

**SPE-STX Board Meeting March 12, 2024  
Minutes**

**Attendees**

Bahrani, Iman	✓	Galiatsatos, Vassilios	✓
Baker, Carl	X	King, Steve	X
Ball, Jason	X	Lauzon, Peter	✓
Cevallos-Candau, Fernando	✓	Lee, Clifford	✓
Chen, Alisa	✓	McDaniel, Preston	✓
Davis, Donna	✓	Pontiff, Steve	X
Doyle, Dell	✓	Sanketh, Kumar	X
Helton, Janell (non-voting)	✓	Torchia, Steve	X
Hansen, David (non-voting)	✓	Wagner, John	✓

*Standing Agenda:*

- *Approve Minutes*
- *Counselor Report*
- *IPOC Update*
- *Treasurer Report*
- *Programs Update*
- *Membership Report*
- *Treasurer Report*
- *Educational Committee*
- *New Business:*

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

**Approval of minutes :** Minutes approved unanimously.

**Counselor Report:**

No report

## IPOC Report:

### GLOBAL POLYOLEFINS – Inspiring and Enabling Technology Development



**2024 SPE International Polyolefins Conference**  
February 18-21, 2024  
Galveston Island Convention Center

**POLYOLEFINS CONFERENCE** | SPE INTERNATIONAL  
A FORUM FOR NEW IDEAS AND INNOVATION | SPE SOUTH TEXAS

## Highlights

- ▶ 861 registered attendees
- ▶ 51 exhibitors
- ▶ 212 registered as speakers
- ▶ 11 sponsors
- ▶ 131 presentations and 22 posters
  
- ▶ \$203,990 proceeds from attendee registration
- ▶ \$225,071 proceeds from exhibitors
- ▶ \$51,405 proceeds from sponsors
- ▶ \$nn,nnn proceeds from conference rooms

x

## Overview

- ▶ Things to keep
  - ▶ Service providers: Password, PheedLoop, TexasXPO
  - ▶ Partners: PMAD, EPSDIV, TPM&F, Flexible Packaging, Building and Infrastructure, Applied Rheology
- ▶ Things to add
  - ▶ Additive Manufacturing, Olefinic Elastomers, Applied Rheology, Rigid Packaging
  - ▶ Associated exhibitors and sponsors
  - ▶ Publicity committee with reps from each division to share best practices, add more video
  - ▶ More communication and app instructions
- ▶ Things to change
  - ▶ 6? concurrent sessions every morning and afternoon, Monday morning through Wednesday morning
  - ▶ Start every day with plenary address. No plenary *sessions*.
  - ▶ No live-streaming. Content available virtually to registered attendees
    - ▶ (Work with Password to capture A/V for anyone who doesn't pre-record)
    - ▶ All presentations in-person.

## Budget

Income	Budget/Actual
Exhibits	\$265,000/\$211,119.50
Registration	\$242,000/\$207,920.37
Sponsors	\$60,000/\$46,510.00
Meeting Rooms	\$41,000/\$57,100.00
TOTAL	\$608,000/\$520,649.87

Expenses	Budget/Actual
PheedLoop	\$15,134.04/\$15,134.04
Committee	\$1,000
Education	\$9,000/\$
Exhibit	\$50,000/\$49,683.50
Housing	\$200,000/
Office Expense	\$200
Program Expenses	\$60,000/\$59,050 + \$1,172
Publicity	\$12,000/\$12,125
Registration	\$12,000
Sponsors	\$7,500
Credit Cards	\$22,000
TOTAL	\$388,834.04/

## Anticipated Distribution of Proceeds per Petition

- ▶ South Texas Section: \$146,000 (50% plus share from developed sessions)
- ▶ PMAD: \$18,000
- ▶ TPM&F: \$13,500
- ▶ Flexible Packaging: \$18,000
- ▶ EPSDIV: \$9,000
- ▶ Applied Rheology: \$9,000
- ▶ Building and Infrastructure: \$4,500

