



Detroit Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers

Board Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2025 Meeting

Meeting Location

ZOOM/ phone

Board Member Attendance- Jitesh Desai, Neil Fuenmayor, Bernd Henkelmann (Neil held proxy), Sandra McClelland (Bob held proxy), Tom Miller, Matt Parkinson (Tom Miller held proxy), Bob Petrach, Rob Philp, Tom Pickett, Armando Sardanopoli, Laura Shereda, Keith Siopes, Chris Surbrook, Sassan Tarahomi. **14/20 voting (included proxies)**

Emeritus Board Member Present – Norm Kakarala (non voting)

Not present – Dawn Cooper, Mahmoodul Haq, Todd Hogan, Dave Okonski, Richard Umemoto.

Guests – none

Meeting Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by President Rob Philp. Rob had Bob call the roll reflected in attendance listed above. Including proxies 14 of 19 votes were present.

Approval of the Minutes

Rob Philp

Minutes of 2024-11-18 Board Meeting were pending approval. Rob referenced copies Bob sent out for review.

Sassan moved minutes be approved for 2024-11-18 be approved, Jitesh seconded. **Motion passed.** Bob asked if abbreviated minutes without slides from reports was preferred. General consensus was that format was better.

President's Report

Rob Philp

Rob started out thanking the attendees.

Rob reminded us that with the **two year term**, we need to reevaluate cadence of office and make bylaw revisions. Rob will have Bob review board contact list for accuracy.

Phishing emails – Rob reminded us that under no circumstances would any of the officers or past officers ask one of the board to pay a bill or purchase anything. No matter what urgency is conveyed, ignore the email.

Treasurer's Report

Rob stated Dave indicated that he may be able to call in so Rob would wait. (Dave was able, report given later by Rob.)

Sustainability Conference

Sassan Tarahomi

Call for **Papers** Rev 10 is out. There are various levels of sponsorship available. 70 tech talks are

planned but may go over, 57 committed to date. Had to cut off legal presentations.

Six keynotes are locked in. Sassan thanked Keith for promoting the conference on Linked In.

Sponsorships There are various levels of sponsorship available. Having trouble filling the big ticket sponsorships, working on discounting plans.

Only agreement so far is on 140,000 sq ft two payments of \$12,500 and then commitment for food services of \$140,000 for 3 days. Nothing spent yet, still discussing. May postpone conference to 2026 if more sponsors are not secured.

Neil asked Sassan if he had an estimate on total cost. Sassan predicted about \$200,000.

Sassan has enough session chairs, needs help in operations and especially sponsors.

Have not picked a hotel to work with.

Membership/Next Gen

Laura had not arrived yet, skipped

Nominations and Elections

Open / Bob Petrach

Bob reported he had not done anything, we need to work on bylaws to determine what progression is needed.

Awards

Open / Bob Petrach

Nothing has been done on awards, we need a chair and team.

Education/ Scholarship Committee

Sandra McClelland / Tom Miller

Tom Miller presented his report.

PlastiVan® Pat Farrey agreed that PlastiVan® cost increase would not take place until next year. Upcoming dates are 2/21 at Baker Middle School in Troy and 2/24 and 2/25 at Larson Middle School in Troy.

Sidebar – Neil asked about Dr. Haq’s status. Rob stated Dr. Haq has been very ill and need to contact. Laura took over as Membership chair to get email list and get newsletter out to members.

Scholarships need to revise website for 2025 form and 8/11/25 submission deadline date.

Essay contest Deadline for students is February 28.

Tom is concerned that we have only 3 essays received thus far, 2 - Warren Mott HS, 1 – HH Dow HS. Neil asked how we promote Essay contest. We should be getting submissions from PlastiVan® schools. We need to assure PlastiVan® instructors are promoting.

Tom had Neil Fuenmayor, Bernd Henkelmann, Todd Hogan, Sandra McClelland, Tom Miller, and Keith Siopes confirmed as Essay judges. **Everyone on the board should judge essays.** Bob and Jitesh committed to Tom to be essay judges.

