

Mold Technologies Division



Division of Society of Plastics Engineers

Volume 41, Issue 4, Summer 2020

Message from the Chair

Hello,

This has certainly been an interesting second quarter to 2020. With the Covid related illnesses and impact to our businesses and trade related events, it will be sometime before we are back to way the things used to be. I pray along with our fellow board members that you and your families remain safe and healthy during these times. We also wish the best for everyone in their professional businesses and are here to help with any references or technical assistance you need during these times.

In our last newsletter we were excited to share our pre-coming ANTEC 2020 talks and had begun preparations for travel to San Antonio to host the SPE MTD session talks. Unfortunately, ANTEC 2020 was cancelled for an onsite meeting; however, this was quickly re-scheduled to a virtual event by SPE. Our division hosted our talks online through Zoom meetings and the event was flawless. Our Technical Chair Wes Stephens did a fantastic job hosting our online session and SPE did an equally impressive job in organizing the event and maintaining substantial technical and entertaining talks. We also discussed some events that were being planned for later this year and unfortunately, these were cancelled. However, after the successful ANTEC online event we are looking at the possibility of holding a virtual session of our own.

It has been a great pleasure to be your Committee Chair this past year and I will be soon passing the torch to Tony Demakis to lead us through the back half of 2020 and into 2021. Stay safe and together our industry will overcome these adversities like the many we have encountered previously.



Greg Osborn

SPE Mold Technologies Division Chair

Thank you,

Greg Osborn

Editor's Commentary - Adapting and Progressing

The events of the past several months have been both disruptive and motivational. Perhaps you were or still are one of a good many people working almost exclusively from home. For many of us, that meant participating in one-on-one and group meetings via webcams and microphones on our devices / laptops / workstations. For many of us, it wasn't a big deal at all – simply another way of communicating and interacting. Technology has long enabled teleconferencing with multiple participants and collaborative screen and asset sharing. Some folks were obviously new to the world of laptop webcam meetings – showing up in bathrobes and tee shirts, having their kids and pets in the room with them or even eating throughout the meeting, never knowing their cameras and mics were enabled.

Technology, and of course the people behind it, quickly responded to the recent dramatic change in the business environment. Meetings occurred with some schedule-juggling, designs were reviewed, materials were discussed and selected, and projects were managed. The current array of web communication apps facilitated meeting and collaborative events whether with two people involved or thousands.

Our plastics industry has been affected along with all other industries. Our showcase for technology presentations and discussions, ANTEC, was able to execute their entire (and quite expansive) agenda as an online event. Especially impressive, because of the very short time frame the ANTEC Team had to reimagine, plan, launch and manage dozens and dozens of presentations originally set for the traditional live audience with staged presenter format.

Despite the challenges, ANTEC was a success. I may be so bold as to add, BECAUSE of the challenges, ANTEC® 2020: The Virtual Edition, was an even greater success. Circumstances brought our industry and our network together and gave us the opportunity to embrace new ways of meeting and communicating – and supporting each other. Several members of the Mold Technologies Division Board were active participants in ANTEC 2020 and were kind enough to share their experiences and impressions with me.

MTD Board President – Greg Osborn/Milacron, Ad Hoc Director – Brenda Clark/HASCO, Technical Program Chair – Wes Stephens/Fairway and International Chair – Davide Masato/UMass Lowell all made the effort



John Berg

SPE Mold Technologies Division
2018/2019 Newsletter Editor



Sponsor's Index

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to have the opportunity to get involved with ANTEC at several levels of engagement and perspective. Their unanimous consensus is that ANTEC® 2020: The Virtual Edition was an outstanding event – from the broad ranging focuses of the technical presentations to the accessibility offered to all participants and most certainly to the impressive job by the SPE ANTEC Event Team.

Davide and Wes both commented on the ease of interaction with presenters and audience during Q&A sessions. The online setting enables the moderator to queue and screen questions from the audience allowing the presenter to focus on best response. Wes also appreciated the fact that the event was far more economical, without the financial burden of travel, lodging and entertainment associated with these multiple-days seminars. Greg noted that immediately after the online registration process (sure beats waiting in line), he was able to begin attending sessions – just a click or two and you're in. Brenda liked the fact that many of these presentations are archived and are available to suit your schedule. She also credits The ANTEC Team with doing their best to offer engagement platforms after the technical sessions – providing some virtual networking opportunities.

