



INSPIRING
PLASTICS
PROFESSIONALS

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



SPE is at a unique time in their history. As an organization founded on knowledge and networking, it has become critically important to evolve with the times, especially regarding how we deliver our product to our stakeholders. Each of us wants what is best for SPE and the future will likely be a combination of the SPE we know and love with a new SPE that the next generation will know and love.

As my 18 months as President of the Society came to an end, I took the time to reflect on all that we were able to accomplish together. SPE is at a unique time in her history. As an organization founded on knowledge and networking, it has become critically important to evolve with the times, especially regarding how we deliver our product to our stakeholders. Today, we hold the world's largest library in the palm, of our hands and relationships seem to be becoming more transactional by the day. Knowing this, how do we remain relevant in an every changing world...the answer is through innovation and reinvention.

In 2022, we attempted to gracefully wed our storied history with the changing times. As an example, 2022 saw the return of in-person ANTEC (Annual Technical) for the first time in 3 years. In its new format, the emphasis was placed on networking and relationship building. We still had a healthy dose of technical programming, but the focus was on getting people back together after the pandemic to rekindle existing friendships while forging new ones. It is evident that we were wildly successful in our endeavor as attendees from other conferences on site ventured into our receptions to be "where the fun was at." In 2022 we explored new avenues for revenue generation. One such by-product of those conversations is the first ever leadership development course designed for plastics professionals by plastics professionals. I am happy to report that the first cohort filled almost immediately and as they work their way to graduation by ANTEC 2023, the next cohort is assembled. This program not only brings new revenue to the Society, but it directly tackles one of the biggest threats to our industry in a generation...the Great Resignation.

In 2022, we sought to align our passion through leadership roundtables held on a monthly basis. These meetings allowed a safe environment for honest discussion about optimizing the value for SPE stakeholders in an ever-changing world. These meetings destroyed the notion of an us vs. them mentality and aligned our passions for improving the Society. Finally, the Executive Board made a conscious decision to look at our industry in totality, not simply through the lens of the latest conversion technique or polymeric innovation. In doing so, we worked with the Northeast Texas Girl Scouts to develop a patch related to polymers. While the "payback" of such an investment may take years to realize, there is something beautiful and pure about changing the perception of plastics of a child, and this program does exactly that, in spades. We also continued on our DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion) journey, focusing on assembling and disseminating the scientific data that shows the financial benefit of companies that commit to embracing a diverse organization...whether that be with regards to education, race, sex, age, or any other criteria.

Are we a perfect organization? No. Will we continue to evolve to meet the expectations and demands of the next generation of plastics professionals to remain relevant 80 years from now? YES, with your help.

**Each of us wants what is best for
SPE and the future will likely be a
combination of the SPE we know and
love with a new SPE that the next
generation will know and love.**

There are many paths to the top of the mountain, and we will certainly get there, but we must remember to not underestimate the value of the journey.

Thank you for welcoming me, challenging me, and striving, alongside of me, to make SPE the best version of herself for years to come.

Dr. Jason Lyons
SPE President 2021-2022





In our 2020 Annual Report, and again in 2021, I shared with you my insights about how Covid had impacted SPE's business. Like all businesses, we faced challenges over the past few years which we had never even considered possible. And we met those challenges head on!

As we roll into 2023, we can see light at the end of the tunnel. The darkest days of the pandemic are behind us. We can finally get back to "normal."

Or can we???

The immediate impacts of the virus have indeed diminished. Travel is slowly resuming. Masks are disappearing. The terrible medical consequences are lessening. But other effects of the past three years will remain long into the future.

SPE's leadership team continues to evaluate and adjust. We constantly consider how we can best serve the plastics industries and the professionals whose life's work is in plastics. We think about how we can continue to support our stakeholders, even as the ground shifts under us.

We know, for example, that people are busier than they have ever been. So, SPE creates ways for our members to get the full benefit of our events, programs, and content, but with shorter time requirements.

We know that the need for science-based information has never been greater, so SPE is delivering more content than ever to keep us all educated and informed.

We know that plastics businesses need future leaders, so SPE launched a Leadership Development Cohort Learning Program to prepare the next generation to assume these responsibilities.

