

# Western Plastics Pioneers

[www.pioneers.socalspe.org](http://www.pioneers.socalspe.org)

Q 1 2012



*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:

Happy New Year! I can't believe I'm really saying this when we are rapidly approaching February 1, 2012. It seemed to me we were celebrating Christmas 2011 just a few weeks after celebrating Christmas 2010. Is it just me, or are the years going by more rapidly? I swear as my height gets shorter so do the years. Is this also your experience?

The plastics industry certainly has changed significantly in the West. I do miss attending those annual SPI conferences in San Diego and Hawaii. As suppliers withdrew their staff and offices, the interest in attending SPI events decreased to the point where we no longer have a SPI Western regional office. The Man Of The Year award, later to be known as the Western Plastics Award and the Distinguished Service Award, are now a part of history. However, we do have the Western Plastics Pioneers Hall of Fame award, which in my opinion is the most distinguished award to honor an individual with outstanding experience in our Western plastics industry. Please refer to the article contained herein to participate in the H of F selection process.

As we approach the end of our fiscal year, March 31, 2012, we have an opening to fill on our 2012 – 2013 Board of Directors. As with any organization, new members bring with them new ideas and energy. Our total pioneers membership has increased and we are reaching out for individuals who would be interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors. If you would be interested in participating on the board, please contact me via e-mail [LUCIRJ@aol.com](mailto:LUCIRJ@aol.com) or telephone (562) 690-4440. Our board meetings are held bimonthly at the Los Coyotes Country Club located in Buena Park.

*Best wishes,*

*Richard Luciano - President -Western Plastics Pioneers*

## Membership News

The Western Plastics Pioneers would like to recognize two recent new members: Erin Carty, Trademark Plastics and John Hightower, National Aerospace Supply. Please welcome them to our organization.

Our continued membership drive for 2012 will include participation at the SPE monthly meetings, the MDM Annual show and at the Western Plastics Trade Fair at the Phoenix Club. Hope to also see you these upcoming events.

For current members, I have included our member information form. Please fill it out completely, include your picture. Send them to [westernpioneers@aol.com](mailto:westernpioneers@aol.com).

We want to wish Chris Mitchell a continued speedy recovery from his severe motorcycle accident. He still will have weeks and months of therapy to endure. Chris can be reached by email: [greetings92880@yahoo.com](mailto:greetings92880@yahoo.com) by phone at 858-405-3599 or visit his webpage <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/chrismitchell1>

*Have a great Spring!*

*John Szary - Membership Chair*



## *Board of Directors*

### Officers

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### Board Members

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Robert Halliday

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## Save the date: August 12, 2012 for the WPP Annual Luncheon

Last year's luncheon at the Los Coyotes Country Club was a great success with it's delightful setting, fine food, Hall of Fame Awards and Joe LaFountain's bountiful raffle. The large attendance dictates that the location is repeated for another convivial gathering of industry friends. The reception will begin at 11:00 AM and the address is 8888 Los Coyotes Drive in Buena Park. So mark your calendar to enjoy a memorable gathering of colleagues.

## 2012 – Scholarship Program

In 2008 the Western Plastic Pioneers Board of Directors established an annual scholarship program to graduate or undergraduate students, including those enrolled in associate or technical degree programs expressing an interest in plastics. The schools must be located in California, Arizona, Oregon or Washington for students to be eligible. Scholarships were awarded in 2009, 2010 and 2011. We'll begin solicitations for the 2012 award very soon. If you know of candidates that meet our criteria please let us know.

The program is administered by the Society of Plastic Engineers (SPE) Foundation; the SPE also performs all promotional and marketing functions, therefore no overhead costs to the Western Plastic Pioneers. The scholarship applications are reviewed by the WPP Board and candidates are selected based on established criteria.

We've exhausted our fund with the award of the 2011 scholarship; the goal is to raise enough funds to bring the WPP Scholarship fund back to a level for the 2012 award and a "cushion" for the 2013 award. That requires us to raise a minimum of \$2000 by June 1, 2012.

