

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
December 5, 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 (see Attachment 2). The minutes from November 7 were unanimously approved after a motion by Sharon, seconded by Mike.

2. Updates

Newsletter

The newsletter went out on November 25. Steve thanked Robin, who edited this issue, and Paul apologized that the committee membership article was not available for publication.

Jacksonville Conference

Jerry noted that registration is slow and that committee chairs will be asked to remind members to please register.

3. Request for QC Data for QC data for Methods 608.1, 624 and 625

Sharon explained that the EMS has been seeking QC data for these methods for several years now, so that recent method updates can be validated. They presently have data from four commercial labs but would like to have at least one utility lab providing data, as well. Sheela noted that she has been working on compiling data to submit, but that NEOSD has very few samples by those methods; she expects to submit their data by the end of the first quarter 2025. Jerry noted that the data will be accepted in any format.

4. Review of Draft Comments to C&EN About Cannabis Testing Labs

Jerry provided a draft of a letter to the editor of C&EN, the weekly newsletter of the American Chemical Society, about the article titled "Shopping for cannabis testing labs", published on September 9, 2024, and the related editorial, "Cannabis testing needs culture change", published on September 7, 2024. Melissa Jackson (ORELAP) provided good comments by email, but was unable to attend this meeting.

Including Melissa's comments, the major discussion points were:

- Lead with the value of a QMS that includes data integrity and ethics, as a major solution to the problem
- Expand on the two TNI Standards (NELAP and NEFAP)
- Point out that having reference labs won't solve the absence of ethical standards, and that lack was not mentioned in the article
- Explain how data integrity and ethics requirements would prevent the problems defined in the article and editorial, and that, if the labs are certified to a standard containing those requirements, any lack of conformance would be identifiable during lab assessments
- Explain the need for requiring the use of defined and validated methods, and maybe note that ASTM's cannabis community has guidance on method validation as well as many cannabis methods already validated
- Recommend some form of association of states regulating cannabis use, for information sharing

Jerry will edit the draft letter and circulate it for further comments.

5. Discuss Updated NELAP Vision and Outreach Plan

The meeting time was expired, so this topic will be postponed for a future meeting.

6. New Business

There was no new business offered.

7. Next Meeting

The next teleconference is scheduled for **Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 1 pm Eastern.** An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

The TNI Ambassadors will hold their quarterly meeting on **Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 2 pm Eastern.**

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	Absent
5.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
6.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
7.	Robin Cook	Lab	Absent
8.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
9.	William Lipps	Other	Present
	Associate Members		
	Sheela Agrawal	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Ashley Larssen	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Judy Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Other	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Present

Attachment 2 – Agenda as approved, December 5, 2024

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes (November minutes attached)
- Updates
 - Newsletter
 - Conference (if anything)
- Request for QC Data for QC data for Methods 608.1, 624 and 625
- Review of Draft Comments to C&EN About Cannabis Testing Labs (to be provided prior to the meeting)
- Discuss Updated NELAP Vision and Outreach Plan (see attached Vision and Plan documents)
- New Business, if any
- Adjourn