

# LOUISIANA ENGINEER & SURVEYOR JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2025 - VOL. 28 NO. 1

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### LAPELS

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN  
PAGE 3

### ACEC/L

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE BOARD  
PAGE 7

### LES

PRESIDENTIAL PRIVILEGE  
PAGE 10



## GET IN THE GAME WITH ACEC OF LOUISIANA

Chad M. Poche, P.E.  
ACEC/L 2024-25  
Chairman of the Board

ACEC



## Louisiana Engineering Society

9643 Brookline Avenue, Suite 116, Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1488

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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

## American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana

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## Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board

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### LOUISIANA ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2025 – Vol. 28 No. 1

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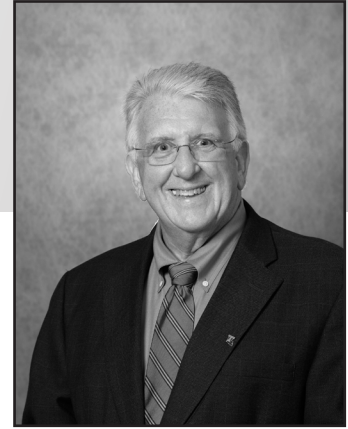
### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mary Claire Ruckert, Managing Editor

The Louisiana Engineering Society, the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board, and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana do not guarantee the accuracy of statements made or necessarily concur with opinions expressed in the publication.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**REGINALD L. JETER, PE**  
**CHAIRMAN, LAPELS**



**Reginald L. Jeter, PE**  
**LAPELS Chairman**

## LAPELS 1999 VS 2024

Connie Betts ended an era for LAPELS with a quick tap of the gavel at the board meeting on November 4th. This was the last meeting held at 9643 Brookline Avenue in Baton Rouge. LAPELS moved into the office on Brookline in January 1999. That year the staff processed 1,326 applications and handled 10,968 renewals. LAPELS occupied approximately 3,000 square feet of space in the Louisiana Engineering Foundation building. However, the staff needed more room and there is no extra space available there.

The February 2025 Board Meeting will be conducted at the new office location at 8550 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 903 in Baton Rouge. Donna Sentell and the LAPELS organization relocated to the new offices in late November. The new office space is nearly 5,000 square feet. This location provides the space needed as well as more privacy for the staff members to have phone conversations with engineers and surveyors who need assistance. The staff managed 1,712 applications and administered 12,824 renewals during 2024. Today's LAPELS team is considerably more engaged with their members than in 1999. They visit universities, make ethics and licensing presentations to licensees and businesses, and hold on-line courses that provide professional development hours.

In 1999, there had not been a female LAPELS Board member. Four women are currently serving on the Board – Connie Betts, P.E., Linda Bergeron, P.E., Janice Williams, P.E., and Susan Richard, P.E. Dr. Norma Jean Mattei, P.E. was the first woman to serve on the Board (2007-2013). LAPELS is moving in more ways than just a new location. It will not surprise me if there is a woman PLS Board member soon.

I want to welcome our newest board member, Robert Wolfe, P.E., P.L.S. Mr. Wolfe was recently appointed to the Board by Governor Landry and replaces Wil Fontenot, P.L.S. These board members are both representatives of Surveying. We are grateful to Wil for his years of service and leadership with LAPELS and welcome, Robert. On behalf of all current LAPELS board and staff members, we all look forward to getting to know you and serving with you during your term on the Board.

As we begin 2025, we are excited about our new location and looking forward to many years in the United Plaza building. Feel free to stop by and as always, reach out to the staff with your questions and concerns.

LAPELS

## Board Members

Reginald L. Jeter, PE  
Chairman

Connie P. Betts, PE  
Vice Chairman

Linda H. Bergeron, PE  
Treasurer

Byron D. Racca, PE  
Secretary

James H. Chustz, PLS

Janice P. Williams, PE

Vijaya Gopu, Ph.D., PE

Gordon E. Nelson, PE

Susan H. Richard, PE

Byron E. Trust, PE

Robert Wolfe, PE, PLS

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## Board Staff

Donna D. Sentell  
Executive Director

Cheron Seaman  
Deputy Executive Director

# LAPELS BOARD APPOINTMENTS

## Byron E. Trust, P.E.



**Byron E. Trust, P.E.**

Byron E. Trust has been appointed to the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying (LAPELS) Board by Governor Jeff Landry to represent the Industry sector. Byron graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Petroleum Engineering from Louisiana State University.

With over forty years of experience in the oil and gas sector, he has developed a multifaceted understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by our industry today. Byron currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer and partner at Petro-Chem Operating Company, Inc. in Shreveport, Louisiana. Petro-Chem is one of the last independent oil and gas operators in North Louisiana with areas of operations in North Louisiana, East Texas, South Arkansas and Mississippi.

His career began with Petro-Chem Engineering in Shreveport, Louisiana, and since then, he has honed his skills working with various family-owned and independent enterprises, as well as private equity-funded companies. Byron's hands-on experience in both the field and office has equipped him with a deep knowledge of the industry, allowing him to develop efficiencies that maximize production and minimize costs while ensuring the safety of workers and the environment. His daily tasks include drilling, completion, production, environmental safety, budget analysis, and project management. This diverse experience equips him with a keen insight into both the operational and strategic dimensions of our industry, making him an ideal representative for the Industry sector appointment. Mr. Trust is looking forward to bringing his unique perspective to the Board to help enhance initiatives as the Board continues to navigate effectively within an ever-evolving landscape.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Byron is a registered professional engineer in Louisiana and is a member of several industry organizations, including the Society of Petroleum Engineers and Louisiana Engineering Society. He has also been actively involved in the community, serving on the Board of Directors for the Petroleum Club of Shreveport and as Captain of the Krewe of Centaur Mardi Gras Organization. Byron is a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity (Gamma Chapter). Byron has been married to his wife Bobbie for 32 years and has two children, Christie and Christopher, as well as a granddaughter named Gabriella.

## Robert L. Wolfe, Jr., P.L.S.

Robert L Wolfe, Jr. was born and reared in Opelousas, La. and attended AIC Catholic School, graduating high school from St. Paul's in Covington, La., later attending LSU where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering on December 20, 1977 and obtained his engineering license on January 27, 1982 later receiving his Environmental Engineering license. He obtained his Professional Land Surveying license on July 23, 1985.

After graduation he was employed by Morgan Goudeau and Associates, Inc. where he became a co-owner, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the Engineering and Land Surveying Firm located in Opelousas, La. Robert served as Engineer for the City of Opelousas, Town of Arnaudville, Town of Port Barre, Town of Church Point, St. Landry Parish Government, Grant Parish Police Jury, Town of Krotz Springs, Village of Palmetto, and Village of Cankton.

His engineering and surveying portfolio consists of the design of the Opelousas Sewer Treatment Plant, Town of Grand Coteau Sewer System, surveying and design of over 100 Off System Bridge Replacements, water systems, gas systems, drainage designs and many other Civil Engineering projects. He performed and/or supervised over 20,000 surveying projects which included property surveys, testimony for boundary disputes, topographic surveys, subdivisions, and construction layout, etc. Early in his career he worked on the boundary and construction layout of the initial oil refinery for Hill Petroleum which later led to construction layout of the Delek Expansion to the oil refinery in Krotz Springs, La. Other notable projects included the construction surveying laying out of the building foundation and infrastructure of the Evangeline Downs Casino in Opelousas, La. including the layout of the video poker machines within the building, surveying layout and quality control for the LSU Tiger Football Stadium West Side Expansion Project in 2005 and the boundary, topographic, and construction layout survey work including the development of a subsidence plan and right of way plats for the Bobcat Gas Storage Project in Port Barre, La.

Robert remains active in his community serving on several boards, volunteering time in helping others, traveling and his love of hunting and fishing. Robert has been married to Marie "Mimi" Quirk Wolfe for 27 years and they have three daughters, Katherine, Lauren, and Dottie and eight grandchildren.

Robert divested his interest in Morgan Goudeau and Associates, Inc. in May 2022 and continues to perform engineering and surveying services. He is a current member of the Louisiana Engineering Society as a Life Time Member and the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors. Robert was appointed to the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board on October 11, 2024 by Governor Jeff Landry.



**Robert L. Wolfe, Jr., P.L.S.**

# ENFORCEMENT REPORT

## RHETT RAYBURN BOARD INVESTIGATOR



**Rhett Rayburn**  
Board Investigator

### UNLICENSED OFFER AND/OR PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING OR LAND SURVEYING:

**Water Technology, Inc. of Wisconsin**, an unlicensed firm which subsequently became licensed as a professional engineering firm effective July 1, 2024 (EF-7857), was subject to enforcement action by the Board for practicing and/or offering to practice without proper licensure in violation of La. R.S. 37:681 and La. R.S. 37:700(A)(1) and (9), to wit LAC Title 46:LX1\$2301(B). Between November 2020 June 2024 the firm admittedly offered to provide engineering services in Louisiana and provided engineering services on 1 project in Louisiana. The firm has entered into a Consent Order with the Board, wherein it admitted to the referenced violations of the above laws/rules and agreed to pay a fine of \$3,000; to pay administrative costs of \$380.27; and to the publication of the Consent Order on the Board's website, the printing of a summary of this matter identifying Respondent by name in the Board's official Journal, and the reporting of this matter to NCEES, identifying Respondent by name.

