

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
January 6, 2022 1:00 pm Eastern

1. Call to Order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Eastern, January 6, 2022. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from December 2, 2021 were reviewed. Robin moved and William seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approval was unanimous.

3. Updates

Value of PT Initiative – this will be a long-term project and only updated when progress occurs

LinkedIn Page – this grew out of a conversation in the Training Committee. Under contract to TNI, Jerry Thao will create a TNI Company page. An additional suggestion was to link the Small Lab Advocate page(s) to our company page.

NOTE: the page was announced on January 11, please see <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-nelac-institute>. Ms. Thao asks that people send her content (info/news/events/updates) from Committee activities would like to share through the TNI account by email (Jerry.Thao@pacelabs.com), including but not limited to:

- Committee Name
- Info for the content
 - Photos, if applicable
 - External links, if applicable
- Specific date the Committee would like the post to be posted, if applicable
 - If no specific date(s), then I'll just cycle it into one of the weekly posts—goal is to post 2-3 times per week
- Please include in the email subject line, something in reference to, "TNI - LinkedIn"
- Also, pictures during events/meetings/sessions at conference will be greatly appreciated

SES Article – a new quarterly article about the SSAS Expert Committee was approved by an email vote, the last week of December.

Conference in San Antonio – Jerry continues to look forward to an in-person conference.

4. Advocacy Representative Requested for Policy Committee

Policy Committee sometimes struggles to attain a quorum for its twice monthly meetings, and would like to add another member to help with this. They requested someone from Advocacy specifically and William Lipps agreed to take this on. Thank you, sir!

5. FDA Rule Requiring Accreditation for Bottled Water and Water for Agricultural/Food Processing Use

From the December Board meeting, Jerry explained that a new final rule from FDA will require laboratory accreditation for the analysis of foods, to include bottled water as well as source water for agricultural and food processing uses. [See the announcement by FDA at <https://www.fda.gov/food/cfsan-constituent-updates/fda-issues-final-rule-laboratory-accreditation-analyses-foods>.] As written, accreditation could only be by an AB recognized by an ILAC signatory. Jerry plans to write to FDA asking that NELAP accreditation be accepted for the water

uses only, as several states already require testing by NELAP-accredited labs, and he will ask Advocacy to review that letter.

UPDATE: The January Board meeting (January 12) discussed this further, and after initially thinking that the rule applied only in outbreak situations (so, no exception needed), it turned out to be more complicated, after all. Jerry and Patsy Root will seek to have a conversation with the identified contacts for this proposed rule

6. Review of Workplan

Steve led a discussion of the remaining high priority item, which concerns TNI membership:

Create and sustain a systematic approach for encouraging volunteers to become involved in TNI activities and ensure a pool of volunteers is available for all types of committees. (Goal 2.1)

A number of ideas were mentioned in what became a brief brainstorming session, and those are captured below. Steve noted that it may not be possible to “ensure a pool of volunteers”, simply because of the nature of our work. There were no ideas offered that appear to support a systematic encouragement for volunteers, however, and the path to fulfilling this goal remains unclear. Currently, individuals are recruited by colleagues when a need is recognized, and those members who do volunteer to serve on committees are quickly contacted about vacant slots or offered associate membership if no suitable vacancy is open at the time they apply.

- A periodic email or special mailing
- A quarterly summary of committee openings and a time for an “information session” to discuss what each committee does (teleconference)
- Mention involvement with any activity
- An awards ceremony for volunteers
- Have membership information available at the information booth for NEMC meetings
- Hold a welcome reception for new members
- Hold a short session at every conference for first-time attendees
- Promote the benefits of committee membership – “Form Your Future”
- Expand recruitment beyond TNI conferences

5. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Next Meeting

The Advocacy Committee will meet on the final day of conference, Friday, January 21, 2022, starting at 8 am. The meeting agenda will be published in the program. While there will be no virtual participants, the session will be recorded as a webcast, and can be viewed by meeting registrants, once it is posted following the conference.

The next teleconference meeting is February 3, 2022, at 1:00 pm Eastern. The agenda and documents will be sent in advance of the meeting.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Present
3.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
4.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
5.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
6.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Present
7.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
8.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Absent
9.	Teresa Coins	Lab	Absent
10.	Josh Wyeth	PT provider	Absent
11.	William Lipps	Other	Present
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Kim Chamberlain (replacing Andrea Teal)	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Erin Consuegra	Lab	Absent
	Aurora Shields	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Carol Batterton	Other	Present
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Absent
	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Absent
	Mike Delaney	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Susie Arredondo	Mentor Subcommittee Chair	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Present