According to SPE CEO, Patrick Farrey, from our organization's official press release, the virtual edition featured 14 keynote speakers and 167 technical presentations, viewed by over 3,300 hundred participants. The event was comprised of 17 days in total, spread over a six-week period and generated over 93 hours of content!

The only lament I heard from attendees and presenters was that they missed the handshake – the hug. As big as the industry is, we are a tight family and major events like ANTEC are much like reunions. Webinars and E-events are not likely to render traditional trade shows obsolete, but the online world has some distinct advantages when it comes to technically focused presentations. From an attendee standpoint, one is far more likely to receive authorization of registration fee expenses when they do not carry the burden of flight and hotel costs. The ability to attend every session of interest rather than choosing which of two or three concurrent presentations to attend is also a big plus.

While we're on the subject of successful events, let's get ready for Amerimold Connects, June 9-13! Check out the amazing depth of Live and On-Demand session topics – we've got the agenda on pages 6-7.



John Berg

The Value of Social Media, Part II

John Berg, Director of Marketing - Alligator Holdings LLC

While there are many options of social channels from which we can choose, the safest and most logical platforms for mold makers are LinkedIn and Facebook. Think of LinkedIn as the outside channel and Facebook as the inside channel. Our outside audience is made up of our customers, prospects, supply chain partners, industry organizations, industry media and the general professional business world. Our inside audience is comprised of our employees, their families and friends and our local business and educational community.

For most businesses, having a social channel presence is part of what a modern company does. It is a proven method of communicating, sharing and interacting. Launching a social media page is simply a matter of establishing preliminary content – images and text, and then filling in the blanks. Address, phone, general email, company description, company logo and a company banner image for the top of your page. All social pages start this way – and unfortunately, many remain this way.

Social media business pages are hungry for content. They grow stale very quickly because all posts are dated. If you are looking up a company and visit their LinkedIn page and the top (most recent) post is four months old, it seems like you're blowing virtual cobwebs off them. If we're going to have a social presence, let's do it right.

Let's first have a look at Facebook. Designed to enable keeping in touch with family and friends through the sharing of experiences via text, photos and video, Facebook reigns as the largest social network with over 2.6 billion active users worldwide. If one third of the planet's population can work it, so can you. As we gather content for our

Facebook Business Page, know that most of it can also be used on LinkedIn. In order to have a business page, a personal account is needed. The two accounts are connected but are distinct – content, information and followers / friends must be established for each individually.

Make certain that your Facebook Business Page is administered by two or three people. This maintains the company's control over the site if the originating page owner leaves your company.

Gather your base content – company logo, brief descriptions of your company mission or focus and your capabilities, contact / location(s) information, industry affiliations / certifications – think of it as a mini-web site. Because this page is for employees, we're not so interested in a shop equipment list.

If your company culture is more than lip service, your posts will practically write themselves. Employee personal milestones (birthday, tenure anniversary, baby in the family...), professional achievements (coursework completion, industry recognition, employee of the month...) and corporate activities (company anniversary, holiday celebrations, employee family events, certifications, trade / technical event participation, team-building exercises, industry achievement...) all provide fodder for timely and consistent posts. Always include a photo or an image.

Once you have created, collected and organized your content, building the page will take a matter of minutes. Same goes for updates – it just takes a few moments to add a paragraph or two and a photo to a post. The most challenging part is content. Identifying opportunities for news and properly documenting them results in the building of a con-

tent library and a steady output of engaging posts. You're essentially posting your business's diary or journal – telling your followers what's new, what's important, who on the team is celebrating a special event, how much fun the group had at the company summer party, that your shop collected 500 pounds

of food for the local community pantry... Ask your employees for posts and include them in defining the personality of your page. Your Facebook Business page can be a significant part of your company's culture if you use it as the communications platform it is.

What Doesn't Kill you WILL MAKE YOU STRONGER

Scott Peters, SPE MTD - Director, Program Manager - Injection Molds at Delco LLC

They say what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Well, that is especially true of economic setbacks, if they are looked at properly.

For many in our world right now there is a sense of, "Oh NO -- How will we survive?" That mindset is associated with the "Glass is Half Empty" view. Of course, there are questions about survival. Of course, there are questions of what comes next. Those are real concerns.

