



THE INSTITUTE REVIEW

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The 2019 Environmental Measurement Symposium

By Lara Phelps, USEPA and Jerry Parr, TNI

For the thirteenth year, the **Environmental Measurement Symposium** (EMS), which represents the combined meetings of the National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC) and the Forum on Environmental Accreditation (the Forum), will be meeting at the **Hyatt Regency in Jacksonville, FL from August 5 – 9, 2019**. This year, the Symposium's theme is "Emerging Environmental Issues".



Some of the highlights for the week include:

- ◆ A special half-day general session focused on the conference theme;
- ◆ Over 180 oral and poster presentations on a variety of cutting-edge environmental monitoring issues;
- ◆ Meetings of The NELAC Institute (TNI) Committees to further TNI efforts on environmental laboratory accreditation, proficiency testing, and accreditation of field sampling and measurement organizations;
- ◆ A special session hosted by the Florida Society of Environmental Analysts;
- ◆ An exhibit program showcasing the latest innovations in environmental monitoring;
- ◆ An innovative new technologies showcase, featuring sensors, apps, and personal monitoring devices, among others that are the latest innovations available;
- ◆ Three (3) special keynote presentations on topics of general interest;
- ◆ An open meeting of the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board; and
- ◆ Training courses.

Forum on Environmental Accreditation

The NELAC Institute's (TNI's) semi-annual meeting is an integral part of the Environmental Measurement Symposium (Symposium). Highlights from this summer's Forum include:

- ◆ An Assessment Forum and Mentor Session;
- ◆ Meetings of TNI's standard development committees;
- ◆ A special session on establishing criteria for providers of consumables, supplies and services; and
- ◆ Meetings of the TNI executive committees that manage TNI's Proficiency Testing Program and National Environmental Field Activities Program.

As these sessions become further developed, additional details will be available on the [TNI website](#).



National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC)

The National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC) provides the principal forum for addressing policy and technical issues affecting monitoring in all environmental media (i.e., water, air, soil, and waste) and across all environmental programs. NEMC is co-sponsored by The NELAC Institute (TNI) under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The technical program is organized by a committee of environmental experts from government and private industry, which brings together a balance of technical and policy topics for each year's symposium that are of interest to all.

NEMC 2019 will feature over 180 oral and poster presentations, organized into concurrent technical sessions from Monday through Friday, with a general session on Wednesday morning. A keynote address on a major topic will kick-off the start of each day.

Technical Sessions for NEMC 2019 include:

- ◆ Academic Research Topics in Environmental Measurement and Monitoring
- ◆ Advances in Monitoring Persistent, Bioaccumulating and Toxic (PBT) Compounds
- ◆ Air Methods & Monitoring
- ◆ Best Practices for Managing Environmental Laboratories
- ◆ Challenges and Opportunities for Solid Phase Extraction
- ◆ Changing the Paradigm for Water Pollution Monitoring
- ◆ Characterization of Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in the Environment
- ◆ Citizen Science
- ◆ Collaborative Efforts to Improve Environmental Monitoring
- ◆ Current Topics in Microbiology
- ◆ Data Quality, Management and Review
- ◆ Environmental Forensics
- ◆ Field Sampling, Measurement & Sensor Technology
- ◆ Government Public Health and Private Environmental Laboratory Partnerships
- ◆ Handling Interferences in Complex Matrices for Metals, Nutrients, and COD
- ◆ Identifying and Combatting Inappropriate Laboratory Practices
- ◆ Implementation Issues with the 2017 Method Update Rule
- ◆ Laboratory Informatics
- ◆ Metals Analysis and Remediation
- ◆ Monitoring for Food Adulteration (Food Fraud)
- ◆ New Environmental Monitoring Techniques for Organics
- ◆ New Focus on 'Old' Contaminants (e.g., lead, mercury, PCBs)
- ◆ Operational and Advocacy Issues Impacting the Environmental Laboratory Industry
- ◆ Science and the Aftermath from Natural and Man-Made Disasters
- ◆ Spotlight on Anion Analysis Instrumentations - Method 90XY
- ◆ Topics in Drinking Water
- ◆ Topics in Shale Gas

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The 2019 Environmental Measurement Symposium cont.



Please take a few minutes to look over the preliminary program and register today. To view abstracts and the preliminary program, in addition to conference arrangement details, visit <http://www.nemc.us>.

We look forward to seeing you in August!!!



Jacksonville Beach

Things to Do and See In and Around Jacksonville

By Steve Arms, Florida DOH (retired)

Originally named “Cowford,” and once known as the “Bold New City of the South,” Jacksonville, Florida is nestled on the banks of the mighty St. Johns River in the northeast corner of the Sunshine State – the state known for its beautiful “sugar-sand” beaches, palm trees, diverse cultures, and, well yes, Disney World. Jacksonville’s claim to fame (or infamy?) in recent years seems to be the fact that it is home to the NFL’s Jaguars. But we who live here know that there is so much more to, what I like to think of as, our big little city.



