

Automotive Plastics News

Today, Tomorrow - Together

January 2004 Volume 33, Issue 2



“Super” Awards Program !!

Innovative plastics products and parts and the innovative people who are responsible for them were honored on November 17, 2003 at the SPE Automotive Division's 33rd annual SPE Innovation Awards Program. Five category awards, the annual Hall of Fame Award and the Grand Award were presented as well as the third annual Executive Leadership Achievement Award.

The theme of the evening was "Plastics Superheroes: Lean, Strong, Fast" drawing an analogy between the imaginary comic book heroes and our own industry's "Plastics Superheroes," the creative men and women whose ideas and engineering genius have carved new horizons for plastics in automotive applications.

Held for a second consecutive year at the Burton Manor banquet facility in Livonia, Michigan, 500

engineers, executives and trade media representatives attended the event. Attendees were able to review the 40 unique applications submitted for nomination as well as several new cars and trucks that incorporated new plastics applications including some of the nominated parts. A VIP reception was held in honor of the 2003 recipient of the "Executive Leadership Award", Robert Schad, CEO of the Husky Corporation. Leading executives from OEM's and leading Tier 1 and 2 suppliers were on hand to personally congratulate Mr. Schad on his award.

Continued Page 4



Robert Schad, President and CEO of the Husky Corporation, received the SPE Automotive Division "Executive Leadership Award" from Awards Program Chairman Stuart Cohen at the 33rd Annual Innovation Awards Program. For additional information on this award and Mr. Schad, see Page 10 of this newsletter.

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Treasurer's Report
Stuart C. Cohen

The current assets of the Division are \$78,596.

50% of the net income from the September 2003 Composites Conference have been sent to the Composites Division and 30% of the Automotive Division's income from this event have been sent to SPE International. As a result of this highly successful event, we were able to send SPE International a total of \$9,300 which included payment for new SPE members who attended the conference.

All invoices received so far for Plastivan visits have also been paid.

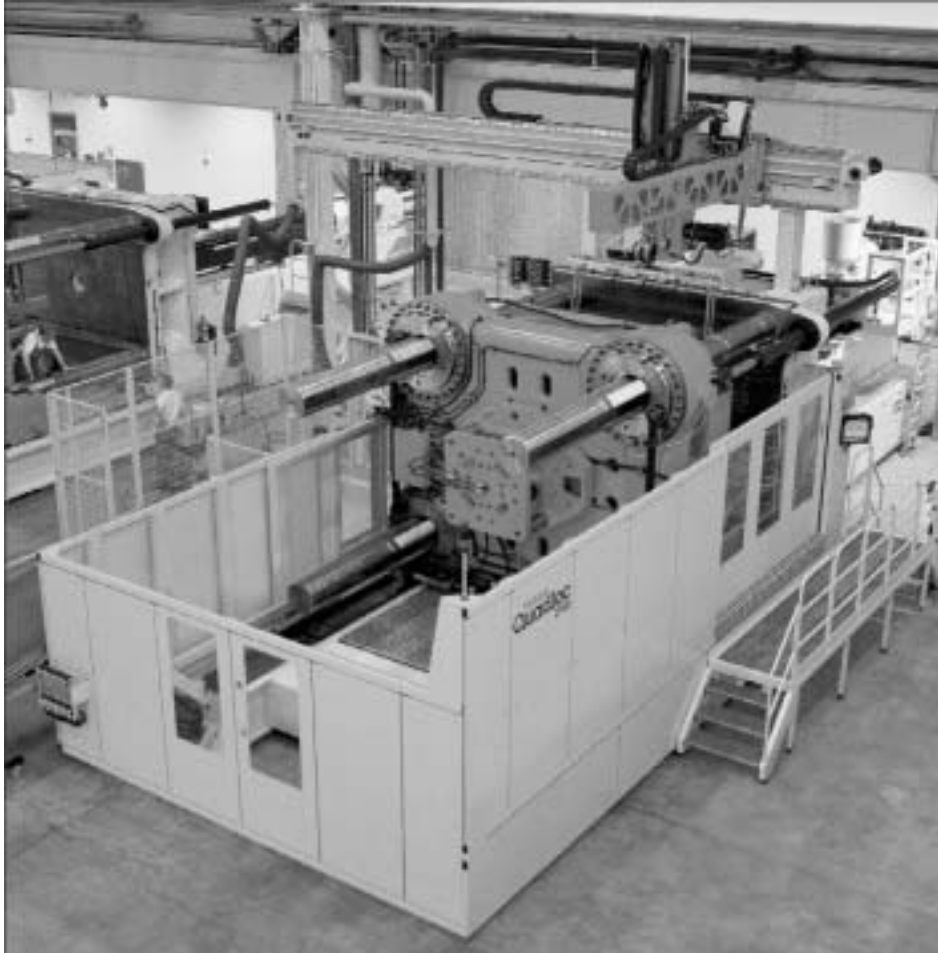
The November 2003 Awards Banquet is expected to make a small profit. To date, with all of the major expenses paid and ~\$19,600 in sponsorship payments still outstanding, we are showing a net loss of ~\$10,200.

