

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
May 5, 2022 1 pm Eastern

1. Call to Order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Eastern, May 5, 2022. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of Minutes

The April 7 minutes were approved unanimously after a motion by Trinity and second by Josh.

3. Updates

Newsletter

The newsletter was published on May 4. There were no complaints about people not receiving it, this time.

Ambassadors

The Ambassadors met on April 12, but only one Ambassador attended. The summary of the meeting was distributed to committee members with the meeting agenda. Devon provided an additional update that Nevada is still looking to apply to be a NELAP AB but seems to be delayed by the retirement of its program manager and hiring of a replacement.

Participants discussed what type of information TNI could provide for Ambassadors to share with their state contacts, as a way to reach out, periodically. Suggestions were the newsletter or an article from it, or perhaps to invite committee chairs to the quarterly Ambassador meetings so that Ambassadors could learn and share the committee activities.

Mentor Initiative

After some months of no activity, a new lab has asked for a mentor, and specifically about Qualtrex software. Trinity offered to mentor this lab, as she currently uses that software. One participant recommended promoting awareness of this program's availability among NELAP assessors – both state employees and third party assessors – and perhaps a similar effort for Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMOs) is worth considering.

The Mentor SOP was never finished. What used to be the Mentor Subcommittee became a Steering Committee once the activity was established, and the SOP has languished since then. Lynn sent Jerry a marked-up draft for further use. Participants agreed that a link to the Mentor Activity webpage should be included in every newsletter, going forward.

Conference Issues

Jerry noted that he will need conference session agendas by June 20. As both Steve and Sharon will be unavailable to lead the Advocacy meeting scheduled for the last day of conference (as usual), that meeting was rescheduled to be a teleconference for the

following week, August 12 at 1 pm Eastern. This meeting will primarily be devoted to reviewing conference activities for items relevant to the committee's work, and planning for the next newsletter.

4. Review of Proposed Correspondence with Author of Article about Accreditation

Jerry distributed an article titled "Laboratory Accreditation is Not a Cloak of Infallibility" (LC/GC North America, March 2022, Volume 18, Issue 3, Pages: 30–32) along with a draft letter to the author, and asked for committee review. He also asked whether the committee advised sending the letter or some other mechanism for response. This article was not specific to environmental testing, but recommended that data users should investigate the methodology and quality control (calibration curves especially) independently rather than relying upon an accreditation certificate.

The article and draft response letter provoked a substantive discussion of the differences between testing as academic research and testing for regulatory compliance purposes, where accreditation ensures competence to meet the regulatory requirements. Participants then addressed how best to approach the journal and these authors to educate them in a way that can convey our message in a collegial tone. Jerry will contact the journal's editor about submitting an article in response before reworking the material already gathered and prepared into article form instead of correspondence, in a mostly non-technical format like the original article.

5. Five Year Reviews of SOPs and Policies

A revised draft of the Advocacy Documents SOP 1-122 with the changes recommended at the April meeting was provided for approval. Steve asked to verify that we still had a quorum present before asking for a motion to approve it, but as time was running over, there were fewer than half of the voting members remaining on the phone. This document will be presented again at the June meeting.

6. New Business

There was no new business. Steve thanked everyone for their attendance, and adjourned the meeting.

7. Next Meeting

The next teleconference meeting is June 2, 2022, at 1:00 pm Eastern. The agenda and documents will be sent in advance of the meeting.

Also, please note that the August meeting will be held on Friday, August 12, at 1 pm Eastern, and that Advocacy Committee will not meet during conference week.

Attachment 1

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