We know that many may feel a sense of isolation, with work-from-home and limited business travel disconnecting us from our colleagues. So, as SPE resumes a scaled-down schedule of in-person events, we are mindful to create opportunities for more personal interactions, while recognizing that some may take a while longer to again feel comfortable in such situations.

And we know that the plastics industry remains under attack. While not at all shirking our environmental responsibilities, SPE delivers positive plastics messaging to remind the general public about the many incredible benefits of plastics as a material choice.

As you review this report, know that its purpose isn't to toot our own horn. It's to remind you of the good work that SPE volunteers, leaders and staff do every day in service to the industry and to plastics professionals worldwide. In service of you!

Pat Farrey
SPE CEO

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Mission: Supporting the development of plastics professionals so they can learn from each other and inspire positive change for society and the planet.

In order to continue bringing stakeholders the content they need we added a Technical Director staff position. This position will create new virtual and in-person education events, identifying subject matter experts and growing SPE's portfolio of technical programs. In 2022, we also implemented new Essential Life Skills programs to help stakeholders develop their skills.

SPE added non-technical programs which equip plastics professionals to be more successful and bridge the gap created by the great resignation.



“Teach the Geek to Speak” program helped plastics professionals create impactful presentations and give confidence in public speaking.



Restructured the SPE Mentorship program with a relaunch date of January 2023.



Created and launched a leadership development program specifically for the plastics industry called SPE Certificate in Leadership™ Program: Essentials of Management & Leadership in Plastics, powered by SPE. The first cohort group graduated March 2023.

ESSENTIAL PROFESSIONAL COURSES

SPE took home four 2022 TRENDY Awards during the Association Trends Annual Awards Ceremony:

- » PlastChicks, an SPE Sponsored Podcast, won two Trendy Awards: The Pinnacle Award, the top honor given across all categories and the “Best Podcast” (Gold).
- » *Plastics Engineering* magazine won “Most Improved Magazine or Journal” (Gold).
- » ANTEC® Conference won “Best Exhibitor Sales Kit” (Gold)

SPE's *Plastics Engineering* magazine was also awarded two EDDIEs from Folio magazine: “Single Article/Association, Non-profit, Professional, Membership Association” (Category Winner) and “Range of Work by a Single Author, Association, Non-profit” (Honorable Mention).



We strive to create an environment in which everyone is respected and valued and has equal opportunities to develop, advance, and be heard.

SPE continued our journey as the leading advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the plastics industry by producing extensive new content to support this journey.

- » Hosted a DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion) virtual event featuring twelve speakers with 103 attendees
- » Created a DEI Speaker Series library containing sixteen pre-recorded talks. This online resource is open for access by all to use.
- » Launched a new podcast called *Plastics & Beyond* curated to discuss diversity, equity, and inclusion in the manufacturing industry.

The SPE Foundation continues to invest in the next generation of plastics professionals. The Foundation supports positive plastics education for students of all grade levels through many initiatives, including its PlastiVan® program, scholarships, grants, and after school STEM Clubs.

In collaboration with the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas, the Foundation has recently created its first SPE Color Your World with Polymer Science Girl Scout patch, which teaches girls how scientists and engineers are improving the world with innovative materials and products. For decades, the Foundation has also encouraged the plastics industry to be more inclusive, diverse and equitable.



The return of in-person ANTEC® for the first time in three years.



Created and launched a micro-credential recognition program to recognize and award stakeholder's engagement.



SPE celebrated their 80th Anniversary with a special edition of *Plastics Engineering* magazine.

Reevaluated the size and structure of the SPE Executive Board. Removed most position titles; increased number of appointments.



Monthly Leadership Roundtable discussions were held to increase the transfer of information between the Executive Board and Chapter leadership.

JOURNALS

SPE's four peer-reviewed journals, *Plastics Engineering* magazine and our SPE News and Plastics Insights e-newsletters keep stakeholders apprised of the technical advances in the industry, as we have for decades.



