**Minutes of the Meeting of the South Texas Board of the Society of Plastics Engineers – 5/09/2023**

The May 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 |
| Peter Lauzon, Past President | John Wagner, Member at Large |
| Tom Walsh, Secretary | Vassilios Galliatsatos, IPOC Chair |
| Janell Helton |  |

Opening: The Board meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes: Donna Davis moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Steve King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Report: No report. Steve Pontiff was not present. Donna Davis commented that there has not been a Councilor meeting since ANTEC.

Membership: Steve King reported that we have had an increase to a total of 307 members. Steve King asked, “Do we want to have an in-person meeting next month?” It was discussed but no consensus was reached.

Technical Programs: No report. Dell Doyle is in Hawaii for a meeting.

Treasurers Report: Richard Keeler reported that we have $498,000 in our account after paying two invoices for the 2023 IPOC. There is $122,000 in the savings account and $376,000 in our checking account.

Education Committee: David Hanson has resigned from the Board of Directors and from the IPOC. No report.

2023 Polyolefins Committee: Vassilios Galiatsatos reported. Donna Davis moved that we utilize PheedLoop and instruct the Treasurer with payment of $15,134.04 following the same payment process as last year. Preston McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

2025 Polyolefins Conference: Donna Davis reported that she has not received any feedback from the exhibitors as to their preferences for whether the 2025 IPOC should be held from Sunday through Wednesday or Monday through Thursday. As a result, the final decision as to the 2025 conference timing needs to be postponed.

South Texas section By-Laws: Tom Walsh reported he circulated the 2022 revised By-Laws to all Board members prior to this meeting. Board members were asked to review the By-Laws and contact Tom Walsh for further revisions by the end of May. A word document version of the By-Laws will be circulated to all Board members to facilitate further revisions and updating. Donna Davis agreed to provide a contact at SPE Headquarters to coordinate with on SPE By-Laws compatibility.

Board of Directors Composition: There are now three current or upcoming vacancies for Board of Directors positions; Davide Danise has resigned, David Hansen has resigned and Peter Lauzon’s term as Past President is expiring. Janell Helton reminded the Board that she has to provide the listing of Board members and Officers to SPE Headquarters by June 15th. The South Texas membership elects Board of Directors members. The Board elects the President of the South Texas Section. Preston McDaniel reminded the Board that he is the Vice -President not the President elect. Preston will work with Janell Helton to get a request for volunteers to Board membership out to the membership by Friday (May 12th) and allow any volunteers to respond by May 22nd (10 days). Volunteers for Board membership must be members of the South Texas Section. Once a list of candidates is received, a ballot for election to the Board can be sent out by Janell Helton.

New Business:

Steve King asked How can we re-invigorate our members to volunteer and participate in our conference. What is the value of joining the SPE? What is the value of joining the South Texas Section? How do we re-institute the Section Newsletter?

* Steve has a new volunteer willing to participate, Michael Wordsman (?) of RTI Global. What can we offer him to do?
* Iman stated that we are now circulating our Section Newsletter quarterly and published newsletters in January and April of 2023.

Old Business:

Polyolefin Division: Peter Lauzon proposed that we consider becoming the Polyolefins Division rather than a regional section. This was initially brought up two years ago but COVID and the issues moving the IPOC from the Hilton North to the Galveston Convention Center have kept everyone busy. Pete proposed putting ta committee together to study this and report back to the Board. Iman asked if the study includes pluses and minuses. The following volunteered to work with Peter Lauzon on this: Fernando Cevallos Candau, Steve King, Vassilios Galiatsatos and Tom Walsh.

Member Earned Scholarships: Janell Helton reported that the deadline to apply for member earned scholarships is May 15th. At this time 5 applications have been received. Four are for children of Board of Director members. The fifth is from James Murphy for his son. Pete Lauzon to follow up with James Murphy on this.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Tom Walsh, Secretary  
Janell Helton, Coordinator