**Kurzynske & Associates**, an unlicensed firm which subsequently became licensed as a professional engineering firm effective July 2, 2024 (EF-7861), was subject to enforcement action by the Board for practicing and/or offering to practice without proper licensure in violation of La. R.S. 37:681 and La. R.S.

37:700(A)(1) and (9), to wit LAC Title 46:LX1\$2301(B). Between May 2020 and May 2024 the firm admittedly offered to provide engineering services in Louisiana and provided engineering services on 17 projects in Louisiana. The firm has entered into a Consent Order with the Board, wherein it admitted to the referenced violations of the above laws/rules and agreed to pay a fine of \$3,000; to pay administrative costs of \$380.27; and to the publication of the Consent Order on the Board's website, the printing of a summary of this matter identifying Respondent by name in the Board's official Journal, and the reporting of this matter to NCEES, identifying Respondent by name.

### AIDING OR ASSISTING ANOTHER PERSON IN VIOLATING THE LAWS/RULES OF THE BOARD:

**Brian W. Freber, P.E.**, a professional engineer (PE-34401), was subject to disciplinary action by the Board for aiding or assisting another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board in violation of La. R.S. 37:698(A)(12). Prior to July 2024 (a) Water Technology, Inc. of Wisconsin, (an unlicensed firm) admittedly offered to provide engineering services in Louisiana and provided engineering services on approximately 1 project in Louisiana and (b) Mr. Freber aided and assisted his firm in the unlicensed practice of and/or offer to practice engineering on 1 project in the state of Louisiana. Mr. Freber was an employee of the firm. Mr. Freber has entered into a Consent Order with the Board, wherein he admitted to the referenced violations of the above laws/rules and agreed to pay a fine of \$500; to pay administrative costs of \$380.27; to successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz and Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz with a score of 90% or higher on each; and to the publication of the Consent Order on the Board's website, the printing of a summary of this matter identifying Respondent by name in the Board's official Journal, and the reporting of this matter to NCEES, identifying Respondent by name.

## NEWLY CERTIFIED & LICENSED • OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

### LAND SURVEYOR INTERNS

Degruipe, Morgan, LSI  
Doll, Charles, LSI  
Metcalf, Aidan, LSI  
Roan, James, LSI

### PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

Dugas, Ryan, PLS  
Dupre, Mason, PLS  
Favela, Jesus, PLS  
Ginn, Kevin, PLS  
Hollier, Brock, PLS  
McKeivier, Michael, PLS  
Rodrigue, Jacob, PLS  
Rogers, Hugh, PLS  
Snoga, Derek, PLS  
Turner, Howard, PLS  
Wheat, Nathan, PLS

### SURVEYING FIRMS

Atlas Technical Consultants LLC, VF  
HBK Engineering, LLC, VF  
Kelly Land Surveying L.L.C., VF  
Shaw Land Surveying, LLC, VF  
Southeast Engineers & Land Surveyors, VF  
Washington Parish Engineering and Land Surveying, LLC, VF

### ENGINEER INTERNS

Andrus, Matthew, EI

Asaditaleshi, Abed, EI  
Ballard, Brandon, EI  
Baumann, Alexander, EI  
Bennett, Reed, EI  
Blanche, Jonathan, EI  
Bourgeois, Cristian, EI  
Briggs, Peyton, EI  
Canfield, Je'Armon, EI  
Champagne, Matthew, EI  
Dupuy, Keith, EI  
Elder, John, EI  
Faga, Gloriana, EI  
Fish, Lacey, EI  
Freeman, Stephanie, EI  
Gatewood, James, EI  
Gibbens, Anna, EI  
Guillory, Allison, EI  
Harp, Andrew, EI  
Hore, Ripon, EI  
Hussain, Shujaat, EI  
Jakuback, Nicholas, EI  
Jennings, Larsen, EI  
Landry, Jordan, EI  
Lavie, Remy, EI  
Lee, Lindy, EI  
Mason, Blake, EI  
Mayleben, Olivia, EI  
Montegut, Nicholas, EI  
Oubre, Landon, EI  
Pant, Nischal, EI  
Phillips, Hunter, EI  
Pugh, Darion, EI  
Robertson, Mason, EI  
Robin, Gabriel, EI

Rodehorst, Erin, EI  
Ronkartz, Matthew, EI  
Rossi Garcia, Diego, EI  
Ryland, Wesley, EI  
Saad, Madonna, EI  
Schimmel, Charles, EI  
Schlottman, Stephen, EI  
Smith, Michael, EI  
Stafford, Alexis, EI  
Tinamisan, Kyla Mari, EI  
Torres Arroyo, Fernando, EI  
Walker, Devin, EI  
Washer, Justin, EI  
Wells, Philip, EI  
Wicker, Devin, EI  
Wicklund, Race, EI  
Williamson, Kavan, EI

### PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Abercrombie, Scott, PE  
Abramo, David, PE  
Anthony, David, PE  
Arner, Daniel, PE  
Arratia, Sergio, PE  
Barry, Sean, PE  
Beever, Samuel, PE  
Belew, Cody, PE  
Bergeron, Brandon, PE  
Berry, Moses, PE  
Biesemeyer, Brett, PE  
Birkhead, Megan, PE  
Blanco Urruchurtu, Jorge, PE  
Blouin, Taylor, PE

LAPPELS

# NEWLY CERTIFIED & LICENSED • OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

Bond, Joshua, PE  
 Boulden, Mark, PE  
 Breland, Brian, PE  
 Bremner, Dustin, PE  
 Britt, Justin, PE  
 Brown, Gregory, PE  
 Buehner, Christopher, PE  
 Bullerman, Eric, PE  
 Caceres, Wilfredo, PE  
 Cambria, Mark, PE  
 Cancino Aguilera, Ulises, PE  
 Cesar, Daniel, PE  
 Chase, Matthew, PE  
 Cicero, Jacob, PE  
 Clayton, DoriAnn, PE  
 Cobb, Ronald, PE  
 Cranford, Eric, PE  
 Crever, Eugene, PE  
 Dartez, Thomas, PE  
 Davis, James, PE  
 Dawiec, Zachary, PE  
 Deanes, Robert, PE  
 Deis, Joel, PE  
 Delfin, Luis, PE  
 Dhondkar, Onkar, PE  
 Downs, Patrick, PE  
 Dvorak, Mark, PE  
 Early, Christopher, PE  
 Elder, Tyler, PE  
 Entezam, Ben, PE  
 Fauss, Andrew, PE  
 Fenby, Jacob, PE  
 Fennell, James, PE  
 Fox, Patrick, PE  
 Francois, Michael, PE  
 Frislie, Paul, PE  
 Fulton, Rodney, PE  
 Gagnon, Stephen, PE  
 Gambles, Christopher, PE  
 Gautreaux, Kaleb, PE  
 Gavin, Arthur, PE  
 Genz, Daryl, PE  
 Gerke, Joseph, PE  
 Giffin, Paxton, PE  
 Glensk, Donald, PE  
 Green, Stefan, PE  
 Guerin, Austin, PE  
 Guerra, Jay, PE  
 Hannan, Connor, PE  
 Haque, Mohammed, PE  
 Harrison, Thomas, PE  
 Hartssock, Joshua, PE  
 Hebert, Zachary, PE  
 Held, Jacob, PE  
 Henson, Jonathan, PE  
 Hill, Matthew, PE  
 Hoover, Eric, PE  
 Hruby, Jeffrey, PE  
 Hupf, Kevin, PE  
 Ibarra, Joshua, PE  
 Iserman, Douglas, PE  
 Istre, John, PE  
 Jadhav, Avinash, PE  
 Johnson, Christopher, PE  
 Jones, James, PE  
 Kaisershot, Wesley, PE  
 Kilpatrick, John, PE  
 Kohestani, Farhad, PE  
 Kozak, Robert, PE  
 Kraft, Reynold, PE  
 Kurish, Christopher, PE  
 Labib, Moheb, PE  
 Lashbrook, Jeffrey, PE  
 Laughery, Lucas, PE  
 LaValla, Nicholas, PE  
 Lee, Lin, PE  
 Leetch, David, PE  
 Leiva, Hugo, PE  
 Lewis, Tatiana, PE  
 Liechti, Chad, PE  
 Lietz, Benjamin, PE

