



**Detroit Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers  
Board Meeting Minutes**

November 17, 2025 Meeting

**Meeting Location**

**ZOOM/ phone only**

**Board Member Attendance-** Neil Fuenmayor(Rob held proxy) , Bernd Henkelmann, Sandra McClelland, Tom Miller, Dave Okonski , Matt Parkinson, Bob Petrach, Rob Philp, Tom Pickett, Keith Siopes, Chris Surbrook, Sassan Tarahomi, Richard Umemoto. **13/18 voting (included proxies)**

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

***Not present*** – Murali Chandrasekhar, Jitesh Desai, Todd Hogan, Armando Sardanopoli, Laura Shereda,

Guests – Titus Francis (Kettering)

For this Rob turned on the AI Meeting Assets function. I thought the summary was well worth sharing for a quick recap. Maybe this type of recap is appropriate for newsletter along with Treasurer's report Things are a bit jumbled but it does cover the meeting.

“The SPE Detroit Section Board of Directors meeting covered updates on the Sustainability World Congress and various educational initiatives, including scholarship programs and student chapter activities. The board reviewed financial matters including budget allocations, spending reports, and newsletter content, while also discussing upcoming events such as the Innovative Awards Gala and a planned holiday dinner. The conversation ended with discussions about future planning, including potential collaborations with other institutions and the scheduling of various section activities.”

**Meeting Call to order**

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by President Rob Philp. Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologized for having to cancel September meeting, but explained some difficulties with TPO conference demanded his attention to assure its success.

Role was called with 10 out of 18 members present, establishing a quorum at the time, there were a few that joined later as is shown in above attendance list.

**Approval of the Minutes**

**Rob Philp**

Minutes of 2025-06-23 Board Meeting were pending approval. Rob referenced copies Bob sent out for review September 8. **Neil moved** minutes be approved as presented for 2025-06-23. **Dave seconded. Motion passed.**

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## President's Message

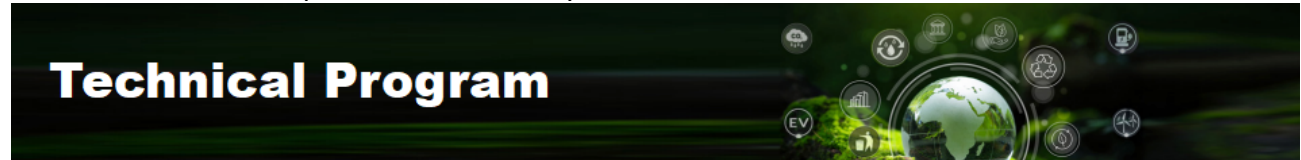
Rob Philp

Rob thanked everyone for being here and apologized to Sandra and let us know that Sassan would present his report first, then we'd do Kettering student chapter report and Education report and then back to regular agenda.

## Sustainability Conference

Sassan Tarahomi

Sassan reviewed his report on Sustainability Conference for June 9-11, 2026.



# Technical Program

## 9 Keynote Speakers & 88 Technical Presentations (added 6)

**Sunday – Monday, June 7-8, 2026**

**Tuesday, June 9, 2026**

1:00 AM Registration & Continental Breakfast Sponsored by TBD

8:00 AM Wisconsin Polymer Conference Chair: Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, [MidMichigan Plastics & Tackling, LLC](#)

9:00 AM Keynote Presentation #1: TBD

10:00 AM Keynote Presentation #2: TBD

11:00 AM Keynote Presentation #3: TBD

12:00 PM Lunch in the Exhibit Hall Area Sponsored by TBD

**Wednesday, June 10, 2026**

1:00 PM Registration & Continental Breakfast Sponsored by TBD

8:00 AM Wisconsin Polymer Conference Chair: Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, [MidMichigan Plastics & Tackling, LLC](#)

9:00 AM Keynote Presentation #4: TBD

10:00 AM Keynote Presentation #5: TBD

11:00 AM Keynote Presentation #6: TBD

12:00 PM Lunch in the Exhibit Hall Area Sponsored by TBD

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

1:00 PM Registration & Continental Breakfast Sponsored by TBD

8:00 AM Wisconsin Polymer Conference Chair: Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, [MidMichigan Plastics & Tackling, LLC](#)

9:00 AM Keynote Presentation #7: TBD

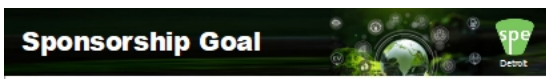
10:00 AM Keynote Presentation #8: TBD

11:00 AM Keynote Presentation #9: TBD

12:00 PM Lunch in the Exhibit Hall Area Sponsored by TBD

**9 Keynote Speakers & 73 Technical Presenters are committed**

9 Keynote Speakers & 88 Technical Presenters are committed, yellow time slot areas on slide need work. Meeting on second Monday of month was poorly attended due to conflicts



**Sponsorship Goal**

**\$100K by Oct 31, 2025**

**\$200K by Nov 30, 2025**

**\$300K by Jan 31, 2026**

Sassan reported sponsorships need help. Rob to follow up with contact at Sirmax regarding SWC sponsorship.

