



## Society of Plastics Engineers Detroit Section Board Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2023 Meeting

### Meeting Location

**ZOOM/ phone and ACC**

**Board Member Attendance-** Neil Fuenmayor, Mary Gilliam, Mahmoodul Haq – Sandra held proxy, Bernd Henkelmann, Sandra McClelland, Tom Miller, Dave Okonski, Bob Petrach, Rob Philp, Tom Pickett, Martin Popella, Laura Shereda, Keith Siopes, Sassan Tarahomi – Norm held proxy, Richard Umemoto, Eve Vitale.

***Emeritus Board Member Present – Norm Kakarala (non voting)***

***Not present*** – Lyle Beadle, Dawn Cooper, Todd Hogan, Adrian Merrington, Armando Sardanopoli, Chris Surbrook. Fang Wang. *Emeritus (non voting) not present, unable to attend– Tom Powers*

**Guests – none**

### **Meeting Call to order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Rob Philp.

### **Roll Call**

**Rob Philp**

Rob had Bob call the roll. Record is above. 16 of 23 at start of meeting exceeding the minimum (13) for a quorum.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

**Rob Philp**

Minutes of 2023-09-11 Board Meeting were pending approval.

Rob referenced copy Bob sent out for review on 2023-10-29.

**Eve moved minutes be approved, Neil seconded and motion was approved by voice vote.**

### **President's Message**

**Rob Philp**

Rob will deliver in wrap up /New old business section of agenda.

Note – missed second reading of proposal to revise term of office for President, President Elect, and Vice Presidents be changed to two years and necessary changes in the bylaws made to support this change.

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Dave Okonski**

Dave reported that he is still having problems with Quicken software as he cannot import Tom's data without overwriting his data which makes transition cumbersome. Dave still is trying to figure out what goes into what account.

Investment balance was \$2,998,491.78. Down 2.6% since July 1, 2023.

Fifth Third Bank checking account balance was \$199,604.55 Quicken showed that the balance should be \$194,506.84 a \$4097.71 discrepancy that happened before 7/1/23. Dave is still trying to find the error.

There are still debits due of \$169,730.86 and there is also a credit card autopsy of about \$11,000 due 11/10/23. There is still some revenue due from TPO.

Dave is going to talk to the investment advisors about how to withdraw and transfer to checking if there is a need.

Dave reported that 2023-2024 budget is still not finalized, he's working with Tom to get that to reflect approved budget and learn Tom's method of account assignment.

Dave has not received final report out for golf outing. Eve asked about the hole in one payout as someone did get a hole in one.

### **External Audit –**

Neil reported that Montgomery & Company, PLLC completed Financial Audit for 2022-23 Fiscal Year. (\$7500) There was an additional \$1100 charge for from 990 preparation. Preliminary report came to Neil and Tom on 9/26, there was another meeting 10/13. Neil reported Harold Montgomery had several questions on how money goes out, who can use credit card and what the approval process is and they talked again 10/31. Neil has asked for best practices and recommendations and has had several follow up calls and will meet again to conclude the process. Neil will have a proposal / recommendation on type and frequency of future audits which will be reviewed at the next Executive Board meeting.

### **President Elect**

**Fang Wang**

### **House and Programs**

**Martin Popella**

Martin has selected 2/5/24 as the date for the first TDM of the fiscal year.

First of the several social networking meetings in a "Craft Beer Tour" is scheduled for 11/16 in Oxford, fliers have gone out. Others to be in Anna Arbor/Brighton and Detroit/South areas. Other suggestions are welcome.

Also trying to plan Woodward Dream Cruise and Detroit Grand Prix companion events, please share ideas, perhaps combining August picnic with Dream Cruise, still a lot of discussion. Also discussion about possible Tigers or Red Winds events.

### **Membership/NextGen**

**Dr. Mahmoodul Haq/Laura Shereda**

Laura presented membership update reports. Total of 632 current members. Sandra reported Dr. Haq has about 70 students signing up so there should be an increase.

### **Nominations/Elections**

**OPEN/Fang Wang/Bob Petrach**

No report, no committee action planned until December.

### **Awards**

**OPEN/Fang Wang/Bob Petrach**

Dave Okonski HSM nomination forms turned in on time with joint effort from Injection Molding Division. No status update from SPE yet.