Ma, Frederic, PE  
 Maddux, Travis, PE  
 Mahoney, Michael, PE  
 Mathew, Melwin, PE  
 Maxwell, Joshua, PE  
 McDonough, Ryan, PE  
 McGrath, Shaun, PE  
 Mendenhall, Matthew, PE  
 Merritt, Andrew, PE  
 Miller, Cory, PE  
 Miller, Ryan, PE  
 Mitchell, Jason, PE  
 Monroe, Jacob, PE  
 Morgan, Angela, PE  
 Mu, Xiuping, PE  
 Murrell, Jackson, PE  
 Nanak, Matthew, PE  
 Nelson, Joelle, PE  
 Ng, Andrew, PE  
 Nickerson, Stephen, PE  
 Nieves, Angelo, PE  
 O'Neil, Timothy, PE  
 Ober, Eric, PE  
 Ost, Jacob, PE  
 Otey, Robert, PE  
 Parsi, Ramin, PE  
 Patadia, Raj, PE  
 Pendleton, Dana, PE  
 Penland, Dru, PE  
 Pohl, David, PE  
 Poole, Austin, PE  
 Preston, Thomas, PE  
 Price, Arthur, PE  
 Puyau, Jourdan, PE  
 Rampurawala, Sameer, PE  
 Richardson, Ryan, PE  
 Robinson, Edward, PE  
 Roessler, Ryan, PE  
 Rossics, Roger, PE  
 Rowland, Don, PE  
 Roy, Wesley, PE  
 Sadeghi, Behrang, PE  
 Saline, Alma, PE  
 Samuel, Stephen, PE  
 San Pedro, Chris, PE  
 Scarfino, Erin, PE  
 Schiber, Stephen, PE  
 Schmidt, Tyler, PE  
 Schneider, Brody, PE  
 Schneider, Dane, PE  
 Schneider, Vicki, PE  
 Schultz, David, PE  
 Schweitzer, Keith, PE  
 Sconyo, Philip, PE  
 Scopes, Amber, PE  
 Self, William, PE  
 Sharma, Jyotsna, PE  
 Shields, David, PE  
 Simpson, Zachary, PE  
 Smith, Matthew, PE  
 Smith, Michael, PE  
 Spielman, Rachel, PE  
 Stanford, Joe, PE  
 Steiner, Samuel, PE  
 Stephens, Luke, PE  
 Strohman, Bryan, PE  
 Struben, Eric, PE  
 Sturkie, Christopher, PE  
 Tanner, Joseph, PE  
 Taylor, Cory, PE  
 Thankachen Varghese, Shalom, PE  
 Thompson, Jeremiah, PE  
 Thompson, Robert, PE  
 Tinsley, Amanda, PE  
 Tirado, Omar, PE  
 Truelock, Noah, PE  
 Unrein, Logan, PE  
 Vaddey, Naga Pavan, PE  
 Valmik, Jitendra, PE  
 VanDeren, Elliot, PE  
 Verret, Lucas, PE

Vincent, Michael, PE  
 Vincent, Taylor, PE  
 Warden, Paul, PE  
 Wells, William, PE  
 Wert, Jason, PE  
 Whelan, David, PE  
 Willis, Michael, PE  
 Wirbicki, Thomas, PE  
 Womack, Corey, PE  
 Wright, Lee, PE  
 Zahner, Nicholas, PE  
 Zillner, Jordan, PE

## ENGINEERING FIRMS

ADENA Consulting USA Inc.  
 Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, LLC  
 Apex Structural Engineering, LLC  
 Aptim Federal Services, LLC  
 Avery Engineering, PLLC  
 Becker Services Inc  
 Birk Engineering, LLC  
 Blue Box Engineering LLC  
 BVM Consulting, LLC  
 Carroll Daniel Construction Co.  
 Catalyst Technical Group Incorporated  
 Cornerstone Structural Engineering, Inc.  
 Corporation of Corrosion Controllers  
 Dallas Industries LLC  
 DeShazo Group, Inc.  
 DHI Engineering, LLC  
 Doka USA Ltd.  
 Dos Santos International, LLC  
 Frost Engineering & Consulting Company  
 FSC, Inc.  
 Harvest Engineering, LLC  
 Hershell Gill Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
 Inframark, LLC  
 Integrity Environmental Solutions, LLC  
 JGC Solutions, PLLC  
 JVA, Inc  
 Keahey Engineering Consulting, PLLC  
 KFI Engineers, PC Corp.  
 KP&J Architects & Engineers, LLC  
 LightPoint Engineering, LLC  
 MechPro Engineering LLC  
 Mortenson Engineering Services, Inc.  
 Nafa Engineering, PLLC  
 Origin Engineering LLC  
 Pro Engineering Consulting, Inc.  
 Property Investigation Experts, LLC  
 RETTEW Associates, Inc.  
 Staengl Engineering LLC  
 State Service Co., Inc.  
 Structural Engineering Resources LLC  
 SunSmart Engineering LLC  
 TGB Group, LLC  
 The Mason & Hanger Group Inc.  
 TP Technical Solutions LLC  
 Trace Point Engineering LLC  
 Washington Parish Engineering and Land Surveying, LLC  
 WCW Engineers, Inc.  
 Wendel Engineering, P.C.- Professional Corporation

## PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS LICENSED BY ENDORSEMENT

Campbell, David, PLS - Licensed by Endorsement  
 French, Michael, PLS - Licensed by Endorsement  
 Gaston, William, PLS - Licensed by Endorsement  
 Herpin, Brandon, PLS - Licensed by Endorsement  
 Offer, William, PLS - Licensed by Endorsement  
 Raley, Richard, PLS - Licensed by Endorsement

# GET IN THE GAME WITH ACEC OF LOUISIANA

It is an incredible honor to serve as the Chairman of the ACEC Louisiana (ACEC-L) Board of Governors for the 2024-2025 term. We have an extremely talented and knowledgeable board and team at ACEC-L and are indebted to those that served before us. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to lead such an outstanding group of professionals dedicated to elevating the engineering industry across Louisiana. As we embark on the new year, our team is focused on addressing key priorities that will shape the future of engineering in our state. The theme for the year is "Get in the Game with ACEC of Louisiana," and I invite each of you to take an active role in driving progress within our organization and industry.

## Legislative Initiatives

In 2025, ACEC-L will continue its legislative advocacy efforts to ensure that our industry's voice is heard at the state level. Among our top priorities will be our continued enhancement of Louisiana's Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) law to further protect the integrity of public sector projects and ensure that decisions are based on value and expertise. We will also focus on establishing best practices for DBE goal setting in local DBE programs, promoting consistency, attainability and fairness across all political subdivisions. Additionally, we aim to clarify liability protections under Louisiana's Anti-Indemnification Act to safeguard engineering firms against unreasonable risks and liabilities.

## Strengthening Industry Partnerships

Collaboration is key to driving meaningful change, and in 2025, we are doubling down on our industry engagement efforts. Through outreach groups with public owners like the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Facilities Planning and Control, and the Coastal Preservation and Restoration Authority, we aim to strengthen partnerships that benefit our members, these state agencies and the people of Louisiana. By working together, we can tackle shared challenges and maximize opportunities for growth and innovation.

## Embracing AI in Engineering

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing industries across the globe, and engineering is no exception. This year, we will explore the opportunities and challenges that AI presents to our profession. From improving project efficiency to enhancing design capabilities, AI offers tremendous potential—but it also comes with ethical and practical considerations. Our goal is to equip our members with the knowledge and tools to navigate this evolving landscape successfully.



**Chad M. Poche, P.E.**  
Chairman of the Board  
ACEC of Louisiana

## Events and Professional Development

We have an exciting lineup of events designed to foster networking, collaboration, and professional growth. Mark your calendars for the ACEC-L Business Forum, taking place in Metairie on April 10, and the Deep South Convention in Destin, Florida, from July 24-26. These events are excellent opportunities to connect with peers, share ideas, and gain insights into the latest industry trends.

As we kick off this exciting year, I encourage each of you to "Get in the Game" with ACEC-L. Whether by participating in our legislative efforts, attending events, or engaging in industry outreach, your involvement is vital to our collective success. Encourage those firms that are not members to join the team. An engaged and growing membership is critical to our success. Let's make 2025 a year of progress, collaboration, and excellence for Louisiana's engineering community.

ACEC

SAVE THE DATE

ACECL

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF LOUISIANA

2025 BUSINESS FORUM

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

Marriott Metairie at Lakeway

ACEC OF LOUISIANA AFFILIATE MEMBERS

ACEC Business Insurance Trust	Environmental Technical Sales, Inc.
ACEC Life/Health Insurance Trust	Foley & Judell, LLP
Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.	Galloway Johnson Tompkins Burr & Smith, LLP
BAR Environmental BFM Corporation, LLC	Gulf South Technology Solutions
Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP	Hannis T. Bourgeois, LLP
Brown & Brown of Louisiana	Headlight
Cadence Insurance	Keogh, Cox & Wilson
CxA Services, LLC	Lord & Winter, LLC
Deutsch Kerrigan, LLP	Quality Sitework Materials, Inc.
ELOS Environmental, LLC	Tensor Corporation
	Turner Insurance & Financial Services, LLC

# PRESIDENTIAL PRIVILEGE

**MELANIE B. CAILLOUET, PE**  
**LES PRESIDENT**

LES

CPDs, PDHs, CEUs... They go by many names, but all have the same goal: to better ourselves in our professional environments. Every professional engineer is required to complete 15 PDHs (professional development hours) of CPD (continuing professional development) per calendar year. One of these hours must be in professional ethics. Depending on the type of work you do, you may also be required to complete an hour of government ethics, or four hours of life safety code. The remaining hours can be on technical, legal, or personnel subjects.

