



## SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

By: Geoff Wilson, P.E.

The month of August was a very busy one for LES. We had a very successful luncheon, setup an e-mail address dedicated to the Baton Rouge Branch of LES, and dealt with three separate QBS issues.

Approximately 120 LES and ASCE members were entertained by DOTD Secretary Ankner who informed the group of the current state of the DOTD. As always, LES is happy to have joint meetings with other societies for the cause of enlightening both groups. Our luncheon next month will be held jointly with the American Public Works Association, where DPW Director Pete Newkirk will give the group an update regarding the ongoing at the Department of Public Works. After a brief update from Mr. Newkirk, the Greenlight and SSO Program Managers will give news regarding upcoming projects.

The new dedicated e-mail address, which you have no doubt seen already, is [lesbatonrouge@les-state.org](mailto:lesbatonrouge@les-state.org). This e-mail address will help the Executive Board stay in touch with the membership and represent them in a way that is detached from our personal and professional identities.

The first time that the new e-mail address was used was to address an issue that came up regarding the newly implemented QBS system in Ascension Parish. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted on the Ascension Parish Consultant Contract Services website that indicated the consultant's proposal should include a manhour estimate along with billing rates. The proposal violated state law (Revised Statutes 38:2318.1), but that is not the approach that the board took. The LES Executive Board drafted a letter to Ascension Parish asking them to reconsider this proposal and stating that the proposal is not what LES had in mind when we agreed to appointment a member to their Selection Board. The proposal has been removed and will be re-advertised.

The second instance in which defense of the QBS process has been necessary is with the ongoing Fair Share Program in EBR Parish. This program, which was approved at the August 12<sup>th</sup> Metro Council Meeting, looks to set a goal of 25% of all City-Parish contracts going to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE). A Task Force was established to create an implementation plan and they have already met twice. The Task Force has three more meetings before it must submit a report to the Mayor's office (October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline). Each Task Force meeting has a maximum time limit of 90 minutes due to the fact that it is scheduled immediately before the Metro Council meetings. After two meetings, there is not much to report regarding how this Program will affect the engineering community. The LES Executive Board will continue to watch to see how this Program evolves and keep our membership informed. As soon as the first two meeting minutes and other updates are available, they will be posted on our website. Look for updates at <http://www.les-state.org/brchapter/Fair%20Share.htm>.

The third and final instance in which the QBS process has required defense happened just last week. An issue was brought to the attention of LES by ACEC regarding a Request for Proposal that was advertised by the Department of Natural Resources. The proposal to be submitted would be required to include manhours and cost, which would make up 30 percent of the overall score when evaluated. As mentioned in the Ascension Parish case, this violates R.S. 38:2318.1. ACEC had written a letter to DNR requesting that the RFP be modified and LES followed suite. Since this was an issue affecting the whole state, the letter was signed by LES State President Mike Bares, P.E. and myself. The RFP still remains on the DNR website, however, it is in the process of having the engineering-related parts of it removed. With the effort that will be made in the coming years to protect and improve our coastline, LES should do what it can to ensure the design consultants are selected based on their qualifications and not a cost or political basis.

## LESSONS LEARNED – MISSION STATEMENT #3

By: *Geoff Wilson, P.E.*

In last month's newsletter, I mentioned addressing each one of the statements in the LES Mission Statement each month in the newsletter. Due to the recent QBS-related activity, I have chosen to select Mission Statement Number 3 to begin. Statement Number 3 reads: "The Louisiana Engineering Society is dedicated to the advancement of the engineering profession by pursuing an active leadership role through **public awareness activities.**"

It has become apparent that there is a need to make the presence of LES known to the policy-making bodies of the area. There is a tendency of our governing bodies to create and modify engineering-related policies without the input, much less, the approval of the engineers that are directly affected. You may ask, "what can we, as engineers, do to change this?" LES Mission Statements Nos. 3 & 4 give us two options to affect change. Statement No. 3 is focused upon herein.

In the past, LES has utilized its monthly luncheons as a means of keeping ourselves in front of local officials. By inviting the EBRP Mayor, EBR DPW Director, DOTD Secretary, and the like to speak at our luncheons, we are accomplishing two things. We get to be informed about the ongoings of these respective entities and we have the chance to let the entities know that we are interested in what is going on.

I believe that we must go further. First of all, the Baton Rouge Chapter of LES encompasses more than just East Baton Rouge Parish. We must make a concerted effort to reach beyond the EBR Parish lines to make contact with our neighbors in surrounding parishes. Secondly, we must take further steps in letting the policy-makers know what LES is, who we represent, and that we are very interested in being involved in any policy decisions affecting the engineering community. We must further let them know that the agenda we push is not a self-serving one, it is an agenda to ensure the health and welfare of the public.

Our public awareness campaign must start with the policy makers, but not end there. The efforts of LES must be made public by means of the local media. LES events will be advertised using The Advocate and The Baton Rouge Business Report event pages. Also, for newsworthy events, LES will make an effort to get coverage by local media.