Jacksonville is the heart of the “First Coast,” a designation given because tourists and snowbirds reach this region of Florida first when traveling south along the Atlantic seaboard. It’s also because the area is the location of St. Augustine, the first permanent and continually-occupied European settlement in the United States. I like to think that it is also because Jacksonville is home to one of the very first state agencies to be recognized as a NELAP Accreditation Body, the Florida Department of Health’s Environmental Laboratory Certification Program. But maybe I’m a little biased.

When people come to Jacksonville, as many of you will this summer, they always ask, “What’s there to do?” Well plenty, especially if you love history, the beautiful outdoors, and if you don’t mind a short drive within the Greater Jacksonville area.

Travel less than an hour north and one finds four (4) state parks. Amelia Island, Big Talbot Island, and Little Talbot Island offer expansive pristine beaches, camping, hiking, fishing, and even horseback rides on the beach. Fort Clinch State Park contains one of the best-preserved 19th century forts in the country. Here you can enjoy living history programs as well as numerous outdoor activities. The fort is located in Fernandina Beach, which is one of the few remaining places visitors can experience “Old Florida.” The bustling historic district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and there you can shop, dine, or just stroll the streets and be carried away to another century.

Go the same distance to the south and you come to St. Augustine. I’m a Jacksonville native, but I never tire of visiting this little town so full of our rich history. St. Augustine was founded in 1565, 42 years before the English colonized Jamestown and 55 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. Throughout the Historic Colonial District, as well as the modern city, are 76 buildings that are either colonial in origin or reconstructed models of colonial buildings. Just taking in the environment of the narrow streets among the Spanish architecture will send you to centuries past.



Castillo de San Marcos



There are also many opportunities for guided tours, and no visit would be complete without a stop at the Castillo de San Marcos, a U.S. National Monument. Never captured in battle, the old fort still stands as if to protect the city and is a testament to the area's Spanish heritage.

Back in Florida's most populous city and the largest city by area in the contiguous U.S., there's still much to do right here at home. The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has been in existence for over 100 years and is among the best zoos in the nation. Recently opened was The African Forest exhibit, which features gorillas, chimpanzees, and other great apes. On the northern reach of the city is the Timucuan Ecological and Historical Preserve, which includes Kingsley Plantation and Fort Caroline. Kingsley lets one imagine what life was like during Florida's plantation period (1763-1865). Fort Caroline memorializes the short-lived French presence in sixteenth century Florida. Here you will find stories of exploration, survival, religious disputes, territorial battles, and first contact between American Indians and Europeans. Finally, but certainly not last, are the beautiful First Coast beaches just 15 miles east of downtown. What can I say? It's the beach!



Beautiful Beaches

Of course, there is so much more than can be contained in one newsletter article, from history and the outdoors to culture and the arts. To the west and south are a multitude of natural springs, with 33 of them discharging more than 64 million gallons per day. Down the coast are Daytona Beach and the Kennedy Space Center. And of course, less than 3 hours away is Disney World.

So, whether you come to Jacksonville for a week-long TNI meeting or stay for a lifetime, you'll never run out of things to do. Hope to see you in my hometown this August!



NELAP Implementation Plans for the 2016 TNI Environmental Laboratory Sector Standard

By Lynn Bradley, NELAP Program Administrator

In June of 2018, the NELAP Accreditation Council voted to adopt the 2016 TNI Environmental Laboratory Sector Standard, Volumes 1 and 2 (“the 2016 NELAP Standard”), and in January of 2019 set the implementation date as January 31, 2020. One guidance document remains to be finalized, but all comments on it have been addressed and we are simply awaiting the final version for formal approval.

The actual process for implementation of the 2016 TNI Standard is unique for each state’s accreditation body (AB). Several states adopt the standard by reference and others must write specific state regulations. The most important fact to remember is that, regardless of which standard a NELAP AB is using to accredit labs, all NELAP ABs will recognize other NELAP accreditations for secondary accreditations.

If you are a NELAP accredited lab, your AB will keep you informed of its progress towards implementation and you can always contact your AB directly if you have specific concerns. The listing of NELAP ABs can be found [here](#). And, for your convenience, here’s a table of how the various states are expecting their implementation of the 2016 TNI Standard to proceed.

