

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
April 6, 2023 1 pm Eastern

1. Call to Order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Eastern, Thursday, April 6, 2023.
Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of Minutes

In the absence of a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, Steve asked for a motion to approve the March 2 minutes when the necessary number of voting members arrived, later in the meeting. One correction was noted, that the date of the meeting was incorrect; with that revision, William moved and Josh seconded that the minutes be approved, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

3. Update on the Spring Newsletter

Marlene reported that some articles are already submitted, and that she will remind other authors of the deadline. After a brief conversation, participants suggested that a sidebar piece be added to ask that TNI members look for ways to mention TNI, its mission, and its activities in any presentations they might give in the future. This fits with the Outreach Plan (see later in these minutes) and Jerry offered to prepare two slides for use by any who wish to include them.

3. Draft of Outreach Plan

This draft plan and an accompanying draft Implementation Plan were offered at the March meeting, with a request from Jerry to get Advocacy's endorsement of it so that he can present it to the Board's May meeting. There were no further additions offered to the plan so Sharon moved and William seconded that both the Outreach Plan and its Implementation Plan be approved; the vote was unanimously in favor.

4. Comments on Ohio Draft Proposed Rule

In a March 3 email, Ohio EPA announced a public meeting about its draft proposed rule to recognize accredited labs in its Voluntary Action Program Lab Certification rules package. The proposed rule provided with this email contained the same erroneous references to TNI accreditation and to NELAC instead of NELAP that TNI previously commented upon. Jerry will re-send the correct information and provide that submission as a regulatory comment for Board endorsement at the April Board meeting. Additionally, Jerry will seek to meet with the Ohio EPA staff involved with this rulemaking either when he makes the site visit for the winter meeting in Columbus or else in January around the time of the winter conference.

5. Updated PT Position Statement POS 1205

Stacie provided an updated version of the 2016 initial document, as approved by the PT Program Executive Committee, for Advocacy approval. Participants requested deletion of a bullet from the original document that had updated information repeated in a new bullet, and requested more explicit citation references for the different volumes of both of the TNI Standards (NELAP and FSMO). Jerry returned these comments to Stacie for PTPEC's consideration.

6. Updating the State of National Accreditation Report

Lynn has requested updates from all of the TNI programs, due at the end of April, and asked whether there are additional TNI activities that should be included; a reminder was sent after this meeting with participants' recommendation that the updates focus on how TNI's activities encourage expansion towards a true national program and how TNI's activities support that expansion, rather than just "what TNI has done". The update will also need to address the expanding training offerings, mention the Outreach Plan, and also the NEFAP conference (planned for early summer). We will also need to explain that the SSAS program is no longer operational. The status of California (using the TNI Standard) and recent interest in possibly joining NELAP from Nevada and Kentucky will also be included; Jerry will provide an updated map of the states, reflecting those changes.

7. Bad Data White Paper

The presentation developed by Jerry and reviewed by Advocacy earlier this year has also been turned into a white paper, including all of the examples. Jerry prefers to get input from the TCEQ Trade Fair, later this month, when he gives that presentation, before finalizing the white paper. Participants suggested that the examples be framed as "what does accreditation require that would have likely avoided the problem", and Marlene offered to send additional examples (with complete citations) where sampling issues were the root cause of the error (reflecting things the FSMO standard could have prevented).

Participants also suggested that the title of the white paper be "Ways that A Strong Quality Management Accreditation System Safeguards against Data Concerns". Jerry will rework the white paper for either the May or June committee meeting.

8. New Business

Steve noted that he will be unavailable for the regularly scheduled May 4 meeting. Sharon, the Vice Chair, initially thought that she could be available, but since the meeting, has a potential conflict. Sharon will advise as her schedule gets firmed up, whether she can actually be available.

Steve thanked everyone for their attendance, and adjourned the meeting.

9. Next Meeting

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 1 pm Eastern**. If that date doesn't work out, Committee members will be notified and if a rescheduled date is needed, as much advance notice as possible will be given.

Attachment 1

| | Name | Stakeholder Group | Present/Absent |
|-----|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Steve Arms, Chair | Other | Present |
| 2. | Stacie Crandall | Lab | Absent |
| 3. | Zonetta English | Lab | Absent |
| 4 | Marlene Moore | Other and NEFAP | Present |
| 5. | Janice Willey | Federal | Absent |
| 6. | Trinity O'Neal | Lab | Present |
| 7. | Robin Cook | Lab | Present |
| 8. | Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair | Lab | Present |
| 9. | Teresa Coins | Lab | Absent |
| 10. | Josh Wyeth | PT provider | Present |
| 11. | William Lipps | Other | Present |
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| | Associate Members | | |
| | Kirstin Daigle | Lab | Absent |
| | Judy Morgan | TNI Ambassador | Absent |
| | JoAnn Boyd | Lab and FAC | Absent |
| | Keith Chapman | Other | Absent |
| | Erin Consuegra | Lab | Absent |
| | Celeste Crowley | Other | Absent |
| | Mike Delaney | TNI Ambassador | Present |
| | Stephanie Drier | AB | Absent |
| | Paul Junio | TNI Ambassador | Present |
| | Silky Labie | Other | Absent |
| | Ian McBride | Lab | Absent |
| | Devon Morgan | TNI Ambassador | Absent |
| | Lara Phelps | EPA (Other) | Absent |
| | Bob Pullano | TNI Ambassador | Absent |
| | Lily Sanchez | TNI Ambassador | Absent |
| | Aurora Shields | TNI Ambassador | Absent |
| | Elizabeth Turner | Lab | Absent |
| | Lee Wolf | TNI Ambassador | Absent |
| | Kathleen Young | Lab | Present |
| | | | |
| | Staff | | |
| | Jerry Parr | TNI ED | Present |
| | Lynn Bradley | TNI PA | Present |