

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
November 6, 2025 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Arms, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1 – 4 Voting members (no quorum) and no Associate members.

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent. There were no changes.

The October 2, 2025, were reviewed, but a formal vote could not be taken because there was not a quorum. The minutes will be reviewed at the December meeting.

2. Boston Conference

Jerry prepared and shared a summary by email of his visit to Boston on Oct 21st.

It is a great location, but it could be very cold. Close to Boston Commons and the Theatre District. Close to the Freedom Trail. Note that some places may not be open mid-week in winter.

The meeting space will work well. The hotel has 1 of only 2 oval rooms in Boston. Exhibits will be in foyer.

3. 2027 Winter Conference Options

Contracts have been signed.

- Chicago – Summer 2027
- Long Beach - January 12, 2027

4. Newsletter

Update:

- A completed DRAFT is complete.

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

No update.

6. TNI Ambassador Meetings

Moving forward, the Committee will add an agenda item to the regular Agenda every quarter to provide Ambassador updates. There will no longer be a separate meeting.

7. Updated NELAP Vision and Outreach Plan

No update.

8. New Business

Jerry shared some thoughts on the topic of PT sample frequency. Could laboratory PT requirements be adjusted, as appropriate, for labs that only operate within one state. Could they run one PT per year instead of two? This was raised during the last Orange County conference.

Discussion:

- There are 4 states (California, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania) that already allow a “one PT per year” option tied to two-tier accreditation programs.
- Some states maintain older or simplified quality systems that do not align with full TNI standards. Reducing PT frequency may make accreditation more accessible for small laboratories while still encouraging them to adopt a robust quality management system (QMS).
- A few concerns were raised:
 - Whether reducing PT frequency “softens” the PT requirement.
 - Possible lack of reciprocity across states: a lab doing only one PT would not be eligible for accreditation in states that require two.
 - May need to ask labs where they operate, which is currently not tracked.
- With only one PT annually, a failed result forces immediate corrective action rather than waiting to see if the second PT offsets the first.
- It was noted that one-PT systems can be *more* work because there is no buffer for failure. Corrective action must be performed for every failure.
- Utility labs testing only their own wastewater may pose limited public-impact risk, while commercial labs handling samples from many states affect a broader population and may require stricter PT requirements?
- Require two PTs for secondary accreditation but allow one PT for primary accreditation. This avoids the need for states to ask where labs operate and provides a consistent rule tied to reciprocity requirements.

This is a complex issue that would take time to sort out. Jerry will continue to get more informal feedback on the idea by talking to a small cross-section of stakeholders.

9. Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconference is planned for Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 1 pm Eastern. An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 1:53pm Eastern.

Attachment 1 – Advocacy Roster

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

Attachment 2 – Agenda, November 6, 2025

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of August Minutes
4. Conference Update – Boston, MA
 - Site visit
5. 2027 Meeting Location Update
6. Newsletter Status
7. Reschedule Ambassadors Meeting
8. CANNRA Update
 - Status of Providing TNI Documents
9. 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
 - Update on ASDWA conference
 - Ambassador Involvement
10. Update on New Business, if any
11. Adjourn