Implementation Plans for 2016 TNI ELS Standard		
State	Process for Implementing the New Standard	Anticipated Implementation Date
FL	FL adopted the TNI 2016 Standards by regulation on September 26, 2018. Laboratories were granted a grace period until April 1, 2019, to implement the new standards.	September 26, 2018
IL	Requires rulemaking, expect to complete by January 2020, then will work with labs to implement.	Early 2020
KS	Rulemaking underway, hope to complete by end of 2019 or early 2020.	Early 2020 (hopefully)
LA DEQ	Regulation updates are required and expected to be complete by January 2020.	January 31, 2020
LA DOH	Rulemaking initiated, hope to complete in time to implement by January 2020, with time for labs to comply.	January 31, 2020 (hopefully)
MN	Incorporated into regulation by reference.	January 31, 2020
NH	Requires rulemaking plus time for labs to comply.	2020 (hopefully)
NJ	Incorporated into regulation by reference.	January 31, 2020
NY	Adopts by reference. Is rewriting regulation to update other aspects on separate timeline.	January, 2020
OK	Requires rulemaking, but is still in process of implementing NELAP from 2018 recognition as a NELAP AB.	Unknown
OR	Requires rulemaking plus time for labs to comply.	March 30, 2020 or sooner
PA	Incorporated into regulation by reference.	January 31, 2020
TX	Incorporated into regulation by reference.	January 31, 2020
UT	Rulemaking has begun, anticipate completion in time for implementation of January 2020.	January 31, 2020
VA	Requires rulemaking plus time for labs to comply.	Unknown



TNI Resources for Implementation of the 2016 Laboratory Standard

By Jerry Parr, TNI

TNI's National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) has [set the effective date for implementation of the 2016 Laboratory Standard as January 30, 2020](#). To support the implementation of the 2016 Standard as summarized below, TNI has developed, or is currently developing, a number of tools and other resources to help both the laboratories and the organizations that accredit laboratories.

Training Courses

TNI held four (4) webinars in 2018 on Modules 1 (Proficiency Testing), 2 (Quality Systems), 4 (Chemistry), and 5 (Microbiology) in the fall of 2018. Recordings of these webinars are available [here](#). A course on Module 6 (Radiochemistry) was conducted in 2017 and a recording of this course is also available.

Revised Small Laboratory Handbook

This document is intended to help explain the requirements of the 2016 Standard and to provide environmental laboratories — especially small laboratories — with clear, simple guidance on how to develop the policies and procedures that will allow them to become accredited to the TNI Standard. *This handbook is NOT a substitute for reading and understanding the TNI Standard.* The revised handbook includes much more than just “How to” information. The revised handbook also contains a discussion of the accreditation process and several appendices with useful information, including common findings, SOP templates, and answers to standard interpretation requests. [Click here to learn more.](#)

2016 Quality Manual Template

The 2016 TNI Quality Manual Template is a tool designed for laboratories to help prepare a Quality Manual in compliance with the 2016 TNI Standard. The prefabricated sections of the Quality Manual follow the ISO/IEC 17025 outline but are completely fluid so that you can put sections, examples, links, or references anywhere. The template includes helpful notes, examples and text that can be edited to match each laboratory's particular circumstances. It can be used by a laboratory to create a Quality Manual from scratch, or ideas and sections can be used to update a current Quality Manual. The primary change in this revised template was combining the multiple files into one file to make the template easier to edit and replace the reference to the 2009 Standard to the 2016 Standard. Since both the 2009 and 2016 Standards have the same organization and very comparable content, anyone who purchased the 2009 version, or has an existing Quality Manual, does not need to obtain the 2016 version. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Checklist

TNI has published a checklist to allow laboratories to do an internal gap analysis for the TNI 2016 Standard. This checklist may be downloaded online if you own a copy of the TNI Standard. This analysis will help laboratories to see where they might need to add policies, procedures, or other documentation. [Click here for more information.](#)



New Guidance Documents

TNI has finalized three guidance documents on these specific topics:

- ◆ Proficiency Testing Reporting Limit (PTRL)
- ◆ Detection and Quantitation
- ◆ Instrument Calibration

These documents can be found on the TNI website [here](#).

Standard Interpretation Requests (SIRs)

TNI has established an avenue for resolution of questions submitted electronically on interpretation of the Standards. Answers to the requests are currently organized by Standard: 2003, 2009, or 2016. Some are now obsolete. Some of 2003 and 2009 SIRs are applicable to 2016. Expert Committees are now reviewing status of all SIRs to map to 2016 where applicable. This effort is expected to be complete by August 2019. [Click here for more on SIRs.](#)



Summary of TNI Committee Reports to the Board of Directors Forum on Laboratory Accreditation Milwaukee, WI January 30, 2019

This is a summary of committee activities during the public meeting sessions held at the Milwaukee Forum on Laboratory Accreditation from January 27-30, 2019.

