

APOMA Election

Don't forget to cast your ballot for the 2024-2026 At-Large Board Member Election

Please remember to vote for three At-Large Board Member positions. Emails were sent out to company representatives **earlier this month from ElectionBuddy** asking for their votes. If you did not receive an email and believe you should have, please contact Zach Hobbs at Zach@Sydor.com. Please note that if another individual voted on your company's behalf, you may no longer be eligible to vote.

This election is one of the largest that APOMA has seen! We're excited to see the results and the future board members of APOMA.

Candidate information can be found below

1. Christopher Russell - Universal Photonics Inc.



I am an Experienced Field Application Engineer with a demonstrated history of working in the precision optics industry and have worked for Universal Photonics for almost 20 Years in various positions. I have worked all over the world with small to very large optical, IR, crystal, plastic, and many other polishing industries. I have developed strong relationships with many of these companies.

Throughout my experience in the Optics Industry, I have had countless hours of hands-on experience with machining, grinding, lapping, and polishing glass, crystals, ceramics, and metals so I understand the concerns and needs of APOMA members in these industries. I am Skilled in Relationship Building, Troubleshooting, Problem Management and Containment, Manufacturing, Lean Manufacturing, Continuous Improvement, Project Management, general engineering practices and

graduated with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Chemical Engineering from Clarkson University in 2005. I also participated in board of the AiChE organization while at Clarkson University.

2. Gary Andreski - NGL America Inc.



I am currently the Director of Sales for NGL Nordic responsible for the North American market, and currently hold a board position for NGL America, Inc. My background and expertise come from manufacturing critical polishing consumables for optics manufacturing. In 1957, my father was one of the original founders of Micro Abrasives Corporation therefore lapping and grinding were destined to be in my future. In the early 1980's, I started working in Micro Abrasives factory during the summers between college semesters helping to make the Microgrit WCA lapping powders, gaining a deep understanding of the process. I worked my way up after college, ultimately becoming Vice President of Sales handling North America and Asia for Micro Abrasives Corporation. My responsibilities included process development at customer facilities and managing everything from direct sales to distribution. My career has gone from lapping and grinding to now focusing my skills on polishing pads, polishing slurries as well as other consumables for final polishing. Working at Micro for all those years helped me understand how polishing plays such a critical role in "removing" the damage caused from lapping. As our parent company NGL Cleaning Technologies SA (Nyon, Switzerland) manufacturers high precision ultrasonic cleaning chemicals, I am also able to understand and offer manufacturers the best process to achieve high quality optical parts from start to finish.

3. Barry Tyler - Salvo Technologies



Barry graduated with a BS degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Virginia. In 2000 he decided to begin manufacturing infrared optics and founded American Photonics. He managed the company for over 14 years until he decided to expand his horizons and work for Satisloh as a technical representative. It provided an amazing opportunity to travel the world and meet so many talented and highly intelligent optical engineers and technicians. It prepared him for his next opportunity, which came early in 2019 as President of Kreischer Optics. Very hard following in the big footprints of Cody Kreischer, but a rewarding and humbling experience nonetheless. He led the company through Covid and prepared it for sale to Salvo Technologies in May 2021. Currently he is the optical components director for Salvo (Largo, FL). Barry enjoys assisting customers build amazing products through the optics he helps create.

4. Timothy Kennedy - Edmund Optics



Tim Kennedy is the Sr. VP of Global Sales & Marketing for Edmund Optics. He has a global mindset and cultural awareness developed from spending nearly 20 years living and developing operations in various countries across Asia. One of his key strengths is his ability to communicate on a more personal level with native speakers in Japanese, Mandarin and Thai. He is hard working, always available for his team, and committed to the

stakeholders of the organization.

Tim started his career with Edmund Optics in January 2000 as an application engineer in Barrington. In May 2002, he moved to Singapore to support both engineering and ITAR compliance for the optical component production factory. While in Singapore, Tim also developed regional sales offices to further support customers across Asia. He moved to China in July 2007 to open the China sales office and then moved to Japan in September 2008 to lead the integration of the Saito Optics manufacturing acquisition and bring all regional Asia sales and marketing groups together. Finally, Tim returned to the US in March 2021 to continue supporting the development of the EO sales and marketing across the globe.

Tim graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Optical Engineering from the University of Arizona Optical Sciences department in 1999. He then continued his education to receive a Global Executive MBA from INSEAD in January 2021.

