

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
April 2, 2026 1PM Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Arms, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – Six Voting members (quorum met) and two Associate members.

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

The March meeting minutes were distributed for review. A motion was made by Sharon to approve the March 5, 2026, minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mike and unanimously approved.

2. Newsletter

Editor: Devon

Timing: June 4th publication

Articles due: May 15, 2026 (Friday)

Topic	Author/Contacts
Summary of Annual Report in Boston – include link	Jerry
Technical Specialist	Paul Junio – summarize Monday morning session.
LAB - Expert Committee status – one article – include standards development process.	Paul Junio
FSMO - Volume 1 and Volume 2 Standard Update – transition timelines?	Tracy/Katie
PDP – AEX Scholarship and Emerging Professionals update	Joe Manzella
Benefits of Credentials	Written by Credentialing Explaining what the process is, etc ...
Field Conclave	Tracy
Summary of Boston – conference re-cap	Jerry has asked for summaries from the Program Administrators.
Announcement of summer EMS – Houston visit	Jerry
Reason's for using NGABs	Duncan
Alfredo	Alfredo
Member Spotlight – Kim Watson	Zoneta
New webcasts, webinars, future training	Mention new ones – 2 from Advocacy Ilona
Feedback/Complaint Survey	Ilona
Organizational Name Changes	Jerry
Board Election Results	Sharon Mertens
Things to do in Houston	Harold

Topic	Author/Contacts
Signing up for TNI notifications	Paul

Devon asked the Committee to take a final look at the tracking table to make sure nothing is missing so that he can send out requests for articles. There was confirmation that it is complete.

Paul asked to add a short article to let people know you can sign-up for notifications. People need to also be reminded that if an email address changes, they need to sign-up again. This was added to the newsletter tracking table.

3. NEMC Summer Meeting Update

Jerry reported that preparations for the meeting are on track. Registration is ready to open on Monday. There are 133 oral presentations, 34 posters and 13-14 committee meetings. One of the keynotes ("Darwin the Bee Dog") highlights the use of dogs in detecting pollutants.

EPA participation (drinking water, wastewater and RCRA) are expected, but only one has confirmed to date.

4. Old Business/Action Items

Ilona noted that a new table has been added to the minutes to help the Committee track action items (Attachment B).

NELAP Vision and Outreach

This topic will be deferred to after the August meeting to allow for some engagement to occur during the summer meeting.

Cannabis Data Integrity and Sampling Issues

Jerry sent an email with links and information to Amber Wilke. He shared the language related to Data Integrity from our Field Standard and gave information about 3 example training courses. Jerry noted that homogeneity and representativeness should have been added to Appendix C in the FSMO Standard. With Cannabis, there is concern that samples are not representative.

Continuation of Single PT

Jerry reached out to Carol Gebhart (Chair of Module 1). They will be taking a look at it.

This discussion lead to additional conversation about PT limits. Ilona noted that PTP EC was asked to look into a bias in limits when the same PT result is reported for multiple methods. It was determined that this is a Board discussion and Jerry will follow-up with PTP EC. The possibility of developing a white paper to raise awareness and encourage consistency was also discussed.

State of Accreditation Report 2026

The last report was in 2023, so an update is needed. Jerry will work on a written procedure for how to compile this report before July.

Promotion of NGABs

An article is being included in the newsletter. This is a good starting point.

Promotion of Credentialing

After much discussion, it was concluded that a joint effort is needed between Advocacy, Professional Development Program and the Credentialing Committee. The Credentialing Committee will take the lead in preparing the newsletter article. Jerry will work with Ken Brown on this. It was noted that LinkedIn is another way to promote credentialing effort.

Welcome to TNI Presentation

Jerry worked on the "Welcome to TNI" presentation and asked the Committee to review it. He reviewed slides 1 through 29 of 121 slides. The Committee offered comment on the slides and he made updates as needed. Updates included correcting references, improved membership explanation, distinguish member-only verse paid resources, clarifying complaint procedures, etc ...

There were also some general comments made:

- Review tense to make it consistent.
- The content may be too detailed for new members. It should be simplified.
- Detailed material could be moved to separate, topic-specific modules.

There was support for Providing a 30-minute high-level overview presentation and then more detailed modules could be prepared, or people could be directed to SOPs for more in-depth information. The presentation will be revisited at the next meeting.

5. New Business, if any

None.

6. Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconference will be May 7, 2026, at 1pm Eastern. An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting. The next Ambassador meeting will be in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32pm Eastern.

Attachment A – Advocacy Roster

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Attendance
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Mike Delaney	Other/ TNI Ambassador	Present
3.	Zonetta English	Lab/TNI Ambassador	Absent
4.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
5.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
6.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
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	Present
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Heather Morgan	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 B: Advocacy Action Item Summary 2026

	Task Description	Doc Number	TNI Contact	Committee Contact	Date Action Item Added	Start Date	Complete Date	Communication	Notes
1	Ambassador Meetings – March, June, September, December					Ongoing			The Ambassador meeting will be added to the regular Committee agenda on a quarterly basis.
2	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. 3/5: Possibly plan discussion in Houston.
3	CANNRA		Jerry				4/2/26	CLOSED	Jerry will provide TNI documents. 4/2: Jerry provided documents: Data Integrity Language in Field Standard and possible TNI courses that could be of assistance.
4	Single PT Discussion		Jerry						3/5: Jerry will reach out to Carol Gebhart. Can this be considered in Module 1 update? 4/1: Discussed with Carol and Committee will look into this.
5	State of Accreditation Report		Jerry		2/5/26	Plan to start in July.			2/5: Not due until end of year – Begin work in July.
6	Promote use of NGABs			Steve	Boston	2/5/26			2/5: Article planned for Newsletter - Duncan
7	Free Webcast: New Members Welcome History and		Jerry		3/5/26	3/5/26			4/1: Committee started review of DRAFT presentation.

[illegible]