



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

March 9, 2026 Meeting

Meeting Location

ACC Troy / ZOOM/ phone

Board Member Attendance- Murali Chandrasekhar, Neil Fuenmayor, Bernd Henkelmann, Sandra McClelland, Tom Miller, Dave Okonski (Bob held proxy), Matt Parkinson, Bob Petrach, Rob Philp, Tom Pickett, Armando Sardanopoli, Laura Shereda, Keith Siopes Rob held proxy. **13/18 voting**

Not present – Todd Hogan, Chris Surbrook, Sassan Tarahomi, Richard Umemoto.

Emeritus Board (non voting) Norm Kakarala

Non board members – Greg Boston- General Polymers, Dawn Cooper – golf outing chair, Riley Green – General Polymers, Mark Llasera -ZANINI USA, Dave Sheridan

Meeting Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Rob Philp. Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll call was taken with 10 out of 18 members present, establishing a quorum, shortly after 3 more joined for a total of 13 voting for all votes held.

Approval of the Minutes

Rob Philp

Minutes of 2026-01-12 Board Meeting were pending approval. Rob referenced copies Bob sent out for review. **Neil moved** minutes be approved as presented for 2026-01-12. **Bernd seconded.**

Motion passed.

Minutes of 2026-02-09 Board Meeting were pending approval. Note no official business could be done at this meeting due to lack of quorum, informational only. Rob referenced copies Bob sent out for review. **Neil moved** minutes be approved as presented for 2026-02-09. **Bernd seconded.**

Motion passed.

Before President's message Rob gave Armando an opportunity to present a proposal that Armando had sent to Eve for review. Armando said proposal was not at a point to review with board at this time.

Greg and Riley arrived, Rob took time to have them introduce themselves

President's Message

Rob Philp

Rob announce the meeting schedule was now on the website.

Rob noted we needed help scheduling visits, tours, technical presentations and if anyone had any

ideas to let Rob know. Murali mentioned reviving idea of visiting KraussMaffei Brighton to review their LFAM (large format additive manufacturing) operation.

Rob gave an update on Sassan. Sassan slipped on some ice on January 19 and broke 5,6 cervical and had surgery at U of M February 2 and will be immobile for the next 12 weeks. Obviously this creates significant difficulties with TPO Conference, Sustainability World Congress, and EAV Conference of Automotive Division as Sassan was either a major contributor or lead of all of these.

Treasurer's report

Dave Okonski

Bob reviewed Dave's reports. The Detroit Section is presently financially solvent with a checking account balance of \$111,896.32 and an investment portfolio having a market value of about \$3.98M. For the period 7/1/2025 to 3/8/2026, expenses exceeded income by \$46,053.24

Financial Performance,	BUDGET (Entire Fiscal Year)	ACTUAL (7/1/25 – 3/8/26)
INCOME	\$ 1,138,000.00	\$ 407,360.85
EXPENSES	\$ 1,113,165.00	\$ 453,414.09
<i>Fiscal Year: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026</i>		

For the period 2/4/2026 to 3/8/2026, expenses exceeded income by \$15,438.01

Financial Performance 2/4/2026 through 3/8/2026	BUDGET	ACTUAL
INCOME	\$ 94,866.67	\$ 24,000.00
EXPENSES	\$ 92,306.34	\$ 39,438.01

Neil would like to review TPO status and separate 2025 conference numbers from 2026 conference numbers.

Bob moved treasurer's report be approved as presented. **Bernd seconded. Motion passed.**

Education/ Scholarship Committee

Sandra McClelland

Education initiatives continue with PlastiVan® visits, essay contests, and scholarships, though budget and participation challenges remain.

PlastiVan® Visits: Approximately \$1,000 remains for the current year, with a proposal to allocate an additional \$850 from new PlastiVan® funds to enable one more school visit before year-end. \$1,000 remainder was due to increased cost after budget was set. Cost increase meant fewer overall PlastiVan® visits.

The Education Committee will prepare a summary of visited schools and propose budget adjustments for next year, balancing cost increases against the desire to expand outreach