www.speautomotive.com

**Automotive Division Meeting Schedule
and Special Events Calendar**

February 5, 2004 Greektown Casino, Detroit	Detroit Section Material Auction
February 9, 2004 American Plastics Council, Troy, MI	BOD Meeting
February 16, 2004 Northfield Hilton, Troy, MI	Detroit Section Technical Dinner "Alternatives to Paint Technologies"
February 18-19, 2004 Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit	SPE Recycling Division Global Plastics Environmental Conference
April 5, 2004 American Plastics Council, Troy, MI	BOD Meeting
May 16-20, 2004 Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Chicago	ANTEC - Annual Technical Conference
June 7, 2004	Detroit Section Golf Outing
June 14, 2004 (Tentative) Location TBD	Automotive Division Planning Meeting

Automotive Division Board of Directors meetings are open to all SPE members.
Call Michael Connolly at 248-322-7416 for more information.



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Chairman's Message

Michael Connolly

"Speed is irrelevant if you are traveling in the wrong direction"



Mahatma Gandhi

In the current economic climate and corporate environment of layoffs and 'belt-tightening', the pressure to produce more with fewer resources in decreasing timeframes is ever prevalent. Did you know that the U.S. Senate proclaimed October National Work and Family Month? This proclamation aimed to point out how the pace of work and scheduling in the United States is making it increasingly difficult for us to find time and attention for our families and our communities and states that work and family issues should become a national priority. In this spirit, Cornell University sponsored National Take Back Your Time Day on October 24, 2003 as a nationwide initiative to challenge the epidemic of overwork, over-scheduling and time famine. Although worker productivity has increased continually over the past 25 years, our work time has lengthened to the tune of several hundred hours per year.

The pace of business keeps accelerating in the new global economy. Time famine limits our ability to plan for the long term. But we must invest in the future. There is never a time when technology is not in transition. With instant communication and reverse engineering, market leadership is always vulnerable to those with the skill and luck to bring timely solutions to consumers ready to buy. What does it do to families, communities and our health when everyone is feeling so rushed, so stressed? For that matter, what will happen to our companies as this work and stress overload continues to build?

I know I feel the pressure of too much to do in too little time. I even ended up completing this Chair's Message late because it was hard to keep it near the top of my priority list. Why am I discussing this issue? As the New Year begins, I'd suggest we all pause and evaluate the outcome of all our hard work. We should reflect

on our accomplishments and honestly evaluate and learn from our failures.

In 2003, the SPE Automotive Division had many successes and a few shortcomings. Most recently in November, the 33rd Annual SPE Automotive Innovation Awards Program came off without a hitch. Attendance and sponsorship were strong and the program was filled with novel technology from a carbon fiber driveshaft with engineered failure modes to energy efficient rotation molding of automotive interior skin materials. Congratulations to Program Chairperson Stuart Cohen and the whole organizing committee.

The 3rd Annual Automotive Composites Conference in September was another Division success in 2003. Much of the innovative technology that debuted at this conference also transitioned successfully to the Awards Program. [As an aside, look for an announcement soon from Fred Deans on the 4th Annual Automotive Composites Conference that will likely return to the MSU Education Center this September.] I am also pleased by a rebound in Division membership this year and am confident our new Membership Chair - Bonnie Bennyhoff - will bring some new ideas to the role. Similarly, Mark Lapain has reinvigorated interactions with other professional organizations as the Intersociety Chair.

However, not all came up rosy for the Division. Despite my best intentions, the Division Website did not get updated in 2003. See the above discussion on time famine for the reason. Look for an update before the end of 1Q 2004 as Monica Prokopyschen has eagerly taken on the task. Another disappointment in 2003 was the limited showing at the Golf Outing last July despite Jim Staargaard's best efforts.

