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The NCSL International Twin Cities Region held its spring meeting on a rainy day at the Productivity Quality, Inc. facility in Plymouth, Minnesota. The May 22, 2019 meeting was hosted and sponsored by Productivity Quality, Inc.

The day started with Keith Summers from PQI providing attendees with a history of the company and an overview of their capabilities.

The first speaker of the day was Jack Gaughan from Edmunds Gages. Jack started out by asking attendees, “What is measurement?” Jack then explained that measurement is a part of process control and that it is critical to pick the correct measurement method (e.g. in process, post process, final inspection, classification, etc.) for your application. Jack walked attendees through an example of developing a measurement budget for each component of an internal combustion engine and then wrapped up his presentation with a question and answer session.

After a break for refreshments and networking, Drew Schiltz from Zeiss Industrial Metrology Group explained the challenges and limitations associated with the human visual inspection process. Drew then introduced Zeiss’ SurfMax technology (a technology he helped invent) as an alternative to the human visual inspection process.

Before lunch, we had our Minnesota Twins trivia (make that first place Minnesota Twins trivia!), took a group picture, and were treated to a tour of PQI’s calibration laboratory. Our gracious hosts even provided a delicious lunch!

Our third presenter for the day was Randy Long from ANAB. Randy provided a brief history of ISO/IEC 17025, summarized the major changes with the 2017 revision, and then compared and contrasted the 2005 and 2017 requirements. Attendees had a number of questions for Randy as they prepare for their upcoming re-accreditations.

Our final presenter of the day, Scott Holland from Hexagon Metrology, discussed the impact of coordinate measurement machine geometry issues (e.g. linear, squareness, roll, pitch, yaw, and straightness) on the measurement process. Scott included visual examples of each issue which really helped bring the concepts to life.

The successful and informative meeting wrapped up with a round of door prizes donated by the steering committee members. The Twin Cities section would like to offer a sincere thanks to PQI for sponsoring this meeting and NCSLI for their continued support.