

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
March 7, 2024 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Arms welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent, and the minutes were unanimously approved with one amendment, to identify someone to write the “what to do in Orange County” article, after a motion by Robin, seconded by Stacie.

2. Updates

State of National Accreditation Report – Jerry has reached out to John Griggs to set a time to discuss TNI’s activities, and will soon send the report to non-NELAP ABs and our association partners (APHL, WEF, AWWA, etc.)

Ambassadors – several new Ambassador candidates volunteered at conference in Columbus. Ashley Larsen will replace Aurora for Missouri, and two different individuals from Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District offered to be Ambassadors to Ohio. Steve will contact each of these individuals and see which of the Ohio volunteers would be best. Participants recommended that an invitation for new Ambassadors be announced at each future conference, and that a recruitment article be included in each newsletter. Later in the meeting, Paul offered to include that in his future committee member recruitment articles.

Technology Workgroups in two different programs – the PTPEC workgroup will retain the name, with a goal of removing quality system requirements from internal audits and training, recognizing that the definition and use of the term, technology, also impacts the Technical Specialist qualifications. The CSDP workgroup has been renamed as Analytical Disciplines. It is too early, now, but a future newsletter article should address these two groups and their efforts as well as eventual outcomes.

Summer NEMC Conference – Jerry indicated that the schedule is basically set, with a TNI Plenary session on Thursday afternoon for the committees that do not have high attendance or necessary business to do at conference. Advocacy, Training, Credentials, LASEC and the Accreditation Council will each have a half hour during this session. Jerry then discussed his tentative plans for an all-day session on Friday devoted to California issues, with a block devoted to assessor consistency. Participants suggested that assessor consistency is not only a California issue, and that perhaps the Assessment Forum would allow greater coverage of the topic, while conference attendees from all states are present. It seems that new assessors, including those employed by NGABs, are repeating many of the problems that were initially encountered (and mostly overcome) when NELAP was new.

Also, Lily offered to set up a lab tour, and Jerry will contact her separately to discuss that possibility further.

3. Spring Newsletter Articles and Authors

Steve will be the editor for the spring issue. Articles will be due April 15 for publication in mid-May. This date is too late for the Call for Papers for the NEFAP Conclave, so that article will shift to publicity, instead, and publication dates were moved to a bit earlier than previously discussed. Final articles decided upon are below.

Article Topic	Proposed Author	Author Contact Info
Revamping the training webpage and course descriptors	Elizabeth Turner	elizabeth.turner@et.eurofinsUS.com
Announcement and teaser for NEFAP Sampling Conclave	Ilona Taunton	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org
Credentialing update	Jerry/Ken/Lynn	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org Kbrown@escondido.org Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org
Summary of winter Forum	Jerry Parr	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Summer conference	Jerry Parr (ghosting for Lara)	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Article recruiting Ambassadors	Sharon Mertens <i>Retain as tentative until discussion with Paul about including in recruitment article</i>	smertens@mmsd.com
Member spotlight – September Scheldrup	Stephanie Drier	Stephanie.Drier@state.mn.us
Alfredo's article	Alfredo Sotomayor	Asotomayor@mmsd.com
What to do in Garden Grove	Ryan McMullin	rmcmullin@ocsan.gov
Committee openings/vacancies (<i>plus Ambassador recruitment?</i>)	Paul Junio	Paul.junio@pacelabs.com
Article on EPA regulations and PFAS tentative/maybe	Jerry Parr <i>Only if new regulation/methods are published (unlikely)</i>	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Robert's Rules of Order for TNI	Patsy Root	Patsy-Root@idexx.com
New FSMO standard	Katie Strothman	katie@sanderslabs.net
New lab standards	Paul Junio	Paul.junio@pacelabs.com

4. New Business

As time was expired, Jerry requested feedback and comments on the response to APHL's concerns and the draft revisions made to the "Bad Data" white paper and the expanded format for the case studies. Please provide comments directly to Jerry no later than March 22.

5. Next Meeting

The next Advocacy Committee teleconference is scheduled for **Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 1 pm Eastern.** An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

The Ambassadors meeting, tentatively scheduled for April 9, will need to be rescheduled due to Steve's availability. An announcement will be made once that decision is reached.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Present
3.	Mike Delaney	Other	Present
4.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
5.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
6.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
7.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
8.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
9.	William Lipps	Other	Absent
	Associate Members		
	Judy Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Ian McBride	Lab	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Aurora Shields	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Present