With more focus and planning, all of us in the Automotive Division can improve on our successes and correct these shortcomings. I hope 2004 has begun a happy and healthy year for you and your family. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at upcoming Board of Directors Meetings and Division events throughout 2004.

Innovation Awards Program

continued from Page 1

Grand Award Winner

The Grand Award, signifying "best-in-show" (and Body Exterior Category Winner) for application innovation was presented to DaimlerChrysler for the innovative roof module on its 03MY smart™ Roadster. Sharing the award was ArvinMeritor as the systems supplier, and GE Plastics as the materials supplier. In presenting the Grand Award, Dr. Stuart Cohen, chairman of the SPE event, said: "This application combines all of the necessary attributes of weight and cost savings, and new design and materials technology to make it truly innovative and well deserving of recognition by peers in the automotive industry."



Accepting the Grand Award from Norm Karala are (L to R) Peter Doerries, UV, Tom Edson, J. Scheffer, and Greg Adams.



The roof module developed by ArvinMeritor uses General Electric's new LEXAN SLX film and the Class A surface module replaces painted steel resulting in a 50 percent weight savings. The Lexan SLX film produces a surface weatherable for 10 years, and the team avoided 30 million dollars that would have been required for a new paint line. The lightweight targa top, available in solid or metallic colors, is easily removed and easily repaired. 12,000 Smart Roadsters equipped with the new module have been built in 2003, and in 2004 production is scheduled to reach 120,000.



The 2003 SPE Automotive Division "Most Innovative Use of Plastics" Grand Award Winning Team - smart Roadster Roof Module

Body Interior

General Motors accepted the Body Interior Award for its use of an innovative instrument panel lower carrier on its '04MY GMT 800® full-size trucks. Developed by Delphi and Spartech, it involved a switch from filled SMA (Styrene Maleic Anhydride) to a low-cost



Chris Johnson, Pat Stewart and David Bock receive the Body Interior Award from Automotive Division Past Chair Dr. Suresh Shah.

injection-molded filled homopolymer polypropylene without changes in part design or tooling. This is an interesting accomplishment in that the material conversion was from an amorphous to a crystalline material. This "running change" is first of its kind in the industry and resulted in a 43 percent reduction in resin costs. A chief goal was to match SMA in modulus, creep resistance and tool shrinkage at a significantly lower cost. The new material also contributes to improvements in "buzz, squeak and rattle" and helps create a quieter interior because of lower sound transmission properties compared with the conventional material.

Materials

This category produced two winners as the judges were deadlocked between two of the nominations.

Gold Sponsors



Sharing the Exterior Award were BMW for the underbody closure system on the '04MY 5 Series® Sedan and Renault for the load floor on the '03MY Megane® Hatchback, Estate, Coupe and Cabriolet, Classic.

The underbody closure system for BMW was developed and processed by Seeber using a new material called SymaLITE developed by Quadrant Plastics Composites. The component reduces weight by 30 percent (~4 kilograms per vehicle) compared to other materials and saves 50 percent in tooling costs. The closure also reduces road noise and improves aerodynamics, resulting in fuel economy gains. The new composite, with a 60-second cycle time, is a glass and polypropylene fiber laminated mat that can be thermoformed in varying densities, where differences are needed, without adding material mass, to meet highway abrasion requirements and resist absorbing moisture.

The load floor for Renault was developed by InoPlastic Omnium, a joint venture between Plastic Omnium and Inoplast. The component is made from a new SMC composite engineered especially for high-volume applications. With a 60-second cycle time, twelve



Dr. Jay Raisoni presented the Materials Award for the Renault Load Floor to Michel Eressard and Matthew Orlando.



Dr. Jay Raisoni presented the Materials Award for the BMW Underbody Closure System to Harri Dittmar and Rob Wiseman



hundred parts can be produced daily, or 280,000 annually. 85 percent of the part is 2 millimeters thick, and cure time is reduced by 13 seconds using a new catalyst. Weight savings total 8.8 pounds compared to steel, and eliminates 50 dies required for steel, saving more than 7 million dollars in tooling. The material also allowed an increase in the space for the tire well to accommodate larger spare tires when compared to a steel load floor.

Powertrain

BMW was once again recognized as they accepted the Powertrain Award for the continuously variable intake manifold (the first of its kind) in the '03MY 5®, 6®, X5®, and 7® Series. The manifold was developed by





Suzanne Cole presents the Powertrain Award to Pete Hradowy, Andrew Snders and Jaachim Wekenmann.

