



# Western Plastics Pioneers Newsletter

Q1 2011

*The objectives of the Plastics Pioneers Association shall be to recognize achievement in the field of plastics/polymer science, engineering, technology and management; to support industry-wide educational programs; and to promote the study and improvement of plastics, science engineering and technology.*

## First Recent Election under 1990 Constitution and Bylaws

In the Second Quarter 2010 Newsletter an article appeared that started off with "Our Pioneers Historian, Bob Halliday, tells me that there have been revisions to the Western Plastics Pioneers Constitution & Bylaws that eliminated the class of Trustee Memberships leaving only the class of Pioneer Memberships, but we cannot confirm it. If any of you elder Pioneers have a written copy of Constitution & Bylaws documents dated later than those referenced here (1980,1981,1985), please let me know. It will help with the updating process."

Early August 2010 a copy was found dated 1990 that was the answer to our search. Bob Halliday was correct. However, there were several surprises in the newly found "officially current" Constitution and Bylaws that were different from the revisions being drafted by the current Board Members, namely the Bylaws Revisions Team of Richard Luciano, John Szary and Spencer Knapp. While the 1990 Board had achieved the necessary objectives of eliminating the Trustee Membership category and elevating the Pioneers Board to govern the organization, it also increased the number of Directors from eleven to fifteen, exclusive of Ex-Officio Directors which included past presidents, and it also increased the tenure of office of Directors from one year to three years. Since some of the changes come as surprises and the Bylaws Revisions Team was preparing Draft #8 for vote of all the Directors, we will probably come to a conclusion that merges the best of both documents into a 2011 Constitution and Bylaws that is optimal for the Pioneers.

In the mean time, we have an election process timetable that calls for the Pioneers Board to be nominated and the slate of nominees to be voted upon by the Pioneers membership. The nominees are listed below on a Ballot for your consideration and vote. The Ex-Officio Board Members of past presidents, Bob Halliday and Joe La Fountain need no vote to stay on the Board, as does Board Advisor Terry Price, Plastics Director, Cerritos College. Some of the nominees have provided a brief autobiography and picture that appear in this Newsletter.

## Western Plastics Pioneers Ballot 2011 Election of Board of Directors

Vote	Nominees (in alphabetical order)
Yes ___ No ___	Roger France (New)
Yes ___ No ___	John Hoven (New)
Yes ___ No ___	Dolores Ketner (Incumbent)
Yes ___ No ___	Spencer Knapp (Incumbent)
Yes ___ No ___	Greg Leighton (Incumbent)
Yes ___ No ___	Richard Luciano (Incumbent)
Yes ___ No ___	Rusty Miller (Incumbent)
Yes ___ No ___	Chris Mitchell (Incumbent)
Yes ___ No ___	Vishu Shah (Incumbent)
Yes ___ No ___	John Szary (Incumbent)

You may vote conveniently by e-mail to Chris Mitchell, Secretary at [chris.plastics@ca.rr.com](mailto:chris.plastics@ca.rr.com)

or by regular mail to: **Western Plastics Pioneers  
1840 W Whittier Blvd. #143  
La Habra, CA 90631**

### Board Members

#### Officers

President  
Spencer Knapp  
949-643-5182  
[SLKnapp@aol.com](mailto:SLKnapp@aol.com)

Vice President  
Richard Luciano  
562-690-4440

Secretary  
Chris Mitchell  
858-405-3599  
[Chris.plastics@ca.rr.com](mailto:Chris.plastics@ca.rr.com)

Treasurer  
Rosetta "Rusty" Miller  
562-947-5058

Past President  
Joe LaFountain

#### Board Members

Newsletter Chair  
Vishu Shah  
714-674-1981  
714-674-1919 fax  
[Vishu@consultekUSA.com](mailto:Vishu@consultekUSA.com)

Education Chair  
Terry Price  
Cerritos College  
562-860-2451 x 2927  
[tprice@cerritos.edu](mailto:tprice@cerritos.edu)

