



WESTERN PLASTICS PIONEERS

www.pioneers.socalspe.org

Fourth Quarter 2013

PIONEERS HONOR LANCE NEWARD

The Western Plastics Pioneers honored Lance M. Neward as its 2013 Hall of Fame inductee at their annual luncheon August 11 at the Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park, California.

Mr. Neward, 70, of Sandy, Utah, is chair of the SPE foundation and recently completed his second three-year term as councilor for the SPE product design and development division.

Lance Neward's family were early pioneers in the plastics industry and lead to his involvement in the industry where he gained his initial technical foundation. In 1993 he was elected as the International President of the Society of Plastics Engineers.

From his many leadership positions Mr. Neward has provided vision, direction, and technological growth opportunities for the plastics indus-



try. While accepting the honor, Mr. Neward commented on the current developments within the industry

"The future of our industry is very bright — from continuing development in new technologies like bio-based resins and nano-particle applications to new adaptations of, and innovations in, processing technologies and a greater awareness of both the upsides and downsides of plastic materials."

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PIONEERS ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

The Western Plastics Pioneers annual luncheon was held August 11, at the Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park, California.

Fifty-Two Pioneers and guests took advantage of the opportunity to discuss the current state of the plastics industry, job op-

portunities, emerging markets, plastics educational opportunities, the economy, the affect of the Affordable Care Act on small business and renewed old friendships while making some new friends.

During the luncheon Lance Neward was hon-

ored as the 2013 Hall of Fame inductee and Brian Venturella was honored as our 2013 annual scholarship winner.

Chris Mitchell won the grand door prize taking home a 50 inch Panasonic Smart Digital Television.

(See picture page insert)

2013 Scholarship Recipient Selected

Brian Venturella is the 2013 WPP scholarship recipient. He is a Senior studying mechanical engineering at Washington State University, Vancouver, WA.

Brian is employed by Rex Plastics as a CAD mold and part designer while he completes his course work at WSU.

Brian has a 3.96 GPA and has been involved in numerous community projects to feed and house the homeless in the Vancouver area. He will graduate in June of 2014 and continue working at Rex Plastics.

Upcoming Events

October 29, 2013 4:00PM-8:00PM

SPI - Mike Koebel

Western Moldmaker Trade Fair

Sheraton Fairplex - Pomona, CA

Contact: Jill Brandts, 949-261-6979

jbrandts@plasticsindustry.org

November 6, 2013 9:00AM-6:00PM

Ladies Plastics Golf Organization

Charity Golf Tournament

Los Coyotes Country Club

Fullerton, CA

Contact: Dee Ketner

909-573-9035, deeketner@aol.com

Website: ladiesplasticgolforganization.org

November 14, 2013 6:00PM-8:00PM

**SPE - Rapid Prototyping
& Product Development**

Jagerhaus Restaurant - Anaheim, CA

Contact: Rick Hays-SPE President,

714-523-8050, rhays@ethorn.com

Website: www.socalspe.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Roger France

Our Third Quarter of 2013 ended with the Annual Luncheon at the Coyotes Country Club on August 11. A big thank you to John Hoven, Rick Roelen, Rusty Miller, Dee Ketner, John Szary, and Richard & Kathy Luciano for doing a great job.

Over 50 attendees were there to honor Lance Neward with the 2013 Western Plastics Pioneers "Man of the Year" Award. Congratulations Lance!

Planning discussions have already begun for the 2014 Annual Luncheon as to how we may increase attendance.

Of the 50+ in attendance this year, 25 were actual members.

Two main topics arose related to increasing attendance:

- 1) Move the date from August to after the 2014 Labor Day holiday to avoid late summer vacations.

- 2) Location of the event.
- 3) Attendance.
- 4) Cost.

Please share your thoughts on this topic. You can e-mail them to John Hoven at jphoven@gmail.com or give John a call at 310-545-5752.

At the luncheon the attendees noted an overwhelming preference to receive the WPP Newsletter via mail vs. an electronic copy. We can do both if the membership desires this .

To express your preference on this topic or to make suggestions, please contact Roger France at rogerfrance1@cox.net or 949-380-8108.

We are planning stages for our 2014 social events calendar. Please contact: Dee Ketner or Rusty Miller with your suggestions.

Now, we, the WPP Board of Directors have needs for the upcoming year: We need additional Directors to join the Board, can you volunteer? We could use your help!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In reviewing our roster of active members we found that a full 25% did not renew their membership in 2013. While not catastrophic we are wondering why? Please send Rusty Miller an e-mail note to rmiller@timesync.com or a phone call at 562-947-5058 and she can advise you. We certainly want all of you to continue your membership in the Western Plastics Pioneers.