The reason for this requirement is the ever-changing world around us.

Not only is technology continuing to improve and give us more alternatives to our designs, the mindset of our staff is also changing. And as we all know, laws and regulations are also changing constantly due to the increase in affordable technology and priorities of incoming generations. If we do not adapt to our environment, we will become obsolete.

Technology has come such a long way since my college years. When I started college, computers were being used, but most households did not have a personal computer.

You had to go to a computer lab or library to do your research and type your papers, and they were actually submitted on paper (gasp!!). I didn't have a cell phone until I graduated from college. I also traveled between college and my hometown for 2 hours without a GPS. This was only 22 years ago. Now these items are used on a daily basis and our businesses would be devastated if they were gone. Our younger staff would be completely lost, both literally and figuratively.

The graduates entering the workforce do not know a world where you cannot instantly connect with someone. This ability to connect through technology has both pros and cons. COVID lockdown pushed us to start using video conferencing more frequently because face-to-face meetings were not possible. Yes, these programs are easy to use and save us travel time, but there is a downside too. We are no longer connecting personally with our coworkers and clients. This is a two-way street. We haven't invested our time into getting to know them beyond our business needs. But they are also not invested in us. It is easy for them to find a new company to work for or a new engineer to hire for their next project.

As a mother of a teenager, I am seeing the lack of socialization skills that are being perpetuated by technology. It is very seldom that my son has friends over and when they do get together in person, they are on their phones or playing video games. They do not have conversations where they look at each other. When they are required to have a conversation without a phone in their hands, they do not know where to look and are socially awkward. These are the young adults that will be entering the workforce in the next five years. This will continue into their work lives if we do not encourage face-to-face interactions.

Workshops and conferences are a great way for all of us to practice our socialization skills, network, and get our PDHs. LES has several each year with the largest being the Joint Engineering Society Conference at the beginning of each year. We also offer Life Safety Code and ADA Compliance workshops throughout the year. We do offer them via teleconference but think about the experience you are losing by not being there in person. Take the opportunity to impact those around you by being a person they can come to with questions and not just a picture on a computer screen.



**Melanie B. Caillouet, PE**  
**LES President**

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# LES CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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## **FEBRUARY 2025**

- February 1 - 28: MATHCOUNTS Chapter competitions
- February 4: LEF Board Meeting (Lafayette, LA)
- February 4: LES Board Meeting (Lafayette, LA)
- February 5 - 6: 29th Annual JESC Conference (Lafayette, LA)
- February 15: LEF Al Dunn Scholarship applications open
- February 15: Honors & Awards Presentation (Baton Rouge, LA)
- February 16 - 22: National Engineers Week

## **MARCH 2025**

- March 28: State MATHCOUNTS Competition (Pineville, LA)

### **LES Vision Statement**

The Louisiana Engineering Society is the recognized advocate of all licensed engineers in the state of Louisiana.

### **LES Mission Statement**

The Louisiana Engineering Society serves to advance the engineering profession by:

- Encouraging ethical and competent practice through licensure and legislative involvement.
- Nurturing public awareness of engineers' contributions to society.
- Growing the society through licensure & LES membership and public service.
- Recognizing engineering achievements.

## **APRIL 2025**

- April 11: LES Board Meeting (Baton Rouge, LA)
- April 14: Legislative Session begins
- April 15: Deadline for copy, *Louisiana Engineer*, May issue
- April 15: Deadline for LEF Al Dunn Endowed Scholarship

## **MAY 2025**

- May 9: Chapter officers & committee appointments
- May 11 - 12: National MATHCOUNTS Competition (Washington, DC)

LES

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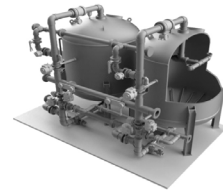
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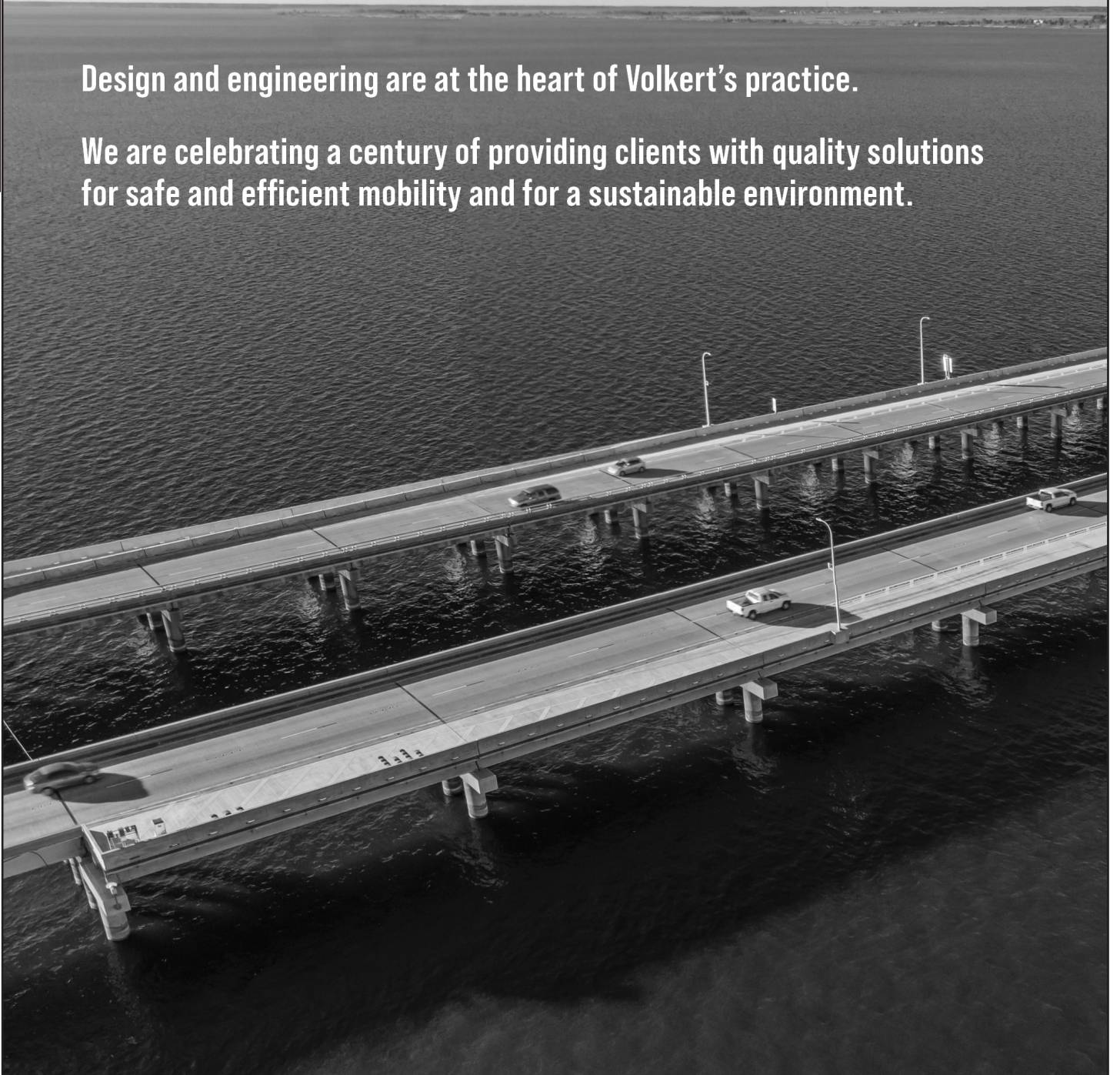


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Brian Daniel Cespiva, II, PE Member  
Rodney Alan Fulton, II, PE Member  
James Everett Gatewood, EI Member\*  
Hunter Cape Phillips, EI Member\*\*

## Baton Rouge Chapter

Paul Adkins, PE Member  
Chandler Lewis Aguillard, PE Member  
Fernando Torres Arroyo, EI Member\*  
Dasharath K C, EI Member\*  
Hipolito Chagoya, EI Member\*\*  
Hsieh-Ching Chang, PE Member  
Joyner Elliott Deamer, PE Member  
Patrick Lawson Downs, PE Member  
Thomas William Elgin, PE Member  
Lacey Leigh Fish, EI Member\*\*  
Stephanie Freeman, EI Member\*  
Kaleb Joseph Gautreaux, PE Member  
Austin S. Guerin, PE Member  
Zachary Paul Hebert, PE Member  
Nicole Henderson, PE Member  
Erik Hoffpauir, PE Member  
Larsen Henry Jennings, EI Member\*  
Blaine Michael Johnson, PE Member  
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Hugo Antonio Leiva, PE Member  
Marybeth Lima, PE Member  
Stephen Tyler Mauer, EI Member\*\*  
Louay N. Mohammad, Ph.D., PE Member  
Khanh Trong Nguyen, PE Member  
Austin Nicholas, Student Member  
Landon Chase Oubre, EI Member\*  
Darion Seth Pugh, EI Member\*  
Mason Paul Robertson, EI Member\*\*  
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Sean David Simmons, EI Member\*  
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Philip Andrew Wells, EI Member\*  
Devin Paul Wicker, EI Member\*  
Kavan Leif Williamson, EI Member\*  
Andrew Windmann, PE Member

