



2025 Fourth Quarter Newsletter

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Networking Social @ Rivers Casino

A.N.T.E.C. @ Pittsburgh, PA

P.T.X.P.O. @ Rosemont, IL

Golf Outing @ Seven Bridges

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SAVE THE DATE

JAN 15, 2025

SOCIAL @ RIVERS CASINO



SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 29, 2025

GOLF OUTING @ SEVEN BRIDGES



President's Letter, November 2025

Mark Wolverton, President

Hello SPE Chicago!

Introducing me: Mark Wolverton, who was elected to succeed Paul Calhoon as President. Drafted, dragooned, and recycled are also suitable verbs!



I'm happy to serve again. I may not be as prolific as Paul and will try to guide the Section to success. We had a quiet summer after the golf outing. I hope the Arburg tour [2] is the first of many such events. Please reach out with ideas for technical and social activities! Though, nominally retired from materials Applications Development, I am a PlastiVan educator. Please let me know of your favorite middle or high school to bring "Positive Plastics Education" to our youth. It is only \$2,100/day. For more info on PlastiVan, see page 15!



Mark Wolverton, President

M: (630) 240-5110

mark_wolverton@sbcglobal.net

ARBURG

Tour and Presentation at Arburg, Inc.

Elgin, IL November 13, 2025

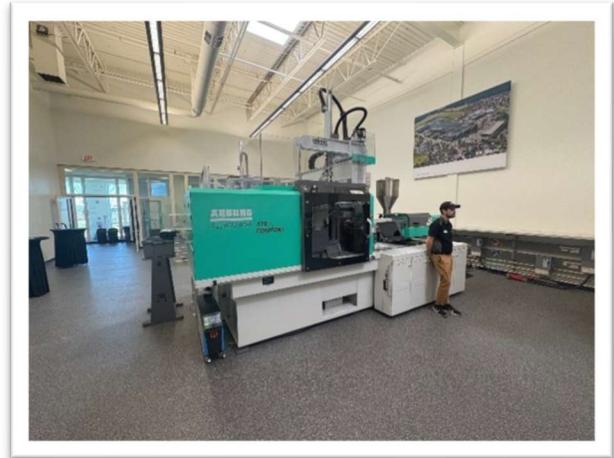
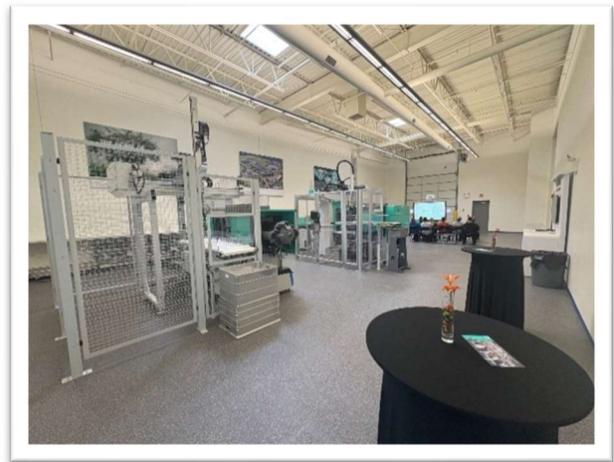
Mark Wolverton

It was a great tour at the Arburg Inc. facility in Elgin, IL!

(<https://www.arburg.com/en/us/>)

Twenty-five attendees were treated to demonstrations and discussions about innovations at Arburg. Two machines were running – a hydraulic and electric. Both are very quiet! Lunch was Fajita Friday!

