



# **RMD News**

**The Rotational Molding Division  
of SPE Newsletter**

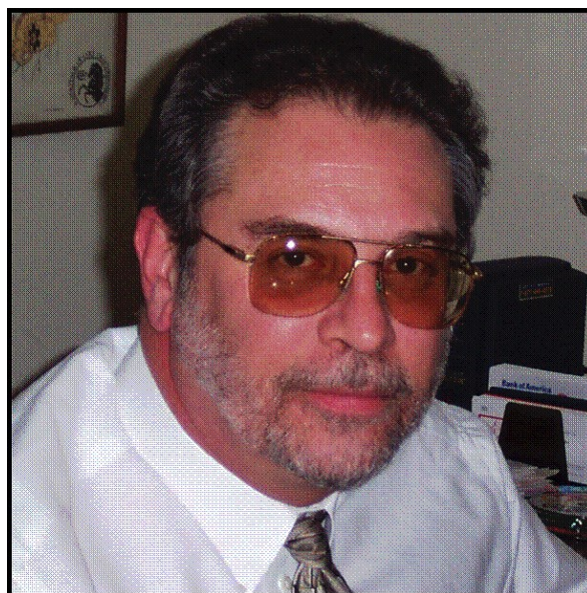


4th Quarter 2014

Volume 14 Issue 4

## **RMD People In the News**

**Mike Gehrig Receives  
Past Presidents' Award**



**Penn College Students  
Recognized for Research**

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- **RMD People in the News**
- **SPE and ARM Collaborate**
- **And much more...**

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ROTATIONAL MOLDING

## Chairman's Message



**Rob Donaldson**

### Chair's Message

Hello fellow RMD Members.

I hope this version of our division newsletter finds you busy and your business prosperous. With the holidays upon us and the rush to beat the crazy timelines we set for ourselves, we need to take time for us, our employees and all our families to reset. Thus, allowing everyone the opportunity for a great start to the calendar year of 2015.

On behalf of the board and myself I want to wish you, your work and personal families the very best for the Holidays and a prosperous New Year. This season allows us the greatest gift and that is to give; be it our time, gifts and/or charity.

Looking back, over the calendar year this was a very fruitful year for the Rotational Molding Division (RMD). In looking forward, I am excited about the new initiatives we are taking on, and rolling out, for the coming 2015 calendar year.

We have 2 board members that are retiring from the RMD Board this year. They both are longtime members and contributors to the RMD, as well as the SPE. Both of them have won the Past Presidents' Award for Lifetime Contribution to the SPE RMD. Michael Gehrig (Newsletter Chair) and Rex Kanu (Treasurer) have elected to move on to the next stage of their lives. They will be missed and we are sorry to see them go on a professional level, but happy for them and their families on the personal side.

Yours in Rotomolding,

Rob Donaldson  
RMD Chair

### Newsletter Comments/Questions? Contact:

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**INDUSTRY NEWS**

# Roto Made Local: SPE & ARM Collaborate to Connect with Industrial Design Community

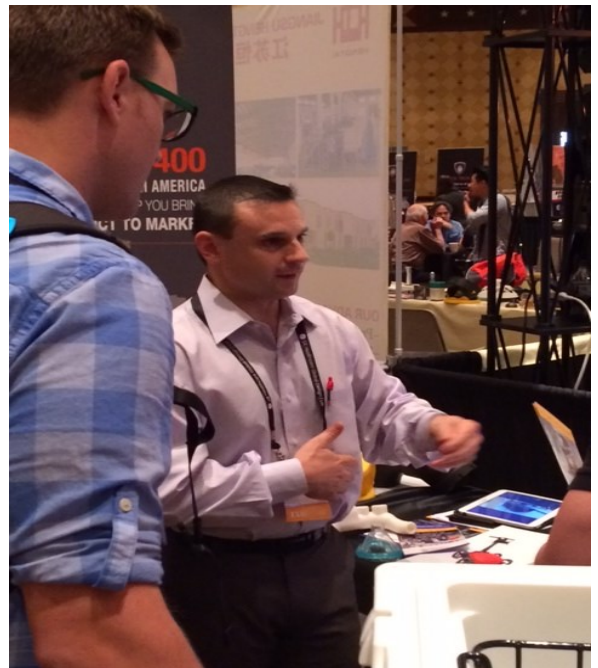
*Submitted by Tom Innis, VP Sales & Marketing - Avantech*

Following attendance at the SPE Rotational Molding Division's TopCon event in Cleveland, OH in June, 2014, Association of Rotational Molders (ARM) and SPE leadership discussed a potential collaborative attendance at the Industrial Design Society of America's (IDSA) International Conference.

