

LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING  
November 15, 2024  
Baton Rouge, LA

1. The meeting of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) Board of Direction was held on Friday, November 15, 2024, in Baton Rouge, LA. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order by President Melanie Caillouet at 11:00 AM.

Board Members Present

Melanie Caillouet, PE, President  
Gavin Gautreau, PE, Vice-President  
Clinton Patrick, PE, PLS, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President  
Rachel Kenney, PE, Secretary-Treasurer  
Tyler Comeaux, PE, NSPE Representative  
James Ellingburg, PE, Past President  
Kimberly McDaniel, PE, State Director  
Gregory Trahan, State Director  
David Gereighty, PE, State Director (present virtually)  
Hagan Lawrence, State Director  
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

Oliver Neal, PE, Young Engineer Representative  
William Vollman, PE, Alexandria Chapter President  
Ali Mustapha, PE, PEG Chair

Guests Present

Miles Williams, LES Legislative Committee Chair

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

A break was taken to eat lunch.

4. LES Vision & Mission Statement was read by Gavin Gautreau.
5. Acceptance of Agenda –  
**A motion was made by Jim Ellingburg the motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Kimberly McDaniel. The motion passed unanimously.**
6. Acceptance of the August 2024 meeting minutes –  
**A motion was made by Kalyn Partin to accept the May 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Gavin Gautreau. The motion passed unanimously.**
7. President's Report  
Nothing to report at this time.
8. Secretary/Treasurer's Report –
  - a. Financial Reports as of 10/31/2024
    - 1) LES P&L Statement (see attached) – The LES Profit and Loss statement was reviewed and discussed. A brief discussion took place explaining the structure of the budget in QuickBooks. Some payments are made at the beginning of the fiscal year, so the item looks like it is over budget, but it will balance by the end of the fiscal year. Current income is over budget and expenses are under budget.
    - 2) LES Balance Sheet (see attached) – The LES Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed. No questions were asked at this time.

**A motion was made by Clinton Patrick to accept the P&L and Balance sheet as of 10/31/2024. The motion was seconded by Rachel Kenney. The motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Jim Ellingburg to go into Executive Session to discuss LES Staff Christmas gifts. The motion was seconded by Jacob Waitz. The motion passed unanimously.**

- b. Executive Session – The board went into Executive Session to discuss LES Staff Christmas gifts.

**A motion was made by Gavin Gautreau to exit Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Kimberly McDaniel. The motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Kayln Partin to distribute a total of \$2,750 to the LES Staff for Christmas gifts. The motion was seconded by Jim Ellingburg. The motion passed with Alan Krouse abstaining.**

9. Executive Director's Report (see attached report)

- a. CPD Courses Fall 2024 – LES held Life Safety Code, ADA and Ethics seminars this Fall with an overall profit of \$24,724.47 after cost-sharing.
- b. JESC Updates – Registration for JESC is currently open. All speaker opportunities have been filled, 39 booths have been sold, and we currently have 8 sponsors.
- c. Processing fees – As discussed at our August board meeting, last year’s online transactions have been reviewed to determine how much we are paying in processing fees. Out of the \$409,995.16 that was brought in last year, \$313,028.44 was processed via Stripe and we paid \$9,988.92 in processing fees. The board agrees that Stripe has competitive pricing, and we will continue to use it.
- d. Honors & Awards Ceremony – The 2025 Honors & Awards Ceremony will be held at City Club of Baton Rouge on February 15, 2025.
- e. Staffing Reminder – Stephanie Krouse will be retiring at the end of the calendar year. Her last day in the office will be December 19.
- f. Membership Update – As of November 7, 2024, we have 2,289 members. Last year as of November 30, 2023, we had 2,088 members.

#### 10. Old Business

- a. NSPE Update – The engineering profession is dealing with the same licensure laws that we are across the nation.
- b. Report from Membership Committee – The membership committee has received the updated branding package after the suggested edits from the last board meeting.

**A motion was made by Gavin Gautreau to accept the new LES branding package. The motion was seconded by Hagan Lawrence. The motion passed unanimously.**

The new branding package will be distributed to chapters containing the new logo, color palette, fonts, and templates to use. It is recommended that each board member purchases a shirt, jacket, or cardigan with the new logo on it to be worn at JESC. Mary Claire will select a few options to send to the board.

- c. Legislative Update –
  - LES Legislative Chair, Miles Williams, presented a review of the 2024 Legislative Session Activities, including a recap of the Universal Licensure Law, the Architect-Engineering Bill, the Intersociety Legislative Meeting that was held on September 30, 2024, and potential 2025 Legislative activities. See the attached report. A lengthy discussion took place about the Welcome Home Law and the impact on the engineering profession that we may see in the future.
  - A subcommittee of the Legislative Committee was previously appointed to explore Louisiana’s industrial exemption. An update was given by David Gereighty in which he presented a draft of a survey about the industrial

exemption. It was decided that the board would review the survey, submit comments, and make a decision on how to move forward.

