



SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS

Vinyl Plastics Division Newsletter

Winter 2017/2018

BOD Chairperson's Message



Greetings, Vinyl Division Members.

This is my first message as Chairman. Let me start by saying how honored and humbled I am to be entrusted with these responsibilities. I often think of the many men and women who have served this role before me. They are greatly respected and have contributed much to our industry. Many are my heroes and mentors. I will do my best to continue this great tradition.

This is an interesting time for the Vinyl Division. We are coming through an extended time period when memberships have been dropping in our Division, SPE as a whole, and professional societies in general. People wonder in this world of near instant knowledge through the internet and electronic meeting places: is there a role for real time networks filled with real people? Well, let me tell you...

This year's Vinyltec was held in San Antonio. Dave Owen, Dave Peeples, and Suzanne Biggs Diecks of the South Texas Section did a great job of hosting the event. The Marriott was in a great location and had the San Antonio feeling. They arranged a San Antonio Spurs basketball game. Attendees even got to go on the court to shoot a foul shot. Tara Smith and the Technical Program Committee put on a very strong program. Please read Tara's report in this newsletter. Tara, John Scott and the entire TPC should be congratulated on their efforts.

It was exciting to see that 20 – 30% of the attendees at Vinyltec were first timers. Our industry and our Society are growing again. I believe that engineers and employers are again recognizing the value of real time networking with real people. Meeting new people and

sharing ideas face-to-face cannot be duplicated “on the line.” This is a great time to get back involved. Attend your local section meetings. Join us at ANTEC and VinylTec. And, if you start to crave a little more interaction, we are always looking for new faces and ideas on the TPC.

See you at ANTEC.

Bob Weiler

Vinyltec 2017 – TPC Chairperson’s Message

This year’s Vinyltec was held Oct10-12, in San Antonio Texas, and was a great success. The South Texas section did a tremendous job organizing this event, which included an evening NBA game with the San Antonio Spurs vs. Orlando Magic. There were over 50 tickets sold for this event which allowed all those in the group to head down to the court after the game for a free-throw.

Vinyltec included a workshop session on the first day centered on sustainability in the vinyl industry. The workshop was one of the most well attended in many years. The workshop included a panel discussion with the speakers who presented to give the participants a chance to share ideas and generate discussion to help the industry maintain a goal of sustainability as we move into the future.

The main program was well attended and diverse in content, with a focus on novel materials and processes to solve problems. Many in attendance gave great feedback: they were able to make good connections and were happy with the technical content and overall quality of the material presented. There were many new faces in the audience, and so the question of how many were new to Vinyltec was asked; twenty percent or more of the room raised their hands. This is a great testament as to how vinyl is doing in the industry, and that Vinyltec is a great forum for companies to send their new and seasoned employees for continued education, new ideas, and industry involvement.

A big thank you goes to the TPC and the South Texas section for your hard work and dedication. Thank you as well, to the sponsors who make it possible to bring everyone together, and to the vendors who participated in the table tops displays.

We are looking forward to another successful Vinyltec in Chicago for 2018!

Tara Smith, Vinyltec TPC Chair 2017

Vinyl Division BOD Meeting Oct 10, 2017

1. Approval of minutes from 2017 ANTEC BOD meeting – Approved as modified
 2. Reviewed List of officers and committee Heads.
 - a. RW will review list
 - b. Tara Smith will serve as Membership Chair
 - c. John Scott is new TPC Chair
 3. Councilors Report – Bill Arendt (see notes below)
 4. Committee Reports
 - **Awards (Alan Gibb)**
 - Vinyltec 2017 – Best Technical Presentation – Bill Arendt
 - Vinyltec 2017 – Best Business Presentation – Russell Broome
 - ANTEC 2017 – Best Vinyl Technical Paper – Brad Farrell
 - ANTEC 2017 – Best Student Paper – Deirdre K. Newton
 - Contributions to Vinyl – Robert Paradise
 - Outstanding Service – David Owen
 - **Education (Dave Owen)**
 - 2017 Family Scholarship Applications

Brittany	Weiderhold
Grant	Lu
Stone	Smith
Jennifer	Kallman
Samuel	Wilson
 - **Membership (Randy Brown)**
 - 457 active members – numbers lower due to new accounting and reporting from SPE
 - **Treasurer – Randy Brown/Roman Wypart**
 - A. Budget Overview – 2018 budget attached
 - B. Investments – send financial report attached.
 - C. IRS – current
 - **TPC Update (Tara Smith)**
 - A. 2017 ANTEC – Anaheim
 - B. 2018 ANTEC – Orlando (NPE) – Conference call to determine ANTEC program
 - C. 2018 Vinyltec – Chicago – Oct 22 – 25, 2018
 - D. 2019 ANTEC – Detroit
 - E. 2019 Vinyltec – Akron
 - F. Awards – nominations by end of Nov.
 - a. RW to update the list
 5. Elections – RW MC to review and start BOD election process.
 - A. 2017 Vinyltec – San Antonio
 6. Nomination for Fellow
-

