RMD News
The Rotational Molding Division of SPE Newsletter

1st Quarter 2019 Volume 19 Issue

FORMER ROTATIONAL MOLDING DIVISION PRESIDENT KENNETH PAWLAK HONORED

In the News:

Shell Polymers' Support to Boost Plastics Education at Penn College

In the News:

Jerico Plastic Industries, Inc. Expands Operations in Georgia

Jerico Plastic Industries, Inc.

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www.rotational.4spe.org

In this issue:

In the News:

Society of Plastics Engineers
Rotational Molding Division
New Division Chairperson
Larry Whittemore

I would like to thank Gary McQuay for serving as chairman for the SPE Rotational Molding Division for nearly 3 years!

Over the coming months we will hold elections to formalize our board and volunteers. We have chairs for most of our committees, but in many cases we do not have a chair-elect. So we need to assign new leadership to our committees. We need to identify and assign volunteers within our division in order to improve transitions and assure consistency with our visions.

As a group I believe we need to be more diligent at promoting our division. We need to have greater involvement by those in our Industry, especially those who are new and those who are younger. We need to mentor, share, grow, and "plant seeds", especially with the next generation, as they will be the ones who will continue to grow our industry and make the rotational molding business even more than it is today.

I look forward to working together with the entire SPE Rotational Molding Division.

Larry Whittemore
SPE Rotational Molding Division Chairman

In The News: Shell Polymers' Boost Plastics Education

Shell Polymers' Support to Boost Plastics Education at Penn College

A $250,000 gift from Shell Polymers will enhance Pennsylvania College of Technology's efforts to produce highly skilled graduates for the plastics industry while helping to ease the growing skills gap in plastics manufacturing.

The funding will enable Penn College -– which also operates the Plastics Innovation & Resource Center (PIRC) to assist plastics companies with research and development and the training of incumbent workers – to enhance and upgrade the academic and research lab that will now be known as the Shell Polymers Rotational Molding Center of Excellence.

"The enhancement of this lab demonstrates Shell's commitment to hands-on technology education by helping us maximize student learning using the most current technologies, and to provide training and research-and-development assistance to rotational molding companies," said Elizabeth A. Biddle, director of corporate relations at Penn College. "This support is important not only to Penn College, but to a niche industry that does not have many places in the world with the capabilities offered here. We greatly appreciate Shell's investment in our students' success."

Continued on page 4

In The News: Shell Polymers' Boost Plastics Education

Continued from page 3

"Shell believes in hands-on technology education like that offered at Penn College," said Todd Whittemore, Shell's general manager for polyethylene technology. "As a key provider to the plastics industry, we see this as an investment in not only education, but the viability of our industry. Shell is honored to partner with Penn College to help enhance not only the rotational molding sector of plastics, but the industry as a whole."

Skilled manufacturing professionals are in high demand. A growing number of retirements – and fewer qualified workers to replace the retirees – is an ongoing concern for American manufacturing. It's expected that 3.5 million manufacturing job openings over the next decade will have only 2 million trained/qualified workers available to fill them, according to Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute.

The plastics industry is no exception, requiring a mix of skilled professionals with college degrees and process technicians with manufacturing skills – acquired more through training and less through formal plastics education – to mitigate its manufacturing workforce gap.

Recognizing the opportunity this represents for students, Penn College addresses these needs both through its academic offerings – a bachelor's degree in plastics and polymer engineering technology and an associate degree in plastics and polymer technology – as well as the training it offers to incumbent workers through the PIRC.

The college also hopes to play a role in providing skilled employees for Shell Chemical Appalachia's multibillion-dollar petrochemical ("ethane cracker") complex under construction less than 250 miles west of the Penn College campus in Potter Township, Beaver County. The facility will employ 600 workers to produce ethylene, which is used in products ranging from food packaging to automotive parts.

The crucial rotational molding industry produces items that are too thick for injection or blow molding processes. Penn College has the capacity to grow its plastics programs and intends to do so with a continuing focus on providing the finest education and training opportunities to students and incumbent workers. In the next three years the college anticipates 150 students will receive hands-on training on the new rotational molder, and at least 100 incumbent workers are expected to participate in hands-on seminars at the PIRC where 45 research-and- development projects will be completed for plastics firms over the same period.

In addition, the college conducts outreach to middle and high school students regarding opportunities in the plastics industry.