Arburg was founded in 1923 as a precision machine shop by the Hehl family. It remains a family business! Arburg ventured into injection molding and machine development in 1954 as existing machines were too large for over molding corrosion protection for flashgun leads. They were innovating and developing micro-molding and over molding to protect electrical connectors from corrosion. Arburg is a global enterprise with 37 locations and 3,450 employees. Arburg has trained more than 2,600 apprentices over 80 years. Daniel Heinzelmann, Technical Sales Manager Midwest, described Arburg's modular approach which includes the injection molding machine, robotics, integrated controls which



are available separately or in a turnkey manufacturing cell. Arburg addresses sustainability and operations challenges such as rapid response to markets, small-lot production and quick training. Arburg plans to have their ALLROUNDER TREND in the USA next year. It was showcased at K-Show.

Then, SPE Chicago Section Board member Mitesh Patel presented successes in automation completed through the Chicago Innovation & Technology Center. He and his team have completed significant challenges in precision and bulk handling.

Link: [Chicago Innovation and Technology Center, LLC – Reimagining the future state](#)

Thank you to Mitesh Patel for the connection, Kim Rush for arrangements, Cam Kuhlman for developing the flyer, and Matt Johnson for the electronic notices!

Technical Highlights & Key Takeaways

Elise Kaisergruber



Our visit to ARBURG's Midwest Technology Center in Elgin, IL provided a concise yet valuable look at how starting with a reliable, stable machine platform sets manufacturers up for success in today's unpredictable production environment. The message: precision, repeatability, and dependable support remain essential when external conditions fluctuate.

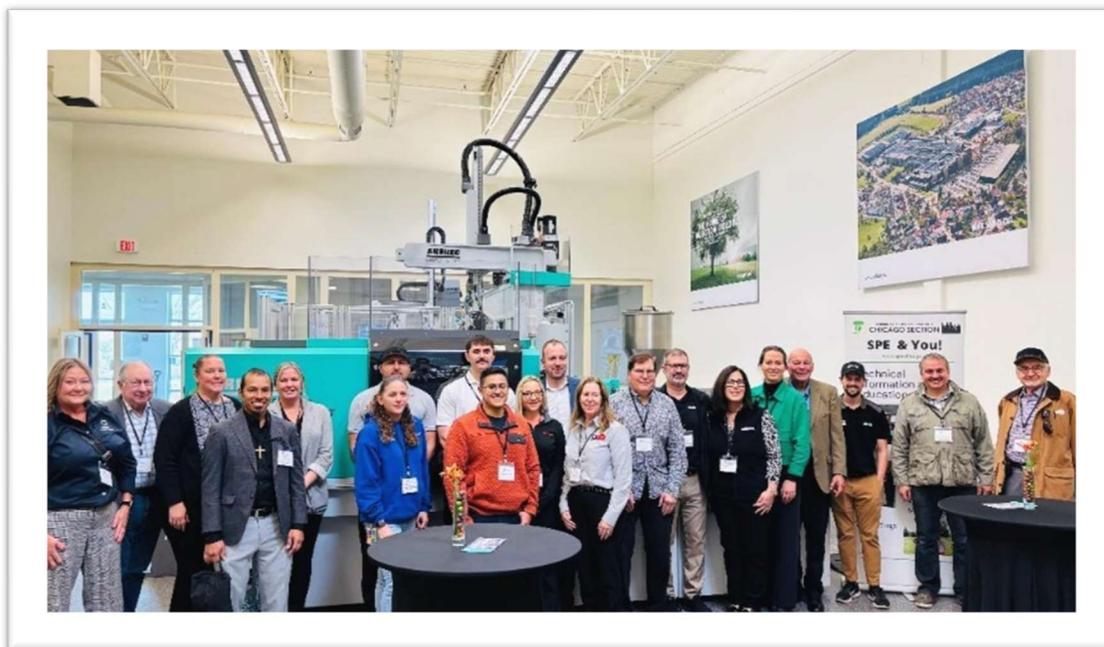
Presenter Daniel Heinzelmann (Territory Manager, Midwest) combined German engineering discipline with U.S. market experience to emphasize the role of process stability, control accuracy, and responsive service in offsetting challenges such as volatile resin pricing, labor constraints, and shifting order volumes.



