Cory Otto
cory.otto@bsci.com

The NCSL International Twin Cities Region held its fall meeting on a beautiful fall day at the Recreation Center in Chanhassen, Minnesota. The October 9, 2019 meeting was hosted and sponsored by Martin Calibration.

Before the meeting started, we intentionally spent a few minutes getting to know those in attendance. First, we asked who was attending their first NCSLI section meeting. It turned out that there were six attendees who had never been to an NCSLI meeting in the past! Most of these six had heard about the meeting from co-workers who encouraged attendance. Then, we asked who had been attending NCSLI meetings for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and even 30 years. There were multiple attendees that have been coming to NCSLI Twin Cities section meetings for more than 30 years!

This touchpoint with attendees was timely as we remembered the life of one of our longtime section members, Mark Tobias from Productivity Quality, Inc. Mark and his team hosted our spring 2019 meeting and then unexpectedly passed away shortly thereafter. Mark brought an admirable passion to our section and will be missed.

The day officially started with our hosts, Rick Brion, Mark Hirsch, and Corey Garbers providing a history of Martin Calibration, which was founded 39 years ago, and an overview of their extensive capabilities.

The first speaker of the day was Mike Turnure from Pace Analytical. Mike's presentation focused on cleanroom certification testing and the governing standard (ISO 14644-1). Mike provided examples of cleanroom environments, described their features, and described the various tests (e.g. particle counts, installed HEPA filter integrity, air changes per hour, room pressure, etc.).

After a break for refreshments and networking, Kevin Rust from MTS provided examples of pressure gauges, explained how each works, and detailed how to calibrate each type. Then, Kevin provided watch outs to be aware of such as correctly interpreting specifications, tapping gauges, exercising gauges, local gravity considerations, and head pressure compensation.
Before lunch, we reviewed the benefits of being a member of NCSLI and took a group photo. After lunch, Isak Csargo from Medtronic and Corey Garbers from Martin Calibration led a panel discussion focused on how companies handle a test accuracy ratio (TAR) or test uncertainty ratio (TUR) less than 4:1. Isak explained the strategy Medtronic adopted to reduce the number of calibrations with a TAR less than 4:1. Since Martin Calibration is an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited vendor, Corey provided a different perspective and focused on ILAC G8 and the decision rules Martin Calibration has implemented based on their customer’s requirements. The panelists then held a question and answer section with the audience.

Our final presenter of the day, Michael Malgieri of Sartorius, discussed pipette calibration and maintenance, and the benefits to scheduled pipette calibration, maintenance and common sources of error.

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

The Twin Cities section would like to offer a sincere thanks to Martin Calibration for hosting and sponsoring this meeting, and to NCSLI for their continued support of the Twin Cities section!
REGIONAL NEWS

Isak Csargo, Medtronic.

Michael Malgieri, Sartorius.

Corey Garbers, Martin Calibration.