



INSPIRING  
PLASTICS  
PROFESSIONALS

# FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of these guidelines is to describe the procedures for nomination and election of Society of Plastics Engineers members to the Fellow of the Society grade and to provide some assistance for carrying out those procedures.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### **Fellow of the Society Member Bylaw**

To be elected Fellow of the Society, a candidate shall have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the field of plastics engineering, science or technology, or in the management of such activities; shall be sponsored, in writing, by the Board of Directors of at least one Section or Division, or by a committee of the Society organized for this purpose; shall have credentials certified by and application approved by the Credentials Committee; and shall have been a member in good standing for six consecutive years. The level of Fellow of the Society shall at no time exceed 5% of the voting members in good standing in the Society.

### **Criteria for Eligibility**

Criteria for eligibility for the Fellow of the Society member grade is taken to mean: having accomplished a step change in the state of the art of plastics engineering such that the conduct of business has been taken to a higher level of effectiveness through advances in either the technology or its commercial practice, bringing significant benefit to the plastic and polymer industry. Significant benefits for society derived from these advances in the plastic and polymer industry are likely. The individual must have contributed substantially, though not necessarily exclusively, to any achievement(s) being considered in evaluating her/his value to the profession.

Substantial contributions include being an inventor, proprietor, creator or developer of a new concept or a driving force in reducing such to practice, or a recognized leader of such an effort with responsibilities that go beyond the administrative, such that the accomplishment could not have been made without that individual's dedicated performance.

Documents indicating such recognition would include patents, publications, awards, promotions, letters of acknowledgment, elections to prestigious organizations and leadership positions in professional bodies that promote the utilization of the accomplishment for the common good. It is important that a clear documentation of these contributions be provided to enable even those personally unacquainted with the candidate to arrive at a valid judgment of his/her credentials.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### **Nominating Organization**

An SPE member may be nominated for the Fellow grade by the Board of Directors of a Section or Division, or by a committee of the Society organized for this purpose. Having decided upon a nominee, the nominating organization contacts, SPE Staff Liaison to verify the candidate's eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, the organization contacts the nominee, obtains names of two individual sponsors, and selects the most suitable Division or TIG to review the nominee's technical achievements from the list of Divisions/TIGs provided. The nominating organization also must designate a Process Champion to follow through with the application process. The nominating organization completes the Nomination for Fellow of the Society.

### **Nominee**

The Nominee completes their Professional Record, along with the proper documentation, i.e., title pages of publications, patents, papers, books, etc. that support the application for Fellow, to the Process Champion to be submitted with the completed package.

### **Sponsor(s)**

Each Sponsor completes a Sponsor Statement and returns it to the Process Champion to be submitted with the completed package. Sponsor statements must include specific details on contributions made to the plastics industry.

### **Division/Technical Interest Group**

The Division/TIG writes a Division/TIG Evaluation on the technical merits of the nominee's achievements and returns it to the Process Champion to be submitted with the completed application package.

### **Process Champion**

Action by the Process Champion is crucial to the success of the nomination process.

They will:

- » Facilitate the distribution and submission of the Professional Record, Sponsor Statements, and Division/TIG Critique.
- » Verify that SPE bylaws and guidelines are followed.
- » Submit all paperwork electronically to SPE Headquarters for distribution to the Fellows Election Committee and SPE Executive Board.
- » Do any required follow-up.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### NOMINATION FOR FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY

The Fellow of the Society nomination form is completed by the nominating chapter's Chair, President or Lead Organizer.

### APPLICATION WITH NOMINEE'S PROFESSIONAL RECORD

Once a nominee is eligible for the Fellow of the Society, the Fellows application needs to be completed and submitted. The direction from the process champion during the application process is crucial to the success of the nomination.

