

TNI Board of Directors Meeting Summary September 12, 2018

1. Roll Call

Directors	Present
Jordan Adelson	
Aaren Alger	
Steve Arms	X
Justin Brown	
Bob Di Rienzo	
Jack Farrell	X
Maria Friedman	
Chris Gunning	
Myron Gunsalus	X
Daniel Lashbrook	X
Judy Morgan	X
Cheryl Nolan	X
Patsy Root	X
Debbie Rosano	
Scott Siders	
Alfredo Sotomayor	X
Dave Speis	X
Lem Walker	X
Curtis Wood	X
Past Chair	
Sharon Mertens	
Staff	
Lynn Bradley	X
Carol Batterton	X
Ken Jackson	X
Jerry Parr	X
Ilona Taunton	X
Janice Wlodarski	X

2. Approval of July Minutes

Motion to Approve: Judy Morgan

Second: Daniel Lashbrook

Abstentions: Dave Speis
Curtis Wood

Approved: Unanimous

3. Implementing the 2016 Standard (Attachment 1)

An updated spreadsheet summarizing the activities that need to occur before the 2016 Standard can be implemented can be found in Attachment 1. This document will be updated every month for the Board to track progress on this topic.

Question: Bottom of first page of the attachment – Can I implement the new Standard now? Ilona and Judy will check to see if anyone has notes from the previous meeting discussing this. An additional column will be added to the crossover document to identify who has implemented the new Standard already.

The Rule is effective 9/26. Laboratories will be assessed against the 2016 Standard after this date. Inconsistencies/deficiencies/findings will not be reported until April 2019.

Do we need to notify the PT Providers about all of this? Some are keeping on top of this, but we do not want to leave anyone out. It has been requested that NELAP ABs to notify PT Providers about what reporting they need. A note will still be sent to all PTPs regarding the schedule.

4. Policies and SOPs for Review

The Policy Committee has completed all of its five-year reviews. The final two documents of this series are provided for Board endorsement today, and the changes are itemized below.

Training POL 1-116 – This document received a minor rewrite to accommodate the substantial expansion of TNI's educational delivery system in recent years, with modifications as follows:

§III-3 – change the registration language to read “Registration for all TNI courses will be available on the TNI website” and change “live” to “in-person” in the description of training formats utilized.

§III-4 – was renumbered.

Motion for Endorsement: Jack Farrell

Second: Judy Morgan

Approved: Unanimous

TNI Travel SOP 1-119 – This document had only minor edits. The changes made were as follows:

§1.0 – add “This SOP does not apply to travel reimbursed by an organization other than TNI”/
§3.0 – reword the 2nd paragraph to read “The TNI Executive Director may, on request, waive the registration fee for TNI conference attendees who are approved for travel reimbursement” or similar language.

§4.1.1 – add, after the 2nd sentence, “Exceptions can be granted if approval from an organization other than TNI is delayed”.

§4.1.2 – add “ride-sharing”.

§4.1.4 – add “business class”.

§4.2 – no subordinate number is needed, since there is only one paragraph.

§4.3.1 – this section needs to accommodate the traveler's employer's practices.

Attachment 2 – omit the mileage rate from the reimbursement form, since this may vary over time.

Motion for endorsement: Dave Speis

Second: Curtis Wood

Approved: Unanimous

In addition, NELAP Policy 3-102 and the LASEC SOP 3-113 are provided in the event that the Board wishes to review them.

Policy 3-102 describes the relationship between issuance of Certificates of Recognition and the three-year evaluation cycle for NELAP ABs. As discussed in the policy, new certificates will be issued annually to each AB, contingent upon the most recent evaluation being satisfactory and assuming that the AB wishes to continue with the program. Previously, new certificates were issued only at the completion of the evaluation process, regardless of time elapsed since the previous certificate was issued. This change is comparable to how certificates are issued to laboratories and will enable the individual ABs to proceed through the process on a more clearly defined schedule.