NELAP Accreditation Council

The Council announced the implementation date for the 2016 TNI Environmental Laboratory Sector (ELS) Standard, January 31, 2020. The Chair explained how this will be a “rolling implementation”, as in times past, where Accreditation Bodies (ABs) will implement the new Standard as soon as they are able to do so, but with some needing to conduct rule-making, there will be ABs that experience delays in transitioning to the 2016 Standard. Each AB will continue to recognize the accreditations of other NELAP ABs, regardless of which standard is being enforced by that AB. A new Vice Chair has been elected, Kristin Brown of Utah, and the Council has been discussing acceptable options for revising the Technical Director qualifications in the next revision of the Standard.

Laboratory Accreditation Systems Executive Committee

Accomplishments of 2018 and plans for 2019 were presented and then the rest of the session was devoted to discussion of LASEC’s Lessons Learned document and the feedback from CSDEC and the NELAP AC. Resolution of several sticking points now seems possible, and LASEC will work with those two groups and the TNI Board to finalize consensus resolutions to the difficulties encountered with the 2016 Standard.

The Assessment Forum drew about 50 people to participate in learning and discussing ways to improve oversight of vendor supplied materials. The Mentor Session on Internal Audits also had good attendance and enthusiastic participation.

Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board

ELAB did meet, despite the government shutdown having ended late on the previous Friday. The ELAB Designated Federal Official participated by telephone, but there were no updates since preparation was hampered by the shutdown. Three main topics were discussed: acrolein/acrylonitrile preservation and a related data request; creating a task force to address 600 series methods; and an improved EPA method for Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that needs to be validated. They plan to have a response to EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water’s guidance on Method Detection Limits prepared for the Agency in spring of 2019, and will be discussing the adoption of the most current drinking water method. Some activity around Whole Effluent Toxicity PTs is likely to continue, as well.

NEFAP

Participants identified action items to support the Field Activities Committee’s efforts in revising the Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMO) Standard, and worked to plan the summer meeting. The possibility of NEFAP as an add-on to NELAP accreditation was raised along with considering how such a “recognition” might work. The Mobile Lab Task Force is now formally created and continuing its efforts to harmonize accreditation and recognition of mobile labs across both standards.

Field Activities Expert Committee

FAC shared its completed working draft of a new FSMO standard, with the existing TNI language placed into the 2017 revision of ISO/IEC 17025. They hope to have a reviewed version of this updated document available for the summer meeting in Jacksonville.



Proficiency Testing Expert Committee

This was a quiet meeting, with minimal feedback on the 2016 Standard because no one yet is implementing it. The committee will plan its next activities at an upcoming meeting, and addressing Defense Department issues will definitely be considered in that conversation.

Microbiology Expert Committee

The committee discussed a SIR that was returned for revision, and will circulate the revised draft response for email vote. They also discussed language for the Technical Manager qualifications in this session as well as in the Quality Systems Expert Committee session. Microbiology will undertake to edit the method code table and seek comments on that revision when it's complete.

Quality Systems Expert Committee

QS discussed revisions to the Technical Manager qualifications for various expert committees, and have decided not to "patch" the current language, but rather to begin from scratch. They will poll the NELAP AC to learn what requirements are encoded in state regulations or statutes that would be show-stoppers for such a revision. Jessica Jenson is succeeding Paul as chair of this committee, and the Board Chair, Alfredo Sotomayor, thanked Paul for his service.

Whole Effluent Toxicity Expert Committee

With several other committee members participating by teleconference, Michele Potter led participants in discussions of changes to language in the WET module (V1M7) for initial and ongoing demonstrations of capability, and also the Technical Director qualifications language, which was shared with Quality Systems by Bob Wyeth. Participants also discussed the current status and their hopes for the ongoing interactions with ELAB and EPA about changes to proficiency testing – both in conducting PT studies and in evaluating acceptance criteria.

Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee

LAB presented its detailed changes to the TNI language as incorporated in the 2017 version of ISO/IEC 17011, to become the new V2M1 for TNI's ELS Standard. A few of the comments received will be incorporated immediately, prior to publication of the outline of changes, while others will need more consideration and are postponed for consideration with the full range of comments submitted once the outline is published.

Chemistry Expert Committee

Chemistry had a productive session. Three (3) new members were introduced and the most recent LASEC comments on and questions about the Detection and Quantitation Guidance were all discussed and resolved. Val hopes to have committee review of the revised document to LASEC within a week.

Radiochemistry Expert Committee

This committee had a quiet session, working on finalizing its checklist, discussing its Technical Director qualification revisions after the Quality Systems meeting, and discussed PTs. Terry is the new Chair, and Alfredo offered thanks to Bob Shannon, who is stepping down as chair of this committee. Terry offered last-minute registrations for the Thursday radiochemistry training, topic of alpha spectrometry, for those whose travel plans were impacted by weather and have to stay over an unexpected day.

