Our 2016 Spring meeting will be held at Safety Harbor Resort and Spa, a unique place with historic mineral springs nestled on 22 acres on the west shore of Tampa Bay.

In 1539, Hernando Desoto reached the shores of Old Tampa Bay and discovered the natural springs (later named “Espiritu Santo Springs”) believing he had found the legendary “Fountain of Youth” missed by Ponce De Leon. In 1964 the U.S. Department of the Interior recognized and designated the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa a Historical Landmark and in 1997 it became a Florida Heritage Landmark. Boasting spectacular views of Tampa Bay and the city lights of Tampa, Safety Harbor Resort and Spa remains one of the most comprehensive spa and fitness centers in the country. Built on the site of the natural mineral springs believed to restore youth and vitality, the spa treatments and three swimming pools use the healing powers of the water to help you achieve your own personal serenity. You’ll quickly discover why Spa Finder Magazine has consistently named the Safety Harbor Spa among their top ten U.S. spas year over year.

Looking for something a bit more active? Grab a few PPA friends and head to the sand volleyball courts for a quick game. And if all that activity leaves you hungry, you can sample all of the unique possibilities in the resort, from the Fountain Grille restaurant, to the poolside refreshments of the Tiki Bar or cocktails and light fare in La Sardine lobby lounge. Or take a short walk into town for tapas, sushi, pub fare, tasty baked goods and much more! More information will be available in a few months – so watch your mail for more news on our plans for this new Florida venue! Harry Greenwald will be our host.
It was great to see all of you who attended our October meeting in Pittsburgh! From our dinner cruise on the Three Rivers to our tour of the Heinz Museum and time to explore the very interesting city of Pittsburgh, a good time was had by all. We welcomed Mark Bruner, Clare Goldsberry and Phil Shoemaker as new members at Saturday night’s banquet. And we celebrated Steve Hershfield on his term as PPA President, and inducted Jack Michael as our newest Distinguished Service Member!

At our general meeting on Saturday morning, we were pleased to have Ann Padias and Sherri Rukes as our guests from the Polymer Ambassadors program. Sherri gave a terrific presentation on all the activities the Ambassadors do to encourage teachers to include plastics in their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs at schools around the United States. When these teachers return to their own schools armed with lesson plans and sample experiments provided by the Ambassadors, thousands of students are impacted! We were also treated to a wonderful “thank you” video by Elizabeth Kender, the 2015 scholarship recipient from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell endowed scholarship program. This terrific young lady is one of three children from the same family attending UML!

Many of you know that I worked for SPE (Society of Plastics Engineers) for 33 years before retiring in August 2014. One of the things that SPE Presidents did each year was to pick a word (or two) as their theme for their term of office. I’ve decided to do that same thing for my term as PPA President, and have chosen “Share” as my theme. I ask you to take on that word as well in the coming two years. And here’s how you can do that!

Share with your company that PPA offers them a way to support education in the plastics industry by sponsoring a tax-deductible $3,000 scholarship each year through PPA. We’ll handle getting applications and selecting the candidates. All we ask is their pledge to support one scholarship per year over a 5-year timeframe!

Share your beliefs in the programs that PPA supports by making a personal donation to the PPA Education Fund. The interest on the money you donate each year is used to support the endowment of a scholarship at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, numerous other scholarships, sponsorship of the PlastiVan program and the Polymer Ambassadors program, and support of the history/artifacts program at Syracuse University. We supported these programs with $50,000 this year and, at the Pittsburgh Board of Governors meeting, approved supporting them at the same level in 2016.

Share yourself with other PPA members by attending the two meetings PPA holds each year. Meet old friends – make new friends – network with colleagues – take a brief break from the routine of your normal days – and learn what PPA is doing to meet our stated goals of supporting educational programs in, and the history of, the plastics industry!

And lastly, Share your time with PPA by getting involved and actively participating on a PPA committee. Each of you has knowledge and experience that you can share to help PPA grow and prosper. We look forward to your involvement!

