

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting  
May 4, 2017

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CST, May 4, 2017. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from April were reviewed. There was not a quorum, so minutes were not approved.

3. Updates

**Newsletter:** Jerry indicated that he was reviewing the final draft of the newsletter and it should come out today or tomorrow.

**CA program:** The State Water Board recently held a hearing on the proposed new accreditation program. Lara Phelps gave a presentation on behalf of the Review Panel. It seemed to be well received. A major issue for the Board continues to be cost of accreditation to the TNI standard. Lara noted that that it seems that the Board really needs some solid cost information before going forward with the proposal. Robin Cook noted that she had been contacted recently by CA representatives looking for cost information.

Jerry noted that TNI has given California labs some incentives to help them move forward. These include a free 6 month membership which will allow them to purchase the TNI standard at a discounted rate along with other items from the TNI website. Over 100 labs have already joined. In addition, CA will host 10-15 one day workshops where participants will be given the TNI quality manual template and assisted with completing it. TNI will allow CA to purchase the templates at a bulk price. The workshops will be limited in number of participants. An RFP will be issued soon.

The implementation schedule at this point calls for regulation proposal in August with a 6 year implementation window. Some think this is too long. The only two deviations from the TNI standard that are proposed at this time include a requirement for only 1 PT per year and changes to the requirement for technical manager.

There are 58 items in the TNI standard where CA stakeholders have requested clarification. Jerry has identified 10 items where clarification might be useful to small labs. He proposes that TNI assist with development of "implementation guidance". He suggested that TNI use this as a topic for the Assessment Forum/Mentor Session at the summer meeting. Breakout groups could discuss the topics and their thoughts could be used as the basis for writing guidance.

**Summer meeting:** The brochure went to the printer today. Registration is open along with the hotel reservations. Exhibits have sold out. Planning is underway for a special session on methods approval. The session will include an overview of EPA's current process for method approval in the various programs along with a presentation on the challenges presented by these processes. Participants will then breakout to discuss the characteristics of a more efficient, streamlined process. Lara suggested that Jerry visit with David Friedman for ideas on this session.

**Florida DEP rulemaking:** There were no updates on this regulatory action. There may be an update at the FSEA meeting next week.

**Advocacy Charter:** Steve announced that the Advocacy charter has been approved by email vote of the committee. Carol will forward it to Jerry.

#### 4. Handbook on Good Laboratory Practices

Jerry reported that this project will be re-started by developing webinars on the various chapter topics and then writing the chapters from the webinar presentations. He and Ilona will work on developing RFPs for all the chapters and see what kind of response is received. The chapter outlines will be used for the RFPs.

#### 5. Ambassador Reports

Lee Wolf reported that there was not much news except that Washington was seeing an increase in the number of labs with out of state NELAP accreditations seeking reciprocity in Washington. He also reported that Alaska is issuing extensions on current laboratory accreditations in the underground storage tank program in order to phase in their new requirement for NELAP or DoD accreditation.

#### 6. Other

We should reach out to NGABs to see if they are having any success with laboratory accreditations. We can report at the summer meeting or in the next newsletter.

#### 7. Next meeting

The next teleconference meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be on Thursday, June 1, 2017, at 12 Noon Central time. Lara will chair the meeting. Lynn Bradley will scribe.

## Attachment 1

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Steve Arms	Other	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Stephanie Drier	Lab	Absent
5.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
6.	Stacie Metzler	Lab	Absent
7.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
8.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Absent
10.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
11.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Absent
12.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
13.	Sharon Mertens	Lab	Present
	<b>Associate Members</b>		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	AB	Present
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Teresa Coins	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Andrea Teal	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	<b>Staff</b>		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present