SOP 3-113 is intended to address how the Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee (LASEC) handles Conflicts of Interest (COI) in its activities.

5. Third Quarter Financial Statement

Third quarter financial information was reviewed.

6. Milwaukee Meeting (Attachment 2)

- The preliminary schedule for this meeting is shown in Attachment 3.
- The Training Course will be: *Understanding Radiochemistry Testing and the 2016 TNI Standard - ASTM D3972 and SM 7500-U C. (Isotopic Uranium by Alpha Spectrometry)*
- As discussed in the July Board meeting, the Assessment Forum will focus on Section 4.6 of Module 2, Purchasing Services and Supplies.

7. Committee Reports from New Orleans (Attachment 3)

This information is being provided to document this meeting. The report for the Asbestos Expert Committee was provided by Carl Kircher.

8. China Update

The draft presentation was discussed in New Orleans and Jerry has created a second draft that is now under review. Still preparing for the future meeting.

9. Program Reports (Attachment 4)

**Attachment 1
2016 Standard Implementation Issues**

Action Item	Assigned To	Expected Completion Date	Status Update
<p>QAM Template Update Create a template that will help laboratories prepare a QA Manual compliant with the new TNI Standard. Include multiple examples of documents, forms and procedures that might be helpful to laboratories.</p>	<p>QS Expert Committee</p>	<p>12/31/17</p>	<p>Completed November 2017. Now on the website for \$115 for members.</p>
<p>Post comparison document A document detailing the changes between 2009 and 2016 was prepared in October. The website needs to be revised to allow individuals to access this document as well as the 2009 to 2003 comparison. Need to prepare document that summarizes changes between 2003 and 2016, since some are still using 2003.</p>	<p>Jerry Parr and William Daystrom</p>	<p>1-22-18. No date determined for 2003-2016 document</p>	<p>2009-2016 document posted on website 1-22-18. New draft of 2003 to 2016 document completed and will be posted this week.</p>
<p>Guidance Document - PTRL Issue There is still an issue regarding the clarification and use of the PTRL. Include LASEC in final review of document. Small Lab Handbook will be helpful and could provide additional guidance.</p>	<p>PT Expert Committee</p>	<p>10/1/18</p>	<p>The committee provided a draft on 5/4/18. Policy has reviewed and approved. Needs review by LASEC and AC.</p>
<p>Update Standard Interpretation Requests (SIRs) Review current interpretations from 2003 and 2009 Standard and map to new TNI Standard. Is an interpretation still relevant and if so, what is the section reference in the new standard? Keep legacy 2003/2009 SIR's active along with 2016. Relevant 2003, 2009 and 2016. Put folders on website. Long term review and consider whether SIRs trigger notes, annotations, or guidance. Archive old, obsolete SIRs.</p>	<p>Expert Committees</p>	<p>08/10/18</p>	<p>Draft spreadsheet summarizing existing SIRs provided to Expert Committees</p>
<p>SIRs Set-up site for interpretation requests for the new TNI Standard.</p>	<p>IT Administrator</p>	<p>03/01/18</p>	<p>Completed</p>

Action Item	Assigned To	Expected Completion Date	Status Update
<p>Can I Implement the New Standard Now? LASEC? needs to prepare an answer to this question for a Training Workshop PPT slide. Consider preparation of guidance on how to move to the new standard - what do you need to add and when? What can you stop doing? Etc.</p>	LASEC	10/10/18	Assessment Forum for New Orleans discussed this topic; minutes need to be written
<p>Quality Systems Checklist - Laboratory Assessments Checklist needs to be prepared for ABs to use during laboratory assessments.</p>	Quality Systems	06/15/18	Checklist has been posted
<p>Quality Systems Checklist - Website Revise the checklist web page to allow downloading either the 2009 or 2016 checklist</p>	IT Administrator	06/15/18	Checklist has been finalized.
<p>LOD/LOQ Guidance Will need LASEC and Policy review. Implementation date set after review by AC.</p>	Chemistry Expert	10/15/18	Revised document has been sent to AC, LASEC, and Policy for review.
<p>Calibration Guidance Needs LASEC and Policy review. Implementation date set after review by AC.</p>	Chemistry Expert	10/15/18	Revised document has been sent to AC, LASEC, and Policy for review.
<p>New Standard Training Webinars Make training on the new standard available to laboratories and ABs across the country. Roll out when we have an implementation date for 2016 standard.</p>	CSDP EC	Fall 2018	4 webinars underway; one every 3-4 weeks beginning September 13.
<p>Small Lab Handbook Update Small Lab Handbook. Create a tool that will help laboratories prepare a QA Manual compliant with the new TNI Standard. Include multiple examples of documents, forms and procedures that might be helpful to laboratories. Policy committee review needed on current document.</p>	QS Expert Committee	7/15/18	Final draft complete. Add Guidance documents as appendices.

