MARPG PROVIDES A REGIONAL NETWORK THAT AIDS IN TECHNICAL PROBLEM SOLVING.

The MidAtlantic Rubber & Plastics Group, part of the Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society, is a technically oriented professional organization. It promotes personal relationships among those in education, polymer manufacture, suppliers of raw materials and producers of rubber products.

Our antecedents, the Philadelphia Rubber Group (founded 1945) and the New York Rubber Group (founded 1928), were similarly corporate members of the ACS Rubber Division with many mutual members. In 2005, merger began with formation of a joint Board of Directors. It was completed in 2006 with the MARPG, Inc. registered as a nonprofit corporation of Delaware.

IMPROVE  im•prove \im•prüv\  
TO ENHANCE IN VALUE OR QUALITY : MAKE BETTER

Improving — it’s exactly what we are doing at MARPG. Not only do we have incalculable numbers of years of experience on our Board of Directors and in our membership base, we also have industry-leading, technical individuals willing to share their knowledge to improve the quality of products and better manufacturing, testing and application processes.
**Remaining Viable in a Global Economy - What’s Next for the Rubber Division**

By: Kimberley Dempsey-Miller

As businesses struggle to remain profitable and economically viable in a changing global economy either by means of divestment, mergers or the adoption of a new corporate culture, professional organizations created in support of these entities are finding it necessary for a makeover.

In 2015 the Rubber Division under Chairperson Terry DeLapa, developed a Strategic Plan designed to bolster the value of the Rubber Division, ACS to its membership and beyond. This would be accomplished by improvement of current efforts and expansion of its mission scope as well as outreach to include the global community. The plan, slated for execution 2016-2020 under Chairperson Leo Goss, is comprised of 4 key ideas:

- Goal No. 1 - Develop and Implement a recruitment and retention plan that entices individuals, companies and organizations to be active members
- Goal No. 2 - Develop strategic partnerships and collaborations with industry leaders globally
- Goal No. 3 - Assure the Rubber Division is the premier global elastomeric resource providing cutting edge education, science, technology and business-related information, programs and activities
- Goal No. 4 - Develop and communicate messages that convey the relevance, critical importance and value of elastomers to the global community

Subsequently, each goal was assigned a chairperson, champion and committee whose chief responsibility it is, over the proceeding 5 years, to identify and complete specific objectives required to meet each goal. Kim Dempsey-Miller, Alt. Area Director for MARPG was elected to champion Goal No. 2 of the Strategic Plan.

“In my opinion, goal no. 2 is one of the most exciting areas of the strategic plan as it expands the boundaries of the Rubber Division’s efforts that in past times were more or less limited to the U.S. We now have the opportunity to become a truly global resource.” To begin, the Strategic Partnership Committee (SPC) for Goal No. 2 formed three subcommittees whose focus is to pursue US Organizations (Technical), Non-US Organizations (Technical) and Industrial Organizations for possible alliance. “We welcome your participation to join one of our subcommittees in accomplishing Goal no. 2 and encourage all interested parties to contact Mr. Ron Campbell, Area Director, MARPG for registration.

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**In Memoriam**

**ROBERT CRAIG SELLERS**

Robert Craig Sellers of Pennswood Village, Newtown, died Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He was 84 years old and the husband of Barbara Binns Sellers. Born in Norristown, Pa., he was the son of Harry McKinley Sellers and Hazel Brecht Weber Sellers.

Robert was an Economics major and Chemistry minor at Gettysburg College, from where he graduated in 1953. He received his commercial pilot's license from Embry Riddle School of Aviation in Miami, Fla., in 1956.

A founding member of the Delaware Valley Aviation Flying Club at Wings Field Airport in Montgomery County, he was a DVA member for more than 20 years. In 2008, he was honored by the FAA as a Master Pilot for more than 50 years of accident free flying. He was a member of the New York and Philadelphia Rubber Groups.

In addition to his wife, Barbara, he is survived by his sons: Mark Sellers of Philadelphia, Scott Sellers of Racine, Wis. and Craig Sellers of Wynnewood, Pa., and 12 grandchildren. Funeral services were privately held.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Robert’s name may be made to: Young Aviators of Racine, c/o EAA Vintage Aircraft Association, P.O. Box 3086, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3086, www.young-aviators.com.
The MidAtlantic Rubber Group Scholarship Fund
By: Joe Martin, Solicitations Committee

The MidAtlantic Rubber Group supports our scholarship fund through Corporate Associate Contributors, who are companies contributing of $250.00 or more.

