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## **AMERIPEN 2019: New Board Members, Priorities and Opportunities**

*The group's recent annual meeting focused on strategies to achieve industry goals, and to promote the growth and value of the sustainability-centric organization.*

MINNEAPOLIS (June 11, 2019) — AMERIPEN welcomed new board members, appointed a new executive board, and set its sights on public policy opportunities during its annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Sessions during the three-day meeting included in-depth discussions covering a range of issues, such as common challenges in the packaging industry, strategies to increase post-consumer recycled content in packaging, future-forward policy considerations and other concerns. Throughout the event, attendees stressed the value in packaging professionals coming together to address pervasive problems.

“If the packaging industry is ever going to solve its challenges around sustainability, we will need to bring together stakeholders from every part of the value chain to tackle these issues,” Kyla Fisher, Program Manager, AMERIPEN, says. “Our organization is uniquely positioned to provide a platform for such important collaboration and discussion.”

### **Priorities for 2020**

AMERIPEN meeting attendees provided key input for the organization's future efforts. Top priorities identified include:

- Promoting science-based data decisions around public policy affecting the packaging industry, with the goal of ensuring sustainable outcomes for stakeholders across the value chain
- Serving as a thought-leader in anticipating and planning for packaging design shifts and corresponding policy implications
- Bringing together industry peers, so they can collectively align resources and efforts around key issues that impact all packaging materials and formats.

### **Industry opportunities**

Annual meeting attendees deliberated current and emerging challenges the packaging industry faces. Areas of potential opportunity for AMERIPEN and its members to address these challenges include:

- Increasing efforts to promote the value of packaging

- Evaluating and explaining the challenges in realizing global commitments for 100% recyclable, reusable, compostable packaging
- Exploring best practices to advance domestic recycling, including developing end markets increasing recycled content use.

### **New board leadership and members**

AMERIPEN announced a new Executive Board slate to lead the group in coming months:

- President: Lee Anderson, Director of Issues Management and State Government Relations, [General Mills](#)
- Vice President: Scott Byrne, Circular Economy Expert, [Tetra Pak](#)
- Treasurer: Mike Prentiss, State Government Relations and Global Government Communications, [Procter & Gamble](#)
- Secretary: Susan Robinson, Federal Public Affairs Director, [Waste Management](#)

Additionally, the group welcomed two new board members:

- Laura Rowell, Director of Global Sustainability, [Sonoco](#)
- Kent Wilson, U.S. Policy and Public Affairs Advisor, [Nestlé](#)

AMERIPEN also announced five companies new to the organization this year:

- [Carton Council of North America](#)
- [Intertape Polymer Group](#)
- [McCormick](#)
- [Sazarac](#)
- [Tyson](#)

### **About AMERIPEN**

[AMERIPEN](#) represents the North American packaging value chain by providing public policy makers with fact-based, material-neutral, scientific information. AMERIPEN is the only organization exclusively focused on U.S. public policy for the entire packaging industry. We advocate on behalf of the entire packaging value chain – from material producers, to brand owners, to recycling partners – before state legislatures and collaborate with stakeholders to advance the packaging industry’s public policy objectives. Our mission is to lead the packaging industry through advocacy based on science and enhance understanding of the role packaging plays in a more sustainable society, economy and environment.

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