

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting

May 7, 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 one Associate member.

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

The April meeting minutes were distributed for review. A motion was made by Sharon to approve the April 2, 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 – Task force needs to approve.
Organizational Name Changes	Jerry
Board Election Results	Sharon Mertens

Topic	Author/Contacts
Things to do in Houston	Harold
Signing up for TNI notifications	Paul

Devon reported that publication is on schedule. He will send reminder emails to contributors who have not yet submitted newsletter articles. Steve followed up on the NGAB article since it is related to an action item. Devon noted that the article has not yet been received.

The article regarding the Feedback/Complaint Survey may need to be delayed because it will require Taskforce approval. *(Addition: The Board decided to take this in a different direction, so this article was removed from this newsletter.)*

3. NEMC Summer Meeting Update

Registration opened in early April and attendance is progressing as expected, with approximately two to three registrations per day. The exhibit program has sold out, and attendance is approaching 200 participants when exhibitors are included. The program agenda has been finalized.

Jerry highlighted that the plenary session that will address concerns surrounding delayed adoption of updated analytical methods and technologies. Presenters will include Judy Morgan, David Friedman, William Lipps, and Jerry Parr, each offering different perspectives. Robin shared some concerns regarding microbiology methods.

4. Continued Review of TNI Welcome Presentation

The presentation has been condensed from approximately 130–140 slides to about 30–40 slides, with more detailed content being separated into future standalone presentations on standards development and NELAP operations.

Discussion:

- Include opportunity for member participation in standards development and committee work.
- Jerry will still update the demographic slide.
- Paul will update the organizational chart and fix any formatting issues.
- Split some of the busier slides to make it more readable.
- Make sure it is clear there is an NGAB program outside of NELAP ... using the same Standard to accredit labs.
- Need to ensure consistency between presentation content and committee charters, bylaws, and program mission. Jerry will look at this and make any needed updates.
- The Policy Committee will review the discrepancy regarding executive committee membership requirements (5 versus 7 members) and determine whether updates to governing documents are needed.
- Update terminology from PTPAs to PTP ABs.
- Make sure it is clear that PT Program is national. Their “customer” is not only NELAP.
- Revise Professional Development Program content, including clarification of training categories and credentialing activities.
- Improve descriptions of training resources and include the records management features available through the new EDS platform.

- Add information on member notification options.

Jerry will make one more update and the Committee can review it for final next month.

5. Possible PT Limit Bias Update

Update regarding Board discussion on possible PT limit bias due to reporting of single result for multiple methods. Steve shared that the Board has established a Taskforce to address the issue. Further information will be provided as the Taskforce progresses.

6. New Business

Next meeting will be to include the Ambassador's meeting.

Michael Delaney announced that DEP is hiring a Laboratory Certification Program Director and encouraged members to share the opportunity with interested candidates.

7. Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconference will be June 4, 2026, at 1pm Eastern. This meeting will include the quarterly Ambassador update. An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13pm Eastern.

Attachment A – Advocacy Roster

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Attendance 6
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	Absent
	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. 5/7/26: Final will be reviewed by Committee in June.

[illegible]