Action Item	Assigned To	Expected Completion Date	Status Update
<p>Implementability Issues Review the final Volume 1 of the 2016 Lab Standard and the Volume 2 PT module as well. Each method/type module will be reviewed against the QS module to ensure no conflicts as well as implementability, and the administrative parts of the QS module (record keeping, document management, etc.) will be reviewed against Volume 2 for the same ends. Members without a specific module assignment are asked to review the entire Volume 1 for implementability and potential internal conflicts.</p>	LASEC	03/05/18	Completed.
<p>Benefits of the New Standard Prepare a document to show why the 2016 standard is an improvement over the 2009.</p>	Expert Committees	6/7/2018	Complete

Attachment 2
Preliminary Program - 2019 FORUM
January 28-31, 2019
Hyatt Regency Milwaukee

Monday: 1/28			
8:30 – 10:00	TNI Annual Meeting 1. Program Reports 2. President's Report 3. Recognition		
10:30 – 12:00	NEFAP	Mentor Session	PT Expert
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch on Own		
1:00 – 5:00	ELAB	Mentor Session	LASEC (1:00 -3:00) NELAP (3:30 – 5:00)
5:30 – 7:00	Reception		
Tuesday: 1/29			
8:00 – 12:00	Quality Systems	SSAS (1-3:00) WET (1/4)	Micro
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch Provided		
1:00 – 5:00	Assessment Forum	PTP Executive	FAC
Wednesday: 1/30			
8:00 – 12:00	Quality Systems	Asbestos	LAB
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch Provided		
1:00 – 4:00	Advocacy	Radiochemistry	Chemistry
4:15 – 5:00	Committee Reports		
5:30 – 7:00	Committee member reception		
Thursday: 1/31			
8:00 – 12:00	Training Course	TNI Staff mtg	
1:00 – 3:30	Training Course		

Exhibit program runs from 3:00 pm Monday to 3:30 pm Tuesday

Attachment 3

Summary of TNI Committee Reports to the Board of Directors Environmental Measurement Symposium, New Orleans, LA, August 9, 2018

This is a summary of committee activities during the public meeting sessions plus anticipated meeting times needed for the Forum on Laboratory Accreditation in Milwaukee, WI, in January 2019.

Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board, Sharon Mertens – ½ day

The ELAB Meeting provided status updates on all topics currently active in various workgroups of the Board. Many of these issues are winding down, and the Board has added a “suggestion box” in addition to inviting meeting attendees to speak up about potential new topics for consideration.

Consensus Standards Development Executive Committee, Ken Jackson – possibly lunch meeting

CSDEC held a short meeting for input from Expert Committee chairs.

Quality Systems Expert Committee, Paul Junio – ½ or full day (if possible)

QS held a working session where they reviewed old Standards Interpretation Requests (SIRs) and addressed one new SIR. They also played a major role in the ISO 17025 discussion session.

Microbiology Expert Committee, Robin Cook – ¼ day

This group discussed language for the Technical Manager role in the next revision of Volume 1. They also met with the NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) to discuss method codes used in the Field of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) tables.

Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee, Carl Kircher – ¼ or ½ day

LAB is presently revising Modules 1 & 3 of Volume 2, for the TNI Environmental Lab Sector Standard (ELSS), based on the 2017 version of ISO 17011. The Chair requested input from attendees about whether any language from the 2004 version of ISO 17011 should be retained (no, it's all addressed in the 2017 version) and a few of the “parking lot” issues. A Voting Draft Standard (VDS) may be available by January 2019.

Asbestos Expert Committee, Carl Kircher – ½ day (need to verify with Myron Getman)

This committee did not meet in New Orleans, but has finished addressing comments from the outline of proposed changes and is close to having a VDS.

Radiochemistry Expert Committee, Ilona Taunton – ¼ day plus 1 day for training

This committee did not meet but presented the 2nd of its planned series of 5 training sessions, on the last day of conference.

Whole Effluent Toxicity Expert Committee, Elizabeth West – ¼ day

A panel of three committee members discussed the anticipated language for QA/QC for chemistry support measurements and asked for feedback from participants about initial and ongoing demonstrations of capability as well as possibly expanding the scope to encompass soil and more explicitly, sediment testing, in the revised WET Module (V1M7).

Proficiency Testing Expert Committee, Ken Jackson – ¼ day

The committee discussed comments received on the PTRL Guidance and choices for PT frequency. While the majority opinion favored retaining 2/year, the discussion may be written up and shared.

Stationary Source Audit Sample Committee, Ilona Taunton – ¼ day

SSAS is developing a procedure for low level audit samples and is revising its 3 modules of standard, with a webinar planned for each. They are also resolving issues about holding-time-to-test challenges (where the sample cannot be delivered for analysis within the required holding time).

Chemistry Expert Committee, Ken Jackson – ½ day

Both the Calibration and Detection & Quantitation guidance documents were discussed, and the committee may make edits from that discussion when they address the yet-to-be-created comments from LASEC and the NELAP AC. Otherwise, the next revision of V1M4 was discussed.

Field Activities Expert Committee, Shannon Swantek – ½ – 1 day

While the meeting was joint with NEFAP Executive Committee, most discussion concerned how to add value to the language of the 2017 version of ISO 17025.

NEFAP, Kirstin Daigle – ¼ day (separate from FAC)

This meeting was joint with FAC. The need for some regulatory endorsement of NEFAP accreditation was explored; showing benefits of NEFAP accreditation would help attain this goal. A subcommittee headed by Justin Brown will revisit the marketing/strategic plan for NEFAP. Also, a Field Activities Task Force (chartered by the TNI Board) is just getting underway to explore the overlap areas between NELAP and NEFAP.

PT Program Executive Committee, Maria Friedman – ½ day

After an update on activities since Albuquerque, the group addressed two Analyte Request Applications and one complaint. One of the ARAs was closed with referral to the PT Expert Committee and the other is ongoing. The complaint addressed “breakdown analytes” and will be addressed with development of guidance. FoPT formats are being updated to make the analyte codes consistent with LAMS and the WET and Radchem tables are planned for updates. PT Provider Accreditor reports showed three analytes with high failure rates; PTPEC will request data from the PT Providers for further study (total phosphorus, TDS and TSS). The joint PTPEC/NEFAP Evaluation SOP 7-101 is still in development.

NELAP Accreditation Council, Aaren Alger – ¼ day

The meeting consisted mostly of updates for the audience. The 2016 ELS Standard has been adopted, with an implementation date to be set once all guidance documents are approved. The formerly normal “2 years in the future” implementation date will likely be shorter this time, as the states adopting “by reference” will only need time to update their databases and checklists. The evaluations are proceeding satisfactorily. The AC is collecting information about requirements in state regulations that could be in the standard, instead, and Jerry noted that he is looking at all 50 states’ rules and will consider whether additional items belong in the standard, as well.