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\$1,000 Budget Remains

SPE Detroit Section PlastiVan Visits 2025-2026

		Budget*		\$75,000
AUG				
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	
SEPTEMBER				
23	Clare Middle School	Clare	\$1,850	DET_Plan_11
24	Meridian Middle School		\$1,850	DET_Plan_11
OCTOBER				
1	Brandon High School	Ortonville	\$1,850	DET_Plan_11
6&7	Wyandotte Middle School	Wyandotte	\$3,700	DET_Plan_11
17	Priest Elementary Middle School	Detroit	\$1,850	DET_Plan_11
20	Bullock Creek	Midland	\$1,850	DET_Plan_11
22	Beaverton Junior High School	Beaverton	\$1,850	DET_Plan_11
28	Davison Elementary Middle School	Detroit	\$1,850	DET_Plan_11
NOVEMBER				
12&13	Gus Grissom Middle School	Sterling Heights	\$3,700	DET_Plan_12
18&19	Saginaw Heritage High School	Saginaw	\$3,700	DET_Plan_12
21	Clippert Academy Middle School	Detroit	\$1,850	DET_Plan_12
DECEMBER				
11	Thirkell Middle School	Detroit	\$1,850	DET_Plan_12
17&18	Boulton Park Middle School	Troy	\$3,700	DET_Plan_12
JANUARY				
7	FUCS Middle School	Detroit	\$1,850	DET_Plan_13
8&9	Handy Middle School	Bay City	\$3,700	DET_Plan_13
16	Hilton Elementary School	Brighton	\$1,850	DET_Plan_13
21&22	Western Middle School	Auburn	\$3,700	DET_Plan_13
29&30	Warren Mott High School	Warren	\$3,700	DET_Plan_13
FEBRUARY				
4&5	Larson Middle School	Troy	\$3,700	
6&9	Smith Middle School	Troy	\$3,700	
19&20	Baker Middle School	Troy	\$3,700	
26&27	South Lyon East High School	South Lyon	\$3,700	
MARCH				
5&6	Hoover Middle School	Taylor	\$3,700	

Essay Contest:

Received 35 essays in the northern region, from a mix of middle school and high schools, and received 30 essays in the south, all from high schools. Judges are tasked with detecting AI-generated content using both expert judgment and software tools before finalizing awards by early April.



Essay contest – deadline 2/27

- Top 5 essays will be checked for use of AI by Chat GPT or other source(s)
 - **Thank you to the additional people who signed up to be judges.**
 - You will be assigned to North or South for judging. (Only Tom, Todd, and Sandra will be in both) If you want both please advise
- South Judges:**
Todd Hogan
Sandra McClelland
Armando Sardanopoli
Bob Petrach
David Sheridan
Keith Siopes
Kettering Student Chapter eBoard
Ahmed Hasan – MSU Student Chapter

North Judges:
Tom Miller
Bernd Henkleman
Neil Fuenmayor
Dawn Cooper
Neil Fuenmayor
Chris Surbrook
Laura Shereda
Murali Chandrasekhar
Abdiftah Adan – MSU Student Chapter
Arinc Kuloglu – MSU Student Chapter
- Essays received
 - North: 35 from 3 different middle and high schools
 - South: 30 High School (23 Warren Mott, 6 William D. Ford Career Tech Center, 1 International Academy East)
 - Timing for judging: **April 3rd**

Scholarship Funding: The TPO conference scholarship contribution amount remains undecided; an increase from the traditional level is under discussion but constrained by budget limits. Neil said net TPO committee meeting is March 11 and they are just getting started and he'll let Education Committee know as he progresses. The board continues to consolidate scholarship funds under the Education budget for clearer accounting and coordination.

Budget



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	2025-2026 spent	2025-2026 left
Scholarship	\$60,000	\$29,837	\$60,000	\$47,450	\$62,000	\$53,050	\$60,000	\$46,233	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$0
PlastiVan	\$57,250	\$44,275	\$57,252	\$57,250	\$75,000	\$75,600	\$75,000	\$74,025	\$75,000	\$53,600	\$21,400
New PlastiVan visit									\$5,500	\$1,850	\$3,650
PlastiVan modules	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0
National Support	\$4,000	\$4,080	\$4,000			\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0
Area Programs	\$9,000	\$4,550	\$9,000	\$4,094	\$5,500	\$4,585	\$5,500	\$2,852	\$4,500	\$590	\$3,910
Administration	\$800	\$103	\$800		\$800	\$153	\$800		\$500	\$81	\$419
Future Student Chapters			\$500		\$500	\$0	\$500		\$500	\$0	\$500
SAE Foundation			\$0		\$4,000		\$4,000		\$0	\$0	\$0
SME Jr. researcher									\$25,000	\$18,000	\$7,000
Wayne County									\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Student Sections	\$35,000		\$35,000	\$15,358	\$32,000	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$7,500	\$25,000	\$12,625	\$10,125
Total	\$171,050	\$87,845	\$166,552	\$124,151	\$179,800	\$138,388	\$175,800	\$130,610	\$201,000	\$141,746	\$59,254

Sandra

New PlastiVan visits include Future Cities and possible SME schools

explained that we have spent about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the budget to date. With the \$1000 left over in the PlastiVan® budget, we will move \$850 for an area under budget to make another PlastiVan® possible.

Still working with Stacey and Ellen Lee to have Wm D Ford students visit Ford Additive facility. Rob is to be kept in communications loop on this. Sandra will reach out to Stacey for latest status tomorrow.

Rob reminded us that there are many students looking for internships and we need to be pushing companies to make opportunities for the future workers in our industries. He has helped Lamar Nelson, an FSU student to find an internship at Celanese. With everyone consolidating, it will be challenging, but need to really push creating internship opportunities

Rob also reminded us we need people to lead Newsletter and Programs. Rob is trying to get a newsletter out, maybe May June.

Sustainability Conference

Sassan Tarahomi

Rob explained that Sassan was seriously injured in January and is out of commission until late spring. Without (and perhaps even with) Sassan's efforts SWC will not happen and sponsorships are not there to cover an in person conference at Huntington Place. It is already too late to pivot to a virtual conference. Rob will followup with Sassan for plan going forward. Chris was going to contact PLASTICS to see if there could be some partnership there, but at very least date will move again. Rob will follow up with Sassan.

