

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
October 2, 2025 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Arms, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1 – 5 Voting members (Quorum) and 3 Associate members.

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent. There was a correction to the month for the minute review – it is September.

A motion was made by Devon to approve the September 4, 2025, with a few editorial changes. The motion was seconded by Janice and there was no further discussion. Mike Delaney abstained from the vote and the other voting members voted For. The minutes were approved for posting.

2. Boston Conference

Registration for the conference opened today – 10-2-25. Committees are now sending in agendas for their meetings.

3. 2027 Winter Conference Options

Jerry sent out requests for proposals from the hotels discussed last month and twelve proposals were received. Long Beach and Portland looked the most promising.

It was commented that for Long Beach the airports are close. There is a PFAS meeting that has been held there the last 2 or 3 years and the hotel has done an excellent job. Audio visual and food have been very good. There are lots of opportunities to walk to things.

There was a comment about the Portland hotel that the area did not feel safe during a previous conference.

There was agreement that Jerry should pursue a contract with Long Beach for the 2027 winter conference. The location will be announced in Boston.

4. Newsletter

Devon noted that he has received 4 articles at this time.

Updates:

- Jerry noted that the NEMC call for abstracts has been finalized, and he will write an article.
- Mike Delaney is sending pictures.
- Sharon has sent information on the Board election.
- Susan and Katie may have already sent something that Devon will look at.
- Alfredo's article will be in tomorrow.

- There was discussion about possible people to consider for the Profile article. This was not previously discussed and the Committee decided there is not enough time to do this in the upcoming issue.

Plan:

Topic	Author
Upcoming Forum in Boston, MA	Jerry Parr
Things to do in Boston ...	Mike Delaney
From the TNI Chair	Alfredo Sotomayor
Board Election	Sharon Mertens
EMS Wrap Up	Jerry Parr
Charlie Carter Award – Bob Wyeth	David Friedman
Article Related to Quality Culture at the EMS Plenary	Scott Siders
Status of Standard Updates	Paul Junio
Field Standards	Lead: Katie Strothman Ilona Taunton
Chemistry – Highlight Big Changes	Michelle Wade
Chlordane Update on FoPT Tables X	Susan Jackson Lead: Amy DeMarco
Technical Specialist Update	Lead: Debbie Bond Ilona Taunton
AB Round Table Discussions	Cathy Westerman
Professional Development Program - Introduction - Jack Farrell Scholarship A side bar.	Lead: Joe Manzella Jerry Parr/ Ilona Taunton
First Credential Exam	Jerry Parr
Status of Technical Specialist Credential	Jerry Parr
AB Round Table Discussions	Cathy Westerman
Roberts Rules Article – Maybe - Best Practices for TNI Meetings	Lead: Jerry Parr Patsy Root
Profile – Boston Recipe	Mike Delaney

5. Cannabis Regulators Association (CANN-RA.org)

No update.

6. Updated NELAP Vision and Outreach Plan

The Committee discussed the ASDWA (Association of State Drinking Water Administrators) meeting in October in Long Beach. They have some topics of interest related to primacy between the states and EPA.

Mike mentioned that he may work with someone that is planning to attend the conference. He will have an informal conversation with the person and get back to the Committee with any updates.

(Addition: The following message was sent to Jerry, Steve and Ilona on October 16, 2025:

Damon Guterman, whom I work for at MassDEP is active in ASDWA. He suggests we contact Anthony DeRosa, the new Executive Director, to establish a relationship between ASDWA and TNI how best to engage with his staff.

Feel free to use Damon's name and my name if that's helpful.

If you want me to do anything more on this, please let me know.)

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconference is planned for Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 1 pm Eastern. An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

The next TNI Ambassadors quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 2 pm Eastern. There will be no formal agenda – just discussion.
(Addition: People were not able to participate, and the meeting was canceled. Rescheduling of the meeting will be discussed at the next Advocacy meeting.)

Steve adjourned the meeting at 1:57pm Eastern.

Attachment 1 – Advocacy Roster

	Name	Stakeholder Group	10/2/25 - Quorum Present
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Mike Delaney	Other	Present
3.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
4	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
5.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
6.	Robin Cook	Lab	Absent
7.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Absent
8.	William Lipps	Other	Present
9.	Devon Morgan	Lab/TNI AmbassadorP	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
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Aurora Shields	Other	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Ilona Taunton	PA	Present

Attachment 2 – Agenda, October 2, 2025

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of August Minutes
4. Conference Update – Boston, MA
5. 2027 Meeting Location Update
6. Newsletter Status
7. CANNRA Update
 - Status of Providing TNI Documents
8. NELAP Vision and Outreach Plan
 - Continue discussion of how TNI might assist EPA's drinking water lab certification efforts if Agency staffing/funding gets drastically reduced
 - Reach out to Michella
 - Reach out to ASDWA
 - Ambassador Involvement
9. Update on New Business, if any
10. Adjourn

1.