

# **SPE-STX Board Meeting**

## **November 11, 2025 Minutes**

### **Attendees:**

<b>Donna Davis</b>	<b>Preston McDaniel</b>
<b>Jason Ball</b>	<b>Robert Sherman</b>
<b>Steve Torchia</b>	<b>David Hansen</b>
<b>Kumar Sanketh</b>	<b>Dell Doyle</b>
<b>Janell Helton(non-voting)</b>	

### **Agenda:**

1. Approve minutes.
2. New Board Member, **Rob Sherman, Ph.D.**
3. Councilor report.
4. IPOC update
  - a. Small issue for the board to resolve.
5. Education Committee
  - a. Meeting at U of H.
6. Treasurer's report.
7. Donna on PIA merger
8. Membership report.
9. Membership Subcommittee, update or report?
10. Any other ideas for meetings or member interactions?
11. Newsletter, status
12. Present openings on the Board?
13. New Business.
14. Adjourn.

**Meeting began 5:05 PM (Some agenda items will be out of order until quorum is established)**

New board member Rob Sherman was welcomed. Rob shared a bit about himself and members on board introduced themselves. Welcome Rob, we are happy to have you join us.

**Counselor Report:** None given.

**Education Committee(David Hansen):**

David reported that the U of H Dinner secured 62 registrations with 48 people attending. Megan Robertson of U of H gave a very nice talk. David Jack, student advisor at Baylor, came from Waco bringing 3 students with him. All in all a very nice, informative dinner.

The addresses for the student chapters have been provided to the treasurer so checks will be going out soon to the student chapters.

David gave a lunchtime talk at Rice.

Letters went out to the school advisors for the IPOC. The letters detail how many students may attend for free, poster submissions, etc. These went out a month earlier this year to help facilitate student sign-ups earlier due to the holiday season coupled with students getting back to school mid to late January.

#### **Treasurer Report (Donna Davis):**

Donna reported the 2024 tax returns have been filed with the IRS and SPE HQ.

Our outflow is consistent with our inflow, typical for a 501c3 corporation, with most net proceeds going toward our mission of promoting scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics.

Chase checking: \$87,582.76

Chase savings: \$0.30 (interest)

Frost checking: \$35,032.05 (all from IPOC proceeds plus \$50 to open account)

Frost savings (CD): \$400,000 (earning 3.36%, maturing 1/1/2026 for 90-day rollover)

We will move the checking account from Chase to Frost by the end of the month, closing out the Chase account altogether.

I am in the process of paying the student chapter drafts and will do so from the Frost account. My intent is to have everything electronically distributed from Frost making it easier to find/follow in the future (payee information will be available, etc.)

#### **Quorum established at 5:17**

#### **PIA Merger(Donna Davis):**

The merger of SPE into Plastics will finalize on January 1, 2026. SPE will be an operating division of Plastics. Plastics is a 501c6, attributes: can lobby, donations are not tax deductible, SPE is a 501c3, attributes: cannot lobby, donations are tax deductible.

How will this merger affect SPE-STX? How will it affect our tax status?

Donna reports that other sections and divisions are looking into their financial situation with regards to Plastics.

Donna makes a motion to seek legal council, with the maximum cost to be \$5000, to understand our options and advice for proceeding forward within the merger. She believes the cost will be around \$1000. We need to better understand the ramifications with our affiliate agreement with SPE.

Seconded by Steve Torchia .

Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of October minutes:** Motion Jason Ball Seconded Dell Doyle

**IPOC Update(Preston McDaniel):**

All is going well, Joe Machado is doing an excellent job putting together a very robust program. Committee is actively reviewing abstracts. IPOC will feature 3 morning plenary speakers and 1 afternoon plenary speaker. Tutorials will focus on injection molding. Exhibitors are signing up.

Walk through of the GICC is slated for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December. Will be determined by when housing chair, Rachel Keshock, can fly into Houston. Details with Password, how the exhibit floor will be laid out, food, etc will be discussed.

Fernando has \$24,000 confirmed sponsorship money. Awaiting word from PMC for the possibility of another 20K. Alan Whiteside will let Fernando know by November 20, 2025.

We will potentially have more posters this year from more schools.

Question was posed: How is the softening market potentially affecting the conference? Currently all indicators suggest the conference will still do well with our main money driver, the exhibitors, still actively planning to exhibit. We are actively publishing the "Exhibit Hall Only" badge to pull people to the exhibition floor. David will include this in marketing material moving forward.

**Budget(Donna Davis):**

Originally submitted in September.

Donna Davis makes the motion that the South Texas Section of the SPE adopt the 2025-2026 budget as presented. The largest changes to the budget are adding \$20k for section member development, primarily in the form of section meetings and professional development opportunities.

Seconded Kumar Sanketh.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Membership Report:** None given

**Monthly Meeting Report(Dell Doyle):** Potentially have a Christmas meeting in December at Dave & Busters. Most believe too late to adequately publicize and register. Look to January to calendar an event. Dell has reached out to ISIS to set-up talk but still waiting for a reply.

**Newsletter(Janell Helton):** Newsletter final submissions have been given to Joe Geiman. Joe is working on rough draft, will be sent soon and reviewed. Newsletter will go out the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Ongoing business-Open board positions:** 2 board positions remain. A few names were submitted by Preston McDaniel. Donna Davis will inquire if they are interested.

Discussion ensued around having a student on the BOD. Preston McDaniel suggested a revision of the by-laws to include a student BOD for a 1-year term. The Pittsburgh Section

has had student BODd members. We will get in touch with Pittsburgh to see how this arrangement worked within their section. Discussion to continue next meeting.

**Meeting Adjourn: 6:10 PM**

**Next Meeting: December 9, 2026**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Janell Helton  
Section Coordinator

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- 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.