

LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING
August 16, 2024
Alexandria, LA

1. The meeting of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) Board of Direction was held on Friday, August 16, 2024, in Alexandria, LA. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order by President Melanie Caillouet at 11:14 AM.

Board Members Present

Melanie Caillouet, PE, President
Gavin Gautreau, PE, Vice-President
Clinton Patrick, PE, PLS, 2nd Vice-President
Rachel Kenney, PE, Secretary-Treasurer
Tyler Comeaux, PE, NSPE Representative
Oliver Neal, PE, Young Engineer Representative
James Ellingburg, PE, Past President
Kimberly McDaniel, PE, State Director
David Gereighty, PE, State Director (present virtually)
William Vollman, PE, Alexandria Chapter President
Bliss Bernard, PE, Baton Rouge Chapter President
Jacob Waitz, Jr., PE, Bayou Chapter President
Joey Krefft, PE, Lafayette Chapter President
Kalyn Partin, PE, Lake Charles Chapter President
Morgan McCallister, PE, Monroe Chapter President
Kevin Hurtt, PE, New Orleans Chapter President
Jonathan Ratliff, PE, Shreveport Chapter President
Stan Whitney, PE, PEC Chair
Jeffrey Pike, PE, PEE Chair
Jennifer Gemar, PE, PEI Chair
Alan Krouse, PE, PEPP Chair
Mary Claire Ruckert, Executive Director

Board Members Absent

Gregory Trahan, State Director
Hagan Lawrence, State Director
Ali Mustapha, PE, PEG Chair

Guests Present

No guests present

2. The Invocation was given by Jeffrey Pike.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. LES Vision & Mission Statement was read by Gavin Gautreau.
5. Acceptance of Agenda –
Gavin Gautreau made the motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Stan Whitney. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Acceptance of the May 2024 meeting minutes –
A motion was made by Kalyn Partin to accept the May 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Rachel Kenney. The motion passed unanimously.
7. President's Report
Nothing to report at this time.
8. Secretary/Treasurer's Report –
 - a. Financial Reports as of 7/31/2024
 - 1) LES P&L Statement (see attached) – The LES Profit and Loss statement was reviewed and discussed. No questions were asked at this time.
 - 2) LES Balance Sheet (see attached) – The LES Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed. A discussion took place about LEF paying back the donation that LES made in the amount of \$26,500 when the Engineering Center sells. There is no plan of action for LEF to return those funds at this time.

A motion was made by Oliver Neal to accept the P&L and Balance sheet as of 7/31/2024. The motion was seconded by Jim Ellingburg. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Year-End Financial Reports as of 6/30/2024
 - 1) LES P&L Statement (see attached) – The LES Year-End Profit and Loss statement was reviewed and discussed. No questions were asked at this time.
 - 2) LES Balance Sheet (see attached) – The LES Year-End Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed. The negative balance stems from the loan to LEF in the amount of \$26,500, JESC expenses, and the deposit for the Cajundome for next year's JESC. Lastly, membership dues and voluntary dues were down drastically last year.

A motion was made by Jim Ellingburg to accept the Year-End P&L and Balance sheet as of 6/30/2024. The motion was seconded by Oliver Neal. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Prior Year Comparison – The Prior Year Comparison report will be emailed to the board after the meeting.

9. Executive Director's Report (see attached report)
 - a. Event Scheduling – As you begin scheduling your events for the upcoming year, please be mindful of state-wide or nearby chapter events.
 - b. Data Privacy & Distribution Lists – LES data should never be shared broadly, and distribution lists should be utilized judiciously and with caution.
 - c. JESC 2025 – The dates for next year's JESC will be February 5-6, 2025, at the Cajundome in Lafayette. Please book your room at the Hilton Garden Inn as soon as possible using code LESC25.
 - d. Revised Office Schedule – Members of the ExCom have discussed revising the LES State office schedule due to staffing availability. The proposed schedule would be Monday – Thursday from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM.

