



WESTERN PLASTICS PIONEERS

www.pioneers.socalspe.org

1QA+ 2018

JIM ARMOR Is 2017 WPP HOF HONOREE



In 1960 as a new graduate from California State College at Long Beach, Jim joined Ducommun Steel as an inside sales associate. Ducommun distributed some 50 thousand products out of a catalogue and had offices located in various geographies to manage distribution. After six months of inside sales and training Jim was assigned a territory that included companies like North American, Douglas, Northrup, and Hughes Aircraft.

One of the products that Jim had in his catalogue was a corrugated fiberglass sheet manufactured in San Diego. It was one product that Ducommun salesmen had that was not territory restricted. So Jim, being a peddler began to look for alternative uses other than patio covers. He took the product to growers and encouraged them to consider it as a more permanent solution to their

hot house siding and roofing. Coincidentally, he heard about an organization called The Society of Plastic Engineers (SPE). And, so began his pioneering career in plastics. He attended the early SPE meetings at Roger Young Auditorium and the seeds were planted for a long career in plastics.

Jim learned early on the logistics and significance of distribution, customer service and the importance of a handshake when doing business. And those became his basic guiding principles for doing business.

He joined the SPE Thermoforming Division in 1960. His membership card is #2489. He started his career in thermoplastic sheet in 1961. By 1965 he was thoroughly involved in sheet sales and he and Milo Hanson formed Alchem Plastics in La Mirada. (Cont'd on Page 4)

Huntington Beach - Jim Armor has been selected as the 2017 Western Plastics Pioneer Hall of Fame Honoree.

Jim fits the definition of a pioneer perfectly. He is an entrepreneur, innovator, risk taker, visionary, and in his own words a "peddler". He says he loves to sell more than anything.

2017 WPP College Scholarship Awarded To Brady Donegan

Buena Park— The Western Plastics Pioneers have awarded the 2017 WPP College Scholarship to A Western Washington University Senior majoring in plastics engineering. He is currently employed as a research assistant at the University and has work experience in the industry having been employed by Fabriform Plastics, a supplier to Boeing, General Electric Healthcare, IGT and others. Brady Donegan is vice president of the local SPE student chapter and carries a 3.59 cumulative GPA with a 3.96 GPA in his engineering major. He has declared his intention to pursue an advanced engineering degree in phenolics and plastics engineering and is grateful for the assistance that the WPP SPE scholarship affords. Mr. Donegan is active in community projects promoting STEM activities with local youth in the 5th through 8th grades to encourage them to pursue careers in the plastics industry.

Do you know a deserving student or have a relative attending a college or a university in Arizona, California, Oregon, or Washington? Are they actively pursuing a degree relative to plastics? Contact Richard Luciano for questions regarding SPE scholarship applications and guidance at LuciRJ@aol.com.

Frank Jackson

July 14, 1933—January 7, 2018



Frank Jackson, a 40 year plastics veteran and pioneer passed away January 7. Frank was a pioneer in every sense of the word having founded CTI, a specialty resin compounder, along with Russ Gilbert (CIMCO founder/owner). Together they established CTI as a worldwide supplier with plants in Charlotte, N.C., Singapore, and Saint-Etienne, France. CTI produced, developed, and commercialized filled and modified products for companies like Hewlett Packard and 3M. CTI also pioneered heavy material fillers for plastic using tungsten and bronze.

Frank began his career at W.S. Shamban where he worked in development, sales, and manufacturing of fluoropolymers. He later joined LNP where he continued developing new products using fluoropolymers, PTFE and other filled materials that were produced for the automotive, business machine, aerospace, and sporting goods industries. Frank managed LNP North America prior to founding CTI.

Frank's success as a product developer allowed companies to convert metal parts to plastic and grow the influence of plastics in many markets. His expertise and reputation grew the specialty resin market exponentially.

Frank Jackson was a Korean War veteran. He is survived by his wife and four children. His two sons followed him into the plastics industry continuing the family's plastics legacy. R.I.P.

Alfredo Bonetto

May 27, 1943—December 25, 2017



Alfredo Bonetto, Vice President of Craftech, Inc., passed away from cancer on Christmas day 2017.

Alfredo immigrated to the United States from Argentina in 1968. He worked as a toolmaker at KRK Irvine in Downey for 9 years before joining Guardian Plastics.

Alfredo had worked with John Butler, President, Craftech, Inc. at KRK and the two reunited at Craftech Tooling. After several years they purchased 3 molding machines and Craftech, Inc. was in the molding business with Alfredo leading the sales development and marketing efforts.

Alfredo was a genuine and disarming person and was perfect in the role as a sales and customer advocate. His smile was contagious and he engaged you as an equal.

As testament to his abilities, Craftech outgrew its original facilities and moved to a larger facility in Anaheim in 1997. Then in 2006 they opened a facility in Tijuana, Mexico expanding their business south of the border to meet the needs of their many customers with manufacturing sites in Mexico.

