

**SPE-STX Board Meeting April 8, 2025  
Minutes**

**Attendees**

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

*Standing Agenda:*

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

**Quorum established at 5:04 P.M. (Central Time)**

**Approval of minutes : Approved unanimously**

**Counselor Report/SPE International Comments (Donna Davis):**

First formal in-person council meeting in four years took place during the ANTEC conference. Agreed to meet 4-times per year, with two in person meetings and two virtual meetings. Elected Donna Davis as chair.

SPE lost about \$200, 000 in 2024, but plans are in place to reverse the loss in 2025. The organization took

significant debt with the acquisition of “3-D Natives”. They are promoting an on-line training program in the USA as a profit center. SPE International is planning to have a Polyolefins conference in Europe. To that end, they have established a Southern Europe section with a significant presence of Dow employees. However; SPE has no staff in Europe. Preston has been in contact with some of the people promoting the idea of a conference in Europe.

**IPOC Report (Donna Davis):**

Full expense report for the 2025 conference and a preliminary budget for the 2026 conference will be presented at the May meeting.

The 2026 Conference will overlap with the APR recycling conference; this conference typically attracts about 2,500 attendees.

**Treasurer Report:**

Current balances are as follows:

Checking: \$492,341.29

Savings: \$119,199.19

**Education Report:**

**University of Houston:** Too late to plan for a dinner in the Spring Term. Moving the dinner to the Fall.

**Rice University:** The new student chapter still needs to open a bank account so they can receive our contribution to the chapter.

**Baylor University:** Interested in hosting a student technical presentation event

We need to remind section members that there are scholarship opportunities for member’s children attending college.

The education committee will be presenting a 2026 budget request at a future meeting.

**Membership:**

No report.

**Elections:**

Board elections will be scheduled for this summer. A call for nominations will be forthcoming.

Jason Ball (currently president elect) will be the next president

Preston McDaniel moves to past president

Counselor: Donna Davis nominated to the position

**Staff:**

Proposal to increase the salary of Janell Helton was discussed. The board members are all very happy with her performance.

Motion by Steve Pontiff to increase Janell’s salary to \$2,250/month effective May of 2025. Seconded by Jason Ball.

Motion is approved unanimously.

**Motion to conclude meeting:** Motion by Donna Davis, seconded by Jason Ball. Unanimously approved.

**Next Meeting: May 20, 2025**

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.