Attendance strategy discussions culminated in the creation of "Roto Made Local," a collaborative ARM/SPE venture developed to promote and position the North American rotational molding industry relative to industrial designers and thought leaders in attendance at the IDSA conference.

Steve Zamprelli (VP – Product Development, Formed Plastics) and Tom Innis (VP – Sales & Marketing, Avantech) were identified as representatives of the "Roto Made Local" initiative at the event.

A 10' x 10' exhibit space was procured for "Roto Made Local" at the event. Brochures and information pamphlets were developed, and display parts and products were provided by Formed Plastics, Hedstrom Plastics, Jerico Plastic Industries, and Yeti Coolers. Pictorial product and tooling images were displayed, as was a continuous-loop video depicting the rotational molding process.



## **The Exchange: 2014 IDSA Conference in Austin, Texas**

The IDSA International Conference is an annual event attended by a variety of members of the industrial design community: OEM's, independent industrial designers, academia, manufacturing engineers, suppliers, advisers/consultants, etc. The expo attracts a global audience, and combines educational sessions, workshops, keynote addresses, design competitions, and an exhibition area.

The 2014 IDSA conference was held at the Hilton Hotel – Austin, TX. Attendance was approximately 600; there were approximately 30 exhibitors at the expo. The 2014 expo website can be viewed [HERE](#).

The charter of IDSA is to "advance the profession of industrial design." At this year's International Conference, designers were recognized in 23 design competition categories, including a number of potentially roto-friendly categories:

- Automotive and transportation;
- Commercial and industrial products;

## INDUSTRY NEWS

Continued from page 3

Bathroom, wellness and spas;  
Environments;  
Outdoor products;  
Gardens and patios;  
Home furnishings;  
Sports, leisure and recreation;  
Entertainment;  
Office and productivity.

By and large, however, the industrial design community remains somewhat unfamiliar with and under-educated relative to the rotational molding process. Typical responses among the less-roto-informed attendees were in vein of “roto is good for large tanks,” “roto tolerances are loose,” and “roto good for functional parts, but is not an aesthetics-friendly process.” Given the above misconceptions, we, as an industry, have a tremendous opportunity to position ourselves more effectively with the industrial design community.



### **Roto Made Local Booth Activity:**

Despite the general lack of familiarity with rotational molding, activity at the “Roto Made Local” booth was steady - and at times intense – throughout the three days of the expo. Products chosen for display (Mi-Chair, Yeti Cooler, BOSU Ball, etc.) attracted the attention of attendees, facilitated interaction with booth visitors, and allowed for in-depth discussion of benefits and advantages of the roto process.

The focus of booth interactions was to provide an overview of the rotomolding process, and position rotomolding as an ideal manufacturing process for speed-to-market advantages, low barrier-to-entry, design/aesthetics-friendly, and highly durable products. We also dispelled misconceptions regarding dimensional tolerance, and (via products in the booth), demonstrated that roto is a viable process for high-end, consumer-focused products.

In all, estimated booth visitors exceeded 100 individuals, from a wide variety of independent designers, OEM’s, suppliers, educators and thought leaders. Among attendees exist intriguing prospects for further interaction and/or membership in ARM and SPE:

### **Conclusion:**

In light of the very positive reception of “Roto Made Local,” the depth of engagement among booth visitors, and the opportunity to influence the industrial design community on the advantages of rotomolding, we believe our presence at the IDSA International Expo produced a significant return-on-investment: we identified a significant number of key contacts for further engagement and dialog, and made positive steps towards positioning rotomolding as a design-friendly manufacturing process. As a result, we believe further establishment of a relationship with IDSA and the design community is congruent with our desire to expand the reach of the rotational molding industry.