Awards for 2022-2023 still to be distributed, working with Programs committee to find suitable dates. Need Laura bio information for Outstanding Member presentation.

Did not work on promised awards web pages yet.

**ESD Gold** no nomination planned (deadline 2023-12-01)

**AutoEPCON May 14, 2024  
McClelland**

**Dave Okonski Sandra**

Dave said a committee meeting was needed in November and that he would like to be replaced as co chair. Bernd said he would be interested but had to learn more. Dave said it was a small committee. Norm asked about the partnerships with Injection Molding and Additive. Dave said they contributed a couple papers but no sponsors. When asked about Sustainability, Sandra said that they had partnered with us years ago but there was no recent interest. Rob asked about 2023 financial results. Bob said they'd been reported in the June meeting but Dave also had a more detailed breakdown on a spreadsheet which had not previously been show to the board and he reviewed a this meeting. There was no revenue sharing this year with Injection Molding or Additive.

**TPO**

**Neil Fuenmayor**

Neil reported that 49 volunteers on the committee this year contributed to a very successful conference. There were no significant issues during the conference. Post conference there has been a problem setting up access to the virtual profile (recordings of presentations) which he expected to resolve soon.

He was pleased to report that 75 attended the CareSoft Global tour on Wednesday afternoon. Panel discussions went very well.

**Data 667 Attendees** +8.5% [2022: 615] Internal Target: 500

**Revenue: \$398,867.50** +3.3% [2022: \$386,286.25]

Attendees (Registrations): **\$108,867.50** [2022: \$82,986.25]

Sponsors/Exhibitors: **\$290,000** [2022: \$303,300.00]

**Costs: \$219,371.47** +11.9% [2022: \$196,114.18] 2023 Budget Estimate: \$240,000

**Delta (Profit): \$179,496.03** -5.6% [2022: \$190,172.07]

This is subject to minor adjustments as costs are further evaluated, final profit expected to be less at about \$150K.

2024 TPO committee will start planning in December. The 2024 TPO will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary TPO Conference. There was some discussion on how to recognize that (founding members of committee, industry leaders, publications, etc.). TPO Committee will work this out.

**Communications**

**OPEN**

**e-Communications**

**Keith Siopes**

11/16 event posted on various social media and sent out to members. Keith thanked Eve for calling a meeting with Fang, Keith, Eve and Valerie Clayton to discuss overall communications.

Keith said there were about 15 new LinkedIn connections last week, about 30 over the last month and about 1500 total.

**Newsletter**

**Eve Vitale**

Eve reported newsletter was in final edit. Neil asked what happened and asked to be able to change some of his input as it was no longer relevant as it was time sensitive. Eve acknowledged there were unforeseen delays and would try to make changes for Neil but wasn't sure we could. It was suggested that in the future, there should be no delays to wait for information that should be coming it, just "go to press" with what is on hand.

Eve stressed that something she learned from Sandra is that the newsletter is our history so we do need to record events there and contribute.

Ready to include sponsors, Kingfa, Chase, Sirmax and LyondellBasell.  
Rob displayed the SPE Foundation letter up for review (with compliments). Eve said it would be in the January newsletter.

### **Website**

**Rob Philp**

Rob refresh underway, new look at <https://invis.io/D9139163UJCN> .Chase will be added to site.  
Rob will send out email to VPs to review committee responsibilities and actions. Committee reports and meeting notices are to be on website in the future so people can see what we are doing.  
Rob is directing Rob Smuck at Big Water Media in building of content. Currently there are 18 committees / subcommittees.  
Dave asked how we are presenting our value proposition. Neil said the slide show we use on the events display has the necessary content and suggested perhaps we do a video. Rob said he's willing to do that. Tom Pickett emphasized networking and learning.

### **First Vice President**

**Dawn Cooper**

Dawn was not present at meeting.

### **Advertising / Sponsorships**

**OPEN Fang Wang/Neil Fuenmayor**

no update

### **Historian**

**Bob Petrach**

Bob reported no success with contacting Marilyn Price to see if there was anything available in Ron's archives.

### **Golf Outing**

**Dawn Cooper**

No golf outing final report.

