



# **SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS**

## **BLOW MOLDING DIVISION**

Spring 2006 Issue

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## **Global Innovations in Blowmolding**

**MSU Management Center Troy, Michigan**



### **ABC CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS....**

- Concurrent sessions for Packaging and Industrial Blowmolding segments.
- Top industrial speakers for both technical and market topics.
- Blowmolding's top technical conference run by industry professionals.
- Ample networking opportunities.
- Tabletop exhibition.
- Blowmolding 101 sessions offered as part of the conference fee.
- Keynote speaker addressing Global industry needs and issues.

### **Current topics scheduled!**

- ✓ **New Advances in Packaging** – Barrier systems progress, Rapid cooling reducing cycle time, Significant package format changes in consumer end uses
- ✓ **Innovations in Machinery** - RSBM, Extrusion blow, Injection blow, Energy costs reduced through new machine technologies, Medical applications opportunities
- ✓ **Mold Technologies** – Rapid prototyping opportunities used to accelerate time to market
- ✓ **Expanding Industrial Applications** – High output systems, Three-dimensional techniques
- ✓ **Enhancing Material Properties** – New PET polymerization processes, Advanced barrier materials verification, Fuels systems technology

### **Why attend this Conference?**

This conference has been structured to provide the blowmolding machine supplier and machinery user (plant manager, operations manager, purchasing personnel and corporate officers) the opportunity to interact and gain valuable insight on needs and innovations. If you use, build or service the blowmolding industry you need to attend!!

### **What makes this conference different?**

- 1) This conference is hosted by the SPE Blowmolding division - We know Blowmolding
- 2) Session speakers will highlight new trends and needs so that you can plan instead of react to the changing market conditions.
- 3) The networking opportunities alone make this;  
[THE CONFERENCE TO ATTEND FOR  
BLOWMOLDING INFORMATION IN 2006](#)



**Become a member**

**Join the  
SPE  
Blow Molding  
Division**

## Chairperson's Message

You always need more than one opportunity to keep yourself up to date on technologies and advances in this industry. So open your planner and add the following events.



First this is an NPE year. Don't miss this one! Each time this show occurs the competition is greater, advances are more significant and each aisle seems to have something that just amazes the techie in all of us. Also, look for the SPE Blow Molding Divisions sponsorship logos in our benefactor's booths. Remember these companies are the financial backbone of this division and take time to thank them.

Next, plan to attend the Blow Molding Division's Annual Blowmolding Conference 2006 this October. We call it the ABC 2006. From our front page to our back page you can see we are truly focused on this Annual Conference. This event is unique in many ways and the volunteers putting it together have truly organized a worthwhile program.

We have combined both major segments of the blow molding industry (packaging and industrial) into one conference. To better utilize everyone's time, we gave each segment a unique path so that attendees will be able to gain insight into just those areas of interest. This will afford everyone attending something of interest pertaining to his or her own personal needs.

Many of you have attended our Annual Blow Molding Conferences in the past and each year we have seen considerable growth. This annual conference event is becoming one of the last vestiges of open technical interaction. It is open to anyone interested in Blow Molding technology advances.

In case we haven't told you all the details about this conference, it will be held in Troy, Michigan, on October 11-12, 2006. We will offer a dual path program which will present information on both packaging and Industrial applications. You will be able to find more information on our web site.

So, if you have not yet made plans to attend, do so now! Learning is a lifelong effort and you do not want to miss this opportunity to learn about what's new, innovated and practical. Who knows, it may help you get that promotion you deserve. A little education never hurts.

I look forward to meeting you all in June and then in October.

### Personal note.

This is my last column as Chairperson. It has been a great two years and I am turning over the reins to a very competent replacement, Dave Holliman. Please keep your support coming for Dave. I know he will appreciate it as much as I have. Thank you all for all your help.

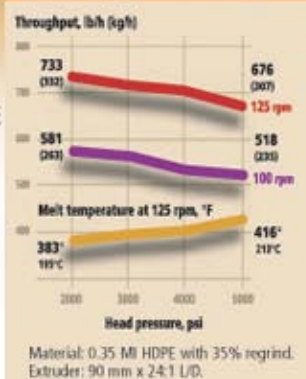
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# "It's ABOUT DECREASING MANUFACTURING TIME."

