

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
May 1, 2025 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Arms welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent (see Attachment 2) after agreeing to postpone the newsletter update until Sharon could join the meeting late. The minutes from April 3, 2025, were unanimously approved after a motion by Mike, seconded by William.

2. Updates

Board Discussion about Advertisements in Newsletter

The Board approved the inclusion of newsletter ads in concept and referred the issue to the Finance Committee to determine appropriate charges. The issue of notifying potential advertisers of this availability remains to be addressed.

Need for New Committee Members in Advocacy

Participants agreed to first ask the current Associate Members about becoming Voting Members. Paul noted that we should add an odd number of new Voting members to make achieving a quorum easier (there is currently an even number of Voting members). Further discussion addressed questions about the need for regular availability or if occasional absences were acceptable.

3. Conference Issues

There were no conference issues to be addressed.

4. Review Draft Letter to Cannabis Regulators Association (CANN-RA.org)

Participants wordsmithed the draft letter, and left it much improved. Jerry noted that he will seek out a cannabis speaker for one of the EMS sessions in St. Louis.

5. Newsletter Update (delayed per agreement)

With Sharon's arrival, the update was that at least two articles remain outstanding, but all others were submitted.

6. Discuss Adding AB Newsletter Links to the TNI Website

This possibility was raised by Paul, from a lab's audit finding. Jerry explained that only a very few ABs have newsletters or post easy-to-find public updates to their websites, but that he does collect those updates weekly for a different purpose. The group's consensus was that putting such information on TNI's website would require more investment than the benefits to be obtained, as each AB does communicate the information with its accredited labs already. No further action is needed.

7. Updated NELAP Vision and Outreach Plan

This issue is tabled until the Board determines how to proceed with updating its Strategic Plan that may include seeking ways to assist EPA's Drinking Water certification program if budget upheaval endangers that required function.

8. New Business

There was no new business offered.

9. Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconference is planned for **Thursday, June 5, 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, July 8, 2025, at 2 pm Eastern.**

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
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	Present
7.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
8.	William Lipps	Other	Present
	Associate Members		
	Sheela Agrawal	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	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
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Aurora Shields	Other	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Present

Attachment 2 – Agenda, May 1, 2025

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes (April minutes attached)
- Updates
 - Newsletter Status
 - Board Discussion about Advertisements in Newsletter
 - Need for New Committee Members in Advocacy
- Conference issues, if any
- Review Draft Letter to Cannabis Regulators Association (CANN-RA) (document to follow)
- Discuss Adding AB Newsletter Links to TNI Website
- Updated NELAP Vision and Outreach Plan
- New Business, if any
- Adjourn