



## Society of Plastics Engineers Detroit Section Board Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2021 Meeting

### Meeting Location

Zoom meeting start 5:30 pm

**Board Member Attendance-** Neil Fuenmayor, Peter Grelle, Todd Hogan, Norm Kakarala, Adrian Merrington, Sandra McClelland, Dave Okonski, Bob Petrach, Tom Powers – ***Sandra held proxy***, Suresh Shah, Armando Sardanopoli, Laura Shereda, Keith Siopes, Sassan Tarahomi, Eve Vitale, Fang Wang, Bill Windscheif.

**Board Members not present** Lyle Beadle, Richard Broo, Dawn Cooper, Wayne Hertlein, Rob Philp, Tom Pickett, and Irv Poston.

17 of 24 voting members present.

### **Meeting Call to order**

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by President Laura Shereda.

Laura informed us that Pete Grelle and Fang Wang had stepped in to cover elections. She has been unable to contact Irv. Norm also has been unable to contact Irv in the last month. Irv currently is in hospice care.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

**Laura Shereda**

Minutes of 2021-01-25 Board Meeting were pending approval.

Laura asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes distributed by Secretary Bob Petrach. Bill made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Pete seconded, minutes were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Tom Powers**

Laura reviewed the Performance to 2020-2021 Budget report. She was unable to open the check register file so it was not reviewed. Tom sent new file and proper document is here. (expand for closer review).

There still is PlastiVan® budget as well as money in support of SPE Foundation scholarships yet to spend. Other than those items, everything is about completed for the fiscal year.

Two spreadsheets are shown side-by-side. The left spreadsheet is titled 'Performance to 2020-2021 Budget Report' and contains columns for 'Budget', 'Actual', and 'Variance'. The right spreadsheet is titled 'Check Register Report' and contains columns for 'Date', 'Description', 'Amount', and 'Balance'. Both spreadsheets have multiple rows of data.

**President Elect  
AutoEPCON**

Sandra reported that for 2021 timing could not be worked out for a virtual event. Most of sponsor money has been returned. One sponsor has had money held for 2022.

**Dave Okonski  
Sandra McClelland**

Plan is for a May 2022 event to be held in person with possible hybrid sessions.

Gary Kogowski has resigned as co-chair and a new co-chair is needed. Since this is a joint conference with Automotive Division, a co-chair from Automotive Division is preferred. Norm will contact Automotive Division about possible co-chair.

Bill reminded Sandra that venue (Marriott) was not under contract to the best of his knowledge though he thought date was reserved. Gary had actual copy of contract. Bill would check with Gary. Bill and Sandra will take care of this off line.

**2021 Cancelled**

- We cancelled 2021
- We were trying to get a smaller conference.
- SPE HQ would need to run for us.
- We were not able to get details that HQ could do this that met the Conference committee requirements.
- We refunded the money to all who wanted the money back rather than hold it for another year.

**2022 conference**

- Plan to move forward in May 2022 with conference
- Need a new Co-Chair as Gary Kogowski resigned
- We will begin work to decide how we will design the conference.

**TPO Conference**

**2021 Conference – Dates: Oct. 4 – 6, 2021 (Sunday dropped given virtual only event)**

**2021 Conference Overview**

Decision was made to change from “Hybrid” Event (Live In-Person + Simultaneous Virtual) after extensive internal and external surveys and discussions with all potential partners, considering known COVID protocols, local and federal mandates and guidance.

Informational slides here to be expanded for details:

<p><b>SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference</b> 05-24-21</p> <p><b>2021 Conference Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision made to change from “Hybrid” Event (Live In-Person + Simultaneous Virtual) after extensive internal and external surveys and discussions with all potential partners, considering known COVID protocols, local and federal mandates and guidance.</li> <li>• Letter Prepared - Communicated Council/05-24-21 - E-Mail, Website</li> <li>• 1 Page Advertising Sheet Created - 05/21/21 to be used to verify if/when</li> <li>• Virtual Software Provider and Platform: Event</li> <li>• Logo and content creation for the world</li> <li>• A/V equipment available</li> <li>• All related events complete</li> <li>• Asset review complete</li> <li>• Maintain Planned Dates: Oct. 4 – 6, 2021 (no Sunday)</li> <li>• Event Length: Plan for 3 days total             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday - Oct. 4, 2021 1 Technical Program</li> <li>• Tuesday - Oct. 5, 2021 1 Keynote/Technical Program</li> <li>• Wed - Oct. 6, 2021 1 Keynote/Technical Program</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meet PM - Oct. 5, 2021 (Delivered Sponsor/Exhibitor Time - Technical Program (Overhead) if necessary - TBD)</li> <li>• Offering Fixed Price for Event during Planned Dates</li> <li>• Offering Fixed Price for Post-Event Access (Published Technical Session Content + Access to Selected Sponsors/Exhibitors)</li> </ul>	<p><b>SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference</b> 05-24-21</p> <p><b>2021 Conference Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize/reinforce existing “core” sub-committee teams             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House Team – No longer necessary</li> <li>• Keynote Chair</li> <li>• Technical Program Team</li> <li>• Sponsorship/Exhibitor Team</li> <li>• Scholarship Team</li> <li>• Website Team</li> <li>• Parts Competition - TBD</li> </ul> </li> <li>• New sub-committee teams formed and operating             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model &amp; Cost – Work Completed</li> <li>• 2021 Event Format Team (Show Content Plan and Execution) - Active</li> <li>• Public Relations Team / Global Promotions / Communications (External) / Social Media – Active</li> </ul> </li> <li>• New Virtual Sponsor/Exhibitor Kit (Preliminary) Issued 05-19-21</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.aubit.tpo.com">www.aubit.tpo.com</a> Website has been brought up to date with all latest info and documents</li> </ul>	<p><b>SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference</b> 05-24-21</p> <p><b>2021 Technical Program – Technical Session Status</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 Technical Sessions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Materials Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catalysts (Milling) Shell (Shell Company)</li> <li>• Mark Labadie, The Dow Chemical Company</li> <li>• Peter Steiner (Lundbeck)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Surface Enhancements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. David Hays, Hays &amp; Associates</li> <li>• Jim Miller, Microchem Company</li> <li>• Jeff Galt, Shell (Shell Company)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Interior Applications &amp; Laminating Adhesives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Bruce Shanks, Hays Company</li> <li>• Austin Magrath, Lundbeck Company</li> <li>• Brad Fuchs, Lundbeck Performance Materials</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Process Developments &amp; Simulations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike Smith, Holographic Photo Plastics Co., Inc.</li> <li>• Dr. Sarah Shaw, SPE Fellow</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• (3) Concurrent Technical Program Tracks             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeting min. 69 Papers (Status 05: Tracking 68 Commitments / 58 Abstracts Received)</li> <li>• Abstracts Due: <b>April 9, 2021</b></li> <li>• Paper/Presentation Due: <b>July 9, 2021</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Lightweighting of Polyolefin Parts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike Steinhilber, Holographic Photo Plastics Co., Inc.</li> <li>• Dr. Matthew Bullock, Sunbrite Chemical</li> <li>• Bernard Meyer, Holographic Photo Plastics Co., Inc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Applications for Bio-Based Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Adam Geller, Sunbrite Chemical</li> <li>• Ashley French, Lundbeck Company</li> <li>• Steve Jenks, Holographic Photo Plastics Co., Inc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Enablers for Plastics Recovery and Reuse – New!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike Steinhilber, Holographic Photo Plastics Co., Inc.</li> <li>• Dr. Sarah Shaw, SPE Fellow</li> <li>• Steve Jenks, Holographic Photo Plastics Co., Inc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Innovations in Plastics for Future Mobility – New!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dave Heller - General Motors</li> <li>• Andrew Sorenson - Holographic Photo Plastics Co., Inc.</li> <li>• Frank Schreiner - Yonics, LLC</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**2022 Conference Overview**

Plan hybrid event, Marriott as venue. Date is reserved but no contract yet. Cost from Marriott audio visual service PSAV is extremely high but this requirement will be removed as new contract is negotiated.

**Nominations and Elections**

First VP position is open, currently seeking candidate. Not seeking Second VP position at this time. The Second VP position will remain open. Fang stressed that Nominations are open until May 28 which is deadline to get ballot information into SPE HQ. We need bio information to her by May 28. Slides here to be expanded.