Our next meeting will be held April 14-17, 2016 at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa in Safety Harbor, Florida. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Share the reasons you joined PPA with friends and colleagues and then nominate them for membership. Contact Dennis Meade, Membership Chair, for more information (dmeade@chromacolors.com).
On Saturday afternoon approximately forty members and spouses toured the Senator John Heinz History Center in downtown Pittsburgh. The museum is associated with The Smithsonian Institution.

First on the agenda was a box lunch served in the main downstairs room. We were surrounded by several unusual items including a replica of a cannon used during WWI that was so large all of us were scratching our heads trying to figure out how they loaded it! There was also a pristine stainless steel Ford on display, a wood delivery wagon filled with cases of Heinz products, an antique (1940’s) street car and other unusual items. Needless to say we hurriedly ate our lunch so that we could inspect and admire everything.

After lunch we were met by three museum docents who each took a group of us through the museum. Currently the museum has the following collections on display: the Detre Library & Archives, the African-American program, the Italian-American program, the Rauh Jewish Archives and the Westinghouse Collection. In addition to a history of Mr. Heinz and his company, we were shown several special exhibits including Pittsburgh’s Contributions to WWII, Mister Roger’s Neighborhood, Western PA Sports, the History of Pittsburgh, the British, French & Indian War, Glass, Lewis & Clark’s Expedition, Senator John Heinz, a Collection of Woodworking Planes and The Discovery Place for children.
Several interesting trivia details were told. First, did you know that the first product Heinz sold was vinegar, not catsup? Second, Heinz had seen a billboard while riding a train that said a company had X number of products. He thought that was catchy so he began running numbers through his head. When he came to 57 he decided he liked that number, even though by this time he had more than fifty-seven products. Third, he was the first in Pittsburgh to use clear glass bottles and jars for his products. When a competitor decided to use them too, Mr. Heinz had the barge on which they were being stored sunk in the river!

Before leaving, many of us enjoyed browsing the gift shop and grabbing something at the snack bar. It was a wonderful, and educational, experience. If you are interested in more information, check out their website at heinzhistorycenter.org.
Friday Dinner Cruise

After a short, leisurely stroll through the park we boarded Gateway Clipper’s *Three Rivers Queen* paddle boat for a relaxing evening on the water. Gateway Clipper has been in business since 1958 so we were in good hands. Our point of departure was where the Allegheny River and Monongahela River merge with the Ohio River.

Prior to dinner everyone watched the scenery passing by, caught up with old friends and made new ones, and enjoyed a drink. Dinner was served buffet style with so many selections to choose from it was hard to decide what to eat. In addition, there were two large tables of desserts!

*Seeing Pittsburgh lit up at night from the boat was an amazing sight.*
FRIDAY DINNER CRUISE
The PlastiVan Education Program, with the support of many sponsors like PPA, continues to be a great way to reach middle and high school students, exciting them about the vast opportunities the plastics industry has to offer. The PlastiVan Program provides a sound science education curriculum that increases students’ knowledge of the contributions plastics make to modern life while encouraging them to seek plastics and engineering careers. Instructors give several demonstrations that provide a “wow” factor for students. These include polyurethane foaming (a Styrofoam cup is 5 percent plastic and 95 percent gas; just remove the gas and the cup is still there) and the way cross-linking polymers led to the development of wicking materials, Kevlar, and nylon fibers as demonstrated by pushing the pointed end of a stick through a balloon without popping it.

### PLASTIC PIONEERS FUNDING FOR PLASTIVAN PROGRAMS SCHOOL YEAR 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>COMPANY/ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</th>
<th>PPA DONATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 27, 2015</td>
<td>Plymouth Riverview Middle School</td>
<td>Plymouth WI</td>
<td>170</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bemis Mfg. Sheboygan Falls WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28, 2015</td>
<td>Sheboygan Falls Middle School</td>
<td>Sheboygan WI</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bemis Mfg. Sheboygan Falls WI</td>
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<td>June 3, 2015</td>
<td>Stonington High School</td>
<td>Pawcatuck, CT</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Davis-Standard, Pawcatuck, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 28, 2015</td>
<td>Kopachuck Middle School, Gig Harbor WA</td>
<td>Charlie Pratt/ Pacific Northwest Section SPE</td>
<td>175</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Charlie Pratt/ Pacific Northwest Section SPE</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30, 2015</td>
<td>Mt. Tahoma High School</td>
<td>Tacoma WA</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Charlie Pratt/ Pacific Northwest Section SPE</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Teaching days</td>
<td>Number of students reached:</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,205</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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The PPA support providing $7,500.00 in matching funds is very much appreciated by the SPE Foundation. With $2,500.00 remaining for 2015, approximately another 1,000 students will be reached.
Education Committee Report  
(continued)

