

### A HOST OF PRACTICAL PRESENTATIONS HIGHLIGHT THE PLGA FALL CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO

2003 PLGA Board Members (Jan. 2003-Jan. 2004)

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**Ron Syrkos**  
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Oct. 2003 – In a lead-off presentation nicked-named “Bomb Prevention” presented by Deb Malumphy and Steve Borges of Smurfit-Stone Container, a detailed Pre-Production Checklist for getting a job ready to print was outlined. They emphasized the value of planning everything, from correct register marks to ink formulas in order to insure a successful production run.

Following this, two hands-on presentations, one by Dave Parsill of Gravure Process Co., dealt with the differences in preparing rotogravure cylinders by both the **hand and machine polishing** methods. While there is a difference, both systems work, and it becomes the printers’ choice as to what method he prefers.

Tim Wake, retired from Mead Westvaco Corp., assisted by Tom Allison, Allison Systems, spoke with experience about improvements to older presses, that can be achieved by **upgrading doctor blade systems**; basically the “heart” of any Gravure Ink Fountain.

Becoming of increasing interest is the subject of Energy Curable Coatings. In a dual presentation by Dr. Steve Lapin, Northwest Coatings, assisted by Rick Sanders of Energy Science Corp., jointly dealt with the topics of **UV and EB cured materials**. While UV curing systems have been around for a long time, and traditionally been available at a lower capital cost, EB equipment is coming down in price, while giving enhanced performance advantages over the popular UV systems.

This Conference built on the success of the earlier meeting, held in the fall of 2001. A record **103 delegates** from the Industry attended

participating in the hands-on, “meat and potatoes” exchange of practical information.



**Pictured l-r: Rick Sanders - Energy Science, Dr. Steve Lapin - Northwest Coatings, Roger Brown - Plastic Suppliers, Brendan Maunsell - Coates Inks, David Hill - Exxon-Mobil**

Continuing a PLGA tradition, the conclusion of the first days’ session featured a Suppliers’-hosted tabletop display and concurrent reception for the Delegates. This years’ Conference had a record of 25 tabletop displays offering a wide range of the latest in their respective technologies.

The next Fall Technical Conference is scheduled to be held in October 2005.

Anyone wishing copies of the presentation material may obtain these by contacting PLGA Headquarters, or [www.PLGA.com](http://www.PLGA.com)

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Greetings to all members.** As an update from my last letter I am pleased to report that we continue to grow. We held our Technical Conference in San Antonio Texas in October with resounding success. A 57% increase over last attended Technical Conference. Exit polls from our members indicated that everyone received knowledgeable and useable information. As we continue to expand I am happy to announce that we will be adding four new members to the Board of Directors, and have plans to expand our newly established Scholarship program to more Colleges and Universities. We also plan to work with them to expand Gravure process and training programs.

Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Florida on February 18-20 2004. This Conference is loaded with powerful information and topics that will keep you interested to the very end. The Awards Program is continuing to grow, as well as the Technical Achievement Awards from our supplier side. We have also organized our structure and added several committees, to address the growing needs of our association. Members of the Board will provide oversight to these committees .

We have also added an event that will be the most exciting of all. We will announce, for the first time, an honoree to receive the PLGA Life Time Achievement Award. This Prestigious honor will go to an individual that has worked their lifetime to enhance the Packaging and Label Gravure Industry.

Best Regards

Randy Butler, President PLGA

#### The Board of Directors welcome the following Companies, who have joined PLGA during 2003:

American Packaging Corporation	Nilpeter
Amgraph Packaging, Inc.	Philip Morris USA
Alcoa Flexible Packaging	Shorewood Packaging Corporation
Cylicron Engineered Cylinders	Steinbeis Packaging L.L.C.
FLXON, Inc.	TKM United States Inc.
G7 Gravure Inc.	Vacumet Corporation
K. Walter Service Corporation	
Madern USA	

November 15, 2003

Bill Klein  
Packaging and Label Gravure Association  
6200 Plateau Drive  
Springfield, OH 45502



Dear Bill,

In February of this year my company, FLXON Inc., joined the PLGA. My decision to join was made only after attending my first PLGA technical conference held in Clearwater that same month. In October, I attended a second conference held in San Antonio with another member of Flxon's team.

What impressed me most about these meetings was their efficiency.

Meeting content was always right-on-target. There were no economic reports from the Chamber of Commerce in Washington DC or from management consultants about how to get the most out of your employees. No filler!

Topics centered on issues related to what makes rotogravure rotogravure.

Presentations were informal and made by actual pressroom people and suppliers who were very easy to understand. Presentations were followed by an informal Q&A and general discussion of topics. Everyone seemed to participate. Those I spoke with felt they learned something they could use back on the pressroom floor.

I liked the fact that the group was small.

I like the fact that the PLGA is focused only on wide and narrow web flexible packaging, folding carton and label printing.

I like the fact that the focus is on concrete solutions to today's pressroom problems.

I like the fact that topics focused on cylinders, inks, blades and new press technology.

I liked the fact that both press operators and managers attended and shared ideas.

I liked the fact that there was plenty of time to network.

I liked the fact that everything was accomplished in only 2 and a half days.

I liked that fact that the hotel was very reasonably priced.

I liked the fact that membership and attendance fees are kept to a minimum.

While FLXON is a member of several associations serving both the flexographic and rotogravure printing industry, I can tell you there is no other organization that achieves its purpose as well as the PLGA.

I want to thank you, the board and the staff of the PLGA for providing such a valuable and efficient service to the industry.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Sharkey  
President, FLXON Inc. Charlotte, NC

## “HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR FEBRUARY CONFERENCE”



After the record setting attendance and enthusiastic feedback from our October conference, we have high expectations for the Winter PLGA Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. The conference theme is “Co-opetition” which describes the concept of traditional competitors engaging in co-operative activities under certain legally defined and marketplace driven circumstances. The lead off and closing panels are “Strategic Alliances” (when and when not to form them) and “Benchmarking” (how does your company measure up in the key operational indices) with many other informative sessions in between.

All things considered, the February meeting promises to be the PLGA's best ever... We hope to see you there!

Murray White



*Tabletop Reception*

## SCHOLARSHIP

I am pleased to announce that we have contacted Clemson University Department of Graphic Communications to present to them a Scholarship for a student in the Packaging and Arts Industry. The student will be awarded \$2000 in the Winter Semester of 2004.

I will chair the Scholarship Program as we move forward. Ron Syrkos has been appointed to the scholarship committee and we will have several board members appointed to this Committee in the near future.

We have received several requests from Colleges and Universities throughout the country to participate in our Scholarship Program. This program is in its infancy and we have visions of growing to the point of having funded training for operators and students participating with companies on a work program, etc.

The Industry has responded very favorably to the Program and is willing to help us raise money through corporate contributions. Most are waiting for the fiscal year to start in January to fit budgetary constraints.

Best regards,

Randy Butler  
President PLGA



*Audience*

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