Membership Chair  
John Szary  
714-974-3999  
[jszary@aol.com](mailto:jszary@aol.com)

**C & G Mercury Plastics**  
Custom Injection Molders of Thermo Plastics  
Gregory Leighton  
President  
12729 Foothill Boulevard • Sylmar, California • 91342  
Phone: 818.8373773 • Fax: 818.8373770  
Email: [sales@cgplastics.net](mailto:sales@cgplastics.net) • [www.cgplastics.net](http://www.cgplastics.net)  
Society of The Plastic Industry

## Membership News

I want to wish all a very Happy New Year. We need to update all our membership records. Please send me your complete Bio along with a JPG picture for our files at [WesternPioneers@aol.com](mailto:WesternPioneers@aol.com).

We have a goal to increase our membership in 2011 and I need your help. Please pick three long time, 25 years or more, plastics "alumni" and email me their names, addresses, phone number and email address, or as much information as you may have. We wish to welcome Rodger Foster to the Western Plastics Pioneers.

I look forward to seeing you all at our annual August Luncheon this year.

John Szary

## Dear Western Plastics Pioneers Member

The Western Plastics Pioneers scholarship program has been a great success since starting in 2008. Administered by the Society of Plastics Engineers Foundation, we increased the scholarship award to \$2000 and is available for undergraduate students including those enrolled in associate degree or technical degree programs. Applicants to be qualified must be attending a school in Arizona, California, Oregon or Washington and have demonstrated interest in a plastics industry career. The Board's Scholarship Committee reviews the applications and selects the candidate most qualified based on internal criteria. The Foundation sends an award letter to the recipient and arranges for the funds to be paid directly to the university.

Will you help grow the program to enable us to offer the scholarship to more than one student in 2011? Your participation in this program will be greatly appreciated by the students and your fellow members. Your donations will be recognized in future Western Plastics Pioneers publications including the newsletter with broad distribution. For those of you who are feeling especially generous, a \$500.00 donation will be recognized as a shared award issued by you and the WPP and so noted to the recipient, SPE foundation and national SPE publications.

Please make your checks payable to:

**Western Plastics Pioneers** and mail them to:

Rusty Miller,  
8410 Seranata,  
Whittier, CA 90603

You may use this letter to send your donation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Western Plastics Pioneers Scholarship Program

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your participation in the scholarship program.

Richard Luciano, Vice President



## Ladies Plastics Golf Organization 11 th Annual Golf Tournament

Donates **\$30,000**



with the support of the *Plastics Industry* and friends to the Robert and Beverly Family Cancer Center Breast Health Program.

These funds assist in helping both men and women in need to determine biopsy diagnosis, prosthesis bras, lumpodema sleeves, transportation to and from chemotherapy session, physical therapy classes, adult and children's literature on learning how to survive the breast cancer road to recovery.

If you, a friend or an associate are interested in helping to provide these items of "in kind" services to Breast Cancer patients, please contact:

*Dolores Ketner, President/Founder – 909-573-9035*

[DeeKetner@aol.com](mailto:DeeKetner@aol.com)

*Rusty Miller, Tournament Director – 562-947-5058*

[rmiller@timesync.com](mailto:rmiller@timesync.com)

*Louise Riley, Financial Director - 951-233-5940*

[Louiser717@gmail.com](mailto:Louiser717@gmail.com)

*Grace Pyle, Sponsors/Donations Director – 951-231-1480*

[gpyle@trademark-plstics.com](mailto:gpyle@trademark-plstics.com)

*Lauretta Daniels, Volunteer Director 949-707-3125*

[laura.d227@hotmail.com](mailto:laura.d227@hotmail.com)

***The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament benefiting Breast Cancer Awareness is being held Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at Coyote Hills Golf Course – please "SAVE THE DATE" and join us for a day of fulfillment and FUN!***



## Roger France

Married: wife's name is Lynnette

Children: 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren

My career in the plastics industry began in 1962 as a molding machine operator for R&G Sloane Mfg. Co. in Sun Valley, CA.