*Martin Cass, President  
Fremont Plastic Molds  
Fremont, OH*

"Building industrial blow molds used to be a foundry-based industry, but now everything is different... One has to be completely dedicated to CNC, automation and standardization."

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## ABC Conference 2006

**October  
10, 11, & 12  
2006**

**Troy, Michigan**

### **SPE India Section**

is organizing a two full day TOPCON titled:

**"Emerging Trends in Polymer  
Technology - 2006"**

to be held in **Mumbai, India** at the  
**Hotel Leela Kempenski,  
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## Visiting NPE???

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## Low Cost Imported EBM Machinery

With NPE 2006 just around the corner, EBM machinery manufacturers are honing their technology to address the market needs of an ever more demanding business climate.

Over the last decade, the worldwide extrusion blow molding machinery market has already been stressed by numerous business challenges, the most significant of which are:

- The annual double digit growth of preform based PET bottle production
- Extensive industry consolidation of both bottle producers and machinery builder

The latest and possibly biggest challenge is an economic one: low cost EBM machinery from Asia is gaining a lot of attention. Blow molders are intrigued by the prospect of fast returns on capital expenditures and are looking for any edge in the competitive bottle marketplace. Blow molders will most assuredly investigate these machines very closely, and some will even purchase and test these machines head-to-head against their established machinery technology.

Extrusion blow molding is a business of output, quality, repeatability, and overall efficiency. The low cost machinery opportunity is intriguing, but ultimately the blow molding industry's standards of performance must be met to establish long-term EBM machinery market success. Simply put, machinery up-time is everything to the bottle producer in order to meet their delivery commitments and maintain customers.

Looking forward, the established EBM machinery builders have withstood numerous challenges. The low cost Asian import challenge will require innovation and perseverance on the part of EBM machinery manufacturers. They will need to tailor their offerings to the specific technology needs of the blow molders and support their service, spare parts, and training requirements.

As in nature "it's the survival of the fittest." One thing is for sure; it is going to be interesting!

Gary Carr  
Marketing Committee—EBM  
SPE Blow Molding Division

## Graham Machinery Group Continuing Education Grant Program

The Blow Molding Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers and Graham Machinery Group co-sponsor a program for continuing education of blow molding industry workers. By making financial resources available to Blow Molding Division member companies, this program will assist more people in obtaining continued education in blow molding and improve their job-related skills.

Up to \$500 per person is available to attend an SPE Blow Molding Conference, an SPE Seminar in Blow Molding, or other program applicable to blow molding.

### Eligibility Criteria:

1. The employee must be a full-time employee of one of our member companies (having at least one current member of the SPE Blow Molding Division).
2. The employee's job function must be blow molding related.
3. The employee's academic training must not be higher than Associate Degree.
4. The employee must have company recommendation and support.
5. Costs exceeding \$500 will be the responsibility of the employee or employer.

### How to enroll:

1. Submit a request to the Blow Molding Division at the following address:  
Mark Heitker  
Innovene Tech Center  
1230 Battleground Road  
LaPorte, TX 77571  
[Mark.Heitker@innovene.com](mailto:Mark.Heitker@innovene.com)
2. Include a letter of support from your company.
3. You will be notified of acceptance before the event that you wish to attend.



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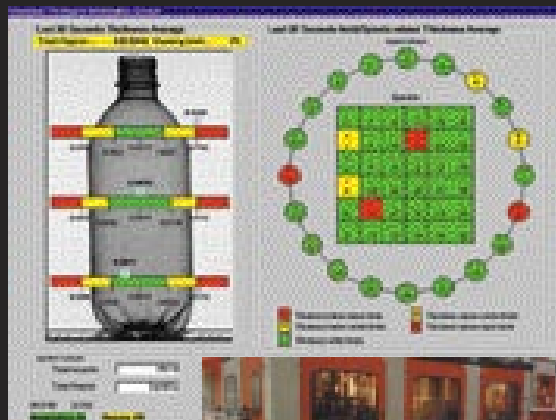
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*- Leading Gas Tank Manufacturer*



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# All in a breath!