Deadline for review is end of March, Tom will probably set sooner as people forget about it when date is far out. Neil mentioned ANTEC is through March 6 so he’d not be judging until after that.

Student Chapters. \$2500 of ANTEC support money has been given to Kettering Chapter, amount to FSU is still TBD. Budget has not been updated to reflect the \$2500 to Kettering.

Neil suggested we follow up on past suggestion to have a board meeting at one or more of the student chapters. Rob will contact new Kettering student chapter president. Need to do in March or April.

TPO Automotive Conference – Status

Neil Fuenmayor / Rob Philp

No slides to review Neil reported that they were just getting going. The 2024 team did a post conference review in December and 2025 is set with four new members and one (Hoa Pham)

from 2024 retiring. There will be two new technical chairs this year.

Conference will be cut to two days. Setup is 9/29/25, 9/30 and 10/1 will be full conference days.

Rob is working on Marriott as venue, but also looking for alternate venues. Probably will end up at Marriott, costs will be up from in the past with lesser discounts.

Communications

Keith Siopes

Call for papers for Sustainability Conference and Essay volunteers have gone out on social media..

Website

Rob Philp

January 2025 newsletter is posted, Rob did a quick scroll of it. Still in need of updates to calendar and Board of Directors listing. Rob and Tom Miller have handled updates for Scholarships on website.

Golf Outing

Dawn Cooper

Dawn was not at meeting. Rob pointed out Golf outing posting on website and in newsletter is wrong, date is in question and it definitely will not be a Pine Trace this year as Pine Trace is closed while undergoing a renovation.

Neil asked if same team was in place for Golf outing. Rob said he's not sure, he'll ask Karen to get with Dawn.

Sassan suggested we have Jill revise Golf Outing portion of newsletter and resend it to the membership. Rob said he'd send out an email to membership.

Material Auction

Dawn Cooper

Rob mentioned we need to follow through on Sassan's suggestion to make Material Auction an on going, on line system. Rob will talk to Rob at BigWater (our website developer) on ways to implement.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Okonski

Dave was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Rob displayed Dave's the Treasurer report as well as Check Register for 9-15-24 to 11-15-24 and Performance to Budget 7-1-24 to 11-15-2024. Neil said he will followup on remaining TPO receivables.

The Detroit Section is presently financially solvent with a checking account balance of \$97,114.08 and an investment portfolio having a market value of about \$3.69M. For the period 1/1/2025 to 2/16/2025, expenses exceeded income by \$132,214.70.

Items of Interest:

- 1) A Purchase Order (\$22,300) has been issued by ORNL for the DOE Workshop that was co-located with the 2024 Auto EPCON Conference – check not received yet.
- 2) Only one sponsor – The Radici Group – has signed-up for the Sustainability World Congress.
 - a. The Radici Group – Diamond Sponsor – \$8,000

Sassan moved Treasurer's report be approved, Keith seconded, **motion was approved.**

Membership/Next Gen

Laura Shereda

Laura had no real data from last year for comparison. Snapshot of membership showed 3 Distinguished Members, 64 Emeritus, 13 Premium, 360 Professional, 72 student, and 116 Young

Professional for a total of 628. Laura displayed new member numbers since January 2024, total for 2024 was 67, January 2025 was 13. Chris pointed out SPE has been purging expired members from roles sooner than they had in the past so numbers may not compare well to past years. June 2023 report showed 642 total members so little change.

Sassan asked “where Lifetime members were?” Laura said SPE did not have a Lifetime category.

Norm and Chris said Lifetime was not an SPE category, HSM and Fellows had dues waived.

Laura is planning on checking to assure all board members are up to date for insurance purposes.