Kolbenschmidt Pierburg for BMW's V-8 engines. The housing is made of a fiber-reinforced phenolic resin containing 55 percent glass from Vyncolit NV, and magnesium is used on the upper and lower shells. This unique manifold replaces aluminum with a minimum 20% weight savings. Both time and money were saved by the early availability of production parts with only 18 months being required for development. The manifold, comprised of eighteen parts, was designed to handle the higher torque curve of the new BMW V-8, which debuted in 2002 with the new generation 7 Series. Unlike other systems that use flaps and have only on and off functionality, the manifold operates in continuous mode for outstanding maximum performance.

Process/Enabling Technologies

Mazda accepted the Process/Enabling Technologies Award for the High Performance Integration (HPI) instrument panel on the '03MY Mazda6®. The IP was developed by Intertec, a joint venture between Johnson Controls and Inoac. It is formed by a process, introduced for the first time in North America, incorporating a single piece IP substrate made from

Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Basell Hostacom® advanced polyolefin TPO material with a foam-in-place technology that provides soft surfaces where touch and aesthetics are important and allows for a hard, molded-in-color TPO lower panel with no sacrifice to aesthetics. Standard processing equipment is replaced by PVC slush molding for the IP's skin utilizing a patented mechanism in the skin/foam tooling. Significant craftsmanship improvements are made through part integration, combining components such as the defroster grille, center trim, and end-of-panel all into



Bonnie Bennyhoff presents the Process/Enabling Technologies Award for the Mazda HPI to Paul Elliotte and Phil Spender.



this one unit. This process reduces cost by 15 dollars per unit in tooling, manufacturing, assembly, materials usage, and trimming operations. Zero gap aesthetic conditions have been achieved.

Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame award is given annually for an application that has been in continuous use for 10 years or more, and has made a significant and lasting contribution to the application of plastics in automobiles. This year's Hall of Fame Award was presented to General Motors for its energy-absorbing impact-resistant bumper system that is used in



David Arndt presents the Hall of Fame Award to Dave Mattis of General Motors.

millions of its vehicles. Designed to meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 581 (the so-called 5 mile-per-hour standard), expanded polypropylene (EPP) foam was used to take the place of an injection molded part, with weight savings in the 35 percent to 40 percent range. Two foams with different densities, manufactured by JSP International the compression steam chest molding process, are used in a single system that integrates fasteners in the foam and includes wiring channels. The assembly is mounted on the bumper beam and a RIMM fascia is snapped on.

The many awards given at SPE's annual Innovation Awards Program symbolizes pioneering contributions of automotive engineers in one of the largest and most demanding industries that use plastics. As is customary, proceeds raised from this event will be used to fund SPE educational efforts and technical seminars, which help to continue to ensure that plastics will maintain its important role in future automobile development.

Sponsors for this year's event included A. Schulman, ABC Group, Adell Plastics, Advanced Elastomer Systems, American Plastics Council, Automotive Composites Alliance, Automotive Design and Production, Automotive Engineering International, Automotive Industries, Basell, BASF, Bayer Polymers, Decoma, Delphi, DuPont, ExxonMobil, GE Plastics, Husky, Injection Molding Magazine and Modern Plastics Magazine, JSP International, Lightspeed, Meridian Automotive Systems, Plastics Engineering and Technical Services, Quadrant Plastics Composites, The CarConnection, Ticona, Visteon and Wards AutoWorld.



The SPE Automotive Division "Most Innovative Use of Plastics" Grand Award Trophy



Past Chairman Suzanne Cole accepts the Chairman's Award from current SPE Automotive Division Chairman Dr. Michael Connolly.

Inter-Society Outreach

Mark Lapain

For the Automotive Division's Inter-Society Outreach, we are exploring ways to cooperatively work with numerous organizations that focus on the plastics or automotive industries. We have had discussions with SAE, SME, SAMPE, ACMA and other SPE sections/divisions. Recent meetings with the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) has led to some very promising opportunities that include co-locating conferences, reciprocal memberships and partnerships in training activities. Discussions with SAE have focused on free admission to the 2004 Congress for SPE Automotive members, reduced conference fees, shared programming, the trading of ad space in society magazines and cross dissemination of "call for papers." Additional meetings with other societies will hopefully bring new initiatives and promising opportunities for the Automotive Division in the new year.

