

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
August 9, 2012

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm EDT on August 9, 2012, in Washington, DC. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. Sharon Mertens was also present.

2. Highlights from Summer Meeting

Judy Duncan requested feedback on the Environmental Measurement Symposium. Comments included:

- The session on TNI updates for state accreditation programs seemed to be well-received.
- The Executive Officer of NACLA, Bob Uttenwieler, invited Steve Arms to repeat his presentation to a NACLA Board meeting in Florida this fall. The Advocacy Committee should also consider repeating the update session (or portions of it) as a webinar.
- As a follow up to the meeting with Dan Hautman, we should ask him if OW could put funds into our cooperative agreement for additional DW certification courses.
- Several expressed concern that the discussion about 3rd party ABs and the APHL position paper was embarrassing and inappropriate to have in front of Mr. Hautman.
- TNI needs to find a way to market small lab success stories better.

3. Position papers

Jerry advised the Advocacy Committee that the Policy Committee had reviewed our thoughts on position papers. The Policy Committee suggests that these papers be called “statements of belief” as opposed to position papers. The Policy Committee would also like for the Advocacy Committee to write the policy concerning development and approval of the “statements of belief”.

4. Responses to Florida RFI

Jerry reported that there were 6 responses(including TNI’s) to the Florida RFI concerning privatization of their lab accreditation program. There has been no action by the state as yet.

5. Methods Update Rule (MUR) RFP

Jerry reported that he had received two responses to TNI’s RFP for training on the MUR. Each one included a multiple webinar format. In addition, TNI has developed a one hour overview webinar demonstrating how the TNI standard can

be used to comply with the essential QC elements of the MUR. Jerry requested feedback about how to coordinate the shorter one hour training with the multiple sessions training. Suggestions included offering the one hour training first for a \$25 fee to see if there is demand for additional in-depth training. The proposals received could also be turned into a live training and offered through state organizations or at a future TNI meeting.

6. Newsletter

Lara Phelps is the editor of the next newsletter. Target publication date is October 15. Articles suggested included:

TNI NEWSLETTER 2012 -3			
Featured Topics	Assigned to	Email	Due Date for Draft
Summer meeting news			October 1, 2012
Winter meeting info			
Call for papers NEMC			
ABTF II update			
Standards development update			
Formation of two new committees			
Link to TNI song			
PFK supply shortage – technical update			
VOCs?- technical update	Gary Ward		
Coliform methods don't work- technical update			
Member feature			
Corrective action report re: standards development	Sharon Mertens		
Survey in newsletter- single PDF file or ???			
NELAP update			

Article assignments will be made at the September meeting.

7. Articles for WEF Lab Solutions

Articles suggested for submission to WEF Lab solutions included:

- Benefits of a Quality Systems – Elizabeth Turner (almost ready to submit)
- Using the TNI standard to comply with the 12 essential QC elements in the MUR
- Success stories about small labs accredited to the TNI standard
- Richard Burrow’s talk on MDL’s: Part I –history, Part II –what does data tell us now? Part III- what is the future?

8. SLAG update

Judy reviewed SLAG update provided by Keith Chapman as well as the TNI song.

9. Other

Judy advised the Advocacy Committee that this was her last meeting as chair. She is stepping down. As is the custom, the most immediate past chair of the TNI Board, Steve Arms, will become chair of the Advocacy Committee.

Elizabeth Turner advised the committee that AWWA is creating a Lab Practices website which will be a good opportunity for TNI to post important information. Proposals are due in November. TNI can be involved as much or as little as we want. Elizabeth will send out information for the agenda for our next meeting.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be on Thursday, September 6, at 12 Noon CDT.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
3.	Judy Duncan	Other	Present
4.	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Absent
5.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Absent
6.	Susan Wyatt	AB	Present
7.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
8.	Paula Hogg	Lab	Present
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Present
10.	Gary Ward	AB	Present
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	Present
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present