**Pete Grelle and Fang Wang**

<p><b>Election of Officers and Directors – 2021-2022</b></p> <p><i>Pete Grelle and Fang Wang May 24, 2021</i></p> <p><b>2021-2022 SPE Detroit Section Officers Re-elected</b></p> <p><b>President: David Okonski</b>  <b>President Elect: Neil Fuenmayor</b>  <b>1st Vice President: Bill Galt</b>  <b>2nd Vice President: Dr. Leah Dierkes</b>  <b>Treasurer: Stan Powers</b>  <b>Secretary: Rob Petrich</b>  <b>Councilor: Dr. Sessan Taraboni</b></p> <p><b>MOTION: Approve The List of Officers for 2021-2022.</b></p>	<p><b>Election of Directors - 05/24/2021</b></p> <p><b>Director Terms Expire on June 30, 2021</b></p> <p><b>1st Seat:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pete Grelle</li> <li>• Asha Brinkhoff</li> <li>• Sandra McClelland</li> <li>• Tom Pickett</li> </ul> <p><b>1. Ballot and Photos are Due by May 28, 2021.</b>  <b>2. Ballot Will Be Sent Out by 10:00 PM on May 28.</b>  <b>3. Results Will Be Announced by Next Live Meet.</b></p> <p><b>ANY QUESTIONS !!!</b></p>	<p><b>Election of Officers and Directors – 2021-2022</b></p>
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Laura stressed that nominees but be board members. We are running out of candidates as most current board members have already served as President.

Pete commented that we need new blood on the board. Eve warned us to avoid people who do not really want to serve.

Neil asked if we should eliminate the second VP position. Eve noted we'd need to revise the bylaws. There also was discussion of multi-year terms which would also be a bylaws revision.

For transition purposes, Laura has been working with Dave and Neil and some possible bylaws changes are in discussion.

Pete made a motion to accept the nominations for the offices slate. Bob Seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

**Slate is:**

President- David Okonski

President Elect- Neil Fuenmayor

1st Vice President- VACANT

Treasurer- Tom Powers

Secretary- Bob Petrach

**Automatic:**

Past President- Dr. Laura Shereda

Councilor- Dr. Sassan Tarahomi - current term is through next year

Fang reported five director terms are expiring in 2021:

Lyle Beadle, Pete Grelle, Adrian Merrington, Sandra McClelland, and Tom Pickett.

At this time she has not received commitments or information from these five.

Adrian asked if there were term limits. Eve did a check of bylaws and we have no term limits.

The question was asked if we will try to replace Laura Correa (term through 2022) and Namrata Salunke (term through 2023). Both have resigned, Laura has sent an email. Namrata did not send an email and at this time we are unable to reach her.

Fang reported that she has just received some bio information.

Keith said he could think of some people that might want to serve. He will make some calls. Bill asked if the May 28 date was solid. Fang said she though SPE may be able to give a day or so of grace period, but not much beyond that.

Bill will follow up with Lyle to get his information to Fang, Norm will do the same with Tom Pickett.

Keith said Hala Stevens is back in the area. She may be interested and is familiar to some of the board. There are others from previous interest surveys that expressed interest in a board position.

Eve cautioned we should have possible board members serve on committees first to evaluate and judge commitment.

**First Vice President**

**Awards**

Pete reported that it has been a strange year and not a lot has happened but there have been some great efforts and some awards should be given.

Diamond Awards – for 30 years of SPE membership, were last given in 2018, we usually give every three years but Pete is proposing to delay until 2022. There was no motion and it is not an official

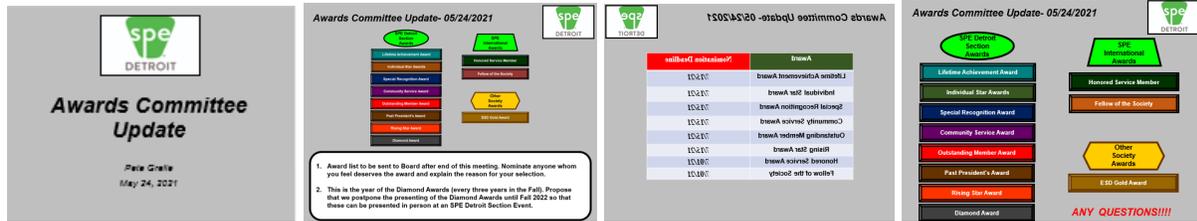
**Neil Fuenmayor**

**Pete Grelle**

timing. There was general agreement that 2022 was acceptable for the next the Diamond awards presentation.

Pete asked for nominations for other awards, both SPE Detroit Awards and SPE International Awards – Honored Service and SPE Fellow. Eve asked if there was a list of past recipients. Pete said there was and it would be in an awards packet that he would be sending out.

Slides from Pete’s presentation are here:



Laura reminded us that we do not need to award all awards.

### Sponsorship

Fang Wang

Fang presented slides of current and possible future state of sponsorship program. Plan is to put together a SPE Detroit Impact report for sponsors and leverage successful sponsorships from TPO and AutoEPCON with minimal charge upgrades.

Slides follow and can be expanded for details.



There was a problem with Fang’s connection. We moved on to education and then came back to Fang after Education reports. Fangs remaining comments are here.

Fang asked Eve to confirm anticipated cost for upcoming newsletters and how many issues were planned. Eve said intent was currently to have newsletters quarterly. She is looking for ideas and content, please contact Eve with ideas and content.