I want to talk about the "Glass is Half Full" folk. The ones that look at the current situation and, as Erma Bombeck would say, make lemonade when life serves up lemons. These folk look at slow times as an opportunity to do something different. You see, in most small to mid-sized businesses, the management / executive team is busy everyday working in the business -- they are looking at deliverables, billables, payables, inventories, projections and work back logs -- ALL IMPORTANT when running a business. But they get so busy on those important things that they neglect the most important -- *working on* the business.

It is during slow times that senior management in ambitious companies step back and look at the long view -- the "Where are we going" and "Where

have we been" perspective. They take the time to set a new course for future growth and new opportunities.

The industry will come back, it always has and always will. It may change in size and shape -- and that is where we get to look at the current state of our companies and determine how to best fit that changed marketplace -- Let's face it, dinosaurs went extinct because they failed to change with the environment -- and some businesses may do the same. Let's make certain it isn't ours.

Published on May 14, 2020 – LINKEDIN <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/what-doesnt-kill-you-make-stronger-scott-peters/>



**Product Design & Development,
Injection Molding,
Rotational Molding**

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WHERE MOLD MANUFACTURERS WILL CONNECT

amerimold **CONNECTS** JUNE 9 – 13, 2020



A REMOTE EVENT EXPERIENCE

amerimold **CONNECTS** is a remote events experience that connects the moldmaking community in a digital space. This one-of-a-kind experience will bring moldmakers, molders, OEMs, and tier suppliers together to network, build their brands, and learn from the industry's best.

<http://www.amerimoldexpo.com/>

<http://www.amerimoldexpo.com/amerimold-around-the-web.html>

<http://www.amerimoldexpo.com/asap.html>

LIVE SESSIONS

June 9	9am	Welcome & Tool Shop Live! High-Level Hot Runner Mold Preventative Maintenance
	11am	Sourcing Fair Live: A Conversation with OEM Tooling Experts on Purchasing Trends
	1pm	Time to Rethink the Moldmaking & Molding Supply Chain
	3pm	Moldmaking 4.0: Let's Get Real about all this Data—From Design to First Shot to Maintenance
June 10	9am	Forging a Path to a Safe and Secure Future: Cybersecurity & Manufacturing
	11am	AMT: 2020 Metalworking Industry Outlook and IMTS
	1pm	Leading the Charge – Lessons Learned in Today's Business Environment
	3pm	Unveiling of the 2020 Top 10 Reasons to Be a Moldmaker T-shirts and 2020 Leadtime Leader Awards Ceremony
June 11	9am	PLASTICS: 2020 Plastics Industry Outlook
	11am	Leading Mold Manufacturers Share 30 Best Practices in 30 Minutes on Ways to Improve Efficiencies
	1pm	Current State and Outlook of the U.S. Moldmaking Industry
	3pm	The Impact of COVID-19 on the Future of Manufacturing

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

BUSINESS MATTERS & CURRENT EVENTS

- There Is A Better Way: Proven Method for Buying and Managing of a Mold
- The Importance of Reshoring Mold and Die Manufacturing
- Supply Chain Lessons from COVID-19 (Part I)
- Supply Chain Lessons from COVID-19: For Job Shops and Other Suppliers (Part II)
- Supply Chain Lessons from COVID-19: For OEMs (Part III)
- Supply Chain Lessons from COVID-19: How to Get Started with TCO (Part IV)
- What to Expect with USMCA and What's Next for U.S. Trade Policy
- The Importance of Leadership and Focus During and After COVID-19
- Liberty Molds Talks Respirators, Reshoring and Recommendations
- Remoting, Reaching Out and Ramping Up Recyclable PPE
- A Truly "Coronavirus" Collaborative Effort Puts Moldmaking, Manufacturing in the Spotlight
- Being Dynamic Amid Crisis
- The Cavalier Tool Army Takes on COVID-19
- Cross-Generational Mentorship: Participants Share Their Journey
- Planning for the 2030 Workforce Challenge
- A Unique Approach to Filling Specific Workforce Needs
- Quick Conversations Can Change the Course of Your Business
- Keeping Culture Change Constant and Consistent
- Plan for Data Use, COVID Impact on Leadership Teams and Employee Survey to Develop Culture

ENGINEER

- Essential Design for Additive Manufacturing Principles
- Controlled Porosity Can Be Functional Advantage Realized via 3D Printing
- Reduce Delivery Time and Increase Mold Quality

