

**SPE-STX Board Meeting October 14, 2025  
Minutes**

**Attendees**

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

**Agenda:** See Attachment 1

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

**Approval of minutes :** Motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting by PDavid. Motion passes unanimously.

**Board Openings:** Proposal to Dr. Robert Sherman for a position at the Board of the South Texas Section. See biography in Attachment 2.

Motion by Jason Ball to appoint Dr. Robert Sherman to the the Board of the South Texas Section of SPE. The motion is approved unanimously.

**Counselor Report (Kumar Sanketh):** Kumar attended the Counselor meeting that took place in Pittsburgh, during the Responsible Plastics 2025 Conference (September 23-24), the meeting was chaired by Donna Davis. About 25 counselors attended.

- There was a discussion on what works and what doesn't work for SPE, including many ideas for increased participation by members; for instance, Northern sections focus on Golf outings and activities such as Indy 500.
- There is still no clarity on the merger with The Plastics Industry Association.
- There are three openings for the board of SPE International, the Council has a voice on the selection of candidates.

**IPOC Report:** Angela Padilla reported that all committees for the 2026 conference are up and running.

**Treasurer Report (Donna Davis):** Donna could not attend but submitted the following report:

*I will have to miss this week's board meeting, but I wanted to thank you for supporting the move of our bank account from Chase to Frost. We have now moved the savings account and some of the checking account funds to Frost, where we have \$400,000 in a 90-day CD yielding 3.36% and \$50 in checking. The penalty for early withdrawal (in case we need it for operations) is only the interest accrued on the amount withdrawn. Janell is updating the Polyolefins information (especially wiring instructions for exhibitors and sponsors) and registration flow to Frost. That leaves us \$0.17 interest from last month in the Chase savings account and \$91,481.52 in checking. I will move the remaining checking account funds when I return, but we wanted to move the payee information, etc., before closing out the Chase account completely. These funds will also be used for operations in the meantime.*

*In the process of setting up the Frost account, we learned we needed to register as a Foreign Nonprofit Corporation with the Texas Secretary of State. We have now done so. I don't know how we missed that in the past, but it is a requirement because we are registered in Connecticut while "doing business" (e.g. holding the Polyolefins Conference) in Texas. The fee is \$25/year for nonprofits.*

*You have seen the Education Committee budget, and we discussed the proposed overall Section budget last month. They are now reconciled, thanks to David Hansen's effort.*

*It is not unlikely that the recently-announced merger of SPE into PLASTICS will drive some change in our procedures, formalities, etc. I have asked Pat Farrey for copies of the legal documents to ascertain how we may need to modify our registrations, etc. Since the merger is expected to be complete by year-end, this work may be an important November topic.*

**Education Report (David Hansen):** The total budget for Education for 2025-2026 is \$78,000, as outlined in Attachment 3.

Discussion on the budget centers on clarification about support to Science Fair (most money goes to awards for projects related to plastics) and support for universities.

Motion by David Hansen to approve the education budget as presented, seconded by Fernando Cevallos-Candau. Motion passes unanimously.

David sent an email to members soliciting speaker roles at universities, he hasn't received a response. Dell Doyle reported that he did give a talk at Texas Tech. Proposal that the education committee prepare a slide deck that can be used for talks at Universities.

There will be a Dinner at the University of Houston on October 30 to celebrate the endowment given by the South Texas Section in honor of Bill and Susan Ditz. Professor Megan Robinson will be the featured speaker.

**Membership (Yanwei Liu)** Currently we have 463 members, 421 are active. There are 14 new members compared to September. At the end of October the membership of 7 members will expire.

The membership subcommittee has been actively meeting, see attachment 4 for ideas for membership growth.

**Newsletter:** Janell Helton asked for ideas, input and pictures that can be included in the November News Letter. Motion to adjourn by Dell Doyle, second by David Hansen. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

**Next Meeting: November 12, 2025**

Respectfully submitted by:

J. Fernando Cevallos-Candau  
Secretary

Attachment 1

**Agenda**

**10/14/2025 SPE-STX Board Meeting**

1. Approve minutes.
2. Nominees for the Board, discussion. Their bios are attached to the agenda.
3. Vote on nominees.
4. Councilor report.
5. IPOC update
6. Education Committee
  - a. Education Committee budget, questions, or are we ready to vote?
  - b. Meeting at U of H.
7. Treasurer's report. Vote on the overall budget.
8. Discuss the Debit card situation if necessary.
9. Membership report.
10. Membership Subcommittee, update or report?
11. Any other ideas for meetings or member interactions?
12. Newsletter, we hope to get out in early November. Ideas for content, etc.
13. New Business.
14. Adjourn.