Each year, Penn College hosts a Science Festival for more than 1,500 area fifth-graders. SPE's PlastiVan Program, a mobile initiative aimed at educating and exciting young people about the vast opportunities in the plastics industry, has been part of the festival the past two years. The college intends to continue this focus by inviting plastics companies to participate in the annual event.

The Plastics Innovation & Resource Center serves the education, training, and research-and-development needs of plastic processors, resin suppliers, mold builders and equipment manufacturers.

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In The News: Jerico Expands Operations

Jerico Plastic Industries, Inc. Expands Operations in Georgia

Wadsworth, OH: Jerico Plastic Industries, Inc., is excited to announce we've expanded our warehouse space in the Southeastern market in order to meet expected growth in the near future. Jerico added 20,000 square feet of warehouse space near our Greensboro, Georgia, facility to help accommodate the increased inventory required to meet growing demands of our customers. The new warehouse is located in Union Point, Georgia, approximately 10 miles from the Greensboro plant, and it brings the total capacity for warehousing to 60,000 square feet.

"We are experiencing growth and anticipate strong demand from customers across the region, and in response are increasing technical, service and management personnel at both manufacturing locations," stated Stephen Copeland, president.

In related news, the company has promoted Darrell Slocumb to general manager over the Southeastern Manufacturing and Distribution operations. He will be responsible for manufacturing operations, logistics, inventory, and the entire supply chain for both Greensboro and Union Point. Previously Slocumb held the positions of plant manager and manufacturing manager in Greensboro, and he has been with Jerico since 1987.

With manufacturing facilities in Greensboro and Minerva, Ohio, Jerico is committed to excellence in compounding for rotational molding. As a custom manufacturer of color compounds, specialty resins and recycled products, the company currently offers rotational moldable polypropylene, cross-linkable polyethylene, flame-retardant polyethylene, and special-effects polyethylene compounds.

For more information, contact Steve Copeland, president, or Brandi Frey at (330) 334-5244 info@jericoplastic.com.

Newsletter Comments/Questions? Contact:

Sponsorship: Russ Boyle at Russ.boyle@gulfviewplastics.com or call (727) 379-3072

Editor: Melissa Inman at (919) 888-0940 Melissa.inman@gulfviewplastics.com

Asst. Editor: Dr. Peter Mooney PlasRes@aol.com or call (336) 998-8004

In The News: Kenneth Pawlak Honored

FORMER ROTATIONAL MOLDING DIVISION PRESIDENT KENNETH PAWLAK HONORED

Submitted by:
Glenn L. Beall

Kenneth Pawlak

During the November 7th Reception and Awards Banquet, the University of Illinois, Chicago, College of Engineering honored Kenneth Pawlak with their 2018 Engineering Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award for his career accomplishments.

This award is presented to alumni who, through their achievement in their field of engineering, have significantly enhanced the industry and who inspire and help to instill a sense of pride among the alumni, students, faculty and staff of UIC.

Ken has over 45 years of experience in medical plastic product design and development with an emphasis on medical devices and pharmaceutical packaging.

He holds 26 product and molding process patents. Ken's creativity and experience have been acknowledged by the plastics industry with the following awards:

- R&D 100 Award by R&D Magazine in 1995 and 2016
- Design Innovator Award by Injection Molding Magazine & Gabriel, Inc., in 1995
- World Star Packing Award by the United Nations, World Packaging Organization in 1988

In 2016, Ken was inducted into the prestigious Plastics Pioneers Association.

Ken is a senior member of the Society of Plastics Engineers, past chairman of the Product Design and Development Division, past chairman of the Rotational Molding Division, and past member of the board of directors of the Medical Plastics Division.

Ken has a BSE in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and an MBA from the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management.

In The News:

Avantech Attains ISO 9001:2015 Certification

BAXTER, MN — Avantech, a multi-disciplined manufacturer of tool-building and production machining solutions based in Baxter, Minnesota, is pleased to announce its recent attainment of ISO 9001:2015 certification.

Achieving certification per the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) rigorous standards aligns with Avantech's objective to standardize its manufacturing procedures and systems, provides a platform for continuous improvement, and delivers consistent, quality outcomes from both its tool-building and production machining operations.

