

# TNI Board of Directors Meeting Summary

## October 14, 2020

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### 1. Roll Call

Directors	Present	Staff	Present
Jordan Adelson	X	Lynn Bradley	X
Aaren Alger		Carol Batterton	X
Steve Arms		Jerry Parr	X
Justin Brown		Suzanne Rachmaninoff	X
Kristin Brown	X	Ilona Taunton	X
David Caldwell	X	Janice Wlodarski	X
Stacie Crandall		Bob Wyeth	X
Bob Di Rienzo			
Jack Farrell	X		
Maria Friedman	X		
Myron Gunsalus	X		
Paul Junio	X		
Judy Morgan			
Patsy Root	X		
Debbie Rosano	X		
Scott Siders	X		
Nick Slawson	X		
Alfredo Sotomayor	X		
Dave Speis	X		
Lem Walker	X		
Curtis Wood	X		
<b>Past Chair</b>			
Sharon Mertens	X		

### 2. Approval of September 2020 Minutes

**Motion to Approve:** Paul Junio  
**Second:** Patsy Root  
**Abstentions:** Dave Speis, Debbie Rosano  
**Approved:** Approved

### 3. White Paper on the Value of Accreditation

Based on the Board's comments from the September meeting, this document has been revised. It was provided separately.

The main changes that were made have to do with "data we can trust" or "data we can rely on". When we get to page 5, under conclusion, it says "rely on". Change it to "rely on"? Yes. Other editorial changes were addressed during this call.

Should we start with a question (The Title)? A statement will be more appropriate since we've answered the question now. This is a carry over from the process and will be changed.

Have your lead (Does Laboratory Accreditation Make a Difference?) be in the affirmative, then begin the discussion with the question. We want to draw people in. New title: Laboratory Accreditation Makes a Difference. Subtitle: "Data You Can Rely On". The board was uneasy with the word "Trust" so Rely seems to be a better word.

**Motion to Approve the White Paper with necessary editorial changes:** Jack Farrell

**Second:** Dave Speis

**Approved:** Unanimous

*Next steps:* Editorial changes, post to website, article in newsletter

#### 4. Winter Forum – Virtual Meeting (Attachment 1)

The Advocacy Committee is now recommending we go forward with a Virtual Meeting only from January 25-29, 2021. Very few committee members indicated they could attend an in-person winter conference.

Using WebEx, there would be two virtual sessions for both morning and afternoon, except for the Monday morning Annual Meeting and the Plenary session about Board Initiatives. These would start at 9am CST and end at 4pm CST, with a networking session from 4pm-5pm. Each session would have one committee meeting with committee members as panelists (able to speak) and one general interest meeting with only presenters being audible. Both types of sessions would allow for Q&A using the keyboard entry and chat functions, and all sessions would be recorded and available for viewing until April 1, 2021. Attachment 1 is a draft of the Conference at a Glance and a list of the special sessions.

Does the board concur with this being a virtual meeting? Yes.

*Comments/Suggestions:*

It would be good to spread it out over a week. Another way to do it is to meet maybe two days a week or something configuration like that.

Re: the Annual meeting – We may not need to do this in a session, but could do it as an add on, as in “this is what we’ve done”. A virtual session would be boring. We do have a requirement to provide the information, but we don’t have to do it in person or verbally. Perhaps we condense the report - hit the highlights, use animation – something that achieves the requirement to do it and gets the information across, but is a lot more engaging than what we’ve done in the past. Maybe a summary document and a full document on the website.

What about doing it as a webcast beforehand and post it in the portal as part of what is going on? Does that satisfy the requirements? Does it satisfy what you want to do? What about the idea of a hybrid. Short presentation, then more details in a full document. It’s about letting people know how our organization is doing, but it doesn’t have to be long and boring or in person.

We want to communicate in a way that makes people who are not members say “wow, they do good stuff, and I want to be part of that.” Also, we’re a virtual organization that has been able to just plow ahead and continue working and meeting, which other organizations may not have been able to do. We should focus less on what we’ve done, and focus more on what we’re going to do – future plans. Pull people in to want to join with us.

Two things have to be addressed: 1) the requirement to have an annual meeting, and 2) the requirement that accomplishments and plans for the future become the action plan for the future year. “What we’re going to do for you in the next year” is a big deal.

Streamline the presentation. Have just two speakers that present the entire report.

This is the first session of the conference. We want to energize whoever is there about what is going on in the conference and want someone hitting the highlights of what we’re working on that is interesting.

