

PLASTIC PIONEERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
April 18-22, 2018 – Safety Harbor, FL

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
April 21, 2018

I. Call to Order

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

II. Deceased Members

Deceased PPA member Robert Brookman and the deceased spouses of PPA members Bob Swain (Judy) and John Kretzschmar (Sue) were recognized with a moment of silence.

III. Review of Meeting Minutes

Wolfgang Meyer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2017 Annual Business Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. A motion to accept the minutes as distributed was made, seconded and approved.

IV. Financial Reports

a) Investment Committee Report – Steve Hoenig

- As of April 2, 2018, PPEF investments, including the Neward and Swain endowments amounted to \$1,254,175. 70% is invested in an income fund with 1/3 stocks and 2/3 bonds, and 30% in an investment grade bond fund. The resulting bonds/stocks ratio is 77%/23%. Funds are actively managed.
- During calendar year 2017 PPEF investments grew by \$116,029. \$50,000 from 2 years of donations was transferred from the general operating fund to PPEF, \$109,179 was earned from PPEF investments and \$43,150, including the final \$18,000 to UMass Lowell, was paid out for educational expenses.
- PPEF investments lost approx. 2.2% in value YTD in 2018. Even though stocks are down, bonds still earn dividends of \$8,000 to 9,000 per quarter. PPEF is adequately positioned for a downturn.
- Steve tracked all previous scholarship recipients back to 2013 by name and school on LinkedIn. Most had become engineers, some chemists, with many of them employed by top companies in the industry.

b) Treasurer's Report – Lance Neward

- Lance reviewed his report to the BOG, outlining financial resources, educational support and operating expenses. He highlighted the following:
 - Operating balance \$35,000
 - Projected meeting income \$16,000 thanks to the sponsorship of receptions by Charlie and Esther Sears and by the Plastics Industry Association
 - 13 Scholarships will be disbursed in 2018:
 - Carolyn Reed Hodge \$ 3,000
 - W. Müller \$ 3,000

PLASTIC PIONEERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
April 18-22, 2018 – Safety Harbor, FL

- M. Holland \$ 3,000
- Swain (2) \$ 6,000
- Neward (2) \$ 6,000
- UMass Lowell \$ 3,000
- PPA (5) \$15,000
- In 2018 the final \$15,000 payment was made to the UMass-Lowell endowment. This is the equivalent of five scholarships. Therefore, additional scholarships may be able to be disbursed in 2019/20.
- Administrative expenses of \$20,700 include payments to Cathy Connell and the meeting planner, as well as expenses for website and telecommunication.
- A detailed comparison of budgeted and actual expenses was provided for 2017 and 2018 with the following explanations for deviations:
 - For 2018 a line item for discretionary expenses in the amount of \$1,500 was added. Unless bylaws are changed, such expenditures would have to be approved by the BOG prior to each occurrence.
 - The budget for the meeting planner was exceeded in 2017 and has been raised for 2018 for greater involvement in planning tours and special events.
 - 2017 educational support of \$121,000 included a pass-through of \$100,000 from the Swain endowment to the PPEF.

V. Committee Reports

a) Education – Lance Neward

- Based on the recommendations made in the Education Support Subcommittee Report, directed scholarships will be discontinued in 2019/20. They will be replaced by additional general scholarships, whereby PPA selects the best qualified applicant instead of the school.
- PPA applies a 10-dimensional evaluation process to determine scholarship recipients
- No additional endowed scholarships will be funded, because the UMass Lowell endowment did not work out as planned for the following reasons:
 - PPA has no input on the recipient selection.
 - Criteria thought to have been provided were not followed.
 - PPA could have provided 25 additional scholarships in lieu of the endowment.
- For the 2019/20 schoolyear PPA will offer \$3,000 scholarships to students who are U.S citizens and are enrolled in 2-year plastics technology related programs at selected schools. Support will not be available to students pursuing certificates or apprenticeships.
- In response to the 150 letters and emails sent to institutions and educators only 18 applications were received for 2018/19 compared to approx. 50 in prior years.

PLASTIC PIONEERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
April 18-22, 2018 – Safety Harbor, FL

b) Membership – Wendy Hoenig

- Total membership is at 143, up from 137 last Fall. Five new members will be inducted at this meeting, but seven unpaid members will be notified of their suspension after NPE.
- The Membership Committee focuses on the following three initiatives:
 - Awareness and public outreach:
 - A list of PPA members with biographies has been added to the PPA website under “About” / “Membership”. The information is accessible to all website visitors.
 - Names of recent and past scholarship recipients’ back to 2013 are featured on the website under “Scholarships”. Pictures shall be added, but require prior approval by the recipients.
 - Membership increases:
 - Slides developed as part of the member recruiting tool kit are used extensively. The tool kit will be made available for downloading from the PPA website.
 - The PPA 70 logo created by a designer at Maureen Steinwall’s business is being used throughout 2018. Thank you, Maureen!
 - Meeting attendance:
 - Persuade Western Plastics Pioneers to join PPA.
 - Add external speakers to meetings to discuss relevant industry topics.
 - Select affordable meeting sites.
- Al Hodge reminded members to approach people they know to join PPA.