Next, Marbon Chemical Division of Borg Warner March 1965 as Customer Service Representative, area of coverage - 11 Western States. Promoted to Technical Sales Rep for Borg Warner Chemicals July, 1970 -- everything south of I-10. (you have to be "old" to recognize the "Marbon" name!)

A year stint selling polystyrene + Cosden/Fina's first ABS product -- during the 1970's material shortage -- what an experience! Time to move back to engineering plastics and away from commodities.

Early 1977 joined GE Plastics as the 1st "all products" Market Development Specialist - it was the end of the Jack Welch era @ GE Plastics and they were always the best at marketing plastics and industrial goods - what an opportunity to learn and gain that experience.

Next on my agenda was to learn about being a sales manager for a custom molding company, my GE friends brought an opportunity to me in Tacoma, Washington - Monitor Molded Products. An interesting experience but (always remember . "nothing counts before the 'but'!") my heart was in selling thermoplastic resins - stick to your strengths I was always taught.

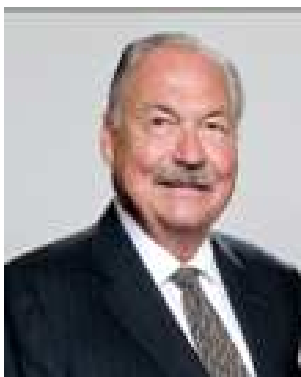
March of 1980 (March seems to be a magic month for me) and Borg Warner Chemicals knocks on my door, they are not able to grow in some of the areas that they would like to take the business, they need a market development program and the possibility be of me returning to my "Plastics Alma Mater" to set up a field market development system similar to one used by GE. I took that challenge!

In 1986 Bob Carroll (my favorite and best boss, a great manager! and a great coach !!!) lured me away from Borg Warner to move back to Southern California - AMEN !

As a 4th generation native Californian to remain in Southern California and/or the West Coast you'd better be ready to "change hats" -- that led me to Monsanto, LNP, BASF, Flextronics (contract manufacturer), DSM and Ticona.

Major program accomplishments:

- \* Apple II -- major program change -- conversion from structural foam housing to injection molding: Apple Computer saved \$13M in first year + increased output >500% -- 1983;
- \* Macintosh -- 1st year sales = 54 million lbs.
- \* Hewlett Packard DeskJet program -- utilization of UL 94HB ABS vs. ABS/PC -- a) >35% raw material cost savings; b) met HPUV test without costly additive systems
- \* WaterPik -- chose Cycolac ABS over major competitor (Kralastic) -- decades long sales



## John P. Hoven

John graduated from South Dakota School Of Mines and Technology in 1967 and immediately started his plastics career with Shell Chemical. Except for 3 years as an Army Engineer Officer, John stayed in plastics with Bicolor, Cal Mold, Whittaker and the company he founded, Structural Plastics Systems. John joined Pelican Products in 1989 to establish in house manufacturing. Today Pelican employs 1500 people with major manufacturing in Torrance, CA and Massachusetts and over \$350 million in sales. Although John is retired from Pelican he still is an active stockholder.

John's plastics industry involvement includes serving as President of the Southern California Chapter of The Society of Plastics Engineer. Chairman of the Structural Plastics Division of the Society of the Plastics Industry, and Chairman of the SPI Western Conference.

John and his wife Cheryl are enjoying their retirement with extensive travel, snow skiing, and spending time with their 5 children and 6 grandchildren in Manhattan Beach.

## **Dolores “Dee” Lancia Ketner**

Began my Plastics career in early 1980s in Pittsfield, Mass. in the Phenolic Resins Division of General Electric Plastics. Was promoted to the West Coast a few years later to Sales for the Lexan, Valox and Noryl Resins Division of GE Plastics. Became interested in the trade organization SPE, elected to the board of the Southern California Section where I filled every Board of Director Chair and Directorship through President Elect. Also supported the Section by helping to develop 3 chapters in Southern California under the Section. Participated in both the Regional and National Technical Conferences as Chairman and Committee member a number of occasions with Pactec and Antec. Received the National Membership Award for outstanding membership growth.

