



**SPESA Annual Business Meeting**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom | December 14, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

SPESA Chairman Mr. Ed Gribbin called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. after SPESA President Mr. Michael McDonald affirmed that a quorum of the membership was represented, either through attendance or proxies received from the members not in attendance.

Mr. Gribbin reminded attendees of SPESA's antitrust guidelines which were emailed to attendees prior to the meeting. He explained that the guidelines outlined allowed topics of conversation during official SPESA meetings.

**MINUTES FROM 2021 BUSINESS MEETING**

Mr. Gribbin noted the minutes from the 2021 SPESA Business Meeting (October 28, 2021 in Boston, Massachusetts) were sent to attendees prior to the meeting for review.

Mr. Gribbin then asked attendees if there were any edits or comments related to the minutes. As there were none raised, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

- **ON MOTION AND SECOND** respectively by Dr. Mike Fralix and Mr. Martin Gopman, the minutes from the October 28, 2021 SPESA Business Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, were unanimously approved.

**CHAIRMAN REMARKS**

Mr. Gribbin started by thanking those who were in attendance for the virtual SPESA Business Meeting. He expressed gratitude to the McDonald Textile Group for its work to support SPESA in 2022; he also expressed his excitement for 2023.

Mr. Gribbin first discussed Texprocess Americas, reflecting on the 2022 trade show and looking ahead to the next edition in 2023.

- He stated that it was exciting to see Texprocess Americas come back for the first time since 2018. He added that while it was a good show, there were ways to make it much better.
- Mr. Gribbin added that SPESA and the Messe Frankfurt team would spend the next six months working closely together to ensure Texprocess Americas 2023 was the best

show yet, focusing on new attendee prospects and new show floor additions (such as a focused effort on startup and technology companies).

Mr. Gribbin then offered an update on SPESA's upcoming events and activities:

- He started by reminding everyone on the call that the 2022 SPESA Executive Conference was postponed to March 2023. He encouraged participants on the call to attend the Conference, making note that this would be unique from past SPESA Executive Conferences (focused on Latin America manufacturing and Puerto Rico manufacturing facility tours).
- He then shared that SPESA had been working with the International Apparel Federation (IAF) on the planning of a joint World Fashion Convention, slated for October 2023 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He encouraged participants on the call to keep this event on their radar, noting this would be the first time SPESA and IAF hosted an event together.

He concluded his remarks by wishing everyone on the call a happy holiday season and a successful 2023. He noted that despite market volatility and industry hurdles (e.g. supply chain bottlenecks) in 2022, he was confident that 2023 was going to be a good year for the sewn products industry.

### **BOARD ELECTIONS**

Mr. Gribbin then presented the slate of nominees for the SPESA Board of Directors Class of 2025:

- Rolando Bohlemann, Ferd. Schmetz Needle Corp.
- Bert Feinberg, Frontier Distributors/Phillocraft
- Martin Gopman, Universal Sewing Machine
- Lenny Marano, Lectra
- Charlie Merrow, Merrow Sewing Machine Co.
- Eric Schlossman, Consew

**ON MOTION AND SECOND** respectively by Mr. Frank Henderson and Dr. Fralix, the slate of nominees was presented to all attendees on the Zoom teleconference. All nominees presented were elected to serve on the SPESA Board of Directors.

### **STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Mr. McDonald presented an update on the state of SPESA as an association.

He shared that after two years navigating life amid the Covid-19 pandemic, 2022 offered more of a sense of normalcy for SPESA. He went on to say that 2022 was a busy year for SPESA, noting that industry events were back in full force. He referenced a time in November 2022 when the entire SPESA team was traveling in a different part of the world: Mr. McDonald in Bangladesh, Ms. Marie D'Avignon in Belgium, and Mrs. Maggie McDonald in Mexico. He added that the full SPESA team had recently returned from JIAM in Osaka, Japan.

Mr. McDonald continued by stating that one of the key priorities in attending these various events around the globe was to promote the 2023 edition of Texprocess Americas. He reiterated Mr. Gribbin's point that while it was great to see Texprocess Americas happen in 2022, he was committed to ensuring the 2023 edition would be even better. He added that Messe Frankfurt North America's Senior Show Manager Mrs. Pinar van der Vegt had joined the meeting to share an update on Texprocess Americas 2023.

Mr. McDonald then shared that, in addition to traveling to industry events in 2022, SPESA sought to grow its membership, industry partnerships, and other relevant networks through SPESA's own events. He specifically referenced the recent Advancements in Manufacturing Technologies Conference in Detroit, Michigan, in September 2022. He noted that the event in Detroit introduced SPESA to an entirely new network of industry professionals, most notably connected to the automotive industry. He added that SPESA would continue similar efforts in 2023 to identify new markets and new audiences to engage.

Mr. McDonald concluded by thanking the SPESA Board of Directors for its ongoing support.

### **TEXPROCESS AMERICAS 2023**

Mr. McDonald introduced Mrs. van der Vegt, noting that Mrs. van der Vegt was leading the charge on securing exhibitors for the 2023 edition of Texprocess Americas.

Mrs. van der Vegt thanked Mr. McDonald for the introduction, and shared the following updates:

- The 2023 edition of Texprocess Americas would be heavily focused on technical advancements and future innovations in the sewn products equipment industry. She stated that Messe Frankfurt was working hard to ensure that Texprocess Americas 2023 had a modern and cutting-edge look and feel.
- The 2023 edition of Texprocess Americas would feature new additions, such as:
  - The Tech Zone
  - A Start-up Pavilion
  - Innovation Awards
- Messe Frankfurt and its Symposium planning committee were mapping out topics for the professional development program, including (but not limited to):
  - Connecting design to manufacturing
  - Reshoring and nearshoring (or "New" shoring)
  - International perspectives on the global textile industry

Mrs. van der Vegt concluded her remarks by welcoming anyone to reach out to her about the upcoming Texprocess Americas. She stated that she was more than happy to answer any questions from exhibitors or visitors to the trade show.

### **CONCLUSION**

Mr. McDonald invited everyone in the meeting to join trivia after the meeting concluded. He added that Ms. D'Avignon was not present in the meeting, which meant someone else had the opportunity to win.

Mr. Gribbin opened the floor for attendees to raise final questions or new business.

As there was no further business to bring before the SPESA membership at this time, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M McDonald", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael McDonald  
President  
SPESA