## People In the News

# Patsy Beall Inducted as Honorary Member of Society of Plastics Engineers

*Industry Veterans Pay Homage to Long-time SPE Supporter and Industry Advocate*

*Gurnee IL, November 15, 2014:* Leading members of the plastics industry joined with family and friends at a Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> awards dinner to recognize Patsy Beall as an Honorary Member of the Society of Plastics Engineers. The Honorary Member grade is rarely awarded, and the designation was the first to recognize an individual for his/her contributions to SPE. The Past Presidents Advisory Board of SPE oversees the award.

Mrs. Beall is a partner in Glenn Beall Plastics and the wife of Plastics Hall of Fame member Glenn Beall. Recognized as the force behind Glenn Beall as well as a mentor and influencer of plastics professionals, she was cited for her guidance of young professionals, advocacy of SPE and emphasis on education in the nomination by long time SPE member Barbara Arnold-Feret.

The celebration dinner was organized by Mark Wolverton of the Chicago Section and underwritten by the Mold Making and Mold Division, the Chicago Section, the Rotational Molding Division and the Product Design and Development Division of SPE.

*“Patsy is one of SPE’s best cheerleaders – telling everyone about the great work that SPE does in education, in technology and in bringing together people who work in industry. Election to Honorary Member of SPE is a well-deserved recognition.”* said Wolverton.



## Patsy Beall Inducted as Honorary Member of Society of Plastics Engineers

Mrs. Beall received a framed certificate from Russell Broome, a Past President of SPE and current Managing Director of the Society, a trophy, and a gold SPE pendant with emerald accent mounted on a hand crafted horn pendant. The horn base has special significance to Patsy Beall because of her collection of horn combs and to Glenn Beall as a member of The Worshipful Company of Horners. Ms. Arnold-Feret read the nomination and gifted Mrs. Beall with a sparkling tiara to signify that Patsy was the “godmother of plastics” in the eyes of many.

In remarks read by family friend Gail Rotheiser, Mrs. Beall noted that plastics and the people in SPE have become her second family and that he was deeply honored by this recognition.

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Editor's Note –

For those of you who haven't heard, Patsy died in her sleep one week later on November 22 at home. Memorial services were held in Libertyville, Illinois and in Wyoming, Illinois to remember her as a wife, sister, aunt and friend. She will be greatly missed.

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# Penn College Plastics Students Recognized for Research

Research conducted by plastics and polymer engineering technology majors at Pennsylvania College of Technology has been recognized by the Rotational Molding Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers.

Larry Schneider, representing the board of directors of the SPE Rotational Molding Division, recently commemorated the students' work by traveling to campus and presenting plaques to Julia I. Gilchrist, of Hanover; Thomas J. Ryder, of Muncy; Benjamin G. Robertson, of Hummelstown; and Taylor J. Smith of Williamsport.

The four students researched powdered polyethylene and micro-pelletized polyethylene. Earlier this year, Gilchrist and Ryder delivered the team's findings in Cleveland at RMD TOPCON, a forum for SPE members to exchange information regarding rotational molding.

"It's quite appropriate that these four students have been recognized for their commitment to the plastics field," said David R. Cotner, Dean of the School of Industrial, Computing & Engineering Technologies. "Their hard work in conducting the study is a great example of how students can enhance their education outside of regular class and lab sessions. Presenting their research at a well-respected industry event speaks to the quality of their work."

In rotational molding, plastic is melted inside a hollow mold that is machined to the shape and size of the desired plastic part. The students researched which type of plastic, polyethylene powder or micro polyethylene pellets performs best in terms of flowing into difficult features and minimizing voids in the rotational molding process. They concluded that the pellets were superior and recommended additional study.



The students conducted their research at Penn College's Rotational molding Center of Excellence. Part of the Plastics Innovation & Resource Center, the Rotational Molding Center of Excellence offers independent, hands-on applied research and development to the rotomolding community.