## Bayou Chapter

Dillon Douglas Benoit, PE Member  
Robert John Gros, PE Member  
Race Allen Wicklund, EI Member\*

## Lafayette Chapter

Brandon Scott Bergeron, PE Member  
Justin Matthew Boudreaux, EI Member\*  
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Emile Joseph Hebert, EI Member\*  
Lucas Hudspeth, PE Member  
Claiton Adam Johnson, PE Member  
Siam Junaed, Student Member  
Allison LeBlanc, EI Member\*  
Lindy Claire Lee, EI Member\*\*  
Nicholas Damian LeJeune, PE Member  
Cory Jacob Miller, PE Member  
Simon Alexander Guillory, PE Member  
Jennifer Patin, PE Member  
Gabriel Joseph Robin, EI Member\*  
Brody Allan Schneider, PE Member  
Joshua Chase Taylor, EI Member\*  
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## Lake Charles Chapter

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John Leibee, PE Member  
Lucas Cole Verret, PE Member

## Monroe Chapter

Eric William Patrick, EI Member\*  
Justin Mack Washer, EI Member\*\*

## New Orleans Chapter

Michael Nolan Ball, EI Member\*\*  
Matthew P. Barbier, PE Member  
Samuel William Bel, EI Member\*  
Jonathan Charles Blanque, EI Member\*\*  
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Stephen Gholston, PE Member  
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Jacob Nicholas Held, PE Member  
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Shujaat Syed Hussain, EI Member\*  
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James Howard Mangle, PE Member  
Olivia Mary Mayleben, EI Member\*  
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Nicholas Roy Montegut, EI Member\*\*  
Jens Jerome Nielsen, III, EI Member\*  
George Nobles, PE Member  
Nischal Nath Pant, EI Member\*\*  
David Robert Pohl, PE Member  
Jourdan Taylor Puyau, PE Member  
Erin Christine Rodehorst, EI Member\*  
Ryan Jeffrey Roessler, PE Member  
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Nicholas Noel Shuman, PE Member  
Wilton Paul Tilly, III, PE Member  
Elliot David VanDeren, PE Member  
Joshua Brian Wahlen, PE Member  
Kiowa Wells, Student Member

## Non-Resident Chapter

Alfred Alteneder, PE Member  
Gloriana Deoma Faga, EI Member\*  
Todd Jackson, Student Member  
Avery Lahm, Student Member  
Kanghyeon Mun, Student Member

## Shreveport Chapter

Matthew James English, EI Member\*  
Andrew Sherman Harp, EI Member\*  
Reggie Lewis, PE Member

\*Denotes members under 30

# LOUISIANA CAPITOL VIEW

## FROM HAYNIE AND ASSOCIATES

In November 2024, Louisiana lawmakers convened for a special legislative session that addressed critical tax reforms aimed at improving the state's fiscal stability and economic competitiveness. During this session, legislators approved a series of tax changes, including lowering the personal income tax rate to a flat 3% and the corporate income tax rate to 5.5%. Additionally, they voted to eliminate the corporate franchise tax, which is set to be repealed effective January 1, 2026.

To balance the anticipated revenue shortfalls from these tax cuts, the state increased the statewide sales tax to 5% and expanded its scope to include digital goods and services. LES was able to ensure that the new digital goods tax specifically exempted engineering drawings. An attempt to expand the sales tax to professional services was stalled, but engineering services were never included in the proposal, ensuring that engineering services did not receive any new taxes during the session.

The session also laid the groundwork for broader structural changes to the state's tax framework. A key component was the proposal of a constitutional amendment aimed at simplifying the tax code and granting lawmakers greater flexibility in adjusting tax exemptions. This amendment is scheduled to go before voters in a statewide referendum in March 2025.

As of January 2025, state officials and economic analysts are closely monitoring the implementation of these tax reforms. While supporters argue that these measures will boost Louisiana's economic growth and attract new businesses, critics remain concerned about potential challenges, including the regressive effects of a higher sales tax and the reliance on projected economic gains to offset revenue losses. The upcoming referendum on the constitutional amendment is expected to be a pivotal moment in shaping the state's fiscal future.

Looking ahead, the 2025 Regular Legislative Session will begin on April 14, 2025, and adjourn by June 12, 2025. In odd-numbered years, the Louisiana constitution mandates that the legislative session concentrates primarily on fiscal matters, such as taxation, budgeting, and revenue. Lawmakers take this time to assess the state's financial standing and make crucial decisions about resource allocation for

the next fiscal year.

During regular sessions, each lawmaker in Louisiana is allowed to file up to five general bills but has no limit on the number of tax-related bills they can propose.

As engineers, it's important to stay connected with your local legislators. They influence policies that directly impact infrastructure, engineering projects, and the broader economy. Consider reaching out to them to discuss the importance of engineering in Louisiana and, if possible, support their campaigns (their reelection is not until the fall of 2027). This engagement helps ensure that the concerns of engineers are heard in the legislature.

### About Our Firm

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# 2025 HONORS & AWARDS

## RECIPIENTS

### Clinton C. Patrick, PE, PLS

F. Hugh Coughlin Young Engineer Award

LES



Clinton C. Patrick, P.E., P.L.S. is a Civil Engineer and Professional Land Surveyor in the Shreveport/Bossier City area. Growing up around Civil Engineering, being a Civil Engineer was the only solution for a career. Clinton graduated in May of 2012 from Louisiana Tech University with a degree in Civil Engineering. He is currently the Senior Project Manager and Engineering Lead for Volkert in the Shreveport Branch.

His professional experience includes heavy civil site design, wastewater & water treatment facilities, wastewater collection system modeling and improvement projects, elevated storage tanks, highway design, FEMA drainage designs, airport capital improvement plans and projects, private subdivision developments, roadway improvement projects, drainage improvement projects, Geographical Information System management, construction and development and LiDAR data capture and manipulation.

Clinton has been a member of LES since 2012. Since that time, he has served as multiple officers at the local chapter level including Monroe Chapter President in 2019. During that tenure, he started the first Golf Tournament for the Monroe Chapter and raised funds to go towards the Monroe Chapter's endowed scholarships through the Louisiana Engineering Foundation. Since that time,

he has also served as an officer at the state level including State Director from 2021-2023, Secretary/Treasurer from 2023-2024, and is currently serving as 2024-2025 2nd Vice President.

During his time off, Clinton looks to serve family, friends and community. When the church doors are open, he is serving at the church from serving on committees, volunteering to lead young children to greeting those who walk through the door. He continues to serve his family and community by serving as a head baseball coach for two youth baseball teams in which his sons are a part of. Being able to impact young boys and instilling a passion for baseball and to pour into them to become young men is a highlight to his time away from the Engineering Profession. Clinton is happily married to Lauren for 13 years and has two boys, Rhett, age 10, and Oliver, age 5.

The Louisiana Engineering Society F. Hugh Coughlin Young Engineer Award Key and Certificate will be awarded as conditions warrant, but not more often than annually, to an engineer not over thirty-five (35) years of age who has demonstrated a high degree of capabilities in his chosen field of engineering, thereby indicating the potential for further advancement and leadership as a professional engineer. The desire of the Society is not only to recognize the recipient but to encourage and inspire young engineers with a desire to reach greater heights of professional achievement and service. This award is named in honor of F. Hugh Coughlin, P.E., a distinguished member of the Society from 1944 until his death in 1980. His interest in and support of young engineers was instrumental in the establishment of this award.

### Christopher P. Knotts, P.E., BC. WRE, F. ASCE

Charles M. Kerr Public Relations Award



Christopher P. Knotts, P.E., BC. WRE, F. ASCE began his civil engineering career at Brown & Butler, Inc. in 1984. After working in industry and consulting for over 13 years, he started with the State of Louisiana in DOTD Bridge Design. He left DOTD to work in coastal restoration at DNR Coastal (which became CPRA). After 12 years at DNR, Chris returned to DOTD as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Public Works-Water Resources in 2012. In 2017 he was selected as DOTD

Chief Engineer where he served until retiring in October 2023. Chris returned to the private sector as the Louisiana Director of Business Development at Neel-Schaffer, Inc. (which acquired Brown & Butler in 1998).

Mr. Knotts earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Bachelor of Engineering Technology from Louisiana State University and a Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Chris has been active in professional organizations throughout his career, a commitment to serve the professions instilled in him by Mr. Carter Brown, P.E. Mr. Knotts served as the 2020-21 President of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering & Surveying (NCEES), 2017-19 NCEES Southern Zone Vice President and served on many committees for NCEES. He was appointed to the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board (LAPELS) and served from 2013-19, the last year as Chairman.

