

New member brings TAPPI membership to 30,000

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TAPPI membership passed a milestone in October of 1989 when, for the first time, membership reached 30,000. The member whose joining made the total 30,000 is **Timothy Piester**, Quality Manager for Wisconsin Paperboard Corp., Milwaukee, Wis. Piester has been in the paper industry seven years, joining TAPPI because of his exposure to TAPPI Test Methods on the job.

Tappi Journal interviewed Piester during the Christmas holidays, asking him about his work and his involvement with TAPPI.

Journal: *What is your background and your education that led you into the paper industry?*

Piester: My educational background, for the most part, is in Mechanical Engineering. However, for the time being I am pursuing a degree in Business Administration, attempting to pick up skills in management which will directly apply to my present job. I am currently acting as both Quality Manager and as a Facilitator in our new Quality and Productivity Improvement Process. I plan to eventually go back to school and finish the Engineering degree I started out to get.

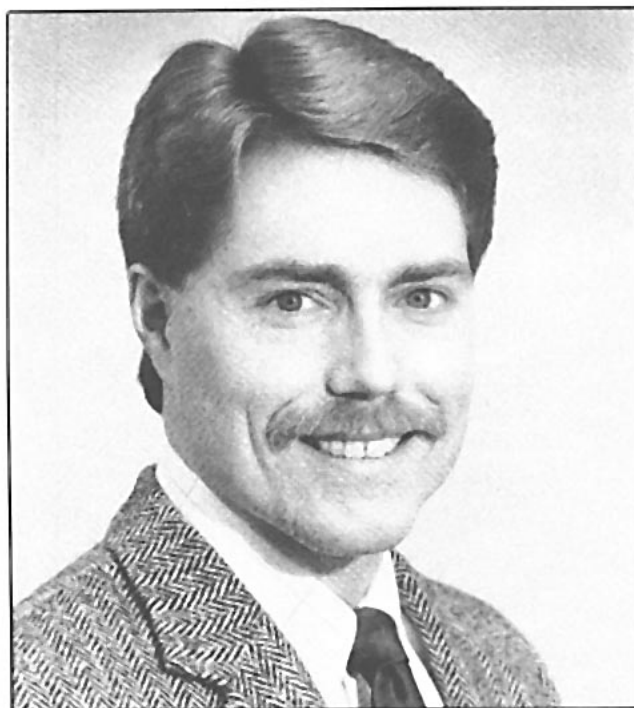
Journal: *What is your background in the paper industry?*

Piester: I have worked in the paperboard industry for almost seven years — all at W.P.C. I started in the Maintenance Department, working as a mechanic's helper. Then I spent a few months doing projects for the Engineering Department, and worked briefly filling a temporary opening in the Quality Department. I spent two years working in our Converting Department in various production and quality jobs, and finally returned to the Mill Quality Department in 1985. Since that time I have been the Quality Control Manager, with responsibility for quality and testing throughout all departments. I am also involved in our Safety Committee, Hazard Communications Program, Environmental Monitoring, and some aspects of purchasing.

Journal: *When did you first hear about TAPPI and what led you to get involved?*

Piester: I first learned about TAPPI in the mill's Quality Department, mainly through TAPPI Test Methods which were used as routine control tests. I also heard of TAPPI student chapters at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and at Western Michigan University from students who worked in the mill during summers.

As time went on, I decided to join and take advantage of



the benefits of membership. I am mainly interested in the conferences and other means of learning about the paper industry, specifically in the area of quality. Since TAPPI is "universally" recognized as "the source" for technical information, I felt that membership would be a great asset to my job. While I have not used any of the services offered since becoming a member, I have benefited from others' memberships in being able to have access to test methods, manuals and technical data sheets.

Journal: *From your new, and uncluttered perspective, what could TAPPI do to attract prospective members and get new members more involved?*

Piester: TAPPI seems to be keying the right areas, such as college chapter memberships, to attract members. I do think that making some activities (such as technical conferences) more regional would help attract membership involvement. Concentrating on areas with heavy papermaking concentrations, such as the Northeast, Southeast, northern Wisconsin, etc., might help bring in more "day trip" participants. Many in our industry do not seem to have schedules which permit extensive travel.

Journal: *Thanks for your time and welcome to TAPPI.* □