### **Toy Programs**

**Dawn Cooper**

**Status unknown.** Neil asked what happened as in June we thought APT was on board for this year. Neil has been investigating a green toys company as a contingency to possibly buy some toys. There was a flurry of ideas tossed out. Followup after the meeting is necessary.

### **Materials Auction**

**Dawn Cooper**

No report. Neil said venue had been booked.

### **Inter-society**

**Bob Petrach**

Next ESD Affiliate Council Meeting will be November 15, 2023 Bob will forward information (link to Zoom) when available, could also attend in person. Bob will update when details available.

### **Second Vice-President**

**Mary Gilliam**

Mary had to leave meeting prior to reaching this point in the agenda.

### **Education**

**Sandra McClelland**

Tom Miller presented PlastiVan® report. There have been 21 visits to date. (\$33,075 spent)

PlastiVan® visits could use SPE members at schools for support but prior scheduling is needed as there are security approval and entrance protocols to follow at most schools. Eve has a sign up list. She will resend that email.

Essay Contest

Submission deadline is February 26, 2024. Suggested topics, details, and application are posted on the website.

***Judges are needed.***

**2024-2025 Scholarship** Sandra reported that Scholarship information is up on website. Submission deadline is August 16, 2024. [https://spedetroit.org/?page\\_id=2648](https://spedetroit.org/?page_id=2648)

Education Committee has been asked to do oversight of TPO scholarship again in 2024. Two top winners from 2023 will be asked to present at TPO 2024. Dave asked if they'd present in person or virtually. If at all possible presentations will be in person. (this year's winners were Jerry Miao, University of Wisconsin – ***Tailoring Rigidity in Powder Melt Extrusion 3D Printing of Recycled Polyolefins*** and Malik Hassan, University of Guelph – ***Upcycling of Ocean-Recycled Polyolefins and Waste Biomass through Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM)*** )

Dave also asked about global reach of TPO attracting scholarship applicants. Neil explained that without “boots on the ground” they have not had a lot of traction attracting attendees from overseas. Dave did say that Penn State has sister universities overseas. Bernd noted SPE is always at the K show every 3 years. Sandra has contacts in EU, China, India and Turkey if TPO wants to expand scholarship candidate reach.

Neil thanked everyone for the ideas and it will be discussed at TPO committee meetings.

Sandra gave an update on the **SME PRIME initiative** that Armando had started investigating and had contacted. She stressed SME is more focused on metal working. SME PRIME reaches grades 10,11, and 12.

SME got \$6M from the State of Michigan to expand SME PRIME in Michigan

Core pathways - Additive Manufacturing, Metrology and Quality, CAD/CAM

Elective Pathways – Industrial Maintenance, Machining and Fab, Megatronics and Robotics, Welding

Area of possible interest to SPE would be additive manufacturing.

SME agreed to give us introduction to schools and suggested that we start as a ‘guest speaker’.

Sandra showed us a map of schools involved with SME PRIME. There are 33 schools involved, 6 of those have had PlastiVan® visits in the recent past. Expansion of PlastiVan® visits into the other 27 schools is being considered.

Alma school to be contacted by MSU Student Chapter to arrange visit.

PlastiVan® to contact schools to see about giving a presentation to them. This will require additional funds to PlastiVan® estimate of \$25,000. Eve said PlastiVan® could handle more visits but the challenge is getting the proper contacts and making the proper connections at the schools.

Education Committee plans on getting more student news on the website to highlight activities. The link will be eblasted to Detroit Section members.

Eve said they need volunteers for STEM day at LTU November 17. There will be 50 fifth grade students and 50 high school students from Detroit at the event. Sandra suggested sending out an invitation to the whole board.

## **Old/New Business**

**Rob Philp**

### **No Old Business**

### **Old Business**

Bob asked if committee (Rob, Neil, Dave, Sassan, and Lyle) to investigate a possible sustainability conference had met. Rob said that they had not but meeting would happen.

### **New Business**

Rob encouraged us to be at the Sunday October 1 TPO opening events. Sandra will run the program which starts at 3:30. Students will be there at 5 pm and major scholarships awarded at the dinner.

The Holiday party will be at Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. Karen will send out notice of date possibilities and finalize.

Rob announced that Lyle Beadle had resigned from the board. Rob read Lyle's resignation letter.