c) Bylaws – Gail Bristol

The Bylaws Committee proposed the following changes as to who can recommend granting Honorary Membership and which PPA related organization’s CEOs shall be offered Honorary Membership. The proposal approved by the BOG includes amending Article III, Section 2.c. of the bylaws as follows:

*One who, by virtue of outstanding achievement or professional eminence in the Plastics Industry, is deemed worthy of this status by the Board of Governors. A candidate for Honorary Member ~~must~~ **may** be recommended by a **member in good standing** of ~~the Board of Governors~~ **PPA**. To be elected an Honorary Member, that candidate must be approved by a majority of the members of the Board of Governors at a vote held during any meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present. Honorary Members shall not have the right to vote, nor to hold elective or appointed office. Honorary Members shall not be required to pay an Initiation Fee or Annual Dues, and may have their status revoked at any time by act of the Board of Governors.*

PLASTIC PIONEERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
April 18-22, 2018 – Safety Harbor, FL

An invitation to join PPA as an Honorary Member shall be extended by the Membership Committee to the incumbent chief executive officer of the following organizations:

- 1. PLASTICS*
- 2. Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE)*
- 3. Science History Institute*
- 4. Dean of Syracuse University Library*
- 5. and such other organizations as directed by the Board of Governors.*

d) Website – Tim Womer

- The following website updates were announced:
 - Future meeting sites are shown under “Events” / “Future Meetings”.
 - Newsletters back to Spring 2012 can be downloaded from “About” / “Newsletters”.
 - Scholarship applications can be downloaded from “Scholarships”.
 - A Plastics Hall of Fame link has been added under “Links”.
 - PPA has a Facebook page, but the link must still be added.
 - The PPA 70 logo has been added to the “Home” page.
- The PPA website was previously hacked and hosting was switched from GoDaddy to another host service.
- Also:
 - Members should use Amazon Smile to support PPA.
 - Direct comments about contents and errors to Cathy Connell or Steve Sopher.
 - Members are encouraged to join LinkedIn and to create an on-line profile.
- Al Hodge suggested that the committee consider search engine optimization to make the PPA website more visible when entering “plastics” as a search word.

e) Publicity – Jim Callari, not present

f) Newsletter – Sal Monte, not reported

g) Fund Raising – Stuart Swain

- Not including the special Beall, Neward and Swain donations in 2016, volume and average amounts are generally up from 3-4 years ago and remain steady. Stu thanked the donors for their generosity and the fundraisers for their support.
- The 5-year scholarship commitments by M. Holland and W. Müller end in 2019 and the donor’s willingness to continue must be addressed.
- Stu also reminded attendees to use Amazon Smile in support of PPA.

h) Site Selection – Al Hodge

- Locations and dates of the upcoming 2018/19 PPA meetings are as follows.

PLASTIC PIONEERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
April 18-22, 2018 – Safety Harbor, FL

- September 26-30, 2018: Fall Meeting, The Hilton Seelbach, Louisville, KY. Hosts will be Bob and Trudy Hare.
- April 10-14, 2019: Spring Meeting, Hilton Santa Fe Historic Plaza, Santa Fe, NM.

i) Plastics History & Artifacts – Glenn Beall

- Glenn announced that the following items were submitted to Syracuse University between September 2017 and April 2018
 - 9 biographies, company histories and obituaries
 - 2 rare phenolic utility combs donated by Bakelite collector Reinhardt Groot
 - 25 fancy combs from British collector Jen Cruse
 - A “Just One Word” T shirt commemorating the 1967 movie “The Graduate”
 - 9 books, journal articles and newsletters
- Glenn introduced guest speakers Ron Thiel, Lucy Mulrone, Director of Special Collections, and Courtney Asztalos who started her work at Syracuse University on October 1st.

j) Guest Speakers – Ron Thiel, Lucy Mulrone and Courtney Asztalos

- Ron Thiel welcomed PPA members on behalf of Syracuse University Dean of Libraries, David Seaman.
- Lucy Mulrone introduced herself as Courtney’s supervisor.
- Courtney Asztalos background is primarily in photography. Her work is shown in museums and other collections. She also worked as a curator, taught and published in the *New Yorker* and *New York Times*. She accepted the job as full-time curator of Plastics and Historical Artifacts at the Special Collections Research Center of SU only a few weeks prior to our meeting. Courtney can be contacted via plastics@syr.edu. Her presentation included the following activities at SU:
 - 250 objects were photographed, measured, described and records uploaded to <http://plastics.syr.edu/xtf/search?brand=plastics&collection=plastics&objectType=Artifact>. Her presentation included examples.
 - Students curated an exhibition “Breaking the Mold: Plastics in Post-War America” in the Glenn & Patsy Beall Reading Room.
 - Students learn about plastics in Honor Courses.
 - Interdisciplinary collaboration takes place with other faculties.
 - 8 courses are currently offered by SU which relate to plastics in some form.
 - Conservation of plastics artifacts is crucial. PPA artifacts are currently stored at four different locations and a more ideal environment is being searched for.
 - Work to be done includes photographing 242 remaining items and developing a plan with PPA to record oral histories.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Submitted by

Wolfgang Meyer, Vice President