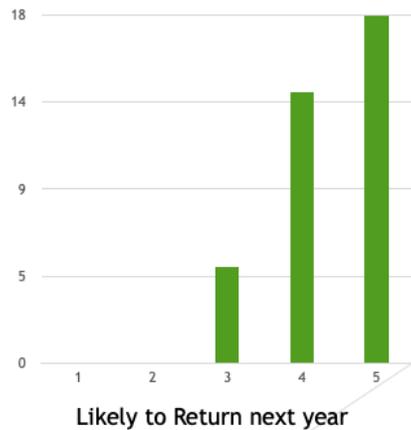
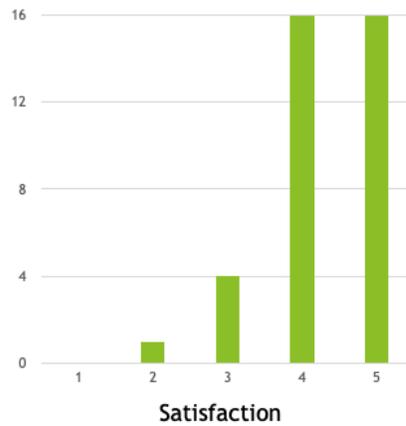
## What went well

- ▶ Additional technical content was well received
  - ▶ Speakers attended sessions outside their area of expertise and learned lots
  - ▶ Attendees gleaned in-depth insights they had considered before
  - ▶ Starting keynotes rated positively
- ▶ Exhibitors got “good” contacts—high quality even if not high numbers
- ▶ Most sponsors were also exhibitors and “Paid Up” to the level they wanted
- ▶ Venue continues to be a bright spot, even if crowded for receptions
- ▶ *Survey just released (should have by 3/11)*

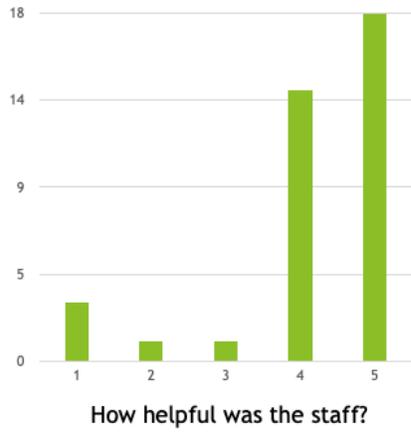
# Things we will consider changing

- ▶ Start earlier
  - ▶ Missed some budget cycles for exhibitors and sponsors
  - ▶ Student posters hectic
  - ▶ Launch PheedLoop earlier to support all activities
  - ▶ Work deadlines (huge number of onsite changes to presentations, etc.)
  - ▶ Plan for 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Polyolefins Conference (March 11-12, 1975)
- ▶ PheedLoop improvements
  - ▶ Simplify (streamline) speaker portal execution
  - ▶ Develop second review cycle (else, what are we reviewing?)
  - ▶ Provide app training, for speakers, attendees, committee!
- ▶ Consider real-time recording or streaming or more attention to MP4s
- ▶ Utilize downstairs for Monday reception (larger)
- ▶ Work access—limit to registered participants. Continue badge design improvement. Monitor digitally?
- ▶ Consider incorporating Hilton ballrooms if more space needed
- ▶ Add closing event/ceremony? Keynote or “best paper” awards or closing reception or ??? Social event like fishing or dinner cruise?
- ▶ How to attract more processors, brand-owners, etc.
- ▶ Refresh partnerships
- ▶ Consider recycling/perpetual reuse