Our scholarships were established to encourage continued growth of the rubber industry. The MARPG has three memorial scholarships that honor our friends who unselfishly volunteered their time to serve the rubber industry. During 2015, MARPG had ten great applicants, of which three candidates were outstanding. The awards for 2015 were:

**Chris Foley Grossman Memorial Scholarship**
Jared Mahaffey - $2,000

**Don Slowicki Memorial Scholarship**
Colin Mansfield - $1,000

**Henry Remsberg Memorial Scholarship**
Greg Remally - $1,000

**CORPORATE CONTRIBUTORS FOR 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Years of Support</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burgess Pigment Company</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlisle Construction Materials</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene Tweed &amp; Co.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM Royal Inc.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HollyFrontier Refining &amp; Marketing</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Rubber</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouth Rubber Corporation</td>
<td>1 ($500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.E. Carroll Inc</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solvay Specialty Polymers</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Pharmaceutical Services</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeon Chemicals</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Scholarship Support for 2015</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2016 solicitation process will start this August. MARPG awards one or more scholarships annually to outstanding college students with concentration in science, engineering or business. Applicants need not be related to members; any student may apply, however, a member sponsor is required. The Scholarship Application is available at www.MARPG.org, under Resources, Education and Scholarships, after you login. You must have a membership to login. As always, we appreciate your continued support.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know that Limonene, was concluded by researchers at the University of Bayreuth Germany to be the best chemical feed stock for bio-based, biodegradable polymers? Limonene, a doubly unsaturated terpene is a bio-based non-food resource which is mainly derived from the peel of citrus fruits! It is the major component of orange oil and is an abundantly available side product of the orange industry.

Excerpted from blog.spotchemi.com, “Do Citrus Fruits make the Best Thermoplastic Polymers?”
Local Industry Partners
in the News
From Rubber & Plastics News, May 2016

**FAMILY RUN BUSINESS: MONMOUTH RUBBER & PLASTICS CORP.**

**Founder:** John M. Bonforte Sr.
**Headquarters:** Long Branch, N.J.
**Number of employees:** 53.
**Key family members active in the company:** John M. Bonforte Jr., president, chief operating officer.
**What it does:** Monmouth Rubber & Plastics is a U.S. manufacturer of closed cell sponge rubber and plastic foam.
**Markets served:** Automotive, medical, sports, construction, electrical, miscellaneous industrial.
**Number of generations involved in the business:** Two.

**What are the strengths of a family owned business?**
Family values. Our family values guide us in our business operations: How we treat each other, our employees and our customers. We bring to work the Bonforte family values and apply them to all aspects of our business.

**What are the challenges of a family owned business?** John Jr. is our succession plan. He now owns Monmouth Rubber & Plastics. He grew up in the business. After college, he worked for GE Plastics, learned the realities of the world, and then he came back ready to assume his current role. His having complete ownership resolves many possible issues. I advise; he decides.

**Do non-family members hold any executive or ownership roles?** Joann Buonomo is the office manager (who has) 42 years with Monmouth. Putting family values to the front is important. All issues are worked out just fine.

**How much does the younger generation influence decisions?** All four of my children and many of my grandchildren do and have worked at various tasks in the company. They bring vitality and a fresh approach, which helps us to stay focused on the people aspects of business.

**Something you might not know about the company:** When Monmouth started, there were 13 companies that manufactured closed cell sponge rubber buns. When I said I was going to go into manufacturing the above products, many said I was crazy. They said, “All 13 companies are struggling with quality, etc.” My answer was, “You can be crazy and still have a good idea.” Today there are three of us left in the U.S. We are doing just fine.

**What advice would you offer a young entrepreneur who wants to start a family run business?** Follow your dreams. Stick to it. If you feel it in your heart, run with it. Don’t give up. Be prepared to dream in the sky with your feet planted firmly on the ground.

**And another thing:** As a U.S. manufacturer of closed cell buns, Monmouth offers all the things that the government is trying to do to bring business back. The firm believes its business model works, products proudly made in the U.S.

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**Another Merger**
**BY: DICK GROSSMAN**

The Board didn’t like the proposed name?

They said Mudweiser wasn’t sufficiently uplifting and they rejected the only other suggestion.

Which was?

Darlene suggested Weissmiller, with a picture of a smiling Tarzan, Jane and Cheeta the chimp, each holding a can.

What was wrong with that? The suggestion of offering beer to pets? Cheeta is surely old enough to drink.

No, they couldn’t care less if people feed it to their hamsters. It was the logo, Weissmiller Tastes Good Like A Beer Should. The Board decided not to encourage people to use “like” for “as.” We’ve been under fire for endorsing incorrect use of language.

Do you have any other ideas?

I thought Buschmeister. We’d have a picture of a cute fuzzy snake with a big smile.

Wrap yourself around…

That’s it!
THE MARPG IS BRINGING THE NEWSLETTER BACK FOR 2016 AS A NICE WAY FOR THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP.

It is also a great way to communicate information about the structure and vision of those responsible for steering the group in the directions that we feel will provide the most "value added" experience for our membership.