BUILD

- A Look at Tooling 4.0
- Digital Manufacturing in Action: Connecting Advanced Control Technology to Five-Axis Machining
- General-Purpose Holmaking Using Replaceable Insert Drill
- Custom Mold & Design Talks Hybrid Additive Manufacturing
- Achieve Repeatable Perfection with New Surface Grinding Technology
- Tackling Linear Movements in a Mold
- How to Machine an "Impossible Part" without EDM or Five-Axis Machining
- CNC Deep Hole Drilling With Milling
- Everything You Wanted to Know About Hot Runner Systems and How to Optimize Their Performance
- Integrated Technologies to Drive Costs Out and Improve Part Quality

MAINTAIN

- Now You See It – Now You Don't: The Magic of Dry Ice in Plastics, Rubber Industry Applications
- A Video Tutorial on How Advanced Laser Texturing Technology Works
- Working Remote? Add Visibility to Your Existing ERP System
- How to Correctly Diagnose Hot Runner Electrical Issues
- How to Safely Maintain Cooling Passages within Your Molds
- Improving Your Mold Handling Process

MOLD

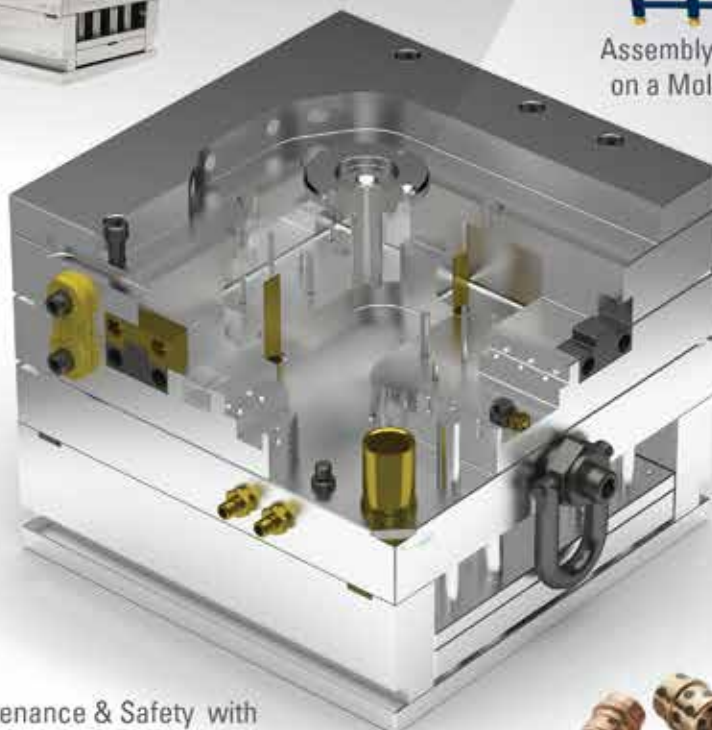
- The Magic of Manufacturing and Marketing
- Benefits and Challenges to Becoming a One Stop Shop
- 3-in-1 Moldmaking Force Always Looking for Problems...to Solve
- Listening and Understanding Leads to Success



