



Update: January 2010

You may recall our recent attempt to encourage increased volunteer activity within the Mid-Michigan Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers. That effort proved to be less than fruitful. Our failure to attract *any* new volunteers and indications by some existing board members that they will not seek re-election after their term has been completed means that, although we will continue to operate for the foreseeable future, it will be with a reduced board. A reduced board means that we will have to curtail many activities.

Contact information for the current Board of Directors and the role(s) that each person plays can be found at <http://www.midmichiganspe.org/contacts.html>. The composition of our Board will change to just a handful of people at the end of this year (July, 2010). Our Section has undergone and will continue to undergo some significant changes because of these reductions which will impact the types of programs that we can bring to our members. For example:

- We will no longer produce a multi-page newsletter. This document is an example of the newsletter that will be used to communicate to our members. There will be three such newsletters per year. The web site will become the main focus for communication.
- The number of Technical Meetings held by the Section will be vastly reduced. We will host one joint technical meeting annually and will seek to partner with other local technical organizations so that we can offer our members access to their programs.
- The attendance of our Councilor at Council (how we are represented to International and how we ensure our voice is heard) will be limited to remote participation.
- Liaison with Student Sections within local Universities will only be responded to if initiated by the University. There are no funds in the budget to support college student activities or student attendance at conferences. There are funds and active personnel that will allow us to continue to support the PlastiVan visits and other K-12 activities.
- Sponsorship solicitation will be put on hold indefinitely which will in-turn limit the Sections ability to generate funds for any new activities.

We have funds to maintain the level of activity detailed above for the foreseeable future. What we lack are volunteers willing to take a leadership role. Our intent is to ensure that we have a viable Section if and when new volunteers can be identified that will expand the activities we can offer.

We will continue to meet the requirements of SPE International to ensure that we remain an active Section.

Adrian Merrington
President, Mid-Michigan Section SPE