#	Champion	Company
1	Keith Siopes	Rhotech
2	Keith Siopes	Aquafil
3	Keith Siopes	AKRO-PLASTIC INC.
4	Keith Siopes	MOCOM
5	Keith Siopes	Kinfa
6	Keith Siopes	Solvay Specialty Polymers
7	Keith Siopes	LG Chemical America, Inc.
8	Keith Siopes	Idemitsu Chemical USA USA Corp
9	Keith Siopes	Ultra-Poly Corp.
10	Sassan	Mid Michigan Plastics
11	Sassan	BASF
12	Sassan	Ravago
13	Sassan	Entec
14	Sassan	Bamberger & Company Polymer
15	Sassan	Blue Polymer
16	Sassan	Channel Prime Alliance
17	Keith Siopes	Radici
18	Keith Siopes	Sirmax
19	Sassan	Prism
20	Keith Siopes	Padnose
21	Sassan	Darrow & Mustafa
22	Sassan	MSU
23	Sassan	Ecotek
24	Sassan	Amazon
25	Sassan	Tesla
26	Sassan	Ford
27	Sassan	GM

## Keynote Speakers

Keynote Speakers	Champions
- <u>Tori Logan</u> , Director of Sustainability, <u>Southwire Corp.</u>	Keith Y.
- Adam Wozniak, <u>Ravago</u> , Sr. Managing Director of Sustainability	Sassan
- Mark <u>Kinkelaar</u> , Prism Worldwide <u>CCO</u>	Sassan
- Matt Vandyke, Sustainability Engineer, GM	Sue <u>Kozora</u> , <u>IAC</u>
- Prof. <u>Mohini M Sain</u> , University of Toronto	Dr. <u>Faruk</u> , U. of Toronto
- Kari Blis, Principal Sustainability, <u>Padnos</u>	Keith S.
- Ralph Bland, Superintendent, Detroit Edison <u>PSA</u>	Keith Y.
- Robert Henley, Executive Director, <u>Innovus</u>	Keith Y.
- Rachel <u>Meidl</u> , Deputy Dir., Rice University's Baker Institute	Adam W.

## Keynote Speakers Guidelines & Deadlines

### Guideline

**High level, credible, relevant, timely and innovative**  
**Addressing current & future sustainability challenges and opportunities**  
**Practical real-world applications**  
**Relevance to the industry's body of knowledge with advanced-level content**  
**PowerPoint presentation , 25 – 30 minutes talk with 10-15 minutes Q&A (25-30 slides)**

### Deadlines

**Required Information by November 30, 2025**  
**Presenter name, title & company name**  
**Title of presentation**  
**Abstract**  
**Presenter high-definition picture**  
**Presenter biography**

**Required Information by January 30, 2026**  
**First draft of presentation**

**Required Information by February 28, 2026**  
**Final draft of presentation**

**Biggest problem is paid sponsorships.** If you can help, please do so.

## Education/ Scholarship Committee

## Sandra McClelland

Tom Miller introduced Titus Francis of Kettering University thanked the section for its support and told of recent activities, including hands-on experiments and a recycling plant visit, and outlined plans for upcoming events such as a talk on polymers in fireproofing and activities using bottle caps and polymer clay. Sandra asked about AIAG. Seven students attended, 4 receiving awards. Kettering is interested in working with other student chapters. Tom Miller will set up conference call between three main student chapters for collaboration

Sandra/Tom Miller will coordinate with Mark Richardson to schedule PlastiVan® visit for Future Cities in January.



\$38,000 Budget Remains

### SPE Detroit Section PlastiVan Visits 2025-2026

July			Budget*	\$75,000
1	DPLS-Knapp Branch	Detroit	\$1,850	
10	Jackson Learning Fair	Jackson	\$1,850	
11	Jackson Learning Fair	Jackson	\$1,850	
23	DPLS-Knapp Branch	Detroit	\$1,850	
30	DPLS-Knapp Branch	Detroit	\$1,850	
<b>September</b>				
23	Clare Middle School	Clare	\$1,850	DET_PVan_11
24	Meridian Middle School	Detroit	\$1,850	DET_PVan_11
<b>October</b>				
1	Brandon High School	Ortonville	\$1,850	DET_PVan_11
6&7	Wyandotte Middle School	Wyandotte	\$3,700	DET_PVan_11
8-Oct	William D Ford Career Tech Ctr	Westland	\$1,850	DET_WFTC-10
17	Priest Elementary Middle School	Detroit	\$1,850	DET_PVan_11
20	Bullock Creek	Midland	\$1,850	DET_PVan_11
22	Beaverton Junior High School	Beaverton	\$1,850	DET_PVan_11
28	Davison Elementary Middle School	Detroit	\$1,850	DET_PVan_11
<b>November</b>				
12&13	Gus Grissom Middle School	Sterling Heights	\$3,700	
18&19	Saginaw Heritage High School	Saginaw	\$3,700	
21	Clippert Academy Middle School	Detroit	\$1,850	