We always make a plea for members, especially for the expert committees. We don't want to lose this.

Let's tweak the schedule a little, work on the Monday session a little bit. We can have a small team of people look at and refine the initial session of the week.

1. Make it virtual.
2. Work out some of the schedule so its connected topically, while taking into consideration that someone may not be able to take an entire day for the topic.
3. We want to open up registration in November.

## **5. Benefits and Disadvantages of ANSI Accreditation (Attachment 2)**

During the August Board call, the TNI Executive Director was asked to summarize the benefits and disadvantages on our ANSI accreditation. See Attachment 2.

There is a possible financial disadvantage – we will have to have another full audit at our expense – approximately \$6k - \$8k? They'll want another audit. A full audit is good for 5 years (need to check this).

Question to answer: What advantages has ANSI brought us? Can we do the same job – are there people in our organization that can do a really good assessment for us?

Jerry will reach out to the ABs and the EPA and see how valuable they think ANSI is.

Should we reach out to PACE, Eurofins, TestAmerica, etc. and see if they think it gives us any credibility or MORE credibility? This is not a good idea. It is not a good idea to poll other organizations/people, that we serve, about whether they think this is a good idea or not. It's not about them, it's about us as an organization.

This doesn't have to be resolved until next February/March. Table this topic until another time. This has been a good discussion.

## **6. Program Reports (Attachment 3)**

**Attachment 1: Conference at a Glance  
 2021 VIRTUAL FORUM  
 January 25-29, 2021**

Time	Monday: 1/25	Tuesday: 1/26	Wednesday: 1/27	Thursday: 1/28	Friday 1/29
9 AM-12 PM	9:00 TNI Annual Meeting 10:30 New TNI Initiatives Competency Consumables Mentor Training	- Quality Systems - Operating a Laboratory During a Pandemic	- Chemistry - Value of Accreditation	- LASEC/NELAP AC - Wastewater Epidemiology and COVID-19	- Advocacy - Success Stories with Remote Assessments
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
12:30 – 1:00	- Vendor technical talk	- Vendor technical talk	- Vendor technical talk	- Vendor technical talk	- Vendor technical talk
1-4 PM	- Joint meeting on WET PT issues / Asbestos - Assessment Forum: Accreditation Issues with Emerging Contaminants	- Mentor Session: LOD/LOQ, Calibration, PT - FAC/NEFAP	- LAB - TNI's Change to QMS	- PTPEC/PT - How TNI Accreditation Improved my Laboratory	- Vendor 15-minute technical talks
4-5	Networking Session	Networking Session	Networking Session	Networking Session	

**SUMMARY OF SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Assessment Forum: Accreditation Issues with Emerging Contaminants**

Chairs: Judy Morgan and Janice Willey

Issues encountered with seeking accreditation, performing assessments, etc. for new contaminants such as PFAS

**Value of Accreditation**

Chair: Steve Arms

9-10 TNI Efforts on the Value of Accreditation

10:30 -12 6 speakers give 15-minute talks expanding on one of these topics:

- The processes leading to the result can be reconstructed because there is sufficient documentation for the sample, calibration, QC results, and SOP s used,
- The reference materials, reference standards, and reagents are all traceable,
- Competency of analysts is demonstrated by training records, PT results, and Demonstration of Capability results,
- Samples are handled correctly and can be traced from receipt to reported result,
- Quality control results document data quality,
- The result is reported correctly and has met requirements relating to quantitation limits and data flagging.
- The requested methodology was followed in generating the data.

## **Mentor Session**

Chairs: Dorothy Love and Michelle Wade

### **Implementing the New EPA MDL and TNI LOD/LOQ Requirements**

Presentations from Accreditation Bodies, third-party assessors and laboratories in the 2016 TNI standard that relate to implementing the new requirements for Limit of Detection and Limit of Quantitation for chemical testing.

### **Implementing the New TNI Calibration Requirements for Chemistry**

Presentations from Accreditation Bodies, third-party assessor and laboratories in the 2016 TNI standard that relate to implementing the new requirements for instrument calibration for chemical testing.

### **Effectively Managing Your PT Program**

Presentations from laboratories and PT Providers on topics such as scheduling, LOQ reporting, handling samples, Corrective Actions, etc. for proficiency testing.

