

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting  
Forum on Laboratory Accreditation, San Antonio, TX  
January 21, 2022 8 am Central

1. Call to Order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 8:00 am Central, January 21, 2022. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of Minutes

In the absence of a quorum, minutes were not reviewed.

3. Presentation

An outline of the slides presented by Steve can be found in Attachment 2, below.

4. Review of Conference Activities for Potential Advocacy Involvement

Participants went through the conference agenda to recall any discussion items that might benefit from involvement of the Advocacy Committee.

Looking at the LASEC meeting and SIR activity, one participant raised the question of whether TNI should be interpreting the ISO language at all, or only the TNI-added language. This brought up two issues – whether and how TNI might be more active in the ISO/IEC organization and then whether Advocacy can somehow improve the communication of the results of interpretations and the existence of both the Guidance documents and Implementation Guidance (available only to TNI members).

This led to mention of preventing conflicts among the Volume 1 modules (most have been identified and fixed with the 2016 Standard) and concern about the lab requirements that are in Volume 2 presently (Quality Systems knows to add these to V1M2 and LAB has rephrased the requirements in the Draft Standard V2M1 so that the language refers to an AB requiring labs to do those things). Participants also mentioned current PT issues that PTPEC is seeking to resolve, about PT results being reported under improper method codes (per choices offered by the PTP); if this issue is not quickly resolved, Jerry will hold a special session at summer conference in Crystal City.

From the Special Session on Credentialing, Jerry noted that a newsletter article should be prepared and that TNI now needs to reach out to OGWDW about the activity. He also noted that a group called the Piping Industries Progress & Education (<http://www.pipe.org/>) is considering TNI involvement as it works with replacing water pipes.

The Training Committee session following the special session raised the prospect of developing a “Why TNI” presentation similar to the “Why NEFAP” presentation, as a webinar.

5. Newsletter Planning

Steve Arms will be the editor for the next newsletter. Publication date will likely be in early April after registration for NEMC opens. Tentative topics thus far, with potential authors, are displayed in the table below.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Author contact info</b>
LAMS – its usefulness and content (methods, codes, accredited labs and more)	Mei Beth Shepherd with Dan Hickman?	<a href="mailto:mbshep@sheptechserv.com">mbshep@sheptechserv.com</a>
Credentialing – a status update	Jerry	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
Technical Manager/Expert	Aaren Alger	<a href="mailto:Aaren.s.alger@gmail.com">Aaren.s.alger@gmail.com</a>
IDOC for drinking water	Jerry or EMC representative?	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
Board election	Jerry	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
Member profile – Catherine Katsikis	Zoneta?	<a href="mailto:zonetta.english@louisvillemsd.org">zonetta.english@louisvillemsd.org</a>
Guidance documents and Implementation Guidance	Maria Friedman	<a href="mailto:QAMfriedman@gmail.com">QAMfriedman@gmail.com</a>
Summer conference/NEMC	Jerry	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
About the Forum in San Antonio	Jerry	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
New LinkedIn page	Jerry Thao	<a href="mailto:Jerry.Thao@pacelabs.com">Jerry.Thao@pacelabs.com</a>
Committee membership	Paul Junio	<a href="mailto:Paul.junio@nelac-institute.org">Paul.junio@nelac-institute.org</a>
Monitoring Pathogens in Wastewater	Patsy Root	<a href="mailto:Patsy-Root@idexx.com">Patsy-Root@idexx.com</a>
LAAF and accreditation for testing bottled/agricultural water (maybe)	Patsy Root	<a href="mailto:Patsy-Root@idexx.com">Patsy-Root@idexx.com</a>

## 6. Review of Workplan

Steve discussed progress thus far on addressing the Advocacy workplan (meeting the Strategic Plan's goals assigned to Advocacy). The biggest item will be creating a plan for systematic outreach to stakeholders, especially data users. This work will begin after the February 3 committee meeting.

The remaining high priority item to be discussed is how to reach and retain volunteers. Discussion focused on a need to publicize the volunteer opportunities to all accredited labs, not just conference attendees, and explain both the benefits and obligations of being on a committee, either as a voting or an associate member. Paul is requested to address this in his committee membership article, but that will just be a starting point – we need to better explain HOW to join a committee, too -- perhaps put a “Join Now” link on the newsletter page of the website?

Other suggestions were:

- ask members to declare their interest area(s) upon joining.
- assign a mentor or “buddy” to first time attendees, perhaps during a first-timer mixer event.
- offer some benefit or “freebie” for recruiting a new member (“member-get-a-member” plan).

## 7. New Business

There was no new business. Steve thanked everyone for their attendance, and adjourned the meeting.

## 8. Next Meeting

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**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Absent
3.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
4	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
5.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
6.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Absent
7.	Robin Cook	Lab	Absent
8.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Absent
9.	Teresa Coins	Lab	Absent
10.	Josh Wyeth	PT provider	Absent
11.	William Lipps	Other	Absent
	<b>Associate Members</b>		
	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	Absent
	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	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Absent
	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Absent
	Mike Delaney	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Susie Arredondo	Mentor Subcommittee Chair	Absent
	<b>Staff</b>		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Listening

## Attachment 2 – Slides from Presentation

### Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- About the Advocacy Committee
- Review of Conference Activities for Potential Advocacy Involvement
- Newsletter Planning (Steve Arms, Editor)
- New Business
- Adjourn

### Advocacy Committee Membership

- Associate Members, Ambassadors

### About the Advocacy Committee

#### **Mission – Promote the Efforts of TNI Nationally**

- Implement assigned tasks from TNI's Strategic Plan
- Maintain external relationships
- Other organizations (WEF, AWWA, ACIL, ASTM, etc.)
- EPA program offices
- other federal agencies
- Non-NELAP state agencies that have an interest in accreditation issues
- Develop presentations and papers to promote The NELAC Institute and a national accreditation program

### About the Advocacy Committee

#### **Mission – Promote the Efforts of TNI Nationally, continued**

- Provide outreach at national, regional, and local meetings
- Prepare TNI member newsletters
- Assist with conference planning
- Outreach to the small laboratory community
- Oversee TNI Mentoring Initiative

### Accomplishments in 2021

- Updated State of National Accreditation Report
  - Delivered to EPA Environmental Methods Forum and non-NELAP state contacts
- Two editions of "The Institute Review" newsletter
- Provided conference planning support to Executive Director
- Formation of the new Mentoring subcommittee
  - 12 mentor:mentee relationships to date
- Support for the Small Lab Advocate
- Support to CA ELAP to implement its accreditation program
- Expanded Ambassador Program
  - 11 Ambassadors for 16 states

### Plans for 2022

- Create a plan for systematic outreach to data users to explain and promote the benefits of a quality management system
- Revise the "Introduction to TNI" to create a webinar for new members
- Monitor EPA/federal activities for opportunities to share TNI's activities and promote national accreditation
- Look for opportunities to add TNI Ambassadors for non-NELAP states
- Sustain
  - oversight of the Mentoring Initiative
  - organizing newsletter publication

- providing assistance to conference planning
- support for Small Lab Advocate role

## **Review of Conference Activities for Potential Advocacy Involvement**

### **Newsletter Planning**

#### **Thank you for being with us!**

- For more information, contact
- Steve Arms, [arms.steve@Comcast.net](mailto:arms.steve@Comcast.net) or
- Lynn Bradley, [lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org](mailto:lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org)