Tim lives in Medford, NJ with his wife and two children. Outside of work, he enjoys golfing with friends and family, traveling and meeting people from around the world, a game of chess here and there, DIY projects around the house, and most importantly, spending time with his wife and children.

5. Mitzi Brennan - Pureon Inc.



I have been with Pureon Inc. for the last 3 years, but you may recall me at Eminess Technologies Inc, who was acquired in 2020 and is now Pureon Inc. We are a global company based in Lengwil Switzerland and we manufacture polishing consumables for high tech materials. Our US manufacturing site is in Monroe, NC. Our products range from slicing, grinding, lapping and polishing applications across many different materials.

My consumable polishing focus has been in the last 12 years. Since Eminess was founded on Semiconductor, polishing critical surfaces is in our company DNA.

Optics, with countless shapes, specification requirements and selection of materials, is a natural extension of our semi process background. Optics is also a strategic market and focus for our company. Our approach to each customer's needs starts with understanding the problem you are solving before we make recommendations. As the market is driving tighter specifications, our background is applicable.

Our company has been a proud and active member of APOMA since 2014. We support technical talks at Optifab and the APOMA workshops. Our goal with every customer is to understand the issues you face and to share knowledge between us.

With each of our new product introductions, many customers meet with me to provide valuable insight into the gaps you are looking to fill in performance.

My current role with Pureon is General Manager of North America Sales. I would be honored to be on the board as an At Large Member. I can add value to the board as a diverse consumable manufacturer offering a fresh perspective on a wide range of topics we are working on.

6. Nicholas Bilis - Ohara Corporation



Hello I am Niko Bilis, Applications Engineer at Ohara Corporation. I have been in the industry for 5 years. Working at Ohara makes me a strong candidate for the APOMA board for several reasons. We are one of the largest raw material suppliers of optical materials in the industry, which brings great insight across various optical system projects. Because Ohara is a staple in many optical designs, I have worked with many faces across

the industry from Buyers to Engineers and Presidents to Opticians; this has allowed me to make great long-lasting relationships with many companies and many individuals. On top of this, being at the bottom of the supply chain allows me to see the layers and levels of the industry as you travel up the chain, giving me a nice wide view of what is going on.

As for me personally, I believe people would call me personable and outgoing, and I would like to think I am someone you can depend on. I am entering myself as a nominee and hope you will be able find me a great addition for the APOMA Board! Thank you for your time!

7. Navid Entezarian - ThorLabs, Inc. (Incumbent)



Navid Entezarian is a professional in the field of optics and photonics, currently serving as the Optics Business Development Manager for Thorlabs. He has been with Thorlabs for over a decade, starting his journey in 2013 as a manufacturing engineer. Navid's career has been marked by significant contributions, especially in the development of novel processes for manufacturing Axicons lenses, CaF₂, and MgF₂ optics. His academic background is equally impressive, having graduated magna cum laude in applied physics with a minor in applied mathematics from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 2013.

Beyond his role at Thorlabs, Navid has been actively involved in educational initiatives. He played a crucial role in developing an optics program at Sussex County Community College (SCCC), aiming to empower the next generation of optical fabricators. This involvement extended to teaching students at SCCC before the establishment of its optics lab. Furthermore, Navid has collaborated with AmeriCOM to establish similar optics programs in community colleges across the country, reflecting his commitment to advancing the field of optics and supporting educational endeavors.

Navid's work with local industry partners from New Jersey, such as ESCO, Coherent, Inrad optics, and Thorlabs, along with his collaboration with Alexis Vogt from Monroe Community College, highlights his dedication to fostering partnerships that benefit the broader optics community. His efforts in curriculum development and educational collaboration are indicative of his passion for the field and his desire to contribute to its growth and accessibility.

8. Shai Shafrir - Corning Inc. (Incumbent)



Shai Shafrir, PhD., is the Finishing Technology Manager for Precision Glass Solution Business Unit of Advance Optics, Corning Inc. Shai's body of work at Corning has gained him worldwide experience in glass manufacturing and acknowledgment for providing leading technology solutions implemented in mass production. His current focus is on precision glass wafers and panels fabrication for high performance consumer electronics and IoT applications. He has also held positions at L3Harris, OptiPro Systems, and the Materials Group of the Laboratory of Laser Energetics, University of Rochester. Shai holds PhD (2007) and MS (2005) degrees in Materials Science from the UR, and a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineer from ORT Braude College of Engineering, Israel (2003). He is a primary author/co-author of four US patents and has authored/co-authored multiple journal publications during his career.