Stationary Source Audit Sample Committee

SSAS used its session to work on two SOPs that are in development.



Information Technology Committee

IT discussed where to locate the links to Advocacy documents in the drop-down menu, and whether or how to better manage the SIR postings on the website. Jerry confirmed that the SIR webpage is getting about 30 hits per day, so people are actually using it.

Advocacy Committee

In response to the Board's tasking of Advocacy with exploring ways to integrate Non-governmental ABs (NGABs) into the national scheme, they held a panel discussion with NGAB representatives. The NGABs had hoped for more labs to apply for their accreditations than is actually happening, and a few ideas for next steps were identified. After that, Advocacy followed its normal agenda of identifying issues it needs to address from the current conference, conference planning, and identifying newsletter articles for the April newsletter as well as an editor for the fall newsletter.

PT Program Executive Committee

The primary discussion topic was how to implement V3 (the PTP standard) to meet the NELAP AC's implementation date of January 31, 2020. They crafted a plan that still needs full PTPEC discussion and approval, but made good progress. Eric Smith is the new chair of the SOP subcommittee and they have a new member, Rachel Ellis of NJ.

Executive Director's Report

Bob Wyeth has been contracted to take over the ANSI relationship maintenance as well as staffing the CSDEC and Chemistry committees. The other two committees that were staffed by the late Ken Jackson were addressed at the following day's staff meeting – Asbestos and PT Expert – and those will be maintained by Ilona for a few months until Bob has a chance to learn what's needed about ANSI and its consensus standard program, and then Bob will assume staff responsibility for those two committees as well.

Expert Committee Chairs are asked to provide feedback to their respective listings of SIRs for their modules (the "SIR spreadsheets"). These are being updated and will be re-distributed, but the two (2) committees that have completed their review of the original spreadsheets will have only minimal updating needed.

Jerry also discussed the status of the Department of Defense's Quality System Manual (QSM) Version 5.2. He explained that TNI needs to examine the "gray boxes" in the QSM to see if any are worthy of inclusion in the TNI Standard. He seeks to learn why DOD rejected V1M1 of the 2016 TNI ELS Standard and instead prepared its own PT module that also includes an additional section for radiochemistry that will be used by the Department of Energy. Several commenters indicated that DOD is now adapting to the 2017 revision of ISO/IEC 17025 (that will become Version 6.0), since all of its ABs are ILAC signatories and thus required to move to the 2017 revision within two (2) years of its approval and may move away from using the TNI Standard. TNI will follow-up with Jordan Adelson.

Note: After conference, Jerry did contact Jordan and Jordan indicated the individuals who spoke up were mistaken. Everything in 6.0 will be open for comment, but there are no plans to move away from TNI.



2019 Board of Directors Elections—Results

By Jerry Parr, TNI

Elections for the Board took place in January and February 2019. The newly elected directors assumed office on March 13th during the Board's regularly scheduled monthly teleconference. The Nominating Committee, including Sharon Mertens, Catherine Katsikis and Bob Wyeth, reviewed the qualifications of each of the nominations and assembled the ballot for voting by the TNI membership. In addition to reviewing qualifications, the Nominating Committee must ensure that the Board retains balance and representation from all recognized stakeholder groups.

This year's ballot included four (4) returning board members — Steve Arms, Judy Morgan, Scott Siders, and Alfredo Sotomayor. We also added two (2) new directors. They are Paul Junio (Northern Lake Service) and Stacie Crandall (Hampton Road Sanitation District), both representing the laboratory sector.

The slate of Directors was elected by the membership with over 90% approval for each candidate. There was a total of 122 votes counted — as compared to 142 in 2018. While this is a little lower turnout than last year, it is still significantly more than we saw in earlier years. I personally want to thank all the membership who voted in this election. Your participation is appreciated.

The membership also affirmed the selection of Lem Walker as EPA's representative to the TNI Board. As you may recall, Lem, the EPA Clean Water Act ATP Coordinator (EPA/OST/EAD) was selected by the Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM) in early 2018. While the TNI Board ratified this recommendation in the February meeting, we chose to wait until the election cycle for the membership's approval.

After the introduction of the new Board members at the March meeting, the Board held the annual election of officers, which includes the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The first three (3) positions were filled by incumbents Alfredo Sotomayor as Chair; Aaren Alger as Vice Chair; and Patsy Root as Secretary. At this time, Dave Speis is stepping away from his role as Treasurer, though he will continue to participate on the Board. Curtis Wood from ERA, who has been participating as a member of the Finance Committee, was voted in by the Board as the new Treasurer. Thank you to all the officers for your service to the organization in these roles.

