

**Glass Manufacturing Industry Council
Board of Trustees Annual Retreat
June 25-26, 2025**

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Board of Trustees: Ken Bratton, Bucher Emhart Glass; Ryan Bockbrader, Ardagh; Aaron Huber, Johns Manville; Daniel Johnson, Libbey; Marie Kistler, Air Products; Eric Muskovin, CelSian; Brian Naveken, TECO; Glenn Neff, Glass Service; Will Pinc, Guardian; Andy Richardson, Messer North America; Greg Rogers, RoviSys; Stanley Rutowski, RoMan; Adam Schrader, Covia; Eric Smith, Gallo; Dave Ulmer, SORG; Jeff Watts, CelSian; **Staff:** Donna Banks Kerry Ward.

June 25, 2025

President Stanley Rutkowski welcomed trustees to Modesto, CA, and reviewed the agenda and meeting goals.

Executive Director Kerry Ward reviewed the draft bylaws and policies he wrote. He said that the bylaws would be voted on by the membership after final review by legal counsel. One key change he noted is the addition of a Director at Large on the Executive Committee, bringing the total number of committee members to five. Additional changes include a new honorary membership category for those who have made contributions to the glass industry.

Board Action: It was moved, seconded, and voted to accept the proposed bylaws and policies as written.

Under policies, Ward said the Finance Committee would review the reserve policy and report back to the Board. He reviewed the revised antitrust policy and **the Board agreed** that new members should be sent the antitrust policy to sign and that Board members should receive it annually for review.

The Board discussed membership and the dues structure. **The Board agreed** that anyone that is completely retired from the industry, i.e., no income from consulting, should have a minimal annual membership fee to encourage them to stay involved with GMIC.

Members discussed the strategic objectives, including the need for more industry advocacy. It was noted that the plastic and aluminum industries devote a lot more resources than glass to policy positions and advocating for their industries. GMIC will explore ideas for policy advocacy with a limited budget, i.e., glass life cycle analysis and policy talking points. Greater coordination with GPI/NAIMA and the Glass Packaging Institute for and other glass organizations will be pursued.

Ward discussed GMIC's ongoing membership in the International Commission on Glass (ICG) and recent changes to the ICG structure. Ward represents GMIC and U.S. glass on the ICG Board as well as a technical committee. Aaron Huber discussed the ICG glass design committee and said GMIC membership is important.

Rutkowski said the new committees are now on website and asked for volunteers to contact Ward, and to share volunteer opportunities within their organizations. He said another strategic

goal is to reach deeper into member organizations, with the member representative providing context for GMIC initiatives.

Rutkowski and Ward updated members the Department of Energy (DOE) furnace electrification grant. Ward reported that the \$100,000 transfer from the reserve fund to support the grant, approved by the Executive Committee, had been completed and that initial funding had been distributed to the subrecipients. At the end of the three-year project, the money will be returned to the reserves.

Eric Muskovin of CelSian provided a technical project update for the Board.

Treasurer Adam Schrader and Ward reported on financial performance, including the final 2024 financial report, the YTD 2025 financial report, current reserves, and YTD DOE payments.

Donna Banks, Membership Manager, reported on planning for the October Glass Problems Conference (GPC) and Symposium, short course, and exhibit sales.

Ward reviewed proposals for GPC 2026 and said there were two strong options, again in Toledo 26 or move to Louisville. He said his preference was to try a new location but that he had not seen the Louisville space in person so could not make a formal recommendation.

Board Action: It was moved, seconded, and voted to defer action on the 2026 GPC location until Ward and perhaps members of the Executive Committee could tour the proposed space in Louisville.

Ward said he would work on setting up a site visit to Louisville as soon as possible.

The Board adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

June 26, 2025

Chris Hessler, of AJW, Inc., provided a legislative update to the Board via Zoom.

Board members discussed policy implications for GMIC. **The Board agreed** that the new advocacy committee should work on an action plan.

Ward provided an update on planning for the next industry report. **The Board agreed** that tracking and reporting industry data is necessary to support our advocacy agenda and should be done continuously rather than every three years via a written/pdf report. Ward said he envisioned the report as mostly digital and that it would be added to on an ongoing basis, rather than one big project every three years.

There was discussion of the cost of the industry report and how money should be taken from the reserve fund.

Ward said that the reserve was approximately 25% above the entire annual operating budget, the threshold recommended holding for reserves.

Board Action: It was moved, seconded, and voted to fund the industry report in 2025 via a transfer from the reserve fund.

Banks reported on planning for a Fall virtual education program and a spring 2026 in-person program. She said she envisioned a program for up to 100 attendees and that likely locations include the deep south, pacific northwest, or the northeast.

Board Action: It was moved, seconded, and voted to add a budget in 2026 for an in-person educational event.

The Board agreed that timing should avoid other spring meetings, including Hotbels, ICG, Glassman and major CelSian training. Members also said that the program could be used as a meeting opportunity for new committee members.

Banks reported that award nominations would open in the summer and that the awards would again be presented at the GPC opening session.

Banks also reported on her research for establishing a 501(c)3 charitable foundation to support GMIC's education and workforce development efforts. She said we would need to file the organization with both the State of Ohio and the IRS.

Rutkowski announced that Greg Rogers, RoviSys, had volunteered to serve on the Executive Committee starting in 2026. He said the complete Executive Committee ballot would be determined before GPC, as current Vice President Benjamin Prothman had accepted another job at a company that currently is not a GMIC member.

Rutkowski thanked Erik Smith and Gallo for the excellent tour and for hosting the retreat. He said that he and RoMan Manufacturing would host the 2026 Board retreat July 21-23 near Grand Rapids, MI.

The Board adjourned at 1:30 p.m.