"We're thrilled to achieve our long-standing goal of ISO 9001:2015 certification," said Tom Innis, Avantech's president. "Historically, we've always had a robust quality system. Taking this important step forward with ISO certification allows us to better deliver consistent quality and value to our customers and positions us relative to the growth opportunities we're pursuing."

A primary component of the company's growth is Avantech's recently added production machining capability—made possible through significant investment in people, equipment, and quality assurance technology. Headed by Kevin Cook, general manager, and Jay Landree, CNC business manager, production machining is poised for rapid and significant expansion in 2019, and this will further diversify Avantech's manufacturing capabilities, skills profile, and customer base.

"ISO certification will fuel growth of our production machining offering and is a requirement to pursuing our strategic growth targets," said Cook, who was promoted to general manager last May after joining Avantech in 2017. ISO certification will also positively impact Avantech's tool-building business. "Without question, the ISO certification will drive consistency and performance gains throughout our entire manufacturing operation," he added.

Jay Landree, who was closely involved in the ISO certification process, remarked at how the Avantech team rallied around this strategic objective.

"We laid out this goal of attaining ISO certification as quickly as possible," said Landree, "and accomplished this even faster than I thought was possible. Thanks to the Avantech team for pulling together and making it happen."

With state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Baxter, Minnesota, Avantech counts on more than 30 years of experience in delivering value-added solutions to help its customers succeed in a wide variety of OEM market sectors - from involvement at the beginning stages of product design to delivering highly engineered solutions on a global scale. To learn more, visit www.avantech.com.

In The News: SPE Board Meeting Summary

RMD Board Meeting Summary from March 14, 2019

ANTEC: Denis Rodrigue wasn't able to attend the meeting. Edwin Tam has been assisting Denis with ANTEC matters (e.g., reviewing papers), and he stated enough papers have been submitted and approved to fill a morning session (Monday morning, Glenn Beall added).

Looking beyond 2019 Edwin stated the next ANTEC will be held in San Antonio in March 2020. He agreed with the board's decision not to hold a TopCon this year and to have one instead in 2020. We should probably skip having one in 2021 to avoid a conflict with NPE that year. And he agrees with the decision to have the board organize the next TopCon on our own and not partner with SPE headquarters.

Past President Advisor Committee Meeting: Gary McQuay asked Glenn to summarize the insights gained from the PPAC meetings. Glenn began by saying these meetings were called due to the fact RMD has not been functioning in the manner it should be. Some of the committees are not staffed, and some that are staffed are not functioning properly. At the same time there are board members who have no committee assignment. There are even board members who are not SPE members; Glenn has urged them to apply for SPE membership.

Glenn stated the current chairman (Gary) has had to serve for 2 years and 10 months. That's because we do not have a chairman-elect. No one has volunteered for that position. Most board members have served beyond their term of office, Joe Lindsey being the sole exception. When ANTEC concludes in May all board members will have served beyond their terms of office.

Glenn stated we need to take corrective action, and that's why he called for the PPAC meetings on October 19th and 28th – namely, to get their perspective on the issues and possible solutions. One of the decisions reached was to establish a nominating committee to find a chairman. Glenn, Larry Schneider and Rob Donaldson make up the committee.

Another decision was to organize an email blast to all RMD members seeking volunteers to the board. That effort succeeded, and we now have 5 new volunteers – namely,

Brennan Wodrig
Anthony Wagner
Brandi Frey
Greg Treich
Brian Boarder

Edwin has also been participating in RMD meetings since last year.

Glenn stated all these volunteers have been vetted by the nominating committee, and he recommended Gary approve them as volunteers. Eventually all/some might stand for election for positions on the board. Gary agreed and appointed all 6 individuals as volunteers.

TopCon: At that point of the meeting Larry Whittemore took over as chairman. The first item on his agenda was filling the position of TopCon vice-chairman. If anyone on the board is willing to assume that position, Larry suggested they email him ASAP. He said the board has decided to not hold a TopCon here in 2019 and instead focus on having on in June 2020 in Cleveland. Beyond the chairman-elect position Larry will need more board members to assist him. Peter Mooney and Edwin volunteered to help.

