

## **SPE Palisades New Jersey First Virtual Section Meeting Thursday, September 24, 5:30 pm, on-line**

### **SPE'S VISION Jason Lyons, SPE President-Elect**

With events moved to all-virtual for (at least) the fall, what will the coming year look like for SPE and its mission of education and connection? Join us to hear SPE President-Elect, Dr. Jason Lyons, share SPE's vision, plans, and what has been learned from the virtual events held so far. Join in the discussion with your SPE Palisades-New Jersey Section and hear from our new President, Peggy Schipper, as we look for innovative ways to connect virtually with our local SPE community.

The Board meeting will begin at 4 pm, and the General meeting will begin at 5:30 pm and conclude around 6:30 pm. It's the new normal kind of happy hour, so bring your own beverage! Whether you are near or far from central NJ, we'd love to see you online. The link for the GoToMeeting Video Meeting and Phone Dial-In Information will be posted on our website [www.spe-pnj.org](http://www.spe-pnj.org) on the day of the meeting.

The board meeting invitation with a private link will be sent to the board of directors and chairpersons by email; contact us at [info@spe-pnj.org](mailto:info@spe-pnj.org) with questions or if you want to attend the board meeting.

#### **Speaker biography:**

Jason Lyons is President-Elect for SPE and has been involved with SPE for many years. From 2010-2018, he sat on the SPE Engineering Properties & Structure Division (EPSDIV) Board of Directors. During that time, he introduced the EPSDIV Seminar Series, was an EPSDIV technical program chair in 2010 and 2017 and was EPSDIV chair in 2014. He has been on the SPE Additive Manufacturing & 3D Printing Special Interest Group Board of Directors since 2016 and has been an ANTEC® moderator since 2010. Lyons served on the SPE Executive Board as VP Divisions from 2016, and in July 2020 was elected as president-elect through 2021, when he will start his term as president through 2022.

Dr. Lyons is also Business Manager for Arkema's Kepstar®PEKK product line. He started at Arkema, Inc in 2006 as a Scientist working on developing the next generation toughening agents for a variety of plastic materials. In 2012 he became the R&D Manager for the Plastics Additives team. After four years, he was asked to lead a new start-up business within Arkema's corporate incubator, and is now Business Manager for Arkema's Kepstar®PEKK product line. Prior to joining Arkema, Dr. Lyons worked for NovaComp, Inc. where he led efforts to secure government funding for small business research grants and he was an Adjunct Professor at Philadelphia University in the College of Engineering teaching courses on Biomechanics and Textile Mechanics. He has a PhD in Materials Engineering from Drexel University and a BS in Textile Engineering from Philadelphia University.

#### **Want To Become a Section Member?**

If you're receiving this newsletter regularly, you probably are on our membership list. But if not, if you're already an SPE member, [click here](#) to add a geographical section to your SPE membership. If you want to join SPE as a member, [click here](#), and then choose Palisades-New Jersey as your section membership. Our section members are also active in SPE Technical Divisions, such as the [Vinyl Plastics Division](#), the [Thermoplastic Materials and Foams Division](#), and the [Extrusion Division](#), among others. Check out all the divisions [here](#).

#### **UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

##### **2020**

**September 24** Section Meeting (Virtual)  
**October 20-21** Vinyltec®2020 :  
A Clear Vision of the Future

##### **2021**

**March 22-26** ANTEC®2021  
**May 17-21** NPE2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to a new season of the Palisades-NJ Section of SPE – COVID Style. As the incoming President, I have to say that it's a daunting task to be taking over the reins from Mike Carnese in the middle of a COVID-19 Pandemic. But in hindsight, during my 30+ years in the industry, we have always had a challenge to rise to. Way back in the day, before I started my career and when vinyl was in its infancy, the Vinyl Chloride Monomer scare threatened to shut down the whole industry before it even got started. But brilliant scientists with innovative thinking stepped up and fixed the problem, which resulted in the very safe manufacturing procedures that we have today. In the 80's and 90's, Greenpeace and Environmentalists were relentless in their attacks on the plastics industry, especially vinyl, and pioneers of the Palisades Section like Len Nass, Dave Riley and Elliott Weinberg fought back with sound science and arguments. Throughout the years in between, we have risen to numerous other challenges, always with sound science and education.

