



Society of Plastics Engineers Detroit Section Board Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2022 Meeting

Meeting Location

ZOOM and ACC

Board Member Attendance- Dawn Cooper, Neil Fuenmayor, Mary Gilliam, Norm Kakarala (Emeritus, non-voting), Adrian Merrington (Bob held proxy), Sandra McClelland (Dave held proxy), Dave Okonski, Bob Petrach, Rob Philp, Tom Pickett, Armando Sardanopoli, Keith Siopes, Fang Wang, Eve Vitale (Neil held proxy), Bill Windscheif. *14 of 19 voting members present. (quorum met)*

Board Members not present – Todd Hogan, Tom Miller, Tom Powers, Laura Shereda, and Sassan Tarahomi unable to attend.

Meeting Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 5:39 pm by President Neil Fuenmayor who welcomed everyone.

Roll Call

Neil Fuenmayor

Neil directed Bob to go through the roll; roll was called and is reflected in attendance record above. NOTE We again had some technical problems with the microphone but quickly resolved.

Approval of the Minutes

Neil Fuenmayor

Minutes of 2022-06-27 Board Meeting were pending approval.

Neil Fuenmayor displayed the copy Bob sent out 2022-09-06. Bob reviewed with highlights. There were no corrections or additions. Bill moved minutes be approved, Dave seconded and motion was approved by voice vote.

President's Message

Neil Fuenmayor

Neil gave a recap of the discussions held at Executive Committee meeting.

Most of the time at the Executive Committee meeting was focused on open positions and how to address filling those roles as well as recruiting more board members and improving diversity of the board, particularly generational.

Currently we need a second VP, Volunteer coordinator, House and Programs Chair, Next Gen coordinator, Communications Chair, and with the tragic loss of Pete Grelle an Awards Chair and an Election and Nominations Chair. We also need to consider training a candidate for Treasurer

We have open positions: second VP, Next Gen Advisor, Volunteer coordinator, House and Programs. We need to restart technical dinners and tours. We need to train a replacement for Treasurer, Tom Powers continues, but he has done the job for 20 years.(starting 21st)

Neil had said he had heard some comments that there were no job descriptions. There are job descriptions in the Society of Plastics Engineers Detroit Section Operating Guideline, latest revision 05/09/16. Neil displayed that and showed us a couple examples. Neil will send out the latest to everyone. Revisions are needed. Eve commented on both the Bylaws and Operating guidelines are something that need almost continual revision and one more thing to add to Neil's list.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Powers

Tom was not present and Neil had not received a report. Neil said we are planning to do an internal audit with Bill, Tom Powers, Dave, and Neil. We have committed to do an external audit of the books this year (2022-2023) sometime in 2023. Dave has already reached out to an outside firm and we may ask help from SPE headquarters staff. We should at least do an internal audit annually. Last one was April 5, 2019.

President Elect

Fang Wang

Fang was on line but not answering, Eve said Fang may have been interrupted as Fang is at CAD RETEC in Orlando, Florida. Neil moved on to First VP section

House and Programs no update

POSITION IS OPEN

TPO Conference

Neil Fuenmayor

AutoEPCON

Dave Okonski

Volunteers

POSITION IS OPEN

Awards

POSITION IS OPEN

Fang Wang

Elections

POSITION IS OPEN

Fang Wang

First Vice President

Rob Philp

Newsletter

Eve Vitale

Eve stated the Newsletter is with the designer and it will be printed for TPO conference.

She still did not receive all the updates that she had requested. (AutoEPCON)

Newsletter will have a TPO cover with an inset tribute to Pete Grelle.

She is contacting Chase Plastics to ask them to be a newsletter sponsor. Chase elected not to be a TPO sponsor this year.

There will be three newsletters this year. She plans a December newsletter. Deadline for information will be mid November.

Eve asked how many copies of printed newsletter were need for TPO.

Rob mentioned that maybe we should put it in bag of TPO information. He noted he and Eve were working on pushing SPE and there would be a booth promoting SPE membership. If we put in bags we would need at least 500 bags. We should also have extra copies for Pete's family.

Eve needs to know by September 19 how many to print.

Norm recommended against putting the newsletter in the bags as the added weight will be uncomfortable for TPO attendees to lug around all day. TPO Committee will discuss further and give Eve a number. There also was a question as to whether or not bag would comfortably hold the newsletter. Bill stated Sumitomo was the bag sponsor.