Today, that foresight and effort by Alfredo is lasting testimony to his vision and his persona. Craftech currently has 18 molding machines in Tijuana and continues to grow their business as a result of Alfredo's vision and dedication. Alfredo was a true plastics pioneer. R.I.P.



Western Plastics Pioneers

c/o Roger France

6 Rimani Drive

Mission Viejo, CA 92692-5105

March 2018

Western Plastics Pioneers 2018-2019 Dues & Membership update

The primary means of supporting the Western Plastics Pioneers is the WPP Annual Dues. Our fiscal year is April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019. Annual dues are \$35.00. *You may be wondering, I just paid my dues, why again so soon? Last year I was late in getting the 2017-2018 letter out, this year I'm getting it out on time. If there's any confusion I apologize.*

If you choose, a contribution to the WPP Scholarship Fund or other specific gifts, please note them, it will be appreciated.

On October 14, 2018 the Pioneers Annual Luncheon and Hall of Fame Inductee ceremony will be held at Los Coyotes Country Club.

Best Regards,

Roger France, Treasurer

please update your contact information & return with your remittance

April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019 WPP Annual Dues: \$ 35.00

2018 Scholarship Fund donation: \$ _____

Other donation(s): LPGO (Cancer Support) \$ _____

MEMBER NAME: _____(Spouse): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: Res: _____ Cell: _____

Work: _____

E-Mail address: _____

notes/requests/comments (please use rear of form):

*please make your check payable to **Western Plastics Pioneers** and return to:*

Western Plastics Pioneers, c/o Roger France, 6 Rimani Drive, Mission Viejo, CA 92692-5105

JIM ARMOR 2017 HOF INDUCTEE

(From Page 1) -Soon, plants followed in Atlanta, Dallas and New Jersey. They co-extruded multi-layer sheet utilizing high impact polystyrene, ABS, Polyethylene and Acrylic ABS. By the late 1960s they had become a major sheet extruder. Not satisfied with just extruding product, they forward integrated into thermoformed cups, lids, plates, food containers, horticultural products, etc., under the trade name Alplastic.

Alchem Plastics was sold to Spartan in 1980 and Jim remained as president of Alchem/Spartech until 1984. In 1984 Jim founded Agile Enterprises to extrude acrylic, polystyrene and propylene sheet and was president until 1987 when he assumed the presidency of Alplastic, a roll fed thermoformer and sheet extruder, the same company he had sold to Spartan years earlier. In 1991, Jim again sold Alplastic and then joined Primex Plastics as Western Regional Manager and National Marketing Manager and remained there until 1998. In June of 1998, Jim formed Armor and Associates, a sales organization selling thermo-plastic sheet and remains active in that role up to the present.

How is a HOF Recipient Chosen

You may wonder, how the nominees for the Hall of Fame and WPP Scholarship are selected and considered for the honor. The Western Plastics Pioneers By Laws designate the membership on the selection Hall of Fame Committee. ***The HOF Committee and the Board of Directors*** considers nominees for the Hall of Fame from names suggested by the membership and industry at large.

The HOF Committee is chaired by the past president or another officer appointed by the president. The committee is made up of at least 3

members including a past HOF inductee.

The search for nominees begins on or before [March 31st](#) each year. The HOF Committee then presents the candidates and qualifications to the Board of Directors for consideration by the entire Board during the June Board of Directors meeting. Nominees are considered on the basis of contributions to the growth, promotion, and advancement plastics industry in the western states. [Contact Roger France, Dee Ketner or Richard Luciano.](#)

Annual Luncheon Raffle Funds Scholarships

Joe La Fountain took on the task of the annual luncheon raffle as a challenge to improve participation and increase the contribution to the Western Plastics Pioneers Scholarship Fund.

Over the past three years, Joe as a major contributor, has set the bar high and encouraged others to participate by donating prizes and prize money to our luncheon raffle. Joe believes that everyone should leave the luncheon with a prize and a memory. He revised the ticket offering to encourage more participation. He increased the prize money as well as the number of prizes available. Joe hawks the tickets and encourages attendees to buy more.

The results of the 2017 raffle indicate that Joe is on the right track. This year the raffle netted more than \$2800 for the scholarship fund. Thanks to those who participated in the raffle the scholarship fund is on solid ground.

More importantly, the Board of Directors of the Western Plastics Pioneers wishes to thank all of those who donated prizes, prize money, and their time to accumulate, shop and assemble the raffle prizes. All too often we forget to say thanks for a job well done. Thanks to Joe and his crew of staff participants for all that you have done to make the raffle such a special part of the event.

Scholarship winners may not know of the effort that has been made to generate the funds that they receive, but they appreciate the source of those funds. The Western Plastics Pioneers can be proud of their charitable donations and the goodwill created. Thanks again, Joe!

JEFF LAWRENCE JOINS WPP BOD



Jeff Lawrence has joined the Western Plastics Pioneers Board of Directors as of September 2017.

He brings 41 years of plastics experience and relationships to the Board of Directors, as the Western Plastics Pioneers look to expand our membership and member dynamics. He brings fresh ideas, questions and objectives to the Board of Directors as we look to expand participation and create meaningful activities beyond our current basket.

