

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting  
January 24, 2018

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm MST, January 24, 2018, in Albuquerque, NM. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes were not considered at this meeting.

3. PowerPoint Presentation and Discussion

Steve Arms asked Advocacy Committee members to introduce themselves and then he presented the powerpoint of the Advocacy Committee's role, agenda, and membership along with accomplishments for the past six months. Jerry Parr asked that Regional meetings be added to the agenda for this meeting.

**Conference Planning:** Steve turned the presentation over to Jerry Parr for the section on conference planning. Jerry reported that the NEMC steering committee was considering a Wednesday night event at the WW II Museum in New Orleans. The cost would be around \$30 per attendee. Members agreed this was a good idea.

Jerry reminded members that the next winter meeting would be in Milwaukee, WI. He noted that the hotel was in a prime location for easy walking to restaurants and other sights.

Jerry also asked for feedback on this meeting. Comments included:

- Need more time for the Mentor Session (full day)
- The schedule is too compressed. There is a lot of overlap of good sessions. Don't compress it any more.
- What happened to the plastic bags? Kay Parr reported that TNI was searching for a greener option that didn't make as much noise as the plastic bags. So far this has been hard to find. Trinity offered to help and share some research she had done for another meeting.

**Regional Meetings:** Jerry reviewed the regional meetings where TNI had been requested to speak. These included:

- TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair in early May. Jerry will speak.
- Oregon Environmental Lab Association. This event is in mid-April. Jerry usually goes, but travel is difficult. Lee Wolf volunteered to speak.
- CWEA. This event is in Sacramento the day after the Oregon meeting. Jerry was invited, but wonders if someone else can go. Possibilities include Mitzi Miller and

Trinity O'Neal. Note: After the conference, CWEA was adamant that they wanted Jerry to speak since his talk had been advertised.

- FSEA. This conference is in May. TNI has not submitted an abstract. Jerry will discuss with Robin Cook.

**Highlights of the Albuquerque Meeting:** Steve asked members to mention highlights of the meeting that might need follow up by the Advocacy Committee. Highlights included:

- TNI needs to develop a white paper on the FL experience with NELAP accreditation. There is misinformation going around that labs have closed because of accreditation. Carl Kircher explained what actually happened and why the numbers appear to show that. Carl's presentation should be a white paper.
- Examples of why documentation matters. Jack Farrell is a good resource for this.
- The cost of documentation. TNI may have done this before. We should check.
- How do we know if NELAP accreditation improves data quality? Start with the premise that PT pass rates should improve and precision should get better.
- Steve Arms will call Steve Weisberg in CA to see if they can do a study on the CA labs that would answer the above questions.
- FL DoH is starting the process of writing regulations for cannabis testing labs. TNI should weigh in and promote use of the TNI standard for accreditation. Jerry asked Carol to draft a letter to the FL DoH outlining the benefits of the TNI standard.
- Based on staff discussions, the Advocacy Committee will draft an SOP on Advocacy document control.
- The Advocacy Committee along with the Policy Committee will do a pilot project on the use of Power DMS for document sharing.
- APHL has requested an article from TNI for their next newsletter. Jerry will do the first draft.
- It is important to publicize why the new standard is better. We should prepare a white paper on the benefits of the new standard. Each expert committee will provide the first cut a language for the paper. Advocacy will combine into one document.
- ABs have requested more technical training from TNI. We should change our system so that technical training is rolled into the ABs annual fee. In addition, ABs would like to be able to review technical training that TNI provides to laboratories.

#### 4. Newsletter planning

The editor of TNI's next newsletter is Lynn Bradley. Articles and authors suggested for the newsletter included:

<b>Article &amp; Description</b>	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Email for Authors</b>
TNI annual report (executive summary linked to website for full report)		
Implementation of the 2016 standard (spreadsheet becomes an article)		
Board elections		
Small labs quality systems challenges (Handbook and QM template?)		
Announce OK as AB?		
Mike Delaney article on ????		
Member spotlight on Carol Kircher	Stephanie Drier	<a href="mailto:stephanie.drier@state.mn.us">stephanie.drier@state.mn.us</a>
Summary of ABQ meeting		
Article about NOLA meeting (what to do, etc.)		
Method validation letter update		

Articles will be due March 15 for publication around April 15. Editor for the Summer edition will be ??????. Editor for next fall is Steve Arms.

#### 7. Other

Steve Arms indicated that the time was probably right to expand the program for TNI ambassadors to the non-NELAP states. Lee Wolf suggested that the non-NELAP states should receive the TNI newsletter as a way to keep them updated on TNI activities and resources. Steve suggested that we build a separate database of key state accreditation program contacts and send them the newsletter with a note that we just wanted to keep them informed of our activities.

#### 6. Next meeting

The next teleconference meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be on Thursday, February 1, 2018, at 12 Noon Central time.

## 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.	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	Present
12.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
13.	Sharon Mertens	Lab	Absent
	<b>Associate Members</b>		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Present
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	AB	Present
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Teresa Coins	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Andrea Teal	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lily Sanchez	AB	Absent
	<b>Staff</b>		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present

Attachment 2

Regional Meetings

Event	Date	TNI Speaker
AIHA, Falls Church, Virginia Contact: Cheryl Morton	March 17, 2016	Marlene Moore
Texas Water, Fort Worth, Texas Contact: Elizabeth Turner	April 22, 2016	Jerry Parr and Carol Batterton
Kansas Laboratory Education Association, Manhattan, Kansas Contact:	May 3, 2016	Robin Cook
TCEQ Trade Fair, Austin, Texas Contact:	May 3-4, 2016	Jerry Parr
Oregon Environmental Laboratory Association, Salem, Oregon Contact:	May 11, 2016	Jerry Parr
Michigan WEA Lab Practices Seminar, East Lansing Michigan Contact:	May 18, 2016	Monitor for possible participation next year
Florida Society of Environmental Analysts, Sand Key, Florida Contact: Suzanne R.?	May 25-27, 2016	Steve Arms
NYAAEL/PaAAEL 2015 Environmental Laboratory Convention, State College, PA Contact:	July 17-19, 2016	Martina McGarvey
VA AWWA/VWEA Lab Practices Conference, Charlottesville, VA Contact: Peter DeLisle	July 25-26, 2016	Stacie Metzler
Georgia Association of Water Professionals (WEF MA) Contact: Jeff Fulton	Fall Meeting	Monitor/contact
ASDWA, Milwaukee, WI	October 17-20, 2016	Exhibit
Quality meeting? Athens, GA	October 22, 2016	Jerry Parr
FSEA	October 26-28	Jerry Parr, workshop
Laboratory Section of ORWEF School Contact: Kristin Thomas and Chuck Lytle	March 2017	Monitor/contact