7. Nomination for HSM – BOD to review Roman’s application.
8. PlastiVan - Annual Donation of \$2,500
9. ANTEC student activity assistance - \$3,000
RW – request time to present awards at Student meeting
9. New business
10. Adjournment

**Councilor’s Notes Presented at October 10th BOD Meeting:
SPE Council Meeting
Friday, August 25, 2017
Detroit, MI**

The following summary of the SPE Council Meeting is offered to all Councilors to share with their respective groups. This summary may be published in affiliate journals and newsletters. The official meeting minutes are posted to The Chain and contain complete details of attendees, policy and by-law changes, and procedural votes. Questions or comments? Contact Conor Carlin, VP Marketing & Communications at ccarlin@4spe.org or communicate via Leadership Lane on The Chain.

SPE Financial Update

- CEO Pat Farrey provided details on SPE’s current financial position and offered his perspective from the world of association management. SPE members and leaders should not underappreciate our successes: Farrey pointed out that many associations would love to have our ANTEC numbers of 1400 attendees and \$200k in revenue.
- SPE has a strong cash position, the strongest for many years. Operational expenses are tracking on-budget. Corporate sales and membership dues are down leading to revenues that will be below budget by \$377k, excluding the 1-time payment from Wiley for the journal publishing contract. Expenses are greater than revenues by \$123k. Investment income of \$220k helps to offset revenue losses though it cannot be relied upon for guaranteed future income.
- Preliminary results show that ANTEC was profitable again in 2017. Costs were higher than budget and proportionally higher than historical numbers but in-line with expectations.
- Membership dues have fallen to \$70k/mo for the past two months, though overall membership totals are up, primarily driven by e-members. o It will be difficult to achieve corporate sales goals in 2017. Corporate sales are up 30% over 2016.

CEO Report

CEO Farrey offered that his observations at 60 days revealed no major surprises. His single strategic objective is to improve profitability. Short term priorities include the following:

- In-depth review of IT infrastructure and systems (ref. section 4.4 of 3YOP)
 - More staff support for membership / affiliate group services through the hire of a new Member Services Manager
-

- Need to replace Business Development position. Need better focus on increasing nondues revenue including advertising, corporate sponsorships and exhibit sales. (*This position was filled as of September 2017*).

Farrey also covered some additional topics:

- Operational changes: re-integration of Managing Director role into CEO role
- Expense control: CEO review of all items including travel and capex
- Longer term priorities: NGAB, young professionals, marcomms, awards

Recognition & Awards

- The structure of the Pinnacle Awards and related criteria have been reviewed by a subcommittee of the executive board. Vice-President of Education & Technology, Brian Landes, presented his group's findings to Council. Complete details of the changes are available for members to access via The Chain where all presentations are posted. After 2 discussion, Council decided to postpone implementation of the changes until after ANTEC 2018.
- The Awards Committee called for reflection on nominees for the prestigious International Award. Other awards include the Research Award (contributions to polymer science), the Engineering Technology Award, the Business Award and the Education Award. All forms can be found online at www.4spe.org and the deadline is September 18.
- President Al-Zubi recognized SPE Managing Director Russell Broome's service to SPE and presented him with a plaque (plastic, not metal). Broome thanked everyone and encourage all members to focus on the needs of industry for SPE to remain vibrant and relevant.
- President-Elect Brian Grady announced a new opening on the Nominating Committee. Councilor Scott Steele encourage everyone to find new candidates in order to have competitive elections.

ANTEC

- The subject of commercial papers at ANTEC has been discussed for several years. Changes will now allow for **technical marketing presentations**. Templates have been created by Mark Spalding of Dow Chemical. Guidelines have been published and are available to membership. The goal is to allow more commercial information. While no official paper is required, a PowerPoint presentation will be reviewed by the ANTEC Program Committee. The presentations will subsequently be published alongside papers in the proceedings. Company logos are permitted but cannot consume more than 5% of the space on a slide.
 - Assigning of copyright to SPE for ANTEC papers will no longer be required. Instead the author will be required to grant SPE permission to publish, without surrendering copyright.
 - The ANTEC Task Force continues its important work on what changes are required to keep our flagship conference relevant and dynamic. VP Jaime Gomez cautioned that councilors should not extrapolate too much from early findings. Another update will be provided by December 2017.
-

Sections & Divisions News

- The VP of Divisions, Creig Bowland, resigned his position due to work and family commitments. Since then, Jason Lyons of Arkema, has been appointed.
- The Sections Committee has recently published a letter outlining their strategic projects to improve communication and member benefits. Members are encouraged to use The Chain for the latest news and information about affiliate groups and general SPE business.