Webinars: Mike Paloian is willing to organize future webinars. However, he stressed webinar content is not the issue; it's getting the word out effectively. He noted SPE has an attractive proposition where they make their webinars free of charge to SPE members, and then charge non-members a modest fee. Mike stressed he would need a partner to liaise with SPE for promoting the webinars. Edwin said he had been consulting with Mike on this, and he made several suggestions as to how the webinars would work. Glenn suggested (and Larry Whittemore agreed) Mike and Edwin should work out a webinar plan and submit it to the board for consideration.

Continued on page 9

In The News: SPE Board Meeting Summary

Continued from page 8

Newsletter: Melissa Inman is pleased to have Brian Boarder and Brandi Frey helping her with the newsletter. She needs help sourcing articles for publication, and she asked board members to assist her with this. Technical material is always preferable. In response to Kathy Schacht's question, Melissa stated there is no fixed word or page limit; normally 2-3 pages suffice. Melissa tries to produce a newsletter every quarter if there is enough material. Bruce suggested publishing the secretary's minutes for this meeting in the next newsletter since it will include important information for RMD members.

Education: Hank White wasn't able to attend the meeting. Glenn updated the board on the proposal from Ferris State University to create a rotomolding course. They have asked RMD to donate $2,050 for one ARM 2.1 powder flow funnel and a bulk-density measuring cup ($486), six Ro-Tap sieves, brass cover rings and pans ($358.88), and one Ro-Tap stand and sound enclosure ($909.68), plus shipping ($300.00). Glenn believes Ferris State has the ability and the interest to develop into a center for rotomolding training. Glenn moved the board approve that donation. Bruce seconded the motion, and it was approved. Bruce Muller was authorized by the board to purchase and ship these items to Tom Van Pernis at Ferris State.

Glenn added the board has already approved money for a scholarship awarded to a student at Penn College of Technology. Down the road we may offer a similar scholarship to a Ferris State student.

Larry Whittemore stated we need to find someone willing to chair the education section. Glenn suggested we wait for a volunteer after the coming elections to the board.

Designer's Corner

DESIGNER'S CORNER

Part #14

ROTATIONALLY MOLDED HOLES -- PART 1 -- TYPES

By: Glenn Beall

Editor's Note:

This is the 14th in a series of twenty-six articles that will review how to design rotationally molded plastics parts and products. We look forward to publishing these articles over many issues. This is a great opportunity for newcomers to the community as well as an always appreciated chance for review of important information.

The ability to provide holes into and through the wall of a part is an important attribute of any plastics molding process.

During the heating portion of the rotational molding process, the plastic material coats all hot surfaces on the cavity that it comes in contact with. One advantage of this process is that the molded parts do not contain the weld-lines at holes that weaken parts produced by the melt-flow processes such as injection and compression molding.

Rotational molding is not ideal for producing parts with holes through the wall. This is a handicap that the process shares with thermoforming and blow molding. In spite of this limitation, molders and tool makers have succeeded in developing techniques for molding holes through, into, and onto rotationally molded parts. Every conceivable size and shape of hole and recess has been molded, but round holes are the most common.

Holes that project into a molded part, as shown in Figure 1, are the easiest to produce. They are formed when the plastic coats inward projecting core pins.

