

LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING

February 27, 2024

Lafayette, LA

1. The meeting of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) Board of Direction was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, in Lafayette, LA in conjunction with the 28th Annual JESC. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order by President Jim Ellingburg at 7:03 PM.

Board Members Present

Jim Ellingburg, President
Melanie Caillouet, 1st Vice President
Gavin Gautreau, 2nd Vice President
Clinton Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer
Chad Bacas, Past President
Rachel Kenney, State Director
Taylor Goldman, State Director
Kimberly McDaniel, State Director
Kory Moss, Alexandria Chapter President
TJ Stokes, Baton Rouge Chapter President
Kevin DeZarn, Bayou Chapter President
Joey Krefft, Lafayette Chapter President
Kalyn Partin, Lake Charles Chapter President
Morgan McCallister, Monroe Chapter President
John Jackson, New Orleans Chapter President
Jeffrey Pike, PEE Chair
Stan Whitney, PEC Chair
Mary Claire Ruckert, Executive Director

Board Members Absent

Tyler Comeaux, NSPE Representative
Oliver Neal, Young Engineer Representative
Gregory Trahan, State Director
Linsey Olivier, Shreveport Chapter President
Ali Mustapha, PEG Chair
Jennifer Gemar, PEI Chair
Alan Krouse, PEPP 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 Melanie Caillouet.**
5. **Acceptance of the Agenda –**
A motion was brought forth by Jim Ellingburg to add an item for “Lease Updates” (item 10) and to add item 8a-3 “LEF Bookkeeping” and item 8a-4 “LEF Budget Adjustment.” **Chad Bacas made the motion to accept the agenda with the referenced changes. The motion was seconded by Gavin Gautreau. The motion passed unanimously.**
6. **Acceptance of November 2023 meeting minutes -**
A motion was made by Rachel Kenney to accept the November 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by

Jeff Pike. The motion passed unanimously.

7. President's Report

As Legislative Session approaches, LES is preparing to go up against the architects in legislature since the Architecture – Engineering Joint Task Force could not come to a compromise regarding the definition of Incidental Practice regarding engineering and architecture.

8. Secretary/Treasurer's Report –

a. Financial Reports as of 1/31/2024 –

1. LES P&L Statement (see attached) – The LES Profit and Loss statement was reviewed and discussed.

Some highlights are:

- a. LES is currently on track with the budgeted income.
- b. The financial reports at the April board meeting will reflect more of the JESC profits and expenses but at this time the JESC is expected to net at least \$69,000.

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 Statement and the Balance Sheet as of 1/31/2024. The motion was seconded by TJ Stokes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. LEF Bookkeeping Expense – Since it was decided at the last board meeting that bookkeeping would be outsourced to a third party, a motion was brought forth by President Jim Ellingburg that LES would cover LEF's portion of the bookkeeping expense using the LEF Salary Contribution budgetary funds.

A motion was made by Clinton Patrick that LES would cover LEF's portion of the bookkeeping expense using the LEF Salary Contribution budgetary funds. Melanie Caillouet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Expense Budget Amendment – Due to the financial situation that LEF is in as well as the current profit margin of the JESC, President Jim Ellingburg brought forth a motion that LES would donate LEF \$15,000 in addition to the previously agreed upon amount of \$5,500, totaling \$20,500.

9. Executive Directors Report – (see attached report)

- a. JESC Update – As of February 20, all booths were sold, we had 1 bar sponsor, 1 lanyard sponsor, 4 event sponsors, 3 silver sponsors and 1 gold sponsor. Also as of February 20, there were 400 individuals registered for the conference. The estimated profit from the JESC is about \$69,000.
- b. Architecture – Engineering Task force – on the monthly call on February 7, the task force decided that a compromise could not be reached in regards to the definition of incidental practice by engineers in architecture and it will move into legislature.
- c. Honors & Awards Presentation – the 2024 Honors & Awards presentation was held on Saturday, February 3 at the City Club of Baton Rouge. The event was sold out and well attended.
- d. Critical Issues Summit – it was suggested that LES serve as a sponsor for the Critical Issues Summit at the cost of \$500 next year.
- e. Upcoming Board Elections – the upcoming board elections will be run through MembershipWorks to ensure that only voting members can vote and there are no duplicate votes. The board will receive a sample ballot in March so that we can test the process.
- f. LES Staffing Update – Alexa Broussard is having a baby and will be out of the office July – August and will utilize the Remote Work Leave Policy that was voted on in the November board meeting. Stephanie Krouse will cover the LES office on Fridays when Mary Claire is off.

10. Lease Update – LEF will be offering LES a 2-year abbreviated lease to sign while LEF determines what to do with the

Engineering and Surveying Center. No action from LES is needed at this time.

11. Old Business -

- a. **NSPE Update** – No update given.

