

THE BULLETIN



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A Message from the Director

We are pleased to announce that William A. "Bill" Wilson has been elected to serve as Executive Director of the Society. He will replace Paul Langenus effective January 1, 2014. A transition period will take place through June 30, 2014 during which time the books will be closed for 2013 and a bi-annual audit will be conducted. Bill is a 39 year employee of International Paper. Most of his career was spent in the US Container Division, starting as a plant engineer and working his way to Plant General Manager. He also worked in Beverage Packaging and Bleached Board. He spent nine years running facilities. His current assignment is Center Of Excellence Operations Lead. Wilson stated that he looked forward to staying connected to the community, and help make a difference in the lives of Society members with special needs. The Quarter Century Society will be a perfect means of accomplishing his goal. Bill will also be joining the Board in January. We wish him success as he starts his journey.

Financial Update

The Society had \$ 3.9 million in investments as of August 31, even though assistance to members has increased. Strong returns on investments, particularly in equities, have made the difference. Funds are invested in a mix of fixed income and equities, with the objective of preserving the corpus while maintaining liquidity. The Board of Directors was provided with its annual briefing on the status of the Society's investments at its September 17 meeting. It was agreed at the meeting to maintain our investment strategy of 50 - 50 equities to fixed income. It has resulted in a 7.8% return on investment over the past five years.

Special Note

Chapters are reminded that the Society is required to send form 1099 to all members receiving more than \$599 in the calendar year. We will be sending you a form to complete and return no later than January 15. Complete names, social security numbers and addresses are required. Accuracy and timeliness count! So, please help us by getting the information to us on time. Thanks.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Society's purpose is to provide financial aid quickly and confidentially to and for the benefit of a member or a deceased member's surviving eligible dependent that is in need of financial assistance in the face of misfortune or emergency.

Society Communications Initiative

A communication plan described in earlier *Bulletins* has been started. Documents including a communications plan, general copy for use in newsletters, articles for mailings, a press release and a tri-fold document have been established. The new tri-fold brochure has had its first printing and was distributed to members at the Savannah, Mobile, Loveland and Ticonderoga chapter meetings. Copies will be available for all new members. The document will also be available on our website. The program is being led by Board member Karen Bruder, assisted by Robin Johnson and Donna Wensel. The idea behind the initiative is reaching out to more members, especially those who do not have internet access. Our thanks to Karen, Robin and Donna for their dedication and making this happen. The Society will expand the scope of its reach to more members through the chapters, introduction of an 800 number, and press releases for local news channels. Look for more information in upcoming editions.

Nominating Committee Established

A Nominating Committee to identify and vet new Board members was established on September 17. Three new Board members will be added for 2014. Jack Ward, Assistant Treasurer, will complete his second three-year term and is not eligible for reelection. Ted Niederriter has decided to step down from the board effective December 31. The committee will be chaired by John Hash and assisted by Betsy Leslie and Greg Mitchell.

They will make their report at the next Board meeting on December 6. Board terms for new members are for three years and will begin on January 1, 2014. Those interested in service on the Board should contact Paul Langenus at IPQCS@cox.net.

Courtland Mill to Close

IP recently announced that Courtland, AL Mill will be shut down over the next year. The mill employs over 1000 people. It became part of IP with the Champion acquisition. Although a QCS chapter was never started at Courtland, those full time employees and retirees with 25 years of service are eligible for membership in the Society as well as for financial assistance. The Board agreed to reach out to mill management through the IP communications teams, the IP Foundation and Courtland retirees' associations to see if the Society may be able to provide assistance. Look for more on this in future editions of *The Bulletin*.

September Board Meeting

The Board met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 17 in Memphis. Approximately half of the Board now participates by teleconference. This has proven to be a viable means of keeping those Board members living outside of Memphis engaged. Regular updates are also provided by email. The Board had its annual update of Society investments. It also formalized the voting for the new Executive Director. The election followed the meeting. Also covered at the meeting were the QCS web site, IPQCS.com, the proposed Franklin chapter and record keeping through the new provider, Aon Hewitt. The next QCS Board meeting will be held on Friday, December 6 in Memphis.

Fourth Quarter Calendar

Ticonderoga Chapter - 10/22/13
Franklin, VA Chapter - 10/26/13
Annual Meeting - Memphis - 12/6/13
Quarterly QCS Meeting - 12/6/13
Request for 1099 Information Sent - 12/15/13



Fall Meetings Underway

A number of chapter meetings are taking place at chapters around the country. To date, Savannah, Mobile and Loveland have had their annual meetings. Board members Betsy Leslie and Stan Weinrich attended the Mobile and Loveland meetings respectively and addressed the members. Ticonderoga is scheduled for later this month. Each of the chapters was sent the Society's new capabilities folder which was distributed at the meetings. In the future, chapters will have access to a complete communications tool kit which will include generic press releases for distribution to local newspapers. The purpose of the press release is to reach those members through local newspapers who do not have access to the internet. For a tool kit, contact Paul Langenus at IPQCS@cox.net

Quarter Century Society Insurance Policy

From time to time we are contacted by retirees or surviving dependents seeking information on a Quarter Century insurance policy for \$1000. We respond to every request.

To try to clarify the matter, many years ago, IP offered a \$1000 life insurance policy to certain full time employees who had completed 25 years of service many years ago. The benefit was stopped in August 1990 for salaried employees who had not reached 25 years of service at that point. For wage role employees, eligibility depended on collective bargaining agreements as negotiated on an individual mill/facility basis. Some facilities agreed to terminate the benefit in exchange for salary or other benefits. The bottom line is that there is no hard and fast rule on who may be eligible. The Quarter Century life insurance policy was a benefit paid for by IP. Those retirees or surviving spouses who are seeking to determine eligibility should contact the IP Shared Service Center. They alone can advise you on this matter.

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