ARBURG's technical team showcased their machine performance, including rapid mold changes, troubleshooting strategies, and energy-monitoring tools. Their clear explanations and expert handling of technical questions added substantial value to the session.

Mitesh Patel from the Chicago Innovation and Technology Center highlighted how automation integrates with injection molding to enhance consistency and scalability. His key point: automation isn't an add-on - it's the bridge between stable processing, efficiency, and future-ready manufacturing.

Our visit to Arburg offered a strong blend of engineering insight, practical demonstrations, and candid discussions around current industry challenges. Many thanks to Daniel, the ARBURG Elgin team, Mitesh for an informative and engaging session, and most importantly: all our fellow SPE members who came to learn and get involved!



ComEd Facility Assessments



Energy Efficiency

Facility Assessments

The first, no-cost step to making energy efficiency improvements.



Reduce energy use and lower operating costs to begin your clean energy journey.

1. Preliminary Interview

It starts with a 10-minute phone call from a ComEd engineer who will ask pertinent questions about your facility and work with you to develop a specific plan for your assessment and schedule the site visit.

2. Site Visit

The ComEd engineer interviews your building staff to learn about the building equipment and day-to-day operations. Your energy usage is reviewed using our FREE Business Energy Analyzer (BEA) tool to identify operational opportunities for energy savings. Then over a couple hours, our engineer conducts a thorough investigative walkthrough to identify additional energy-saving strategies.

3. Your Assessment Report

A few weeks later, the ComEd engineer will review the results of the assessment with you and bring an outreach representative who can discuss next steps. The customized report will highlight recommendations for energy efficiency projects that include estimated energy and cost savings, project cost, potential incentives, and simple payback that you can start working on immediately.

4. Start Your Projects

Our Service Providers are an excellent resource to help you get started on your project. They are trained in executing our program and can perform the work. A Service Provider can be found in our directory at [ComEd.com/FindAServiceProvider](https://www.comed.com/FindAServiceProvider).

Q: How can your business benefit from a ComEd Facility Assessment?

A: It's FREE! You'll get insights and recommendations on making clean energy investments at your facility. See if you qualify for discounts and cash incentives today.

[ComEd.com/FacilityAssessment](https://www.comed.com/FacilityAssessment)

Facility Assessments (Continued)



Project Snapshots

Retail

High Efficiency RTU Motors

- 90,689 kWh savings
- \$16,324 incentive
- \$70,029 project cost
- 5.4 years simple payback

Grocery

Lighting Retrofit to LED

- 524,533 kWh savings
- \$156,670 incentive
- \$422,636 project cost
- 4.5 years simple payback

Park District

Rooftop Unit HVAC

- 16,197 kWh savings
- \$5,956 incentive
- \$170,400 project cost
- Immediate simple payback*

Healthcare

Low Pressure Drop High Efficiency Air Filters

- 91,406 kWh savings
- \$5,974 incentive
- \$23,008 project cost
- 2.9 years simple payback

Metal Finishing

VSD on Chilled Water Pumps,
3 Production Lines

- 226,912 kWh savings
- \$40,844 incentive
- \$76,975 project cost
- 2.3 years simple payback

* Simple payback is based on the incremental cost difference between the energy-efficient equipment and the standard efficiency option.

Contact Us

Email BusinessEE@ComEd.com

Call **855-433-2700**

Visit ComEd.com/FacilityAssessment

Or scan this QR code →





Energy Efficiency

Business Energy Analyzer



Customized insights to help your business save.

Discover new ways to lower energy use and impact your bottom line.