## ***Plastic resins transparent like glass?***

Similar to little jewels, the containers for products developed for the cosmetic sector require continuous updating to meet the aesthetic needs of the consumer. The shapes that are appreciated on the market must be appealing, always new, but without penalizing the production speed and therefore the profitability of the machines. The color range must always be more and more refined. The finished product must have a better aesthetic quality, and therefore the resins themselves must keep up at the same pace, proposing high transparency and brilliance always more and more similar to glass.

## ***Productions with higher clean standards?***

Injection blow molding with technologies and constructive solutions updated for production standards that are more and more tight is the answer. The capability to process a wide range of thermoplastic polymers, an excellent hydraulic system to reduce energy consumption, the architecture of the machine itself excludes any possibility of accidental contact of the hydraulic oil with the finished product.

## ***Nothing is too small, nothing is too big***

From only a few milliliters of cosmetic mascara to a cubic meter of the classic I.B.C. containers (Intermediate Bulk Container), everything is possible. Machines today are able to meet the market needs of customers that need even more superior capacities, up to two cubic meters and more, as for example the underground diesel oil tank.

Not only a variety of shapes and dimensions, but even of materials with a multi-year specific experience (high technology components purposely developed) in the processes that utilize

polyethylenes with high molecular weight just to mention the packaging application sector (but also the automobile, house appliance, toy, garden and technical article sectors in general) it is possible to produce 50 to 60 litre tanks, 30 to 220 litre drums, 20 litre round water tanks in polycarbonate for mineral water dispensers.

And furthermore all the intermediate bottles in PE or PP that we find on the shelves of the big distribution from bottles for shampoo and liquid soap to household detergent up to lubricating oil tanks with view stripe.

## ***High cavitation machines, fast, economical, never still?***

What really matters for the purchaser and the machine users of the shuttle line are the big production volumes. The competitiveness in this market segment are particularly aggressive (50 ml. to 10 litres, that today extend up to 30 litre tanks), betting on the correct relation between product quality, productivity, cost of the finished piece. But that's not all. A machine must meet the needs of efficiency the highest production speed possible, energy consumption, resistance and reliability. In other words, machines that are never still!

### ***...even faster and even more economical?***

New systems with reciprocant screw make the material accumulation in the plasticization cylinder, while extrusion occurs at every cycle thanks to the forward movement of the screw itself, pushed by a hydraulic cylinder (according to the same principle of the injection machine).

The blowing occurs through the pin directly from inside the dies of parison extrusion. What is the advantage? "No time is wasted" to transfer the parison or the molds. The cycle time is reduced to a minimum thus obtaining high productivity with compact machines.

Such fast cycles normally associated with elevated number of cavities, are particularly indicated for lightweight and simply shaped bottles (like the cylindrical bottles for milk and juice), that permit maximum advantage with a minimum machine cycle time, that is typical of this technology, with fast cooling time.

Continued on next page

## ***And for particular application, special, planned?***

The multilayer coextrusion is our further flagship in the sector of the transformation of plastic material sector by blow molding. From the four layer of the agro-chemical sector up to seven layer bottles for food preservation, the "coex" technology gives the finished product the sum of the qualities of each single layer components.

The more and more sophisticated technologies and high performance of today's barrier resins make it possible to use minimum thickness, so that the total cost of a multilayer structure is perfectly bearable on the market.

With particular two layer configurations it is possible to obtain aesthetically attractive bottles, mainly for the cosmetic sector, limiting the use of valuable resins – and so the cost – to only the very thin external layer: "soft touch" resins that are good to touch, translucent (like "glossy finish") or metallic finish to increase the visual quality of the product.

Thanks to Uniloy Milacron for supplying this article. For more information and details go to [www.uniloy.com](http://www.uniloy.com)

## **Tax Deduction of SPE Dues**

The legal counsel of a large New York-based engineering society delivered an opinion, derived from interpretation of two rulings from the Internal Revenue Service, that a portion of Society dues are tax-deductible as a charitable contribution if certain conditions are met.