Laboratory Accreditation Systems Executive Committee, Judy Morgan – ¼ day plus; ½ day/AF, 1 day/MS

The Assessment Forum drew about 100 people to hear presentations about which portions of the standard can be implemented by labs in advance of formal implementation by the NELAP AC. The Mentor Session on “Oh, Crap Moments” was well attended, as well, and produced summaries that may be turned into implementation guidance documents. The LASEC meeting itself provided updates on activities over the past 6 months and explained the Standards Interpretation Request and Implementation Guidance processes. Some discussion about the 2017 revisions to ISO 17025 closed the session.

NOTE: As part of the LASEC discussion, TNI’s Board inquired about addressing “externally provided services” per §4.6 of ISO 17025, and identifying what is the lab’s *versus* the vendor’s responsibility.

Advocacy Committee, Steve Arms – ½ day

This group meets on the day after this closing meeting. They will have a panel discussion about whether accreditation improves data quality and how we could quantify such improvement; it may be possible to establish some “baseline” values in California prior to their full implementation of the 2016 standard.

Conference Planning, Jerry Parr

The Milwaukee conference will be the same format as usual, with the TNI Annual Meeting on Monday morning and 3 concurrent sessions for the 5 half-days following, and training on Thursday. Quality Systems requested 2 separate half days rather than one full day, and asked that the QS sessions not conflict with the NELAP AC.

Training Update

Jerry is proceeding with training on the 2016 Standard, and asks PT, QS, Micro and Chemistry (possibly double) to have the committee chair and members to do the training, with one every 3 weeks beginning in late August. These should be 2-hour sessions each, and possibly the Chemistry training could include the 2 guidance documents within the double session. These would likely be webinars, recorded for use as webcasts afterwards.

Update training for state and third-party assessors will be left to the states, with a full revamp of the basic assessor course to be undertaken in 2019. Marlene Moore noted that she plans microbiology assessor training in December 2018.

Attachment 4 PROGRAM REPORTS

CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

- The Asbestos Expert Committee is continuing to make excellent progress in drafting a revised V1M3. It is anticipated a Voting Draft Standard will be presented within the next 3 months.
- The PT Expert Committee has received feedback from LASEC and the NELAP Accreditation Council on its PTRL guidance document. The 4 comments received were discussed during the committee's September conference call. Clarification will be requested from LASEC on one of the comments, and it is then anticipated the committee will vote on a revised guidance document during its October conference call.
- The Laboratory Accreditation Body Committee reviewed a number of proposed changes with participants in the public committee session in New Orleans, primarily for language from the ISO 17011:2005 that got omitted (and some of it replaced with different wording) in ISO 17011:2017, and to consider whether former 2003 NELAC Chapter 6 requirements that were dropped for the 2009 TNI Standard need to be addressed (re-inserted) into the current revision. The committee still needs to consider whether all SIRs have been considered for inclusion and whether/how to address historical "parking lot" issues, and then LAB will be ready to publish an outline of proposed changes for comment from TNI members.
- Elizabeth West of LDEQ ably led the WET committee session in New Orleans through a discussion of its consensus language to address the chemistry QA requirements as well as discussion of how to write the requirements for IDOC/CDOC processes in a way that does not inhibit the use of "work cells" where not every individual is trained to perform every function at the point when that individual can begin contributing to the lab's workload. Further consideration of the DOC requirements will continue in committee teleconferences. Despite our hopes, the committee representatives were unable to have any further discussions with either ELAB or EPA representatives about the WET PT issues at conference, but a number of informal interactions have occurred and a possible way forward is emerging, thanks to the ELAB Past Chair's characterization of the two different stances as PT samples (all run at same conditions) and Quality Control Samples (run per the NPDES permit specifications).
- The Microbiology committee is continuing to discuss Method Code issues and will take the input received during NOLA under consideration during its September meeting. The Committee is continuing work on the review of Technical Manager requirements as requested by the Quality Systems Expert Committee.
- The Radiochemistry Committee is ready to start presenting the recommended calculation updates for FoPT to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. An email has been sent to Carl Kircher for review. The committee is starting to plan for the winter meeting training.
- The Quality Systems committee is still waiting for the guidance documents from the Chemistry and PT Expert Committees to finalize the Small Laboratory Handbook. The Committee has moved the 2016 Standard into the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017 format. They have done an initial review of the language placement. They are now reviewing completed SIRs to see where additional work is needed to language to make sure the Standard requirements are clear.