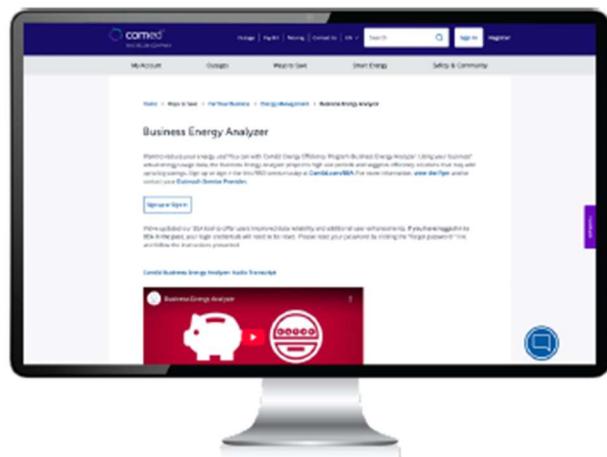
- **Analyze usage** down to 30-minute intervals and track off-hour usage.
- **View usage patterns** with access to the two most recent years of electric meter data.
- **Receive customized energy efficiency recommendations** and strategies.
- **Take advantage of available incentives** – data can help identify opportunities.

Take control of your energy use with this free online tool!

Step 1 – Enroll securely at ComEd.com/BEA using your account number and facility's ZIP code.

Step 2 – Enter your email address and create a password and provide details about your company. The more complete your profile is, the more personalized your data will be.

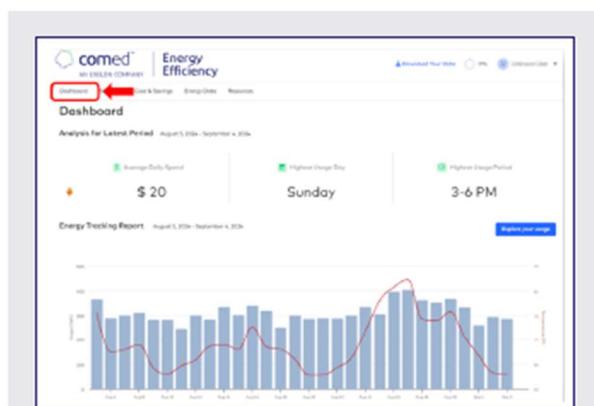
Step 3 – You're all set! Sign back in to start using the Business Energy Analyzer (BEA) to better manage the way your business uses energy.



(Continued)

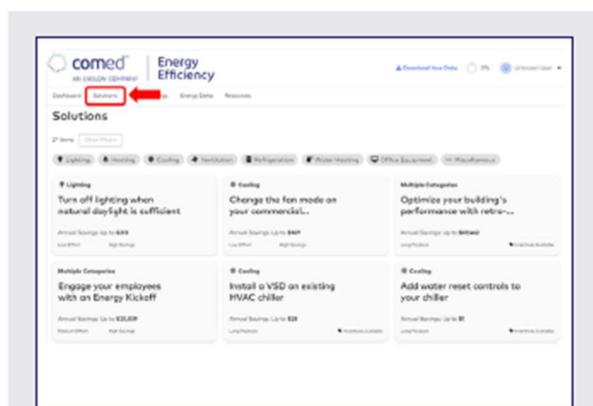
Business Energy Analyzer (Continued)

Reports are easy to download and share!



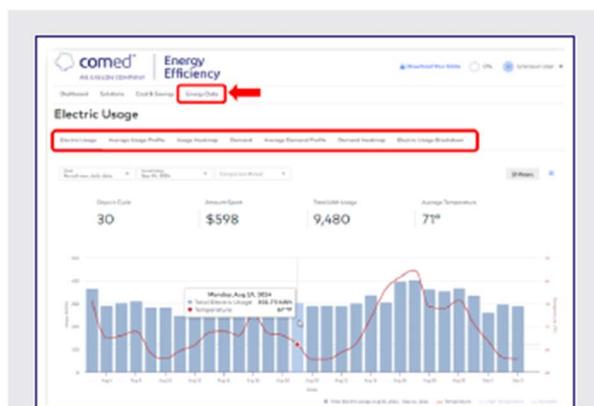
Dashboard

The Dashboard page provides high-level insights. See analysis of your latest billing period and an Energy Tracking Report.