Polymer Ambassadors
At Saturday’s general meeting, Sherri Rukes gave a presentation on the Polymer Ambassadors program. The Polymer Ambassadors are a group of science teachers from across the United States who provide fellow teachers with information on polymers and strategies for including them in their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) classroom instruction.

Because of their remarkable physical properties and their familiarity to students, polymers are particularly suitable as a focus of science learning. Demonstrations include activities involving plastics, rubber, paint, adhesives, recycling,

PPA Logo’d Items
Remember to buy your PPA sweatshirt. Sweatshirts are blue polyester/cotton 50/50 heavyweight ultra blend fleece crew with the PPA logo. Available in sizes small, medium, large, XL, XXL, and XXXL, the sweatshirts cost $31.00 delivered to your home. Mail your sweatshirt order with a check payable to the Plastics Pioneers Association to Dolores Mack at 48 Old Nugent Farm Road, Gloucester, MA 01930. Contact Dolores at doloresmack@cs.com or 978-281-3213 if there are any questions.

Also available are 100% cotton twill deluxe polo style “Palmer Caps”. They have Velcro closures and come in red, khaki, and navy. The caps cost $10.00 plus shipping. Cap orders are taken by Cathy Connell at 2900 W. Dayton Street, McHenry, IL 60050 (815-759-2118).
VICTOR BATARSEH—GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP
Victor is a senior at Drexel University enrolled in the Chemical Engineering BS/MS program, where he maintains a 3.97 GPA. He worked at Arkema Inc. as a Materials Engineer and Chemist, Merck & Co. Inc. as a Pharmaceutical Packaging Engineer, and GlaxoSmithKline as a Biopharmaceutical Technologies associate. Victor is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Drexel University AIChE Student Chapter. He serves as Secretary of Kappa Theta Epsilon National Co-op Honors Society Theta Chapter. He plans to pursue his Ph.D. and is interested in finding applications for plastics derived from renewable materials.

PATRICK FACENDOLA—M. HOLLAND SCHOLARSHIP
Patrick is a senior enrolled in the BS/MS program at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell where he is studying Plastics Engineering and is a member of the Honors College. He is the president of the SPEStudent Chapter and vice president of Tuan Beta Pi (the Honors Engineering Society). During the summer following his freshman year at UML, he received an internship at Felton Inc. where he collaborated with a team of engineers to develop a proprietary project for John Deere. His sophomore year, he received an eight-month co-op position at Johnson & Johnson DePuy Mitek, where he worked with bioabsorbable materials, injection molding, and different elements of design. This past year he performed research to make a green flame retardant additive for polymers to be used in fabric applications.

ABIGAIL GILMORE—DIRECTED SCHOLARSHIP
Abigail is a senior studying Plastics Engineering Technology at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. She serves as President of the Tau Alpha Pi National Honor Society and is currently Treasurer of the Plastics Engineering Club at Behrend. She is an active member of the SPE Northwestern Pennsylvania Section, and a Behrend STEM Scholar. Abigail has been on the Dean's List every semester of her college career and graduated from the Behrend Honors Program in the spring of 2014. She is a member of the Behrend Cross Country and Track and Field Teams, and earned the team's Most Improved Athlete Award for both the fall 2013 and 2014 cross country seasons. During the past two summers, she interned as a Processing Engineer at Berry Plastics in Hot Springs, AR, and as a New Systems Development Engineer at GOJO Industries in Akron, OH. She is also a teaching assistant at Behrend, helping professors with students in the plastics engineering courses and assisting industry employees at Behrend workshops.
2015 PPA
Scholarship Recipients

