

Mission

The Advocacy Committee promotes the efforts of TNI nationally.

Composition of the Committee

1. The Chair of the Advocacy Committee shall be a member of the TNI Board of Directors, preferably a Past Chair.
2. Committee membership shall be in accordance with the TNI Committee Operations SOP 1-101.
3. The Committee represents, to the extent possible, the diversity of the entire TNI membership, by considering the stakeholder group, interest, expertise, geographic location, and professional affiliation of Committee Members. There is no requirement for balance of membership, but the committee strives to avoid dominance by any one stakeholder group.

Objectives

1. Implement tasks assigned to Advocacy in TNI's Strategic Plan and look for opportunities for TNI to be proactive.

- **Success Measures:**

- Preparation and delivery of reports, webinars, position papers, articles and other documents promoting national accreditation.
- Assignment of TNI ambassadors to non-NELAP states.
- Consistent with SOP 1-104, reviews Advocacy documents prepared by other committees to facilitate a cohesive message throughout TNI.

2. Maintain relationships with other organizations (WEF, AWWA, ACIL, ASTM, *etc.*), EPA program offices, other federal agencies, and non-NELAP state agencies that have an interest in accreditation issues.

- **Success Measures:**

- Documented dialog with interested organizations.
- Documented collaborative efforts.
- Increased number of NELAP and NGAB recognized accreditation bodies.
- Incorporation of elements from the TNI Standard into non-NELAP state programs.
- Acceptance of NELAP/NGAB accreditations by non-NELAP state programs.
- Increased voluntary use of the TNI Standard by laboratories, PT providers and accreditors, and Field Sampling and Measurement Organization (FSMO's) not currently accredited by NELAP ABs or NGABs.
- Recognition by EPA and other Federal programs of the value of accreditation and the use of the TNI Standard for meeting data quality and reliability needs of those programs.

3. Provide outreach (e.g. presentations and papers) to promote The NELAC Institute and TNI's programs.

- **Success Measures:**

- Increased membership in TNI.
- Development and use of TNI position papers to explain TNI's goals.
- Presentations at national and regional conferences.

4. Assist with publication of the TNI member newsletter.

- **Success Measure:**

- Providing material and content for at least 3 newsletters per year.

5. Assist with conference planning.

• **Success Measure:**

- Continue to hold two conferences per year.
- Conference evaluation survey is at least 3.5 on a 5 point scale.
- Conference income exceeds expense.

6. Provide outreach to the small laboratory community through the Small Laboratory Advocate position.

• **Success Measures:**

- An individual exists as Small Laboratory Advocate (SLA).
- The SLA has an established work plan to actively seek the opinions, ideas, and viewpoints of the small laboratory community regarding accreditation.
- The SLA represents TNI's positions and ideas on accreditation to appropriate small laboratory associations and groups outside of TNI.
- The SLA receives committee support in answering questions internally and externally regarding small laboratory issues and implementation of accreditation standards.
- The SLA has an internet presence and meeting opportunities at TNI meetings.

7. Oversee TNI Mentoring Initiative.

• **Success Measures:**

- There is a mentor assigned to every laboratory that requests one.
- TNI assists with outreach promoting the Mentoring Initiative.

8. Prepare and deliver an Annual Report for the previous year and Work Plan for the coming year for the annual meeting or when requested by the Executive Director.

Success Measures:

Activities and progress provided within the Annual Report and Work Plan design and any subsequent revisions are approved by the TNI Board.

Available Resources:

- Volunteer committee members.
- Virtual meeting platform.
- Program Administrator support.
- On-line storage, maintenance and archiving of Advocacy documents.
- Database for tracking Mentees and Mentors.

Anticipated Meeting Schedule:

- Virtual meetings: regular schedule is the first Thursday of each month at 1 pm Eastern time.
- Meetings as needed at TNI conferences. Normally these will take place near the conference conclusion.