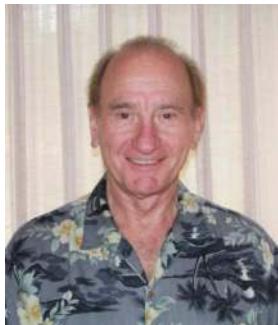




Western Plastics Pioneers

Q2&3 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.



President's Message

Dear Western Plastics Pioneers:

Thank you for the opportunity to be President of the Western Plastics Pioneers. It has been a pleasure and fun being a member of the association for the past 14 years. As Vice President the past few years, it has been exciting to introduce new programs such as the scholarship fund.

As President, I will do my best to provide guidance and leadership resulting in an organization from which all of its members will benefit. We have a great team on the Board of Directors and have established goals to increase our membership, social activities and philanthropic efforts. All our volunteers have enjoyed successful careers in the plastics industry and are pleased to serve the members of the association and the industry as a whole.

If you have not already done so, please mark your calendar for our annual members luncheon meeting scheduled for Aug. 7, 2011. Our new venue is the Los Coyotes Country Club located in Buena Park. We will have the opportunity to enjoy great food, service, golf course views and of course the camaraderie of friends and relatives.

Our allotment of tickets for the Pageant of The Masters on July 31, 2011 quickly sold out. We're looking forward to an exciting, enjoyable evening with fellow pioneers.

Best wishes,
Richard Luciano - *President -Western Plastics Pioneers*

Membership News

Our Western Plastics Pioneers Organization continues to seek new members who have 25 years or more in the Plastics industry. If you know of potential candidates, please email me at westernpioneers@aol.com. I will follow up with them to invite them to attend our activities and become a PIONEER.

For current members, please email me your updated general contact information: address, phone numbers, new email address(s), etc. Send them to westernpioneers@aol.com. Have a great summer.

John Szary - Membership Chair

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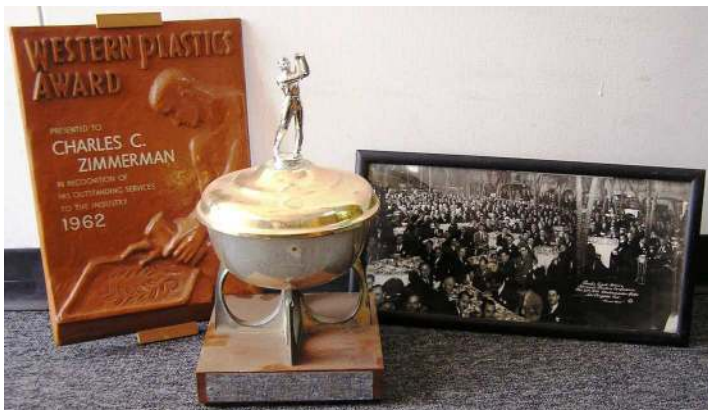
WPP Board Meeting

During the meeting of April 5, 2011 the Board welcomed new board members Roger France and John Hoven. We are delighted to have these talented and active men on board.

Elections of officers were held. The new slate of officers as follows:

Richard Luciano, President
 Greg Leighton, Vice President
 Rusty Miller, Treasurer
 Dolores Ketner, Secretary
 Spencer Knapp, Immediate Past President
 Joe La Fountain, Past President Emeritus
 Robert Halliday, Past President Emeritus, Historian
 John Szary, Membership Director
 Vishu Shah, Newsletter Editor
 Chris Mitchell, Cerritos College Liaison'
 Roger France Board Member
 John Hoven Board Member

Memorabilia Committee



Dee Ketner and Richard Luciano have sorted through and identified all of the artifacts that we have located including magazines, news publications, photos, slides, trophies and SPI conference programs. Thanks to Terry Price we now have dozens of Western Plastics Magazine issues that we are reviewing for historical interest articles.

Our plan is to categorize, document and store everything in our possession. Periodically we will display the artifacts

and magazines at our social events and publish articles in our quarterly newsletter of noteworthy discoveries. We will have available at our Annual Luncheon August 7, 2011 for attendees to view, all of the extra copies of Western Plastics issues so that interested members can take them home.

