



# Western Plastics Pioneers Newsletter

Q3 2010

*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:

I cannot believe how fast this year has gone. In my last letter to you I described all the activities of your Pioneers Board of Directors during the past year and how proud I was of their accomplishments on behalf of the Pioneers. Now you have the opportunity to thank them personally at the Annual Luncheon on Sunday, August 15. You will also learn the identity of an outstanding Pioneer we honor with our Hall Of Fame Award.

I am pleased that the luncheon location is once again the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club with its beautiful views of Newport Harbor for atmosphere and the Steak & Salmon Combo entree for great gourmet food. Invite your friends and family to join you at this special event which highlights your career in the plastics industry in the West. It's become a tradition for each Pioneer to introduce himself and herself to the audience. Come prepared to tell your story and to listen to other Pioneers stories. It's fun to see old industry friends at least once a year and catch up on their lives.

Joe LaFountain is once again running the raffle which is always entertaining. Joe has seen to it that we have lots of good prizes, so buy extra tickets and increase your odds of winning something good. Joe sees to it that everyone is a winner.

Make your reservation and I will look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely, *Spencer L. Knapp, President -Western Plastics Pioneers*

## *Membership Report May 2010*

The Western Plastics Pioneers welcomes two new members.

Dr. Clem Hiel of Composite Support and Solutions, Inc. (CSSI) of San Pedro, CA and Paul Appelbaum of PartnerPak, Inc. of Huntington Beach, CA.

We wish to continue to invite industry professionals with Twenty-Five years of plastics/plastics related experience to apply for membership.

Current members are also encouraged to nominate eligible people in plastics by contacting me by phone or by fax at 714-974-3999. Have a safe and fun summer.

*John Szary, Membership Chair*

## *Your Voice Counts*

Hello Fellow WPP Members:

Our recent tour of the Ocean Institute was enjoyed by those who participated with our personal guide Frank Capolupo. We are planning other events for our members their friends and families. A few ideas discussed during a recent board meeting include **Nixon Library, Reagan Library, Palm Springs Follies, Getty Museum and a local matinee show.**

*Which of the above choices would you prefer and attend? Do you have other venues that you would like to suggest? Please send your comments to Richard's email, [LUCIRJ@AOL.COM](mailto:LUCIRJ@AOL.COM).*

Thank you, Richard Luciano - Vice President

## *Board Members*

### **Officers**

President

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Treasurer

Rosetta "Rusty" Miller  
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Past President

Joe LaFountain

### **Board Members**

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Membership Chair

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## Pioneers Scholarship Program

Three applications were received for the 2010 WPP \$2,000.00 scholarship. To be qualified for the award, applicants must be attending a school in Arizona, California, Oregon or Washington and have demonstrated a sincere interest in a plastics industry career.

Devin Dekeczter is a junior at California State University, Chico enrolled in manufacturing technology and expects to earn his Bachelor of Science degree by the spring of 2011. He is at an advanced level of Solidworks modeling creating part files that are to be injection molded and designing A and B side molds for manufacturing those parts. He is also taking a course that focuses on plastic selection based on specific polymer properties and another course that involves design for manufacturing plastic parts. Devon has hands on experience in blow molding, injection molding, thermoforming and rotational molding. He has also worked on film extrusion and compression molding equipment.

Will Fletcher is a junior at Pomona College enrolled in chemistry and mathematics and expects to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree in the spring of 2012. Will has been involved in research projects related to polymer dynamics. He has focused on polyelectrolyte multi-layers which are used as a model for sophisticated polymer assemblies. He has designed a mathematical model to simulate the diffusion of ions and water throughout a polymer assembly. Will has received research grants from Pomona College and Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Will plans to pursue a career in polymer science research. His preference is to enter the plastics industry and participate in applied polymer science research.

Michael Gormally is a junior at Pomona College enrolled in chemistry and plans to graduate the spring of 2011 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Michael received the 2009 WPP and the National Plastics Pioneers scholarship awards. He has been active in research programs at Pomona College since 2007 in the area of polymer multilayer systems and electrostatically self-assembled multi-layers. Michael has published three technical articles pertaining to his research conducted at Pomona College. He has a passion for polymer research and a long term goal to pursue a research doctorate and career in plastics research.

The winner of the WPP 2010 \$2000.00 scholarship award is ----- see you at the annual luncheon Sunday Aug. 15, 2010.

Richard Luciano

## Man Made Polymers



### Wallace Hume Carothers

(April 27, 1896 – April 29, 1937) can be considered as the father of the science of manufacturing man-made polymers and the man responsible for the invention of nylon and neoprene.

Carothers was a brilliant chemist and held over fifty patents. In 1928 Dupont Chemical Company opened a research laboratory for the development of artificial materials and Wallace Carothers left his position as Professor at Harvard to lead Dupont research division. In 1931 Dupont started the manufacture of neoprene, a synthetic rubber created in Carothers laboratory. They then turned their attention towards a synthetic silk. Japan was the United States' main source of silk and trade relations were breaking down. Carothers had made significant progress by 1934 and he had created a synthetic silk by combining the chemicals amine, hexamethylene diamine and adipic acid to create a new fibre formed by the polymerization process known as a condensation reaction.

In 1935 Carothers found a strong polyamide fibre that stood up to heat and solvents. They called the new fibre Nylon and this product was introduced to the world in 1938. In 1938 Fortune Magazine wrote "Nylon breaks the basic elements like nitrogen and carbon out of coal, air and water to create a completely new molecule structure of its own. It flouts Solomon. It is an entirely new arrangement of matter under the sun, and the first completely new synthetic fibre made by man. In over four thousand years, textiles have seen only three basic developments aside from mechanical mass production, mercerized cotton, synthetic dyes and rayon. Nylon is the fourth."

The first known application for nylon was tooth brush bristles followed in 1940 by nylon stockings.

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Society of The Plastic Industry



# Annual Pioneers Luncheon & Raffle

**Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club - Corona Del Mar, CA**  
**Sunday - August 15, 2010**

Hello Pioneers. Can you believe it, August is just around the corner and we're gearing up for another great party at the beautiful waterfront Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club. This is a great opportunity for you to invite your family and friends to enjoy fantastic food and entertainment. I say entertainment because that's what the raffle really is.

We also will award the 2010 Western Plastics Hall of Fame to a deserving inductee. You surely do not want to miss this ceremony.

Our luncheon begins at 11:30 AM. The club's award winning chef will provide gourmet cuisine priced at only \$40.00 per person for the entire meal including salad, steak and salmon entree, rolls & butter, desert, tea & coffee. We were completely full to capacity last year so be sure to get your reservation in quickly.



The private Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club is located just south of Newport Beach at 1601 Bayside Dr. in Corona Del Mar.

Phone the club at 949-644-9530 if you need last minute directions.



*Please make your reservations by clipping the reservation coupon below and enclosing it with your check. We need your reservations and check no later than August 1.*

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**RESERVATION COUPON**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 (\$40.00 per person, \$80.00 per couple)

**Make checks payable to "Western Plastics Pioneers"**

Mail to: **Rusty Miller**  
**8410 Seranta**  
**Whittier, CA 90603**

If you have questions regarding the luncheon please call Rusty Miller 562-947-5058

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**Western Plastics Pioneers**  
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Orange, CA 92867

The logo for Western Plastics Pioneers features a stylized, three-lobed shape resembling a 'W' or a 'Y' with rounded ends. The shape is composed of multiple parallel lines, creating a sense of depth and movement. The words 'WESTERN' and 'PLASTICS' are written vertically along the left and right sides of the shape, respectively, in a bold, sans-serif font.