

Twin Cities

Corey Garbers



The Twin Cities NCSLI Section 1311 met on September 22, at the New Brighton Community Center in New Brighton, Minnesota. The event was sponsored by the National Association of Proficiency Testing (NAPT) which is based in Minnesota. This full day event pulled in 84 attendees!

This was my first meeting as the new section coordinator. I'm told the first meeting is always the most challenging, but there are 13 members on our steering committee who really help plan and hold the meetings. I would like to welcome two new members to our steering committee; Cory Otto, Boston Scientific and Rashad Nash, 3M.

The first presentation topic was "Proficiency Testing and Inter-laboratory Comparisons" presented by Charles Ellis, NAPT. Charles has been involved in the administration of interlaboratory comparisons in the metrology community for over 20 years. Based on that experience, Charles has many stories and experiences with ILC's and PT's. He reviewed many of the principles of testing and the good and bad practices that he has seen. One particular interesting thing is that NAPT provides their application for ILC's to the public for free! Anyone can sign up to use their online application to manage their testing and use their QA module. More information at www.proficiency.org.

The second presenter was Robert Stern from Keysight Technologies. Bob's topic was on "Decision Risk – Balancing False Acceptance Risk and False Rejection Risk." It was a very interesting presentation with very little math (thank you!). Many people are looking for more specific guidance from the next version of *ISO/IEC 17025* on how to take measurement uncertainty into account when making statements of conformance. This presentation provided several promising options for taking this into account. To see the presentation, search YouTube.com for "Calibration series for test and measurement equipment." This was Part 3 in a 7 part series by Bob.



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The third presentation was by David Harris of Glastonbury Southern Gage. His topic was "Thread Ring Calibration using Set Plugs." David explained in detail how to use set plugs to inspect and set thread ring gages. In particular, he covered the use of truncated set plugs when checking for wear of the thread ring. It's not just used to set the ring gage as some technicians may think. Inspecting and setting thread ring gages is as much an art as it is a science. There is a certain "feel" to the drag of the set plug when checking the thread ring gage.

The fourth presentation was by Michael Turnure from Pace Analytical Services. His topic was "Clean Room Certification and Monitoring." This was an in depth look at the requirements for a clean room. Michael covered the basics of what a clean room is and the standards that govern them. ISO 14644 and FS 209E define the requirements for clean rooms. There are numerous requirements for constructing and validating a clean room facility. We found this presentation very pertinent to our area where there are numerous



medical device manufacturers including Boston Scientific, St Jude, and Medtronic.

As usual, the meeting concluded with a door prize drawing. There were so many door prizes at this meeting that everyone

left with something! The meeting was a lot of fun and I look forward to our next.

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Larry Roden Retirement Tribute:

Larry Roden is a seasoned calibration technician working for Boston Scientific in Arden Hills, Minnesota. He received his 2 yr. associate degree in the field of electronics from Lakewood Community College. He started his career with Ball Electronics in Circle Pines, Minnesota where he ran the Calibration Lab for 10 years. Larry then went to work for Cardiac Pacemakers Inc., which became Guidant Corporation and eventually Boston Scientific. While working for CPI at the time, he set up the first automated calibration process using Fluke MetCal.

Larry has been instrumental in setting up most of the electrical, temperature and mechanical calibration processes used at Boston Scientific, Arden Hills, Minnesota. He has worked his way up to Sr. Calibration Technician during the 30 years working for what is now Boston Scientific.

His calibration skills were learned and honed by attending the Technical Paper sessions of 14 NCSLI Workshops and Symposiums held throughout the US and Canada. He also attends the local NCSLI region meetings to interface with fellow peers.

After 40 years of working in the Calibration field Larry is retiring to start a new adventure in life, whatever that might be, undetermined at this time.

The Twin Cities Section and NCSLI organization would like to thank Larry for his many contributions to the measurement science community and for his support of the NCSLI International Membership for 29 years!