If any of our members has something they would like to add to our collection, please contact Dee (909) 573-9035 or Richard (562) 458-8567

I have had a blast looking at pictures from the past and remembering the good old days.

The review process has been a great reminder about all of the wonderful people who contributed to the growth and success of the plastics industry in the west. Oh boy, it would be great if I could have that big hair wave from the 70's once again.

Richard Luciano, President

Members in Passing

With our deepest sympathy we are informing you of recent loss of long time member Frank Thames, who worked for Wilson and George Meyer. Frank was one of the founding members of the Western Pioneers which now leave Bob Halliday as the only original founding member still with us.

We have also lost Lin Derickson (founder of Custom Plastics), Alex Mora (founder of Formula Plastics) and Don Sullivan (founder of Sullivan Plastics).

We were just recently made aware that Ken Eaton (Eaton & Associates) had passed away last year. Eaton worked in plastics for many years and eventually came to start a business as a recruitment firm for our industry.

Of the most recent losses, the most unexpected was Alex Mora (61). Originally from Tecate, Mexico, Alex came here to work and work he did. He began working for Cal-mold in 1968 where he continued until 1984. Cal Mold founder Ed Fleming saw the enormous potential of this one individual and encourage Alex to start his own business.

Formula Plastics was formed as a small company in Upland California and later expanded to a larger facility in Ontario. But that was only the beginning. The next venture was to give back to his home town of Tecate, Mexico opening a second plant which provided opportunity for many. Eventually within the Formula plastics complex, Mora oversaw the operation of six legally separate polymer processing plants, an educational and conference center, a construction company, an integrated long-haul trucking business and onsite food services including a traditional Mexican-themed employee cafeteria and the Plaza Santa Monica gourmet restaurant. The separation of the plastics processing facilities recognizes the value of each group having its own control and works within Mexican tax laws favoring small plants.

Alex was well known for his leadership role in The Society of Plastics Engineers. What he learned from his many years of

experience was no secret, teaching molding and processing courses and more so how to better oneself no matter what life may bring.

He was a man with a big smile and a generous heart, building a park for employees and the people of Tecate as well as helping the underprivileged through various organizations such as the Rotary club.

Mora's survivors include his wife and four children.

The Ocean Institute in Dana Point names a former plastics industry representative, Frank Capolupo, its 2010 Volunteer of the Year.

By William Hillyard

Frank Capolupo, of San Juan Capistrano, has loved the ocean since he was a child growing up in Pittsburgh, PA. Besides the fact that he grew up hours from the shore, his fondness for the sea is surprising to those who hear this sort of sentiment from

someone who spent his career representing the plastics industry—a favorite for finger-waggers who point out all the negative impacts that the industry has had on the oceans.

If you met Capolupo, he'd probably tell you about his love of the sea, too. He talks about it with a lot of people. As a volunteer at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point, he tells people about his passion and the importance of being good stewards of the ocean. He's good at it, too.

The Ocean Institute, at its annual awards banquet in March, named him Volunteer of the Year for 2010.

Capolupo volunteered more than 300 hours last year and plans to keep right on doing it. "This is my job, now; this is what I do," he said. "There is just something about the ocean I just love."

Capolupo used to do public relations, lobbying and advocacy for the plastics industry. In 2007 he retired as western regional director of the Society of Plastics Industries Inc., the trade organization that represents plastics manufacturers and suppliers. He had worked there for 26 years.

He says his former association with that industry raises some eyebrows. "I get 'You came from the plastics industry? What are you doing here?'" he said.

But Capolupo sees no conflict between his previous career and his work at the Ocean Institute. In fact, his career made him very aware of the effect plastics are having on the world's oceans.

As western regional director of SPI, he sat on the advisory board of the Algalita Foundation as a representative of the plastics industry. The Algalita Foundation is a nonprofit marine research foundation that, in 1997, discovered the effects of plastic on the Pacific Gyre in the middle of the northern Pacific Ocean.

"People didn't know about the Pacific Gyre until Algalita brought it to everyone's attention," Capolupo said. "It's a huge massive collection of garbage."

