

**Louisiana Engineering Society Board of Direction Meeting**  
**November 15, 2024 – 11:00 AM**  
**LES State Office**

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|--|---------------------|
| 1. <b>Call to Order</b>  | Melanie Caillouet   |
| 2. <b>Invocation</b>   | Jeff Pike           |
| 3. <b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>   | Gavin Gautreau      |
| 4. <b>LES Vision &amp; Mission Statement</b>   | Gavin Gautreau      |
| 5. <b>Acceptance of Agenda</b>   | Melanie Caillouet   |
| 6. <b>Acceptance of August 2024 meeting minutes</b>  | Melanie Caillouet   |
| 7. <b>President’s Report</b>   | Melanie Caillouet   |
| 8. <b>Secretary-Treasurer’s Report</b>   |                     |
| a. Financial Reports of 10/31/24   | Rachel Kenney       |
| 1) LES P&L statement   |                     |
| 2) LES Balance Sheet   |                     |
| b. Executive Session   |                     |
| 9. <b>Executive Director’s Report</b>  | Mary Claire Ruckert |
| 10. <b>Old Business</b>  |                     |
| a. NSPE Update   | Tyler Comeaux       |
| b. Membership Committee – Rebranding Update  | Kalyn Partin        |
| c. Legislative Committee Update  | Miles Williams      |
| 11. <b>New Business</b>  |                     |
| a. Report from Honors & Awards Committee   | Tyler Comeaux       |
| b. Vote on Lifetime Achievement nominations  | Melanie Caillouet   |
| c. Nominating Committee  | Melanie Caillouet   |
| d. Update on JESC  | Luke Miller         |
| e. Alexandria Chapter & Membership Report  | William Vollman     |
| f. Baton Rouge Chapter & Membership Report   | Bliss Bernard       |
| g. Bayou Chapter & Membership Report   | Jacob Waitz         |
| h. Lafayette Chapter & Membership Report   | Joey Krefft         |
| i. Lake Charles Chapter & Membership Report  | Kalyn Partin        |
| j. Monroe Chapter & Membership Report  | Morgan McCallister  |
| k. New Orleans Chapter & Membership Report   | Kevin Hurtt         |
| l. Shreveport Chapter & Membership Report  | Jonathan Ratliff    |
| m. PEC   | Stan Whitney        |
| n. PEE   | Jeff Pike           |
| o. PEG   | Ali Mustapha        |
| p. PEI   | Jennifer Gemar      |
| q. PEPP  | Alan Krouse         |
| 12. <b>Announcements</b>   |                     |
| a. The next LES Board of Direction meeting is scheduled for <b>February 4, 2025 in Lafayette in conjunction with the JESC.</b> |                     |
| 13. <b>Adjournment</b>   |                     |

## **Executive Director's Report**

November 15, 2024

### **CPD Courses – Fall 2024:**

- Life Safety Code: 66 attendees (47 virtual, 19 in-person)
- ADA: 62 attendees (48 virtual, 14 in-person)
- Ethics: 93 attendees
- Overall LES profit after cost-sharing: \$24,724.47

### **JESC Updates:**

- All speaker opportunities have been filled
- 39 exhibitor booths have been sold (34 vendors in total); 14 remain
  - Tier One booths sold: 18 of 18 (Sold Out)
  - Tier Two booths sold: 14 of 26
  - Tier Three booths sold: 7 of 9
- We have 1 silver sponsor, 1 bar sponsor, 1 lanyard sponsor, and 5 event sponsors
- Conference registration is open now (72 registrants as of November 7)

### **Processing Fees:**

As discussed at our August board meeting, we have reviewed last year's transactions to look at the percentage of transactions made online that incurred a processing fee. We brought in \$406,995.16 in income last fiscal year. Of that, \$313,028.44 was through Stripe. We paid \$9,988.92 in processing fees last fiscal year. Roughly 77% of our transactions occurred online.

### **Honors & Awards Ceremony:**

The Honors & Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at the City Club of Baton Rouge. Registration for the event will be available beginning next week. If your firm would like to purchase a table in recognition of an honoree, please let Mary Claire or Alexa know.

### **Staffing Reminder:**

Stephanie Krouse will be retiring at the end of the calendar year. Her last day in the office will be December 19. Please reach out to Stephanie and thank her for her many years of dedicated service to LES and LEF. She will be very missed!

