

**SPE-STX Board Meeting July 11, 2023  
Minutes**

**Attendees**

Bahrani, Iman	X	King, Steve	✓
Baker, Carl	✓	Lauzon, Peter	
Cevallos-Candau, Fernando	✓	Lee, Clifford	✓
Chen, Alisa	✓	McDaniel, Preston	✓
Davis, Donna	✓	Pontiff, Steve	✓
Doyle, Dell	✓	Sanketh, Kumar	X
Helton, Janell	✓	Torchia, Steve	✓
		Wagner, John	✓

**Agenda**

- Approval of June Minutes
- New Officers and Board Members
  - New Member Intros
  - Preston to share goals/vision for 2023-2024
- Councilor Report
- Treasurers Report
- Membership Report
- 2024 PO Committee Report
- Education Committee Update
- Programs Update
- New Business:
  - Board Vacancies
  - VP/President Elect Position
  - Term Limits
  - Discuss vote on revisions to section by-laws

**Quorum established at 5:00 P.M. (Central Time)**

**Approval of minutes**

Motion by Donna Davis to approve last meeting minutes, seconded by Steve King. The motion carries by unanimous vote.

This is the first meeting of the new fiscal year with a new slate of directors as follows:

- President:** Preston McDaniel
- Past President:** Iman Bahrani
- President Elect/Vice President:** Jason Ball
- Secretary:** Fernando Cevallos-Candau
- Treasurer:** Peter Lauzon

**Councilor:** Steve Pontiff

### **New Board Member introductions**

**Steve Torchia:** Senior Manager Global Market Development & Product Innovation, Chemicals Business at Sasol. Member of SPE for 30 years; commented that the polymers business continues to face challenges related to mechanical recycling and sustainability. Expects that SPE will continue to focus on these issues.

**Alisa Chen:** Sustainability.Product development,compounding/extrusion process development Dow Chemical Co. Commented that her current focus is on the technical aspects of mechanical recycling of post-consumer resin.

### **Preston McDaniel comments on 2023-2024 Goals**

Increase engagement with our members and target opportunities to grow

- Expanded Programming and In-Person Engagements
  - Monthly virtual talks
  - Quarterly in-person events
- Local (Houston Area) University Engagement
  - Actively push to engage them at in-person events
  - Look for opportunities to strengthen student chapters

Add value for our members

- Professional Education
  - Engineering short courses
  - Business and Entrepreneurial workshops

Discussion and brainstorm by members on Preston's comments:

Agreement that the section need to hold more Face-to-face meetings and technical workshops.

Award ceremonies and recognition for section members and for students in student chapters need to be reinstated.

More social events for members to network are needed.

Combined events could and should be done to meet these goals. Dell Doyle points out that the most successful and attended event has been the gathering at Saint Arnolds Brewery. An event budget is needed by the next meeting, Dell points out that the 3 largest meeting/social events could cost between \$10,000 to \$20,000 (Saint Arnolds Dinner, MLB game event, Christmas gathering).

**Counselor Report:** Nor report for this meeting

### **Treasurer Report:**

Treasurer not present. Janel Helton in a separate communication indicated that the current balances are as follows:

Checking: \$374,163.71

Savings: \$119,178.51

**Membership:**

There were an additional 10 members added this month. Current section membership stands at 319 members. Janell to forward a list of possible volunteers to the PO conference to membership team.

### **PO2024 Report**

The PO2024 Operating Committee met July 10. Working on finalizing all contracts for 2024. John Wagner on publicity starting his team with representatives from all co-sponsoring sections. The 2025 contract has been submitted for Preston's signature. The 2025 conference will take place Sunday to Wednesday (not Monday to Thursday as originally approved), since the Galveston convention Center will not be available for a Thursday meeting. The technical Program committee will have its kickoff meeting on July 12, 2023.

### **Education**

We need a volunteer with residence in Texas near the Colleges and Universities with whom we partner due to the resignation of David Hansen.

### **Programs**

See Previous discussion

### **New Business**

**Board Vacancy:** We still have one vacancy in the board. The nominating committee (consisting of the Past president, current president and president elect) have a recommendation that will be sent for vote: Jennifer Stroh from Orion Carbons.

### **By-Law Revisions**

#### **VP/President Elect Position**

The past several years our procedure has been that the Vice President and President Elect positions are the same

The goal of both roles is to facilitate ascension to section President

Combining the roles works well if we continue 2-year terms for officers

If we move to 1-year appointments, then having both roles provide opportunity to formulate plans to enact as President

#### **Term Limits**

We are currently operating on 2-year appointments for officers

By-laws say that we should be voting on officer positions yearly

Revisions to By-Laws

Tom sent out revisions to current by-laws for a vote

Donna has provided an expanded version of section by-laws for us to review, discuss, vote on

Will need a more comprehensive review and discussion

Motion: By Steve King "Table discussion of by-laws and move it to a separate meeting to take place within 2 weeks" **Seconded by ???** The motion carries unanimously. Donna Davis will set the meeting.

With no other business a motion to adjourn by Donna Davis is seconded by Steve King. The motion carries unanimously.

**Action Items**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Due date</b>
Submit List of potential PO conference volunteers to John Wagner	Janell Helton	8/15/2023
Submit Program Budget for 2023-2024	Dell Doyle	8/15/2023
Set ad hoc meeting to discuss by-laws	Donna Davis	7/15/2023

**Next Meeting: August 24, 2023**

Respectfully submitted by:

J. Fernando Cevallos-Candau  
Secretary



**Code of Conduct:**

- **Exercise consideration and respect in your speech and actions.**
- **Attempt collaboration before conflict.**
- **Refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech.**
- **Be mindful of your surroundings and of your fellow participants. Alert SPE staff if you notice a dangerous situation, someone in distress, or violations of this Code of Conduct, even if they seem inconsequential.**
- **While at an SPE event no participant should engage in harassment in any form.**