NGAB & PlastiVan

- Eve Vitale, Director of SPE Foundation, presented an overview of both the Foundation Board and PlastiVan (PV) programs. Currently, there are 4 educators and a program coordinator who are part of the PV team. Vitale reviewed scholarship programs and encouraged everyone to consider more ways to support plastics education via the PV program. All councilors had the opportunity make slime as Vitale led a demonstration of actual PV classroom education.
- The Next Generation Advisory Board continues to grow. The current NGAB membership stands at 67. VP Gomez pointed out that **89% of student members do not renew their membership when they graduate** and NGAB can act as a bridge to transition members from student status to young professional status. The Executive Board continues to commit essential resources for NGAB success. Councilor Jon Ratzlaff challenged councilors to bring this NGAB news to their respective boards and encouraged them to engage NGAB.

Councilor Report

December 27, 2017

On December 15, 2017 the Council of the SPE met via a conference call. On behalf of the Vinyl Division I attended this meeting. The agenda was as follows:

- Financial review, budget for 2017, 2018
- Election procedures
- NGAB update
- Future of ANTEC: Committee update
- Sections Divisions Update
- Divisions Committee Update
- CEO Update
- Bylaws changes

Yes there was quite an aggressive agenda. I will summarize below.

Financial review, budget for 2017, 2018

Total loss for 2017 is projected to be – \$230,000 before the Wiley deal for our journals. Wiley paid \$1.5 million for the rights to SPE journals. So then 2017 appears to be +\$1.27 million. The issue is what is the duration of the contract? I suspect it is ten years but I did not get an answer to that question. If it is a long duration, the money paid should be spread over the life of the contract. My opinion.

The way the P&L statement is written will be changed for the next cycle in 2018. Numbers have not been assigned yet.

Election of SPE Officers

The election will be run remote as it was last year. The process will start in March 2018 to elect President Elect, and Vice Presidents.

NGAB (Next Generation Advisory Board) Update

NGAB currently has 10 active members of the board. They are working towards having 100 members in the NGAB with 5 more active. They plan to take over the SAC at the ANTEC. They are asking \$78,000 for their group. Seems like a lot of money to me but the Council did not get a chance to vote on it.

Future of ANTEC: Committee Update

At the 2017 ANTEC a committee was formed to restructure ANTEC. It has been active and they plan to present the results of their work at the 2018 ANTEC in Florida.

Sections Divisions Update

Unfortunately several Sections have been abandoned (6). The Sections committee has formed to assist Sections to hold onto the group we have. The objectives are:

1. Improve communications between sections and headquarters;
2. Monitor Section performance;
3. Establish Best Practices template to help all.

You do not know but because you are a Section does not mean you are on the committee. A smaller group was formed to commit to the plans developed. This is a break with the past.

Divisions Committee Update

Like Sections the Division committee has been reduced in size to allow quicker action. I am on this committee. We developed a Division in formation of Bioplastics and Renewable Plastics and abandoned Electronic and Electrical Division. The committee is working on Best Practices (modern version) and to provide a quarterly update on committee and Divisions Update.

CEO Update

The CEO has four basic objectives:

1. Review IT status;
2. Replace the Business Development manager;
3. Add a membership manager;
4. Focus on cost control.

The SPE will also retain the SPE office in the EU for at least 2018.

Bylaws

A new Bylaw on Bylaws was written to clarify how to write and change a Bylaw. Also other Bylaws were modified to reflect current practices.

Well that is it on the notes from the last Council meeting. A lot done. The next meeting of the Council is March 8, 2018 (another conference call to control costs).

William Arendt

Councilor of the Vinyl Plastics Division

Chairman of the Fellow Selection Committee

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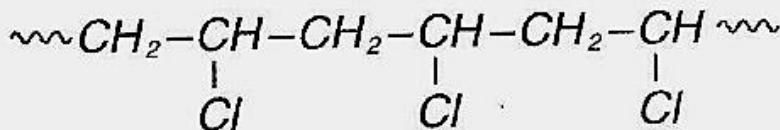
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