I want to introduce you to our 2016 team of Board of Directors, and their Companies. These companies are most generous with allowing them the time to carry out the mission they have assumed as volunteers to create a most useful trade association for the Rubber Industry in our Mid-Atlantic region. These people invest large quantities of their time to provide you, the general membership, with educational and social activities throughout the year.

Our Co-Vice Chairs this year are Paula McDaniel of Intertek, and Raj Chudamani of Fulflex Elastomerics who have a great responsibility for the technical programs as well the Scholarship Committee.

Joe Martin of Solvay Specialty Polymers is the Group’s Secretary and heads up our solicitation efforts.

Bruce Rhodes of Green Tweed & Co. is the MARPG Treasurer, and Dick Grossman, Consultant, is our Historian.

Our Area Directors to the Rubber Division ACS, are Ron Campbell of Green Tweed & Co. and Kim Dempsey Miller, Consultant.

Our Group Directors are:
Amy Saha (Local Arrangements & Facilities) - West Pharmaceutical Services
Marty Sheridan - Vanderbilt Chemicals
Rob D’Andrea - H.M. Royal Inc.
Jeff Linn - Compound Solutions, LLC
Michael Clark - R.E. Carroll, Inc.
John Bonforte, Sr. - Monmouth Rubber & Plastics Co.
Dilip De - Green Tweed & Co.

I would also like to recognize Jennifer Reinford of Autumn Valley Graphics who works closely with our Board of Directors to produce our website, as well as the newsletter, in conjunction with Kimberley Dempsey-Miller.

Although you may know many of these individuals from the industry, please become acquainted with them as the driving force of your Rubber Group. They want to hear your comments and suggestions on how we can make this group even more helpful in bringing You the member, and your Company to the next level.

Another Merger Contest
BY: DICK GROSSMAN

You found another contest for a name for a new corporate merger? We haven’t heard back about our DooDow entry for the last one.

No. They did send a sample of one of their products but it smelled so bad I poured it down a hole in the ground.

Did anything happen? Seismic activity?
A snake came out. It was crying. I really felt bad.

What did you do?
I fed it some cornflakes and patted it on the head. I think it will be OK.

So what’s the suggested name for the new merger?
I thought Mont Bayer. There could be a trademark photo of a rocky mountain peak totally devoid of vegetation.

As a testimonial to their products. But I don’t think there is any such mountain.

So what? No one ever heard of a doodow but I’m told it’s one of the finalists.
Ask this one for snake food. I’m not sure about cornflakes.
The MidAtlantic Rubber & Plastics Group filed incorporation papers on June 13, 2006. We filed in Delaware because the cost was trivial and could be accomplished easily. In New York or Pennsylvania a formal court appearance is needed.

The Philadelphia and New York Rubber Groups had been cooperating for a number of years with joint technical meetings and social events. There was a great overlap in membership. It was therefore very reasonable for the two groups to merge. The name MidAtlantic was chosen as best representing our member support. The assets of the New York and Philadelphia Rubber Groups were transferred to our account in 2007. Internal Revenue Service recognition as a nonprofit corporation had been obtained in 2006, the application being a mere 12 pages (made up for by requiring 10 attachments. The instructions, however, run 38 pages).

In 2007 we changed our status from an industrial technical group to a 501c3 public charity. Although this makes no difference in financial transfers or contributions, most industrial technical groups opt for this higher class-sounding designation. So we did this to please the Rubber Division, as well as proclaiming that we are its Subdivision (a harmless but meaningless claim since Delaware nonprofits are by their State charter independent).

Since that time, we have presented papers on subjects as wide ranging as the use of Atomic Force Microscopy and the Ramifications of REACH. There is no question but that future meetings will be as diverse.

A Lesson in History

Excerpted from http://www2.chemistry.msu.edu/faculty/reusch/VirtTxtJml/polymers.htm

Prior to the early 1920’s, chemists doubted the existence of molecules having molecular weights greater than a few thousand. This limiting view was challenged by Hermann Staudinger, a German chemist with experience in studying natural compounds such as rubber and cellulose. In contrast to the prevailing rationalization of these substances as aggregates of small molecules, Staudinger proposed they were made up of macromolecules composed of 10,000 or more atoms. He formulated a polymeric structure for rubber, based on a repeating isoprene unit (referred to as a monomer). For his contributions to chemistry, Staudinger received the 1953 Nobel Prize. The terms polymer and monomer were derived from the Greek roots poly (many), mono (one) and meros (part).

Recognition that polymeric macromolecules make up many important natural materials was followed by the creation of synthetic analogs having a variety of properties. Indeed, applications of these materials as fibers, flexible films, adhesives, resistant paints and tough but light solids have transformed modern society.