The Pacific Gyre has concentrated trash and debris, predominantly plastics, which have been trapped in its spiraling current forming what is known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. "It is just one big whirlpool that has been circulating collecting garbage. They say it is the



size of Texas," he said. "I just can't fathom that."

Figuring out ways to remove all that plastic from the ocean is one of the problems we now face. "Plastic is persistent," he says. "It stays around for a long time."

Part of his job at SPI was to inform consumers about the problems of plastic litter. "If you see garbage out there, it's not the [plastics] industry, it's a behavior problem. So we had to educate the consumer as to how to dispose of not just plastics, but all garbage." He finds direct parallels between his work in the plastics industry and his time volunteering at the Ocean Institute. "Here," he said, "we teach watershed programs." The programs teach kids how trash and pollution can wash with the rain to the sea. "We're trying to educate the kids here to be better stewards of the oceans, to dispose of their garbage in a respectful manner."

He is one of more than 400 people who donate their time to the Ocean Institute. The institute is a nonprofit educational organization offering marine and social science education programs to school-age children at its 2.4-acre facility located below the bluffs in the harbor. As many as 130,000 students participate in the institute's programs each year, according to the institute's website. Programs include day camps and overnight stays, as well as cruises on the institute's tall ships and 65-foot research vessel.

"While we have many outstanding volunteers, Frank is truly the best of the best," said Linda Blanchard, the institute's volunteer director. Capolupo has been volunteering at the Ocean Institute since January of 2009. After he retired from the business world, he wanted to find a place where he could continue to put his skills to use.

"On one of my walks down here [at Dana Point Harbor], I just happened to stop in and started asking some questions," he says. "One thing led to another, and I asked them, 'Do you have any volunteers here?'" It turns out there was an opening.

Capolupo had already begun volunteering his time with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, but with his love of the ocean, he knew he wanted to work with the Ocean Institute.

At first, he thought he could juggle working for both Make-A-Wish and the Ocean Institute, but after two months he dedicated all his time to the institute. "[The Make-A-Wish Foundation] is a great organization. It's just that this is where my heart is."

After his first year volunteering, Capolupo was recognized by the organization for his work at the institute's visitor information booth. This year, it chose him volunteer of the year.

"I was very humbled and very impressed that they acknowledged my work during my short tenure here," he said. He didn't expect such recognition, he said, but has simply found roles for himself in the Ocean Institute where his knowledge and experience could be of the most use.

"I just gravitated to stuff that came natural for me to do to help them with what they are doing here," he said.

These days, Capolupo primarily leads the institute's public tours. "I take [visitors] behind the scenes and tell them who we are and what we do. We do them twice a week."

He is also working on special fundraising programs, the institute's VIP tours and a community outreach program. The outreach is centered on the Wyland Clean Water Mobile Learning Center, "a bio-diesel powered, 1,000-square-foot exhibit on wheels." The mobile learning center is the brainchild of Laguna Beach-based sea life artist Wyland. "It is a relatively new venture," Capolupo said. "But [the outreach] is what I enjoy doing. It's a lot like what I used to do."

www.ocean-institute.org

Western Plastics

AUGUST 18, 2011



TRADE FAIR

Anaheim, California

Hosted by the Southern California
Society Of Plastics Engineers



The **Western Plastics Trade Fair** is the processors choice for networking with local suppliers. We hope you will join us and your fellow colleagues on AUGUST 18, 2011. See you at the Fair!

Objectives

- Networking - Bring LOCAL Plastics Processors together
 - Enhance a Local Vendor to Molder supply chain
- Effectively introduce New Products and Services to the Plastics Processor
- Bring awareness to Plastics related educational courses in Southern California
- SPE based seminars - The latest in productivity improvement technology

Exhibits Local suppliers & resources for the Plastics Industry

Seminars Renowned speakers and educators who specialize in the plastics industry

Seminar 1: Determining optimum vent sizes for Injection Molds

Seminar 2: Plastic Part Design - A Practical Approach (Applied Plastics Product Design)

Dinner Buffet dinner in the exhibit hall

For more info visit www.socalspe.org or call **866-966-0302**

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