Advertising – Sponsorships

Fang Wang

No Update. Bob noted it has been months since we met as a committee.

eCommunications**Keith Siopes**

Keith reported that he cleaned up Detroit SPEaker and Facebook and is accepting requests to join those groups. There is no longer a CHAIN to worry about. Keith needs to learn how to request a Newsbrief and other general headquarters run communications. Eve told him she'd help with that as she does it all the time.

Keith is posting TPO information on Detroit SPEaker.

Web**Rob Philp**

Rob has website up to date (last posting was today's Mary Gilliam board member information). After TPO ins concluded Neil stated he and Rob would start working on a revamping of the website

Materials Auction**Dawn Cooper**

Dawn reported that there will be no auction for 2022-2023. Dawn explained that we typically we do in late January, early February as donors wish to get material off their books by the end of December for tax purposes. Dawn confirmed she is willing to lead the 2023-2024 year in for a January/February 2024 Material Auction (*as moved and passed at 06.27.2022 meeting*).

Toy Program**Dawn Cooper**

Dawn there will be no toy program. APT cannot do it this year.

Neil asked about other alternatives.

Alternatives such as a toy drive, purchasing and branding toys, a monetary donation to an established toy program were all discussed and ruled out for logistics, intent or effectiveness reasons. Dave pointed out that Sassan's idea of having our own tool was a good idea. Dave said he has access to a "frisbee" tool that is insertable but there may be intellectual property problems as it is basically a clone of Wham-O Frisbee. Eve also supported build our own tool for some kind of toy. Dave will talk to his contact at Master Precision Mold. Others are encouraged to come up with ideas and contacts.

Ultimately, it does not look as if there will be a toy program this year.

Golf Outing**Dawn Cooper**

Dawn still needs some receipts from Tom Powers to show final numbers.

Inter-society**Bob Petrach**

Next Affiliate Council meeting is September 21. Bob will forward link to meeting when he receives it. Bob attended July 18 ESD Affiliate Council Meeting where topic was on-line/hybrid meeting best practices including hardware. When documents from presentation or presentation recording link is available that also will be forwarded.

Historian**Bob Petrach**

Bob had no report, he is updating History file, Eve wants updated file for Newsletter information. File is updated, but Bob needs some review and will send shortly.

Back to President Elect**Fang Wang**

Fang was no longer on line, Neil decided moved on to First VP section

House and Programs no update

POSITION IS OPEN

Bob reported he was working with Kelly Beauchamp to reschedule and revise the COVID canceled event at PCS that Sassan had scheduled for March 2020. Progress has been slow.

It is important that we fill in the calendar to select dates and assure no conflicts with other events. Bob noted he also had reached out to several people about help scheduling events. He described a benchmarking tour he took of PTI Engineered Plastics in Macomb in 2019 while trying to determine a new machine purchase for STI. PTI Engineered Plastics already was well into Industry 4.0 in 2019. He is trying to get Christian Skurkas at Manvel Machine to help in that (Manvel Machine scheduled that visit) and have Christian solicit Harry Manvel for more contacts / possible tours in Saginaw, Bay City, Michigan.

Neil thanked Bob for efforts and encouraged him to continue but also noted that Sassan was correct we need a lead in Programs who is active in industry with a diversity of connections. Bob agree that was correct, someone who is more of a salesman is needed, something that he (Bob) is not.

TPO Conference

Neil Fuenmayor

Neil reviewed slides. (below)

2022 SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference

Overview

- **Event Dates: October 2 – 5, 2022 at the Detroit Marriott Hotel Troy (Troy, MI)**
 - Sun., Oct. 2: Set-Up/Reception + (2) Tutorials
 - TPOs for Automotive: The History and Developments in the Past 5 Years*
- Mike Balow, Auxin Consulting

 - TPOs in Automotive Interior Soft-Trim Applications - An Overview*
- Pravin Sitaram, Director Product Innovation & Sustainability Advanced Materials & Technology
Hartz Corporation
 - Mon. – Wed. Oct. 3 – 5: Keynotes, Technical Programs, Exhibits, Student Poster Competition, Lunches & Receptions
- **Overall Plan / Format / Length**
 - Full Live Event – No Virtual Component (No longer Hybrid)
 - Full 3 Days (Mon. – Wed.) – Format & Timing same every day
 - Venue Considerations / Constraints
 - Use 2019 Footprint (~55 exhibit spaces max.)

