



**PPA**  
**Plastics Pioneers**  
**Association**

*Honoring the Past ... Ensuring the Future*

[www.plasticspioneers.org](http://www.plasticspioneers.org)

## About the PPA

Fellowship and camaraderie are the reasons the Plastics Pioneers Association was founded, and they remain an essential part of its purpose. Additionally, the PPA focuses on educational programs, plastics industry history and gathering philanthropic support.

- **CONDUCT** annual meetings to recognize achievements and to determine programs to be initiated and supported
- **CONTRIBUTE** funds to educational programs deemed worthy of support by the association
- **ADMINISTER** scholarship programs for deserving students in the study of plastics and polymer science, engineering, technology or management
- **PRESERVE** the history of the plastics industry through the work of the PPA Plastics History and Artifacts Committee



**PPA FALL & SPRING MEETINGS INCLUDE:**  
Social Activities  
Business Meetings  
Personal Enrichment  
New Member Intros  
Local Tours  
Spouse Programs  
Golf - Tennis - Bocce

**PPA MEMBERSHIP** is limited to 250 members with the following requirements:

**25 years of accomplishment and contribution to the plastics industry**

**Submission of the membership application accompanied by two letters of support from current PPA members**

**PPA candidates are judged on their contribution to the betterment of the Plastics Industry**



# The History of Plastics

**1868**

Cellulose Nitrate (Celluloid) discovered

**1907**

Phenolic Resin (Bakelite) discovered

**1920's**

Injection Molding Machine developed

**1930's**

Plexiglass produced / polyurethane, polystyrene & low density polyethylene invented / nylon discovered

**1940's**

Teflon Invented / Saran & nylon stockings introduced / Tupperware debut

**1950's**

First Plastic-bodied car debuts / Hula Hoop invented / High density polyethylenes & polypropylene invented

**1960's**

Ethylene-vinyl acetate co-polymers & polyimide films & varnishes launched / Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) & Kevlar® developed

**1970's**

Burger "Clam shells" manufactured from polystyrene / polyethylene terephthalate (PET) beverage bottles introduced

**1980's**

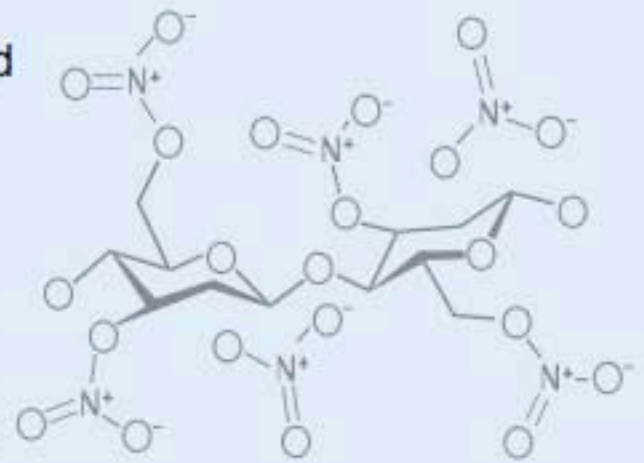
High volume recycling of thermoplastics begins / development of specialty alloys and copolymers

**1990's**

Commercial grades of biodegradable plastics introduced / High performance engineering resins developed

**2000+**

Nano-Technology applied to polymer and composite applications / Metallocene catalyzed polyolefins introduced / NASA explores a polyethylene - based material RFX1 / Airbus 380, composed of 22% carbon-fiber reinforced plastics & the Boeing 787 with 100% plastic composites for the skin & plastic making up 50% of all other materials are introduced into service



## Dedicated to Furthering sEducation in the Plastics Industry

Since 1985, The Education Fund of the Plastics Pioneers Association has awarded several hundred thousand dollars in scholarships to college and university students who are committed to careers in the plastics industry.