## **How TNI Accreditation Improves Laboratory Data Quality and Performance**

Session Moderator: Steve Arms, Florida DOH (Retired)

Presentations from accredited laboratories and others who can share experiences on how obtaining TNI accreditation improved the performance of their laboratory.

## **TNI's Change to QMS and Other Changes to 1.3**

Chair: Jerry Parr

1:00 History and Evolution (NELAC 95, 03; ISO 97, 05, 17; TNI 09, 16)

1:30 Overview of the Change

2:30 New Language in Module 2

3:15 Other changes to Section 1.3

## **Wastewater Epidemiology and COVID-19**

Chairs: Stacie Crandall and Sharon Mertens

This session will focus on current approaches to COVID-19 analysis of wastewater samples and the application of data through wastewater epidemiology applications. Presentations will focus on the different types of methodologies used to determine presence of COVID-19 in wastewater. Data application, uses and interpretation will also be covered to give a better understanding of how wastewater epidemiology can be used as a tool across different programs and information gathering efforts.

## **Operating a Laboratory During a Pandemic**

Chair: Alfredo Sotomayor

Presentations from laboratories and laboratory vendors on their experiences dealing with COVID during 2020 on how the virus impacted laboratory operations.

## **Success Stories with Remote Assessments**

Chairs: Mitzi Miller and Michelle Wade

Due to COVID, many Accreditation Bodies have begun using remote assessments. This session will feature speakers from Accreditation Bodies, third-party assessors, and laboratories on how these remote assessments worked and whether or not they should continue to be used event if things return to normal.

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## Attachment 2 Benefits and Disadvantages of ANSI Accreditation

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### Background

The Federal Office of Management and Budget issued Circular A-119: *Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities*. This Circular is designed to encourage Federal agencies to use standards developed by consensus standards bodies in accordance with the 1995 National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act. As stated in the Circular, the standards development process must include the following attribute:

- **Openness:** The procedures or processes used are open to interested parties. Such parties are provided meaningful opportunities to participate in standards development on a non-discriminatory basis. The procedures or processes for participating in standards development and for developing the standard are transparent.
- **Balance:** The standards development process should be balanced. Specifically, there should be meaningful involvement from a broad range of parties, with no single interest dominating the decision-making.
- **Due process:** Due process shall include documented and publicly available policies and procedures, adequate notice of meetings and standards development, sufficient time to review drafts and prepare views and objections, access to views and objections of other participants, and a fair and impartial process for resolving conflicting views.
- **Appeals process:** An appeals process shall be available for the impartial handling of procedural appeals. **Consensus:** Consensus is defined as general agreement, but not necessarily unanimity. During the development of consensus, comments and objections are considered using fair, impartial, open, and transparent processes.

OMB A-119 does not require a standards development organization (SDO) to be accredited. For example, Standard Methods, one of the world's oldest SDOs is not accredited by ANSI.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) "facilitates the development of American National Standards (ANS) by accrediting the procedures of SDOs. These groups work cooperatively to develop voluntary national consensus standards. Accreditation by ANSI signifies that the procedures used by the standards body in connection with the development of American National Standards meet the Institute's essential requirements for openness, balance, consensus and due process."

In order to become accredited by ANSI, an SDO must abide by ANSI's "*Essential Requirements*," a document that specifies exactly how an SDO must meet the attributes of A-119. The ANSI *Essential Requirements* also contains many other items above and beyond what is in A-119.

### Advantages of the ANSI Accreditation

- Documented evidence of complying with OMB A-119.
- Ability to use the ANSI Logo on Standards.
- Audit every five years, and the 2019 audit revealed significant issues in document control.

### Disadvantages of the ANSI Accreditation

- \$11,000 in annual costs for the accreditation (\$55,000 over 5 years)
- \$12,000 in labor costs in providing requested documents and responding to the audit findings (once every 5 years)
- ~\$1000 in annual costs in completing forms etc.

- Trivial changes to SOPs that do not change intent.
- Bureaucratic procedures (e.g., PINS, BSR) that stall the standards development process

The ANSI website describes many other benefits such as greater market recognition, avoid antitrust problems, and foster commerce by influencing the design of products that do not appear to be benefits to TNI.