On the application, the nominee's professional record should emphasize outstanding scientific, technical or business achievements rather than merely listing positions and titles held. It should cover achievements to the present and the extent of the Nominee's involvement should be specifically presented: e.g., in conception, execution, management, development, etc. Include information on accomplishments that have changed the industry or have made a sustainable impact on the industry. As most plastic professionals eligible for Fellow nomination have specialized in an area(s) of technical expertise, an explanation should be given if no such specialty is named.

Nominee work should identify individual contributions as well as when as part of a team. The length of the professional record is not limited in, all achievements can be adequately represented. A complete list of publications (patents, papers, books) is highly recommended. However, it is strongly recommended that the professional record not be inundated with inconsequential and unnecessary details.

#### **Examples of unsuccessful applications:**

- » A very long listing of each achievement, not to the point. More words will not work.
- » Not a sufficient number of achievements listed.
- » The benefits of the achievement not clearly presented.

\* Copies of title pages of publications, patents, papers, books, etc. that best support the application for Fellow citations of accomplishments must be included.

### **Achievement not acceptable to gain Fellow Election**

#### **Participated in service activities**

##### **Examples:**

- » Served as Chair of a Division/TIG of SPE or as a President of a Section.
- » Participated in the organization of conference.
- » Served on the board of directors and technical program committee for years.

- » Participated in a group that supports the polymer industry

## **Doing your job**

### **Examples:**

- » I graduated 4,000 undergraduate students and 200 doctoral candidates.
- » I prepared bulletins on company products and supported technical development on new products.
- » I was an author of 500 plastic publications (but was not the principle author.)
- » Provided training in plastics technology.
- » Edited a book.

## **Examples of Achievement Leading to Fellow Election**

- » A new plasticizer class was developed to be the next generation plastisol rheology plasticizer type. The first plasticizer in the class is lower in VOC than the competing technology, efficient in controlling viscosity and plastisol viscosity stability and is an excellent solvate for PVC. The class of product to other compositions in the class and product sales has grown to tens of millions of products sold per year because it allowed the formulation of plastisol products. Several patents have been issued on this class of product because of the improvement in the final product and the fact it is environmentally friend.
- » A solid polymer modifier was developed and is currently being used in several applications. It is used as a process aid in vinyl compositions and, besides functioning of at improving process, it will become a nano filler and improve the strength of the product. It also is used in thermoplastic block copolymer adhesives to improve process and improve strength of the bond formed. The inventor has the first two patents on this product. There are now more than 140 patents on a diversity of applications for this modifier. No other modifier in existent today can function in the same way as this modifier. Diaper adhesives can use this product too. Faster production was developed to lower the cost of diapers to consumers.
- » New rapid heating and cooling mold technology was developed to significantly improve is-sues of residual stress including poor surface finishes, and other quality issues in the injection molding process. The new technology improved process yielded better quality parts and newer part design. This significantly positively impacted the injection industry.
- » A new blend of polymers was developed for the automotive industry. This new blend was used in body panels and other parts of an auto. A patent was issued on this polymer blend and the product was a significant commercial success.
- » There has been a significant drive for bio plasticizers. A significant new product was de-signed on renewable raw materials. This product was awarded two patents and since commercialization has proven to be an effective alternate to phthalates for several applications.

- » Surgical mesh for repair of hernia and other applications is a significant development as a medical device. The polymer and the design of the product was very important in helping the medical community in coping with issues such as hernias. Testimonies from medical doctors proved the importance of this development.

## FORM 3: SPONSOR STATEMENT

### Sponsors should:

- » Be knowledgeable in the same technical areas as the Fellow Nominee.
- » Have worked with the Nominee to personally authenticate and verify the “outstanding achievement in the field of plastics engineering, science, or technology, or in the management of such activities” that the Nominee has completed.

### Sponsors should not:

- » Only know the Nominee in a social or peripheral relationship.
- » Have only second-hand knowledge of his/her achievements.

