

PLASTIC PIONEERS ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING
October 26-28, 2017 – Salt Lake City, UT

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
October 28, 2017

I. Call to Order

President Al Hodge called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM.

II. Deceased Members

Tim Womer asked for a moment of silence to recognize deceased PPA members Robert Lange, Carolyn Reed Hodge, Peter Marshall, Clifton Fleenor, Ralph Noble and Alan Zimmerman.

III. Approval of Minutes

Wolfgang Meyer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2016 Annual Business Meeting in North Charleston, SC. A motion to accept the minutes as distributed was made by Stu Swain, seconded by Steve Hershfield, and voted in favor.

IV. Financial Reports

a) Treasurer's Report – Lance Neward

- Lance introduced the new members of the financial team, consisting of a financial and operational arm.
- PPA's operational funds are now kept at Wells Fargo, because the bank is convenient for all individuals who require access to our expenditure account. Funds can be directly transferred from Wells Fargo to investment accounts at Vanguard and vice versa.
- PPA member Jeff Mengel, a CPA, will assist in a PPA audit scheduled for 2018.
- PPA's tax-exempt status in UT saved approx. \$1,300 for the SLC meeting.
- Approx. \$85,000 are currently held in PPA's expenditure account, because not all invoices for the SLC meeting have been received and paid.
- Lance reminded the group to support PPA by using the Amazon Smile portal for purchases on Amazon.

b) Investment Committee Report – Steve Hoenig

- Total investments were \$1,010,264 on October 1, 2017. This amount included YTD earning of 6.88%.
- \$43,150 of the \$48,000 budgeted for educational expenses have been paid out. The difference reflects \$850 unused by the PlastiVan program and the return of \$5,000 from the IPEC Plastics Ambassadors. Included in the \$43,150 were the M. Holland and W. Müller pledged scholarships. The \$5,000 payment to Syracuse University did not show, because it was paid from PPA's expenditure account.

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- Investments have been consolidated from previously 30 funds at different brokerages to 2 Vanguard funds. 70% are invested in an income fund with 1/3 stocks and 2/3 bonds, and 30% in an investment grade bond fund. The resulting stocks/bond ratio is 77%/23%.
- All money for the PHAC is kept separately from PPA's investments.

V. Committee Reports

a) Education – Lance Neward

- 150 educators were contacted about the availability of PPA scholarships and 39 applications were received from students at 22 institutions.
- SPE did not provide candidates for general scholarships in 2017 and PPA selected all recipients.
- All eight recipients were selected by PPA based on 10 different criteria. Except for one outstanding freshman, all recipients were undergraduate students. One was a 31 year-old homeless person.
- Letters for 2018/19 scholarships will be mailed in November of 2017. The cover letter has been changed to encourage educators to provide, instead of a generic recommendation, specific reasons why an individual student deserves to receive a PPA scholarship.
- The final payment of \$15,000 to fully fund the \$75,000 endowment to UMass Lowell will be paid in January of 2018. Additional scholarships for a total of \$15,000 may be possible in future years, provided education spending will remain at the same level.

b) Membership – Wendy Hoenig

- After deleting members who did not pay dues for 2 consecutive years, membership declined from 152 to 136 members, plus 11 honorary members
- PPA's target of 250 members remains. To move closer to this target, the Membership Committee suggested to pursue the following strategies:
 - Raise awareness on the outside:
 - Attend industry events
 - Form alliances with media with access to larger audiences
 - Update PPA specific information on website.
 - Ask recipients of PPA educational support to display the PPA logo
 - Develop a sales tool kit for recruiting purposes.
 - Capitalize on 70th anniversary campaign in 2018.
 - Internal measures to crease membership:
 - Member-get-a-member campaign

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- Target potential members
- Invite Western Plastics Pioneers to join PPA
- Increase meeting attendance. 76 of 166 PPA members surveyed provided the following comments and suggestions for future meetings:
 - Major reason for joining PPA was to give back via scholarships and to enjoy the networking and comradery at the meetings
 - Main reasons for not attending were calendar conflicts
 - To manage costs, respondents favored moving to one meeting per year or move to less expensive venues and cities
 - Respondents also liked the addition of external speakers on relevant topics.

c) Website – Tim Womer

The website received the following updates:

- Added locations and dates for 2018 meetings.
- Added the Spring 2017 newsletter, available for downloading as PDF file.
- Posted the new 2018 PPA Scholarship Application, available for downloading as PDF file.
- Updated the Scholarship Application wording under the “Education Fund Grants and Scholarships” section page.
- Posted the new *Honoring the Past, Preserving the Future* donation form under the “Preserving the Past” section page.
- Updated the links page to make it current. A suggestion was made to show logos instead of names for links.

d) Bylaws – Gail Bristol

- The existing Bylaws stipulate in Article VII, Section 4 that the Site Selection Committee shall be comprised of three members, who shall be the Treasurer and two others assigned by the President. Al Hodge suggested to have the committee comprised of six members. The Bylaws Committee refined this proposal:

The President shall assign at least three, but no more than six, members to this committee. One of the assigned members shall be the Treasurer.

The BOG accepted the refined proposal by majority vote.

- Unrelated to bylaws, a question arose about PPA’s cost for the event planner. Approx. annual cost is \$3,000.

e) Fund Raising – Stuart Swain

- Accomplishments of the Fund Raising Committee included:
 - \$3,000 North Carolina SPE division
 - \$1,975 Carolyn Reed Hodge Memorial Fund
 - \$3,000 endowment from W. Müller – 5 year commitment
 - \$3,000 endowment from M. Holland – 5 year commitment

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- Specially mentioned were the following significant donations from 2016:
 - Antique Comb Collectors Club, Patsy's Memorial Fund, and Glenn Beall contribution of \$111,000 to the Curator's Fund at Syracuse University
 - \$100,000 donation from the Lance Neward Trust
 - \$100,000 donation from Bob Swain
 - Not incl. the above special donations, YTD contribution \$ were at approx. ½ of that of prior years, even though the number of contribution did not differ much.
 - Stu suggested to approach companies for sponsorship of meeting events.
- f) Newsletter – Sal Monte**
- The Fall Newsletter will cover the SLC meeting. Sal asked to be made aware of any information that shall **not** be published in this newsletter
 - Members were invited to submit input for this and future newsletter by emailing Sal at sjmonte@4kenrich.com.
- g) Publicity – Jim Callari**, not present
- h) Plastics History & Artifacts – Glenn Beall**
- Courtney Asztalos started as the full-time curator for the Historical Plastics Collection at Syracuse University on October 1st.
 - Dennis Hayford submitted a collection of documents about the life of deceased PPA member Joseph Bennet.
 - Dan McGuire submitted a large amount of information about John G. Slater's work for Tennessee Eastman Kodak
 - Tim Womer is trying to obtain permission to post the history of Xaloy on the PPA website. Glenn encouraged member to post their or their company story on the PPA website as well.
- i) Site Selection – Al Hodge**
- Locations and dates of the upcoming 2018 PPA meetings were announced.
 - April 18-21: Spring Meeting, Safety Harbor Resort & Spa, Safety Harbor, FL
 - September 26-29: Fall Meeting, The Hilton Seelbach, Louisville, KY
 - To revisit the PPA Historical Plastics Collection at Syracuse University, upstate NY will be considered as a meeting site for 2019.
 - Members were asked to submit suggestions for future meeting locations.
- j) PALS – Lee Witherup**
- Lee reminded members to purchase more 50/50 raffle tickets at the dinner meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Submitted by

Wolfgang Meyer, Vice President