NEFAP Executive Committee

- The committee will continue to focus on Marketing/Strategic Planning over the next few meetings. The Marketing/Strategic Planning committee will now be led by Justin Brown and will begin meeting regularly starting in September.

- The committee has delayed the review of the Field Activities Expert Committee (FAC) DRAFT Scope Guidance Document. It will be starting this month.
- The committee received a complaint about FSMO assessment frequency. The Complaint Subcommittee has started working on this issue. An update will be provided at the September meeting.

Field Activities Expert Committee (FAC)

- The Committee will be considering the input received during the Special ISO/IEC 17025:2017 meeting during NOLA.
- The Committee has formed a subcommittee to work on converting the current standard language into the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard format. They have received the first example from Marlene that will be reviewed by the Committee this month to determine how to move forward with other re-formatted sections. Chapter 4.
- The FSMO Tools Subcommittee will likely not meet until the completion of the new Standard or if there are any additional tasks determined by the NEFAP Marketing/Strategy Subcommittee.
- The Field Activities task force has started meeting. Paul Bergeron has been chosen as Chair and Nick Nigro from Pace Laboratories has been chosen as Vice-Chair. The group has been reviewing past presentations and documents to bring everyone up to date and has started reviewing Standard language related to this task.

NELAP

Accreditation Council

- Council members are reviewing the two revised Chemistry guidance documents and will provide comments for a final revision in early October. Concurrent reviews by Policy Committee and LASEC are taking place, as well. We anticipate that one revision will be needed before approval and acceptance, at which time an implementation date can be established for the 2016 NELAP Standard. Florida's rulemaking to adopt the 2016 standard has concluded and will become effective on September 26, well in advance of other NELAP ABs, but the Council intends to sustain its mutual recognition regardless of the standard being used.
- NELAP AB representatives have been given controlled copies of the 2017 revisions of both ISO 17025 and ISO 17011 so that they can meaningfully decide whether and how the 17025 revisions can be adapted for the next revision of Volume 1, and so that they will be able to better understand the soon-to-be-published outline for the upcoming revision of Volume 2 (based on ISO 17011).
- AB representatives are also preparing comments on LASEC's Lessons Learned document.
- For the current round of evaluations, fourteen letters will have been issued with eight recognition renewals approved. Six applications are in various stages of review with one renewal recommendation pending approval by the NELAP AC. The sole remaining renewal letter goes out in October of this year. The NELAP Decoupling Policy 3-102 has been approved by Policy Committee review and is provided to the Board for endorsement at the September meeting. Provided the Board has no objections, annual issuance of certificates of recognition will begin with the TNI fiscal year 2019.
- The AC Chair is compiling a composite list of individual state requirements of laboratories that are not included in the standard, to be shared with CSDEC and the expert committees later this year.

Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee (LASEC)

- The Mentor Session and Assessment Forum session in New Orleans were successful with full rooms of participants. Planning for sessions in January is beginning.
- LASEC's comments were combined with those from the NELAP AC and submitted to the PT Expert Committee. A minor revision should be fairly quick for the PTEC to complete. LASEC is also reviewing the Chemistry Guidance documents, with specific assignments made to individual committee members. This committee's review will include lab and "other" stakeholders, as well as ABs, and should complement the NELAP AC's review.
- LASEC awaits the NELAP AC's comments on the Lessons Learned document, and once those are available to combine with CSDEC's comments, this document will be provided to the Board with LASEC's recommendations, if any.
- LASEC's Conflict of Interest SOP 3-113 has been approved by Policy Committee and is provided to the Board for its endorsement.
- Discussions about how the 2017 revisions of ISO 17025 might be shaped continue in LASEC with no clear consensus yet.

