

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
September 4, 2025 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Arms, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1 – 7 Voting members (Quorum) and 1 Associate member. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

A motion was made by William to approve the August 14, 2025, with a few editorial changes. The motion was seconded by Robin. There was no further discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved. Ilona will update the posting of minutes.

2. Boston Conference

Schedule:

- A 10:30 to 12 session is being planned for Monday to discuss Technical Specialist. Debbie Bond will do 30 minutes to cover language. Ken Brown will cover progress on Technical Specialist credential and then Calista Daigle will cover training classes to support the credential.
- There will be a lunch speaker to talk about the revolution. William put up a 1776 painting on the conference website.

Details:

- Pricing - \$625 - members \$695 – non-members
Membership is now \$90 instead of \$75.

3. 2027 Winter Conference Options

The Committee discussed possible locations for the 2027 winter conference. Jerry provided information on where people travel from. Jerry will reach out to receive bids.

Options discussed included:

- Chicago
- Denver
- Atlanta
- Greenville, SC
- Kansas City
- Salt Lake City
- San Antonio
- Dallas

4. Call with Sandhya Parshionikar, Ph.D.

Sandhya is replacing Dan Hautman. She is acting director and will not be confirmed until end of September.

It was a get to know each other meeting and was a good call. Judy Morgan, 3 or 4 people from state labs, Will Adams, etc ... She used to be in Dan's office 10 years ago and is familiar with TNI. Both Sandhya and Will were very personable.

There was not much conversation on objectives. APHL method concerns were talked about. No progress on Method 200.8 –Jack Creed is no longer with EPA, so the effort has stalled.

There is only one Drinking Water certificate class per year. The Committee discussed possible options of someone to talk to in EPA Region 3 about requirement to take the DW class. Ilona will see if she can find something in Lynn's notes since some EPA regions participated in the evaluator calls she used to do.

5. Newsletter

Sharon and Devon met yesterday.

Try to get articles complete by the end of September 30th. The goal is to get articles to Jan by end of first week of October.

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	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	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	Lead: Jerry Parr Patsy Root

Jerry is working with William and Jan to get previous newsletters posted. The last newsletter posted was 11/22.

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

Jerry is still planning to send a copy of the Training Course Catalog and current DRAFT data integrity language in Volume 1 Module 2 and data integrity language in the new Volume 1 Field Standard. He is also now thinking about sharing the Cannabis NY and OR presentations from NEMC.

7. PT Program Outreach

The PTPEC worked on a Position Statement that went to Advocacy. It was approved by the Board and posted in December 2023. The PTPEC still has an action item to continue reaching out to non-NELAP states to involve them, but it is not clear if this is something PTPEC should be doing or was submission of the paper to Advocacy all that was needed and Advocacy will continue to reach out?

The Committee discussed this and determined that they would prefer there be one line of communication and the PTPEC can close their action item. The Advocacy Committee requests that PTPEC let them know when there are PT related updates of interest that can be shared through the Ambassador program with non-NELAP ABs.

8. Updated NELAP Vision and Outreach Plan

Still looking at ASDWA - Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. Do they still do teleconferences? Steve used to call into them. Jerry will investigate this.

Jerry's impression is that we can't expect a lot from EPA until late in the year. There are lots of organizational movements and retirements. Things need to settle a little, but will keep this item on the agenda. Marlene noted she thinks we should not wait until the dust settles.

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

Jerry is still planning to send a copy of the Training Course Catalog and current DRAFT data integrity language and/or data integrity language in the new Volume 1 Field Standard.

10. New Business

There was no new business.

11. Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconference is planned for **Thursday, October 2, 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.**

Steve adjourned the meeting at 2:26pm Eastern.

Attachment 1 – Advocacy Roster

	Name	Stakeholder Group	9/4/25 - Quorum Present/Absent
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Mike Delaney	Other	Absent
3.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
4	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
5.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
6.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
7.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
8.	William Lipps	Other	Present
9.	Devon Morgan	Lab	Present
	Associate Members		
	Sheela Agrawal	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	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, September 4, 2025

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of August Minutes
4. Conference Update – Boston, MA
5. 2027 Meeting Location
6. Call with Sandhya Parshionikar, Ph.D. (Replacing Dan Hautman) – Jerry
7. Newsletter Status
8. CANNRA Update
 - Status of Providing TNI Documents
9. PT Program Outreach – Ilona
10. 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
 - Possible meeting with non-NELAP States
 - Ambassador Involvement
11. Update on New Business, if any
12. Adjourn