Jeff began his plastics career earning a Bachelor of Science degree at California State University at Chico. Over the decades he held technical, sales and marketing positions at Cutter Labs, Cimco, Modern Plastics, and General Electric Plastics. He parlayed his experience and established Southwest Marketing in 1985. For the last 32 years he has supported the industry providing marketing, technical and sales expertise for mechanical, electrical and contract manufacturers.

LGPO Golf Tournament Supports Local Cancer Patients

Every year in the Fall, the Ladies Plastics Golf Organization sponsors a golf tournament to benefit cancer patients at the Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center, at the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. The program reaches out to both men and women who have been afflicted with breast cancer. To date, the LGPO has raised more than \$500M towards assisting those affected by this disease.

The Western Plastics Pioneers proudly supports the efforts of this community outreach 501 C (3) Non-Profit and actively supports their mission. Two Western Plastics Pioneers are very involved in the fundraising endeavors of the LGPO. Dolores "Dee" Ketner and Rusty Miller devote untold hours to the success of this charitable endeavor.

This November the event raised more than \$35,000 for the benefit of cancer patients at the Robert and Beverly Lewis Cancer Care Center. Although participation in the tournament was down from previous years the event attracted 105 golfers who enjoyed the camaraderie.

The WPP Board of Directors approved a donation of \$1500 on behalf of the Western Plastics Pioneers. The Board of Directors has decided to accommodate donations as a personal choice that can be made during the membership dues process.

Western Plastics Pioneers Board of Directors

President - Dolores "Dee" Ketner

909-573-9035

DeeKetner@aol.com

Vice President - Rick Roelen

rick.roelen@cox.net

Immediate Past President - Greg Leighton

Industry Liaison - 818-837-3773

Greg@CGPlastics.net

Treasurer - Past President Roger France

949-920-8108

Rogerfrance1@cox.net

Secretary - Ed Laird

eclaird@yahoo.com

Annual Luncheon Rosetta "Rusty" Miller

562-947-5058

rmiller@timesync.com

Membership George Yule

775-771-9432

Gyule-48@gmail.com

Board Members

Newsletter Rick Roelen 949-241-9495

rick.roelen@cox.net

Scholarship - Richard Luciano 562--690-4440

LuciRJ@aol.com

Raffle Chair - Joe La Fountain

Social Events - Doug Halliday

Jeff Lawrence

Chuck Brewer IIII

Members Emeritus

Joe La Fountain

Robert Halliday

Spencer Knapp

Richard Luciano

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 21, 2018 - Richard Nixon Presidential Museum Wine & Food Gala

Benefiting

Education & Youth Scholarships

Sponsored by the

Docents Guild

\$65 individual - \$120 couple

July 2018 - Pageant of the Masters, Laguna Beach

ONLY 20 TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE

GROUP DINNER BEFORE SHOW

Contact Dee Kentner 909-573-9035

Doug Halliday 562-447-7942

<p><i>January</i></p>	<p><i>February</i></p> <p><i>2/6 WPP Board Meeting</i></p> <p><i>2/6-8 MD&M Conference Anaheim</i></p> <p><i>2/9 SPE MINI Tec following MDM</i></p> <p><i>In Anaheim , Sheraton Park Hotel</i></p>	<p><i>March</i></p> <p><i>3/15 SPE Education Night at the</i></p> <p><i>NHRA Museum in Pomona 6 PM</i></p> <p><i>3/31 WPP HOF Meets to Review</i></p> <p><i>Nominations</i></p>
<p><i>April</i></p> <p><i>4/3 WPP Board Meeting</i></p>	<p><i>May</i></p> <p><i>5/7-11 Antec, Orlando, FL</i></p>	<p><i>June</i></p> <p><i>6/5 WPP Board Meeting</i></p> <p><i>6/21 Richard Nixon Museum Wine</i></p> <p><i>Tasting</i></p> <p><i>SPE Golf— June 21</i></p>
<p><i>July—Pageant of the Masters</i></p>	<p><i>August</i></p> <p><i>8/7 WPP Board Meeting</i></p> <p><i>August 16—SPE Western Plastics</i></p> <p><i>Trade Fair—Phoenix Club, Anaheim</i></p>	<p><i>September—</i></p>
<p><i>October</i></p> <p><i>10/2 WPP Board Meeting</i></p> <p><i>October 14. 2018 Annual Hall of</i></p> <p><i>Fame Luncheon Los Coyotes CC Buena</i></p> <p><i>Park</i></p>	<p><i>November—</i></p> <p><i>Ladies Plastics Golf Organization Charity</i></p> <p><i>Golf Tournament. Date to be announced.</i></p>	<p><i>December</i></p> <p><i>12/4 WPP Board Meeting</i></p>



Western Plastics Pioneers c/o
Coatings Resource Corporation
15541 Commerce Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 992649
Attn: Vivian Chavez
714-894-5252 est.213

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.