Below are some of the upcoming events of interest to Automotive Plastics professionals:

SPE Detroit Detroit Section

Trends in Engineering Thermoplastics
January 19, 2004, Best Western Sterling Inn
Material Auction
February 5, 2004, Greektown Casino
Alternatives to Paint
February 23, 2004

SPE - International

Global Plastics Environmental Conference
February 18-19, 2004, Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan

International Conference on Polyolefins 2004
February 22-25, 2004, Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel, Houston, Texas

ANTEC 2004
May 16-20, 2004, Navy Pier and Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, IL

SAMPE

SAMPE Europe Conference and JEC
March 30 -April 1, 2004, Paris Expo, France
SAMPE 2004 Symposium and Exhibition
May 16-20, 2004, Long Beach, CA

SAE

SAE 2004 World Congress
March 8-11, 2004, Cobo Center, Detroit, MI
Convergence 2004
October 18-20, 2004, Cobo Center, Detroit, MI

SME

SOUTH-TEC Charlotte 2004 Advanced Productivity Exposition
March 2-4, Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC
WESTEC 2004 Advanced Productivity Exposition
March 22-25, Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA
EASTEC 2004 Advanced Productivity Exposition
May 25-27, Eastern States Exposition Grounds, West Springfield, MA

ACMA

POLYCON 2004
February 19-21, 2004, Hyatt Regency New Orleans
ACMA Midwest Conference
March 10 - 12, 2004, Century Center, South Bend, IN



SPE Executive Leadership Award Winner

Robert Schad, President and CEO of Husky Injection Molding Systems received the third annual Executive Leadership Award at the 33rd Annual Innovation Awards Program on November 17, 2003.

This award was instituted by the SPE Automotive Division Board of Directors to recognize the importance of leadership in the innovation process. Mr. Schad was unanimously selected to receive the 2003 award due to his leadership, support of innovation, personal achievement and contributions to both the plastics industry and society as a whole. Past winners of this award include Bernard Robertson, Senior Vice President - Engineering Technologies & Regulatory Affairs, DaimlerChrysler Corporation (2002) and J.T. Battenberg III, chairman, CEO and president of Delphi Corporation (2001).

The third annual Executive Leadership Award was presented by way of a video by Al Power, President and CEO of Decoma, International to Robert Schad, President and CEO of Husky Injection Molding Systems.

Mr. Power's stated that having known Robert Schad for many years and having long considered him a close friend and even a mentor, he felt that he was truly deserving of this award for his many contributions and accomplishments to the industry. Mr. Schad had elevated the bar to a high standard in his dedication to his work, ethics and values. From a modest beginning, when, as a

young man in Toronto, Canada, he built a snowmobile that ran on the pavement, instead of the snow to operating the world's largest brand name supplier of injection molding equipment, he has blazed a trail of innovation and leadership in the plastics industry.

Among previous industry honors bestowed on Mr. Schad are the 2003 Daniel W. Fox Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Plastics Academy, International Businessperson of the Year by the SPI Global Business Council in 2001 and Man of the Year Award by the Society of Plastics Industry in 1971. He has received two honorary degrees, a Doctorate in Engineering from Carlton University in Ottawa, and a Doctorate in Law from MacMaster University in Hamilton.

Outside of the plastics industry, Mr. Schad has directed his energy to improve both his community and the environment. He is involved in the Schad Foundation, which supports a number of projects focused on solutions to our environmental problems, was recognized in 2000 by the Canadian Energy Alliance for his Outstanding Leadership in Energy Efficiency and launched Earth Rangers, a program that teaches school children about wildlife and environmental responsibility.



(L to R) Jeff McDonald, Robert Schad, Donna Davis (SPE International President), Nancy Hermanson (SPE International VP) and Dr. Stuart Cohen (SPE Automotive Division Treasurer and Awards Program Chair) at the VIP reception.

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GPEC 2004

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DETROIT, MI

Building upon the spirit of the last several conferences, this year's GPEC promises to be an even more exciting and innovative conference. Its theme of "Plastics: Helping Grow a Greener Environment" will provide stirring conversation and debate surrounding environmental concern in relation to economic viability.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

GPEC 2004 will again bring informative, inventive, and pioneering leaders. This year's include:

- President of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE), **Ms. Donna Davis**, of ExxonMobil Chemical Company
- **Mr. Rod Lowman**, President of American Plastics Council
- **Ms. Stephanie Baker**, Market Development KW Plastics

QUALITY PAPERS

This year's papers will provide a wide cross-section of topics ranging from automotive to plastics recycling. Many papers will closely examine the conference theme of plastics for the environment with topics such as automotive plastics, plastics in business equipment, resource recovery, biodegradable materials, recycling of appliances, and supply/markets for recycled plastics.

