



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

September 21, 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, Bob Petrach, Rob Philp, Tom Pickett, Armando Sardanopoli, Laura Shereda, David Sheridan, Keith Siopes, Chris Surbrook, Sassan Tarahomi. **15/19 voting**

Not present – Dawn Cooper, Jitesh Desai, Todd Hogan, Matt Parkinson.

Emeritus Board (non voting) Norm Kakarala

Meeting Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by President Rob Philp.

Role was called with 11 out of 19 members present, establishing a quorum at call of role, four more joined shortly thereafter.

Rob mentioned today's agenda would focus on brainstorming for new revenue ideas. Without generating income, normally a budget would use about 3% of investment income to maintain a sound fiscal position. **This year we are at 7%.**

Approval of the Minutes

Rob Philp

Minutes of June 22, 2026 Board Meeting were pending approval. Rob referenced copies Bob sent out for review. **Sassan moved** minutes be approved as presented for June 22, 2026 Board Meeting. **Bernd seconded. Motion passed.**

President's message

Rob Philp

We are spending too much. We need to find ways to cut expenses but we do not want to start cutting back our programs in the future but to keep doing what we do for education. In order not to make cuts, we must come up with new income sources. We are a non profit and our mission is plastics education, we need to stress that in our efforts.

TPO committee has been working very hard, but expense keep rising and securing sponsors is increasingly difficult and attendance is also a challenge.

Conferences in general are having attendance problems. For example, Rob estimated ACCE attendance at maybe 200, Neil thought it was more like 150. We already cut AutoEPCON and were unable to get traction for the Sustainably Conference despite tremendous efforts. So another conference is not the answer.

Treasurer's report

Dave Okonski

Rob presented Dave's reports Summary

Two files are submitted for the Board's review – Performance to Budget for the time period 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027 and the Check Register for the time period 7/1/2026 to 9/20/2026. The Detroit Section is presently financially solvent with a checking account balance of \$160,224.20 and an investment portfolio having a market value of about \$4.4M. For the period 7/1/2026 to 9/20/2026, expenses exceeded income by \$22,338.98

Financial Performance,	BUDGET (Entire Fiscal Year)	ACTUAL (7/1/26 – 9/20/26)
INCOME	\$ 649,200.00	\$ 87,062.00
EXPENSES	\$ 649,200.00	\$ 109,400.98
Fiscal Year: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027		

For the period 7/1/2026 to 9/20/2026, expenses exceeded income by \$22,338.98

Financial Performance 7/1/2026 through 9/20/2026	BUDGET	ACTUAL
INCOME	\$ 162,300.03	\$ 87,062.00
EXPENSES	\$ 162,300.03	\$ 109,400.98

SPE Detroit Section Performance to Budget 7/1/26 - 6/30/27					
7/1/2026 through 6/30/2027 Using 2026-2027 Budget					
Category	7/1/2026 Actual	Budget	6/30/2027 Difference		
INCOME	87,062.00	649,200.00	-562,138.00		
03-Education Income	0.00	1,100.00	-1,100.00		
04-Technical Meeting Income	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05-Membership Income	0.00	0.00	0.00		
06-Golf Outing Income	0.00	16,500.00	-16,500.00		
08-Material Auction Income	0.00	0.00	0.00		
11-Newsletter Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00		
12-TPO Conference Inc	87,062.00	330,000.00	-242,938.00		
FROM Fifth Third Education Fund	0.00	302,800.00	-302,800.00		
EXPENSES	109,400.98	649,200.00	539,799.02		
01-Board Expenses	5,565.07	24,000.00	-18,434.93		
02-Awards	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00		
03-Education	45,812.10	234,800.00	-188,987.90		
03.1 Scholarships Totals	40,850.00	60,000.00	-19,150.00		
Scholarships - Trades_Post HS	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Everything Else	0.00	0.00	0.00		
03.2 PassVan Totals	1,850.00	86,100.00	-84,250.00		
PassVan	1,850.00	86,100.00	-84,250.00		
PassVan - SME	0.00	0.00	0.00		
03.4 Area Programs	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00		
03.5 Administration	82.10	500.00	-417.90		
03.59 SME, Jr. Researcher	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00		
Everything Else	0.00	141,600.00	141,600.00		
03.6 Student Sections Totals	3,030.06	30,000.00	-26,970.00		
All Student Chapters	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00		
MSU with SAE	3,030.06	5,000.00	-1,970.00		
04-Technical Meeting Expenses	0.00	2,400.00	2,400.00		
05-Membership	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00		
05-Golf Outing Expense	10,840.99	15,500.00	-4,659.01		
07-Intersociety	1,800.00	2,400.00	-600.00		
08-Material Auction Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00		
09-Counselor	0.00	4,200.00	4,200.00		
Everything Else	0.00	55,700.00	55,700.00		
10-Administration Expense	12,321.74	29,600.00	-17,278.26		
10.1 Office Supplies & Software	724.03	6,000.00	-5,275.97		
10.2 Special Items & Events	8,597.71	18,000.00	-9,402.29		
10.3 AOC Rent	2,500.00	5,000.00	-2,500.00		
11-Newsletter Expense	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00		
12-TPO Conference Expenses	32,245.85	313,200.00	-280,954.15		
13-Antec Expenses	0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00		
14-Credit Card Fee	1,085.23	10,000.00	-8,914.77		
Net Difference:	-22,338.98	0.00	-22,338.98		
SPE Detroit Section Check Register 7-1-26 to 9-20-26					
7/1/2026 through 9/20/2026					
Date	Account	Num	Description	Category	Amount
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1028	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	8,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1029	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1030	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1031	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1032	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1033	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1034	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1035	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1036	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1037	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1038	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1039	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1040	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1041	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1042	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1043	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1044	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1045	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1046	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1047	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1048	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1049	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1050	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1051	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1052	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1053	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1054	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1055	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1056	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1057	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1058	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1059	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1060	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1061	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1062	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1063	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1064	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1065	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1066	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1067	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1068	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1069	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1070	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1071	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1072	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1073	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1074	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1075	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1076	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1077	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1078	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1079	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1080	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1081	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1082	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1083	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1084	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1085	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1086	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1087	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1088	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1089	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1090	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1091	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1092	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1093	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1094	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1095	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1096	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1097	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1098	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1099	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1100	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1101	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1102	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1103	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1104	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1105	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1106	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1107	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1108	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1109	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1110	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1111	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1112	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1113	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1114	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1115	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1116	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1117	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1118	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1119	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1120	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1121	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1122	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1123	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1124	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1125	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1126	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1127	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1128	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1129	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1130	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1131	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1132	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1133	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1134	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1135	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1136	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1137	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1138	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1139	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1140	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1141	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1142	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1143	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1144	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1145	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1146	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1147	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1148	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1149	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1150	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1151	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check	1152	10-2026 TPO Conference	12-TPO Conference Inc	4,000.00
7/1/2026	5-3rd check				