## PlastiVan® Thank you

Dear Tom and Dave,

Thank you so much for generously sponsoring our classroom event. Your support made it possible for our students to enjoy a meaningful and engaging learning experience. Because of your contribution, our students were able to explore Hands - on STEM activities and gain valuable real-world experience that will inspire them for a long time.

I deeply appreciate your partnership in helping our students learn, grow and succeed.

With sincere gratitude.

**Anjana Kapoor**

Middle school Science Teacher  
 Detroit Public School Community District  
 Davison Elementary Middle school  
 2800 E Davison St  
 Detroit, MI



## William D. Ford – Junior Researcher Program

A PlastiVan® visit was done. Will use \$1,850 of new PlastiVan® visit that is in budget for this visit. (Total of \$5,500 was approved)

- Students, Teacher and Principal attended AIG.
- Working on projects with Mark Richardson.

- Working to get a visit to Ford AM facility. WDF has 8 AM printers that they design and make components from.



Education Budget	2021-22 Budget	2021-2022 Spent	2022-2023 Budget	2022-23 Spent	2023-2024 Budget	2023 Spent	2024-2025 Budget proposal	2024-2025 Spent	2025-2026 Budget	2025-26 Spent	2026-2027 Budget
Scholarship	\$60,000	\$29,837	\$60,000	\$47,450	\$60,000	\$55,050	\$60,000	\$46,233	\$55,000	\$50,226	\$4,774
PlastiVan	\$97,250	\$44,278	\$97,252	\$97,250	\$79,000	\$79,000	\$74,025	\$75,000	\$34,000	\$31,000	\$16,000
New PlastiVan visit	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
PlastiVan modules	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,585	\$5,500	\$2,852	\$4,500	\$590	\$5,910	\$0
National Support	\$800	\$103	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$153	\$800	\$500	\$81	\$419	\$0
Future Student Chapters	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
SAE Foundation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SME Jr. researcher	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$9,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$0
Wayne County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Student Sections	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$7,500	\$25,000	\$5,624	\$19,376	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$171,050</b>	<b>\$87,843</b>	<b>\$166,532</b>	<b>\$124,151</b>	<b>\$179,800</b>	<b>\$138,388</b>	<b>\$130,610</b>	<b>\$201,000</b>	<b>\$91,371</b>	<b>\$109,626</b>	<b>\$16,774</b>

Essay contest. **Everyone should judge.** Deadline is February 27, 2026! Make time in early March to judge. For those board members concerned about the use of AI to write essays contact Tom Miller [thomas1.miller@celanese.com](mailto:thomas1.miller@celanese.com) and/or Todd Hogan [tahogan@dow.com](mailto:tahogan@dow.com) if you want to be part of the group discussion and set guidelines for use. Note, **DO NOT need to be a board member or Detroit Section member to judge.** It is a way to get people involved. Titus said he had volunteered to judge.

**Membership/Next Gen**

**Laura Shereda**

No report.

**Nominations and Elections**

**Bob Petrach**

There are no elections in near future. Next election will be for Councilor, preparation starts late 2026. Tom Miller’s current term runs to ANTEC 2027 which is assumed to be concurrent with NPE 2027 on May 3-7, 2027 Tom is eligible for a second three year term. Current board officers serve through June 30, 2027 so slate should be set late first quarter 2027.

**Annual Toy Program (Dec. 2025) / Golf Outing**

**Rob Philp**

**Toys** Rob reported that we were contributing to the ESD toy program. Neil and Karen had contacted Elana Shelef at EDS and we’d be drop shipping Amazon purchases direct to ESD. Plan is to purchase toys manufactured with recycled plastics as we did last year.

**Golf Outing** Rob reported that he just signed contract with Cherry Creek. Dawn will chair event which is scheduled for June 16, 2026.

**Website updates**

**Rob Philp**

Sandra asked about meeting schedule showing December 8 meeting. Rob agreed it should be canceled. Next meeting will be January 12, 2026. Holiday dinner will be December 11 at Ocean Prime in Troy. Visit to WD Ford and visit to Ford AM center to be either 12/4 or 12/12. Rob will work with Ramesh Iyer, automotive Division Chair to coordinate schedules. Sassan said he’s ready to have Mid Michigan Plastics host a meeting, give a tour and do presentation in person (in West Branch) and on line maybe having a remote set up in Troy so a group can gather.