A motion was made by Stan Whitney to accept the proposed change to the LES State Office hours to Monday – Thursday from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM starting the week of September 2, 2024. The motion was seconded by Oliver Neal. The motion passed unanimously.

- e. Legislative Update – The LES ExCom, Legislative Chair and Executive Director met with Haynie & Associates in early June for a debrief on the past legislative session and a discussion about moving forward. At this time, LES will retain Haynie & Associates as our lobbyist for the next year, and will work in better partnership with ACEC, LAPELS, and ASCE to ensure that, when possible, we are all sharing the same message regarding proposed legislation. The Legislative Committee met over the summer and is planning to meet again in October. An update from the Legislative Committee will be given at the November board meeting.
- f. Electronic Processing Fees – The LES State Office is currently looking into options for large invoices to avoid high processing fees for electronic payments via Stripe. A lengthy discussion took place about the amount of fees that are taken out of payments, and it was asked that the LES Staff gather more data about how much of our income is taken by processing fees.
- g. Magazine Articles – Magazine articles for the November issue are due on October 1 rather than October 15 due to Mary Claire being out of the office to have a baby mid-October.
- h. Chapter Meetings – It was asked that Chapter Presidents submit their chapter meeting dates to the LES office so that they can be put on the calendar. Also, as a reminder, monthly chapter meeting registration can be run through the LES State Office using MembershipWorks.
- i. A discussion took place about LES's plan if/when the Engineering Center sells. It was decided that rather than taking the time to confer with the entire board, Mary Claire and the ExCom will have the authority to make a decision about the LES lease.

A motion was made by Stan Whitney for the board to give the ExCom and Mary Claire the authority to make a decision about the LES lease if/when the Engineering Center sells. The motion was seconded by Jeff Pike. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business

- a. NSPE Update – New officers were elected to NSPE last week.
- b. Handbook Edits for Board Discussion – Melanie has updated the Bylaws to reflect the previously voted on changes to the Articles of Incorporation as well as changes to the LES standing committees.

A motion was made to accept the revisions to the Bylaws. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Report from Membership Committee – The membership committee has been working to grow and retain LES membership. Some of the ways they have been doing this include: Course of the Month, member testimonials, and a brand redesign. Kalyn has been working with a marketing professional and presented the first draft of the new LES branding package. A lengthy discussion took place about the new proposed LES logo, including feedback for Kalyn to bring to the designer. This will be an ongoing agenda item.

11. New Business

- a. Water Well Contractors Appointment – LES appointed member of the Water Well Contractors board, Roy Waggenpack, is retiring and has nominated David W. Kozan, PE to be his replacement.

A motion was made by Alan Krouse to appoint David W. Kozan, PE to the Water Well Contractors board to represent LES. The motion was seconded by Gavin Gautreau. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Alexandria Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 106 members. The chapter has scheduled eight chapter meetings for this year. The Annual Alexandria chapter golf tournament is scheduled for Friday, August 30.
- c. Baton Rouge Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 582 members. The chapter is hosting a joint chapter luncheon with ASCE on August 22 with Mr. Greg Gandy with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and Mr. Neal McMillin with the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources. The September luncheon is going to host speaker Garrett Wheat on the 26th. The Annual Clay Shoot will be held on October 11. The rest of the meetings for the year are in the process of being scheduled.
- d. Bayou Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 79 members. The Bayou chapter held its Annual Golf Tournament in June which was very successful with an

8% increase in profits. Past meetings include a June luncheon with a representative with Tnemec Technical Pipe Coatings, a July luncheon with a representative with Gainey's Concrete. The August chapter luncheon will host the general manager of the Terrebonne Parish Water District. The September meeting will be a presentation on Public Bid Law.