PROFICIENCY TESTING

- Dispute procedures were discussed during the NOLA meeting and the Committee is recommending that current language in the Combined Evaluation Procedure SOP be changed to make it clear that the Recognition Committee is making the decision on the recognition of an AB. The Executive Committee prepares and distributes the certificate and does not vote to accept the Recognition Committee decision. This will be further discussed during the September meeting and an update will be provided to the Policy Committee in writing. This may impact the new TNI organization chart and related documents.

ADMINISTRATION

Advocacy

- The Advocacy Committee is reviewing highlights from the New Orleans meeting to identify any issues that Advocacy may need to help address.
- Articles and authors have been identified for the next newsletter which will be published around November 1. Steve Arms is the editor.
- The committee is assisting Jerry Parr with identifying and reviewing potential sites for the 2020 winter meeting. There were issues with dates and space in the initial proposal received from Sacramento, CA. Jerry will seek additional proposals from the western U.S.

Policy Committee

- Policy Committee provided input to Jerry about a potential personal data privacy policy for TNI, and how that might be crafted to work with the IT Committee's online registration and abstract submission needs while allowing TNI to provide our supporting vendors with access to conference participants. Policy is awaiting a briefing on the internal audit database and its use by individual committees as they implement the annual internal audits required by the TNI Quality Management Plan, this fall.
- Policy has completed all of its five-year reviews. Other committees are asked to do the same, and those that procrastinate will need to undertake those reviews as corrective actions, after the internal audits. The final two documents of this series are provided for Board endorsement today.

- In addition, the NELAP “Decoupling” POL 3-102 and the LASEC COI SOP 3-113 are provided in the event that the Board wishes to review them.

Training

- A number of new training courses are being worked on:
 - Changes to the TNI Standard – 4 courses (PT, Quality Systems, Microbiology, Chemistry). The course is being taught by the various expert committees. Registration is open and to date 89 individuals and 15 groups have signed up for the full series of 4 courses and 100 additional registrations have been received for individual classes. The first class will take place this Thursday (PT).
 - Sample Collection (Silky Labie – A final date for the course is still forthcoming based on a trip to Florida to help with the recording of this training.)
 - Good Laboratory Practice – Internal Audits (Matt Sica) This is a self-paced course that gives a great overview on internal audits and provides examples on how to organize an internal audit program. There was a hold-up with their recording, but it appears it is just about complete. The flyer was delayed to not overlap with new Standard Class. The flyer will be going out this week to start this course.
 - There was a full day Radiochemistry course offered in NOLA - Understanding Radiochemistry Testing and the TNI 2016 Standard – ASTM D7283 and EPA 906.0 (Liquid Scintillation Counting). There were 24 students present. The committee has started work on the next installment (Part 3 of 5) of the Radiochemistry training for the Winter Meeting.
 - Marlene will be doing a Microbiology Assessor training December 3, 5 and 6th. We need a minimum of 10 students to sign-up by mid-November for this course to happen. It will also be recorded for a Webcast.

NGAB

- An updated application from IAS was received this week. Initial review will be completed this week and an evaluation team will be selected to begin work on this application.

Milwaukee Meeting

- The preliminary schedule for this meeting has been reviewed by the committee chairs and should be posted in the next few weeks.
- Exhibit registration will open around September 24 and attendee registration around October 3.

NEMC

- Steering committee members reviewed feedback from attendees and presenters at the New Orleans NEMC sessions.
- The due date for abstracts for the 2019 meeting was set for January 29, 2019.
- Trinity O’Neal and Curtis Wood are new members of the steering committee. Anand Mudambi is taking Lara Phelps’ place as chair. Lara will remain on the committee.

Active Members: 1065

- There were 2 new committee applications received. One application for the PT Expert Committee and one for the Chemistry Expert Committee.