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## Attachment 3 PROGRAM REPORTS

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### CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

- TNI has submitted its final version of the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and operational SOPs in response to the ANSI audit. The revised SOPs were announced in ANSI's Standards Newsletter for a 30-day public comment period. No comments were received. The SOPs and the CAP will now be scheduled for review by the ANSI Executive Standards Council for consideration of TNI's re-accreditation. The time frame for a response from the ANSI Executive Standards Council is not known.
- The TNI Glossary work group has begun activities by preparing a comparison document of all definitions presented in TNI documents and the current glossary as completed last year. Relevant ISO standards definitions are also being included as appropriate. The work group is also collating definitions from TNI ABs to ensure consistency with State rules and regulations. The ultimate direction (i.e., guidance document, module of the standard, etc.) as to use of the glossary has yet to be determined.
- Revisions to training materials for committee chairs and committee members has commenced and a preliminary draft is being prepared. This effort will be directed at training for all TNI committee in addition to the expert committees and is scheduled to be ready for implementation by early 2021.
- Revisions to the Internal Audit checklists for the CSDEC and the Expert Committees, based upon revisions to SOP 2-100, 2-010 and 1-125, near completion.
- Committee chairs have also been requested to review their committee rosters and determine the potential need for new members in 2021 which will be advertised in the TNI Newsletter for solicitation of committee candidates. Committee chairs will be asked to make attempts to bring expert committee to the full complement of 15 voting members.
- The **Chemistry** committee has responded to LASEC concerning SIR 387 and has been advised of a potential for 2 new additional SIRs. The committee has also begun initial efforts regarding modifications to Module 4, specifically as relates to Initial and Continuing Demonstration of Capabilities for the laboratory and individual analysts. The committee is also addressing its future leadership as the current chair is rotating off the committee and the current vice-chair has indicated that he will be unavailable to assume the role of chair. Volunteers and nominations are being solicited and accepted for consideration and ultimate committee approval.
- The **Proficiency Testing** expert committee continues to develop a work plan focusing on needed changes to Module 1, including review of ISO 17011, 17025 and 17034 for consistency with the TNI standard. The committee continued discussion of the Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing committees' issue with the efficacy of the current PT program and the planning of a joint PTEC/PTPEC and WET committee meeting during the Winter TNI meeting. The PTEC is attempting to expand its membership to a full 15 voting member group. The underrepresented "Other" and "AB" stakeholder groups create balance issues when trying to fill committee positions.
- The **Asbestos** expert committee is in the process of developing their summary document. Upon committee approval of this summary, the Draft Standard and the Summary will be posted and announced consistent with Rev. 3.2 of SOP 2-100. This announcement will be directed to all relevant TNI committee chair as well as the non-TNI interested parties.
- The **Laboratory Accreditation Body** Committee has addressed the recommendations of the Field Activities Task Force, as requested by the TNI Board. Some of the recommendations were included



in V2M1 but a few were deemed inappropriate, as the FSMO Standard is still in operation. In particular, including required ways to handle mobile lab accreditations would definitely bring veto votes from some NELAP states, as each state has its own procedures for accrediting mobile labs – some as part of the fixed base “parent” lab, others as separate entities. LAB did request that Quality Systems Expert Committee review the FATF recommendations, and received a response that all items relevant to V1M2 were already included in the 2017 version of ISO 17025. Committee members have been requested to review the working draft and be prepared to vote on its approval at the October meeting.

- The **WET committee** members continue working on the various issues underway while the Chair and AB representatives are focusing on attaining closure about an acceptable process for analyst initial demonstrations of competency.
- The **Radiochemistry** Committee is continuing to review the public webinar feedback and recommended changes to their module. They should complete this review in October and possibly have a Draft Standard by the end of the year.
- The **Microbiology** Committee finalized their Summary of Changes document and are finalizing a date for their public webinar. The Chair took a new position and moved across the country, so a date was on hold. The Committee is now ready to pick a date and prepare the presentation. It should happen early November.
- The **Quality Systems** did their public webinar to receive more input on the needed changes/additions to the Module 2 Standard. Attendance at this webinar was 201 and great feedback was obtained. The Committee has also been receiving quite a bit of written feedback too. The Committee has set a goal to have a DRAFT Standard to present at the winter meeting so they can hit a target of August 2021 for an approved CSDP Module 2 Standard. The Committee is requesting an update from DoD to confirm this timing will make the Standard useable for the update they are working on.
- The **SSAS** Committee is continuing work on their SOPs to define how they will be able to provide audit samples at other concentrations. An update to SOP 6-101 (SSAS Table Management) is still being worked on. The Committee is continuing to meet more frequently to try to finish up their last SOP and the Standard updates in hopes that these changes to the program will encourage another audit sample provider to apply.