- e. Lafayette Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 385 members. Currently trying to secure a speaker for the September chapter meeting.
- f. Lake Charles Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 123 members. The July chapter meeting hosted Randy Haynie. The August meeting hosted Mr. Travis Moore, Project Manager at Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana who gave a presentation on a project in Cameron Parish. The September meeting will be a joint meeting with ASCE and will host representatives from the Department of Health. The October meeting will host representatives from Calcasieu Parish to discuss ongoing projects in that area. The chapter is pushing Mathcounts participation this year and reaching out to different schools in the area to try and get them involved. They are partnering with McNeese University to use their facility and are planning to host the competition in conjunction with E-Week. The chapter has implemented chapter sponsorship for the second year in a row and has received sponsorship funds.
- g. Monroe Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 108 members. The Monroe chapter has 9 meetings scheduled of this year, with 5 speakers and is working to fill those other speaker slots with new speakers. The first annual clay shoot was held last May and was successful. The chapter is hoping the venue change to the Monroe Civic Center would make it easier for students to get there to attend chapter meetings.
- h. New Orleans Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 536 members. The New Orleans Chapter just held their annual planning meeting for the rest of the year. The next membership meeting is scheduled for September 11 and will host a representative from the US Army Corps of Engineers. The 16th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on October 25. A goal for this year that the chapter is currently working on is to reinstate the student chapters in Tulane University and UNO.
- i. Shreveport Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 127 members. The Shreveport Chapter just held their first officers meeting of the year. The Shreveport Chapter website is scheduled to be up and running on Sunday, August 18. The chapter is currently working on scheduling speakers for their meetings for this year. A new job shadow program is being implemented within the chapter for seniors that are going to get an engineering degree to come in and meet with firms and network to try and educate them on what an engineering profession looks like. Another goal of the chapter is to reinvigorate community outreach within the chapter.
- j. PEC Update – No report given.

- k. PEE Update & LAPELS nominations – Reggie Jeter and VJ Gopu are the PEE representatives on the LAPELS at this time. Reggie Jeter is currently the co-chair of LAPELS and will be rolling off the board this year. Nominations for his replacement have been submitted to the Governor’s office, but there has been no update.
- l. PEG Update – No report given. A question was asked by a board member if there was anything in the Bylaws referencing board members missing a specified number of meetings in person or by proxy and continuing to serve.
- m. PEI Update – Edgar Benoit is the current representative on the LAPELS board, but his term was scheduled to end last year. Names were submitted to the office earlier this year to replace Edgar, but the Governor’s office requested that more names be submitted before they make a decision. Because of this, an additional resume is being recommended for Byron Trust, PE.

A motion was made by Jim Ellingburg to submit an additional resume for Byron Trust, PE for the LAPELS PEI vacancy. The motion was seconded by Stan Whitney. The motion passed unanimously.

- n. PEPP Update – Three names were put up for the LAPELS PEPP vacancy last year, in which John Plaisance was selected, but the new administration in the governor’s office declined John and required that LES resubmit the names. John Plaisance did not get selected the second time. Susan Richard was selected, but not yet confirmed.

12. Announcements

- a. The next LES Board of Direction meeting is scheduled for November 15th at the LES State Office. As a reminder, the Honors & Awards meeting will take place at 9:00 AM on November 15, prior to the board meeting.
- b. Nominations for the LES Honors & Awards began August 1st and are due by November 4th.
- c. Scholarship applications will be opening on September 1 and will close on October 31. As a reminder, there is now one application for scholarships that all chapters will utilize rather than individual applications. LEF will decide on recipients first, then the individual chapters, and then the LES Scholarship Committee in order to avoid duplicating recipients. The chapters will receive the application information in the first of the year.

8d. Budget amendment – A recommendation was brought forward to amend the budget to include an item for the Honors & Awards event that was left out when building the 2024-2025 budget.

A motion was made by Alan Krouse to amend the budget to include a line item for the Honors & Awards event. The motion was seconded by Kimberly McDaniel. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion took place about uploading the annual board meeting photos to the LES website, but we do not have digital copies of the photos, so we would have to scan old magazine photos

onto the server, resulting in poor quality photos. However, we can upload what we have and continue uploading them every year moving forward.

13. Adjournment – **A motion was made by Jim Ellingburg to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM.**