Christmas/Holiday party is set for December 6, 2023 at Royal Park Hotel in Rochester.

Rob explained problems getting discounts and negotiating the conference contracts with the Troy Marriott. When we stated conferences at the Marriott with the TPO conference, it was with a 20% as the Marriott knew that TPO would bring more SPE conference to them.

Rob and Sassan (representing SPE Automotive) had planned to work bundling TPO 2025, EAV 2024, and AutoEPCON 2024 conferences to get better rates. Note, Lyle had previously signed TPO 2024 contract with the Marriott. Without contacting Sassan and Rob, Dave signed the 2024 AutoEPCON contract taking leverage away from Rob and Sassan for TPO and EAV.

Neil stated again that the idea was to bundle events to get better pricing from the Marriott as costs have increased dramatically in the past couple years and the increased costs at the Marriott was the primary driver that lowered profit margin at TPO. (in previous years we have also had other events at the Marriott such as the Christmas/Holiday party and we have had events at MSU in Troy which could possibly have been at the Marriott, all of which should be bundled to get the best overall cost if bundled.)

**Neil wants to solidify a contract review process.**

**Neil moved to adjourn, Dave seconded. Meeting closed at 8:58**

Next board meeting is **January 8, 2024**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bob Petrach, Secretary SPE Detroit.

Agenda for this meeting follows. Rob inadvertently distributed agenda from September meeting so we followed that which is why meeting start was delayed to 6 pm.



## SPE Detroit Section – Sept. 2023 BOD Meeting Proposed Agenda for September 11, 2023

ACC/SPE Office – Troy, MI & Virtual

Next BOD Meeting: November 6, 2023 ACC Office

5:00 PM	Dinner	
<b>6:00 PM Meeting Start</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Rob Philp</b>
	Meeting Call to Order	<b>Rob Philp</b>
	Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions	Rob Philp
6:15 PM	Approval of Minutes (MAY. 2023)	Bob Petrach
6:20 PM	President's Message	Rob Philp
6:40 PM	Treasurer's Report - Budget Proposal for 2023-24 – New - Financial Audit	Dave Okonski
<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>President-Elect</b>	<b>Fang Wang</b>
7:10 PM	Technical Programs – Status/Updates	Martin Popella
7:20 PM	Membership/Next Gen – Status/Updates/Plans	Dr. Mahmoodul Haq/Laura Shereda
7:25 PM	Nominations/Elections - Election Discussion / Actions	<i>Open</i> / Bob Petrach/Fang Wang
7:25 PM	<i>Awards</i>	<i>Open</i> / Fang Wang/Bob Petrach
7:30 PM	Auto EPCON Conference (May 2023) – Preliminary Post Event Report	Dave Okonski/Sandra McClelland
7:40 PM	TPO Automotive Conference (Oct. 2023) - Status	Neil Fuenmayor/Rob Philp
7:50 PM	<i>Communications</i> / e-Communications	<i>Open</i> / Keith Siopes
7:55 PM	Newsletter	Eve Vitale
8:00 PM	Website - Refresh / New Website Proposal & Discussion	Rob Philip
<b>8:10 PM</b>	<b>First Vice-President</b>	<b>Dawn Cooper</b>
8:15 PM	<i>Advertising</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
8:15 PM	<i>Sponsorship</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
8:15 PM	<i>Historian</i>	<i>Open</i> / Bob Petrach ( <i>Acting</i> )
8:15 PM	Annual Golf Outing (June 20, 2023)	Dawn Cooper
8:20 PM	Annual Toy Program (Nov./Dec. 2023) - Prelim. Plans, Needs & Timeline	Dawn Cooper
8:25 PM	Annual Materials Auction (Jan./Feb. 2024) - Prelim. Plans, Needs & Timeline	Dawn Cooper
8:30 PM	<u>Intersociety</u>	Bob Petrach
<b>8:40 PM</b>	<b>Second Vice-President</b>	<b>Dr. Mary Gilliam</b>
8:45 PM	Education/ Scholarship Committee	Sandra McClelland / Tom Miller
8:50 PM	SPE Foundation / PlastiVan / PlastiVideo	Eve Vitale
8:55 PM	Old/New Business	All
<b>9:00 PM+</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>	<b>Rob Philp</b>