Rob emphasized that Dave is doing an excellent job at "watching the till". Rob feels very comfortable with Dave handling the finances. He stressed that they both had concerns about spending the investment income as we have in this budget as we have already witnessed high volatility with investment value this year and Dave timed withdrawals well. Dave also has reined in expenses for dinners and meetings and we've had many more virtual meetings this year. Rob stressed focus on education and scholarship.

Sandra moved treasurer's report be approved as presented. **Keith seconded. Motion passed.**

Education

Sandra McClelland

Sandra reported that there were 12 scholarship applications made and \$39,900 was awarded. The remainder moves back into the operating budget with \$10,000 set aside for TPO scholarships. Rob reported that TPO may award less than 4 this year of \$1500-\$2000 each so that should have an excess as well. TPO will make money this year, but loss of Delta Polymers sponsorship adds to a great reduction in profit.

All four major scholarship recipients are expected to be at the TPO reception. Rob asked for a large Board presence at the TPO reception.

Sandra noted that Evan Portner, FSU was very active in the area and she expects him to stay and show us great things.

Major scholarship recipients are

- Person to Watch Recipient: (in honor of Sandra McClelland) Laura Rodarte-Escobedo, an MSU Senior in Chemical Engineering \$6,000
- Future Leaders Recipient: Kunle Adeyemo, MSU Grad Student, Civil & Mechanical Engineering \$6,500.
- Pete Grelle Recipient: Evan Porter, Ferris State, Senior Plastics & Polymer Engineering Tech, \$5,500
- Reginald Bell Recipient: Javardo Lawrence Kettering university, Senior Computer Science, \$5000

Sandra said that MSU currently has the most active student chapter with many PhD students.

Sandra also showed a slide of scholarship award criteria used to calculate dollar amount of scholarship. It rewards SPE and industry activity, grade level and SPE student chapter leadership participation with additional criteria for the four named scholarships and bonuses possible at discretion of scholarship committee

Brainstorming

Bernd Henkelmann

Bernd gave us a QR code and web address, <https://www.menti.com/>, and a code to enter Mentimeter with the question "What income-generating idea comes to mind first?" Board members added ideas, ideas were displayed continuously and discussed briefly for later thought and encourage more ideas.

Ideas in no particular order from Mentimeter poll: online material auction, pay webinars, oem training, technical meeting, student education, meetings with industry leaders, sponsorship opportunities, website ads, spe sourcing platform, casino night, 3D printing for kids, golf outing, newsletter sponsors, sell spe swag.

Sassan had put together his own slide deck of ideas, some of those are included in the above, additionally there are: SPE Detroit Corporate Partner Program, Paid Plastics Training Academy,

Detroit Plastics Executive Dinner, Annual Plastics Innovation & Supplier Expo. Please contact Sassan for a copy of presentation if interested in more detail.

Rob stressed that we are a US 501 C3 nonprofit entity exempt from federal income tax and qualified to receive tax-deductible donations, we need to leverage this fact.