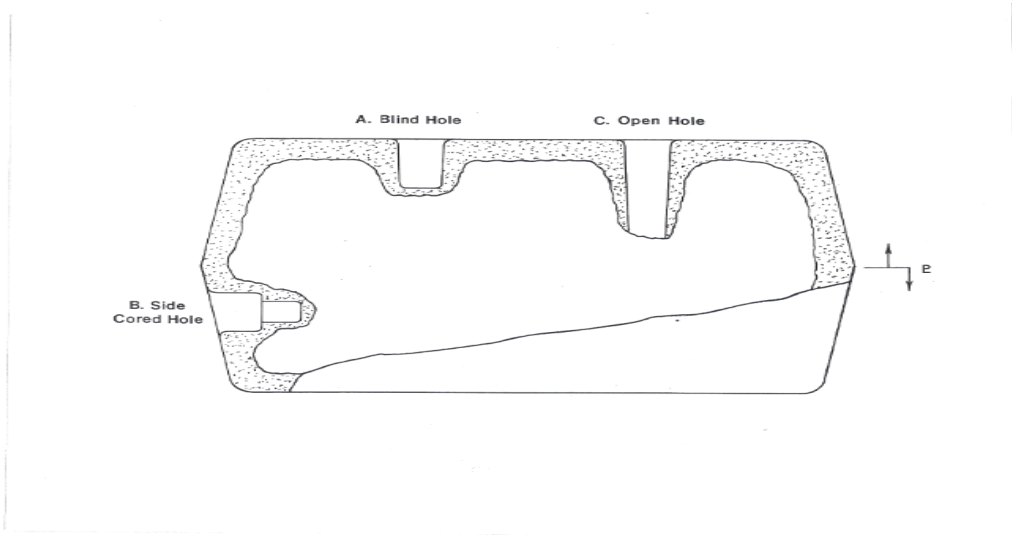

Figure 1: Inwardly Projecting Holes

Continued on page 12

Designer's Corner

Continued from page 11

Blind holes (Fig. 1A and B) are produced when the plastic coats the free end of the core pin. An open, or through hole (Fig. 1C) can be molded when the core pin extends into the cavity so far that the free end cannot be heated enough to be coated by the plastic material. The core pins used for molding through holes are often made of a low thermal conductivity metal, such as stainless steel. This technique reduces the distance that the side walls of the hole project into the molded part. The free ends of these cores are sometimes coated with slippery baked-on fluorocarbon or silicone that makes it difficult for the plastic to adhere to the core. Some open holes are produced by machining an opening in the bottom of a blind hole.

The diameter and depth of these holes are only limited by the process's ability to heat the core to a high enough temperature for the plastic to adhere to and coat the core pin. There are exceptions, but a length-to-diameter ratio of four to one is possible with small, solid steel cores. A larger ratio can be achieved by using core pins made of higher heat conducting aluminum and copper alloys.

Outward-projecting holes are more difficult to produce. An outward-projecting open hole (Fig. 2C and E) can be produced by molding a closed, hollow, tubular projection that is then cut to length after demolding. Hollow projections of this type can be machined to provide inside or outside threads. A flexible hose can be clamped or welded to the projection. Round projections of this type require a minimum outside diameter of at least five times the nominal wall thickness in order to mold properly.

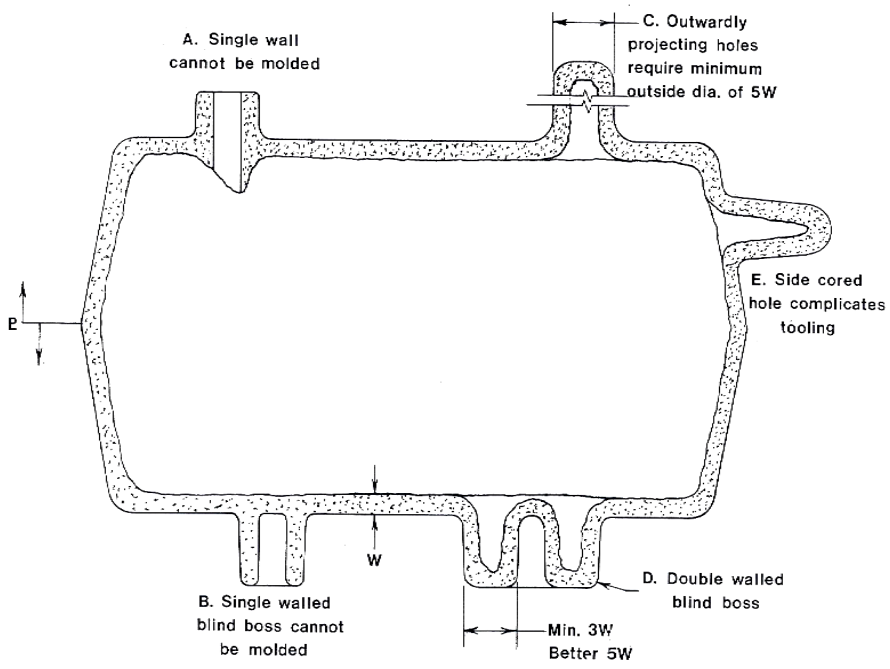

Figure 2: Outwardly Projecting Holes

Continued on page 13

Designer's Corner

Continued from page 12

The outward-projecting open and closed holes (Fig. 2A and B) are single-walled structures that cannot be produced by rotational molding. The liquid PVC plastisols are the only plastic material that can be considered for single-wall details of this type.

