

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
December 3, 2015

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT, December 3, 2015. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the November 5, 2015 meeting were reviewed and presented for approval. There was not a quorum and the minutes could not be approved.

3. December Mini-newsletter

At the last meeting, members agreed that we should publish a brief mini-newsletter in December. The newsletter will contain the following articles:

Details and reminders about registration and hotel for the January meeting in Tulsa, OK - Jerry will write.
Report from the California Expert Panel – Steve will write.
TNI's letter to the FEM – Carol will write

Jerry suggested a target publication date for the week of the December 14th. Deadline to have articles to Jerry is December 9.

4. Young (New) Professionals event in Tulsa

The Young (new) Professionals event in Tulsa will be a happy hour on Tuesday. Jerry will ask the sponsors to chip in to cover the cost. It will be an invitation only event. Jerry will invite attendees that are not regulars at the TNI meetings. Also, the TNI Board officers, expert committee chairs, and Steve Arms as Chair of the Advocacy Committee will attend. The event will last one hour with a very simple menu of wine, sodas, cheese and crudités. Members suggested that we have a short presentation talking about how to get involved in TNI.

5. Ambassadors

The TNI Ambassadors to non-NELAP states who were on the call were asked to give a brief summary of their contacts to date. Devon Morgan reported that he had made contact with Nevada representatives and they had concerns about the amount of flexibility in the 2009 standards. Bob Pullano reported that he had met with South Carolina state contacts and they don't agree with all aspects of the standards, and think being a NELAP AB would increase state costs as well as laboratory costs. This is a concern because they have a lot of small utility labs. Teresa Coins reported that she had met with the technical director and the director of QA for the Arkansas state program. Both liked the TNI

conferences and the standards, but were concerned that becoming a NELAP AB would require a statutory change. They use the TNI standard as a guideline.

6. Webinars

Jerry, Carol, and Steve have begun working on the webinar for California labs. This webinar will focus on how the standards are developed and the resources that TNI has available to help labs become accredited. We will emphasize that complying with the standards is not that hard and labs are probably already doing most of it. We will need to find utility labs in CA that can help us advocate for NELAP accreditation.

Jerry suggested that we target early February for delivery. We can work on the webinar at the next meeting and have a dry run in Tulsa. Jerry also indicated that we do not need to develop a separate webinar on the content of the standards. A webcast on this subject already exists and can be offered to California. We will also need to develop another webinar later for general use.

7. Presentations at Texas Water

Elizabeth Turner reported that the abstract submitted to Texas Water for the Laboratory Practices session has been accepted. She also indicated that because one of the lab abstracts had been moved to another session, she needed to find a replacement. Jerry suggested that we ask Richard Burrows to do a talk on detection limits. Jerry will contact Richard for an abstract. Carol will send Jerry details about the meeting to forward to Richard.

8. Handbook

Steve reported that we had received comments back from the Chemistry Expert Committee on the Trace Organics draft chapter. We will wait until we receive all comments back from committees before sending on to the editors. Comments from Expert Committees will go to the editors for consideration.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be January 7, 2016, at 12 Noon CENTRAL time.

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	Lab	Absent
5.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Absent
6.	Stacie Metzler	Lab	Present
7.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
8.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Present
10.	Gary Ward	AB	Absent
11.	Michael Wichman	Lab	Present
12.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
13.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Absent
14.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Judy Duncan	Other	Absent
	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Sharon Mertens	TNI Board Chair	Absent
	Teresa Coins	TNI Ambassador	present
	Andrea Teal	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present