

## Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting September 2, 2021

### 1. Call to Order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CDT, September 2, 2021. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from July 1 and August 12, 2021 were reviewed. Lee Wolf noted that he was not present at the August 12 meeting and his name should be noted as absent on the attendance roster. Sharon moved approval of both sets of minutes with this change and Lynn seconded. All present voted in favor.

Steve noted that with Carol's retirement and Lynn taking over as Program Administrator for Advocacy, Lynn cannot be an active member on Advocacy anymore. William Lipps had previously applied for committee membership. Steve recommended that the committee consider adding William as a full member to fill Lynn's vacancy. Stacie moved approval of this recommendation and Zonetta seconded. All present voted in favor.

### 3. Mentors

Jerry reported that two more mentors were needed to respond to the requests TNI has received for mentors. He asked the committee for suggestions for next steps if we don't get enough mentors. The committee recommended requesting volunteer mentors by email to the entire TNI membership. The committee discussed whether Josh Wyeth and Steve Arms could be mentors or if there was a conflict of interest due to present employment. After discussion, the committee concluded there was no conflict for either. It was noted that the requirements for mentors stated that mentors would be expected to abide by "professional and ethical standards".

### 4. Newsletter

Martina reported that she had received several questions about newsletter articles. The first question related to the length of articles. The answer is that articles can be whatever length is needed to address the subject. The second question related to font and formatting. Jerry responded that there are no font or formatting requirements. Those are addressed in the publication process. Additional topics considered for the newsletter included:

- A memorial article for Bob DiRienzo. Jerry volunteered to do it.
- Jerry will add the Jeopardy link from Dorothy Love to the conference overview article.
- A link to the USGS hearing on data manipulation and the need for a strong QMS was discussed but the group decided to wait and possibly include that as a topic at a future meeting.
- A more general topic on how federal partners are looking at accreditation was also considered but put on hold for consideration as a panel at a future meeting.

### 5. San Antonio Winter Meeting

Jerry had reformatted his PowerPoint presentation to a Word document with recommendations for the San Antonio meeting. Based on input he received, he is recommending an in-person only meeting with recordings of session for later viewing. The conference will start on Tuesday instead of Monday due to the MLK holiday. Ideas discussed for special sessions included:

- Reports from Non-NELAP states
- Technical Manager discussions
- Microplastics (Diane Wilson and Formosa project)

- Subject matter experts, what are skills and attributes
- Concept of credentialing with focus on Quality Manager
- Status of mentoring program

Paul also offered to do a committee chairs training on Monday. Jerry noted that any session offered on Monday should be focused on the private sector as the audience. State and federal employees may not be able to attend on a holiday.

#### 6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is October 7, 2021, at 12:00 pm CDT.

Attachment 1

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