1 million

full text article downloads
(Up 18% from 2021)



6,130

current 2-year citations
(Unchanged from 2021)



1160

articles published
(Up 29% from 2021)



85

online open articles
(Up 33% from 2021)



3,760

new submissions
(Up 10% from 2021)



98

days from submission
to publication
(Down from 99 in 2021)



SPE Polymers receiving high visibility with 20% increase in article downloads compared to 2021

The impact factor of all three legacy journals went up in 2021:

- » Polymer Engineering and Science: 2.573
- » Polymer Composites: 3.531
- » Journal of Vinyl and Additive Technology: 2.297

SPE Polymers is now indexed in DOAJ. DOAJ is an index of open access journals from around the world.

SPE POLYMERS

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SPE FOUNDATION



\$30,559

raised from SPE membership renewal
donations (1,241 individuals)

\$191,875

in scholarships awarded to
51 students at 30 universities



3D printers

awarded to schools in Wisconsin,
Georgia, and Maine

\$618,000

generously given to support the work
of the SPE Foundation



70 donors gave more than
\$31,000
for the SPE Girl Scout Patch Program
on Giving Tuesday

450

Girl Scouts earned their Color Your
World with Polymer Science! patch

PlastiVan® and PlastiVideo®
served over

16,000
students in 13 states and 42 cities

4

After-School SPE
STEM Clubs

12

SPE Junior
Researchers

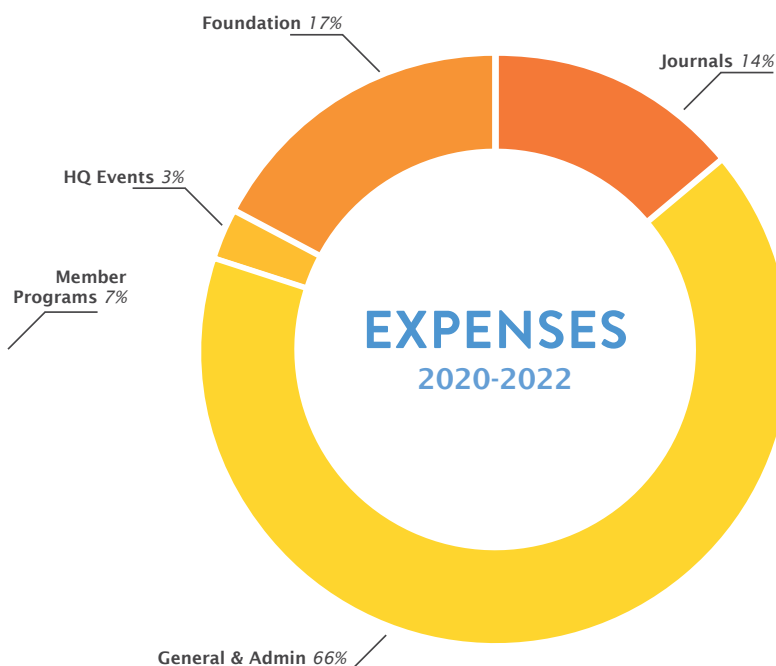
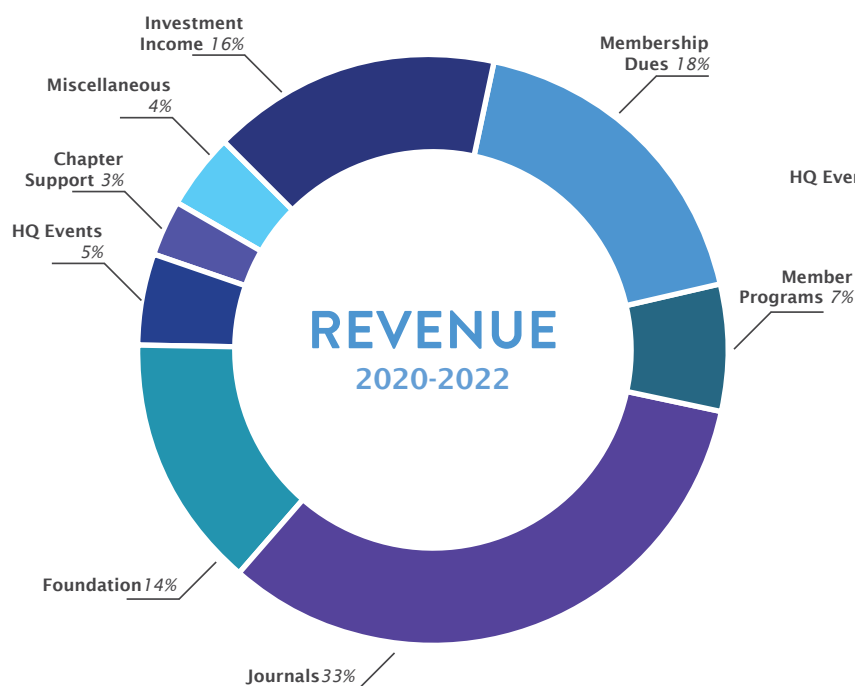
FINANCIALS