ANDREW KLARECKI—DIRECTED SCHOLARSHIP
Andrew is a junior at Ferris State University majoring in Plastics Engineering Technology and minoring in Rubber Engineering Technology. He chose to study Plastics Engineering because it combines his love for chemistry and problem solving. When not working or studying he likes to spend his time outside. Whether hiking, disc golfing, playing soccer, snowboarding, or swimming, he’s always happiest when staying active. After graduating, he plans on working in the injection molding industry. He spent this past summer working for a medical device manufacturer in California and liked working in the medical industry because he knew the projects he worked on would ultimately help many people around the world.

MADISON POWELL—DIRECTED SCHOLARSHIP
Madison is in her senior year at Pennsylvania College of Technology pursuing a Bachelors in Plastics and Polymer Engineering Technology. She has been involved in the student chapter of SPE every year at PCT, and during that time, has attended 3 ANTEC®s and 2 NPEs. She presented 2 ANTEC® projects as well and just recently attended and presented a project at the SPE Thermoforming Conference. Madison is a Resident Assistant and a Connections Link (a new student orientation leader), and is currently working in the Plastics and Innovation Research Center as a Research Assistant and also for the college as a Lab Assistant. When she isn’t working, Madison enjoys traveling and meeting new people, but also spending time with her family. After working for 15 months as a co-op in the Polymer Department at Ethicon, Inc., a division of Johnson & Johnson, she is extremely excited to finish out her last year of school and begin her career in a challenging and rapidly changing field.

CHRISTINA SHENG—GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP
Christina is an honors student studying Materials Science and Engineering at Rutgers University. As early as the summer of her freshman year, she started research in a Specialty Fiber Optics Group. Later in her junior year, intrigued by polymers, she changed her research direction and joined the AMIPP Advanced Polymer Center for research. In the near future, she plans on researching abroad in Europe and studying Japanese in Japan for a semester each.
Golf in Pittsburgh

The PPA’s Golf Committee Chairman and fearless and talented golf leader, Mark Wolverton, was unable to make the meeting in Pittsburgh, PA due to travel conflict for business. Mark set the PPA Golfers up at the Beautify Pittsburgh National Golf Club, which is a semi-private course. The weather held out and the golfers had a warm enjoyable afternoon. The rolling hills and manicured fairways and greens of Pittsburgh National were indeed breathtaking. Surrounded by many maple trees, and the rolling hills where one could see for long distances, the colors of the leaves were brilliant and incredibly outstanding. Needless to say, all the golfers had an enjoyable day.

**THE AWARDS WERE AS FOLLOWS:**
Ruth Meade – Longest Ladies Drive and Low Ladies Net
Sal Monte & Dennis Meade – Tied for Low Net Score of 73
Bob Hare – Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin
Stu Swain – Longest Putt

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The Survey Says……..

The Fall 2015 PPA meeting was held close to Halloween. Knowing this, the intrepid interviewer posed the question, “What is your favorite holiday?” The responses are summarized below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday Favorite</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th of July</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Hog Day</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halloween</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tartan Day</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER
WYNDHAM GRAND PITTSBURGH
SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER
Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh
New Member Induction

The Plastics Pioneers Association announced that three new members have joined the organization. The membership is limited to 250 active members who must have 25 or more years of experience in the industry to be considered. In addition, two members must sponsor the nominee who is judged on contributions made to the advancement of the plastics industry.

Mark Bruner

Mark Bruner has been in the plastics industry since 1972 and retired this July after 43 years of service to the industry, most recently as President of O’Neill Color and Compounding Corp.

In a career that began after graduating from Purdue University, Mark has worked in a variety of positions for several well-established materials companies, including Shell Chemical, where he held various sales positions and won multiple sales awards; Huntsman Chemical, where he rose to the position of President of the PS Division; Albis North America, where he was President and CEO; Muehlstein Compounded Products, where he was General Manager; and O’Neill, which he joined in 2010.

