present: Gary Ward, Andy Eaton, Lara Autry, Susan Wyatt, Patrick Conlon, Carl Craig, Marlene Moore, Ken Jackson, Michael Perry, Jim Pletl, and Judy Duncan. TNI staff Jerry Parr and Carol Batterton were also present.

2. Newsletter

Aurora reminded everyone that Michael Wichman is editor in chief of the next newsletter. Patrick Conlon volunteered to be the back up and editor for the next time.

The following topics were identified for the newsletter:

Article from APHL – Michael W.
PT frequency – Kirstin McCracken
Implementation of TNI standard – Carol
Miami meeting – Jerry
Update on AB renewals – Carol
FSMO – Marlene
Article about DC meeting (this can be comical) -Judy
National Database sidebar – Jerry
Website sidebar – Jerry
Feature member (Margo Hunt) – Kirstin

Deadline to submit articles is Sept. 5.
Publication date is Sept. 30.

3. Potential New Accreditation Body

Jim Pletl announced that regulations for state of Virginia's accreditation program had finally received legislative approval. The Department of General Services oversees the program. It will cover CWA, SDWA, and CAA. There are over 900 labs that will need to be accredited. Carol will work with TAC to ensure that training is available for potential new ABs and labs.

4. Small Lab Advocate

A job description for the small lab advocate (SLA) position was posted and TNI received 5 applications. Leonard Schantz, with the City of Rochester was chosen to fill the position.

Suggestions for possible roles for the SLA include: reporting back to the Advocacy Committee on issues he sees, identifying effective ways to communicate with small labs, being a conduit for information from small labs to the advocacy committee, providing input to the Technical Assistance Committee on effective ways to provide training to small labs. Jerry Parr, Barbara Escobar, Aurora Shields and Carol Batterton will set up a conference call with Lenard to discuss his role.

5. Speakers' Bureau

Upcoming presentations:

DOECAP Jerry

WEFTEC Jerry supposed to go, but WEF requires a registration fee of \$500. Jerry will see if Sharon Mertens can do it.

Pittcon workshop

6. New Committee Chair

Aurora announced that she will be changing jobs. Her change in employment will change the balance on the committee and will require her to resign. Judy Duncan agreed to serve as transitional chair of the committee. Judy and Jerry will work together to identify a new chair of the Advocacy Committee since the chair must be a TNI Board member.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be Sept. 4, 2008, at 12 Noon CDT. A revised draft of the Benefits of Laboratory Accreditation will be reviewed at that meeting.