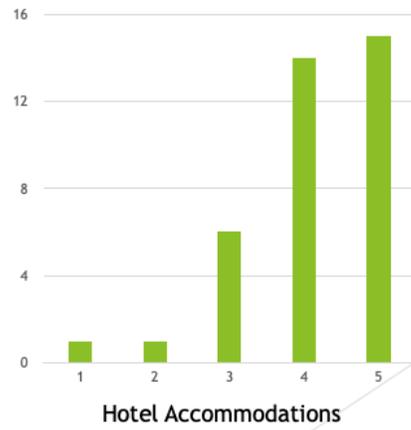
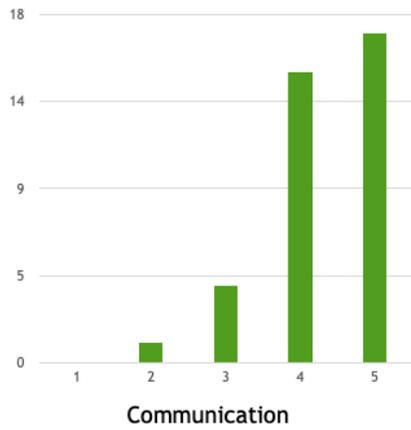
## Attendee feedback: How satisfied were you with IPOC2024? How likely are you to return next year?



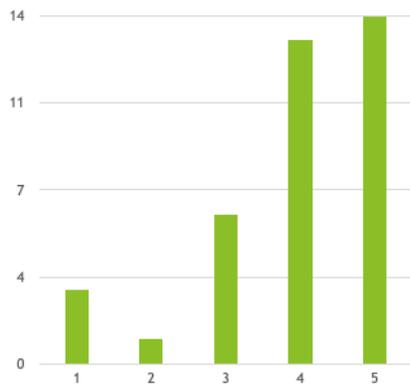
Attendee feedback:  
How helpful was the staff?  
How would rate the ease of registration?



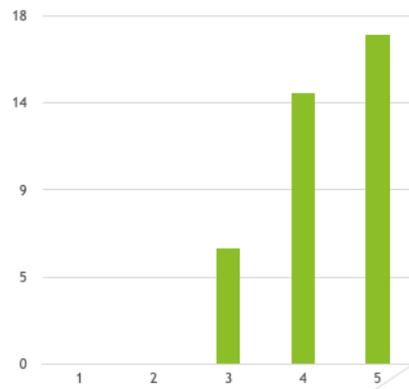
Attendee feedback:  
How would you rate communication about the event?  
How would you rate the hotel accommodations?



**Attendee feedback:**  
**How easy was it to navigate the event software?**  
**How satisfied were you with networking opportunities?**

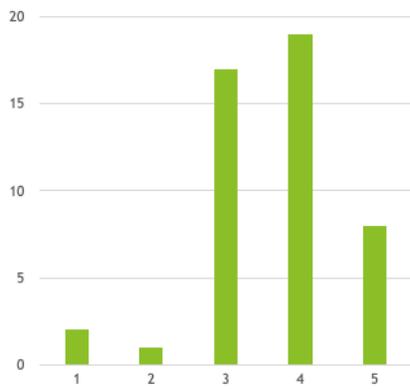


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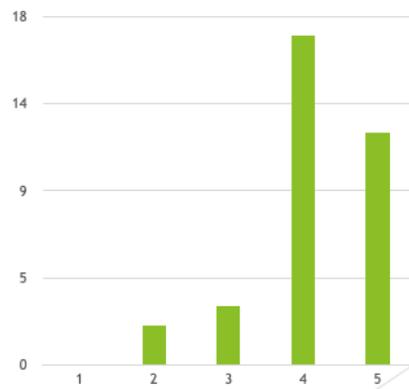


Satisfaction with networking opportunities

**Attendee feedback:**  
**How satisfied were you with the exhibition?**  
**How well did you like the expansion to five concurrent sessions?**

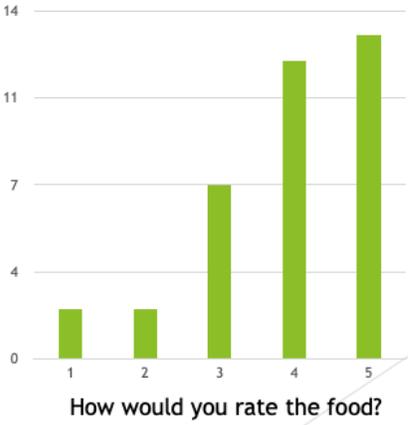
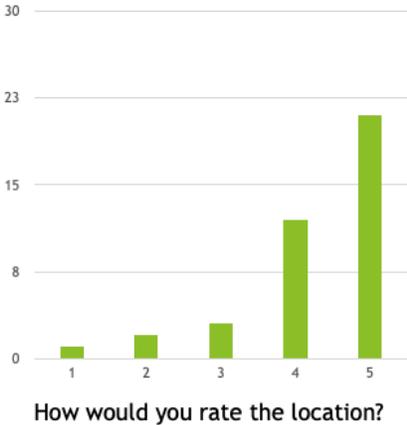


