

SPE Thermoforming Division Board of Directors 2026 Election Candidates





Chris Alongi

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Chris Alongi is one of the second-generation of leaders driving the family business at MAAC Machinery. MAAC builds custom thermoforming machinery of the cut-sheet, heavy-gauge variety serving customers world-wide. Responsibilities for Chris include the areas of Finance, Strategic Planning, Human Resources, Systems, and Operations. Always with an analytical mindset and a focus on efficiencies.

After working at MAAC throughout his younger days performing a variety of production jobs and overseeing accounting, Chris returned there full-time in 2018. Prior to that he picked up a Business Management degree and an MBA from Eastern Illinois University. He then spent the better part of two decades working as a Finance leader for Bridgestone Corp acquiring countless skills and experiences. Mentors within the plastics industry include 2006 Thermoformer of the year Paul Alongi and accomplished SPE board member James Alongi.

Chris attended his first board meeting in 2024 and is currently active on the Finance committee, supporting and contributing to the Team. He looks forward to continual learning of the industry and providing support to board discussions. Living in suburban Chicagoland with his wife and daughter, Chris is an avid Chicago sports fan and enjoys playing recreational basketball.



Patrick Castro, Jr.

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Patrick A. Castro Jr. is an exceptional leader and innovative entrepreneur with an outstanding portfolio that spans academia, military service, and business expertise. His journey commenced at Columbus State, where he pursued a business administration degree, laying the groundwork for his future endeavors.

While balancing studies, Patrick's commitment to service led him to enlist in the Army Reserves where he imbibed invaluable lessons in discipline, teamwork, and leadership. Simultaneously, he embarked on a career at Electro-General Plastics, initially working part-time while attending college.

In 1997, Patrick's dedication and exceptional performance propelled him from a production worker to a salesperson, playing a pivotal role in new product development. His passion for innovation and strategic vision fueled the company's growth and success.

In 2006, Patrick spearheaded the acquisition of Mid Tenn Plastics in Cookeville, TN, expanding Electro-General Plastics' footprint and exemplifying his entrepreneurial spirit.

As CEO of Electro-General Plastics, Corp since 2010, Patrick steers the third-generation family business into the future while preserving its heritage and values. Under his leadership, the company thrives, positioning itself for sustained success and future growth. His recent appointment to the SPE Thermoforming Division Board signifies his dedication to contributing his expertise and experience to the broader industry landscape. He looks forward to leveraging his decades of experience to drive innovation, collaboration, and growth within the organization and beyond.



Juliet Goff

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Juliet Goff is the President and owner of Kal Plastics; a custom heavy gauge cut sheet thermoformer, located in Vernon, California. She has been with Kal Plastics since 1990, learning the business from the ground up after graduating from UCLA. After many years of increasing responsibilities, Juliet honed her skills in finance, risk management, strategic planning, HR, marketing and sales. She became President in 2002 and the sole shareholder in 2004.

Her active involvement with the SPE Thermoforming Division started in 2008 at the Minneapolis Thermoforming Conference. There Kal Plastics was honored as a Gold Medal winner in the annual parts competition. Since then she has regularly attended the Thermoforming Division Board meetings and in 2010 she became a Director. Her Board assignment is recognition and the annual Thermoformer of the Year award.

She brings with her the collective experiences of having served on several Boards and non-profits throughout her career, in various leadership roles, including the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Vernon Chamber of Commerce, The City of Vernon Community Fund, The City of Vernon Housing Commission and the Parent Association at her daughter's high school in Pasadena, CA. Currently she serves on the Executive Board for the Vernon Chamber of Commerce, is the Chair of the Vernon Housing Commission and is the Parent Association President at her daughter's high school.



Gabriel Knee

Spartech

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Gabriel Knee is currently Industry Director of Spartech's Building and Construction business. A relative newcomer to the thermoforming business, his 25 years of experience with companies in the chemical and plastics industry such as Celanese, DuPont, Nagase, and Dow Chemical provide a solid background in understanding the plastics industry.

Gabriel's passion is for solving problems and creating value. SPE brings a diversity of people from which ideas flow, creating a large pool of innovation.

Gabriel earned a BA in Asian Studies from the University of Oregon and MBA from Central Michigan University.



Ned Moore

Central Connecticut State University

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Ned Moore is a professor of mechanical engineering at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT.

In addition to recent work in thermoforming, Ned has published papers on non-destructive damage detection, helicopter blade design, and legged robots. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut and earned master's and bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering from McGill University in Montreal. He previously worked as a design engineer for FuelCell Energy of Danbury, CT for five years.



Sam Owings

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Sam is engineering and commercial leader at Owings Patterns, a third-generation thermoforming and tooling company. Focused on helping customers move from concept to production through engineering-led design, in-house tooling, and custom thermoformed solutions. Responsible for developing and continuously improving our ISO 9001 quality system. Passionate about data-driven manufacturing, process improvement, and advancing best practices within the thermoforming industry.



Alethea Schaeffer

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Alethea Schaeffer is a seasoned professional in the manufacturing and engineering sectors, currently serving as the Vice President of Sales and Engineering at Usheco, Inc., a family-owned business specializing in custom plastic components. With a legacy spanning over six decades, Usheco, Inc. was founded in 1961 by Bernarr Schaeffer, and under Alethea's leadership, it continues to thrive as a premier provider in its field.

With 23 years of dedicated experience, Alethea brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her role. Her journey in the plastics manufacturing industry has seen her hold various key positions, including injection molding manager, drafting specialist, engineering lead, sales executive, project manager, and operations strategist. This diverse background has equipped her with a deep understanding of the intricacies of the industry, as well as valuable insights into related sectors such as lighting and design.

Throughout her career, Alethea has been a driving force behind Usheco's commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction. Her multifaceted skill set enables her to provide strategic direction and leadership, ensuring that the company delivers top-quality products and services to its diverse clientele of OEMs.

Under Alethea's guidance, Usheco, Inc. continues to uphold its reputation for quality and reliability, while also embracing innovation and best practices to stay ahead in a competitive market. Her dedication to the company's legacy of providing exceptional custom plastic components underscores her commitment to driving growth and success for Usheco, Inc. and its valued customers.



Stacy Ware

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Stacy is currently the Process Engineering Manager for Silgan Plastic Food Containers in Union, MO. She began her career in plastics with Silgan in January 1998 as a printing press operator. In 2002, she returned to school to complete her Engineering Degree. She worked as an intern for Silgan and joined the engineering team full time upon graduation. In her 28 years in the business she has held various positions such as production engineer, product development engineer and project engineer.

In her current role, she supports both the Union, MO facility and the Fort Smith, AR facility with training, process improvements, new equipment purchases and installation, material testing and customer qualifications.