Chris is a member of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) and served as 2019-20 State President and 2013-14 Baton Rouge Chapter President. He is also a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) having served as 2009-10 Louisiana Section President and 1999-00 Baton Rouge Branch President. Since 2013, Chris has provided numerous Ethics presentations to various groups and organizations.

Currently, Mr. Knotts is the 2024-25 NCEES Advisory Committee on Council Activities Chairman and a member of the Steering Committee representing NCEES on the Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR) Practice Overlap Task Force. Chris also sits on the National Academies of Science, Engineering & Mathematics committee studying the Use of Innovative Materials in Hydraulic Structures for the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The Charles M. Kerr Award will be awarded for Distinguished Service by an Engineer in the Promotion of the Public Relations Program for the Engineering Profession in Louisiana. The character and scope of the contributions to the Society's overall public relations program internally and/or externally are the predominant criteria, rather than strictly engineering accomplishments. Officers of the Society and members of the LES Public Relations Committee are not eligible for the award. The desire of the Society is not only to recognize the recipient but to encourage and inspire other engineers to take a greater part in the Society's public relations program in their communities, parishes, and the State of Louisiana. The award is named in honor of Charles M. Kerr, P.E., President in 1954 and a member of the Society from 1912 until his death in 1964. Mr. Kerr was very active in the business world in promoting his chosen profession, engineering.

# 2025 HONORS & AWARDS

## RECIPIENTS

### Janice Poplin Williams, PE

Andrew M. Lockett Award for Civic Activities



Janice Poplin Williams retired in 2018 after 32.5 years in state service culminating in her appointment to the Chief Engineer position at the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development in March 2014. Williams returned to work as the QA/QC Engineer for Forte and Tablada, Inc., in March 2023 where she utilizes her expertise in construction plan development, specifications, and constructability.

Williams earned her bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Louisiana State University in May 1985 and was a member of Chi Epsilon. Williams is a licensed professional engineer in Civil and Environmental Engineering. She is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Louisiana Engineering Society.

Williams served on the East Baton Rouge Parish Engineer and Surveyor selection board as the LES representative for two terms. The second term included 1 year of an unexpired term when the previous LES representative resigned to begin working in private practice. At the end of that year, she agreed to stay on for a complete 2-year term. During her first term on the selection board, Williams was often tasked with review of proposals that filled two copier paper boxes to be graded within one week. During her second term, the selection board moved to electronic review and selections, which at times was just as daunting as the boxes of paper proposals. Williams recognized

that some improvements to the content and quality of the proposals would be beneficial. So rather than entertain the usual meetings with firms to inform the selection board members of their qualifications, Williams offered to critique the firms' previous proposals. Many firms were able to improve the quality of their proposals after receiving this feedback.

Over the years, Williams has contributed her time and energy to various volunteer activities including seamstress for Parkview Baptist School theatrical productions; 15 years as a Girl scout leader, adult volunteer, and Camp Marydale riding director; and volunteer for various animal rescue/welfare organizations.

More recently, Williams has devoted some of her spare time to sewing projects for charity including quilts for recipients such as visually impaired infants, women's shelters, hurricane survivors, and other worthy causes.

Williams has been married to Montford E. Williams, III, since 1985 and they have four children and two grandchildren. Williams is the daughter of the late Dr. Jack and Annie Poplin.

The Louisiana Engineering Society Civic Activities Award, The Andrew M. Lockett Medal, will be awarded as conditions warrant, but not more often than annually, for Distinguished Civic Service by an Engineer, in the interest of the Public, without compensation for those services. The character and scope of the services rendered are the predominant criteria, rather than strictly engineering or scientific attainments. The desire of the Society is not only to recognize the recipient but to encourage and inspire other engineers to take a greater part in the civic well-being of their communities, parishes, and the State of Louisiana. The award is named in honor of Andrew M. Lockett, P.E. a distinguished member of the Society from 1900 until his death in 1945. Mr. Lockett was a strong advocate for engineers to get involved in civic activities.

LES

### Glenn A. Turner, PE

Waldemar S. Nelson President's Award



Glenn A. Turner, PE is President and CEO of Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson, Inc., with offices in Alexandria and Ruston. He has been President and CEO since MML&H became an ESOP in 2018. Glenn earned a BS in Agricultural Engineering from UL in 1992 and a MS in Agricultural Engineering from Texas A&M in 1994. Prior to joining MML&H, he worked for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in its Beaumont Regional Office and the City of Beaumont, TX. Glenn

has been a member of LES since 2001, shortly after moving back to Louisiana and going to work for MML&H. Glenn's primary areas of expertise are water, wastewater, and natural gas utilities and he is licensed in both Louisiana and Texas.

Glenn carries on the MML&H tradition of faithfully supporting LES. When he was hired at MML&H, Glenn was told by the late Greg Whittington, PE that MML&H was a longtime supporter of LES and that not only would the firm pay for his LES dues and meeting attendance, but it expected him to be active in the organization. Since that time, Glenn has served in the LES Alexandria Chapter and has served as LES President. Glenn also serves as the emcee

for the Alexandria Mathcounts competition and the state Mathcounts competition. Glenn now encourages each of MML&H's engineers to be active in LES and its surveyors to be active in LSPS.

In addition to MML&H and LES, Glenn is the Pastor of Hopewell Methodist Church in Elizabeth and Pine Prairie Methodist Church in Pine Prairie. He is a Past Master and current Secretary of Yellow Pine Masonic Lodge No. 282 F&AM in Oakdale. Glenn enjoys gardening, woodworking, hunting, and playing with his grandson. Glenn is a native of Elizabeth, LA, and currently resides in Elmer, LA. His wife Tricia Baronet Turner is originally from Crowley, LA and they have been married for 31 years. Their son Jacob, daughter-in-law Taylor, and grandson Theo reside in Youngsville.

The Waldemar S. Nelson President's Award will be given as conditions warrant, but not more than annually, for distinguished service to the Louisiana Engineering Society by an engineer member of the Society, who has provided outstanding service to the Society, in an unselfish manner and in keeping with the highest professional standards. The desire of the Society is not only to recognize the recipient but to encourage and inspire others to take a greater part in the advancement of the Society and its service to mankind. This award is named in honor of Waldemar S. Nelson, P.E., a distinguished member of the Society from 1936 until his death in 2005. Unlike the other LES awards, the recipient of this award is not nominated and voted upon by the Honors and Awards Committee but is chosen at the discretion of the immediate Past-President of LES.

# 2025 HONORS & AWARDS

## RECIPIENTS

### Kimberly D. McDaniel, PE, PTOE, PTP

Leo M. Odom Award for Services to the Profession

LES



Kimberly D. McDaniel, P.E., PTOE, PTP, is a highly respected professional engineer and a proud graduate of Louisiana Tech University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Over the past two decades, Kimberly has dedicated her career to excelling in traffic and transportation engineering while demonstrating an unwavering commitment to advancing the engineering profession in Louisiana. As CEO and Principal of Intelligent Transportation Systems LLC, Kimberly leads her firm in delivering innovative

transportation solutions that enhance infrastructure, improve mobility, and promote safety across the region. Kimberly's career is marked by a deep passion for mentoring and fostering collaboration. She has taken on numerous leadership roles in professional organizations, including the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES), the American Council of Engineering Companies, and the Women in Transportation Seminar. Kimberly has been instrumental in bringing these organizations together to host shared events, advocate for common goals, and strengthen the engineering community through unity and cooperation. Her efforts have inspired countless professionals to engage more actively in their societies, creating a ripple effect of positive change within the profession. Among her notable contributions, Kimberly revitalized the LES Baton Rouge Chapter's events, including their STEM Grant Program, which supports local schools in promoting STEM

education. She has also championed advocacy efforts for engineering licensure, infrastructure funding, and qualifications-based selection processes, often representing the industry at legislative hearings and council meetings. Her dedication to professional development is evident through her presentations at conferences, mentoring programs for young engineers, and her active participation in leadership forums.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Kimberly's life is deeply rooted in her family and community. Married to her husband Jeremy for 21 years, she is the proud mother of two children, William (16) and Madeline (14). Her ability to balance her career and family exemplifies her values of dedication, integrity, and service.

Kimberly's achievements reflect her commitment to fostering innovation, mentoring the next generation, and uniting the profession for the greater good. She serves as an inspiring role model and a driving force for progress in the engineering community.

The Louisiana Engineering Society Services to the Profession Award will be given as conditions warrant, but not more than annually, for Distinguished Service to the Engineering Profession in Louisiana by a registered Professional Engineer member of the Louisiana Engineering Society, over a period of long duration in an unselfish manner and in keeping with the highest professional standards of conduct, including active participation and leadership in the technical societies as well as in this and other professional engineering groups. The character, scope, and duration of the services rendered are the predominant criteria, rather than strictly engineering or scientific attainments. The desire of the Society is not only to recognize the recipient but to encourage and inspire other engineers to take a greater part in the advancement of the profession in its services to humankind. The award is named in honor of Leo M. Odom, P.E. President of the Society in 1968, active member since 1942, and the award's first recipient.