From 1984-1987 Sales and Marketing for Avecor, Color manufacturer. In 1987 joined General Polymers, now Ashland, Distribution as Senior Sales and Executive Sales over 22 years and later Business Development Manager. While at Ashland was invited to take on a leadership role with Ashland Government Affairs group as a lobbyist in Washington, DC and Sacramento. Received the Ashland General's Club award numerous times for outstanding sales growth, Achievement Awards from major suppliers and the Ashland President's Award for community involvement.

From 1990-2006 was involved with the SPI board of directors local, regional and international. President. Southern California Chapter from 1999-2001, a Western Regional Conference Director for 10 years and General Chairman in 2000. In 2003 received the SPI Western Region Most Distinguished Service Award. From 2000-2005 was nominated to the SPI International Board of Directors focusing on Public Opinion and Education involving creating the Walt Disneyworld “Plastics is Fantastic” exhibit in Orlando, Florida.

2000 founder and President of the Ladies Plastics Golf Organization generating funds of over \$200,000 donated to patients in need who develop Breast Cancer.

2009 joined the Western Plastics Pioneers and became a board member that same year.

Currently serving as Special Events Director and Plastics Memorabilia Restoration committee member.



## **Spencer L. Knapp**

Married to Carolyn Easterling in 1960. Received a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from Oklahoma University and attended MBA classes at University of Houston. Joined Monsanto Company in 1962. Acquired two process patents as an Engineer, held management positions in Marketing, Commercial Development, Sales and International Marketing. Became Director, North Pacific located in Tokyo. Retired from Monsanto in 1994 after 32 years and operated Knapp Consulting specializing in International Marketing until 2000. Held offices in AIChE, SPI and Western Plastics Pioneers. Currently on the boards of Oklahoma University and Western Plastics Pioneers.

## **Gregory Leighton**

Greg began working in the plastics industry at the age of six, sweeping floors at his father's company C&G Plastics. C&G Plastics merged with his uncle's company, Mercury Plastics, in 1974, to form C&G Mercury Plastics. A custom injection molding company, C&G Mercury has contracted to injection mold everything from cosmetic accessories, office equipment and toys to creating parts for the aerospace, automotive, and electronic industries.

After high school, Greg joined the United States Navy where he spent 4 years serving in the U.S. Ballistic Missile Submarine Fleet. Upon returning home, he went back to work at C&G Mercury Plastics. Greg purchased the company from his father, Chuck Leighton in 1994 and has since acted as its President, CEO & CFO.

Greg and his wife of 25 years, Marla are the proud parents to their three children, Zachary, Savannah and Cassandra.

## **Richard Luciano**

Richard was born in New Jersey and graduated from New Jersey Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering. A few years later he completed a Master of Business Administration degree at California State University, Los Angeles.

Richard's career includes: Process Engineer with Marbon Chemical division Borg Warner in Parkersburg, W.Va. and various management positions including Plant Manager of Borg Warner Pipe Products; Plant Manager Lasco Industries; Plastic Polymers part owner; Lambda Marketing Inc. founder / owner and eventually sold the business to Ashland Chemical; Regional Director General Polymers (Div. of Ashland)

Richard was very active in industry organizations. He joined SPE in 1974 and was committee chairperson for several functions, culminating as President of the Southern California chapter in 1978. He was active in SPI starting in 1973, holding



many positions at the chapter, section and national levels including Chairman of the Western Section in 1993. He is a recipient of SPI's Distinguished Service Award.

Richard's volunteer activities also include SCORE, USARC, MBPP HOA Board, Plastic Pioneers Association, and Western Plastics Pioneers Association, currently Board member and Vice President. He has been inducted into the Western Plastics Pioneers Hall of Fame.