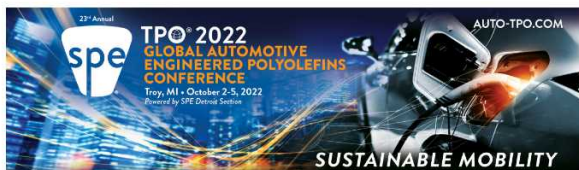
2022 SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference

Event: October 2 – 5, 2022

Main Focus Areas and Theme for 2022

Status:

- Key Themes: Sustainability and Future Mobility
- Graphics Complete and Graphics Developed / In Use
- Website (www.auto-tpo.com) Updated to Current



2022 SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference Event: October 2 – 5, 2022

Structure and Function/Teams

Status:

- Full Planning Committee, Steering Team, and Sub-Committee Teams Formed
 - Full Planning Committee = 47 Total Members (8 New!)

- Major Sub-Committee Teams:
 - Conference Chairs: Neil Fuenmayor, Bill Windscheif, John Haubert
 - Operations Chair: Rob Philp
 - Sponsorship Chairs: Sassan Tarahomi, Dave Okonski
 - Technical Program Chairs: Norm Kakarala, Mike Balow, Dave Helmer
 - Keynotes Chair: Bill Windscheif
 - House Chair: Bill Windscheif
 - Communications Chair: Beth Talaga

2022 SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference Event: October 2 – 5, 2022

Status of 09-12-22:

- 5 Keynotes

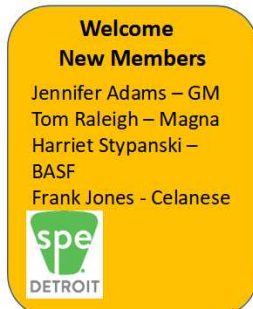
- Ecotek Lab Student Poster Competition

- 7 Technical Sessions

- 62 Technical Papers

- 49 Exhibitors (Platinum, Gold, Exhibitor)

Eve slide



SPE Membership Booth at the TPO Conference to recruit members and SPE Detroit board members

- Prime location in lobby
- Membership materials from HQ (request made 9.9.2022)
- Laptop available to sign up on the spot
- “Bingo” board at table – *Welcome New Members*
- Daily announcement welcoming new members during opening remarks
- Could be highlighted on social media or in newsletter
- Detroit SPE members to be at booth during networking breaks
- Eve Vitale will volunteer to work the table, but will need other volunteers
- The booth will also be used by the SPE Foundation to promote the work being done in Detroit and supported by the Detroit Section

Needed for project:

- Printed newsletters (in process)
- Membership marketing materials (requested from HQ)
- Tripod and whiteboard
- Anything else to promote SPE and Detroit SPE
- VOLUNTEERS – it won't work without volunteers
- Ideas welcome

Neil highlighted Sunday events, Student Poster contest, Sassan is still working on sponsorships. With the three full days there is need for a Wednesday lunch sponsor that has not been needed in the past. As lunch sponsorships currently stand, TPO Committee may end up paying for Tuesday Wednesday lunches.

Eve will organize an SPE membership booth. She needs help from board members to work at the booth. Eve will get slide deck for SPE membership booth to Neil. Eve also can get local (3) PlastiVan educators to help man the booth is we can get them free admission to the TPO conference. Dave, Neil and Bill agreed that was not a problem and we could get them the SPE Detroit board complementary conference code so they can register.

We also need to see if we can get copies of 80th Anniversary Plastics Engineering Magazine to distribute at the booth.

AutoEPCON

Dave Okonski

Dave said 2022 report out was in June minutes as published and there were no updates. Planning for 2023 event is starting with Dave and Sandra leading.

Volunteers

POSITION IS OPEN

Awards

POSITION IS OPEN

Fang was working had been with Pete and can help a new chair, but needs someone to take over as she is President Elect.

Elections

POSITION IS OPEN

Again Fang had been working with Pete and can help a new chair, but needs someone to take over as she is President Elect.