An outward-projecting closed hole, or blind boss, such as that shown in Fig. 2B, could easily be provided by closed-molding processes such as injection, compression, or structural foam molding. Blink bosses of this type are frequently used with molded-in metal inserts and threaded fasteners to locate and anchor a tank, or for the mounting of pumps or motors. If a blind boss is required on a rotationally molded part, it must be designed with enough space around the core pin to accommodate the flow of the powdered plastic material. The walls around such a hole are closely spaced parallel walls. The open space for the plastic material must be a minimum of three and preferably five times the part's nominal wall thickness, as shown in Fig. 2D.

Holes shown in Figs. 1A and C, and Figs. 2C and D are positioned perpendicular to the mold's parting line. The core pins that form these holes are withdrawn from the molded part in the normal mold-opening operation. These holes are in line with the opening of the mold. These holes can be provided in a simple two-piece mold with no loose parts. This is a highly desirable arrangement for both mold construction and production molding.

The important topic of hole location will be discussed in the next Designers' Corner article.

This article is a condensed extract from G. L. Beall's Hanser Publishers book entitled "Rotational Molding Design, Materials, Tooling, & Processing" available at hanser@ware-pak.com or phone (877) 751-5052.

ROTATIONAL MOLDING

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Society of Plastics Engineers
Division of Rotational Molding
13 Church Hill Road
Newtown, CT. 06470

Phone: (847) 549-9970
Fax: (847) 549-9935

Rotational Molding Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers

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(727) 379-3072
Russ.boyle@gulfviewplastics.com

Rotational Molding Division

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Advertising in the newsletter also includes a business card-size advertisement on the Rotational Molding Division's website

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RMD Interim Financial Report

SPE RMD Annual Budget 2019

Period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

	Budget	2 yr actual 2016 & 2017	2 yr pojection 2018 & 2019
Income			
Interest	$50.00	$90.00	$100.00
SPE Rebate	$500.00	$2,247.00	$2,500.00
Newsletter ads	$2,000.00	$0.00	$0.00
TopCon 2018	$39,000.00	$39,303.00	$40,000.00
Total Income	$41,550.00	$41,640.00	$42,600.00
Expenditures			
Awards	$1,500.00	$1,932.00	$2,500.00
Topcon---2018	$20,000.00	$18,055.00	$20,000.00
Board Mtgs	$1,000.00	$0.00	$2,000.00
Website	$500.00	$0.00	
Design Competition		$0.00	
Roto---local (ARM-SPE) **	$5,000.00	$7,531.00	$15,000.00
Conf & Trade show	$3,000.00	$320.00	$500.00
ANTEC student activity	$1,500.00	$1,750.00	$2,000.00
Advertising	$3,500.00	$0.00	
Counselor ***	$5,000.00	$0.00	
Total Expenditures	$41,000.00	$29,588.00	$42,000.00
Net Income/Loss	$550.00	$12,052.00	$600.00

*** No cost at present for counselor

** 2017 was ~$5000 and expect this will increase

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SPE-RMD LEADERSHIP ROSTER 2018-2019
Officers/Directors/Chairman

Glenn Beall
Glenn Beall Plastics
32981 N. River Road
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847)-549-9970
glennbeallplas@msn.com
Historian
Past Division Chairman 1999-2000

Russ Boyle
Gulf View Plastics
18816 Oak Way Drive
Hudson, FL 34667
(727)-379-3072
Cell (270)-823-2256
Russ.boyle@gulfviewplastics.com
Treasurer

Rob Donaldson
Exxon Mobil
909 Osito Court
Keller, TX 76248
Cell 682-410-9223
Robert.d.donaldson@exxonmobil.com
Chairman-Elect
Past Chairman 2012-2015

Melissa Inman
Gulf View Plastics
109 Lands End Dr.
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(919)-888-0940
Melissa.inman@gulfviewplastics.com
Publications/Newsletter Chairman
Web Page Chairman
Director 2014-2017

Glenn Larkin
Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. LP
146 Plastics Tech Center
Phillips 66
Research Center
Highways 60 & 123
Bartlesville, OK 74003-6670
(918)-977-4761
RATZLJD@cpchem.com
Councilor

Joseph Lindsey
TrafFix Devices, Inc.
2303 W. Jackson
Fairfield, IA 52556
(641)-472-5096
jlindsey@traffixdevices.com
Membership Chair