The 2019 TNI Board of Directors are listed on the next page.



2019 TNI Board of Directors

<p>Adelson, Jordan; Ex Officio US Navy NAVSEA Programs Field Office; Goose Creek, SC jordan.adelson@navy.mil</p>	<p>Mertons, Sharon; Past Chair Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District; Milwaukee, WI smartens@mmsd.com</p>
<p>Alger, Aaren; Vice Chair Pennsylvania, DEP; Harrisburg, PA aaalger@pa.gov</p>	<p>Morgan, Judy Pace Analytical; Mt. Juliet, TN judy.morgan@pacelabs.com</p>
<p>Arms, Steve Florida DOH (retired); Jacksonville, FL arms.steve@comcast.net</p>	<p>Nolan, Cheryl Louisiana DEQ; Baton Rouge, LA cheryl.nolan@la.gove</p>
<p>Brown, Justin Environmental Monitoring and Technologies; Morton Grove, IL jbrown@emt.com</p>	<p>Root, Patsy; Secretary IDEXX Laboratories; Westbrook, ME patsy-root@idexx.com</p>
<p>Crandall, Stacie Hampton Roads Sanitation District; Virginia Beach, VA scrandall@hrsdc.com</p>	<p>Rosano, Debbie; Ex Officio Dept. of Energy; Germantown, MD debbie.rosano@hq.doe.gov</p>
<p>DiRenzo, Bob ALS Environmental; Salt Lake City, UT bob.dirienzo@alsglobal.com</p>	<p>Siders, Scott PDC Laboratories, Inc.; Peoria, IL ssiders@pdclab.com</p>
<p>Farrell, Jack Analytical Excellence, Inc.; Altamonte Springs, FL aex@ix.netcom.com</p>	<p>Sotomayor, Alfredo; Chair Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District; Milwaukee, WI asotomayor@mmsd.com</p>
<p>Friedman, Maria State Water Resources Control Board; Glendale, CA maria.friedman@waterboards.ca.gov</p>	<p>Speis, David Retired; Hopewell, NJ therave17@verizon.net</p>
<p>Gunning, Chris A2LA; Frederick, MD cgunning@a2la.org</p>	<p>Walker, Lem; Ex Officio USEPA OW OST; Washington, DC walker.lemuel@epa.gov</p>
<p>Gunsalus, Myron Kansas DHE; Topeka, KS ngunsalus@kdheks.gov</p>	<p>Wood, Curtis; Treasurer ERA, A Waters Company; Golden, CO curtis_wood@waters.com</p>
<p>Junio, Paul Northern Lake Service, Inc.; Waukesha, WI paulj@nlsfab.com</p>	



TNI Staff and Committee Chair Changes

By Jerry Parr, TNI

With the passing of Ken Jackson (see related article), TNI has recruited Robert Wyeth to take on the role of supporting the Consensus Standards Development Program (CSDP), including staffing the Executive Committee and the Asbestos, Chemistry, and Proficiency Testing Expert Committees. Paul Junio, who rotated off as Chair of the Quality Systems Committee, will take Robert's previous position as Chair of the CSDP Executive Committee.

Jessica Jensen, from Meridian Analytical Labs, is taking over as Chair of the Quality Systems Committee and Terry Romanko, from TestAmerica St. Louis, will become Chair of the Radiochemistry Committee, replacing Bob Shannon. TNI would like to thank Robert, Paul and Bob for their tenure as committee chairs and welcome Paul, Jessica and Terry in their new roles.

In related news, Robin Cook from the City of Daytona Beach, has agreed to become the new TNI Small Laboratory Advocate. In this role, Robin will:

- ◆ Actively seek the opinions, ideas, and viewpoints of the small laboratory community regarding accreditation;
- ◆ Present TNI's positions and ideas on accreditation to appropriate small laboratory associations and groups outside of TNI;
- ◆ Answer questions internally and externally regarding small laboratory issues and implementation of accreditation standards;
- ◆ Serve on the Advocacy Committee as a full voting member;
- ◆ Advise TNI on the most effective means to promote the participation of small laboratories in TNI programs; and
- ◆ Raise the visibility within TNI of small laboratory concerns by attending regularly face-to-face meetings and teleconferences.

Look for more information about this effort in the coming months.