Throughout his career Mark has been involved with industry associations such as the Society of the Plastics Industry, the Society of Plastics Engineers, and the American Plastics Council. While at Huntsman, Mark served on the SPI’s Board of Directors. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the SPI’s Polymeric Resin Producers Division.

At SPE, Mark has been a part of the South Texas Section, and a member of the International Polyolefins Conference Committee. All told, Mark has been an SPE member for 25 years, and has spoken at numerous section meetings and technical conferences organized by the group. He has also presented papers at AMI’s Thermoplastic Concentrate Conference on four occasions.
CLARE GOLDSBERRY

Clare LaVerne Goldsberry has been writing and reporting about plastics in various capacities since 1982. Beginning that year and through 1986, Clare worked in marketing and public relations for The Tech Group, then from 1986 to 1989 was the marketing and sales manager for Mid-West Mold.

Clare started her career in plastics journalism with Plastics News in 1989. In 1996, she joined Injection Molding Magazine, now part of the PlasticsToday.com digital news group, where she is still a regular contributor. In the course of her journalism career, she has written thousands of articles related to plastics.

Throughout her career, Clare has been involved with the Society of Plastics Engineers, the Society of the Plastics Industry, and the American Mold Builders’ Association. She was the editor of SPE’s Arizona Section newsletter from 1983 to 1995 and was the Section President from 1986-1987. Clare was the public relations chairman of SPI’s Western Section conference in 1993, and has served AMBA in various public relations capacities for the last 12 years.

Clare is the author of six books related to the field of injection molding and moldmaking, including a three-book series offering tips on how molders and moldmakers can improve their sales and marketing efforts. She is also the author of Purchasing an Injection Mold: A Buyer’s Guide, and So You Think You Have a Great Idea? Designing and Getting Your Plastic Part Manufactured and to Market.

Clare Goldsberry is also a plastics industry advocate, often speaking at high schools and grade schools about the industry and its value in society.
PHILIP SHOEMAKER

Phil Shoemaker has been involved in plastics since 1982, when he joined HMC as a process technician. After HMC was sold in 1994, Phil embarked on a 20-year journey that resulted in him becoming one of the world’s foremost authorities on pelletizing technology.

Phil joined Rieter as sales manager in 1995, where he was responsible for the sales of compounding lines, and ultimately rose to the position of Vice-President of the Pelletizing Machinery Department. The Pelletizing Department was responsible for the sales, service, and aftermarket business of Automatik GmbH in Grossostheim, Germany.

With the sale of Rieter to Automatik in 2008, Phil became President of the newly formed Automatik Inc. In the three years that ensued, Automatik grew to a business that had more than $15 million in sales.

Following the merger of Automatik and Maag in 2011, Phil was named General Manager of Maag Automatik, a firm of roughly 40 people that had about $40 million in annual sales. Phil is currently the executive director of the Polymers Center of Excellence in Charlotte, N.C.

Throughout his career Phil has made numerous technical presentations at various conferences, seminars and workshops related to compounding and pelletizing. He has been a member of the Society of Plastics Engineers since 1983, and was named an Honored Service Member in 1998. He has been extremely active in the Carolina Section, and in 1992 was named Member of the Year for that section. He has also been a voting member of the Society of the Plastics Industry since 1995.
Jack Michael has been selected as the PPA’s 2015 Distinguished Service Member. Since he was unable to make it to San Antonio for the annual meeting, Jack received this award at the PPA fall meeting at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Pittsburgh in October.

The PPA created the Distinguished Service Member award in 2012 to honor members for their lifetime achievements and is conferred for exemplifying the objectives of the Plastics Pioneers Association. Jack’s contributions to the PPA, and our industry, are many. To name a few, Jack has:

- Been a member of PPA since 1998
- Served on the Board of Governors of PPA
- Chaired the PPA Education Fund Investment Committee
- Chaired a Special Committee for developing a Strategic Plan for PPA
- Been awarded The Much Traveled Shirt in 2012
- Been President of Fabri-Kal, Inc.

