

**Minutes of the Meeting of the South Texas Board of the Society of Plastics Engineers – 2/09/2023**

The SPE-STX Board of Directors meeting was held prior to the February tour of Texas Injection Molding at their facility. Participants attended in person and by video and phone conference.

<b>In-Person Attendees</b>	<b>Virtual Attendees</b>
Iman Bahrani, President	Preston McDaniel, Vice-President
Richard Keeler, Treasurer	Steve Pontiff, Councilor
David Hanson, Education Committee	John Wagner, Member at Large
Peter Lauzon, Past President	Fernando Cevallos Candau, Member at Large
Tom Walsh, Secretary	Vassilios Galiatsatos, 2023 Polyolefins Chair
Jason Ball, Member at Large	Janell Helton
Donna Davis, Member at Large	

Opening: The Board meeting was called to order at 4:14 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Tom Walsh moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Donna Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed without any dissents.

Councilor Report: Steve Pontiff reported that in reviewing the SPE website, he found multiple webinars. He started viewing them and recommended that other Board members should do likewise.

Treasurers Report: Richard Keeler reported that there is a balance of \$432,000 in the checking account and \$119,000 in the savings account. The increases are due to income from the upcoming 2023 Polyolefins Conference. A question was asked as to the situation on the Hilton Hotel bill of \$40,000. Peter Lauzon had reported previously that the attorney he had contacted had recommended not doing anything. It was requested to update the situation at the next Board meeting.

Technical Programs:

Janell Helton reported that there are 17 registrations for a tour of Texas Injection Molding, where we are meeting today.

Membership: Tom Walsh stated Steve King had discussed with him that our current membership was approximately 260.

Education Committee:

It was reported that at the University of Texas SPE Student Chapter meeting with Steve King and Clifford Lee, only 3 students attended. The UT Faculty Advisor did not meet with them either. The two South Texas SPE funded UT scholarships were discussed. No one had a clear understanding of the current status of those two funded scholarships.

David Hansen reported on the student participation in the upcoming 2023 Polyolefins Conference. Half of the Universities and Schools contacted have sent a list of student volunteers coming to the conference. Some schools would like to send more students. University of

Houston has requested one additional student participant and Texas Tech University has asked for two additional student participants. The Education Committee has offered each school financial support for five students each. It was proposed to waive the \$100 fee for students wishing to attend beyond the limit of five per school. No decision was reached on that proposal. It was left to the discretion of the Education Committee on how to address this.

2023 Polyolefins Committee: Vassilios Galiatsatos reported the committee had their last meeting prior to the conference. He reported the following:

- 453 registered attendees,
- 134 speakers (101 total presentations),
- 318 paid registered attendees (\$100,000 in revenue)
- 51 exhibitors (\$178,000 in revenue)
- 14 sponsors (>\$50,000 in revenue)

Vassilios is expecting more registrations. Speakers are still submitting their papers and presentations. The Exhibits will remain open till 2 pm on Wednesday.

Donna Davis reported that a total of 10 presentations are still pending. The Wednesday afternoon sessions will finish with a panel discussion on Supply Chains from 2 pm to 3 pm. In the Wednesday sessions Lonza will discuss syngas ethylene and XENERGY will discuss small nuclear reactors for Petrochemical operations.

New Business: South Texas member Earned Scholarship submissions are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Old Business:

- The Winter Newsletter was emailed on January 30<sup>th</sup>. A total of 2032 emails were sent. 467 emails were opened and 46 (3%) were clicked on. The industry standard is 1%. The numbers are comparable to the last IPOC announcement. The Spring Newsletter will be distributed in April. We are currently soliciting contributions to the newsletter.
- Promotion of SPE Membership at the 2023 Polyolefins Conference was discussed. Janell Helton reported that she obtained a QR code that can be used to review member benefits and SPE membership. The QR code will be on tabletop fliers at registration and also available elsewhere at the conference.
- January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at the University of Texas. This was discussed under the Education Committee discussions.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM.

Tom Walsh, Secretary