



● ● ● REGIONAL NEWS

Twin Cities



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The NCSL International Twin Cities Section 1311 met at Boston Scientific in Maple Grove Minnesota. Boston Scientific also sponsored the event and their representative, Cory Otto, made an exceptional host! The full day event had 102 attendees and 4 speakers.

This was my second meeting as the new NCSLI Twin Cities Section Coordinator. The second meeting definitely was easier than the first and, thankfully, the butterflies were held at bay. We also have one new member to our Steering Committee, Mitch Johnson with Greatbatch, Inc. There are now 14 members on our steering committee and without all of their help the events held in Section 1311 would not be what they are today.

The first presentation was by our host, Cory Otto, who is the Manager of the Metrology Department at Boston Scientific in Maple Grove. Cory presented “Lessons Learned from 7 Years of Multisite Collaboration.” Cory detailed how he and his team have found ways to break down artificial walls between the staff at all of

the different Boston Scientific Calibration Laboratory sites in order to increase information exchange, innovation, and symmetry. I found it quite interesting that the Boston Scientific team hold regular summits at the different locations around the globe from Ireland to Costa Rica. Another piece to Cory’s approach to team building is including giving back to the community, he and his team recently participated in a feeding the hungry event where his team packed meals for those in need.

The second presenter was Walter Nowocin from Medtronic. Walter’s topic was: “Review of FDA Warning Letters Related to Calibration.” Walter went on to present this same presentation at the Measurement Science Conference in Anaheim, California. I found the topic quite informative as Walter covered several of the actual FDA findings in detail. Walter performed searches in the online FDA database relating to calibration, the website he searched are publicly available and can be accessed for your reference. The sites are: www.fda.gov/foi/warning.htm and www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/ORA/ORAElectronicReadingRoom/default.htm

The third presentation was by Mike Imholte of Boston Scientific. His topic was “Temperature (Back to Basics)”. Mike detailed the basic components in insuring your



Special Tribute

Mike Czech recently retired from Saint Jude Medical after 27 years. Mike spent over 42 years in the Metrology Field. He has always been committed to the Metrology Community not only in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area but globally. The Twin Cities Section of NCSL International would like to recognize Mike for his contributions to our industry.

temperature measuring devices are in tolerance, and continue to stay in tolerance, throughout the calibration cycle life of the equipment. Those components include insuring your probe is in tolerance after return from the vendor, what to do when the data provided is only a report of value, how to check your probe is in tolerance by reviewing drift data, calculating drift values, and determining the best equipment to perform intermediate checks on temperature standards.

The fourth presentation was by Brian Downie from Precision Repair and Calibration. His topic was "How Gages Grow and Shrink in Dimension." Brian detailed the main causes of changes in the dimension of a gage. Brian presented those causes to be thermal expansion, material build up (Gage Galling), and molecular relaxation. I found that molecular relaxation might be the least well known cause to dimension change. Brian explained that the actual materials that make up the gage and the actual manufacturing process used can cause a gage to become less dimensionally stable over time.

We concluded the meeting by giving out the remainder of the door prizes that were left over. I would like to thank all of the companies and individuals who donated door prizes! I'd also like to give a special thanks to Cory Otto and Boston Scientific for hosting this series of incredible presentations and speakers. What a great meeting!