In summary, Jack’s exemplification of the objectives, and continued support of the Plastics Pioneers Association truly qualify him for the award of Distinguished Service Member. The award was present to Jack by Past-President, Steve Hershfield.
Tony has been an active PPA member for many years. He provided the following responses when asked some questions regarding his tenure and experiences.

**PERSONAL**

**Where were you born and where do you now live?**

I was born in Brooklyn, NY, left to go to college in Boston at age 18, lived and worked in Boston area for 29 years, moved to Michigan for 17 years, worked and retired to Gloucester, MA for the last 11 years.

**What college(s) did you attend and what degree(s) did you earn?**

Received both Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Chemical Engineering from MIT.

**Where and when did you meet your wife? How long have you been married?**

I met Dolores on a blind date in my freshman year, but our second date wasn’t until my senior year. I got my Master’s degree in June, 1963 and we were married in November, 1963. We went to Washington for our honeymoon just a week or so before President Kennedy was assassinated.

**Do you have children/grandchildren?**

We have three children. Christopher, a marketing manager for automotive products, is married to Iman, a dentist, and they have an 11 year old son, Jonathan. Jodi is a middle school geography teacher living in the Boston area with her husband, Greg, who works for GE, and their twin 16 year old daughters, Brooke and Carly. John is a software engineer working for Verizon in Manhattan.

**How do you spend your leisure time? Hobbies? Volunteering? Other?**

I do tax preparation for low income seniors and families and Dolores is on the Board of a committee working to preserve marshlands along the coastline of Gloucester. We spend a lot of time with our children and grandchildren and with friends of over 40 years from North Reading, Massachusetts. Previously, I was Chairman of the Conservation Commission and ran campaigns for local politicians.

**PROFESSIONAL**

**For what companies and in what capacities have you worked?**

I worked for Avco Corporation where I was a member of the team that developed the heat shield for the Apollo space vehicle, then was project leader for the rocket nozzles for the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM). The technical conclusion of the Apollo program led me to Sweetheart Plastics as Director of Product and Material Development for packaging and food service. The object was to convert food packages and food service ware from paper, glass, and metal to plastic. I was Executive Vice president at Fabri-Kal Corporation establishing their product and material development program. I retired in 2002 and started Tony Mack Consulting, doing various plastic technical jobs.
Tony Mack – Someone You Should Know (continued)

What recognitions have you received?
I was granted 12 patents dealing with plastic products and food serving systems for hospitals and nursing homes. One patent involved a new method for providing hot meals and others included tamper evident lids for food containers and leak proof secure lids for take out food plates. I also had 7 technical papers published involving plastic research, product design and development, quality control and environmental issues dealing with plastics.

PPA
When were you inducted into PPA and who sponsored you?
Palmer Humphrey sponsored me for membership and I was inducted into PPA in 1993.

What accomplishment during your years in PPA makes you most proud?
I was Managing Director, Treasurer, and awarded the Much Travelled Shirt in 2014.

Is there anything further you think PPA members should know about you?
I have always been willing to do anything to help make PPA members successful.

What advice would you give to a new member of PPA?
Get involved and make new friends.

Does anyone have a 1983 copy of The PPA’s Who’s Who of the Plastics Pioneers Association, Inc. they would they be willing to donate to Syracuse?
If so, please contact Glenn Beall at glennbeallplas@msn.com or 847-549-9970.

Editors’ Message

Many thanks to Larry and Terry Schneider for providing PPA newsletter coverage in Pittsburgh for the Fall 2015 meeting. It is extremely difficult to be at every PPA gathering and properly document the activities. Unfortunately, we had a family conflict so could not attend the Pittsburgh get-together. We appreciate Larry and Terry’s contributions, both as reporters and editors of the MTS. Without their presence, this would be a much lesser newsletter.