Though the last two years have been a very trying period, SPE has weathered the storm well and emerged financially strong. Despite the impact on events, we came out effectively where we were in January 2020.

Total assets were \$6,848,482 in January 2020 and \$ 6,685,132 in December 2022. Total liabilities were down in December 2022 to \$3,216,853 from \$ 3,406,101 in January 2020.

Overall revenues exceeded the budget and expenses were slightly higher. The investment returns projections were below for 2022.

	2022	2021	2020	Total 2020-2022
Revenue				
Membership Dues	\$ 603,407	\$ 610,827	\$ 716,600	\$ 1,930,834
Member Programs	\$ 284,365	\$ 354,525	\$ 171,400	\$ 810,290
Journals	\$ 1,372,842	\$ 1,132,050	\$ 1,040,800	\$ 3,545,692
Foundation	\$ 618,609	\$ 498,216	\$ 444,800	\$ 1,561,625
HQ Events (1)	\$ 113,213	\$ 292,556	\$ 177,000	\$ 582,769
Chapter Support	\$ 91,072	\$ 68,128	\$ 187,500	\$ 346,700
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 380,285	\$ -	\$ 380,285
Investment Income (Loss)	\$ 461,147	\$ 702,679	\$ 536,000	\$ 1,699,826
Total	\$ 3,544,655	\$ 4,039,266	\$ 3,274,100	\$ 10,858,021
Expenses				
General & Administrative (2)	\$ 2,116,384	\$ 2,052,161	\$ 2,089,000	\$ 6,257,545
HQ Events (1)	\$ 157,888	\$ 43,600	\$ 46,500	\$ 247,988
Foundation	\$ 705,435	\$ 514,781	\$ 429,900	\$ 1,650,116
Journals	\$ 758,669	\$ 435,324	\$ 165,200	\$ 1,359,193
Total	\$ 3,738,376	\$ 3,045,866	\$ 2,730,600	\$ 9,514,842
Total Profit (Loss)	\$ (193,721)	\$ 993,400	\$ 543,500	\$ 1,343,179



AWARDS

SPE celebrates the tremendous efforts and achievements of members in recognition of their many contributions made on behalf of the Society and to our industry.

Fellow of the Society



Dr. Alper Kiziltas,
Technical Expert, Ford



William Kramer, President,
US Extruders



Dr. Keisha B. Walters, Department Head
and Professor, University of Arkansas

Honored Service Members



David J. Anzini, Director of R&D,
Celgard LLC



Dr. Paul J. Gramann, President,
The Madison Group



Han P. Michel, General Manager,
E-Three & Associates Pty. Ltd.

Brian Landes

2022 recipient of the Society's
President's Cup Award.

SPE President's Cup Award

It is a privilege as SPE President to honor one person with the SPE President's Cup. The Cup was first awarded by Peter Simmons in 1958 and continues to be awarded each year by the President for outstanding and meritorious service to our society. One of the honors, and perhaps the best honor, of holding this office is the awarding of this cup. This honor is decided solely by the President.

"Brian's dedication to SPE has been selfless and inspiring," said Jason Lyons. "When I think of the trait that best describes Brian, it is passion. A truly genuine passion to bring out the best in those surrounding them while attempting to make everything they touch the best version of itself possible. We can teach many things to people but passion is something you are born with and Brian has this in spades. From my first time walking into an SPE EPSDIV Board meeting, Brian inspired me to do more...to give back. He is a leading reason why I have the honor of standing before you today. As SPE's President, it is my privilege to honor Dr. Brian Landes with the SPE President's Cup award."

PRESIDENT'S CUP

2022 SPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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