Gary E. McQuay, PIRC engineering manager, attended RMD TOPCON with Gilchrist and Ryder and was impressed with the duo's presentation.

"Both Julia and Tom were very professional and respectful and made a lot of friends at the conference," he said. "they were excellent ambassadors for Penn College, the plastics department and the PIRC."

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## Penn College Plastics Students Recognized for Research

Penn College is one of only five plastics programs in the nation offering degrees accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET. For information on the plastics degrees and other majors offered by the School of Industrial, Computing & Engineering Technologies, call 570-327-4520.

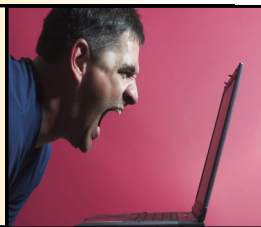
The PIRC is one of the top plastics technology centers in the nation for research development and education related to injection molding, extrusion, blow molding, rotational molding and thermoforming. To learn more about the PIRC and the Rotational Molding Center of Excellence, call 570-321-5533.

For more about Penn College,, which is celebrating its Centennial throughout 2014, email the Admissions Office or call toll free 800-367-9222.

**Got a comment?**

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*The submission deadline for the  
next edition is August 1st.*

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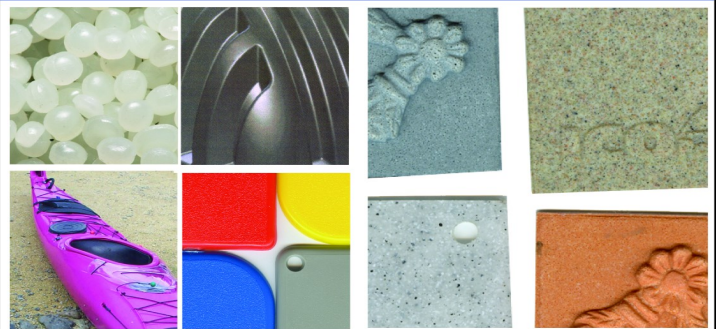
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## RMD People in the News

### Michael J. Gehrig Receives Past Presidents' Award

Michael J. Gehrig, the owner of Aardvark Polymers in Woodstock, CT, has been named to receive this year's Past Presidents' Award. This is the RMD's most prestigious award.

Michael Gehrig was elected to the Rotational Molding Division's Board of Directors in the 2008-2009 SPE year. At the time, the Board didn't realize what an important event that was. Mike quietly proved that he was a doer and not just a joiner. He has now served two full terms on the Board. During that time, he always did what he said he would do. He attended all, or almost all of the Board Meetings and teleconferences. He was not only present, but participated. Mike owns his own company, and he always contributed sound and valuable advice, based on his business experiences.

He was assigned to the Divisions' Newsletter Committee. His talents quickly became obvious, and he was promoted to Newsletter Editor. He is still serving in that capacity today.

Mike has served with distinction under three RMD Presidents during his tenure. Those of you who read those award-winning newsletters already know he is a good Editor.

Mike has also been active with the Division's 2010, 2012 and 2014 TOPCON Committees. He designed and produced the attractive conference brochures and other promotional materials. He not only attended the TOPCONs, but also purchased tabletop exhibits.

The Newsletter is the Division's primary means of communicating with its members. Editing the Newsletter is one of the most important jobs on the Board of Directors. It was no surprise that his selection to receive this honor was by a unanimous vote of the RMD Past Presidents. The RMD has been fortunate to have such a talented, dedicated and reliable Editor for the past six years.

In 2006, the Past Presidents of the RMD created the Lifetime Contributions Award to acknowledge exemplary service to the Division over a long period of time. This project was organized and led by Past RMD President, Barry Aubrey. Eligibility for this award is based on over 10 years of membership in the division, and contributions to the RMD in time, energy, dedication, funds and/or company contributions. Anyone can nominate a member for this award by contacting an RMD Board member.



