

THE BULLETIN



VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1

1ST QUARTER 2020

A Message from the Director

Your Board of Directors held the 2020 1st Quarter Board Meeting by conference call on Thursday, March 19th. The primary focus of the Q1 Board meeting is always a review of prior year financial results. The Board reviewed a report on 2019 portfolio performance from portfolio managers Carol Tusch and Mac Carroll. The Society's investments are equally split between stocks and bonds. The portfolio earned a combined return of 18.0%. Stocks gained 29.2% and bonds gained 8.3%. The portfolio's 3, 5 and 10 year returns average 7.8% and 5.9% and 7.8% respectively. 2020 returns through mid-March reflect recent market volatility showing a loss of 17.1%; -32% for stocks and -2% for bonds. The QCS long term portfolio returns allow the Society to remain in a strong financial position to support the Mission of helping members in financial need.

Chapter financial grant activity in 2019 reflected 96 grants totaling \$119,899. This represents an increase in the number of grants and an increase in dollars relative to 2018. 88% of the grants made in 2019 went to retirees, 2% to active employees and 10% to dependents of QCS members. 15 Chapters participated in the grant process, same as 2018. The Orange, Mobile, Clinton, Pine Bluff, Memphis and Vaughn Chapter's were the most active Chapters in 2019 grant administration. These six Chapters made 67 grants totaling \$85,900 representing 72% of the total. The Board continues to be concerned with the number of Chapters not participating in the grant process over the past 3 years. One factor is low membership at some of those Chapters. Analysis of the most active Chapters reinforces the fact that local leadership teams play a critical role in this process.

North American QCS membership in 2019 totaled 42,865, a small decrease over 2018. The decrease is the result of improved database information. We lost 1045 members in 2019 and 576 new members will be added in 2020. 14,066 members or 33% are aligned with the current Chapter network. 66% of our Chapter members are retired. Efforts remain underway to increase the number of Chapters based on targeted facilities and regional areas with a high number of members, active and retired. Local Chapter activity drives the Society's ability to identify and reach QCS members in financial need.

The 1st Quarter Meeting agenda also focused on the continuing effort to expand the current Chapter network. As noted, only 33% of North American members are aligned with an existing Chapter. 2020 targets include Northern California, Bogalusa, Maysville, Cedar River and Flint River. Eastover will complete the new Chapter charter process in Q2.

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 who is in need of financial assistance in the face of misfortune or emergency.

A Message from the Director (Continued)

The Board approved a social media key initiative in 2019. Jeanie Dowdle, Christa Allen and Fred Ellrich are leading this important effort. The goal of the project is to increase the visibility of the Society and improve the QCS member communication process. This will include expanding the electronic connection to QCS members across North America. One vehicle being explored is the use of Facebook. Communication has taken place with IP legal and IT representatives. This is a significant work initiative and will set the stage for expanded QCS visibility, including grant access and management. Additional time will be allocated during the Q2 meeting to develop this initiative further.

Key document management remains a work in progress led by Joyce Margulies. All key documents have now been reviewed and most have been updated to ensure language and process consistency. This effort will be completed by year end. The QCS Board of Director's priorities for 2020/2021 include the following:

- Implement Social Media Team Recommendations
- Continue Expansion of Chapter Network
- Formalize Chapter Leadership Succession Process
- Increase Chapter Financial Grant Activity
- Establish Volunteer Opportunity Linkage Between IP & QCS Retiree Population

The Board extends appreciation to all Chapter leadership teams for their continued commitment to the QCS Mission. Our Chapter leadership volunteers remain the key to realizing the QCS Mission: Identifying and confidentially supporting QCS members in dire financial need. Thank you for your dedication to the Quarter Century Society Mission!

Bill Wilson
Executive Director

Mark Sutton's Provides Company Update In Response to COVID-19

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Mark Sutton, IP chairman and CEO, recently addressed global employees in a company communication. Inspired by the commitment and resilience of teams across International Paper who continue to produce products people around the world need now more than ever, Mark also expressed gratitude for families of IP team members, whose support is critical to meeting the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

“Federal and state government agencies around the world have designated our industry as essential,” said Mark Sutton. “Our products are critical components of the supply chains required to produce and deliver food, pharmaceuticals, hygiene products and emergency supplies. By continuing to operate, we are helping to ensure essential goods are available at healthcare facilities, grocery stores and homes.”

Visit International Paper on Facebook to see the March 18 post of the video address from Mark Sutton.

International Paper Donates Boxes to Respond to COVID-19 Community Needs

International Paper is taking action to address hunger and meet critical community needs during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. The world's leading producer of renewable, fiber-based packaging, pulp and paper has committed to donating hundreds of thousands of corrugated boxes to Feeding America and other regional community partners.

Through a donation of more than 300,000 boxes, International Paper is helping Feeding America and their network of food banks across the United States respond to families in need. During the pandemic, the organization is partnering with school districts and local government agencies to ensure that the 22

Q2 2020 Calendar

2nd Quarter Board Meeting

June 18th

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International Paper Donates Boxes (Continued)

million children who rely on school meals have access to food outside of the classroom. Boxes are critical to their ability to transport and store food. In the company headquarters' backyard in Memphis, Feeding America network member Mid-South Food Bank will receive 50,000 International Paper boxes, supporting the organization's ability to respond to food insecurity in its 31-county service region during the pandemic.

“Our products are a critical part of the supply chain required to produce and deliver food, pharmaceuticals, hygiene products and emergency supplies for consumers around the world,” said Dr. Alissa Campbell Shaw, senior manager, Community Engagement, and director, The IP Foundation, International Paper. “We recognized that our boxes are essential for the charities in our communities. They enable these organizations to cast a wider safety net for those in need.”

The company is working directly with numerous food banks and critical support charities across the world to get boxes into the communities with the greatest need.

COVID-19 Implications At Chapter Level

The Board discussed the implications of the COVID-19 issues on Chapter grant activity. No changes will be made either in the criteria for the grant assessment or the approval process. The grant assessment criteria used by the Chapters will continue to be based on determining if the member is in dire financial need. Chapter leaders will be sensitive to the implications of the virus. QCS portfolio returns allow the Society to remain in a financial position to support possible increased grant activity.

QCS Web Site

The Society QCS web site can be accessed at <http://www.ipqcs.com>. You can update Bookmarks with <http://www.ipqcs.com>. You can also Google [ipqcs.com](http://www.ipqcs.com) and click the first item in the results.

Food For Thought

- Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value. Albert Einstein
- I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions. Stephen Covey
- When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it. Henry Ford