In the case of SPE, the amount of \$74.00 can be deducted as a charitable contribution if you itemize contributions.

This sum is the difference between total dues (\$112.00) and the amount applied as a member subscription to Plastics Engineering (\$38.00), as stated on the dues invoice. The full sum of \$112.00 can be used to compile the aggregate amount of miscellaneous deductions, of which that in excess of 2% of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income can be deducted.

Remember, however, you can't deduct any portion of your dues twice. It's an "either or" situation.



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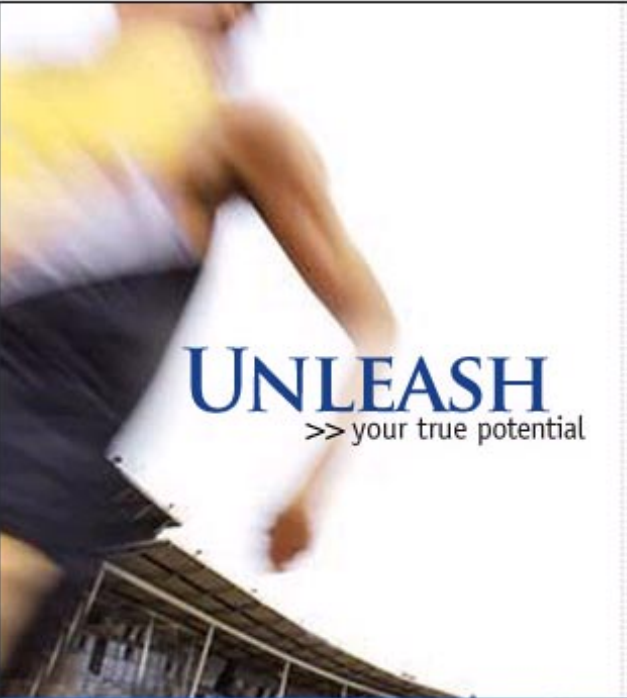


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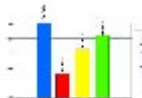

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# Global Innovations in Blowmolding

**ABC Conference**  
**October 11th & 12th 2006**  
**MSU Management Center**  
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**FOR**  
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Blow Molding Division  
presents the

# Annual Blow Molding Conference

October 11-12, 2006

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**Registration before September 15, 2006**

Registration Fee : SPE Member \$350.00;

Non-member \$450.00 **(This fee includes a 1 year SPE Membership)**

Fee includes all materials, lunch and dinner.

**Registration after September 15, 2006 and at the door.**

Registration Fee : SPE Member \$400.00;

Non-member \$500.00 **(This fee includes a 1 year SPE Membership)**

Fee includes all materials, lunch and dinner.

**Payment Methods:**

1) Check – made payable to SPE Blow Molding Division, sent with registration to:  
ABC Conference 2006, P.O. Box 964, Holland, OH 43528-0964, USA

OR 2) Corporate Credit Card – Call Scott Steele at 419 247-5404, E-mail  
ssteele@plasticstechnologies.net

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## **Board of Directors' Meeting**

### **Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Blow Molding Division of SPE, Meeting held at ANTEC 2006, Hilton Charlotte City Center**

#### **Call to order at 2:00**

BOD members present: Ron Puvak, Dave Holliman, Jonathan Meckley, Scott Steele, Bob Jackson, Lewis Ferguson, Mark Barger, Joe Altimari, Gary Carr, John Rathman, Surendra Agarwal, Mark Heitker, Daryle Damschroder, Benjamin Lopez, and Terry Glass.

BOD members excused: Win Burrington and Bob Fitch

Recognized: Tim Wormer, Maria Russo, Mridula Kapur, and Gerald Hobson as visitors to the meeting.