### Jonathan G. Ratliff, PE

N. Dakota Hill Outstanding Chapter President Award



I am deeply honored to have received the N. Dakota Hill Outstanding Chapter President Award for my service to the Louisiana Engineering Society – Shreveport Chapter. This recognition is a great reminder of the impact we can achieve when we come together as professionals to make a difference in our community.

As a local engineer of the Shreveport area, my goal for the Shreveport Chapter has always been to bring engineers of all disciplines together to advance, not just our profession, but

the well-being of our city. Engineering is at the heart of creating a safer and more vibrant community, and I am proud of the work we have done to promote collaboration and innovation among our members.

Leading this chapter has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. It has been a pleasure to work alongside so many talented and dedicated individuals who share a common vision for the future of Shreveport. Whether it was organizing events, fostering professional growth, or tackling challenges to improve our community, each initiative reinforced

the power of teamwork and shared purpose I have seen grow throughout the Shreveport Chapter members.

This award is not just a personal achievement but a reflection of the incredible efforts of every member of the Shreveport Chapter. Your enthusiasm, ideas, and commitment to excellence inspire me every day. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to continuing to contribute to our chapter and community in the years to come.

Thank you to the Louisiana Engineering Society for this meaningful recognition and for supporting engineers across the great state of Louisiana. Together, we will continue to build a brighter and stronger future for everyone.

The N. Dakota Hill Outstanding Chapter President Award will be awarded as conditions warrant, but not more often than annually, to an LES member currently serving in the role of chapter president who has demonstrated, at a high level, the values of service, leadership, and fellowship within their chapter. This award is named in memory of N. Dakota Hill, 2022 – 2023 Monroe Chapter President, who left a legacy of service to the profession, to LES, and to his community, of leadership by example, and of creating fellowship within his chapter and beyond. The N. Dakota Hill Outstanding Chapter President Award will be determined by the current LES State President and the LES Office Staff. Recipients must be determined before January 15 annually and will be recognized at the annual LES Honors & Awards ceremony.

# 2024 HONORS & AWARDS RECIPIENTS

## Rachel A. Kenney, PE

A. B. Paterson Award for Engineer in Management



Rachel Kenney earned a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia in 2002 and has been employed as a Civil/Structural Engineer for 23 years. The majority of her career has been spent at Infinity Engineering Consultants, where she is currently Chief Engineer. In the role of Chief Engineer at Infinity, Rachel provides direction to a diverse group of engineers. She holds current PE licenses in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. She is a Past President of the New Orleans Chapter of LES and

is currently LES State Secretary-Treasurer.

The Louisiana Engineering Society Engineer-in-Management Award, The A. B. Paterson Medal, will be awarded as conditions warrant, but not more often than annually, for Distinguished Service in Management by an Engineer. The character and scope of the engineering's achievements in management rather than engineering or scientific attainments shall be the primary criteria for the selection of the recipient. The desire of the Society is not only to recognize the recipient but also to encourage and inspire other engineers to greater efforts in the field of Business Management. The award is named in honor of A. B. Paterson, PE an active member of the society from 1923 until his death in 1952. Mr. Paterson was an engineer, administrator, executive, banker, civic leader, and humanitarian.



## Dr. Shaurav Alam

LEF Engineering Faculty Professionalism Award



Dr. Shaurav Alam is the SWEPCO-endowed Associate Professor in the Civil Engineering and Construction Engineering Technology Department at Louisiana Tech University. He earned his B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 1999, followed by an M.Sc. in Computational Mechanics from the Technical University of Munich (TUM), Germany, in 2003. Before moving to the United States in 2007, Alam served as a

faculty member in Civil Engineering Department at AUST in Bangladesh.

In November 2011, he completed his Ph.D. in Engineering with a focus on Materials and Infrastructure Systems and began working at the Trenchless Technology Center (TTC) at Louisiana Tech University. Throughout his tenure, Alam has been involved in numerous research projects, including the development of fly ash-based geopolymer concrete, the frontal polymerization

of mortar, rehabilitation of buried infrastructure, coastal erosion prevention, soil-plant root bonding strength evaluation, and the disintegration of microplastics. Currently, one of his key research efforts involves designing a 3D printer for fly ash-based geopolymer materials.

Alam has actively contributed to professional communities, serving on committees for organizations such as the North American Society for Trenchless Technology (NASTT), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and the National Science Foundation (NSF). He is also a board member of BAM-I.

Alam's family shares strong ties to Louisiana Tech University. His wife, Dr. Nazifa Sultana, Au.D., graduated from Tech's audiology program, and their daughter, Arisha "Rishi" Sultana, attended Tech's AEP Lab School. Together, the family resides with their two indoor cats, Pumpkin and Latte, and two outdoor cats, Multigrain and Cookie.

The objectives of the Louisiana Engineering Faculty Professionalism Award are to bring to the attention of all faculties those members who are licensed professional engineers at their university and to present registration in a positive light which should encourage faculty to work toward licensure and professionalism in the universities.

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# 2025 HONORS & AWARDS RECIPIENTS

## Elizabeth A. Boyd

Vincent A. Forte Graduate School Fellowship



Elizabeth A. Boyd is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering with a concentration in Chemical Engineering at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Elizabeth completed her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at UL in 2021 and immediately began her graduate career as both a research and teaching assistant.

Her interest in engineering is accredited to her family's influence -

her aunt, a civil engineer, and her grandfather, a log truck driver, both served as role models who sparked her passion for the field. Inspired by these figures and her experiences as a teaching assistant, Elizabeth is determined to pursue a career that blends research and education, with a goal of inspiring future generations of engineers.

Currently, Elizabeth is conducting research under the guidance of Dr. Mark Zappi, P.E., Director of the Energy Institute of Louisiana. Her work focuses on the use of advanced oxidation

processes for the remediation of perfluoro-octanoic acid (PFOA) from water, an important environmental issue in the context of industrial contamination. Elizabeth's research is not only advancing scientific understanding in this field but also has real-world implications for water purification and environmental protection. She has presented her findings at several regional and national conferences, including the American Institute of Chemical Engineers' Annual Meeting in October 2024.

In addition to her research, Elizabeth thrives in her role as a mentor to undergraduate students. Through her involvement in the undergraduate research program at UL, she has had the opportunity to guide students in their own research endeavors, fostering a collaborative learning environment. Her passion for teaching and helping students grow further fuels her ambition to continue contributing to the education of future engineers.

The Vincent A. Forte Graduate School Fellowship is given annually to a student enrolled in a graduate education program in engineering who expresses a sincere desire to enter the teaching profession at the University level upon completion of his or her graduate education. The award is named to honor Vincent A. Forte, P.E., a founder and first president of the Louisiana Engineering Foundation.

LES

## CHAPTER UPDATES

### Baton Rouge Chapter

#### Bliss Kelley Bernard, PE

The Baton Rouge Chapter wrapped up the year with a festive holiday season and is gearing up for an exciting start to 2025. In December, we hosted a chapter social on December 5th, followed later in the month by our annual holiday luncheon featuring DOTD Chief Engineer Chad Winchester. In January, we kicked off the new year with a luncheon spotlighting BREC's Assistant Superintendent, Reed Richard.

Three years ago, our chapter established a STEM grant program, dedicating a portion of our annual budget to supporting STEM initiatives at local schools. For the 2024-2025 year, we proudly awarded 11 STEM grants to local schools to help enhance their programs. This included four grants of \$500 each and seven grants of \$250 each.

February promises to be an eventful month for our chapter. Our local MathCounts competition will be held on February 7th. In collaboration with ASCE, we will host the Engineers Week (E-Week) Awards Luncheon on February 18th. During this event, we will present our local chapter awards and recognize the Wintz Scholarship recipients from LSU and Southern University. We will also host the E-Week Gala on February 20th at the City Club in Baton Rouge, joined by ACEC, ASCE and WTS chapters. Looking ahead to March, we will hold our annual Wintz Scholarship Golf Tournament on March 10th and our monthly luncheon on March 27th.

As we step into 2025, I am confident it will be another remarkable year for the Baton Rouge Chapter. This year brings many exciting opportunities and new beginnings, both professionally and personally. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated board members for their time and effort in making our successes possible. A special thanks goes out to our generous sponsors and incredible members—your support is the foundation of all that we achieve.

We had two exciting luncheons on the calendar to close out 2024. On October 17th, we hosted a luncheon at Mike Andersons with Rudynah Capone, MP, Director of LTAP, who presented on LTRC's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) and Local Road Safety Program (LRSP). On December 12th, we welcomed DOTD Secretary Joe Donahue at Juban's, who shared his plans for DOTD over the next few years and provided progress made to date.

We are excited for what the rest of the year holds and look forward to continuing our work supporting engineering excellence and education in our region.



Bliss Kelley Bernard, PE  
Baton Rouge Chapter President

# CHAPTER UPDATES

## Bayou Chapter

### Jacob Waitz, PE, LSI

The Bayou Chapter had an excellent 2024. We had many great guest speakers in 2024 at our monthly chapter meetings including a representative with the Louisiana Legislative Audit presenting on public bid law, a presentation from the local Terrebonne Parish Water District presenting on their water system, and a contract law presentation from a local attorney as our most recent speakers. We are excited to begin planning our annual golf tournament for 2025 and look forward to a good 2025 year.