The objective of the Plastics Pioneers Association Educational Program is to encourage young people to study the science and chemistry of plastics to continue its growth and contribution to our society. Scholarships are available annually to students committed to the fields of polymer science, engineering, technology, and management within those fields.

Pre-requisites for applicants:

- ~ Must be a US Citizen
- ~ Must be an undergraduate student in either a 4 - year college or a 2 - year technical program
- ~ Must be in a field of study related to plastics
- ~ Financial need is considered



The Scholarship administration is handled by the SPE Foundation but is entirely funded by the members of the Plastics Pioneers Association. Since 2007, PPA has awarded scholarships to over 50 students attending universities all over the United States.



Grants are also made to special programs that help train educators in the technology and uses of plastics, educate children and adults about plastics and the environment, and encourage the use of plastics where it provides superior performance, economics and environmental properties.

- Applications for The Plastics Pioneer Association Scholarships are available at:

The SPE Foundation  
13 Church Hill Road  
Newtown, CT 06470

Email: [foundation@4spe.org](mailto:foundation@4spe.org)  
[www.4spe.org/spe-#scholarships](http://www.4spe.org/spe-#scholarships)



## PlastiVan™ Program

The PPA is an active supporter and financial contributor to the National Plastics Center (NPC) PlastiVan™ program, conceived by Plastics Academy Hall of Famer honoree Bob Hoffer. This program is directed to students in grades 3 through 12. PlastiVan™ teachers travel throughout the United States, teaching students, educators and the public about the chemistry, history, processing and environmental issues



involved with plastics. The PPA has been a PlastiVan™ Sponsor since 2009.

## Polymer Ambassadors Outreach

The PPA supports this program where award-winning teachers “*teach other teachers*” about polymers and plastics and how to use them in K-12 classroom instruction. They have reached millions of children and encouraged them to pursue careers in science & technology. Visit [www.polymerambassadors.org](http://www.polymerambassadors.org).

## Archives and Artifacts

A major undertaking of the PPA is the work of the Plastics History and Artifacts Committee. From nylon to polyethylene, plastics surround us. The fascination with preserving living history started in 1953 with a series of tapes made by the Pioneers to reserve the early days of plastics. In 2008, the PPA donated its history and artifacts to Syracuse University.



The Plastics Center at the University of Syracuse is the largest university - based resource on the history of plastics. The Plastics Center serves to advance the understanding of plastics in modern society including medical devices, appliances, building construction, packaging, etc. The Plastics Center is home to an expansive library and thousands of plastic artifacts including fine arts, toys, car parts, medical devices, housewares, jewelry and others.



Learn about the people & corporations responsible for our cultural embrace of plastics at [www.plastics.syr.edu](http://www.plastics.syr.edu)

## **PPA Vision**

**The PPA will continue to embrace new members and look to the future by encouraging individuals to pursue careers in the plastic industry by providing scholarships to deserving students. PPA is committed to preserving historical artifacts in the field of plastics, educating the public about plastics and the environment, and encourages the use of plastics where it provides superior performance, economics and environmental properties. PPA will actively seek philanthropic support to bring visions into reality.**

## **PPA Mission**

**The Plastic Pioneers Association is a non-profit membership organization composed of individuals with extensive professional experience in the plastic industry who have made considerable contributions to its growth. The PPA acts to foster comradeship between members through social activities and determining actions which will add to the betterment of the plastic industry. The association is committed to honoring the past by preserving the history of the plastics industry and looking to the future by funding educational programs focused on plastic chemistry, processing and environmental issues. The PPA provides support to the next generation of professionals in the plastics industry by providing scholarships to deserving students in the study of plastics and polymer science, engineering, technology and / or management.**

**Contact us today regarding member nomination forms and for additional details about the PPA.**



**The Plastics Pioneers Association  
3900 West Dayton Street  
McHenry, IL 60050**

**[www.plasticspioneers.org](http://www.plasticspioneers.org)**

**The Plastics Pioneers Association (PPA) is a non-profit 501(3)c charitable corporation.**