

**PLASTIC PIONEERS ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING**  
**October 15-18, 2015 – Pittsburgh, PA**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**October 17, 2015**

**I. Call to Order**

Gail Bristol called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Wolfgang Meyer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2015 General Business Meeting in San Antonio as distributed. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in favor.

**III. Deceased Members**

Gail Bristol asked for a moment of silence to recognize deceased members Paul Colby Sr. and Jordan Rotheiser.

**IV. Treasurer's Report – Ashby Rice**

Ashby Rice reported the following highlights with a PowerPoint presentation (copy attached):

- \$20,000 from donations were transferred to PPEF
- Operations bank account was moved to Bank of America for easier access by all that need to have access
- \$18,667 are held in Patsy Beall Memorial Fund awaiting disbursement instructions from PHAC
- 2015 major spending categories were as follows:
  - Accounting & Admin: \$11,775
  - Communications: \$ 5,500
  - Misc./Other: \$ 1,000
  - Total: \$17,775
- A small 2015 budget deficit of \$1,000-1,200 is projected depending on the Fall meeting financial results and actual newsletter expenses. Average net revenue from last seven meetings was in the \$5,000 range.
- Income and expenses projected for 2016 will be close to a break-even.
- No dues increase in 2016, annual dues for 2017 will be raised to \$150.00

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**V. Investment Committee Report – Don Williams**

Don Williams presented a spreadsheet (copy attached) summarizing the following information:

- Money held in PPA's investment funds changed little since 1/1/15. Losses from investments plus incoming and outgoing payments amounted to a net gain of \$5,558 or 0.57%.
- The goal of paying out approx. 5% of the fund's value for scholarships and support of educational activities remains unchanged for 2016. The BOG approved spending \$50,000.

**VI. Education – Lance Neward**

Lance Neward added to the information provided by Don Williams

- Ferris State University, Penn State University and Penn College of Technology provided one candidate each for the scholarships awarded by PPA direct.
- UMass Lowell received funds for one scholarship awarded to Elizabeth Kender and SPE received funds for two scholarships awarded to students at Drexel University and Rutgers University.

Sherri Rukes provided detailed information about the Polymer Ambassadors program supported by PPA at \$5,000 annually. Highlights of her presentation (copy attached) were as follows:

- IPEC sponsors approx. a dozen Polymer Ambassadors
- How do kids get interested?
- Ambassadors hold their own symposium at NSTA
- Other activities include ...
  - GEMS (General Education in Math and Science) workshops for upper elementary to middle school age girls in Chicago area
  - Teaching numerous workshops as Master Teachers by 6 ambassadors
- Money goes to ...
  - Travel & accommodation expenses for 3 NSTA meetings annually
  - Purchase and shipping of supplies
  - Presentations on CDs
  - Website [www.polymerambassadors.org](http://www.polymerambassadors.org) and maintenance of the same

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- Sherri calculated the number of students reached by her as follows:
  - Visited 15 conference last year with an average of 40 teachers at each
  - Each teacher teaches 5 classes with 25 kids each
  - Sherri estimates her work inspired approx. 75,000 kids, that of all ambassadors approx. 280,000

Steve Hershfield presented the CD received from UMass Lowell scholarship recipient Elizabeth Kender as her introduction and thank you to PPA.

**VII. Membership – Dennis Meade**

Dennis Meade introduced the three new PPA member formally inducted at the Fall meeting

- Claire LaVerne Goldsberry
- Philip Stanley Shoemaker
- Mark Alan Bruner
- Two additional new members did not make the Fall meeting and will be inducted at the Spring meeting.

An Ad Hoc committee shall be formed to develop strategies to increase, or at least maintain, membership.

**VIII. Website – Steve Sopher**

Steve Sopher explained the log-in steps and provided an overview of the status of PPA's website:

- Several new links were added (e.g. to LinkedIn). More links will continue to be added. Example: Plastics Ambassadors' website.
- Meeting minutes will be posted
- Brief introductions of scholarship recipients will be posted, as well as Elizabeth Kender's video
- Four years of newsletters are accessible
- Plans to update member email addresses via mass email and follow up on undeliverable emails

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**IX. By-Laws – Lance Neward**

Lance Neward informed that revised by-laws were completed and approved by the BOG by vote on 10/16/15.

**X. Fund Raising – Stuart Swain**

Stuart Swain reported that the number of donations through 10/8/15 had gone down to 62 compared to 72 in all of 2014, but that the sum of money donated increased from \$11,829 to \$23,129 during the same period. His report is attached.

**XI. Plastics History & Artifacts – Glenn Beall**

Glenn Beall provided the following update regarding Syracuse University Libraries:

- The collection of artifacts is still growing
- New items are put in storage, because there has been no curator since 2011
- Financial support has been temporarily withheld until Syracuse University submits a plan how PPA money will be used.
- The name of Virtual Museum has been changed to Research Facility to improve grant giving ability.
- The PHAC committee plans to collect company history and biographies

**XII. PALS – Roslyn Hershfield**

Roslyn Hershfield reported on PALS activities:

- Staff welcome desk and arrange for welcome packages
- Organize center pieces for awards dinner
- Call to inform members about meetings, encourage attendance and answer any questions
- Send cards to members unable to attend
- 50/50 raffle, raised approx. \$3,000 for the Education Fund since raffles started

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**XIII. Site Selection – Gail Bristol**

Gail Bristol announced the next meeting sites and dates:

2016 Annual Meeting

Date: April 14-17, 2016

Location: Safety Harbor Resort and Spa, Safety Harbor, FL

2016 Fall Meeting

Date: November 3-6, 2016

Location: Renaissance Arlington Capitol View Hotel, Arlington, VA

**XIV. New Business**

Gail Bristol and Steve Hershfield reported that Plastics News magazine has asked PPA to join a partnership. Gail has detailed information about the request and what the partnership requires from PPA.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Submitted by:



Wolfgang Meyer, Secretary