Satisfaction with Exhibition

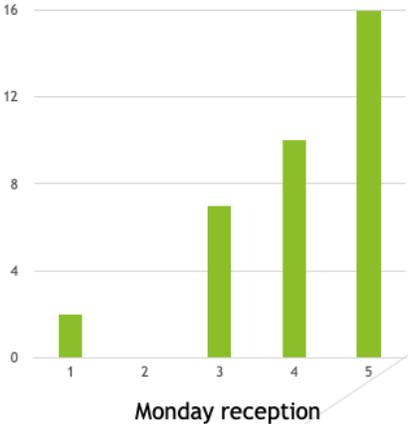
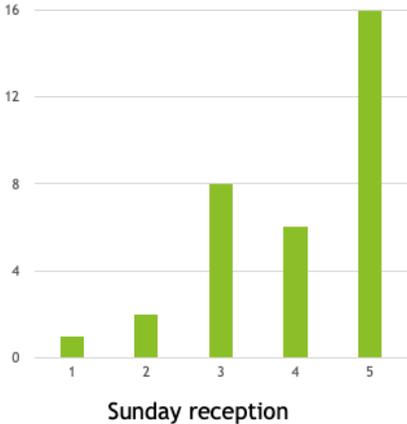


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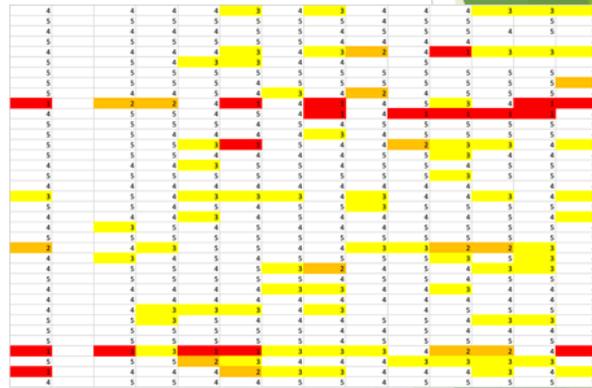
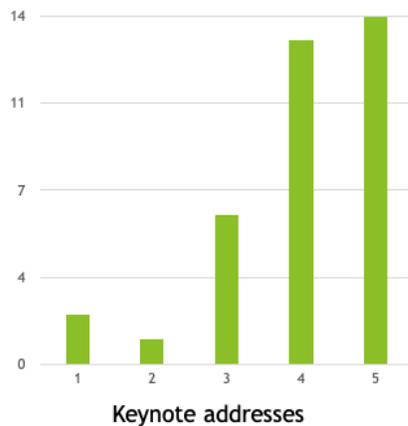
**Attendee feedback:**  
**How would you rate the location?**  
**How would you rate the food?**



**Attendee feedback:**  
**How would you rate the Sunday kick-off reception?**  
**How would you rate the Monday reception?**



## Attendee feedback: How would you rate the keynote addresses?



A few people were dissatisfied and rated everything low  
Some rated things "average" (3) x  
Many rated most everything 4-5