Your participation in this program will be greatly appreciated by the Western Plastic Pioneers so that we may continue this program.

Please let us know if you can help us fund the 2012 Western Plastics Pioneers Scholarship program. You may contact me or any of the WPP Board Members or add your donation at the time that you pay 2012 membership dues.

Thank you,  
Roger France - rogerfrance1@cox.net



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MEMBER Society of The Plastic Industry

## Newsletter Ad's

Western Plastics Pioneers Newsletter has been an integral and vital part of the organization. Newsletter has played a key role in keeping all the Pioneers informed and involved in the industry. The articles, photographs, news, remembrance and more importantly whereabouts of the friends and what they have been up to made an interesting reading. Newsletter is published quarterly. We are requesting your help by asking your organization to advertise in the newsletter to help us defer the cost of publication and postage.

Single Space	1.75 x 2.625	\$ 100 per year
Double Space	3.5 x 2.625	\$ 200 per year
Triple space	4.25 x 2.625	\$ 300 per year

Thanks for your support.

Western plastics Pioneers Board of Directors

## A Reason for Optimism

If you've not read the Boston Consulting Group's recent report "[Made in America, Again – Why Manufacturing Will Return to the U.S.](#)", you should check it out. It just might brighten your day. According to their analysis, "China's overwhelming manufacturing cost advantage over the U.S. is shrinking fast." The study predicts that "within five years, rising Chinese wages, higher U.S. productivity, a weaker dollar, and other factors will virtually close the cost gap between the U.S. and China for many goods consumed in North America." That's good news for processors. And, while we certainly have ongoing challenges, the most recent [Manufacturing ISM Report on Business](#) confirms this cause for optimism: Economic activity in the manufacturing sector expanded in November for the 28th consecutive month, and the overall economy grew for the 30th consecutive month. Overall Business Activity for Plastic Processors Still Growing, But at a Slower Rate.

SPI's [quarterly survey of processors](#) shows business activity levels for plastics processors in the U.S. continue to expand slowly, but the rate of growth is still decelerating when compared with the first half of this year. The Injection Molding sector struggled a bit, while the Extrusion and Thermoforming sectors enjoyed stronger-than-average gains.

Boston Consulting Group article:

<http://www.bcg.com/documents/file84471.pdf>

Manufacturing ISM report on business: <http://www.ism.ws/about/MediaRoom/NewsReleaseDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=22060>

SPI quarterly survey of processors: <http://plasticsindustry.org/IndustryGroups/IndustryDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=6663>

## Marine Debris

SPI Participates in Global Marine Debris Meeting in Dubai  
SPI's Melissa Hockstad was in Dubai last month as one of more than 20 representatives from around the world who met to create a global action plan for solutions on marine litter. Approximately 99 projects have been identified, including SPI initiated [Operation Clean Sweep](#), which will be carried out in 32 countries.



The "Declaration for Solutions on Marine Litter" has been adopted by 54 plastics industry organizations so far. It outlines a six-point strategy for industry action, and advocates close cooperation with a broad range of stakeholders to shape solutions for the marine environment. The activities undertaken by the global plastics industry will be publicly available at: [www.marinelittersolutions.org](http://www.marinelittersolutions.org).

## Have You Registered Yet for NPE?

It's as easy as clicking on the [NPE2012 web site](#). Plastics professionals worldwide have already [registered online](#) to attend NPE2012 -- the plastics exposition that will be bigger and better than previous NPE's. Be sure that you don't miss out on this world-scale trade show, comprised of 2,000 exhibiting companies, 2-million sq.ft. of exhibit space and more running machinery than ever before! And don't forget the [educational programs](#) -- SPE's [ANTEC@2012](#), SPI's [Business of Plastics conference](#), and the [Latin American Seminar](#) en Español, produced by Publicar-B2Bportales. Take all that, and then add in the 2nd [International Plastics Design Competition](#) and at least a dozen multi-exhibitor [technology pavilions](#).



So, what are you waiting for .....? [www.npe.org](http://www.npe.org)



## Hall Of Fame Awards

Following is an excerpt from Plastics August/September, 1982 Publication.

