On September 20, 2012, the NCSLI Northern Indiana Section hosted 14 attendees at Canlan Ice Sports-Lutheran Health Sportscenter in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Laboratory Accreditation Bureau and Dynamic Technology, Inc., sponsored lunch for the attendees. Canlan Ice Sports is the North American leader in the development, operations and ownership of multi-purpose recreation and provided excellent facilities for our meeting. In conjunction with L-A-B’s outreach in the community, Canlan is devoting time and space to promoting metrology to youth in Fort Wayne.

Ryan Fischer, Northern Indiana coordinator, began the meeting by welcoming everyone. Lloyd Baker, NCSLI Mid-Western Region Coordinator provided updates from the NCSLI Board of Directors meeting, conference attendance and future conference information.

Lloyd Baker also discussed NCSLI and the many upcoming events, and training courses they have to offer. He encouraged non-members to become members and current members to take advantage of the many perks offered by NCSLI. Lloyd provided us with very insightful information into the many resources that are available through NCSLI.

The first presentation, “Simple Root Cause Analysis for Laboratories” was given by Ned Gravel of Motiva Training. The presentation was based on a short course that gets right down to the nuts and bolts of easily zeroing in on the root causes of non-conforming and potential non-conforming conditions, and even some opportunities for improvement. Examples of deviations were discussed within groups and then discussed with all the attendees.

The next presentation titled “Why didn’t the Horse Die?” was given by Mr. Doug Leonard, Laboratory Accreditation Bureau. The paper supporting the presentation was given by Doug at the NCSLI Workshop & Symposium in Sacramento. Mr. Leonard’s presentation provided a common vision of laboratory accreditation for the United States, NACLA was formed to establish an accreditation program(s) based on the requirements of both national and international stakeholders that include specifiers, regulators, accreditation bodies, and testing/calibration labs (aka conformity assessment bodies (CABs). The model was formed to break down barriers between stakeholders and improve confidence in the competence of accreditation bodies.

Next Ryan Fischer presented recently approved RP-21 Assessment for ANSI/NCSL Z540.3 sub-clause 5.3. Working Group 3 of the NCSLI Calibration System Resources Committee has recently developed Recommended Practice 21 (RP-21), Recommended Practice for the Assessment of ANSI/ NCSL Z540.3 sub-clause 5.3. Sub-clause 5.3 prescribes the requirements for a calibration system to control the accuracy of the measuring and test equipment used to ensure that products and services comply with prescribed requirements. Sub-clause 5.3 includes the statement, “Calibration-servicing components (of the calibration system) may be considered competent to provide calibration services when they have been accredited to meet ANSI/ISO/IEC 17025:2005, including the requirements of this sub-clause [5.3], or otherwise found to be in conformance by an authority acceptable to the customer.”

After the presentations, door prizes provided by John Busald of Fluke Calibration and NCSLI were raffled off.

We would like to thank Canlan Ice Sports, Dynamic Technology, Inc., Laboratory Accreditation Bureau, and our presenters Ned Gravel, Doug Leonard and Ryan Fischer for their valued help and time.

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