Impact report needs details. Eve and Neil will work on putting those together.

An education mission statement is needed, Eve said she had one.

Structuring the sponsorships to leverage TPO and AutoEPCON and bundling the sponsorships was thought to be a very good idea. Sassan said approaching a sponsor for an extra \$100-200 should not be a problem. We do not need a lot of metrics, keep list to one page or less.

### Second Vice President Education

Position OPEN  
Sandra McClelland

Sandra gave a PlastiVan® update. \$30,250 is yet to be spent. \$27,000 spent through April.

16 school including 9 new schools are on the list.

All PlastiVan® sessions are virtual/PlastiVideo visits. Armando asked about access to videos. Eve said that originally it was to be 30 days but extensions were given. Detroit schools had three days with instructors along with access to videos.

3 visits are scheduled for May.

Essay contest had a record 131 entries, increased PlastiVan® visits and interest from new PlastiVan® visits in inner city gave great results in South. Pandemic, remote schooling in North negatively affected North submissions.

All board members were to be essay evaluators, only 11 board members participated, but other members and past scholarship winners and outside industry people stepped up to help.

Slides here:



PlastiVideos	Completed	In Progress	Total
2020-2021	18	3	21
2021-2022	4	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>

### Essay contest

- Thanks to Todd Hogan, Tom Miller and Eve Vitale for handling the incoming essays and voting.
- Thanks to Rob Philp for making sure the website is up to date and working on an electronic essay submission with Tom for next year.

### 2021 Essay contest – South (131 essays received)

- High School Division (17 - 17 awards)**
- 1st - Abby Solberg, South Lyon HS - Plastics in a Pandemic: Protecting Lives Every Day
  - 2nd - Jocelyn Colucci, Riverview HS - The Future of 3D Printing in Additive Manufacturing
  - 3rd - Brock Fick, Ecotek Lab - Plastics Littering in Autonomous Vehicles
  - 4th - Ayra Chavis, Detroit Edison PSA - Wonders of Plastic: Plastics in the Medical Field
  - 5th - Luke Wheeler, University Prep Science and Math High School - Increased Responsibility of Musks During COVID-19 Pandemic: Can Reduce Landfill Waste and Environmental Pollution
- Middle School Division (14 - 4 awards)**
- 1st - Alexander Graham, Ecotek Lab - 3D Printing on the International Space Station
  - 2nd - Anna Sparks, Ecotek Lab - Strategies for Recycling Motor Vehicle Parts
  - 3rd - Josephine, George Mason, Detroit Edison PSA - Creative Uses of Recycled Plastics: The Second Life of Plastics
  - 4th - Jamal Brown, Detroit Edison PSA - Ubiquitous Plastics - Where Exactly are They?
  - 5th - Logan Lewis, Detroit Edison PSA - Plastics Can Help

### Schools for South Essays – 131 Total

School	Grades	Number of Essays
South Lyon HS	12	2
Robichaud HS	11 & 12	3
Ecotek Lab	4-12	26
Detroit Edison PSA	6-12	84
University Prep Science and Math HS	10-11	2
George Crockett Academy	6	3
Malow Junior High School	7 & 9	2
Warren Mott High School	11	3
Chandler Park Academy	12	4
University YES Academy	8	2

### 2021 Essay contest – North (11 essays received)

School	Grades	Number of Essays
Freeland High School	10	12
HS, Cass High School	1	11

Judges	North	South	Not a BOD member
David Singer	X	X	
Tom Miller	X	X	
Sam Grant	X		X
Laura Shrepps	X	X	
Paul Smith	X	X	
Adam Thompson	X	X	
Andrew Szymanski	X	X	
Fang Wang	X	X	
Bill Ferman	X	X	
Sandra MacCallane	X	X	
Clare Cooper	X	X	
Edwain Egan	X	X	X: PlastiVan Educator
John Fulkerson	X	X	X: PlastiVan Educator
Edith Wilson	X	X	X: PlastiVan Educator
Lynne Davis	X	X	X: PlastiVan Educator
Shang-Ho Hwang	X	X	X: PlastiVan Educator
Steve P. Arata	X	X	
David Plunkert	X	X	
Allison	X	X	

### Scholarship

- Website is up to date.
- Rob and Tom are working on a new application for electronic submission.
- We have had a few questions on degree qualification and schools.

Nippani had been liaison to MSU and had a great relationship over decades. We need a volunteer to become the liaison to MSU.