12. New Business –

- a. **Report from Membership Committee** – The Membership Committee has been meeting and has the following updates:
 - Implemented a new "Course of the Month" incentive for those who are attending monthly chapter meetings. Only those in attendance receive a discount code to a specific course each month.
 - Working with Mary Claire to introduce a Voluntary Dues Campaign in March. With the new system, there has been a drop in the participation of voluntary dues that are much needed.
 - Mary Claire assisted with putting together slide presentations for "Who We Are/What We Do" that includes a QR code to join LES. This can be utilized in mail outs and monthly meetings to try and gain additional membership.
 - The committee has introduced a Testimonial campaign, asking members to provide insight on their experience with LES. Once a month, a winner will be drawn from the testimonial submittals to win a \$50 Visa gift card. We hope these testimonials can be used to help market LES membership.
 - The committee has been discussing a referral system in lieu of the yearly chapter membership competition. When individuals are registering, they can include a referral name that we can export out of the system for tracking. The committee is currently working to determine what incentives can be provided per referral and is open to suggestions.
- b. **Update on JESC** – See item 9.
- c. **Alexandria Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 97 members. The Alexandria Chapter held a meeting in January with the largest attendance so far. There was no meeting in February due to the chapter Mathcounts competition. The next meeting is going to be on March 5.
- d. **Baton Rouge Chapter Report** – Report was given - Currently has 558 members. The Baton Rouge Chapter held their December meeting with Chad Winchester speaking and then held a meeting in January with Fred Raiford speaking. The chapter awarded 10 schools with STEM grants and awarded the Wintz memorial scholarships to 4 local students from LSU and Southern University. The chapter Mathcounts competition was held in February as well as an E-Week cocktail party hosted with ASCE. The chapter is beginning to plan for the Wentz Memorial Golf Tournament. (see attached report)
- e. **Bayou Chapter Report** – Report was given - Currently has 74 members. The Bayou chapter is holding steady with membership and is beginning to host their chapter meetings in different areas of the chapter. The chapter held a virtual meeting in February to show members the LES CPD library.
- f. **Lafayette Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 374 members. Justin Schexnayder is no longer the president of the Lafayette Chapter. Joey Krefft has taken over for the remainder of his term and will continue to be the Lafayette president next year. Mathcounts was successful in the Lafayette chapter in getting schools to participate, including the Paul Breaux Middle School. Upcoming chapter meetings are still being planned and the dates will be released once those are available.
- g. **Lake Charles Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 113 members. The Lake Charles chapter did not have a January meeting. The chapter Mathcounts competition was held February 3 at McNeese. The only participant was DeRidder Jr High, and all 11 students will be moving on to the state competition. Lake Charles Chik Fil A donated food to all participants, coaches, and volunteers. The February chapter meeting was a joint meeting with ASCE Acadiana Branch and hosted DOTD Chief Engineer which had the largest turnout the chapter has had in years with approximately 50 people in attendance. The next chapter meeting will be on March 12 and will host Port of LC Director of Engineering and Main, Nick Pestello. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for April 9 and May 14.

ASCE has reached out to partner again one of those months. The Lake Charles chapter is also working to implement chapter sponsorship opportunities. These will run through the end of 24/25 fiscal year as added incentive to sponsor.

- h. **Monroe Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 115 members. The Monroe Chapter held a meeting in December featuring speaker Sandy Marshall from Gainey’s concrete, a January meeting featuring speaker Brandon Faciane from ADS and a February meeting featuring speaker Foy Gadberry with a Legislative Update. Chapter meetings have been well attended this far and are planned and scheduled until May of 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14 with Bill Coleman with HeadLight Inspection & Certification Platform. The chapter is planning a Skeet Shoot for April, which will be announced once that date is set. (see attached report)
 - i. **New Orleans Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 523 members. The New Orleans chapter’s goal for this year is to reach out to younger engineers so the chapter has been reaching out to local universities to try and recruit new members. Chapter meetings have been held at UNO and Tulane. The chapter has been offering free admission to students for these meetings and have introduced a new chair on the board for a student liaison. The next chapter meeting is scheduled for March and will host Jefferson Parish’s Public Works and the following month will host the Sewage and Water Board of New Orleans. The chapter is currently planning a joint professional societies social for all engineers and architects in the area. Mathcounts was the biggest chapter competition in years and the chapter has brought in new schools to participate.
 - j. **Shreveport Chapter Report** – Report was submitted after meeting – Currently has 133 members. The Shreveport Chapter held a meeting in January with ASCE and hosted Richard Aguirre with Gulf States Engineering. The chapter Mathcounts competition was held on February 3. The February chapter meeting hosted Liz Swaine with the Shreveport-Bossier Advocate. The March chapter meeting will host Jeff Pike and will be joint with ASCE. All meetings have had a great turnout.
 - k. **PEC Report** – No report given.
 - l. **PEE Report** – Reggie Jeter will be rotating off the LAPELS board in March 2025, so names will begin to be accepted for that upcoming vacancy. Jeff asks that if anyone has any potential candidates, that they send their names to him so that he can reach out to see if they would be interested in submitting their names for nomination. LES has to vote on these nominations in the November 2024 meeting and submit them to the governor’s office immediately after.
 - m. **PEG Report** – No report given.
 - n. **PEI Report** – No report given.
 - o. **PEPP Report** – No report given.
13. **Announcements -**
- a. The next Board of Direction Meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2024, at the Monroe/West Monroe Convention and Visitor Bureau Office in West Monroe, LA.
14. **Adjournment - A motion was made to adjourn by Kimberly McDaniel. The motion was seconded by Kory Moss. The motion passed unanimously.** Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.