

TWIN CITIES SECTION 1311

By Harry C Spinks



The Twin Cities NCSLI Section met at the Eagan Community Center in Eagan, Minnesota. The event was sponsored by Martin Calibration, a longtime supporter of NCSLI and the local chapter! The full day event had five presentations with one speaker presenting via webinar. We had relatively low attendance for our spring meeting with 90 attendees (last spring we had 120).

The meeting began with the introduction of the section steering committee members. This is the team that makes our meetings so successful! Currently, we have 13 members from multiple industries and businesses.

The first presentation was by Patrick Butler, Fluke Regional Product Manager – Calibration Software. The presentation, “Implementing Measurement Uncertainty Requirements in MET/CAL,” provided valuable information on implementing measurement uncertainty in the Fluke software. MET/CAL provides the tools to collect both type A and type B components and report an expanded uncertainty. The Twin Cities has many users of this software and we even have a MET/CAL software users group.

Next, Jesse Morse, Morse Metrology in association with WorkPlace Training, presented via webinar “Cal Lab Management, Beyond ISO 17025.” This information was taken from the three day Lab Manager’s training provided by Jesse and WorkPlace Training. This was our first webinar and it worked quite well. Jesse discussed calibration lab metrics such as turn-around-time (TAT), throughput rate, and quality rate. There was quite a bit of discussion on TAT as the audience had several questions. Also discussed were customer surveys. Jesse’s lab had an 8-9 % return rate which is excellent by marketing standards. Most surveys have only a 2-3 % return rate.

Colin Robinson with Vision Engineering presented “What is Non-Linear Error Correction (NLEC)?” He explained linear error correction and segmented linear error correction (SLEC). Colin’s presentation then demonstrated how non-linear error correction would eliminate the error of the linear and segmented linear error correction methods.

The NCSLI Conference and Board of Directors update was provided by Robert Sawyer, NCSLI Midwest Regional VP. This was also done via telecommunications – this time over a phone line versus Internet.

Mike Imholt with Boston Scientific presented on “Calibration and Control Charting of your SPRT and PRT.” Mike will be presenting a paper on this at the NCSLI conference this year. We were fortunate to get a full hour presentation with a hands-on demonstration utilizing an ice point reference cell (mini cell) and a Fluke maintenance bath. Mike is our local resident expert on temperature and has presented at our meeting in the past.

Our final presentation of the day was by Walter Nowocin, Medtronic and the NCSLI 151 Healthcare Committee chair. Walter’s presentation was on “Out of Tolerance Reporting – A Ticking Time Bomb.” OTRs have value in many ways if you know what to do with them. To help their customers better understand the use and importance of the OTR, the calibration lab developed an “Impact Statement Checklist” by answering the yes or no questions on the form. The customer determines the severity of the OTR and provides confirmation to the calibration lab that they have taking appropriate action. As always, we close out our meeting with the door prize finale!

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Twin Cities section meeting.
Twin Cities meeting group photo.