Please do communicate and give the Western Plastics Board of Directors your thoughts and input. We are always looking for volunteers to fill Board and Committee positions. Please give some consideration to volunteering a small portion of your time.

REMEMBERING THOMAS A. LEE

Thomas A. Lee passed away on February 20, 2103. He was born in Portland, Maine on May 27, 1921 where he attended local schools graduating from high school in 1938.

Tom graduated from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering in January 1943. He was activated by the U.S. Navy on graduation day and served in the Solomon Islands for the next two years. After the war he returned to the Solomon Islands serving as a radiologist with the

Joint Task Force (JTF1) Bikini Atom Bomb test team.

In 1947 he left the service to join W.R. Grace Polymer Division and Allied chemical Plastics Division representative. He retired from Allied Chemical in 1988 but continued his plastics association as a representative for several plastic processors.

Tom was inducted in to the Western Plastics Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2002 being recognized for this many years of service and commitment to the plastics industry, SPE, and SPI.

Western Plastics Pioneers Officers

President • Roger France
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Joe LaFountain
Robert Halliday
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Richard Luciano

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WESTERN PLASTICS PIONEERS LUNCHEON 2013



LANCE NEWARD INDUCTED INTO THE WPP HALL OF FAME

(Continued from page 1) within the plastics industry. He noted that the U.S. plastics industry can compete with technology and work ethic but cannot “compete in the lower paying positions.” “But with the technology available to us we don’t have to.” Today’s employees need strong technical skills, “if they or, just as importantly their employers, want those skills they can and are getting them through organizations like the SPE, SPI and other industry providers.” He went on to comment that the plastics industry may not be as flashy as some other industries but it is full of exciting career opportunities.

In the early years of his career, Lance cleaned machines, swept floors, and learned to polish molds at his father’s company, Neward

Die and Mfg.

Mr. Neward is a graduate of Cal-Poly, Pomona, CA where he received a B.S in Economics. He continued his graduate studies at Adelphi University in New York where he earned his MBA. Mr. Neward utilized his education not only in the growth of the family business but for the benefit of the SPE as he ascended the organizations management ladder and has continued his involvement for more than 30 years. He continues to serve the industry in his current SPE role and via his company Achievement Resources-A, a technical consultancy based out of Salt Lake City, Utah.

M.C. GILL, PLASTICS PIONEER PASSES



Merwyn Carlyle Gill (M.C.) passed away on May 30, 2013 at the age of 102, succumbing to time. He was one of the first pioneers and business founders in plastics manufacturing after WWII.

M. C. was born at home in Termini, Iowa. He became one of the first in his family to attend college. He graduated from the University of Southern California (USC in 1936 with a degree in chemistry. He spent 1937 earning a degree in engineering.

Part of the reason for staying in school was his future wife, Ellen Wildly, whom he married after she graduated in 1939.

Mr. Gill began his professional career at U.S. Royal Tire Company as a quality engineer. At the outbreak of WWII he joined Swedlow where he furthered his knowledge of plastics.

At the end of WWII he started his own business manufacturing consumer items in the family garage. Like most entrepreneurs he struggled in the early days and he joined the Aerojet Company as a means to supplement his income.

It was there where he hit upon the idea to manufacture cargo compartment liners for the DC6 aircraft. That led the founding of the M.C. Gill Company. He retired in 1991. Today the company employs 750 people worldwide. . R.I.P.

Newsletter Ad’s

Western Plastics Pioneers Newsletter has been an integral and vital part of the organization. The newsletter plays 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 make an interesting quarterly publication. We are requesting your help by asking your organization to advertise in the newsletter to help us defray the cost of publication and postage.

Single Space	1.88 x 3.38	\$ 100 per year (business card)
Double Space	2.70 x 3.90	\$ 200 per year
Triple space	4.25 x 2.625	\$ 300 per year

Contact: Rick Roelen, Rick.Roelen@cox.net

C & G Mercury Plastics
Custom Injection Molders of Thermo Plastics

Gregory Leighton
President

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MEMBER Society of The Plastic Industry

REUNION! REUNION! REUNION!

NOTICE To all current and past Presidents or Chairpersons for SPE and SPI, including Sections, Chapters, Western Regions and International/National Board of Directors....

WPP is interested in planning a reunion! If you know of someone who has held one of these positions,

PLEASE email or call Dee Ketner.

DeeKetner@aol.com or call 909.573.9035

Your help is greatly appreciated!

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is an emotional holiday.
People travel thousands of miles to be with people they only see once a year. And then discover once a year is way too often.

Johnny Carson



Western Plastics Pioneers

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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.
