

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting  
January 25, 2017

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm CST, January 25, 2017, in Houston, Texas. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes were not considered at this meeting.

3. PowerPoint Presentation

Steve Arms presented the powerpoint of the Advocacy Committee's role and membership along with accomplishments for the past six months. Participants suggested that the TNI Ambassadors be added to the list of accomplishments.

**Conference Planning:** Steve turned the presentation over to Jerry Parr for the section on conference planning, Jerry stated that for the winter 2018 meeting he had received proposals from Hyatt Hotels in Albuquerque, NM, Wichita, KS, Seattle, WA, and Aurora, CO. After reviewing and discussing the pros and cons of each proposal, attendees suggested that Jerry continue negotiations for Albuquerque, NM.

Jerry reminded the group that the NEMC summer meeting is scheduled to be at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC. The theme is "Communicating Science". For the TNI portion of the meeting, we will try to schedule Warren Merkel to do another update on changes to ISO/IEC 17025. This will be a half day session.

**Highlights of the Houston Meeting:** Steve asked members to mention highlights of the meeting that may need follow up by the Advocacy Committee. Highlights included:

- Session on changes to ISO/IEC 17025
- The First Timers session was well received, more than half full
- The Method Update Rule did not happen
- Great attendance and participation at the small lab mentoring session
- The assessment forum was well received and well attended
- Revisions to ISO 17011 were a big topic of discussion in the LAB expert committee meeting
- NEFAP noted that the NEFAP advocacy video is not on the TNI website
- Good meeting with EPA drinking water staff and discussions were initiated to coordinate DW program and accreditation body evaluations
- Advocacy can help with outreach to regions. Some EPA staff feels that TNI makes no effort to communicate. Need to start mending fences. Find opportunities to communicate to RS&T directors. Was suggested that Steve Arms send an

introductory email to RS&T directors in his new role as Lead Evaluator. Advocacy can then take some time to plan additional outreach activities.

- Outreach to EPA program offices should be put on hold until the new administration is established.
- The chemistry module will have to be re-opened for 3 sections. Revisions could take several months.
- The NGAB working group and TNRC plan to present a proposal for reorganization of recognition activities to the TNI Board. Three NGABs were recognized at this meeting. TNI will need to determine which states can accept an NGAB accreditation. The laboratory accreditation flow chart on the website needs to be updated.
- Need to have updated newsletter article on the status of 2016-2017 standards. Article should include information on how standards are developed, and adopted, and what role ANSI plays in the process.
- The NEFAP EC discussed marketing efforts and expanding their scope to include cannabis and food.
- Advocacy should consider expanding the ambassador program to other states.
- Advocacy should continue to find ways to promote the benefits of accreditation. For example, problems with DNA labs could have potentially been addressed with an accreditation program. This is how environmental labs addressed the problem.

#### 4. Newsletter planning

The editor of TNI's next newsletter is Trinity O'Neal. Articles and authors suggested for the newsletter included:

<b>Article &amp; Description</b>	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Email for Authors</b>
Explanation of the status of the 2016 Standard	Ken Jackson	<a href="mailto:ken.jackson@nelac-institute.org">ken.jackson@nelac-institute.org</a>
Re-cap of Houston meeting	Jerry Parr	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
NEMC update	Lara Phelps	<a href="mailto:phelps.lara@epa.gov">phelps.lara@epa.gov</a>
From the Chair	Alfredo Sotomayor	<a href="mailto:asotomayor@mmsd.com">asotomayor@mmsd.com</a>
Board elections and new committee chairs	Sharon Mertens	<a href="mailto:smertens@mmsd.com">smertens@mmsd.com</a>
NEFAP and possible expansion of scope	Kim Watson	<a href="mailto:kwatson@stone-env.com">kwatson@stone-env.com</a>
Member spotlight on Marlene Moore	Stephanie Drier	<a href="mailto:stephanie.drier@state.mn.us">stephanie.drier@state.mn.us</a>
MUR update	Jerry Parr	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
Letter to CA on small labs	Jerry Parr	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
NGAB recognition announcements	Ilona Taunton Judy Morgan	<a href="mailto:ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org">ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org</a> <a href="mailto:judy.morgan@pacelabs.com">judy.morgan@pacelabs.com</a>
Reorganization proposal	Carol Batterton	<a href="mailto:carbat@beecreek.net">carbat@beecreek.net</a>

Which committees need members (sidebar)	?	?
Ask committees if they want to submit articles		

Articles will be due March 15 for publication around April 1. Editor for the Summer edition will be Martina McGarvey. Editor for next fall is Sharon Mertens.

#### 5. Letter to the California program

Prior to the discussion on the letter from TNI to the California ELAP, Steve Arms, Lara Phelps, and David Speis recused themselves from the meeting. Jerry advised members that a letter had been prepared to send to the California program summarizing some of the topics covered at the Small Laboratory Mentoring session. The letter specifically covered topics that had been of concern to small labs in California. Jerry reviewed the draft and attendees offered suggestions to the letter. Jerry revised the letter and forwarded the letter to Steve Weisberg on January 27.

#### 6. Next meeting

The next teleconference meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be on Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 12 Noon Central time.

#### Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Steve Arms	Other	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Absent
4.	Stephanie Drier	Lab	Absent
5.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
6.	Stacie Metzler	Lab	Present
7.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
8.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Absent
10.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
11.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Present
12.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
13.	Sharon Mertens	Lab	Present
	<b>Associate Members</b>		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Judy Duncan	Other	Absent

	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Present
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Teresa Coins	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Andrea Teal	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	<b>Staff</b>		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present

Attachment 2

Regional Meetings

Event	Date	TNI Speaker
AIHA, Falls Church, Virginia Contact: Cheryl Morton	March 17, 2016	Marlene Moore
Texas Water, Fort Worth, Texas Contact: Elizabeth Turner	April 22, 2016	Jerry Parr and Carol Batterton
Kansas Laboratory Education Association, Manhattan, Kansas Contact:	May 3, 2016	Robin Cook
TCEQ Trade Fair, Austin, Texas Contact:	May 3-4, 2016	Jerry Parr
Oregon Environmental Laboratory Association, Salem, Oregon Contact:	May 11, 2016	Jerry Parr
Michigan WEA Lab Practices Seminar, East Lansing Michigan Contact:	May 18, 2016	Monitor for possible participation next year
Florida Society of Environmental Analysts, Sand Key, Florida Contact: Suzanne R.?	May 25-27, 2016	Steve Arms
NYAAEL/PaAAEL 2015 Environmental Laboratory Convention, State College, PA Contact:	July 17-19, 2016	Martina McGarvey
VA AWWA/VWEA Lab Practices Conference, Charlottesville, VA Contact: Peter DeLisle	July 25-26, 2016	Stacie Metzler
Georgia Association of Water Professionals (WEF MA) Contact: Jeff Fulton	Fall Meeting	Monitor/contact
ASDWA, Milwaukee, WI	October 17-20, 2016	Exhibit
Quality meeting? Athens, GA	October 22, 2016	Jerry Parr
FSEA	October 26-28	Jerry Parr, workshop
Laboratory Section of ORWEF School Contact: Kristin Thomas and Chuck Lytle	March 2017	Monitor/contact