**Treasurer’s report**

**Dave Okonski**

Dave presented report. Two files are submitted for the Board’s review – Performance to Budget for the time 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2026 and the Check Registry for the time 10/20/2025 to 11/14/2025.

The Detroit Section is presently financially solvent with a checking account balance of \$181,924.49 and an investment portfolio having a market value of about \$4.1M. For the period 7/1/2025 to 11/14/2025, income exceeded expenses by \$23,974.93.

<b>Financial Performance,</b>	<b>BUDGET (Entire Fiscal Year)</b>	<b>ACTUAL (7/1/25 - 11/14/25)</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,138,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 197,860.85</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,113,165.00</b>	<b>\$ 173,885.92</b>
<i>Fiscal Year: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026</i>		

For the period 10/20/2025 to 11/14/2025, income exceeded expenses by \$16,460.21.

<b>Financial Performance</b> <b>10/20/2025 through 11/14/2025</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 94,866.67</b>	<b>\$ 75,985.35</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 92,306.34</b>	<b>\$ 59,525.14</b>

The federal income taxes for SPE Detroit Section have been completed and accepted by the IRS. As required, tax forms have been uploaded to SPE Headquarters. Dave had a question in regards to Ecotek Labs tax exempt status. Keith verified through Google search that they were non profit, Dave noted we must exercise care and explain contributions to organization that are no non profit.

Dave will place stop payment on three outstanding scholarship checks if not cashed by December 31<sup>st</sup>. **Tom Miller** will send messages to three scholarship recipients to remind them to cash their checks.

Sassan moved to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented, Keith seconded. **Motion passed without opposition.**

**Bylaws**

**Rob Philp**

In interest of time and inactivity, Rob skipped this, moved to Newsletter.

**Newsletter**

**Rob Philp**

Rob is working with Jill Houser to put a December newsletter together before Christmas. If you have content/ photos, send to Rob. Sandra and Tom Miller to finalize newsletter content from student chapters and scholarship winners. Rob will include Sustainability World Conference update, sponsorship and essay contest information.

**Old Business/ New Business**

There is a SPE Chapter Leadership Roundtable on November 19th featuring Matt Seaholm., CEO of the Plastics Industry Association discussing the SPE - Plastics Industry Association merger. Rob noted that Pat Farrey offered to come to a Detroit BoD meeting to discuss the merger concluded it was not necessary or constructive.

**Next meeting is January 12, 2026 and will be in person at ACC and virtual.**

**Keith made a motion to adjourn, Sassan seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.**

**AGAIN Next BOD Meeting: January 12, 2026 ACC and Zoom 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

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

Agenda from today’s meeting is on following page.



# SPE Detroit Section – November 17 2025 BOD Meeting Proposed Agenda

ACC Office & Virtual

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92973393814?pwd=9xEsoawBcFwGmMqb2lQZQgCAotX.1>

Meeting ID: 929 7339 3814

Passcode: 379997

Onetap mobile

+13092053325,,92973393814#,,, \* 379997# US

+13126266799,,92973393814#,,, \* 379997# US (Chicago)

Join instructions

[https://zoom.us/join/92973393814/invitations?signature=gFuQtuh8lZa20Bvbfwnu4zIDNh8\\_r9cRD0AmCg9vp1k](https://zoom.us/join/92973393814/invitations?signature=gFuQtuh8lZa20Bvbfwnu4zIDNh8_r9cRD0AmCg9vp1k)

5:30 PM Meeting Start		
5:30 PM	Meeting Call to Order	Rob Philp
5:35 PM	Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions	Rob Philp
5:35 PM	Approval of Minutes (October 2025)	Bob Petrach
5:40 PM	President's Message	Rob Philp
5:50 PM	Education/ Scholarship Committee	Sandra McClelland / Tom Miller
6:10 PM	Sustainability World Congress – Status / Updates	Sassan
6:20 PM	Membership/Next Gen – Status/Updates/Plans	Laura Shereda
6:25 PM	Nominations/Elections	Bob Petrach
	- Election Discussion / Actions	
6:30 PM	Annual Toy Program (Dec. 2025) / Golf Outing	Neil / Rob / Dawn
6:40 PM	Treasurer's Report	Dave Okonski
6:45 PM	By-Laws	Rob Philp
6:50 PM	Newsletter	Open / Jill Houser / Rob Philp
6:55 PM	Old/New Business	All
7:30 PM	Meeting Adjourned	Rob Philp

Next BOD Meeting: Holiday Dinner @ Ocean Prime Troy, MI (date TBD)