

# Twin Cities



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The NCSLI International Twin Cities Region held its winter meeting on a brisk and snowy day in Shoreview, Minnesota. The February 7, 2018 meeting was held at the Shoreview Community Center and hosted by Precision Repair & Calibration.

The day started with a rousing round of Minnesota Vikings trivia. While many of the Vikings fans in attendance were still a bit sore about the recent loss to the eventual Super Bowl LII champion Philadelphia Eagles, it was fun to discuss measurement related Vikings trivia. For example, did you know that the Minnesota Miracle pass from Case Keenum to Stefon Diggs traveled nearly 56 meters (61 yards)?

After everyone settled in, the host presentation for the meeting was delivered by Brian Downie from Precision Repair & Calibration. Brian, who is also on the region's steering committee, introduced attendees to Precision's history, capabilities, and desire to partner with their customers.

Following Brian's presentation, attendees heard from Doug Stohr from TSI, Inc. on the topic of, "The

Complexities of OEM NIST Traceability." Doug started by reviewing TSI's products and then explained the difficulties that can arise when asked to show traceability to an SI unit when the traceability chain is lengthy and complicated. Doug showed examples of TSI's traceability maps which have proven to be an invaluable visual aide for illustrating these chains to customers (internal and external) as well as auditors.

After a break for refreshments and networking, Travis Gossman from Rockwell Collins presented on the topic of, "The Contract Process – Communicating Calibration Requests." Travis highlighted the need to be both good customers, (when communicating our calibration needs) and good calibration labs (when serving our customers). Travis reminded attendees that calibrations are more than just numbers and that decisions need to be made with the data that is collected. He showed that there is a cost when making the wrong decision, (to the company, customer, etc.) and that the key component to a successful calibration is communication.

Before lunch, Cory Otto from Boston Scientific (NCSLI Twin Cities Section Coordinator) recapped the 2017 NCSLI annual conference and updated attendees on upcoming NCSLI activities. The group then took a picture to commemorate the day.





Twin Cities Panel.

Upon returning from lunch, Satish Pragalsingh from Medtronic, Kevin Rust from MTS Systems, and Gary Martz from Boston Scientific served as panelists on a discussion about developing and interpreting calibration specifications. The audience was able to weigh in on the methods they use, ask questions, and share information. This interactive discussion lasted for an hour and could have gone on for much longer had time allowed.

The final presentation for the day was given by Walter Nowocin from Medtronic. Walter's presentation, entitled, "Best Lessons Learned from FDA Warning Letters" was a 2017 NCSLI Workshop & Symposium Best Paper Award winner. Congratulations Walter! Walter explained the basic principle that companies need to say what they are going to do, do what they said they would do, and then be able to prove that they did it. Walter emulated David Letterman's Top 10 List and helped us learn from 10 companies that had difficulties in this area so that we can make sure not to make the same mistakes.

The successful and informative meeting wrapped up with a round of door prizes donated by NCSLI and the steering committee members.

The NCSLI Twin Cities Region would like to offer a sincere thanks to Precision Repair & Calibration for hosting and sponsoring this meeting, especially Brian Downie and Dick Palmer.



Walter Nowocin.



Travis Gossman.



Doug Stohr.



Brian Downie.  
VOL. 11 NO. 2