FOR INFORMATION & REGISTRATION VISIT:
WWW.4SPE.ORG
CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

GPEC 2004
SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

ANTEC 2004 Report

Jay Raison

The ANTEC 2004 will be held at Navy Pier and Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers in Chicago, Illinois from May 16-20, 2004. The theme for ANTEC 2004 is Plastics Innovation in the Windy City. Over 1500 abstracts have been received for peer review consideration. 16 abstracts were specifically submitted for consideration in the Automotive Sessions. As is customary, the Automotive Division will have all day Tuesday Sessions (Materials papers covered in the morning session and Process and Applications in the afternoon session). The completed papers of the 16 abstracts are currently being peer reviewed by the Automotive Division ANTEC Committee for quality and excellence. Specific information on different sessions will be posted on the SPE website in February 2004.



ANTEC 2004 Early Bird Reservation is now open and can be registered online at www.antec.ws. A new requirement at the ANTEC 2004 is that all speakers and presenters must be current SPE members.

Councilor's Corner

R. David Arndt

I attended the Council meetings, Divisions Committee, and Conference Committee in Charlotte, NC on October 24-25, 2003. The Council is made of plastics industry volunteers forming a 6 officer Executive Committee including Mike Capelletti, paid Executive Director plus 9 Vice Presidents (3 elected, 6 appointed), 22 elected Division Councilors, and 89 elected regional Section Councilors. The council meets 3 times each year and governs the 23,000 member Society. ***"The mission of the Society shall be to provide and promote the knowledge and education of plastics and polymers worldwide."***

The major Council action was the approval of the 2004 calendar year budget amounting to \$6.348M with a surplus of \$154.7K. The Council voted by straw poll to determine if Sections and Divisions would be willing to forego their rebates for the next two years. The vote was against the rebate suspension.

A task force was assembled to develop a new proposal that would be voted on at the next meeting. Membership is key to meeting a budget. Membership is projected to be 20,625 by Dec. 31, 2004 assuming a 5-10% increase in Europe, 5% decline in NA, and steady in all other areas. EU base of 1000 to 1100, US base of 19,000 to 18,025, and All Other 1,500 = 20, 625 members. SPE has an after rebate revenue of approx. \$85/member; gross revenue from membership is \$1.750M. SPE will outsource more of its member marketing programs as these provide better return than in-house activities.

The Council voted to charter Student Chapters at North Carolina University, North Dakota State University, and Queens University, Belfast.

A committee was formed to define the job description and selection criteria for a new Executive Director with Mike Cappelletti retiring at the end of the 2003. Past Presidents Norm Fowler and Norm Behn will lead that activity.

The next Council meeting is January 31-February 1 in New Orleans, LA.



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Technical Program with Expo
to be held on Feb 23, 2004

Details:

Date: Feb. 23, 2004

Place: Northfield Hilton (tbd)

Time: 11:15 AM--6:00 PM Exhibitor Displays

3:15 PM--3:45 PM Keynote: Thomas E. Edson, Director Liberty & Technical Affairs

3:55 PM--4:25 PM Thick Sheet Thermoforming: Guardian Industries

4:35 PM--5:05 PM Injection-Mold Lamination: Green Tokai

5:10 PM--5:50 PM Reception

5:55 PM--6:45 PM Dinner

6:50 PM--7:20 PM Injection-Compression: Decoma

7:30 PM--8:00 PM Long Fiber Injection/PC Film: GE Plastics

8:10 PM--8:30 PM Questions & Answers, all presentors

Tickets: Exhibit & Dinner \$55, Exhibit Only \$13.50

Table of 10: \$450, Students 50% discount

Exhibitors: Tables 4' x 8' or 8' x 8' or Table of 10 w/Exhibit Table

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John Hilgendorf, Worksheets
Tom Pickett, General Motors
Dr. Norm Kukarala, Delphi
Scott Nakon, Blackhawk Plastics



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Chrysler Cargo Van Window Alternatives;
Thick Sheet Thermoforming



Interior Door Trim Bezel Woodgrain Film.