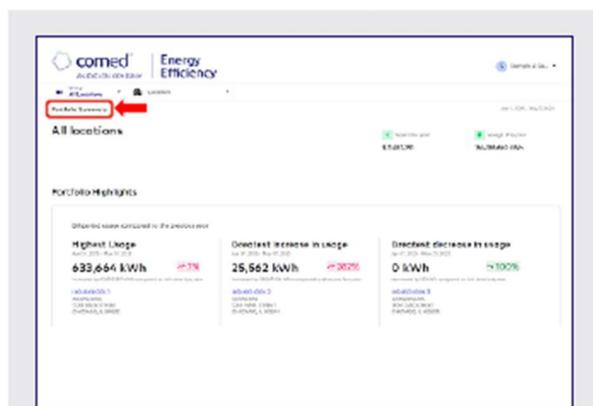
Solutions

The Solutions page shows no- and low-cost strategies and the ComEdSM Energy Efficiency Program incentives to help you save energy.



Energy Data Overview

The Energy Data Overview page provides you with a variety of customized views allowing a better understanding of daily energy usage trends.



Portfolio Summary

The Portfolio Summary helps you manage multiple ComEd accounts and compare costs by square foot.

For More Information

The ComEd Energy Efficiency Program offers incentives, facility assessments and whole-building solutions to help customers reduce energy use. For more information, visit [ComEd.com/BizIncentives](https://www.comed.com/BizIncentives), email BusinessEE@ComEd.com (for businesses) or PublicSectorEE@ComEd.com (for public sector customers), or call 855-433-2700.

Questions about BEA? Contact us:

Email BEA@ComEd.com

Call **855-433-2700**

Visit [ComEd.com/BEA](https://www.comed.com/BEA)

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



Upcoming Events

2025

DECEMBER

SUN	M	T	W	T	F	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Dec 8th Board meeting

Wyndham Garden Inn, Landmeier Road, Elk Grove Village

Your board meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, 4:30 to 6 pm.

Feel free to join us!

2026

JANUARY

SUN	M	T	W	T	F	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jan 12th Board meeting

Wyndham Garden Inn, Landmeier Road, Elk Grove Village

Jan 15th Networking Social

Rivers Casino
3000 S. River Rd.
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Flyer attached at bottom of newsletter! [18]

Feb 9th Board meeting

Wyndham Garden Inn, Landmeier Road, Elk Grove Village

Feb __ Networking Social

Bowling! Date and location TBD!

FEBRUARY

MARCH

SUN	M	T	W	T	F	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Mar 9th Board meeting

Wyndham Garden Inn, Landmeier Road, Elk Grove Village

Mar 9-12th A.N.T.E.C.

Pittsburgh, PA

Mar 17-19th P.T.X.P.O.

Donald E. Stephens Center
Rosemont, IL

Volunteer at the SPE booth for free admission!

APRIL

Apr 13th Board meeting

Wyndham Garden Inn, Landmeier Road, Elk Grove Village

MAY

May 11th Board meeting

Wyndham Garden Inn, Landmeier Road, Elk Grove Village

JUNE

SUN	M	T	W	T	F	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Jun 8th Board meeting

Wyndham Garden Inn, Landmeier Road, Elk Grove Village

Jun 22nd Golf Outing

~7:30 AM-5:00 PM
Seven Bridges Golf Club
1 Mulligan Dr.
Woodridge, IL 60517

Stay tuned for invitations to participate and sponsor!

Note from the Chicago SPE Chapter Councilor

Len Czuba

December 6th, 2025

There are two meaningful updates I would like to share.

1. SPE Council Meeting Report

A Council meeting was held in person in Pittsburgh on September 22. Attendance was strong, and the agenda focused on “What is on the minds of the Councilors?” Past SPE President Donna Davis, the Councilor from South Texas, was elected to lead a new advisory group called the **Council Leadership Team**.