## NEFAP

### NEFAP Executive Committee

- The two workgroups formed to begin addressing the training and marketing plans have continued to meet. They have been working on plans for submission to the TNI Board.
  - The marketing group has developed a plan for the NEFAP EC which will be reviewed for finalization on Tuesday, 10/12/20.
  - Justin has been working with the Committee to fine tune metrics for submission to the TNI Board and should have most of this done during the 10/12/20 meeting.
  - The training workgroup has not been able to finalize its report due because they are still trying to take all the data they received and turn it into a cohesive report. The recent hurricane in Louisiana also caused some timing issues.
- The Nominating Committee (Chair – Geneva Bowman from AIHA) is continuing to make progress and a slate of candidates is expected later in October.

- The Committee is continuing to delay the discussion regarding accreditation options for FSMO's until the Scope Guidance Document is complete.: An interesting discussion was started in Milwaukee when someone asked if they could add an FSMO accreditation to their NELAP accreditation. This could work currently for an NGAB accrediting to the TNI Environmental Standard. This thought was incorporated into the TNI Strategic Plan recommendation as looking at ways to work with NELAP.
- The Committee is working on SOPs and updating its internal audit checklist.

### **Field Activities Expert Committee (FAC)**

- The Committee has started meeting again and is continuing work on the DRAFT FSMO Standard that was developed by combining the 2014 Standard with the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The Committee is focused on preparing a Summary of Changes document in order hold public webinar in January.

## **NELAP**

### **Accreditation Council**

- The first remote site visit (New York) for an AB renewal of recognition was completed and report preparation is underway. Four additional applications are in various stages of review and another renewal letter will go out this month.
- Christine Sotelo discussed several issues with the Council, about the use and availability of checklists and also California's recognition of accreditations granted by other ABs including NELAP. AB representatives were able to clarify the distinction between NELAP accreditation and accreditation by a TNI-recognized (non-governmental) AB, even though both use the same TNI Environmental Lab Sector Standard, and also to explain that other accreditation programs such as AIHA and NVLAP (which were formerly accepted by California, apparently) are not "less" than NELAP but rather they have different processes and use different customized versions of ISO/IEC 17025. Kristin will reach out to California again about the option of regular participation in NELAP meetings as a way to learn the underlying details and processes of the program.
- The Council approved Policy Committee's recommended edits to the revised Standards Review and Acceptance SOP 3-103 and will be shortly returning that document to Policy for final approval and transmission to the Board for endorsement.
- The implementation status of all NELAP ABs is unchanged from the March Board meeting, and thus the table will not be displayed until changes occur, as discussed at the April Board meeting.

### **Laboratory Accreditation Systems Executive Committee**

- LASEC began planning for the Mentor Session and Assessment Forum sessions at the winter meeting, and finalized more details of the SIR Management SOP 3-105, and the final draft will be presented for approval at the October meeting.
- Standard Interpretation Update

<b>Total</b>	<b>Closed Out</b>	<b>LASEC Review</b>	<b>NELAP AC Voting</b>	<b>Expert Committee</b>
384	372	2	9	1

## PROFICIENCY TESTING

- The Committee is still working on the PCB Analyte Request Application (ARA) and plans to distribute a survey to gather information about NELAP and non-NELAP PT requirements. Shawn is also planning to propose new footnote language to the table: For a laboratory to pass a proficiency test sample for Aroclors/PCBs, all Aroclor/PCB analytes for which the laboratory is accredited shall be reported and there shall be no “not acceptable” evaluations for any individually reported Aroclor/PCB.
- ANAB and A2LA gave their annual PTPA reports to the Committee in September. The Committee reviewed analytes with failure rates above 10% and will discuss the need to further review these PT limits. They also found that there were no appreciable changes in failure rates moving from the 2009 TNI Standard to the 2016 Standard.
- Shawn has been approached with the possibility of PFAS SDWA PTs and Air PTs. The Committee will wait to see if an ARA is submitted.
- The PT SOP Subcommittee is continuing work on their FoPT limit setting SOP (4-101).
- The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee discussed the possibility of developing Radiochemistry FoPTs for NPW. After much discussion and review of current needs, they have recommended that these PTs not be developed at this time.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Advocacy

- The deadline for articles for the next newsletter was extended to October 15. The newsletter will go out when details for the January meeting have been finalized.
- Halley Hastings, Chair of the NEFAP Marketing Task Force, joined the meeting to provide an update on NEFAP's marketing plans and to get feedback from the committee. The Task Force is working to find the best way to market NEFAP as a non-regulatory program. The Advocacy committee offered suggestions about social media and making better use of the TNI website.
- The Mentoring Subcommittee continued discussion on developing the overall structure of the program and the mentoring process. The Mentoring Expectations document was edited and the draft web page to announce the program will be reviewed at the next meeting.