Past recipients of this award are as follows:

Jon Ratzlaff	2007	Linda Xu	2011
Jim Throne	2008	Bruce Muller	2012
Bob Swain	2009	Rex Kanu	2013
Mike Paloian	2010		

Please join the RMD Past Presidents in congratulating Michael Gehrig on receiving the Division's highest member award.



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## Breaking Things in the Name of Science

A group of Pittsburg State University students spent last Friday afternoon breaking things -- all in the name of science.

The plastics engineering technology students were working on a project, directed by a manufacturer in search of a more durable gas tank for lawn mowers. Assistant Professor Jeanne Norton explained that the students used traditional rotational molding to manufacture a variety of plastic cubes. They then tested the cubes by filling them with water and dropping them on concrete from a height of 20 feet.

"They gave us very strict parameters to follow," Norton said. "These have all been put together with different parameters so we can see what works and what doesn't."

Norton said some of the cubes survived the plunge and some didn't.

"The students are learning about the engineering challenges that come along with working with industrial partners with targeted goals," Norton said. "This also teaches them that research is not necessarily boring."



The work on this project is one more illustration of how the university's Polymer Chemistry Initiative brings together resources from across campus. In this case it's Norton and her students in the College of Technology's Department of Plastics Engineering and the Kansas Polymer Research Center (KPRC).

Andy Myers, executive director of the KPRC said the project uses each area's strengths.

"We're not talking about new chemicals or new formulations, we're talking about improving something that already exists," Myers said. "That's why it's a better fit for the group here in the Plastics Engineering Techno-

logy Department. We can evaluate the resin materials, the plastics that are used and how to modify those. They have the equipment to repeat the process and to make these cubes."

Myers said the KPRC has a lot of experience running projects and working with companies, so the KPRC is "housing" project and collaborating and sharing the budget with Plastics Technology. The potential benefits to this kind of cooperation accrue not only to students and programs, but also to the manufacturer.

"The manufacturer has an existing gas tank and it's got some problems," Myers said. "But if we can figure out a way around the problems, it opens up a completely new business for this company." Outside of the more significant implications of their testing, however, there was one additional benefit for students.

"It's also a lot of fun to break things," Norton said.

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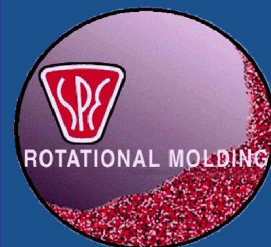
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<b>New Member 1 year</b> <input type="radio"/> US (\$140.00) <input type="radio"/> Euro** (€124.00)	<b>New Member 2 Years *</b> <input type="radio"/> US (\$253.00) <input type="radio"/> Euro** (€224.00)	<b>Student Member</b> <input type="radio"/> US (\$30.00) <input type="radio"/> Euro** (€23.00)	<b>Students must supply graduation date:</b> _____									
<b>My Primary Division is</b> (Division names are below): <b>RMD (D42)</b>			<b>Membership Amount</b> _____									
<b>Additional Divisions are available for a fee. Check below to select additional Divisions.</b> <input type="radio"/> Additives & Color Europe (D45) <input type="radio"/> Medical Plastics (D36) <input type="radio"/> Automotive (D31) <input type="radio"/> Mold Making & Mold Design (D35) <input type="radio"/> Blow Molding (D30) <input type="radio"/> Plastics Environmental (D40) <input type="radio"/> Color & Appearance (D21) <input type="radio"/> Polymer Analysis (D33) <input type="radio"/> Composites (D39) <input type="radio"/> Polymer Modifiers & Additives (D38) <input type="radio"/> Decorating & Assembly (D34) <input type="radio"/> Product Design & Development (D41) <input type="radio"/> Electrical & Electronic (D24) <input type="radio"/> <b>Rotational Molding (D42)</b> <input type="radio"/> Engineering Properties & Structure (D26) <input type="radio"/> Thermoforming (D25) <input type="radio"/> Extrusion (D22) <input type="radio"/> Thermoforming, European (D43) <input type="radio"/> Flexible Packaging (D44) <input type="radio"/> Thermoplastic Materials & Foams (D29) <input type="radio"/> Injection Molding (D23) <input type="radio"/> Thermoset (D28) <input type="radio"/> Marketing and Management (D37) <input type="radio"/> Vinyl Plastics (D28)			<b>Primary Division</b> <b>FREE</b>									
<input type="radio"/> CHECK <input type="radio"/> VISA <input type="radio"/> AMEX <input type="radio"/> MASTERCARD Card number _____ Expiration date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____ PAYMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION Sorry, No Purchase Orders Accepted Checks must be drawn on US or Canadian banks in US or Canadian Funds. Dues include a 1-year subscription to <i>Plastics Engineering</i> magazine—\$38.00 value (non-deductible). SPE membership is valid for twelve months from the month your application is processed. *extra savings. **European membership dues include a program fee to support SPE's activities in Europe.			<b>Additional Division(s)</b> Costs for each Additional Division <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1 year</th> <th>2 years</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>US</td> <td>\$10.00</td> <td>\$20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Euros</td> <td>€8.00</td> <td>€15.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <b>TOTAL</b> _____		1 year	2 years	US	\$10.00	\$20.00	Euros	€8.00	€15.00
	1 year	2 years										
US	\$10.00	\$20.00										
Euros	€8.00	€15.00										
By signing below I agree to be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society and to promote the objectives of the Society I certify that the statements made in the application are correct and I authorize SPE and its affiliates to use my phone, fax, address and e-mail to contact me.			Signature _____ Date _____ Recommended by member (optional) ID # _____									