Reiterating, we also have **Second Vice President and Next Gen positions are OPEN.**

Education

Sandra McClelland

Neil reviewed slides given to him from Sandra. They are below. Budget status has not changes since June meeting. Pete Grelle Scholarship proposal is last slide. A named local scholarship can be done within current Education / scholarship budget. That opened discussion of possibilities and considerations. Dave told us that the Injection Molding Division also would like to do a scholarship (Foundation scholarship) jointly with Detroit. There also is a slide presentation from Eve on possible Foundation Scholarships.

Current Status

- Plastivan – No requests
- Scholarship –
 - Waiting for applications. Deadline is September
 - Using new on-line system.
- Student Chapters
 - MSU getting ready for a sign-up blitz

Budget Status

Education Budget	2019-20 Budget	2019-20 Spent	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Spent	2021-22 Budget	2021-2022 Spent	2021-2022 Remainder	2022-2023 Budget
Scholarship	\$63,000	\$63,500	\$42,900	\$41,600	\$60,000	\$29,837	\$30,163	\$60,000
Plastivan	\$57,250	\$29,925	\$57,250	\$27,000	\$57,250	\$44,275	\$12,975	\$57,250
Plastivan modules			\$60,000	\$60,000		\$5,000	\$0	\$0
National Support	\$5,000	\$0			\$4,000	\$4,080	(\$80)	\$4,000
Area Programs	\$10,000	\$3,740	\$9,000	\$4,455	\$9,000	\$4,550	\$4,450	\$9,000
Administration	\$500	\$346.50	\$400	\$711	\$800	\$103	\$697	\$800
Special Programs	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,400			\$0	\$0
Future Student Chapters	\$500	\$0	\$1,440.00	\$0			\$0	\$500
SAE Foundation	\$3,500	\$3,750					\$0	\$0
Student Sections	\$35,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$35,000		\$35,000	\$35,000
Total	\$177,750	\$101,262	\$178,990	\$136,166	\$171,050	\$87,845	\$83,205	\$166,550

Pete Grelle Scholarship Proposal

- Although Pete did a lot with SPE International, would like to propose a Detroit Section scholarship to honor what he did with Detroit Section Education and with the Detroit Section.
- What did Pete do with Education in the Detroit Section? Pete worked with the students in the area including the following:
 - Mentoring Moderators at AutoEPCON
 - Talking to student attendees at AutoEPCON about plastic careers
 - Judging Future City
 - Teaching at Schoolcraft
 - Mentoring people in that he ran across and always helping people learn about plastics from his experience
- We present the Detroit Section scholarships at the TPO conference Sunday evening event. We highlight the information on why the scholarship was established and hand the checks to the students with parents/significant others present. There are a lot of industry people also present so we highlight Pete to them.
- **The education committee does not need any additional money allocated to have this named scholarship.**
- **This would be a great way to keep Pete in our thoughts and hearts and to honor him every year.**

Eve slides on Foundation Scholarship possibilities

Opportunities to honor
Pete Grelle's Legacy



The SPE Detroit Section has always been a big supporter of Positive Plastics Education through the SPE Foundation with annual sponsorships of PlastiVan, support for the PlastiVideo program, and funding needed scholarships.

Sponsored in part by 

Current SPE Foundation Scholarships

- Irv Poston Detroit Section Scholarship
- Norm Kakarala Detroit Section Scholarship
- Robert Dailey Detroit Section Scholarship
- Tom Powers Detroit Section Scholarship



Peter Grelle Endowed Scholarship

- Requires \$50,000 to endow at the SPE Foundation
- Per SPE Foundation spending policy payout is 5%, or ~\$2,500/year
- There may be interest from the Injection Molding Division to work with us to make it happen
- The scholarship could go to a student with injection molding experience in honor of Pete's passion and expertise
- Announced by SPE Foundation to all stakeholders (could be in Plastics Engineering magazine, social media, Foundation newsletter – TBD)





SPE Honored Service Member Endowed Scholarship

To recognize Honored Service Members and their commitment to service to the Society, the SPE Foundation is launching a campaign to endow a scholarship in their honor.



The SPE Honored Service Member Scholar will be a student who has supported SPE's mission as an engaged member and leader of their SPE Student Chapter. The award will be at least \$5,000.

Peter Grelle Honored Service Member Scholarship



Promote SPE Service Magnify Pete's Legacy

For more information contact Eve Vitale
evitale@4spe.org



Let's build someone else's future



This scholarship can be named with a gift of \$100,000 to endow the prestigious SPE Honored Service Member Scholarships.



