

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
November 2, 2023 1 pm Eastern

1. Call to Order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Eastern, Thursday, November 2, 2023. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of Minutes

In the absence of a quorum, minutes were not approved. The September and October minutes will be held until the December meeting.

Jerry noted that he will send a reminder to committee chairs (for forwarding to committee membership) about the responsibility for meeting attendance.

3. Newsletter Update

Jerry reported that all articles have been sent to Jan for preparation of the newsletter.

4. White Paper Review

Since the October meeting, APHL and WEF's Laboratory Practices Committee have been invited to review and comment on the revised draft of the white paper, "Having a Strong Quality Management System Prevents Faulty Results". He recommended that we delay approval of the revisions until those comments are received and addressed, in hopes that making the document more inclusive of non-TNI quality systems will bring wider acceptance of the white paper.

Jerry will now send the State of National Accreditation Report separately. It has been held for several months in hopes that this white paper could accompany it.

5. Conference Planning

No issues need Advocacy consideration at present.

6. Workplan Review

Steve noted that the high priority items appear to have been addressed. He asked that all committee members review the Workplan and be prepared to discuss it at the December meeting, so that we can provide an update to the Board in January. A separate email will be sent to committee members, asking that they consider what items are still appropriate and needed activities as well as what has been addressed satisfactorily already.

The informal conversation about Workplan items brought forward several other issues that could involve Advocacy:

- Some Florida Society of Environmental Analysts (FSEA) members have asked that their organization provide "on demand" training for laboratorians. Robin inquired whether recordings of the NEFAP Sampling Conclave would be available, and Jerry indicated that two of the talks will become "conference learnings" (webcasts from conference recordings) as will several sessions from the Minneapolis conference last August. Participants discussed possible ways of providing discounted prices for other trainings to FSEA (and possibly other regional or state laboratory groups), although TNI's prices are

already quite reasonable. Robin was investigating possibilities prior to raising the issue with FSEA's Board, so this was a tentative discussion with no decisions made.

- TNI's Ambassadors should have a presence on the TNI website. Jerry will pursue this, possibly listing the current Ambassadors and inviting additional volunteers for other states.
- Several years ago, a PT Initiative was discussed, but then the PTPEC Chair has turned over several times and nothing further arrived for Advocacy to consider. Jerry unearthed an updated PT Position Statement POS 1205, which apparently was approved by PTPEC but not sent to Advocacy. This document will be reviewed at the November meeting.
- Steve recommended trying to gather the non-NELAP state attendees at the Columbus conference, and possibly again for the summer conference in Orange County, as far more people attend the NEMC meeting.
- Given the difficulty that many committees are having in getting a quorum for scheduled meetings, is it time to reconsider our committee meeting structure? Can we do at least the administrative business items electronically?
- The work put into creating the best practices handbook, from several years ago, was never published as planned, but Jerry explained that virtually all of the material compiled has been incorporated into new training courses.

7. New Business

There were no new business items, only the topics noted above.

8. Next Meeting

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 1 pm Eastern**. An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Absent
3.	Mike Delaney	Other	Absent
4.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
5.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
6.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
7.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Absent
8.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
9.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
10.	William Lipps	Other	Absent
	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
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	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
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Present