"One of the objectives of the Western Plastics Pioneers is as stipulated in its Constitution, Article 1, Section 1, Paragraph (c)a, to establish a Hall of Fame for the Plastics Industry in the West where annually the names and contributions of the most deserving and renowned Pioneers may be enshrined. In its By-Laws, the organization has specific instructions on how the selection is to be made."

Over the years the By-Laws have changed, but the selection process for Hall Of Fame awards has been maintained much the same as for the first honorees awarded in 1978.

1978: John Delmonte, Brandt Goldsworthy, Robert B. Gutsch, Harry Hahn, George Huisman, Fred L. Kennerley, J. D. McDonald, David Swedlow.

1979: Elmer Meyer, Martin Usab  
 1981: Dr. Raymond B. Seymour, Louis E. Tallman  
 1982: Norry Mark Hastings  
 1983:  
 1984: William Dewar; Charles Zimmerman  
 1985 to 1995: Warren Buschmann; DeWitt Cheney; Elmer Davis; Elbert Davis; Ralph Edwards; M.C. Gill; Robert Guetch (sp?); Robert Halliday; William Hess; Elmer Huling; Leroy Hughes; Christine Konecny; Chuck Leighton(1988); Roy Peat; Jim Prior; John Rogers; James Sharbaugh, Don Welker; Frank Wilcox.  
 1996: Al Carmien  
 1997: Jim Wolcott  
 1998: Frank DeVore  
 1999: Rip Gage & Betty Gage  
 2000: Les Swanson & Merrill Roth  
 2001: Walt Hubinger  
 2002: Tom Lee  
 2003: Spencer & Carolyn Knapp  
 2004: Joe LaFountain  
 2005: Rusty Miller & Bruce Ray  
 2006: Jack Gorman & Bill West  
 2007: Rich Luciano & Al Schmid  
 2008: John LaFountain  
 2009: Arthur Buckel  
 2010: Vishu Shah  
 2011: John Hoven & Alex Mora

You will notice that the years 1983 and 1985 to 1995 show a group of Hall Of Fame honorees with only Chuck Leighton (1988) identified by the year awarded. Your Board of Directors wants to find the year for each honoree and has been going through old magazines and archives with only the success shown on the list. You can help us by providing any information you may have or remember for the names shown without years.

We would also like you to suggest 2012 Hall Of Fame candidates to the Board for consideration. The Board of Directors selects a maximum of two from the candidates for induction each year. We are looking for those who have spent 25 years or more in the Plastics Industry and have made a significant contribution through business development, product development, equipment, industry service, plastics production, sales, education, advertising, etc.

Use the following format to suggest candidates via email to the HOF Committee:

Name of HOF candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Company or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Credentials : \_\_\_\_\_

Send via email to: Spencer Knapp [SLKnapp@aol.com](mailto:SLKnapp@aol.com)

John Hoven [jphoven@gmail.com](mailto:jphoven@gmail.com)

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

Richard Luciano [lucirj@aol.com](mailto:lucirj@aol.com)



# Los Coyotes Country Club presents "A Day at the Races"



Santa Anita Race Track Bus Trip  
"The Home of Seabiscuit"

**Sunday, March 11, 2012**

\$95.00 per person

**Limited Space - Sign up Early!**

For Reservations contact Dee Ketner 909-573-9035



**Schedule:**

Meet at Los Coyotes Country Club for an exciting day at the races:

9:30AM-Full Breakfast in the Willows

10:15AM-Depart Club. Enjoy on-board refreshments and snacks.

11:15AM-Arrive at Santa Anita Race Track

11:30AM-Private Tram Tour of Paddocks

12:30PM-First Race

5:00PM-Our Last Race

5:15PM-Depart Santa Anita. Enjoy on-board refreshments and snacks.

6:00PM-Arrive back at Los Coyotes (approximate)



Note: There is no dress code in the Front Runner Restaurant at Santa Anita. (No denim allowed in LCCC Willow Restaurant)

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