Reading of Non-Disclosure/Non-Compete Statement

Rodger Rhodes has resigned from the Board

#### **Councilor's Report - Mark Barger**

- SPE doing OK financially
- '06 ANTEC revenues behind plan (-\$200k)
- Training and education programs doing well and ahead of plan financially
- Still aggressively targeting international growth
- Big splash at NPE, counting on using that as a vehicle to harvest new members
- Sections are really struggling, ExCom asking Divisions to help in the following areas:
  - Good current speaker's list and hosting Mini-Tec's in partnership with Sections
- New by-laws ratified by 28/1 margin. 5000 votes cast.
- Reiterated that 2005 was a turnaround year.
- 1Q06 financials \$186k net positive versus \$300k same period last year. Some cause for concern, but no major heartburn.
- Cash position as of April \$750k.
- Audit report completed in accordance with GAPP.
- Audit report will show pension shortfall of \$165k. SPE had defined benefit plan pre-2003 which has been frozen. Shortfall in 2003 was \$600k, had a five year plan to zero this out.
- ExCom voted based in part on auditor recommendation to retire this year. Provision made to complete this later this year.
- Overall bottom line:
  - 1Q06 financials decent but behind 1Q05. Need to monitor closely.
  - Pension liability to be retired this year (and included as part of negative retained earnings).
- Divisions Committee Report
  - ExCom had goal of one new Division/SIG through 2010.
  - Nano-technology and bio-plastics + international.
  - Desire to have Divisions better support Sections:
    - Hold Mini-Tecs, want each Division to hold one per year
    - Revise speakers list and keep it current, Where does Blow Molding stand?
    - Divisions committee responsible for V/P nomination.
- ANTEC
  - Charlotte first of a string of second tier cities. Next top tier cities Orlando/Boston beginning 2010.
  - Projected revenues short of plan (\$700 versus \$900k). Cost avoidance measures were taken to mitigate effects of projected \$220k shortfall.
  - Caution not to associate this with second tier city as this is NPE year.
  - Attendance and exhibitors down from '05. Note this is an NPE year.
  - Good shape with hotels: Oversold.
  - Costs down significantly versus 2005 Boston (some services by 1/2).
  - At this point cautiously optimistic regarding ANTEC bottom line.
- Membership
  - Membership stated as "5% behind 2005" but in my opinion it is flat looking over three years. Consistently running between 19 - 21k.
  - Good news is that membership erosion has ceased (for now).
  - Bad news is we are not growing
  - Big push at NPE to harvest new names via significant SPE presence (e.g., seminars).
  - International initiative.

- Plastics Engineering Magazine
  - Production costs down (no specifics).
  - Considering changes in editorial direction.
  - New business plan proposed for presentation at fall Council meeting (Sept 29/30).
- International
  - SPE is publishing an International Newsletter twice a year (can download from the website).
  - Thermoforming held a European conference; 300 attended.
  - Current membership numbers:
    - Total International: 3200
    - Asia: 600
    - Americas: 1200 (includes Canada)
    - Balance (1100) is presumably Europe
  - Note that U.S. represents >80% of membership and 95% of revenue.
  - Trying to figure out what to do in China.
- Governance and Structure
  - New by-laws ratified by 28/1 margin.
  - Three year process to complete.
  - By-laws and policies committee working on revised policies.
  - Donna Davis looking at current SPE organization relative to peer organizations and changes will be proposed
  - Current organization compared to so-called peer organizations:
    - AIChE
    - TAPPI
    - SME (incomplete info)
    - German Chemical Society (not sure why this was included and ACS was absent)
  - None of these organizations have a Council in the sense of the SPE Council. Note that ACS apparently does, and it was suggested that this was the reason that ACS was excluded from the comparison.
  - Implementation envisioned beginning at '07 ANTEC, with a two year transition to new structure.
- Training & Education:
  - Programs doing well, revenues ahead of plan. Seminar program offerings planned at NPE.
- SPE Foundation:
  - Now have a full complement of trustees versus the single one we had last