During those early years, the industry was booming and meetings and conferences attracted hundreds and sometimes thousands of attendees. From those conferences came the Section's "war chest" which enables us to fund thousands of dollars in scholarships annually. In 2020, our section gave out over \$26,000 to incoming college freshmen, other undergraduate students and graduate students mostly in the scientific fields. Mark Lavach and his committee worked tirelessly to further the section's mission of Education. With the cost of education today, I have to say that our ability to help students further their education while easing their debt drives me in my involvement in this section and is the thing that I am most proud of.

This year, coming up in October 20-21, we will be co-sponsoring with the Vinyl Division our first virtual Vinyltec – "20/20 : A Clear Vision of the Future". We are hopeful that the virtual format will enable many more people to attend and reap the benefit of the knowledge of the great lineup that the Technical Program Committee has worked tirelessly to put together. Please sign up by [clicking here](#). Proceeds from the conference enable us to give more scholarship money in the spring.

Lastly, please join us virtually on September 24th at 5:30PM for our first VIRTUAL Monthly Meeting to hear Dr Jason Lyons, President-Elect of SPE share SPE's vision, plans, and what has been learned from the virtual events held so far. It's free, you don't have to plan too far ahead and we'd love to see you (even if only on the screen) with your ideas for future monthly meeting topics and events.

Best Regards & Stay Healthy!  
Peg Schipper

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<https://www.facebook.com/PalisadesSectionSPE>

And our Website

[www.SPE-PNJ.org](http://www.SPE-PNJ.org)

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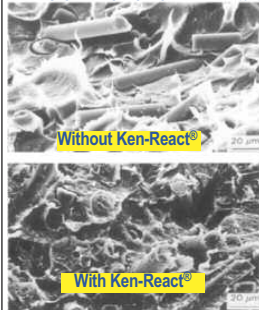
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## 20/20: A CLEAR VISION OF THE FUTURE

Day 1 Pre-Conference Workshop PVC 101: Introductions to the chemistry, applications, and formulation.

This course is designed for the new entries in the PVC industry, and is also appropriate for those in the polymer trade that are looking for a primer on vinyl. The course will cover rigid and flexible, plastisols and dry blends, properties and testing.

Day 2 Presentations 20/20: A Clear Vision of the Future of Vinyl Industry insiders and experts share new insights and recent updates on this changing landscape. We will be discussing timely topics like how legislature and current economic trends are affecting the industry, the impacts of the demand for sustainability, and how the supply of raw materials may be changing in the future. Suppliers and manufacturers in the vinyl space will be presenting new products and equipment that can potentially add value to many the applications in the vinyl market.

Cost to Attend: \$149

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## STUDENT NEWS



Although the fall 2020 semester is not exactly a normal one, we at SPE-Rutgers hope to be just as, if not more, involved and interactive as we normally are! Our main goal is to focus on sharing the plastics industry with our Rutgers community and getting the word out about what makes it so unique and exciting. We really want to get more students involved and provide more opportunities for the community. Some events we have planned for this fall semester is a meet-and-greet type networking event with professors, alumni events, and various special guest speaking events. We can't wait to see what the semester has in store for us!

### SPE 2020-21 Executive Board:

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
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| Treasurer: Keely McCabe     | EGC Representative: Melanie Alpert |
| Secretary: Matthew Chase    | Media/Outreach: Kira Wilson        |

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Contact any person on this page by emailing [info@spe-pnj.org](mailto:info@spe-pnj.org)

## 2020-21 OFFICERS

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Mark Lavach	Arkema	610-878-6985

## EMERITUS DIRECTOR

Jay Kotak	Retired
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