Eve gave an update on the PlastiVideos. There are 22 completed and 3 more in the works. One is on colors, another on bioplastics and one on renewable energy. There is a lot of interest in bioplastics and renewable energy in Detroit and in Africa (Senegal).

African American instructors have been hired to cover Detroit, West Africa (Senegal) and Central Florida.

SPE has just been contacted by a school in Malaysia – internet presence is expanding our reach. A school in Detroit is in discussion with SPE about licensing and developing a curriculum around the PlastiVideos.

Bill asked if we can see the videos. Eve will try to get access to those of us who wish to review videos and still protect intellectual property. Email Eve if interested in access.

Armando asked when PlastiVan® would be face to face again.

Eve said face to face probably will return in the fall. There is a STEM fair in July and details of that are being worked out.

Opportunities at schools in Detroit and Chicago are growing fast. Schools in the north had problems without opportunity for face to face.

Armando asked if schools could pick and choose the type of programs. Eve said it was a good idea and will discuss at next Foundation Meeting and invited Armando to participate as a guest. If anyone has any ideas how to leverage the new content, let Eve know.

South Essay awards will presented Wednesday May 26 at Ecotek lab venue. Attendance is limited. Eve, Tom, Sandra, and Laura will represent SPE Detroit. (Mark Richardson will act as videographer.)

### Schoolcraft College

Armando gave an update on Schoolcraft College and introduced a possible request for funds for an Amatrol Learning Center. Request would probably be for \$10,000. Armando explained the Amatrol Learning Center system which is located at a high school and is to help generate interest in the plastics industry and hopefully generate more interest in Schoolcraft College's plastics instructional program. There was a lot of discussion. Sassan noted that \$10,000 in scholarships probably would be more effective way to generate interest in the program.

A lot more detail is needed and more information is needed. Laura asked who would run the program. Are there any schools interested? Dave raised the issue of liability as this is an industrial machine and minors are doing hands on work. Sandra thought PlastiVan® / PlastiVideos was already showing promise generating interest. Pete asked Armando who paid for the system

### Armando Sardanopoli

installed in Williamsport, PA that Armando visited. Armando did not know but Eve said it was paid for with a grant from federal government. Fang asked who paid for maintenance of the equipment. Eve will help Armando with liability language to be put in grant application.

There were a number of other questions and comments.

General agreement is a lot more work need to be done on the concept and alternatives.

Armando will do some more investigation and work with Education committee.

Armando's slides:

Schoolcraft College Update

- Full Time Instructor Hired
  - Administrator for Metallurgy and Plastic's Programs: Dennis Fohey
- Enrollment Concerns
- Advisory Committee Meeting Held 4/11/21
- Planned Future Meeting
  - Formulate a Mission Statement
  - Re-Evaluate Program Content

Amatrol Learning System

- Extrusion Capability
- Blow Molding Capability
- Injection Molding Capability
- Includes Curriculum for each Technology
- Cost: \$20,000
- Install in Selected High School Program:
  - Generate interest in Plastics Technology as Career
- SPE Automotive Section Interested in Participating
- Penn Technical College: Coordinating with 3 High Schools

**Old/New Business**

**Laura Shereda**

Bob asked about the 'Nippani tribute' issue of the newsletter. Eve has it in progress and asked if the Nippani story should be the cover story, answer was a resounding "YES".

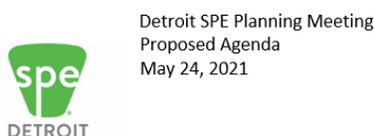
Laura, Dave and Neil are working on the Planning meeting to be held in June. Date is TBD. Every attempt will be made to make this an in person meeting.

Pete thanked Laura for her work as President through a very challenging two years. Ditto after ditto followed.

Bill moved that meeting be adjourned; Neil seconded. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:40.

Next meeting date is to be determined. This evening's agenda follows.

Minutes respectfully submitted. Bob Petrach – Secretary SPE Detroit.



5:30 PM	President	Laura Shereda
5:30 PM	Meeting Call to Order	Laura Shereda
5:30 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Laura Shereda
5:35 PM	Approval of Minutes	Bob Petrach
5:40 PM	Budget	Tom Powers
5:50 PM	TPO Conference	Neil Fuenmayor
6:00 PM	Auto EPCON	Committee
6:10 PM	Nominations/Elections	Pete Grelle/Fang Wang
6:40 PM	Awards	Pete Grelle
6:50 PM	Sponsorship	Fang Wang
7:05 PM	Education	Sandra McClelland
7:20 PM	Schoolcraft Update	Armando
7:20 PM	Old/New Business	Laura Shereda
7:25 PM	Meeting Adjourned	Laura Shereda