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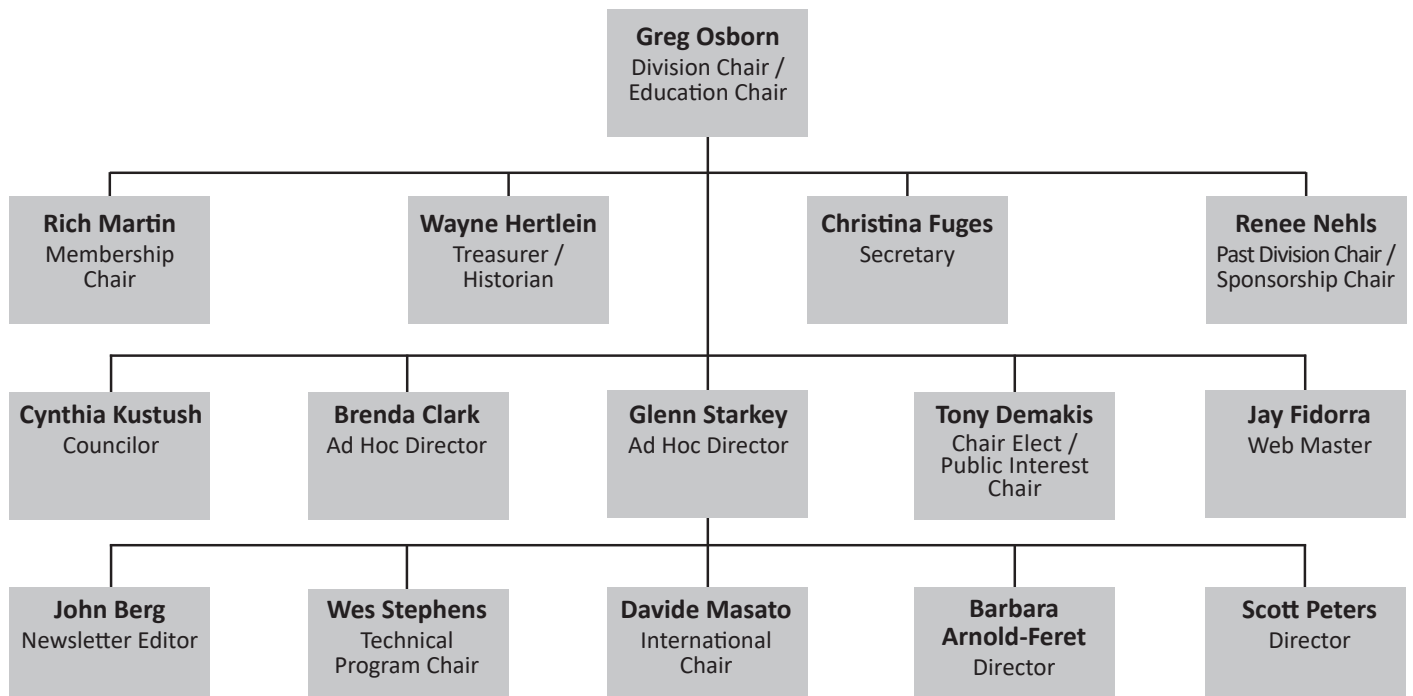


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2019 / 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Progressive Expands Bar Lock Product Offering

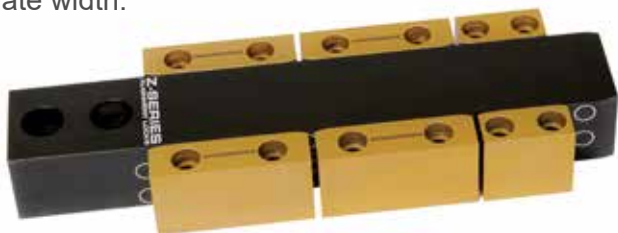
New Inch, Metric and Custom Sizes Added

Progressive Components has introduced an expansion of its Z-Series Bar Locks for alignment of large molds and multi-plate sequencing tools.

Bar Locks were first introduced in 2014, and what began as four Bars now has expanded to eight, and what started as eight Guides now includes twenty. Additionally, a metric series also has been added.

"There are a lot of variables in multi-plate tools," said Sebastian Jurczak, Project Engineer at Progressive. "These additions now cover the range for standard plate thicknesses."

In addition, Progressive now provides Mold-Ready™, custom lengths, as well as corner radii for when a lock pocket is not machined through the full plate width.



"We setup fixturing and optimized the process so that we can ship an altered length with pocket radii, for only the cost of about one shop hour," added Jurczak.

Uniquely suited towards complex molds for packaging and medical applications, Bar Locks offer Progressive's patented Z-Series technology.

"Others may offer a warranty that their product isn't defective, but independent testing shows they score and gall after 50,000 cycles," states Progressive's president Glenn Starkey. "Only Progressive offers a warranty for the actual performance longevity, so that a mold will close in perfect alignment for the life of the program."

For technical support regarding our Z-Series Alignment Locks or any of Progressive's products, please email Tech@procomps.com.

Visit Progressive Components online at www.procomps.com. For Customer Service, dial 1-847-487-1000 or email customerservice@procomps.com.



PERFORMANCE IS KEY.

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As a manufacturer of high precision, complex tooling, Steve Rotman, President of Ameritech Die & Mold, aligns with engineering-focused suppliers that drive innovation and exceed expectations.

"Progressive's innovations improve the performance of our tools."

Advance your tooling standards by specifying Progressive Components to secure a globally competitive position with your customers.



**PROGRESSIVE
COMPONENTS**

SEE HOW WE TEST OUR PRODUCTS
AT PROCOMPS.COM/TESTING



Manage Mold Activity with Progressive's ProFile® System

A Complete Asset Management, Maintenance, and Tracking Solution

Tooling Managers often utilize multiple systems to keep track of their tools. From manual logbooks to excel files to a module within an existing ERP system, there are a variety of methods that are in use but do not offer a specific management approach for organizing tooling assets.