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SPE Automotive Division Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes from December 9, 2003, meeting held at American Plastics Council, Troy, MI

Chairperson Report - Michael Connolly

- Reviewed Agenda and passed out handouts
- Michael asked Committee Chairs and Officers to complete assigned tasks in a timely manner
- Reviewed Treasurer position. Stuart Cohen agreed to continue in his role.
- Reviewed key dates. Provided handouts which included all Detroit Area SPE Events
- Important Automotive Division Dates:
 - February 9, 2004, Next BOD meeting at APC (5:30 to 8:30)
 - April 5, 2004, BOD meeting at APC (5:30 to 8:30)
 - June 14, 2004, Auto Division Planning Meeting, location TBD
 - July 26, 2004, Tentative date for Auto Division Golf Outing
- Some discussions about Golf Outing date. Nippani suggested September date. Michael asked board to make specific recommendations to Jim Staargard, Committee Chairman.

2003 Innovation Awards Review - Stuart Cohen

- Attendance was down versus 2002, estimated between 400 & 500. Final numbers will be provided in the future.
- Overall, the show went very well and input from various attendees was very favorable. Suresh Shaw advised that Delphi Management was impressed with the event. Already agreed to be a sponsor next year.
- There were a lot of new participants this, including numerous attendees from Composite Conference
- The event is projected to have a revenue surplus. Received income is approximately \$131k, with an additional \$20k expected from sponsors. Expenses were approximately \$141k. Once we receive all sponsorship revenue, projecting a \$10k surplus.
- The Committee reduced expenses versus 2003.
- The board discussed changes in the event for next year. A suggestion was made to downscale the event and lower budget further. However, the BOD agreed that we should strive to maintain a high profile, highly professional event, even if this means minimal revenue surplus.
- Next year, we need to work harder to obtain more nominations. Suresh Shaw suggested that we start the submission process earlier. Michael Connolly suggested that we should automatically notify previous nominees. He also suggested that we should contact other SPE Conference participants (TPO, Composite Conference, etc) to generate more nominations.
- Michael asked the BOD to send ideas to make the nomination process easier and more worthwhile.
- A Chairperson for the 2004 event is needed. Michael's goal is to have this person defined by next BOD meeting in February. Bonnie Bennyhoff will consider, however, she will review with her Employer to assess if it is viable for her to be Chairperson.
- Monica Prokopyshen suggested we add another Leadership Award next year.

Treasurer Report - Stuart Cohen

- Michael reviewed Treasurer responsibilities and requested that the Treasurer be involved with activity planning and budget projection for all events.
- Michael nominated Stuart for future Treasurer position, BOD unanimously agreed.
- Stuart provided then provided the following summary:
 - Current assets of \$78,597 in the bank.
 - 50% of the proceeds from Composite Conference has been to Composite Division and 30% of the Automotive Division proceeds from this event have been sent to SPE International.
 - All receipts from the Plastivan Education Program have been paid.
 - The 2003 Innovation Awards Banquet is expected to have a small surplus. We are currently showing a net loss of \$10,250. However, there are still outstanding sponsorship payments of about \$18,000 due.

2004 Composite Conference

- The event generated a surplus of about \$32k. Of which 50% has been sent to Composite Division and 30% of the Automotive Division proceeds from this event has been sent to SPE International.
- Composite Division has chosen a focal point for 2004 event, Enamul Haque
- 7 to 8 session chairs need to be defined.
- Fred Deans will petition SPE International for permission for 2004.
- Michael Connolly suggested we consider new dates for conference due to potential conflicts with other industry events. Dave Reed suggested we stay consistent with date to build a reputation. The BOD made no decision. Fred Deans to evaluate within his committee.

Councilors Report - Dave Arndt

- Dave attended October 24-25 Councilors Meeting in Charlotte
- Council approved 2004 budget of \$6,438,000. This is less than previous budgets. Will put \$150k surplus into savings.
- The Finance Committee was considering the elimination of Division rebates; however, this never became a formal proposal. Agreed to form a task force to formulate new proposals for Sections and Divisions.
- Membership is the key to long term success, projecting 20,625 members. Assumes 10% increase in Europe, 5% decrease in North America, flat elsewhere.
- The Executive Director position is currently open. Two past Presidents are leading a task force to find a replacement

Membership Report - Bonnie Bennyhoff

- SPE goal is 20,625 (see Councilor Report)
- Over 800 new members joined as a result of NPE
- As of November 30, 2003, Automotive Division has a total of 1136 primary paid members compared to 1040 in the previous month
- Bonnie provided a breakdown of Section members that belong to Automotive Division
- Bonnie suggested the following ideas to grow membership:
 - Review suspended member list and call anyone we know personally
 - Committee to welcome new members
 - Committee to work with Intersociety Committee to expand reach
 - Work with Detroit Section to establish Management Outreach Program
- Bonnie is also communicating with Michael Shoemaker of the Detroit Section to share ideas.
- Kevin Pageau suggested we have future conference fees cover membership future members. This would create an avenue for companies to cover membership fees for employees that attend conferences.