## □ **TPC - Surendra Agarwal**

- ABC 2006 Updates
  - Bob Jackson
  - MSU Center, Troy, MI
  - Title: Global Innovation in Blow Molding
  - BOD on Tuesday, October 10th
  - Wed/Thur, October 11th & 12th
  - NPE year (June 19-23)
  - Postcards for ABC printed
  - Break-outs for Packaging & Industrial
  - Goal: 300 paid attendees
  - Need to advertise Blow Molding 101
  - Need names of presenters for advertisement at ANTEC
- ABC 2007 Updates
  - Surendra Agarwal/Lew Ferguson
  - Toledo, OH
  - October 9, 10, 11 - 2007
  - K-Show year
  - Call for papers at ABC 2006
- ABC 2008 Updates
  - Lew Ferguson/Dave Holliman
  - October 10 - 12
  - Chevron-Phillips
  - Bartlesville, OK
    - Confirmation of site and dates?
- ABC 2009 Updates
  - OPEN/Co-Chair Scott if in Toledo/Jon Meckley
  - October 10 - 12
  - NPE year

- ANTEC 2006, Charlotte
  - Lew Ferguson
  - Blow Molding sessions on Wed, May 10
    - 8:30 to 10:30
    - Four papers
    - Division Awards Meeting, 10:30 - 11:30 AM
- ANTEC 2007, Cincinnati
  - Jon Meckley/Surendra Agarwal
- ANTEC 2008, Milwaukee
  - Surendra Agarwal/Bob Jackson
- ANTEC 2009, San Antonio
  - Bob Jackson/Ron Puvak
- ANTEC 2010, Orlando
  - Open

#### ❑ **Treasurer's Report - John Rathman**

- Treasurer is to investigate alternate investment strategies for the grant fund.
  - Report at next board meeting
- Operating Fund Budget
  - No changes
- Disbursement Fund Budget
  - No changes
- Grant Fund Budget
  - No changes

#### ❑ **Education - Mark Heitker**

- New scholarship recipients
  - Matthew Gross at Pennsylvania College of Technology will receive the Carrie Fox Solin Memorial Scholarship
  - Daniel Dempsey at Penn State Erie will receive the John Raymonds Memorial Scholarship
    - Both of these scholarship recipients plan to attend ANTEC
- A \$5000 scholarship contribution has been received from ExxonMobil Technology. This is expected to become an annual contribution.
- 2006 Student Design Competition: Joe Altimari has volunteered to coordinate this activity.
  - Dave Holliman is coordinating this program and has received 3 applications.
  - The education committee intends to review the final submissions during the ANTEC BOD meeting.
  - The education committee recommends continuing to encourage a presentation of the design competition winning entry at the ABC including assistance with travel expenses.
- Graham Machinery Group Continuing Education Grant Program (Former Workplace Scholarship):
  - No activity during this period
  - Committee report on other uses will be provided at Fall BOD meeting
- Blow Molding Division Grant Fund:
  - The 1st grant for the amount of \$1000 was awarded to Associate Professor Larry Schult of Ferris State University to assist with expenses for his four month sabbatical to develop a blow molding curriculum for use in the FSU Plastics Engineering Technology program.
    - We hope to receive a report on his project later this year.
  - A request from Penn State Erie for preventative maintenance service work on their Bekum blow molding machine after being moved to a new lab building in summer 2006 has been received.
  - Application received and approved - \$1500.
- Division Disbursement account funds were used to pay for the PlasticVan visit to ABC 2005 and to assist students and faculty from area plastic engineering programs to attend the ABC.
- The Education Committee recommends continuing to sponsor thePlastiVam.
- A proposal to assist the Mid-Michigan Section with PlastiVan sponsorship will be reviewed by the education committee.
- Support for Mid-Michigan PlastiVan proposal 2006 approved.
- A decision to award a Best Student Paper Award at ANTEC 2006 will be deferred until more information on the paper to be presented is obtained.
- Student Zone site being added to the SPE Website.
- SPI joint cooperation for Scholarships being investigated by SPE national.