Member Spotlight Kenneth Jackson In Memoriam 1944-2019

By Carol Batterton, TCEQ (retired) and TNI

*When he worked, he really worked.
But when he played, he really PLAYED — Dr. Suess*

In January of this year, TNI and the environmental laboratory accreditation community lost a long time champion and advocate for national environmental laboratory accreditation. Ken Jackson passed away on January 21, 2019, in Saratoga Springs, New York. Ken was educated in the United Kingdom and received his Ph.D. from Imperial College, University of London. For most of his career Ken held a joint appointment as a Research Scientist with the New York State Department of Health, and Professor in the SUNY School of Public Health. For many years, he served as the New York State representative to NELAC and the NELAP Accreditation Council.



It was in his role as head of the New York Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program that I first met Ken at a State-EPA focus group meeting, in 1993 when I was working for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The State-EPA focus group was formed by EPA to take the report generated by the Committee for the National Accreditation of Environmental Laboratories (CNAEL) and develop it into a program that could be implemented by states. Ken was a rather imposing figure to this Texas girl who knew nothing about laboratory accreditation and I remember thinking “*who is this guy with the British accent who seems to know everything?*” As I got to know him, I began to respect his knowledge and appreciate his practical approach to some of the early dilemmas that we faced in developing a national accreditation program. I was privileged to have known him as a colleague and good friend.

During the course of development and implementation of a national environmental laboratory accreditation program, Ken held a number of key positions. He served as Chair of the NELAC Program Policy and Structure Committee, Chair of the NELAC Board of Directors, Chair of the TNI Consensus Standards Development Board (2006-2009), and member of the INELA/TNI Board of Directors (2002-2010). After his retirement from New York State, he served as a program administrator on TNI’s staff. For TNI, he became our expert on ANSI requirements and was instrumental in getting the TNI Standard recognized as an American National Standard.



Ken was an invaluable resource to me when we began developing the Texas environmental laboratory accreditation program. He was always willing to answer our questions and he made numerous trips to Texas to help us speak to stakeholder groups.

Although Ken could seem very serious at times, he had a fun side that we all enjoyed. One of my favorite memories is trying to teach him to order Shiner Bock with a Texas accent. Needless to say, the effort was an epic failure, but we all had fun trying and Ken was a good sport as always!

As many of us knew, Ken was an accomplished skier and ski instructor. Since his retirement, Ken had been actively involved in teaching adaptive skiing to physically and developmentally disabled children at the Double H Ranch in Lake Luzerne, New York. He also helped train other instructors at Double H Ranch.

Ken was preceded in death by his wife, Pauline. He is survived by his son, Paul, Paul's wife, Caroline, and his two grandsons, Owen and Liam. We will all miss Ken. He was a great leader in our industry and certainly left his mark on the program we have today.



ChairSpeaks

Musings from the TNI Chair

Where Are We Going?

A few weeks ago, I read an article* on decision-making with, to me, an intriguing subject: Do we make big decisions, or do they make us? It was late and I dozed-off a bit on the sections dealing with making choices that increase value, divergence and convergence stages, scenario planning, and design charrettes. Do not fret. If I induce you to sleep by reading this column, it is not because I will delve into decision-making schemata. I already wrote a soporific SOP on decision rules for TNI committees. But I persevered, and when I got into “self-transformation” and the “ambition” and “aspiration” parts, my night owl eyes got bigger and brighter.

Although often used interchangeably, there is a perceptible difference between ambition and aspiration. One is concrete, goal-oriented, and characteristically describable. The other is porous, a spongy path to some ultimate state, and not as easy to articulate definitively. It is the difference between graduating summa, and becoming a good learner, or planting seventeen azaleas and creating a beautiful garden.

Success, however measured, requires a modicum of ambition. The drive to complete tasks, quotas, and projects is prized, and its end-products are measurable indicators of accomplishment. Sitting pretty does not get it done. The daily grind gets us our daily coffee. But is that all there is? Well, that depends, of course, on what you want to ultimately achieve. Ambition with skills can get the job done, but aspiration transforms.

The biggest personal decisions are big because they involve transformational change. As we aspire to become what we wish to be, we gradually move into that other, more inspired, state. Gradually, I claim, because rarely is instant transformation credible, nor does result in permanent, eminent change. Great leaders aspire to transform organizations for the better. Great organizations share the same aspiration for a universe beyond their circumscribed limits and transform themselves to try to get there. The personnel department becomes the human resources division; a wastewater treatment plant becomes a water reclamation facility. Beyond the cosmetics of rebranding, if sincerity is verifiable, there is a worthy, transformative impetus in these changes.

TNI aspires to become the premier organization for accreditation of entities involved in environmental analysis and field measurement in the United States. To facilitate that, TNI sets strategic goals, at regular intervals, guiding its activities. To achieve that, TNI must enable transformations requiring great aspiration from its leaders and members.

Aspirations take a longer time to become and so are subject to distracting detours and annoying interruptions. All to be expected. That is not a reason for rejecting vision over tangibles. That may be a reason for recalibrating goals or concentrating on the mechanics of moving onward with determination and measured ambition, until one can inhale again and continue to follow the path to desired transformation. Aspiration demands perseverance.