With a pledge of \$100,000, the gift can be made over a 3-year period.

Eve said the Foundation is also doing a "Fellow of the Society Member Scholarship" with a \$100,000 endowment. These two scholarships are to get a major publicity roll-out.

Eve noted funding for the endowment can be spread out over a three year period.

**Much discussion followed. No decision was made.
Summary of points from discussion follows.**

Sassan had expressed to Neil prior to meeting that with Pete's work at Schoolcraft College that he felt a local scholarship to Schoolcraft students was appropriate. There are difficulties with this as this is a very narrow field though an application would fit criteria.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Students enrolled at either a four-year college/university or two-year community college degree program (minimum requirements of six credit hours per semester) pursuing a career directly related to plastics (i.e. Plastics Engineering, Polymer Engineering/Science, Packaging Engineering, Material Engineering/Science, Composite Materials and Structures, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry or Mechanical Engineering).
2. Active SPE student member including active membership in your schools SPE Student Chapter if applicable.
3. Applicant has not received or anticipates receiving any other scholarship from the SPE during the current award year.
4. Applicants must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.8 (4.0 scale) from the prior school year.
5. Applicants must demonstrate a high degree of intent to pursue a career in the Plastics Industry.

But a local Detroit Scholarship would eliminate cooperation with IMD and Pete was a huge part of IMD having been on the IMD board for over 20 years and Technical Director for the entire time. A joint Foundation Scholarship with IMD would be very important to Pete and a Foundation scholarship by IMD alone is not financially possible as they do not have a balance sheet comparable to Detroit Section.

Tom Pickett noted that Pete was a proud graduate of U Mass – Lowell and a scholarship to U Mass – Lowell students would be appropriate. The drawback on this is that it would be a very narrow field of applicants.

Bill asked if the Detroit Section could choose the recipient from the field of applicants if we funded a Foundation Scholarship. Eve said “yes” the sponsor of a Foundation Scholarship can exercise the right to select the recipient. Dave explained that the IMD had problems with this in the past and that the Foundation did not allow IMD to do the selection. He said that this had been resolved a few years ago. Eve confirmed that it has always been the right of the sponsor to do the selection and that has been recent practice. *(Eve started as Foundation CEO in 2016 at a half time (20 hr.) which grew to 30 hrs now full time. In January 2021 her contract was extended through December 31, 2024)*

If we choose to fund a Foundation Scholarship in the near future, we would need two votes for this size expenditure. If we delay decision or make the decision to include in 2023-2024 budget (June 19, 2023) we would only require the one vote. Eve said this was not a problem with the foundation as this process does take a while and is just starting.

It also gives us time to carefully consider and work with others such as IMD and to work with Pete’s family.

SPE and plastics education and service was a lifestyle for Pete which warrants careful consideration.

Old/New Business**New Business**

At Pete’s viewing, Dave and Bill had a discussion with Lyle Beadle. Lyle stated that he was thinking about getting involved again in SPE Detroit. He had stepped back and not sought reelection to the board a couple of years ago.

Neil Fuenmayor**Neil Fuenmayor**

After a brief discussion, Dave Okonski moved that we do a special board election and elect Lyle to a term ending June 2025. Bill seconded the motion and asked our non-voting Emeritus member, Norm Kakarala, to give us his opinion. Norm was very positive. With Norm’s stamp of approval we proceeded to approve the motion unanimously.

Bob mentioned he had some contact with Wayne Hertlein recently and Wayne wanted Bob to let everyone on the Detroit board know he missed them. Wayne is currently working at ConMet in Canton NC and living in Cosby, TN. (typical Wayne - at least an hour drive to work though it is a scenic drive on I-40 through the mountains)

Dave Okonski gave a brief recap of the Detroit Section Family Picnic August 13 held at the American Legion Post 377 Pavilion on Lake Oakland in Waterford Township. It was a great time, about 30 people attended. Dave has already reserved the venue for August 12, 2023 so put it on your calendars.

Karen stepped in and reminded us that we needed to select a date for the Holiday Dinner. After a brief discussion Thursday December 8 was selected as the date. Karen will find a venue and make arrangements.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Windscheif, seconded by Eve Vitale. Approved, meeting ended at 7:57.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2022.

Minutes respectfully submitted. Bob Petrach – Secretary SPE Detroit.
Agenda for today's meeting follows.