The Sponsor is needed to help put the Nominee’s contributions into perspective for the people who will be reviewing these achievements. Sponsor statements should be honest and reliable reflections on the worthiness of the candidate to receive Fellow status. Business considerations and personal liaisons or biases should not enter such assessments of the individual’s contributions to the field. Unrealistic overstatements by the sponsor may end up being deleterious to the election of the Fellow candidate. The candidate’s and SPE’s interests are both best served by presenting a well-rounded picture of his/her achievements. This statement is your opportunity to further highlight and stress the accomplishments of the nominee (the significance, value, or sustainable impact of an achievement in the development of technology, influence on the market, or the scientific contribution to the plastics industry).

### For example:

- » Was the Nominee the sole inventor or developer of the technology or was he/she part of a team?
- » Was the Nominee responsible for the concept, development, engineering, execution, or management of the technology?
- » Speak of outstanding achievements. What made each of the achievements “outstanding”?
- » Stress the significance, value, or sustainable impact of each contribution.

### What Not to Include in the Sponsor Statement

- » Do not list the nominee’s personal information, i.e. marital status/number of children.

- » Do not list SPE activities, unless technical in nature (for example, Division or ANTEC Technical Program activity, editorial advisory board member of SPE journals).
- » Do not list titles and positions held by the nominee (for example, technical volumes reviewer, technical journal editor or associate editor).
- » Do not list activities unrelated to the plastics industry, such as church or civic activities.

## How to Complete a Sponsor Statement

On the application, or a separate page on company leader head, provide a brief description of the Nominee's outstanding accomplishments in plastics.

- » In the opening sentence, define how you know the Nominee to establish your credibility as a Sponsor.
- » Be as descriptive and explicit as possible in describing the Nominee. The most common cause of rejection of a nomination is too little specific information on the Nominee.
- » Return it to the Process Champion to be submitted with the completed package.

## FORM 4: DIVISION/TIG EVALUATION

A Division or Technical Interest Group are required to evaluate the Nominee's achievements and Sponsor Statements, not on behalf of the Division/TIG, but on behalf of the Society of Plastics Engineers. The Fellow grade is a prestigious grade and should only be granted to Nominees who "have demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field of plastics engineering, science and technology, or in the management of such activities."

The Nominee selects the Division/TIG to evaluate his/her credentials. The major portion of the Nominee's achievements must fall within your Division's or TIG's technology for you to review the application. In case of uncertain connection to your Division/TIG, the Fellows Election Committee will appoint a suitable Division/TIG to review the Nominee's paperwork. This must be a peer review by distinguished and prominent people in your Division/TIG who are technically competent and qualified. When the review is completed, returns it to the Process Champion to be submitted with the completed package.

## What to Look For

On a peer review basis, you are asked to verify, to the best of your ability, that the technology described by the Nominee is real, and that the Nominee was responsible for the achievement. If in doubt on any points, you should call on other resources within or outside the Division/TIG to help you decide. If a Nominee has overstated an achievement, the Division/TIG should bring it to his/her attention so that the wording can be changed and then re-evaluated.

In reviewing the Sponsor Statements, make sure that the Sponsor Statements have stressed the significance, value, or sustainable impact created by the nominee's achievements in the development of technology, influence on the market, or the scientific contribution to the plastics industry.

## **Responsibility**

The Division/TIG submits the Division/TIG Evaluation as an advisory document to the Fellows Election Committee. Divisions/TIGs are responsible for certifying the technical achievements of the Nominee. The Fellows Election Committee is the sole Committee responsible for recommending Nominees for the Fellow grade to the Executive Board.

## **DEADLINES AND SUBMITTAL PROCESS**

### **Completed application includes**

- » Nomination Form
- » Application with professional record, including supporting documentation
- » Two Sponsor Statements
- » Division Critique

### **Deadlines**

- » Deadline for the electronic submission of a completed application – **October 1**
- » Deadline for information as requested by Fellows Election Committee Chair – **November 1**
- » Committee report forwarded to the Executive Board for endorsement – **January**
- » Presentation of the Fellows certificates and pins – **at ANTEC**