Please keep sending us member news/events for inclusion in future PPA newsletters. We want this newsletter to be responsive to PPA members. Thank you!
Carolyn Reed-Hodge, President of PALs, was unable to attend the Pittsburgh meeting so she asked Roz Hershfield and Helen Michael to co-host the tea and to lead the short meeting. PALs helps keep PPA members connected and provides hospitality at every meeting. The following items were discussed:

1. PALs calls all PPA members to remind them to register for upcoming meetings, but also uses these calls to check on those who have not attended in a while;
2. PALs hosts the Welcome Table to greet people and answer questions
3. PALs has a Ladies Tea to encourage interaction among spouses of members, especially new inductees.
4. PALs provides the centerpieces for the Saturday night dinner, often tying in with the locale and/or meeting theme; the seating arrangement for the Saturday dinner is also planned.
5. PALs sends out Get Well, Thinking of You and sympathy cards to members and spouses as needed. Often this information is discovered when the reminder phone calls are made prior to each meeting or through members’ relationships, discussions at meetings, etc.
6. PALs runs a 50/50 raffle that benefits the Education Fund to provide student scholarships. To date, PALs and members’ generosity have raised over $3,000 for this fund.
7. Most recently (4th quarter of 2015), PALs will send cards to nearly two-thirds of PPA members, inductees from 1998 to 2005, who have not attended a meeting in years.

Every PPA member’s spouse is AUTOMATICALLY a member of PALS; the level of participation is up to each individual. Anyone who would like to assist PALs in any of these activities is encouraged to contact any of the committee members or Carolyn.

**PAL’s Tea, Fall 2015**

The Pioneer Action League, better known as PALs, held its third tea on Thursday afternoon. The event was well attended, and everyone agreed that this was the best tea to date. The Wyndham Grand Hotel provided an amazing variety of food, including five kinds of finger sandwiches, fresh fruit, dozens of types of bakery items plus hot and cold beverages.

**PAL’s 50/50 Raffle**

Wendy Hoenig received $420 as the winner of the 50/50 raffle.
During a recent trip to Michigan, I visited one of my favorite places, the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. The museum houses a huge display of transportation vehicles and technologic advances from the late 19th century to the present. One particularly intriguing exhibit was the Dymaxion house, pictured at right.

In 1929, Marshall Field & Company asked Buckminster Fuller (the inventor) to demonstrate his “4-D house” design as part of a home interior decorating display. The concept was to mass produce and market an affordable, easily transportable and environmentally efficient house.

The Dymaxion house with its aluminum exterior was designed to be about 1,100 square feet and typically had two bedrooms, foyer, living room, dining room, kitchen, stainless steel fireplace, folding stairs to the balcony, and accordion doors. The geodesic shape of the house used tension suspension from a central column and resulted in panoramic views of the surroundings. The Dymaxion only weighed about 3,000 pounds versus the 150 tons of an average home and could be shipped worldwide in its own metal tube. The word “Dymaxion” was coined by combining parts of three of Fuller’s favorite words: DY (dynamic), MAX (maximum), and ION (tension).

This home was heated and cooled by natural means, made its own power, was earthquake and storm-proof, and made of permanent, engineered materials that required no periodic painting, reroofing, or other maintenance. The floor plan could change as required - squeezing the bedrooms to make the living room bigger for a party, for example. Downdraft ventilation drew dust to the baseboards and through filters, greatly reducing the need to vacuum and dust. O-Volving Shelves required no bending; rotating closets brought the clothes to you. The Dymaxion house was to be leased or priced like an automobile, to be paid off in five years. All this would be possible if houses were engineered, mass-produced, and sold like cars.

Unfortunately, funding issues and internal disagreements at the newly formed Fuller Houses, Inc. doomed this venture in the late 1940s. Dymaxion houses never went into commercial production and none were ever sold as originally envisioned. Two prototypes were built, one of which was eventually donated to the Henry Ford Museum and opened for public viewing in 2001.

The interesting sideline to this concept home was the significance of early plastic materials in the design. Note the four major plastics and their uses as shown at the exhibit for the Dymaxion House.

It’s unfortunate that this seemingly well conceived design with significant plastics content never reached its potential. For more information, go to http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/dymaxion/index.html and images may be found on the web.

* For nontechnical readers of the MTS, naugahide and Fabricoid® are artificial leathers, Lumite™ is a woven cloth made from Saran®, and Plexiglas is acrylic.
What is Pickleball? Pickleball was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, WA by three dads – Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum - whose kids were bored with their usual summertime activities. It’s a sport created for all ages and skill levels – a hybrid of tennis, badminton and ping pong. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. Pickleball may be played indoors or outdoors and is played with a paddle and a plastic ball.

