Regional News

1212 The Carolina’s Section

by James Reid, Section Coordinator

November 19, 2009

The NCSLI International Carolina’s Section meeting was held on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the Duke Energy, Technical Services Center in Huntersville, North Carolina. The meeting was hosted by Duke Energy, Calibration Solutions Inc., Southern Marketing Associates, and Mettler-Toledo. James Reid, North Carolina Section Coordinator conducted the meeting.

The plentiful breakfast, lunch and snacks provided during the day were donated by Calibration Solutions Inc., Southern Marketing Associates, and Mettler-Toledo.

Registration, breakfast and networking started the day. The registration included the distribution of documents and materials donated by NCSLI, the Fluke Corporation and Mettler Toledo Inc.

Opening remarks were provided by James welcoming all to the meeting. As part of the normal Duke Energy employee’s day we reviewed safety points of the surroundings and reminded all to think about safety in all of their activities. The agenda and documents provided by NCSLI were reviewed and made available to the attendees. All attendees were given the opportunity to introduce themselves. An attendee of particular interest was Tiffany Lemmons from the UNC Charlotte, Center for Precision Metrology Research. Tiffany was a 2009 NCSLI Scholarship recipient.

The presentations began with Vernon Alt, Jr. Calibration Quality Manager, Northrop Grumman Corporation (NCSLI Mid-Atlantic Region Coordinator). Vernon presented an overview of the last NCSLI BOD Meeting including 2009 Conference Highlights and updates of committee activities. There was also a live review of the NCSLI website. Much discussion ensued about the focus NCSLI is placing on education programs such as the Education Liaison, Outreach, and the Metrology Ambassador Program with the Tool Kits. Vernon shared his experience working in the local schools and what rewards there are. Based on the discussion, several attendees intend to pursue further information about the metrology education opportunities for local schools.

The meeting continued with a paper presentation by Mr. Bill Gaviria on “Estimation of Uncertainties in Electrical Measurements.” Bill provided a fast paced, but very detailed overview of measurement uncertainty and its components. Bill also volunteered and filled in one of the afternoon sessions with a presentation on Guard-banding. The presentation is a summary of work by Fluke corporate metrology manager, David Deaver.

Jason Pressly of Mettler-Toledo presented “Good Weighing Practice, Weighing the Right Way.” This was an in depth review of the many errors that can be induced by the set-up of a balance, the environment, operator, and procedural induced issues. When condensed; “96% of weighing inaccuracies are due to human error, technical understanding and environmental influences.” This was an excellent review for balance users, as well as, technicians supporting customers’ equipment. Many of the points emphasized in this presentation also carry over to other types of Measuring and Test Equipment (M&T).

These are very brief descriptions of the excellent presentations these speakers provided. I encourage everyone to use these subject matter experts for their section meetings.

A door prize drawing was held using the returned meeting surveys. Door prizes included several items donated by NCSLI, and Fluke Electronics.

The day concluded with tours of the Duke Energy - Standards Laboratory by the laboratory technicians.

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