

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
January 9, 2014

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CST, January 9, 2014. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the November 7, 2013, meeting and the December 5, 2013, meetings were reviewed. Lynn Bradley moved approval of both sets, and Michael Wichman seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Planning for Advocacy meeting in Louisville

Steve and Jerry advised the committee that California has provided notice that they will withdraw from NELAP. We should be ready to answer questions about this and the impact this action will have on CA labs and other labs with primary accreditation from CA. There is already a press release on the TNI website, but the TNI Board has expressed interest in a more detailed communication piece. The Advocacy Committee may need to work on communication in Louisville. We should consider having some talking points for Louisville for consistent communication. Also, we will need to develop an article for the newsletter.

Additional items on this subject for communication/action by TNI include:

- Outreach/explanation to EPA. Does Region 9 have any concerns about DW labs in CA?
- There are about 30 labs with primary NELAP accreditation by CA. Oregon is trying to pick up as many of these as they can. Thirteen accreditations expire at the end of January. TNI needs to offer support to these labs and make sure they know options for renewing their accreditation.
- TNI should communicate that labs accredited by CA are not necessarily bad labs; just that CA didn't have a good system in place to administer their accreditation program.
- TNI should make sure in the future that there is a process to get corrective action from ABs when problems do occur. We should review the entire situation to see if there are things that could be done better or if additional procedures are needed.

For the discussion on the Future of National Accreditation, there were no substantive changes offered to the proposed session outline. The goal of this session is to get feedback and input on the process outlined. It was suggested that we consider inviting Gordon Gilleran of NIST for a future session to get his input. He is the liaison with federal agencies on accreditation matters.

For this session, we should also consider how to include KY in the discussion. It might be helpful to have them discuss why they chose to pursue a state-only accreditation program.

Jerry will look into the option of holding the business portion of the Advocacy meeting late on Wednesday afternoon in order to provide maximum time for the “Future” discussion. At that time, we can review highlights of the Louisville meeting and plan for the next newsletter.

4. Next meeting

The next meeting will be in Louisville, KY. We will decide in Louisville the date/time for the February meeting. See Attachment 2 for pending items.

Attachment 1

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

Attachment 2

Item	Status	Assigned to	Due Date
Small Lab Position Paper	Approved by TNI Board	Carol	
Prioritize future position papers	Agenda for next meeting	Committee	
PT position paper	Pending with Advocacy Comm.		
QS position paper	Pending		
FEM/ELAB response letter	Proposal for state/regional workshop approved by TNI Board. Will be discussed in Louisville	Carol, Jerry and Committee	Louisville meeting
Good practices handbook: Assign chapters for review/revision	Agenda for next meeting	Committee	
Follow up on Benefits Panel, webinars? Newsletter articles?	Newsletter article assigned	Committee	
Small Lab Handbook revisions	In progress	Carol	