## Suggestions re keynote topics

- ▶ More application things. Less models and speakers that have a big business background.
- ▶ I loved Dr. Boulay's LCA talk- I think incorporating more on this subject could be useful to the industry.
- ▶ "Microplastics
- ▶ Recycling compatibility studies "
- ▶ Business environment and analysis of why bottom of cycle for PO has lasted so long
- ▶ Brand/Retail perspective
- ▶ Plastics recycling.
- ▶ Would like to see someone present market dynamics for the year (like Joel Morales) and see how things are doing.
- ▶ Panel of industry leaders promoting collaboration for sustainability.
- ▶ Additives for PO

x

## Suggestions for improvements generally

- ▶ Topics about barriers films, compounding process, conversion process
- ▶ "Too many concurrent sessions on Wednesday. Very little attendance for those of us who had to speak on Wednesday.
- ▶ No vegetarian options for food at lunch."
- ▶ Please serve water.
- ▶ Conference sessions were well attended, and I thought very well done (20 minutes PPT / 10 minutes Q&A)
- ▶ Thanks so much for a super fun week!
- ▶ Recycling bins
- ▶ The conference was indeed useful to the students, who can experience the networking opportunities and see customer, supplier from the industries interact in a business environment in one umbrella.
- ▶ Visible recycling bins at the event
- ▶ Would it be possible to more equipment exhibits?
- ▶ "provide a simple graphic depicting the relative locations of the convention center, the Hilton, and the St. Louis resort. The Sunday reception was not clearly advised prior to the meeting, and it's location was not at the "St Louis Resort" site indicated on the convention center sign.
- ▶ PHIRE PHEED LOOP. this thing is annoying, cumbersome and just plan wrong. Exactly 1 of my 0 plus slides was offered to attendees for down load. It was similarly lame at FlexpaxckCon this Fall."
- ▶ The live music was a nice idea but hindered networking. Having breakout sessions for networking in smaller groups around a certain topic might be nice. Having the student posters in a more central area like by the registration might be nicer for the students. Promoting the student posters and voting would be helpful (I did not know we could vote for the student posters until I talked to one of the students). Having 5min buffer between speakers.
- ▶ Continue doing what you are doing!..

x

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x

Conference Chair	Donna Davis
Technical Program	Preston McDaniel
Exhibitors	Kevin Alexander
Hotel & A/V	Renee Colyer
Registration	Janell Helton
Publicity	John Wagner and David Hansen
Sponsors	Fernando Cevallos-Candau
Student Posters	David Hansen
South Texas Section	Preston McDaniel
Applied Rheology	Kurt Koppi
PMAD	Hayder Zahalka
Flex Pack	Bob McGee
TPM&F	Wen Li
EPSDIV	Keisha Walters
Bldg & Infrastructure	Lei Rao

Motion: By Pete Lauzon Request to authorize contract with Pheedloop for IPOC 2025.  
Seconded by Iman Bahrani. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion: By Peter Lauzon Authorize a budget of \$30,000 to negotiate contract with vendor.  
Seconded by Donna Davis. Motion carries unanimously.

Preliminary logo for the 50th anniversary presented to the board with positive comments.  
Suggestions for changes can be sent to Donna or Renee

### **Treasurer Report:**

Checking \$719,802 as of February 29

Savings \$119,000 as of February 29

Action Item: After all expenses for IPOC 2024 are accounted and a budget for the rest of the year is set: suggest a plan to move money in the savings account to Certificates of deposit. Peter Lauzon, David Hansen and Janell to suggest plan at May's meeting

### **Education Report:**

Education committee will send contributions to Student Chapters as agreed.

Rice University is moving forward with plan to start SPE chapter

Science fair participation from SPE South Texas was a success.

### **Membership:**

No report

### **New Business:**

Dale Doyle is working on creating a program to train PE Pipe installers at a yet to be named

college. He is looking for support from our section to join other interested parties, such as PE Alliance, the Pipe Institute and private industry.. The preliminary cost for to provide seed money for the program could be about \$100,000. More details are needed before the board commits to this program.

**Motion to conclude meeting:** Donna Davis moved to end meeting, seconded by Steve King. Unanimously approved.

	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Due date</b>
Plan to move savings money to Certificates of deposit	Lauzon/Hansel/ Helton	May meeting

**Action Items**

**Motion to adjourn by Dell Doyle, carries unanimously.**

**Next Meeting: April 9, 2024**

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.**