The Southeast Region Atlanta Section 1221 held its meeting (delayed from December) on February 24. The meeting was hosted by Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC) and opened by Program Chair Tony Abel. In attendance were 18 individuals representing industry, Department of Defense, State governmental organizations and CGTC. Section Coordinator Ron Kirstatter presented the Board of Directors Meeting Highlights from January’s San Diego meeting. Rob Knake with A2LA counted down the “Top 10 Most Common Deficiencies” as they relate to ISO 17025 audit assessments. First we identified the sections of the standards which provided deficiency examples and the most common causes of those deficiencies. Not surprising, the most common deficiencies were those cited against laboratories for not following their own policies and procedures. Following Rob Knake was Randy Fowler, Fluke Corporation’s Government Account Manager for Precision Measurement. Randy’s timely presentation was “Tools to Financially Justify Purchasing Capital Equipment.” While all of us are struggling to communicate equipment needs to management in terms they can understand, Randy achieved his goal by providing a better understanding of management’s perspective, and key values, which should help guide attendees in the equipment justification process including a view of financial analysis tools needed to justify the purchase of test equipment. After lunch Randall Francis an instructor for CGTC provided an overview of the college’s metrology degree program and related technical certifications. Randall also outlined the various programs available for students to offset their costs while taking classes either on campus or through their ANGEL Learning Management System for distant learning. A tour of the metrology training facilities completed another very successful exchange of knowledge and all attendees were sent home with a little something provided by the following supporters: Central Georgia Technical College, A2LA, Agilent Technologies, Applied Technical Services, Oplink Solutions and Fluke Corp.

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