### **Membership Update**

As of November 7, 2024, we have 2,289 members:

- New Licensees (LAPELS) - 634
- PEs – 1,223
- EIs - 539
- Governmental Employees - 15
- Life Members - 244
- Corporate Sustaining Members (Business Card Ads) - 84

- Individual Sustaining Members - 34
- Honorary Members - 6
- Student Members - 144

Last year as of November 30, 2023, we had 2,088 members.

## LES Legislative Report – November 11, 2024

### *Review of 2024 Legislative Session Activities:*

It was a difficult session with the incoming administration having an aggressive agenda that was generally anti licensure.

- a. Universal Licensure Law
  - i. LES stood down on this legislation once it became apparent that the Governor's office was pushing it and there was no way to get Engineers exempted.
  - ii. As of September 30, 2024, LAPELS has received nine total applications (three for PEs, six for PLSs). All nine of these applications come from current Louisiana residents, not out-of-state individuals looking to return home, who have been working for at least 10 years (most 20-30 years) in Louisiana.
- b. Architect-Engineering Bill
  - i. ACECL took the lead on opposition to this bill. The architects sprung this legislation at the last minute without informing us. They heavily lobbied for it and presented some very disingenuous testimony about it. It passed with our opposition.
  - ii. The civil engineering exemption goes into effect July 1, 2025.
  - iii. ACECL creating a new group of LAPELS, LSBAE, the State Fire Marshal, etc. to discuss the impact of this law on enforcement issues once it goes into effect.

Following the session the ExCom along with Executive Director and Legislative Chair met with our Lobbyist, the Haynies, to discuss what we could have done better and what needs to be done going forward to protect our position better. The Haynies emphasized their commitment to LES and suggested that we work with the other societies and LAPELS to make sure that we are coordinated regarding messaging, etc.

### *Highlights from INTERSOCIETY LEGISLATIVE MEETING (September 30, 2024)*

Discussion on Interaction and Collaboration: Issues related to firms/private practice would, typically, be led by ACEC. Issues related to health/safety/welfare concerns or engineering licensure would, typically, be led by LES. Issues related to health/safety/welfare concerns or licensure of land surveyors would, typically be led by LSPS.

- c. Intersociety Group: We discussed forming an intersociety group to meet once all bills have been filed to review upcoming legislation. This group would be comprised of the board president, legislative chair, and an executive staff member from LES, ACEC, ASCE, LSPS, as well as the executive director of LAPELS.
  - i. Lobbyists: LES gave an overview of their meeting with the Haynies and the LES Executive Committee from earlier in the summer. It was during this meeting with LES and the Haynies that the idea for an intersociety group was formed so that we can work more cohesively on issues related to engineering and land surveying, as the legislature sees us as one large group rather than several individual entities.

- ii. LAPELS: It was mentioned that throughout the 2024 Legislative Session, LAPELS came under fire from legislators, as engineers are described amongst legislators as “always fighting everything”. A very brief discussion was also had about talking points being distributed by LAPELS. These talking points should only be delivered to LES, LSPS, ASCE, or ACEC upon request from the organization.

#### *Discussion of Potential 2025 Legislative Activities*

Engineering “Industrial Exemption”: A subgroup of LES members has brought forward the idea to eliminate the industrial exemption this legislative session. The LES Legislative Committee has asked them to form a working group to investigate the issues (if any) created by the industrial exemption and if they would be resolved with the legal elimination of the exemption. The working group will present their findings to the LES Legislative Committee. If the LES Legislative Committee finds valid issues to the health, safety, and welfare of the public, they will bring this legislative topic to the full LES Board. If the LES Board agrees that there is a legislative issue to pursue, they will bring the topic to LAPELS. If LAPELS also agrees with these findings, then we would engage our lobbyists to look at potential legislation to amend or remove the industrial exemption.

Other potential legislative initiatives: ACEC is discussing the following items to potentially file, as of September 30, three bills:

- iii. DBE Bill: DOTD would serve as a gatekeeper of DBE data
- iv. A bill further defining engineering work as engineering and architecture work as architecture
- v. A refinement of the QBS law that would make it a violation if an engineer submits price on their bid