### Policy Committee

- The Committee started review of NEFAP SOP 5-104 (TNI NEFAP Complaint, Recognition Reconsideration and Dispute Resolution Procedures) and decided to take a look at all of TNI's complaint, appeal, and dispute procedures to ensure some consistency between programs. All procedures were reviewed, and Policy recommended some changes to SOP 5-104 that the NEFAP EC will review in November. The Committee only met once in September.

### Training

- Training Committee:
  - The Committee had to post-pone their October meeting due to the hurricane in Louisiana.
  - The Policy Committee updates to the Charter were accepted and Calista is cleaning up edits for a resubmission to the Policy Committee.
  - The Committee brainstormed ideas for Field related training.

- The Committee is beginning to form workgroups to start working on the priorities in the Charter.
- Current Classes being worked on:
  - Good Laboratory Practice – Internal Audits – Part II (ANAB) – Ilona met with ANAB for an update. They will be making the requested updates to this class and then it will be available as a self-paced course.
  - Ilona also met with ANAB to discuss a new course: Risk Based Thinking in the Environmental Laboratory. This course should be ready early January.
  - Marlene and Ilona are still discussing evaluator training for the NEFAP/PTP Evaluations.
  - Scott Siders will be offering a course on October 22: Lowering the Cost of Poor Quality (CoPQ) with an Effective Quality Management System and Integrating Risk Management Principles.
  - Jerry is working with Judy Morgan on a course based on a presentation they did during NEMC: History of Environmental Monitoring. This course is being offered on December 4, 2020.
  - Silky is working on an update to her 2009 Standard Implementation class: Implementing the 2016 TNI Standard. This course is a 4 part series will be offered on 10/27, 11/3, 11/10 and 11/24/20.
  - Jerry is working on a class: Theoretical and Practical Consideration for Establishing Sensitivity of Measurements. This class will be offered on October 30, 2020.
  - Jerry is also doing a Free to TNI members class to review the tools available to implement the TNI Standard: Tools and Resources for Implementing the 2016 TNI Standard. This class is being offered this Friday, October 16, 2020.
- Marlene completed the Basic Assessor class this month using Webex Training. This is a new program TNI now has access to that has great features for training classes.

## National Environmental Monitoring Conference

- Planning for the 2021 Symposium is well underway. Registration for the exhibit program will open in November along with the Call for Abstracts.

## NGAB

- IAS Evaluation: Working on updating procedures to accommodate virtual observations.

## MEMBERSHIP

- Active Members: 1070
- New and Renewed Memberships: 46
- Expired Memberships: 5
- Committee application received in September: 2, for WET

## TASK FORCES AND OTHER GROUPS

### Competency Task Force

- At its September meeting, the group affirmed its August work on generic assessment competencies and completed review of the categories that are expected to be included in assessor training. Next, the group consider professional and foundational competencies to evaluate whether any of those items should be included in training, but most if not all are probably best evaluated during the

interview and probationary employment phases of an assessor's career. The next step will be to define what should be included in the technical training portion (assessing the PT and QS modules of Volume 1 plus assessing to the analysis-specific modules) and technical module training (specific technologies and methods used in Modules 3-7), that will accompany the assessor competencies already identified.

### **Consumables Task Force**

- The Task Force is continuing in the process of listing and classifying critical products, supplies and services. This information collection effort is utilizing a previously approved spreadsheet for this purpose. Inputs from all Task Force members are being received and collated by the Task Force Chair. The approach currently being pursued is to segment these efforts into smaller individual tasks, the first of which is general supplies and products needed in laboratories of all types.

### **Environmental Monitoring Coalition (EMC)**

- The EMC met with Dan Hautman to discuss topics related to drinking water including IDOC requirements, adoption of recently approved methods, and ICPMS reaction/collision cell technology for drinking water. Dan indicated that he would like for the drinking water program to continue collaboration with EMC.
- The study plan prepared by David Friedman on acrolein and acrylonitrile preservation and pH has been forwarded to EPA.
- Jerry reviewed the revised white paper on the values of accreditation with the EMC and asked for feedback.

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