Councilors expressed concern about the lack of communication between Council and SPE Governance (the Executive Committee, now called the Board of Directors, and Pat Farrey). Since 2021, SPE has been operating without Council involvement, beginning with the cancellation of the San Antonio ANTEC and continuing until the March 2025 meeting in Philadelphia. The Board of Directors and SPE staff, led by Pat Farrey, have been making decisions without Council input. COVID-19 was cited as the reason for not holding Council meetings until ANTEC in Philadelphia earlier this year. While many Councilors feel SPE has been run without representation from Sections and Divisions as of late, Councilors raised question of this to SPE Governance and are committed to strengthening collaboration between parties going forward.

Concerns included declining membership, the absence of Council meetings, the purchase of the French company 3D Natives, and desired improvement regarding communication. The March meeting was scheduled after active Councilors requested it prior to ANTEC 2025. This was the first Council meeting in five years, held on Monday of ANTEC 2025 in Philadelphia. It was well attended, and Councilors made it clear that we were dissatisfied with SPE operating without our input.

Breakout sessions addressed membership trends, leadership development, programming for Sections and Divisions, and other pressing

issues. These discussions reaffirmed that, while challenges exist, SPE Governance is committed to listening and working with Councilors to keep our organization strong.

2. Merger Announcement & Updates

The other major news is the announcement I received on October 2nd regarding plans to merge SPE into PLASTICS (formerly SPI). The goal is to complete the merger by the end of 2025. We have been assured that this will not change how SPE operates. I believe this merger has the potential to strengthen our industry voice and create new opportunities for members.

Although the timing of the announcement surprised many of us, I understand the need for confidentiality in such matters. What's most important now is that we stay engaged and informed as details are finalized. I have faith that SPE Governance will prioritize its members in the ensuing decisions and that our Sections and Divisions are ensured to thrive.

Several meetings have since been held with Division boards and leadership groups, but details remain “to be worked out.” My advice to our board is to wait and see what the specifics are and how, if at all, they will affect our operations. Although I am apprehensive, I am willing to wait and hope we can continue operating as before – perhaps with a stronger relationship with our elected Executive Committee (currently the Board of Directors). I also strongly believe governance must recognize that Council meetings are essential for open communication between leadership and members through their Councilors.

While we await details, three Plastics News articles have reported on the merger and shared perspectives from SPE and PLASTICS leadership. I am providing these for your reference:

- www.4spe.org/BetterTogether
- Plastics News articles:
 - <https://www.plasticsnews.com/news/spe-plastics-industry-association-mergespe-becoming-unit-plastics>
 - <https://www.plasticsnews.com/viewpoint/spe-plastics-industry-association-merger-gives-plastics-stronger-unified-voice>
 - <https://www.plasticsnews.com/news/top-advocate-spe-plastics-industry-association-merger-outlines-benefits-union>
- www.4spe.org/MergerQuestions & www.4spe.org/MergerAnswers (updated regularly)

Chicago SPE Chapter – Board Roster

Meet your Board of Directors!



President (2025/26) – Mark Wolverson



Vice President – Mitesh Patel



Treasurer – Chad Sypkens



Secretary – Kimberly Rush



Councilor (2025-2027) – Len Czuba



Membership – Paul Calhoon

Past President



Newsletter – Cameron Kuhlman



Promotions – Elise Kaisergruber



Golf Chair – Matt Johnson



Educational Foundation – Kimberly Rush



Director – Mercedes Landazuri



Director – Raymond Wyer, Jr.



Director – Nick Sotos



Director – Anne Boudreaux

Past Meeting & Event Photos





PlastiVan

SPE Chicago's Greater Purpose: Inspiring Future Plastics Professionals

Inspiring future plastics professionals starts at a young age. SPE Chicago and SPE Chicago Foundation team up to raise money through events like Vinyltec to send educators into the classroom to teach students everything from “where we find plastics in our lives today” to the “basic chemistry and polymer science” involved in its development.