#### ❑ **Award Report - Dave Holliman**

- Lifetime Achievement
  - Martin Stark - President of Bekum Machinery was awarded Lifetime Achievement
- Fellows Nomination
  - Lew Ferguson achieved Fellow
- Honored Service Nomination
  - No candidates
- Outstanding Board Member Service
  - Scott Steele awarded



- Investigation of a committee of Fellows for identifying and writing up Fellows and Honored Service
  - Joe Altamari to lead Fellows & Honored Service Award program

## ❑ **Marketing - Bob Jackson**

- Newsletter - Ron Puvak (volunteers needed)
  - Electronic format - Need National Assistance
  - Postcards mailing to check efficiency. Not yet initiated
  - Next Newsletter - May after ANTEC. Deadline May 15th.
  - Next briefs - one a month. Maria Russo contact.
  - Focused columns could be generated.
    - PET SBM column - Scott Steele
    - Column Extrusion blow - Gary Carr (Summer Issue)
    - Industrial Blow Molding column - Ben Lopez
    - Injection Blow Molding column - Ben Lopez (Summer Issue)
- Membership
  - Primary-
  - Secondary
  - Total
  - Lew will e-mail to new members. Six months back. Will complete by Fall 2006
- Sponsorships
  - Major groups to market
    - Resin suppliers
    - Mold makers/Secondary operations
    - Machinery Manufacturers
    - End Users
  - Will begin new cycle. Go back to old sponsors and others.
    - Started. Will be part of October ABC 2006.
  - Needs list of potential sponsors from BOD members - Sent to Mary
  - Add sponsorship materials to the web site. DONE
  - Look at NPE sponsorship notification for their booths.
- Web Site
- ABC 2006 Market programs
  - Papers coming in. Need more.
  - Program needs completed. Abstracts needed.
  - On-site plans underway.
  - Postcard mailings - YES. One more.
  - Flyer mailing. Next in June.
  - Publish registration form - COMPLETED and ON-LINE
  - Credit card transaction - Scott Steele.
  - Fee's: Regular registration: \$350 SPE member, \$450 Non-member 30 days prior. \$400 SPE member, \$500 Non-member at the door. 1 day fee \$250. Highlight SPE membership for higher conference fee.
  - NPE effort - SPE Booth, Members Booths - Handouts/Postcards. HOLDER NEEDED, ELECTRONIC ALSO.
- Need to have surveys for feedback.

## ❑ **Old Business**

- None

## ❑ **New Business**

- Received Pride award
- Pinnacle award will be submitted this year.
- Bob Jackson made a motion to consider a full/part time employee directed towards the promotion of ABC's. Proposed to do it as a trial to see if it will contribute to the growth of the board's activities.
  - Daryle Damschroder seconded the motion
  - Motion was passed
  - A job description will be presented for review at the fall board meeting.
    - Bob Jackson
    - Surendra Agarwal
    - Daryle Damschroder
- Ron Puvak turned the leadership over to Dave Holliman at the end of the meeting.

## ❑ **ADJOURNMENT**

- Motion to adjourn made by Lew Ferguson. Seconded by Bob Jackson
- The Board accepted the motion

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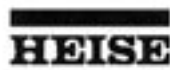
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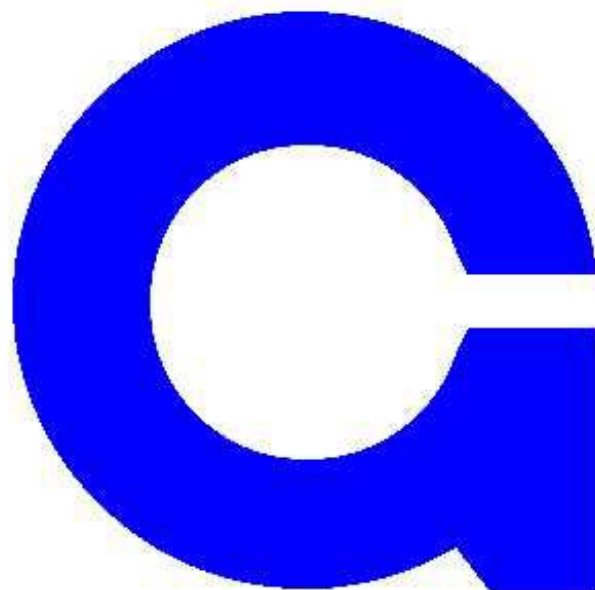
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