The Orange County meeting was held on May 16 at Southern California Edison’s ESI Division facility in Westminster, California. With everyone feeling the economic struggles these days the NCSLI section has really focused on the half day symposium format as a cost effective way to provide efficient metrology, calibration, and test training at a local level while promoting education and skill development by providing tools and resources to all attendees. We started using this format at the end of 2010 with a series on uncertainty, risk, and Z540.3 that carried into 2011.

In celebration of World Metrology Day we started with a casual self-service deli lunch and time to discuss developments, current issues, and updates with our regional peers.

The half day symposium began with introductions of the attendees and the section team members. The rest of the afternoon was then dedicated to a Measurement Literacy presentation by Dana Leaman of NIST/NVLAP and Jim “Smitty” Smith of Boeing Lab Test Operations that was focused on the specific topic of measurement literacy and organizational relationships.

Whether you are new to measurement and test community or have been around awhile, we have all found ourselves sitting in a session or speaking with other test and metrology professionals and felt as though they were speaking another language. With all the acronyms and evolving jargon it’s not easy to keep a handle on the community lingo. This presentation and discussion of the many national and international relationships, measurement terms and concepts were provided to assist the attendees in the development of their accreditation and technical knowledge, plus provide a better vocabulary understanding, enabling better participation in discussions within the greater test and measurement community.

The presentation and discussion included a team exercise on the review and acceptability of calibration and test certifications, and reports per documented standards. The focus of the hands on team exercise was on information inclusion, red-flags, compliance and completeness. Attendees were also provided a thumb drive with a significant support information library.

Thanks again to Dana and Smitty for volunteering their time and getting the NCSLI Orange County section off to a good start. We are already planning the next event which should take place in the late August or September timeframe and then hopefully one more by the end of the year.

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