Our next scheduled chapter meetings will be held on Thursday, February 27; Thursday, March 27th; and Thursday, April 24th. I look forward to seeing everyone at our meetings.



**Jacob Waitz, PE, LSI**  
Bayou Chapter President

## Lafayette Chapter

### Joey Krefft, PE

In November, the Lafayette chapter and the Acadiana branch of ASCE had Dr. Ahmed Khattab, ULL engineering dean, present about the state of the college and long-term plans for it, and in December, our chapter, Acadiana ASCE, Lafayette ACEC, and Ardaman & Associates, Inc., hosted our annual holiday party at Rock'n'Bowl in downtown Lafayette. Our chapter MATHCOUNTS competition, organized and run by our coordinator Mike Smith, P.E., is scheduled for Friday, February 14 at ULL's Rougeou Hall.

Our next chapter meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20 at Bon Temps Grill in Lafayette, where we'll have the FUEL (Future Use of Energy in Louisiana) program executive director Dr. Mike Mazolla, P.E., from LSU present a follow-up on last March's presentation by Andy Maas, formerly with the LSU Office of Innovation & Ecosystem Development under the LSU Office of Research & Economic Development. Dr. Mazolla will discuss the program's goals and objectives and how the program's 10-year, \$160 million NSF grant will be allocated. Also, at that meeting, we will host and recognize Madison Dronet, a ULL engineering and technology management student planning to work in construction and surveying after graduating this semester, as our chapter's Louisiana Engineering Foundation scholarship recipient. State president Melanie Caillouet, P.E., from the Bayou chapter and state executive director Mary Claire Ruckert will also be joining us.



**Joey Krefft, PE**  
Lafayette Chapter President

## Lake Charles Chapter

### Kalyn Partin, PE

As we move forward into the second half of the fiscal year, LES Lake Charles is energized by the upcoming opportunities for growth, collaboration, and community involvement. We're thrilled about updates/changes on the horizon and the chance to continue serving the engineering community in Southwest Louisiana.

Our monthly meetings will continue to take place on the second Wednesday of each month through June, offering excellent opportunities to connect, learn, and engage. This February, we're excited to welcome Greg Sepeda, PE as our guest speaker. In March, Senators Mark Abraham and Jeremy Stine will lead a discussion and answer questions ahead of the next legislative session. Meeting registration details will be sent out via email. To ensure you don't miss out, please contact [leslakecharles@gmail.com](mailto:leslakecharles@gmail.com) to ensure you are on our email list.

In addition to our regular meetings, LES Lake Charles is proud to support the Mathcounts program, which encourages young minds to develop a love for mathematics. The regional competition will take place on February 15 at McNeese State University, featuring four area schools and approximately 40 student competitors. We are looking for sponsors, donors, and volunteers to help make this event a success.

Even more exciting, we are the host chapter for the state Mathcounts competition in Pineville, Louisiana, on March 28. Volunteers are also needed to help make this event a success. This is a fantastic opportunity to give back to the community and support the next generation of engineers and problem solvers.

Finally, we encourage all engineering colleagues to join LES and get involved. Your participation and expertise will help us continue to grow and make a meaningful impact in our field and community. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting! For more information, or to get involved, please reach out to [leslakecharles@gmail.com](mailto:leslakecharles@gmail.com).



**Kalyn Partin, PE**  
Lake Charles Chapter President

# CHAPTER UPDATES

LES

## Monroe Chapter

### C. Morgan McCallister, PE

The Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) Monroe Chapter continues to experience growth and success, marked by great membership engagement and conversations that strengthen the regional engineering community. The chapter's continued success is a direct result of its commitment to professional development and fostering collaboration within the local engineering industry.

At the most recent meeting, Dr. Collin Wick, Dean of College of Engineering and Science and Daniel D. Reneau Eminent Scholar, delivered an insightful presentation to the Monroe Chapter. His update provided valuable perspectives on the evolving landscape of engineering education, with a particular focus on the expansion and innovation taking place within the College of Engineering and Science. Dr. Wick highlighted new research initiatives, programs designed to enhance student preparation for the workforce, and collaborations aimed at increasing industry-academic partnerships. His address was well received, sparking discussions among members about the future of engineering education and its impact on the profession.

Looking ahead, the Monroe Chapter has an exciting lineup of speakers slated to share their expertise with members. Speakers and topics include:

- Brad Sciuilli with Newterra on Water/Wastewater Aeration
- Kimberly McDaniel, PE with ITS on Traffic Engineering Studies
- Tom Zagorski, PE with ICE on Progressive Design – Build

The Monroe Chapter is preparing for what is set to be one of the best events of the year – the Sporting Clay Tournament. This year's event will be held at the Wild Wings Sporting Club in Downsville, LA. This event, set for April 2025, will provide a fun and competitive atmosphere for members and guests. The shoot fosters networking and camaraderie among local engineer, contractors, and vendors – while raising funds to support the chapter's programs and initiatives. Planning for the event is well underway, with organizers working to ensure a memorable and successful day.

The LES Monroe Chapter is excited about 2025 and the great work that lies ahead!

## New Orleans Chapter

### Kevin Hurtt, PE

We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season! Mardi Gras is upon us, and we are looking forward to celebrating with family and friends! The Louisiana Engineering Society New Orleans chapter recently held our annual round table with local business leaders held at Metairie Country Club. Ken Nelson, President of Waldemar S. Nelson, Michael Hecht, president and CEO of GNO Inc., and Eric Smith, Professor of Practice at the A.B. Freeman School of Business, gave their insights on future development in business and industry in Louisiana. Our next meeting on February 19th will be a joint venture with the Society of Tulane Engineers. A member of Tulane's faculty will give a talk on recent developments in Artificial Intelligence and its future role in engineering. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings!

You can find information on all our upcoming events by going to our website at: <https://neworleanschapter.les-state.org/> or by scanning the QR code below.

LES New Orleans is continuing our support for MATHCOUNTS New Orleans. Their annual competition will be held on Saturday, February 8th. If you are interested in donating or volunteering, go to [Mathcounts.org](https://mathcounts.org) for more information.

As always, we thank you for supporting your organization.



**C. Morgan McCallister, PE**  
Monroe Chapter President



**Kevin Hurtt, PE**  
New Orleans Chapter President



# CHAPTER UPDATES

## Shreveport Chapter Jonathan Ratliff, PE

The Shreveport Chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society is excited to share some highlights and upcoming plans as we close out the 2024-2025 cycle.

We had a fantastic turnout at our Christmas social, where members had the opportunity to connect and celebrate the season with colleagues and friends. Thank you to everyone who joined us to make it such a memorable event!

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for an exciting lineup of events to close out the cycle. We have some incredible speakers planned to share insights and expertise with our members. JESC is right around the corner, offering a chance to learn, network, and grow as professionals. In March, we will host our annual Ethics meeting, which remains a cornerstone of our chapter's commitment to promoting integrity and professionalism in engineering.

This month, we are thrilled to kick off our local scholarship application process. Our goal is to inspire the next generation of engineers by encouraging students from our area to pursue degrees in engineering or related fields. Through these scholarships, we hope to nurture talent, foster a passion for engineering, and encourage graduates to stay in Louisiana to fulfill their dreams. By doing so, they can contribute to making our state safer, stronger, and more vibrant through their chosen disciplines.

We thank all our members for their continued support and engagement. Your involvement is what makes our chapter so special and LES as a whole, the premier society in our state. Here's to another successful year of growth, innovation, and service to our community and profession!



**Jonathan Ratliff, PE**  
Shreveport Chapter President



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- Encouraging engineers to elevate their skills, competencies, and ethics
- Upholding that the health, safety, and welfare of the public are best served when engineering work is performed by or under the supervision of a professional engineer
- Supporting and promoting high standards for engineering education
- Recognizing engineering achievements and academic scholarships
- Contributing services to the public and the profession
- Advocating professional registration of all engineers

## What we do:

Through our eight chapters in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bayou, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, and Shreveport, LES exemplifies its long-term legacy and commitment to our state by providing:

- Recommends appointments for 9 of the 11 LAPELS Board members
- Best legislative lobbyist in Louisiana tracking legislative bills for the Society
- Two Annual Conferences for members to acquire multiple PDHs and further education Host multiple 8-hour seminars to help members gain Life Safety Code & ADA compliance Appointment of two LES members to the State's Facility Planning and Control Engineering Selection Board
- Recognize members' accomplishments by awarding up to 8 annual awards
- Offer On Demand Recorded Webinars for members to help meet PDH requirements Provides excellent networking opportunities Publishes The Louisiana Engineer & Surveyor Journal quarterly
- LES Members get a discounted rate for all LES conferences and seminars both live and virtual Provide Leadership Opportunities by serving on State Board, Chapters' Boards, and State Committees
- Provide scholarships for college students studying engineering
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