

Minutes of the Meeting of the South Texas Board of the Society of Plastics Engineers – 4/11/2023

The April meeting of the SPE-STX Board of Directors was held virtually. There were enough members present to declare a quorum.

Attendees	Attendees
Iman Bahrani, President	Jason Ball, Member at Large
Preston McDaniel, Vice-President	Donna Davis, Member at Large
Steve King, Membership	Fernando Cevallos Candau, Member at Large
Richard Keeler, Treasurer	Sanketh Kumar, Member at Large
David Hanson. Education	Dell Doyle, Technical Program
Tom Walsh, Secretary	Janell Helton

Opening: The Board meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes: Donna Davis moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Jason Ball seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Richard Keller moved to approve the minutes of the February Meeting. Steve King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Report: Steve Pontiff was not present, but he had circulated an email on the 2023 SPE ANTEC in Denver as well as a list of attendees (408). His comments were the following:

- Yes, only 400-ish attendees!
- NO disparagement to Consultants OR Students BUT, those two categories made up the majority of the attendees...
- NO booths or exhibits; NO visible Industry participation whatsoever....
- The most entertaining discussions were around how to make sense of OUR non-profit, buying a foreign for-profit 3D printing / Additive Manufacturing firm.....

David Hanson commented on the low attendance but mentioned there were a lot of webinars. Donna Davis commented that SPE has changed its business model.

- SPE is shifting from relying on membership dues to conference services. SPE now provides services to conferences on an as-needed basis.
- In the past SPE revenues were evenly split between:
 - 1/3 Membership Dues
 - 1/3 Conference Income
 - 1/3 Sales of Information
- SPE has just reported a 28.8% drop in membership dues, from \$807,000 to \$575,000.
- SPE lost money in 2022 but is projecting a profit for 2023 in its budget.

Someone stated that SPE lost \$193,721 in 2022.

Membership: Steve King reported that we have had an increase of 8 members (to a total of 302). These were mostly students. Similar to the March membership report, this increase was not due to new members joining from the 2023 Polyolefins Conference.

2023 Polyolefins Committee: Vassilios Galiatsatos was not able to attend this meeting.

Iman Bahrain asked Janell Helton what percentage of her time working was spent on the conference and what was spent working throughout the year on South Texas Section support activities. Janel said that 60% to 65% of her time was spent on the IPOC and 35% to 40 % was spent on South Texas Section support throughout the year.

Dell Doyle asked if we could split Janell's compensation between the IPOC and the South Texas Section. It was mentioned that we already do this but at a lower percentage (50%). We could change that billing when the next fiscal year begins July 1st.

Donna Davis reported that no IPOC committee meeting was held in April. She said the next meeting was scheduled for June. The focus of the committee is closing the books on the 2023 conference. They are also trying to go forward with PheedLoop for next year's conference. They want to build on the positive experiences with PheedLoop from this year's conference.

2025 Polyolefins Conference: It was asked if the Board had settled on dates for the 2025 IPOC (either Sunday through Wednesday or Monday through Thursday). Kevin Alexander was sending out a survey of the exhibitors to get their opinions on this question. No feedback on this question at this time. It was mentioned that Renee Colyer needed a decision on this. Janell Helton stated that the 2025 contract is for seven days and would cover the proposed choice of dates.

Support Staff Compensation: Janell Helton was asked to leave the meeting. The Board discussed increasing Janell's compensation. Iman Bahrani stated that in previous discussions a 13% increase in compensation had been proposed. Tom Walsh moved to approve that increase. This led to further discussions and Tom Walsh made an amended motion as follows: To increase Janell Helton's base compensation by 13% and to include reimbursement for pre-approved travel expenses. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Richard Keeler reported that we have \$627,000 in our account. All funds have been received but we have not received the bill from the Galveston Convention Center. We are also expecting some type of refund from the DJ's. We will need to pay PheedLoop soon for the upcoming 2024 IPOC. .

Technical Programs: Dell Doyle reported he has contacted BASF (Additives), Dover Chemical (Additives) and Cabot Corporation (Carbon Black) to make presentations for our technical program. He has not scheduled anything yet but could go forward for a June Virtual presentation. He was asked if we could schedule an in-person meeting and he replied he was thinking of setting up an ASTROS baseball game possibly for September.

Education Committee: David Hanson reported that he has paid all the expenses for the Students and Schools attending the IPOC. Applications for South Texas Section sponsored student scholarships are due May 1st. Janell Helton reported that no applications have been received to date.

BY-LAWS: Richard Keeler requested a copy of the updated By-Laws. Tom Walsh reported that he is in the process of issuing an updated version based on the changes from last year.

New Business: No items were brought up.

Old Business: No items were brought up.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM.

Tom Walsh, Secretary