



1211 Maryland/Virginia Section Meeting.



This year the Maryland and Virginia sections held a combination spring meeting on May 26, 2011 at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD. The meeting was hosted by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) and the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP). A special thanks to Mr. Tom Hettenhouser for helping with the logistics of holding the meeting at NIST.

Maryland section coordinator Mr. Robert Knake opened up the meeting with a brief introduction and welcome to the attendees. He was followed by Dr. Gregory Strouse of the NIST temperature and humidity group, who gave an overview of the recent reorganization of measurement services and the changes and directions that are coming in the future. Mr. Knake then presented an update on the most recent NCSLI board of directors meeting.

The first presentation was a panel discussion regarding *ISO/IEC 17025:2005* and accreditation. The panel consisted of four members and a moderator. The members were chosen to represent the viewpoints of an accreditation body, an accredited calibration laboratory, an assessor, and an unaccredited calibration laboratory with interest in *17025* and accreditation. The panel was very interesting and answered a lot of questions about the *17025* accreditation process. There was great audience participation with very little interaction from the moderator over the hour long discussion. All participants seemed to enjoy the discussion.

Our last speaker of the morning was Mr. Henry Zumbun of Morehouse Instrument Co., Inc. who was joined by Mr. Bill Lane also of Morehouse Instrument Co., Inc. The presentation titled "Torque Calibration Tutorial" covered some torque calibration basics. It also included information regarding their new torque calibration primary standard which they had procured from the National Physical Laboratory (NPL). The presentation stressed the importance of having a very accurate torque stand-

ard available in the US.

The afternoon kicked off with a presentation by Mr. Kevin Chesnutwood of the NIST Mass and Force Group. His presentation titled "Force Calibration/Legal Metrology" covered some of the capabilities of the force lab located at NIST. Also, it covered a brief history and important information regarding legal metrology in general.

Next up was Mr. Kenneth Sloneker of Electronic Development Labs, Inc., who presented "Gas Temperature Measurement in a Glow Discharge Plasma." The presentation covered an experiment that he had participated in with Troy University to determine how gas temperature affects shockwave propagation, measure the temperature of the gas, and reduce the measurement costs by using a thermocouple. The presentation was very interesting and contained the results of the experiment and where further work in this area was headed.

The final presentation of the day was "From the CIPM MRA to Accreditation: Proficiency Testing, Traceability and Degrees of Equivalence" given by Dr. Gregory Strouse. Dr. Strouse discussed some recent proficiency testing activities that the National Metrology Institute (NMI), such as NIST, from multiple countries had participated in and the lessons learned from organizing a proficiency testing event across multiple countries. Dr. Strouse pointed out the importance of these proficiency testing events in regards to supporting the CIPM MRA for these NMI(s). He also discussed the importance of proficiency testing to the *ISO/IEC 17025* accreditation process in respects to supporting an accredited organizations scope of accreditation.

The meeting was concluded at 4:00 PM with door prizes that were provided by Morehouse Instrument Co., Inc., Electronic Development Labs, Inc., & WorkPlace Training followed by some final announcements. Thanks again everyone involved in this meeting and making it a great success. Keep an eye out for the next meeting which should take place sometime this coming winter.

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1211 Maryland / 1213 Virginia Training Event, By Robert Knake

A training event was held at the A2LA offices in Frederick, MD on May 25, 2011, a day prior to the section meeting located at NIST in Gaithersburg, MD. The idea of having the training prior to the meeting was to give the attendees an opportunity to obtain some training at a minimal fee, especially for NCSLI members, and be able to attend the section meeting the next day. The training event was well attended and most of the participants of the training did participate in the section meeting on the 26.

The one day course focused on important aspects that must be considered when developing an audit program intended to meet the requirements of *ISO/IEC 17025:2005*. The course compared and contrasted the activities and perspectives of the internal auditor and the external assessor. The course gave attend-

ees the knowledge needed to establish an internal quality audit program as required by *ISO/IEC 17025:2005*, and to initiate the sequence of activities involved in scheduling, planning, conducting, reporting on and closing out internal quality audits.

The feedback from the attendees was very positive and they were provided a certificate of attendance for their records. The intent is to keep this format for the next meeting so if you have an interest in a training topic or would like to host a training event, please contact section coordinator Mr. Rob Knake at rknake@a2la.org

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