



PLASTICS PIONEERS ASSOCIATION

Honoring the Past ... Ensuring the Future

General Business Meeting

Louisville, KY

September 29, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:45am by Wolfgang Meyer, Vice President, substituting for President Al Hodge who was called away on business.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was held in memory of deceased members Jack Eagle, Aldo Crugnola, and Charlie Sears.

Minutes of Annual Business Meeting

As there were no questions or comments, it was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2018 meeting.

Financial Reports

Lance Neward reported that the current bank balance for our operating account stands at \$37,400, with no bills paid for the on-site Louisville meeting, which he expects to be break-even. The 2019 Budget for operating and educational expenses, which was approved at the Board of Governors meeting, includes income of \$90,350 and expenses of \$91,250.

Investment Report

Steve Hoenig reported that the Education Fund currently stands at \$1,247,046, consolidated into one Investment House. 70% of the money is in stocks (1/3) and bonds (2/3). 30% is in Vanguard bonds. Overall, we are invested 77% in bonds and 23% in stocks. All are managed funds. After payments for 2 scholarships each, the Neward Endowment stands at \$104,000 and the Swain Endowment at \$102,000. Steve reported that we are well-positioned for any downturns in the market. We earn about 25K/year in dividends, which are reinvested. We move money only once a year to pay for scholarships. The Investment Committee consists of Steve, Ashby Rice, Don Williams, Bill Humphrey, Tony Mack, and Lance Neward as an ex-officio member.

Education Committee

Lance Neward reported that there were significant actions in the past year. The final \$15,000 payment for the \$75,000 U-Mass Lowell endowment, plus a \$3,000 scholarship payment, was made in January. This will allow additional scholarships in the future.

Lance reported that Ashby Rice headed a subcommittee on how we want to support education going forward. That committee looked at several options:

1. Endowments – the committee felt that the Lowell endowment didn't work as well as we expected, so they chose not to do additional endowments any time soon.
2. Associate degree programs – the committee reviewed numerous schools offering associate degrees and added them to our scholarship solicitation listing. Students must be American citizens. Scholarships will be \$3,000 each.

3. Directed scholarships – we had offered one scholarship each to Penn State Erie, Ferris State, and Pennsylvania College of Technology. The committee decided to not offer these special scholarships in the future, allowing students from these three schools the opportunity to compete for regular scholarships.
4. We will continue to provide support to the Polymer Ambassadors Program, which supports teachers teaching teachers about plastics programs. And to the SPE Plastivan program which provides classroom visits by PlastiVan teachers.
5. At the Education Committee meeting, Eve Vitale talked about HOP Kits (Hands on Plastics) which are distributed to schools. She asked for a donation from PPA. We obliged by reducing the number of scholarships we will offer in 2019 by one in order to make this donation. (Note: after the meeting, Dennis Knaus offered to provide funding for one scholarship in memory of two of his children in 2019, thus allowing us to provide the original number of scholarships.)

Membership Committee

Wendy Hoenig reported that we have added five new members. She said that while we have kept up with our attrition, we are currently at only 138 members and our original cap was 250 members, so we are well below that cap. She said we really need to focus on our member-get-a-member program. She stated the committee has three initiatives:

1. Enhance communication about and understanding of PPA within the industry.
 - a. Thanks to Sal and Erica Monte's efforts in coordinating and sponsoring a booth at NPE, this effort is well on its way.
2. Update the PPA Website
 - a. Photos of scholarship recipients will be added
3. Sales tool kit
 - a. A PPA Slide deck is available to those who want to share it with potential members.

PALS Committee

Lee Masters Witherup served as chair of the committee this year. They had a discussion during the PALS Tea on how to effectively organize the group. They are no longer making calls ahead to members encouraging them to attend meetings. They continue to "man" the registration table, hold the Tea, run the 50/50 raffle and provide greeting cards for bereavement or get-well wishes.

Website Committee

The committee has added all members with their "blurbs" to the website. Thanks to Steve Hoenig for doing the research, they also added the past 5 years of scholarship recipients and where they are employed (all but 1 is in the industry).

Newsletter Committee

Sal Monte reported that they have switched from Peacock Graphics and he and Erica are now doing the newsletter in Publisher. They are seeking stories and photos from members. Sal thanked John and Moira Fearncombe for their help during the transition to Sal and Erica.

Fund Raising

Stu Swain reported that we continue to get \$3,000 each from Holland and Muller for scholarships each year. We've also been able to get sponsorship for receptions. He has posted letters on the website – one for company donations and one for those who wish to leave PPA a donation in their wills.

Site Selection

The Spring Meeting will be held April 10-14, 2019 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Fall 2019 meeting site is being considered – Providence, Quebec City and Minneapolis are cities being reviewed by our meeting coordinator. Suggestions for locations for meetings can be made to Wolfgang Meyer.

Guest Speakers

1. Courtney Asztalos, Curator of Plastics History & Artifacts at Syracuse University
 - a. An intern is working to help with the digitization of artifact information
 - b. 200 boxes of artifacts are being rebound for better preservation
 - c. She is working with the Chemistry Dept. to study material samples with a Raman Spectroscope.
 - d. Website: plastics@syr.edu.
2. Ron Thiele, Asst. Dean for Advancement
 - a. The library is changing – books are being moved to climate-controlled storage areas.
 - b. The Library can be used electronically.
 - c. They have spent \$9M on digital content (journals, etc.)

New Business

Nancy Thiele asked who prepares the packets. She would like a list of the Board of Governors and Committee Chairs. The response was that Cathy Connell prepares the packets. The listing of the Board and Committees is contained in the Membership Roster and can also be found online on the PPA website.

Activities Review

Wolfgang explained the problems we experienced with the hotel where we had a smaller number of rooms reserved on Wednesday and Thursday. He commented that these days were booked early in the registration process. We will adjust that for future meetings. He also explained the process we use to obtain the correct percentage of room required in our contracts with hotels (counting those who register with the hotel online or by phone and verifying with the hotel those who reserve a room with hotel points, or other means).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:12am.

Submitted by
Gail R. Bristol