Richard and his wife Kathy have been married 40 years. They have two adult children and one grand daughter.

## **Rosetta 'Rusty' Miller**

Introduced to Plastics in 1972 when employed by M&T Chemicals.

1974 joined the processing side of the industry while working for KRK, an injection molder and mold maker, in sales and marketing, during which time attended classes, at Cerritos College, in Plastics Manufacturing and Technology where I received my certificate.

Worked in Sales and Marketing from 1974 until my retirement from RTP Company in 2003. During these years I became an SPE member, served on the Southern California Section Board from 1977, worked through the chairs becoming President of the section 1981-1982. In 1983 became a member of SPI while employed with LNP Corp., became a board member in 1987, serving on committee's for the Western Section conferences, and remained on the board through 1995 as Immediate Past President. My terms as President was 1991-1993.

My membership in Western Plastics Pioneers began in 1996, became a board member the same year as a Director. My current position is that of Treasurer.

## **Chris Mitchell**

Chris began his plastics career in 1973 in Buena Park, and after serving in the US Navy he retired. He has had various positions in tooling and project engineering including such wonderful companies as Formula Plastics, Trend Technologies and Toshiba Machine. Chris is currently with Helix Medical, Baldwin Park CA and is leading R&D with the strategic LIM/LSR initiative. He holds a BS in Operations Management and an MA in Management with an emphasis in International Business. He has earned numerous certificates and awards in the plastics industry and has over 16 years service on the Board of Directors for the SOCAL Society of Plastics Engineers. He is past Secretary of the Southern California Chapter of the SPI and is currently the secretary for WPP. He has a wonderful mate Toni and has two children, Eric 23 and Krysten 19 and 2 Grand Children Brody 6mo and Makayla 6yrs.



## **Vishu H. Shah**

Vishu is President of Consultek Consulting Group, a consulting firm specializing in Business Growth strategic planning and new product/Technology strategy development. His 35 years of extensive practical experience in plastics Industry includes positions as president and cofounder of Performance Engineered Products – a custom injection molder, Senior Plastics Engineer of Rain Bird Corporation and Nibco Inc. His areas of expertise include product design, processing, automation, materials, rapid prototyping, tooling, failure analysis and testing. He is the author of *Handbook of Plastics Testing and Failure Analysis* and has taught various plastics related subjects throughout his career. Currently, he is teaching classes covering, Plastics Theory and

Practice, Scientific Molding, Product Design and Tooling at CAL POLY, Pomona. An active, involved professional, he is a senior member, past president of So. Cal. SPE section, SPE Honored Service Member and also a board member of SPI Western Moldmakers Division. Vishu is a graduate of UMass Lowell where he received B.S. and M.S. degree in Plastics Engineering.



## **John Szary**

Incumbent WPP Director and Membership Chair

John received his Bachelors Degree in Chemistry from Rutgers University in 1969. He has worked in Plastics and Chemical Research for Shell Chemical and Princeton Chemical prior to earning his Degree. While in New Jersey, John sold resins and plastic additives for Union Carbide and American Cyanamid. The later transferred John and his family to California in 1972. There he was employed by Mobay Chemical, Bayer, Dyno, ALBA Enterprises and Color Technology selling Urethane resins, RIM technology, hot runner systems, tooling accessories and color concentrates. John is currently on Board of Directors of SAMPE, SPE and the Western Plastics Pioneers. John now works for The Pinnacle Group in financial services.

# WESTERN PLASTICS PIONEERS

## "SPECIAL EVENTS" **SAVE THE DATES**

(look for detailed information for all events in separate flyers in the near future)

### " Day At The RACES"

Santa Anita Park, Arcadia, CA  
Saturday, April 16 or 23, 2011

### " Pageant Of The MASTERS"

- Only Make Believe -  
and

### "Festival Of Arts"

Laguna Beach  
Sunday, July 17, 2011

### " WPP Annual Luncheon"

Yacht Club (TBD)  
Sunday, August 7, 2011

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