## 11. New Business

- a. Honors & Awards Committee Report – The Honors & Awards Committee met on November 15 and voted to award the following:
  - A. B. Paterson Award for an Engineer in Management – Rachel Kenney, PE
  - Andrew M. Lockett Award for Civic Activities – Janice Poplin Williams, PE
  - Charles M. Kerr Public Relations Award – Christopher P. Knotts, PE
  - Leo M. Odom Award for Services to the Profession – Kimberly D. McDaniel, PE, PTOE, PTP
  - F. Hugh Coughlin Young Engineer Award – Clinton Patrick, PE, PLS
  - The Honors & Awards banquet will be held on February 15, 2025. LES will be looking for table and event sponsors.
- b. Vote on Lifetime Achievement nominations – There were no nominations for the Lifetime Achievement award.
- c. Nominating Committee – The nominating committee will consist of the past three LES presidents and the current chapter presidents. The chair of the nominating committee will be Tyler Comeaux.
- d. Update on JESC – In addition to the JESC update given in the executive director’s report, the idea of using the upcoming JESC profits to purchase televisions to display sponsor logos digitally in the future was discussed.
- e. Alexandria Chapter Report – No report was given. Currently has 104 members.
- f. Baton Rouge Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 604 members. The chapter hosted a joint meeting with ASCE in August featuring Greg Grandy from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and Neal McMillin from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In September 2024, the chapter hosted Garrett Wheat, PhD, from the Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC). Both luncheons were very well attended. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, there was a joint social event with ASCE held at Tin Roof Brewery. Other events hosted by the chapter include a EBR Mayor/Parish President Mayoral Forum and the annual Clay Shoot Fundraiser both held in October. The Baton Rouge Chapter has announced the opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual STEM Grants Program which supports educational efforts across the Baton Rouge area. The next chapter luncheon will be held on December 12 and will host DOTD Chief Engineer, Chad Winchester, PE.
- g. Bayou Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 79 members. The Bayou Chapter held a luncheon on October 31 which hosted Jules Hebert with Hebert & Marceaux, LLC who presented on contract law. The upcoming November chapter

meeting will host Jenifer Shaye with the Louisiana Legislative Auditor who will present on Public Bid Law. Membership is staying steady within the chapter.

- h. Lafayette Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 397 members. The Lafayette Chapter’s November luncheon will host the Dean of Engineering at UL, Dr. Ahmed Khattab. On December 11, the chapter will host a joint Christmas social with ASCE. The chapter currently holds monthly officer meetings to plan future events.
- i. Lake Charles Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 118 members. In October, the Lake Charles Chapter hosted Nick Johnston, PE and Cliff Vanicor, PE from Calcasieu Parish Police Jury (CPPJ) Engineering Department where they provided an update on ongoing and upcoming projects within the parish. Though the first joint meeting with ASCE was successful, the last two joint meetings have not been as well attended. There are no chapter meetings planned for November and December due to the holiday season. The chapter will use this time to focus on preparing for Mathcounts. The chapter has been in contact with McNeese University to collaborate with them for Mathcounts, which is turning out to be a successful partnership. McNeese will help encourage participation and exposure for Mathcounts in conjunction with E-Week. The chapter currently holds monthly officer meetings to plan future events.
- j. Monroe Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 115 members. The Monroe chapter hosted Jeff Pike, PE who gave an ethics presentation in September, which was well attended. In October, the Monroe Chapter hosted Kyle Knous who presented on the City of Monroe Floodplain Management. Upcoming meetings include Andy Le and Chris Ferro presenting on Actuators and Valves and Dr. Colin Wick giving an update from the LaTech College of Engineering. The chapter previously increased their scholarship endowment by \$6,000. Both sponsorship and membership number have increased.
- k. New Orleans Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 552 members. The New Orleans Chapter’s September luncheon hosted a representative from the US Army Corps of Engineers. In November, the chapter hosted Bill Thomassie from Infinity Engineering who presented on Construction Management. The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament was held on October 25 and has had the biggest turnout to date. The chapter is currently working on reinstating the student chapters in Tulane University and UNO.
- l. Shreveport Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 138 members. The Shreveport chapter website has been launched and is currently active. The chapter hosted Haynie & Associates who presented on current lobbying efforts to enhance and protect the engineering profession in Louisiana. Chapter meetings have seen an increase in participation. The chapter is currently planning a Christmas party to be held in December.
- m. PEC Update – No report given.

- n. PEE Update – Reggie Jeter and VJ Gopu are the PEE representatives on the LAPELS at this time. Reggie Jeter 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. It is suggested that chapters reach out to their local universities to see if instructors would encourage their students to join LES.
- o. PEG Update – No report given.
- p. PEI Update – No report given.
- q. PEPP Update – No report given.

12. Announcements

- a. The next LES Board of Direction meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2025, in Lafayette in conjunction with the JESC.

13. Adjournment – **A motion was made by Jim Ellingburg to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded unanimously. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.**