To address this issue, Progressive has developed ProFile®, a cloud-based asset tracking program. This new system consists of Asset Tags with a unique QR code that connects a mold's information to those who need it.

The ProFile asset management system provides:

- Online Filing Cabinet with a capacity of 10GB to store and share essential documents promoting collaboration with all stakeholders.
- Individual asset pages display a GPS map of the last asset scan location.
- Utilize your existing maintenance worksheets, or use PM worksheets provided.
- A standalone approach, or share data with one's current ERP system.
- In addition to tracking molds, assets can include dies, fixtures, and molding machines.
- No long-term contracts or commitments are necessary.

"The system makes it easy to track GPS locations, maintenance, and documents efficiently from a single responsive platform, from anywhere in the world," states Sujit Sheth, Monitoring Sales Manager for Progressive Components.

For additional information on the new Profile asset management system, please visit procomps.com/Profile or email tech@procomps.com.



QR code technology enables secured access to critical mold activity and information.

Visit Progressive Components online at www.procomps.com. For Customer Service, dial 1-847-487-1000 or email customerservice@procomps.com.



Progressive Introduces New Remote Validation Kit

Ditch the Trip: Validate Molds Remotely

Progressive Components announces a product enabling tooling engineers to validate their tools remotely.

Progressive's new Remote Validation Kit is a plug and play tool that provides real-time data by connecting the portable system to a C/Ve Monitor on the mold. Then, info is accessible from across the plant or around the world.

The Remote Validation Kit improves the PPAP or IQ/OQ/PQ approval process to help speed molds into production. Additional benefits include:

- **For the OEM:** Reduce or eliminate the need for tooling engineers to drive or fly back and forth to suppliers' sites to validate tools.
- **For the Molder:** Tooling can move into production even if the customer can't travel on-site. Also provided is a virtual file cabinet for mold documentation, activity reports, and process sheets.
- **For the Mold Builder:** Following the tool build, the qualifying process is expedited.

"The backbone of this capability comes from Progressive's leadership in mold monitoring," states Lorena Fisher, OEM Sales Manager for Progressive Components. "From the first mechanical cycle counter invented in 1993, to developing the first mold management program, ProFile, in 1996, to the C/Ve Monitoring platform introduced nearly ten years ago, Progressive has the experience and global support team in place."

For additional information on the Remote Validation Kit, visit procomps.com/CVe, or email tech@procomps.com to discuss implementation.

Visit Progressive Components online at www.procomps.com. For Customer Service or Tech Support, dial 1-847-487-1000 or email customerservice@procomps.com.



Progressive's Remote Validation Kit includes a dedicated tablet mounted in a customized case, and a press module and gateway to connect to an on-mold C/Ve Monitor (not included).

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Board of Directors

SPE Mold Technologies Division

March 12, 2020

	Present	Absent	Excused		Present	Absent	Excused
Greg Osborn, Chair	X			Renee Nehls	X		
Scott Peters	X			Cyndi Kustush			X
Wayne Hertlein	X			Brenda Clark	X		
Tony Demakis			X	Christina Fuges	X		
Barbara Arnold-Feret			X	Wes Stephens	X		
Glenn Starkey			X	Davide Masato	X		
Jay Fiddora	X			John Berg	X		
Rich Martin	X			John Evans			X

3:04PM CST Greg made call motion to begin meeting and introduced new board members.

Division will help with speakers and sponsors; no cost to Division, but attendees will pay around \$1,500.

Division Chair Report – Greg Osborn

- SPE ANTEC: Patrick Farrey issued an email that ANTEC 2020 will be held virtually. It will not be held in San Antonio TX. Cyndi, Greg and Wes cancelling travel plans.
- Wayne has not sent donation check to assist with student travel, so if now that some schools have travel ban; Brenda will look into this