Nomination and Elections

Bob Petrach

Current board members with terms ending 6-30-2026 are Todd Hogan, Armando Sardanopoli, Keith Siopes, Chris Surbrook, and Richard Umemoto. We need to do nominations no later than April and hold elections in with online voting in May-June. We will investigate running out own elections rather than SPE running.

Golf Outing

Dawn Cooper

Dawn reported that it will be at Cherry Creek June 16, 2026. Dawn, Tom Miller, Bernd, and Scott are on committee. Dave Sheridan showed interest in helping and asked some questions about the event. Dawn is starting regular meetings this month.

Calendar

Rob Philp

Rob has worked with Automotive Division to set calendar.

2026 SPE Automotive Division & Detroit Section Event Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Start Time	End Time	Cost	RSVP
January 12, 2026	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	Karen
February 9, 2026	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	Karen
February 16, 2026	SPE Automotive Division Board Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	James
March 9, 2026	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	Karen
April 6, 2026	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	Karen
April 14-15, 2026	2026 SPE EAV Conference	Detroit Marriott -Troy	8:00 AM	8:00 PM	See AD Website	Register on website
May 4, 2026	SPE Automotive Division Board Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	James
May 11, 2026	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	Karen
June 16, 2026	SPE Detroit Section Golf Outing	Cherry Creek - Shelby Township	8:00 AM	5:00 PM		Karen
June 22, 2026	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	Karen
July 13, 2026	SPE Automotive Division Board Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	James

2026 SPE Automotive Division & Detroit Section Event Calendar						
September 8, 2026	Automotive Division Golf Outing					Teri Chounard
September 9-10 2026	2026 ACCE Conference	Suburban Collection Showplace	All Day	All Day	See AD Website	Register on website
September 14, 2026	SPE Detroit Section Board Planning Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	Karen
September 21, 2026	SPE Automotive Division Board Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	James
September 28-Oct 1 2026	SPE Detroit Section TPO Conference	Detroit Marriott -Troy	8:00 AM	8:00 PM	See Detroit Section Website	Register on website
October 12, 2026	SPE Detroit Section Board Planning Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	Karen
November 4, 2026	Innovation Awards Competition & Gala	Laurel Manor, Livonia, MI	4:00 PM	10:00 PM	See AD Website	Register on website
November 9, 2026	SPE Detroit Section Board Planning Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	Karen
December 7, 2026	SPE Detroit Section Board Planning Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	Karen
December 14, 2026	SPE Automotive Division Board Meeting	ACC & Virtual	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	N/A	James

Membership/Next Gen

Laura Shereda

Laura gave a breakdown of membership by type and compared 2026 to 2025, minimal changes.

Current Demographics

Member Type	February 2025	Mar 2026
Distinguished Member	3	3
Emeritus	64	60
Premium Member	13	34
Professional Members	360	359
Student Members	72	66
Young Professional	116	105

There is a bump at TPO time.

Of 34 Premium Members, 18 are not from the state of Michigan, 3 are SPE employees

Of student members, 12 are identified as from MSU, a few from Kettering, only 1 from U of M.

Only 32/66 students have Michigan addresses. Almost no students include what university they are from. Student

member distribution is uneven and not well tracked by SPE, an issue that has been raised repeatedly without resolution. Student can sign up for unlimited sections and division without an extra charge and are not required to be tied to a student chapter.

Old Business/ New Business

Neil asked about newsletter content, Rob said he had plenty of content with photos from Dream Cruise, TPO recap and photos, Future Cities photos with DC update.

Neil also asked about holding a board meeting at a school (student chapter) Rob is still working on it, difficult to coordinate their dates to ours. Rob will ask Sandra for help and try to set our May meeting at Kettering.

New Business

None

Next meeting is April 6, 2026 and will be in person at ACC and virtual.

Bob made a motion to adjourn, Bernd seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

AGAIN Next BOD Meeting: April 6, 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 –
March 9 2026 BOD Meeting
Proposed Agenda
ACC Office & Virtual**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92398517323?pwd=uf316Or247JFpaoEOHqAhk2BAS93ws.1>

Meeting ID: 923 9851 7323

Passcode: 993766

One tap mobile

1 646 931 3860,,92398517323#,,,,*993766# US

	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 (January 12 / Feb 9, 2026)	Bob Petrach
5:40 PM	President's Message	Rob Philp
5:50 PM	Treasurer's Report	Dave Okonski
6:10 PM	Education/ Scholarship Committee	Sandra McClelland / Tom Miller
6:20 PM	Sustainability World Congress – Status / Updates	Sassan / Rob
6:25 PM	Membership/Next Gen – Status/Updates/Plans Nominations/Elections	Laura Shereda Bob Petrach
6:30 PM	Open Positions / Succession Planning	
6:40 PM	Annual Toy Program (2026) / Golf Outing	Neil / Rob / Karen / Dawn
6:45 PM	Internships / Student Chapter Meetings	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: April 6, 2026 ACC Office & Virtual