Gary McQuay
Engineering Manager
Plastics Innovation & Resources Center
DIF26
Pennsylvania College of Technology
One College Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570)-321-5533 Ext. 7681
Cell (570)-490-4667
Chairman 2015-

Dr. Peter Mooney
Plastics Custom Research Services
695 Burton Road
Advance, NC 27006
(336)-998-8004
PlasRes@aol.com
Secretary
Publication/Newsletter Co-Chairman

Bruce Muller
Plastics Consulting, Inc.
682 SW Falcon Street
Palm City, FL 34990
(772)-781-6699
plasticsC@aol.com
Honorary Member

Michael Paloian
Integrated Design Systems
74 West Main Street
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
(516)-482-2181 x 101
paloian@idsys.com
Webinar Chairman
Past Division Chairman 2007-2008

Jon Ratzlaff
Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. LP
146 Plastics Tech Center
Phillips 66
Research Center
Highways 60 & 123
Bartlesville, OK 74003-6670
(918)-977-4761
RATZLJD@cpchem.com
Inter/Intrasociety Chairman
Past Division Chairman 2001-2002
SPE International President

Dr. Denis Rodrigue
University Laval
1065 Avenue De La Medecine
Dept. Chemical Engineering RM 3546
Quebec City, QC G1V OA6 Canada
(418)-656-2903
Denis.rodrigue@gch.ulaval.ca
ANTEC Technical Program Chairman
Director 2014-2017

Rotational Molding Division Past Chairs

Glenn Beall	1999-2000	Paul Nugent	2005-2006
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Continued on page 21

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Officers/Directors/Chairman

Larry Schneider
Schneider Plastics, Inc.
39155 N. Pine Grove Avenue
Wadsworth, IL 60083
(847)-623-7535
schplastic@aol.com
Awards Chairman
Past Division Chairman
2004-2005

Thomas Steele
Cytec Industries
1937 West Main Street
Stamford, CT 06904
(203) 321 2261
Thomas.steele@cytec.com
Director 2014-2017

Ken Wessler
Ohio Rotational Molding
503 Joe E Brown Ave
Holgate, OH 43527
(419)-294-7269
ken@ohiorotationalmolding.com
Grants and Scholarships Chair
Past Division Chairman 2006-2007

Charles (Hank) White
Plastics Resources Group
49 Richard Lee Lane
Phoenixville, PA 19460
(570)-933-1366
PRG101@comcast.net
Past Division Chairman

Tom Van Pernis
Assistant Professor
Ferris State University
Plastics & Rubber Engineering Technology
919 Campus Drive, NEC 219
Big Rapids MI 49307
(231)-591-2634

Larry Whittemore
Stoner, Inc.
P.O. Box 65
1070 Robert Fulton Highway
Quarryville, PA. 17566
(717)-786-7355 Ext. 3118
Lwhittemore@StonerSolutions.com
Division Chair
TopCon Chair
Director 2015-2018

Fred Schockey
WinSell Specialty Plastics
1729 #J Merriman Road
Akron, OH 44313
330-836-7421
fred@winsellinc.com
Appointed Director 2018

SPE Liaison

Kathy Schacht
Society of Plastics Engineers
6 Berkshire Blvd. Suite 306
Bethel, CT 06801-1065
(203) 740 5430
Cell (203)-775-8490
kschacht@4spe.org

Volunteers

Brennan Wodrig
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Plastics Innovation & Resources Center
DIF26
One College Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570)-321-5533
bbw3@pct.edu

Anthony Wagner
127 W. Worth Street
Lockhaven, PA 17745
570-424-1599
Apw5@pct.edu
ANTEC Committee

Brandi Frey
Jerico Plastics
7970 Boneta Road
Wadsworth, OH 44281
(330)-408-9220
brandi@jericoplastic.com
Newsletter Committee

Edwin Tam
Teknor Apex Company
505 Central Avenue
Pawtucket RI 02861
401-725-8000
etam@teknorapex.com

Greg Treich
Solvay
1937 West Main Street
Stamford, CT 06902
203-321-2238
Gregory.treich@solvay.com
Website Committee

Brian Boarder
PlayPower Inc.
907 E Country Road
Monett, MO 65708
417-354-2557
Brian.boarder@playpower.com

Submit your news story or technical article to the RMD Newsletter !

The submission deadline for the next edition is Sept. 1st.

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