## RMD Interim Financial Report

SPE's Rotational Molding Division  
Annual Financial Report 2013-2014  
July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

	<u>Actual</u> <u>(proposed)</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b>Cash Balance:</b> Beginning of Period	\$61,391.45	
<b>Cash Receipts in Period:</b>		
SPE Rebate	\$1,018.76	\$1,160.00
Interest	\$40.33	\$32.00
Newsletter Ads/Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Scholarships/Grants Fund	\$20.00	\$0.00
TopCon (TopCon 2013)	\$2,885.82	\$6,000.00
Total Income in Period	\$3,964.91	\$9,192.00
Total Cash to be accounted for	\$65,356.36	
<b>Cash Disbursements in Period:</b>		
Board Meetings (teleconference)	\$0.00	\$500.00
TopCon (TopCon 2014)	\$5,500.00	\$500.00
e-Newsletter Printing/Mailing	\$0.00	\$0.00
Awards (Student Papers)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Scholarships/Grants	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
ANTEC Expenses	\$0.00	\$200.00
BOD & ANTEC Speakers Awards	\$814.17	\$1,500.00
President and Past Presidents Awards	\$114.97	\$500.00
Membership Outreach	\$0.00	\$250.00
Website Hosting	\$269.86	\$200.00
Election, Ballot, Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
RMD Design Competition	\$9,889.47	\$2,000.00
Website Domain name (2013-2022)	\$440.80	\$0.00
Webinar	\$0.00	\$0.00
MISC (Plastics News Advertisement)	\$3,600.00	\$0.00
Checking Accounts Check-Leaves	\$33.15	\$0.00
Checking Statement expenses	\$6.00	\$0.00
Total Disbursements in Period	\$20,668.42	\$7,650.00
Cash Balance End of Period	\$ 44,687.94	

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The Cash Balance is made up as follows:

Scholarships/Grants (savings acc.)	\$2,042.69
Checking Account	\$261.71
Savings Account	\$42,383.54
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$44,687.94</b>

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Respectfully submitted  
By  
Rex Kanu  
Treasurer RMD

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Public Interest Chair	Glenn Beall
Technical Program Chair/ANTEC	Dennis Rodrigue
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*The Rotational Molding Divisions endorses the leading magazine for rotational molding information - Rotoworld. See [www.rotoworldmag.com](http://www.rotoworldmag.com) or call 512.894.4106.*

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The Rotational Molding Division would like to acknowledge and thank the following organizations that share their resources with the RMD by allowing and encouraging their employees to serve as members of the RMD Board of Directors.