Sandra noted that "Day of Giving" is coming up December 1, 2026. SPE Foundation sends out an email asking for donations. SPE could do the same. Note giving also includes more than cash, also includes volunteering. Rob is working on material auction on website.

Armando noted success of SME in securing grants for programs like SME PRIME.

Rob and Bernd will get together to review ideas and next steps. We will discuss more at October 12 meeting.

Membership

Laura Shereda

Laura stated little change in membership, she will have a formal report at one of the next few meetings.

SME PRIME Proposal

Armando Sardanopoli

Armando presented a proposal to expand SPE efforts at a second/third school similar to the program in partnership with PRIME at William Ford Technical Career Center (WFTCC).

An additional instructor would need to be hired, Mark does not have time and currently devotes about 20 hours a week to the program.

Armando proposed Detroit Section take this on. Rob stressed funding was an issue and setting up system for an employee is a lot of work in itself. And he noted Foundation is really the proper SPE entity to do this and he has spoken with Eve and Foundation does not want to take it on.

SPE Detroit currently gives the Foundation \$50,000 to support program at WFTCC. Neil asked why a company could not do this directly with SPE as only a secondary resource.

Rob noted besides the money involved, SPE Detroit already is lacking for manpower

SPE Detroit will not proceed at this time, but item is open to further discussion at next meeting.

Dream Cruise Event

Bernd Henkelmann

Event was very successful with great member and student participation and some public interest. Plenty of photos are available for a newsletter article.

Saturday, August 21, 2027 is the date for the next Dream Cruise. Our place for 2027 has already been secured as Dave sent out check for payment for 2027. Bernd thanked Rob for cooking and noted a large number of excellent vegetarian black bean burgers were consumed.

Participation of Automotive Division is on question but SPE Detroit will go forward alone if necessary. It would help to publicize more and earlier to line up participants. Neil suggested trying to get a plastics company as a cosponsor. Securing a spot at the Dream Cruise is difficult, since we have a spot we might be able to leverage that with someone who wants to be there but does not spot.

TPO

Neil Fuenmayor

Neil gave a brief summary.

He sent an email to for board member with code to have free attendance. If you have not registered, please do so, contact Neil if you need help.

We already talked about the Monday evening reception. Tuesday morning will be a great keynote address by Mark Barrott of Plante Moran who will present *"Innovation in an Affordability Era: Where do Suppliers Prioritize Innovation in a Cost Constrained World?"* He will cover:

- Market Entry Studies
- Competitive Positioning
- OEM Relationship Strategy

There will be two panel discussions Sustainability on Tuesday and Mega Trends on Wednesday. Neil showed a schedule of conference papers. Keith will post.

Rob noted expected profit is in the \$17,000 area.

Golf Outing/Toys

Dawn Cooper

Dawn reported we had a very successful golf outing at Cherry Creek June 16, 2026.

On Toy Program - Dawn should have something next month.

Old/New Business

Rob Newsletter has articles on scholarships, Future Cities, Toys, and meeting cadence. Need Dream Cruise article. Rob will be talking with Jill to get a newsletter out.

There was no other old or new business raised.

David made a motion to adjourn, Sassan seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted Robert V. Petrach, Jr.
Secretary Detroit Section of Society of Plastics Engineers.

Agenda from today's meeting follows.



SPE Detroit Section – September 21 2026 BOD Meeting Proposed Agenda ACC Office & Virtual

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97985101925?pwd=42CoSZlbCj7fughH4FCecVBbWjov9M.1>

Meeting ID: 979 8510 1925

Passcode: 050725

One tap mobile

1 305 2241 968,,97985101925#,,,050725# 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 (June 22, 2026)	Bob Petrach
5:40 PM	President's Message	Rob Philp
5:50 PM	Treasurer's Report	Dave Okonski / Bob Petrach (proxy)
6:10 PM	Education/ Scholarship Committee	Sandra McClelland / Tom Miller
6:20 PM	Brainstorming for Income	Bernd Henklemann
6:50 PM	Membership/Next Gen – Status/Updates/Plans Nominations/Elections (Results)	Laura Shereda Bob Petrach
6:55 PM	Armando Proposal	<i>Bernd/Neil/Rob</i>
7:10 PM	Annual Toy Program (2026) / Golf Outing Report	<i>Neil / Rob / Karen / Dawn</i>
7:15 PM	Dream Cruise Report Out	Bernd Henklemann
7:20PM	TPO Conference Update	Rob Philp
7:25 PM	Old/New Business	All
7:30PM	Meeting Adjourned	Rob Philp

Next BOD Meeting: October 12, 2026 Planning Meeting – ACC Office & Virtual

Next Event:

TPO 2026 Global Automotive Conference

Troy Marriott Hotel – 200 W. Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48084

Monday, Sept 28 – Detroit Section Reception w/ Scholarship Awards(Mediterranean Room)

5:30 to 8:30 pm

Tuesday, September 29 – Day 1 Conference Proceedings

Wednesday, September 30 – Day 2 Conference Proceedings