Chair Elect Report – Tony Demakis

- No report; planning to step up to Chair position in June

Division Secretary Report – Christina Fuges

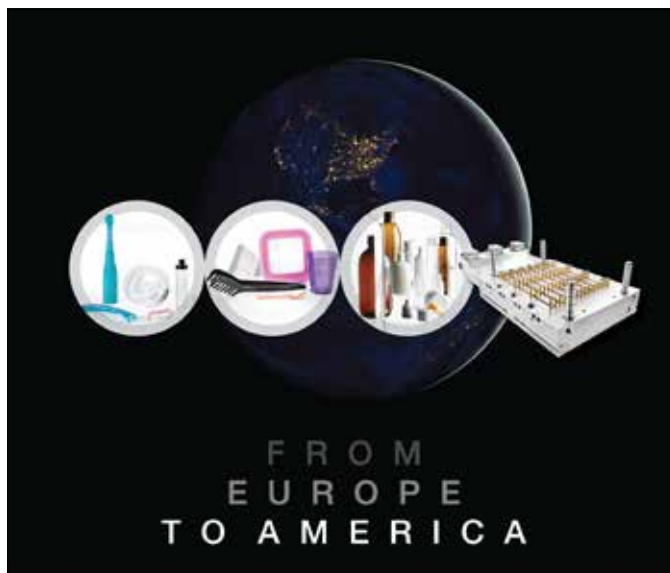
- No minutes to approve.

Treasurer's Report – Wayne Hertlein

- Checking: \$65,708.54
- Investment Accounts Total: \$90,649.82
- MTD Net Worth: \$156,358.36

Mini Tech Report/TPC Report – Wes Stephens

- Co-sponsoring a Mold Trax Event: a hands-on/classroom workshop on Mold Cooling to be held at the Ashland, Ohio facility; tentative event last week of July; Steve Johnson will coordinate;



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TO AMERICA

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- The goal is to promote and educate not to profit, but we still need to see if National SPE expects revenue, etc.; Greg will ask Cyndi and Glenn.
- As Wes gets more details, he will update the Board and/or present at next meeting.
- ANTEC: 6 speakers, 30 minutes, Monday March 30th
- Davide asking if there are provisions for video conference so Davide can still present; Wes will look into it

Division Councilor Report – Cyndi Kustush

- No report

Membership Chair – Rich Martin

	March 2020 <u>Members</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	March 2020 <u>Members</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
United States	350	76%		350
World	110	24%		110
Total Members	460	100%	0	459

- Variety of job titles
- 110 non-U.S.; most are from Canada, Taiwan and Australia
- Since Dec 2017 we are down 125 people. Is this reflective of SPE in general?
- Outside U.S. is biggest drop in members.
- Jay inquired about renewal process; Rich will ask Kathy

Sponsorship Chair Report – Renee Nehls

- \$1,250 in; still outstanding invoices
- Renee requesting help with sponsorships

Newsletter Editor Report – John Berg

- Current newsletter ready to go week of 3/16/20 and on website
- Post ANTEC in next newsletter if show occurs

Education Chair Report – Greg Osborn

- \$7,500 budgeted to give to schools; sent grant letters for current yet via email and social media
- Sending grant letters to Board for push/promotion
- Some interested schools: Blue Ridge, Waukesha Tech (MUD units)
- Greg will connect with John on strong leads

Web and Public Interest – Jay Fidorra/ Tony Demakis

- Updated header to correct spelling
- Twitter: 26 following; 66 followers

New Business

- Call out for Mold Maker and Mold Designer of the Year Awards
- Wayne sending info/link/form to Jay for site and John for newsletter



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- Amerimold: complimentary booth; Greg signing up for booth by Tool Room Live! and will connect with Dan Sweatt on the Association Showcase
- Term dates on board members including years of service. Board members shoot an email to Greg with when each member started.
- Davide inquired about launching an International Committee Chair position to help spearhead an effort to increase international outreach and increase membership; Scott Peters notes there is nothing in bylaws to prevent this position; This would be a standing committee that goes on in perpetuity; as long as someone on the Board has interest in leading.
- Scott interested in being on an International

Committee.

- Scott asked about bringing back the Awards Chair for the ANTEC 5x7 speaker plaques for our 6 speakers; Wayne or Progressive makes the inserts and assembles the plaques; Greg will reach out to Tammy at Progressive.
 - In the past, Division had (1) Best Student Paper Award and (2) Best Division Paper Award (and republished paper in newsletter)

Next Meeting: May 2020

Greg made a motion to end the meeting at 4:14PM

Scott made first motion; John made second motion



I am the Original.

Ever since the modular standard component system was invented and patented in 1960, we have been the pioneer for standardization in modern moldmaking.

- Standardized, modular system
- Standard components guaranteeing maximum productivity
- Rapid mold configuration with digital assistants
- More than 100,000 high-quality standard components available from stock

Your reliable partner for standardization – yesterday, today and tomorrow.

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January 2020

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