



**MINUTES**  
**PLASTICS PIONEERS ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Saturday, March 18, 2017**  
**North Charleston Marriott, N. Charleston, SC**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:45am by President Gail Bristol.

**Moment of Silence**

Gail asked for a moment of silence for deceased member Joe Bennett, and Mary Vandenberg, the wife of member John Vandenberg.

**Election Results**

- Officers Election  
Gail announced that at the Board of Governors Meeting on Thursday, the following Officers were elected for the 2017-2019 term: President – Al Hodge, Vice President – Wolfgang Meyer, Secretary – Steve Sopher, and Treasurer – Lance Neward.
- Board of Governors Election  
Steve Hershfield, Past President, announced that the following individuals were approved as Governors for 4-year terms: Dennis Hayford, Charlie Sears, and Maureen Steinwall.
- Board of Governors Appointments  
Al Hodge announced that he had made the following appointments: Wendy Hoenig to fill the 2-year vacancy that became available with the election of Lance Neward as Treasurer, and Stuart Swain to the 2-year appointed term allowed in the Bylaws.

**Review and Vote on November 2016 General Meeting Minutes**

In Wolfgang's absence, Gail asked if there were any questions on the minutes from the November 2016 meeting as distributed prior to this meeting. As nothing was brought forth, Gail asked for approval of these minutes. Approval was given by those in attendance.

**Financial Reports**

- Treasurer's Report  
Ashby Rice reviewed the 2017 Treasurer's Report and indicated that he projects a budget surplus of \$5,400 for 2017. He credits this positive figure to the increase in dues for 2017.
- Investment Committee  
In Bill Humphrey's absence, Don Williams provided a report from the Investment Committee. He reported on the first nine months of 2016 relative to the financial status of our investments. In January 2016, our fund value was \$977,631. As of the end of October, the value had risen to \$1,052,113. Don also indicated that \$50,000 was budgeted for Educational spending in 2016, and we actually spent \$48,000. The budget proposal for 2017 is also \$48,000 for seven scholarships, and other educational support. Don reported that the Investment Committee is considering amending PPA's investment strategy and policy to improve risk/reward prospects. and are assessing the benefits of consolidating PPA's investment portfolio at Vanguard.

**Committee Reports**

- Education  
Lance Neward stated that in 2016, scholarships were given to students from Ferris State, Rutgers University, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Penn State - The Behrend College, The University of Louisville, Auburn University, and the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Support was also given to the PlastiVan program, Polymer Ambassadors, and Syracuse University, and another payment on our endowed scholarship was made to the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. A donation of \$100,000 was received from Bob Swain late in 2016. This donation and the \$100,000 donation from the Neward Trust will be financially separated accounts in the Education Fund, and additional scholarships from the interest earned on those accounts will be made for the

first time in 2018. Lance said we will be awarding seven scholarships in 2017 and once again supporting the PlastiVan, Polymer Ambassadors and Syracuse University.

- Membership  
Dennis Meade reported that our current membership stands at 152. Six new members have been approved so far this year, four of whom were to be inducted Saturday evening: Gregory Hanoosh, David Furholman, Jeffrey Mengle, and Robert Malloy. Dennis indicated that the committee has adopted a Strategic Plan, which they already have begun to implement. Clare Goldsberry has created a post-membership survey that will be sent to members who resign or are in arrears with their dues to determine their reasons for non-participation.
- Website  
No report was given.
- Site Selection  
Gail reported that the Fall 2017 meeting will be held October 25-29 in Salt Lake City, UT, where Lance & Donna Neward and Steve & Wendy Hoenig will serve as the host couples. The Spring 2018 meeting will be back at the Safety Harbor Resort in Safety Harbor, FL, April 18-21.
- Bylaws  
Lance Neward indicated there was no activity to report.
- Publicity  
No report was given
- Newsletter  
Gail reported that John and Moira Fearncombe would be retiring as PPA Newsletter Editors after the next issue goes out. Sal and Erica Monte will take over the newsletter with the Fall 2017 issue. Those present showed their appreciation for John and Moria with a standing ovation. John thanked everyone for their support over the years.
- Fund Raising  
Stuart Swain reported that the committee hopes to have a "donation request" added to the annual dues invoice, and has developed a "bequest letter" that can be used to ask members to consider leaving funds in their wills for the PPA Education Fund. He reported that in 2016, less than 50% of members contributed to the Education Fund. Stu asked for volunteers for his committee.
- Plastics History & Artifacts  
Glenn Beall discussed the plastics collections at Syracuse University, indicating that artifacts continue to be solicited. He noted that there is still no full-time Curator for the plastics collection.
- PALS  
Carolyn Reed-Hodge thanked the members of her committee and reminded everyone to sign the "Thinking of You" and "Get Well Cards" cards PALS sends to members.

### **New Business**

- Plastics Hall of Fame  
Bob Malloy stated that he has been hired by the Plastics Industry Association (formerly SPI) to reconstruct information on Plastics Hall of Fame awardees, some of which is missing. Bob said he hoped some of the PPA members present could help him obtain information on specific individuals, and asked anyone who might help to contact him later in the day.
- President's Comments  
Gail provided details on day's events, and the evening's reception and dinner. She stated that it was her pleasure to serve as PPA president for the past two years and thanked those present for their support over her term.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45am.

Submitted by  
Gail R. Bristol