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Hosted by: National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR)

The NCSLI Kansas City Section Meeting was held on Thursday, October 22, 2010 at the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) in Wichita, Kansas. NIAR provided refreshments for the meeting and excellent assistance both before and during the meeting. Twenty-two people attended the meeting from ten different companies.

Dr. John Tomlin, Executive Director of NIAR, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the facility. Dr. Tomlin talked about the mission and history of NIAR and answered questions about the facility. Walter Lee, the Director of Quality and Performance, as well as the Calibration and Quality Laboratory Manager, gave an overview of NIAR.

Roger Burton, the NCSLI Secretary, provided a Board of Directors update. Roger talked about international activities, NIST news and this year's NCSLI conference. He talked about the benefits of NCSLI membership, NCSLI scholarships, and new Metrology Outreach Resources.

After a quick photo of the group, taken in the conference room, Tracee Friess and Walter Lee led us on a tour of NIAR. The group toured the Environmental Testing Lab, the Mechanical Test Lab, the Walter H. Beech Wind Tunnel, the Advanced Joining and Processing Lab, and the Crash Dynamics Lab. The group stood inside the wind tunnel while our guide talked about its history and usage. The entire tour was interesting and prompted numerous questions.

Following the tour, Joe Cebulski, former chairman of the Airline Metrology Committee, gave a presentation on the NCSLI Airline Metrology Committee. Joe talked about when and why the committee was formed, how often the committee meets, and the number of companies involved. He listed the achievements that the committee has accomplished, which includes sharing of calibration procedures, training opportunities, feedback on vendors and tools, and round robins.

After a short break, Pam Wright, of A2LA, gave a presentation on the Most Common Deficiencies in Accreditation Assessments. Pam provided charts to show a breakdown of the most common deficiencies. She then went through the top ten deficiencies and common causes for the deficiencies. The presentation was very enlightening and provided useful information in preparing for an assessment.

Following a short break, Bob Ellis of the David L. Ellis Company gave a presentation on The Variable Resolution in Hardness Testing. Bob explained why it is difficult to know the actual resolution in hardness testing. He talked about the factors involved in determining the measurement uncertainty of a hardness test and their relative contributions. He then gave examples of different types of hardness tests and provided data to show the uncertainty in the hardness measurement due to the resolution of the device used.

Everyone was on their own for lunch. Maps and recommendations of local restaurants were provided.

Following lunch, Doug Kappler and Pete Morken of TriMet gave a presentation on New Methods for Large Scale Metrology, including a demonstration of a laser radar system. Doug discussed different methods for making large scale measurements, which included optical CMMs, coherent laser radar, IGPS, Adaptive Robotic Control, and Dynamic Motion Measurement. Doug talked about each type of instrument and used numerous pictures and graphics to provide visuals of the equipment and methods.

During the break that followed, meeting evaluation forms were handed out and completed. Following the break, an Open Forum Discussion was held. Topics discussed during the forum included A2LA certification, calibration management software, and RFID tracking of equipment. After the discussion, we drew for door prizes donated by NCSLI. The meeting was adjourned after the drawing for the door prizes.

The time and effort that each speaker put into this meeting is truly appreciated. There was a great amount of interest in each presentation as evidenced by the number of questions and comments. The conference facility and tour provided by NIAR was excellent. Their willingness to host this event was greatly appreciated.

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