Intersociety

Bob Petrach

Bob had sent out his report with minutes for review. He highlighted Michigan Future Cities Competition January 21, 2025 and thanked volunteer judges Neil Fuenmayor, Tom Miller, Rachel Petrach, and Armando Sardanopoli who determined the winner of Incorporation of Plastics Materials Award - Joseph K. Lumsden Bahwetig Anishnabe Academy, Sault Ste. Marie – Fukuoka Team who chose to float their island city using hollow plastic spheres.

As in year’s past there was little knowledge of plastic materials and general feelings were negative.

But did notice an opportunity. Teams are only allowed 3 presenters, however, most teams are much larger. Those students are in another room with a variety of learning activities. This would be a great opportunity to have a running PlastiVan® class open to all. Bob will follow up with ESD, then Tom Miller and Mark Richardson as needed.

Old Business/ New Business

Rob asked is there was any more old or new business to discuss today.

Old Neil asked if AutoEPCON was dropped for 2025. Rob confirmed it was.

New ANTEC Neil plans on attending, so does Dave. Neil Rob, Tom Miller and Dave will get together to plan coverage of Leadership, and Councilor’s meeting and also give time for ANTEC presentations. Both Rob and Tom are unable to attend. Tom may be able to assign Councilor proxy to Dave or Neil.

Rob is planning on taking on the newsletter responsibility, Jitesh volunteered to help Rob on newsletter.

Sassan noted need to get bylaws updated and asked who was on committee. Committee is set as Rob, Neil, Dave, Bob and Sassan.

Neil asked about a possible reschedule of EvosNA Tech meeting/ tour. Rob will ask Bernd about it. Question highlights the need for a Programs Chair.

Rob thanked everyone for attending and noted jobs needing to be filled and open board positions and asked that if you know of anyone interested in serving put them in touch with Rob.

Sassan moved meeting be adjourned, Neil seconded, Motion passed, adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Next BOD Meeting: March 17, 2025 Location TBD + Zoom

Minutes respectfully submitted Robert V. Petrach, Jr. Secretary SPE Detroit.

Agenda of today's meeting follows:



SPE Detroit Section – February 2024 BOD Meeting

Proposed Agenda for February 17, 2025

Virtual Next BOD Meeting: March 17, 2024 ACC Office & Virtual

5:30 PM Meeting Start	President	Rob Philip
	Meeting Call to Order	Rob Philip
	Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions	Rob Philip
5:45 PM	Approval of Minutes (November 18, 2024)	Bob Petrach
5:50 PM	President's Message	Rob Philip
6:00 PM	Treasurer's Report	Dave Okonaki
6:10 PM	Sustainability World Congress – Status / Updates	Susan
6:20 PM	Membership/Next Gen – Status/Updates/Plans	Dr. Mahmood ul-Haq/Laura Sherada
6:25 PM	Nominations/Elections - Election Discussion / Actions	Open / Bob Petrach
6:30 PM	Awar ds	Open /Bob Petrach
6:40 PM	Education/ Scholarship Committee	Sandra McClelland / Tom Miller
6:45 PM	TPO Automotive Conference – Status	Nell Fuenmayor/Rob Philip
6:50 PM	Communications / e-Communications	Open / Keith Slopes
6:55 PM	Newsletter	Open / Rob Philip
7:00 PM	Website	Rob Philip
7:05 PM	First Vice-President	Dawn Cooper
7:10 PM	Advertising	OPEN
7:10 PM	Sponsorship	OPEN
7:10 PM	Historian	Open / Bob Petrach (Acting)
7:10 PM	Annual Golf Outing (June 27, 2024)	Dawn Cooper
7:15 PM	Annual Toy Program (Dec. 2025)	Rob Philip
7:20 PM	Annual Materials Auction (Feb. 2025) - Prelim. Plans, Needs & Timeline	Dawn Cooper
7:25 PM	Interactivity	Bob Petrach
7:30 PM	Old/New Business	All
7:35 AM	Meeting Adjourned	Rob Philip

Next BOD Meeting: March 17, 2024 ACC Office & Virtual