Pickleball facilities are located in all 50 states, Canada, Europe and Asia. It is played by persons of all ages. Seniors enjoy the ability to stay active in a sport which entails less running than tennis or other racquet sports, while many middle and high school students take pickleball as part of their physical education curriculum. The Villages in Florida is called the “pickleball capital of the world” due to its 120 pickleball courts and 8,000 participants. According to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association’s 2015 Participant Report, pickleball is played by 2.46 million persons.

The Court
A pickleball court is the same size as a doubles badminton court and measures 20×44 feet. In pickleball, the same court is used for both singles and doubles play. The net height is 36 inches at the sidelines and 34 inches in the middle (shorter than a tennis net). The court is striped similar to a tennis court with right and left service courts and a 7-foot non-volley zone in front of the net (referred to as the “kitchen”). Courts can be constructed specifically for pickleball or they can be converted using existing tennis or badminton courts. Often, indoor games are played on basketball or volleyball courts using portable nets and pickleball striping.

Equipment
Each player uses a pickleball paddle, which is smaller than a tennis racquet but larger than a ping-pong paddle. Originally, paddles were made only from wood, but today’s paddles are primarily made of lightweight composite materials, including aluminum and graphite. The pickleball itself has holes like a wiffleball and there are different balls for indoor and outdoor play (hole size being the determining factor). The ball is usually white or yellow. There is no official attire for pickleball players – everything from t-shirts and sweatpants to formal tennis wear may be seen on the court.

Play
Pickleball is played either as singles or doubles (two players per team), but doubles is most common. Points are scored only by the serving team. Games are normally played to 11 points, and must be won by 2. If one side scores no points in a game they are considered to be “pickled.” Unlike tennis, serves must be made underhand and volleying is prohibited within the kitchen. This rule prevents players from executing smashes from a position within the zone. Obviously, there are more rules than this, so for more information, go to the USA Pickleball Association web site http://www.usapa.org/what-is-pickleball/.

Why is it called “pickleball”? A popular story blames the Pritchard’s dog, Pickles, for chasing the balls and running off.

Once you start playing, pickleball almost becomes addictive, so find a game nearby, give it a try and have fun.
The Plastics Pioneers Association (PPA) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization comprised of industry leaders with a minimum of 20 years’ experience in the plastics industry. The group’s main function is to provide support to the plastics industry by preserving its history and promoting its future. PPA currently provides funding for the following programs:

- **PlastiVan program**, which reaches thousands of middle and high school students in their classrooms each year with instruction and experiments on plastics.
- **Polymer Ambassadors program**, which provides educational programs for hundreds of science teachers each year to teach them how to use plastics/polymers as part of the classroom materials in their schools.
- **Scholarship programs**, which include scholarships to individual students studying for a career in the plastics industry, scholarships supported within PPA by plastics industry corporations, and PPA-endowed scholarships at select universities around the country.
- **The Plastics Collection at Syracuse University**, which is the largest university-based collection on the history of plastics. Funding for this program enables the PPA Plastics History and Artifacts Committee to obtain items of historical value to exhibit at Syracuse, and to place information on those artifacts, books, technical papers, etc. on both the PPA web site at Syracuse University and the Pioneers own web site.

You can help us continue to support these programs by making a **tax-deductible donation** to PPA. Check the appropriate box below to direct your donation to a program of your choice.

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Let us know what is new and exciting in your life, or that of another PPA friend, so we can share it with the rest of the PPA membership.

Keep the letters coming in!
Write, phone, or email to:

The Much Travelled Sheet
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johnblc@gmail.com

Please feel free to view or download this or past versions of the newsletter at http://www.plasticspioneers.org/

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE UPCOMING MEETINGS:

April 14-17, 2016
Safety Harbor Resort and Spa
Safety Harbor, FL

November 3-6, 2016
Renaissance Arlington Capitol View Hotel,
Arlington, VA– Washington DC