Do we make big decisions, or do they make us? When we are ambitious, we likely make big ones. When we aspire, the decisions we make have the power to transform us and others. Ambition without aspiration can be mechanically sterile. Aspiration without ambition generates ideas for others to, if ever, execute. But this I know to be incontrovertible: *Without aspiration, no matter how ambitious, before our due, we expire.*

Only connect.

Alfredo

Alfredo Sotomayor
TNI Chair

* *"Choose Wisely", Joshua Rothman; The New Yorker, January 21, 2019*

Greek Recipes: Chicken Lemon Soup (Chicken Avgolemono)

By Catherine Katsikis, LDCFL-NAOS Consulting, LLC

This is the Greek version of chicken soup. In Greece, it is usually served as a meal with crusty bread. In the U.S., you have probably had this soup in a Greek restaurant at the beginning of a meal, maybe instead of a salad. This is one of the recipes I am asked for the most.

Cool Facts: *The first Greek, known to have been to what is now the United States, was Don Theodoro, a sailor who landed on Florida with the Narvaez expedition in 1528. About 500 Greeks from Smyrna, Crete, and Mani settled in New Smyrna Beach, Florida in 1768. The colony was unsuccessful, and the settlers moved south of Jacksonville to St. Augustine in 1776. The St. Photios Greek Chapel exists as a remnant of their presence, and is believed to be the oldest still standing Greek Orthodox religious structure in the United States.*

Ingredients

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1 whole chicken 2.5-3 lbs. remove giblets. (You can substitute with pieces of chicken on the bone) | 1 cup of rice (or orzo) |
| 2 carrots, peeled and cut | 1 tbs. salt, leveled (or to your taste) |
| 2 stalks of celery, cut | 1/2 tsp. pepper, leveled (or to your taste) |
| 1 medium sweet onion, cut in quarters | 2 Eggs |
| | - juice of 2 freshly squeezed large lemons |

Directions

1. Place the chicken in a large pot. Add enough water to cover the chicken. Bring to a boil and reduce the heat to low, skimming when necessary.
2. When skimming is no longer needed, add the carrots, celery and onion.
3. When chicken is cooked (about an hour; meat should be falling off the bone), remove from broth and set aside. Check vegetables. If cooked, remove and set aside. If not cooked yet, leave in the broth. Check the broth for any chicken bones and remove as needed.
4. Add the rice to the broth. Add more water if needed. Bring to a boil, and then turn the heat to medium-high to simmer. Meanwhile, pull chicken meat from the bone, remove the skin and shred to pieces. When the rice is cooked add the chicken back into the broth. Add the vegetables if they were previously removed. Add salt and pepper.
5. In a blender, add the eggs, close cover and start beating the eggs. Slowly add some lemon juice. While still beating/whipping, add some of the soup broth to start tempering the eggs, continue beating/whipping while you keep adding lemon juice and broth. You are looking for a creamy/frothy consistency.
6. Slowly pour mixture into the pot while stirring gently.
7. Serve hot.
8. See the top of page 2 for an extra tip!





Tips:

For a thicker soup you can add a large peeled potato cut in quarters along with the other vegetables. When cooked, place all the vegetables in food processor and grind to a fine consistency. Add to the pot after the rice is cooked.

Enjoy!

Bonus Recipe: Tzatziki Sause/Dip

Ingredients

2	cups of Greek yogurt (Cabot is my favorite)	1	tsp. fresh dill
1	English cucumber	1 1/2	tsp. white vinegar or fresh lemon juice
2-3	garlic cloves (you can add or omit depending on your love for garlic)	-	Salt and pepper to taste
1	tsp. olive oil		

Directions

1. Strain any visible liquid from the yogurt and place in a mixing bowl.
2. Peel the cucumber, remove the seeds and place in a food processor. Peel the garlic gloves and add them to the cucumber. Grade the ingredients. If using a hand-held grader, use the flat large side for the cucumber and finely mince the garlic.
3. Place the graded cucumber/garlic in a clean cotton kitchen towel or heavy-duty paper towel and squeeze until there is no liquid left in the cucumber. Place in the mixing bowl with the yogurt.
4. Stir until the mixture is combined, Add the olive oil, vinegar and dill. Add salt and pepper to taste.
5. Place in a covered container in the refrigerator for at least 10 minutes.
6. You may use as a sauce in a tortilla wrap or pita wrap (as served in Greek restaurants in gyros or souvlaki wraps).
7. If served as a dip, place in small plates or bowls, Drizzle with olive oil, decorate with kalamata olives and dill.