Intersociety - Mark Lapain & Peggy Malnati

- Mark reviewed key contacts at SPE Detroit Section, SAE-Polymers/Coatings, SME, SAMPE, and ACMA
- Met with SME in November. Reviewed structure & focus of both organization. Considering:
 - Partnership opportunities.
 - Co-locating respective composite conferences.
 - Reciprocal memberships. SME is already doing with AME and ISA.
- Met with SAE. Considering:
 - Free admission to SAE Congress for SPE members
 - SPE rate for SAE Members at Composite Conference
 - Shared programming
 - Present SPE Award winners during SAE technical session
 - Co sponsor a technical session
 - Trade ad space in Society Magazines
- Preliminary discussions with SAMPE. Will try to meet after holidays
- ACMA has done advertising swap the last two years. Will explore other ways to work together

Communications/Web Site - Peggy Malnati

- Our visibility is improving with Publication Editors. They are now contacting us for news.
- We do not have a clipping service, therefore, Peggy asked BOD to look for news clips related to SPE
- Mark Lapain suggested that we create a 2003 Innovation Award Winners highlight package which will be included with call for nominations for 2004 show.
- Michael Connolly is looking for a focal point to manage website content. Monica Prokopyshen volunteered for the position. She will handle until June, then evaluate if she can maintain the role along with SPE Chair. Michael may consider the role after he relinquishes his current Chair position.
- The goal is to have the website up and running by January or February.

Newsletter - Kevin Pageau

- Next Newsletter will go out in January. Will cover the 2003 Awards Night.
- Stuart advised that we have had a slight surplus due to strong sponsorship
- Kevin asked BOD to supply necessary content.
- Kevin is targeting April for the future newsletter. Goal is to cover Composite Conference and begin early call for nominations for 2004 Awards Night

Education - Josh Ulrich

- Will present Awards Night highlights at Ferris State in early 2004
- Drafted a proposal for SPE Internship Program. This program will help college students find internships within the plastics community.
- The Plastivan Education Program has visited 10 schools thus far. Received numerous thank you letters.
- Monica reserved Plastivan for April 8, 2004 EXPLORATHON program.

Education Report

Josh Ullrich

SPE Internship Program Connects Students with Automotive Plastics Companies

The SPE Automotive Division announces a new program designed to help college students find internships in the automotive plastics community. We are targeting students who will have completed two years of college by Summer 2004, majoring in the following degree programs:

- Plastics Technology/Engineering
- Mechanical, Chemical, or Operations Engineering

We are targeting companies whose primary business is related to the automotive industry and the plastics field with new or existing internships available for Summer 2004 in the following areas:

Program Management
Supply Chain Management
Plastics Design
Sales/Marketing

If you are a student or plan to hire a student meeting the above requirements, please contact Josh Ullrich today!

Josh Ullrich
Chieftain Polymers
248-895-4340
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Education Report

Kevin Pageau

The PlastiVan Education has begun with a flurry of activity in November 2003 and will continue



into the first quarter of 2004. SPE Automotive Division has committed to 15 visits for the 2003-04 school year.

Following is a list of some of the schools that have been visited by the PlastiVan Program this past year:

Chippewa Middle School	Port Huron, MI
Port Huron High School	Port Huron, MI
Smith Middle School	Troy, MI
Larson Middle School	Troy, MI
Iroquois Middle School	Macomb, MI
St. Mary's Parochial	St. Clair, MI
St. Clair Middle School	St. Clair, MI
Huda School	Franklin, MI

As always, the students really appreciate and benefit from the visits. Some of the comments from the students included:

"The best part was when Ms. Ball told all of us some of the things that are made of plastic that I didn't even know. Like when she told us that polyester and Old Navy's fleece is made of recycled pop bottles. That amazed me because I wear polyester all the time and I didn't even know I was wearing pop bottles."

Samantha Pakulski
Iroquois Middle School

"I learned so many things about plastic. I thought plastic was only used in making containers but now I've learned that it is very important and is used widely around the world for various things like parts of an automobile and even t-shirts. Thank you for making it possible for my school to learn about the importance of plastics."

Irma Zamir
Iroquois Middle School

If anyone is interested in helping with the PlastiVan program, or would like to nominate a school for a visit from the PlastiVan in the next school year, please contact Kevin Pageau at (248) 835-4999.

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