

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting  
January 4, 2024 1 pm Eastern

1. Call to Order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Eastern, Thursday, January 4, 2024. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of Minutes

Once a quorum was present, Sharon moved and Mike seconded that the minutes of December 7 be approved. Approval was unanimous.

3. Updates

State of National Accreditation Report – Jerry will meet with John Griggs, Chair of EPA's Environmental Measurements Forum, to further discuss this, once they settle on a mutually agreeable time.

Board election – Sharon expects to have the slate for election by January 10.

4. POS-1205

This document still awaits a redline version of the latest update, for comparison with original.

5. White Paper

The new Case Study #34 about New Orleans' water testing is still pending, as is revised language to satisfy several of TNI's partners.

6. Conference Issues

None need the committee's attention.

7. Workplan Review

Jerry clarified that the Work Plan itself need not be presented to the Board, but that the major items in it will become part of the Annual Report, to be created after the presentations of accomplishments and plans at the Annual Meeting in Columbus.

A cleaned up version of the Work Plan, with all agreed upon updates, is being distributed with these minutes.

As participants discussed Goal 4.4, several suggestions were made about ways to engage new people to become TNI members, and to then engage those members in TNI activities, particularly relating to our search for additional and replacement Ambassadors.

- Identify active members and recruit them as Ambassadors, state-by-state
- Identify people from states needing Ambassadors and work to engage those individuals so that they will be knowledgeable enough to serve as Ambassadors
- Enhance use of social media (software available on cell phones) to appeal to younger professionals
  - Include information about how to engage with state officials in the social media postings
  - LinkedIn is still working, need Instagram, TikTok and YouTube as well

- Need savvy volunteers to organize the process as well as volunteers to create short videos
  - Videos can be lab activities, TNI activities, conference activities (more than just PowerPoint slides with disembodied voices)
- Create a plan to enhance TNI's use of social media and present it to the Board – continue today's discussion in Columbus and beyond
- Clearly identify the goals of the Ambassador program:
  - Additional NELAP ABs
  - State requirement(s) for labs to be accredited
  - Incorporation of TNI Standard (or ISO 17025) into state programs
  - Other/more?

Steve indicated that the committee will resume consideration of the work plan after conference.

#### 8. New Business

There were no new business items.

#### 8. Next Meeting

The Advocacy Committee session at conference will be on Wednesday afternoon, January 24, at 1 pm Eastern.

The next Advocacy Committee teleconference is scheduled for **Thursday, February 7, 2024, at 1 pm Eastern.** An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

**Attachment 1**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>
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	Present
6.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
7.	Robin Cook	Lab	Absent
8.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
9.	William Lipps	Other	Present
	<b>Associate Members</b>		
	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	Absent
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Aurora Shields	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	<b>Staff</b>		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Present