To request the PlastiVan Program or more information contact either Mark Richardson at plastivan@4spe.org or Mark Wolverton from SPE Chicago at mwolverton@4spe.org.

Please consider sponsoring an educator at a school near you.

This is a great program where educators spend an entire day in either a middle school or high school teaching the entire day. The first step in the process is an introduction to the school administration, then connecting with the teacher and scheduling this S.T.E.M. module into their lesson plans. This can sometimes take an entire class year. To sponsor an educator for a day in a classroom costs \$2100. Thank you for considering this in your 2025 budget planning.

2025 Donald McCoy Chicago SPE Scholarship

The SPE Foundation is delighted to present a report of your 2025 Donald McCoy Chicago SPE Scholarship Recipient. We are grateful for your commitment to our future workforce and hope you take pride in seeing how your support drives Chase's education and career aspirations.

Together, we awarded our highest number of scholarships in the history of the SPE Foundation this year, totaling 117 scholarships to 81 individuals with \$304,000 in funds. Thank you for role in this achievement and for your continued investment in our future workforce!

Sincerely,

Eve Vitale

Eve Vitale, Foundation Executive
SPE Foundation



My name is Chase Ackman. I am a sophomore at the University of Southern Indiana majoring in Business Management/Marketing. Throughout my freshman year at USI, in addition to my course work, I participated in Greek life and intramural sports. I have spent my summers working at MAC Plastics Manufacturing in Olney, IL, and being a camp counselor at Camp Ondessonk shaping our youth. My plans after obtaining my degree are to join the Sales Dept. at MAC Plastics. With my outgoing personality, I am excited to work with customers on not just existing plastic extrusions but also assisting in the design of new plastic extrusions and technologies as well.

"I would like to say thank you, as I am absolutely honored to be awarded the Donald McCoy Chicago SPE Scholarship for this upcoming school year. The funds received from this scholarship will drastically help in allowing me to focus on my college studies and activities and reduce the amount of work hours needed to pay for my education. I am very excited to represent the SPE Foundation, Underground Devices, Inc., and the SPE Chicago Section by using my business degree to help grow business in the Sales Dept. at MAC Plastics Mfg. to bring more opportunities for the community in the plastics industry. Once again, thank you so much for this award."



Chase Ackman

In Memoriam

Most are aware that Glenn Beall passed in July 2025. He mentored many of us in part design, development and execution through injection molding, rotational molding, extrusion, thermoforming and other processes related to plastics. Patsy (his no-so-secret weapon) preceded him. They are missed.



SPE Chicago and SPE Chicago Foundation have joined the campaign to endow the Patsy & Glenn Beall Honored Service Member Scholarship. Please see give.4spe.org/PatsyandGlennBeallScholarship for information and a link to make your contribution.



INSPIRING PLASTICS PROFESSIONALS
CHICAGO SECTION



Social Networking Event



When: Thursday January 15, 2026

Time: 4:00 – 7:00pm

Where: Rivers Casino,
3000 S. River Rd.
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Lotus Bar – main floor, center

Cost: \$35 per person

Includes: Food & 2 Drink Tickets, free parking

Come out for an evening of fun and excitement. Whether you're a gambler or a voyeur, there will be great food, community and the opportunity to try your luck at a centrally located casino in Chicago.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Drinks: \$200 - four sponsorship opportunities
(includes admittance for 2 & yearly advertising on website & newsletters)

Food: \$200 - four sponsorship opportunities
(includes admittance for 2 & yearly advertising on website & newsletters)



MUST BE 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS A GAMBLING PROBLEM, CRISIS COUNSELING AND REFERRAL SERVICES CAN BE ACCESSED BY CALLING 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537).