## Attachment 2

### Dr. Robert Sherman Biography:

Dr. Sherman has been the Technical Director for Baerlocher USA's Special Additives Division for 9 years. During his 12 years at Baerlocher his focus has been on metal soaps and blends for resin manufacturers as well as development of the Baeropol RST line of products and more recently our Baerolub AID PPA replacement. Beyond customer activities, Dr. Sherman supports and trains the technical team for their various industries and occasionally he has been the head of Quality for Baerlocher USA. Before coming to Baerlocher, Rob held several R&D positions related to additives and stabilization of different resins including acrylic and styrenic sheet resins at Aristech Acrylics, North American polyethylene additives at LyondellBasell, and polyesters and blends at GE Plastics. Rob received my Ph.D. in chemistry from Oklahoma State University, did Post-Doctoral research at Texas A&M, and a BS and MS in chemistry at Southern Illinois University. Rob has over 25 professional presentations at conferences, over 10 patents, 7 refereed scientific publications, and 1 book chapter.

Rob has been on the PMAD Board of Directors since 2017. He was the PMAD ANTEC TPC from 2018 to 2020 and the Chairman Elect from 2018 to 2020. Chairman of the Board of Directors from 2020 to 2022. Rob has been the current PMAD Membership Committee Chair since 2022. During his time as TPC, he moderated the PMAD sessions at two different ANTECs and was able to schedule and moderate an Additives Tutorial at the 2019 ANTEC meeting in Detroit. As Chairman Rob was able to work with the Board to reestablish monthly PMAD BoD meetings, update the Bylaws, enforce rules to remove nonactive BoD members, and reestablish the biannual newsletter.

### Attachment 3

## Educational Budget

Support to Texas SPE Student Chapters **\$10,800** (9 schools at \$1,200/school)

Scholarships for SPE student Chapters **\$31,500** (9 schools at \$3,500/school)

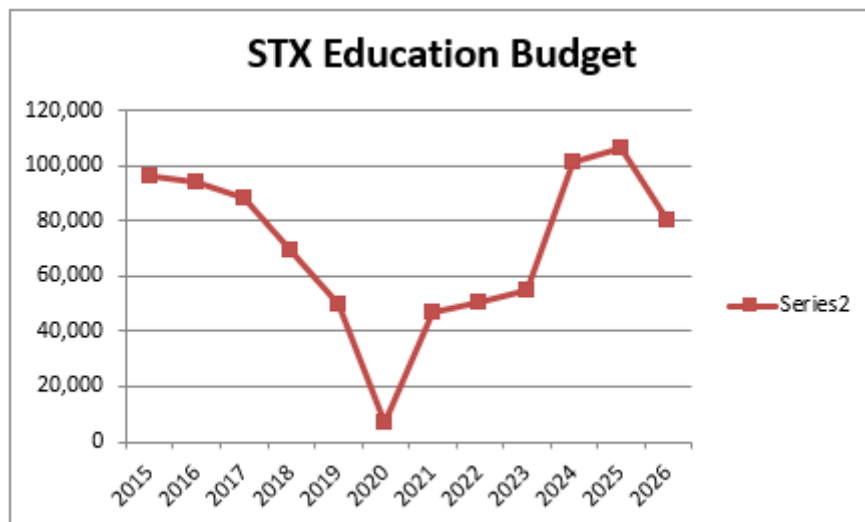
Scholarships for children of active STX members **\$15,000**

Additional scholarships for SPE student chapters based on chapter membership and activities **\$10,000**

Science Fair **\$3,500**

Travel assistance for distant Texas SPE student chapters **\$4,000**

Travel assistance for STX school liaisons and STX speakers visiting Texas SPE schools **\$4,000**



## **Attachment 4**

### **Eduction Committee Report**

#### **Value Proposition**

##### **Why join the SPE South Texas Section (STX):**

- Discounts on paid events (e.g., workshops, dinner meetings, Astros games).
- Access to STX library/IPOC materials (may need lots of work).
- Free virtual technical seminars, career-related talks for members. Speakers can come from board members or outside.

##### **Ways to join:**

- Join online through SPE and select the STX chapter.
- Sign up at STX-hosted events or university scholarship/award dinners.
- Visit the SPE-STX desk at major conferences (ANTEC, IPOC, TPO, AMI Plastics World Expo).
- “Ways to join SPE South Texas Chapter.doc” (prepared by David) can be posted on website.

#### **Membership Growth Ideas**

- Need more events every year, preferably spanning a broad geological area for people from different region. Can survey current members what kind of events they are looking forward to attend.
- Email current STX members and ask them to ask their colleagues if they want to join.
- Charge for in-person events but give members a discount; keep online talks free.
- Expand promotions via mailing lists and social media.
- Encourage members to repost STX content on LinkedIn. STX LinkedIn account admins have more interactions with posts from conference attendees.
- Build a mailing list for non-STX SPE members (David proposed to work with Janell’s help). 3500+ contacts on ConstantContact.

- Pay SPE to email U.S. SPE members explaining how to join STX for free.
- Recruit students by working with Student Chapters and have them in charge of getting more student members, can also do it at scholarship/dinner events.
- Houston metro area has rich resource in chemistry and polymer industry. Define the target audience – be specific about who the “potential members” are and collect contact information. Board members reach out to their colleagues and contacts to get their permission to be included in the mailing list.