### Mission Statement #3 – Public Awareness Activities

#### Actionable Items:

- 1) Publish LES events in local media
- 2) Meet with regional policy-makers
  - a. Introduce them to LES and our mission
  - b. Educate them in regards to the QBS process
- 3) Educate all policy-makers and potential user agencies about the QBS process
  - a. Setup website and other promotional materials regarding the QBS process

### SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

<b>When:</b>	<b>Thursday, September 24, 2009</b> 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
<b>Where:</b>	The Faculty Club (Corner of Highland Road & Raphael Semmes Road)
<b>Speaker:</b>	<b><i>Pete Newkirk, DPW Director</i></b> <b><i>Brad Ponder, Greenlight Program</i></b> <b><i>Michael Ellis, SSO Program</i></b>
<b>Topic:</b>	State of DPW – What's going on.
<b>Cost:</b>	\$20.00
<b>RSVP:</b>	<a href="mailto:hcbrown@brgov.com">hcbrown@brgov.com</a>
<b>PDH:</b>	1 hour PDH Credit

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## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2010 LES STATEWIDE HONORS AND AWARDS

The Baton Rouge Chapter is accepting nominations for the 2010 LES Statewide Honors and Awards. If you would like to nominate someone for one of these awards, please contact Dan Rosenquist at 389-2157 or [drosenquist@brgov.com](mailto:drosenquist@brgov.com) or Geoff Wilson at 298-0800 or [gwilson@sigmacg.com](mailto:gwilson@sigmacg.com). Deadline for nominations is November 6<sup>th</sup>. The awards include the following:

### **A.B. Patterson Medal for an Engineer in Management**

The 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. Achievements in management rather than engineering or scientific attainments shall be the primary criterion for the selection of the recipient. The desire of the Society is not only to recognize the recipient, but to encourage and inspire other engineers to take a greater effort in the field of Business Management.

### **Andrew M. Lockett Medal for Civic Activities**

The Andrew M. Lockett Medal will be awarded as conditions warrant, but not more often than annually, for Distinguished 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.

### **Charles M. Kerr Public Relations Award**

The Public Relations Award, the Charles M. Kerr Plaque will be awarded as conditions warrant, but not more often than annually, for Distinguished Service by an Engineer in 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 is the predominant criteria, rather than strictly engineering accomplishments. Officers of the Society and members of L.E.S. 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.

### **F. Hugh Coughlin Young Engineer Award**

The F. Hugh Coughlin Young Engineer Award, Louisiana Engineer 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 to a high degree capabilities in his chosen field of engineering, thereby indicating 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.

### **James M. Todd Technological Accomplishment Medal**

The James M. Todd Medal will be awarded as conditions warrant, but not more often than annually, for Distinguished Service by an Engineer for Technological Advancement or Discoveries as contributions to the advancement of Engineering. The purpose of honoring Engineers with this award is to encourage and inspire other engineers to reach even greater heights of professional achievement.

### **Leo M. Odom Award for Services to the Profession**

The Leo M. Odom Award will be awarded as conditions warrant, but not more often than annually, for Distinguished Service to the Engineering Profession in Louisiana. The purpose of honoring Engineers with this award is to encourage and inspire other engineers to take a greater part in the advancement of the profession in its service to mankind.

See <http://www.les-state.org/pdf/HonorsAwards2010/HonorsAwards2010.pdf> for more information.



## 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LSU / SOUTHERN STUDENT FUNCTION A CALL FOR SPONSORS



The LES Baton Rouge Chapter will be hosting our 16th annual LSU-Southern Student / Faculty Jambalaya Dinner on Thursday, November 5, 2009 in the South Courtyard of the LSU Patrick F. Taylor Hall (Formerly CEBA Building). The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. with jambalaya and soft drinks being served. This meeting is an opportunity to explain to students about LES and what LES does for the engineering profession. It also gives students the opportunity to meet engineers and potential employers in a casual setting in order to discuss our great profession.

The Chapter is currently seeking sponsors for this event. **This event will serve as our fund raising effort for the William A. Wintz, Jr. Scholarship Program.** The amount and number of scholarships depends on your contributions to the program. Sponsor's names will be posted on a board at the function and posted in the November LES newsletter and LES website. The three grades of sponsorship are as follows:

<b>Platinum</b>	<b>\$250.00 and up</b>
<b>Gold</b>	<b>\$100.00 and up</b>
<b>Silver</b>	<b>up to \$100.00</b>

This event has proven to be very successful in the past and this year will be no exception. We are expecting between 200-300 students for this event. We also will be holding a 1 hour Ethics PDH meeting prior to the function and expect a large professional turn-out. If you would like to be a sponsor for this event, please make a check payable to **LES Education Fund** and send to the following address:

***LES Education Fund***  
c/o Lisa Fruge  
9029 Jefferson Highway, Suite 200  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

If you or any of your staff plan to attend the event, the faculty parking lot adjacent to Patrick F. Taylor Hall will be reserved for attendees. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Somme at (225) 202-9379.

The LES Executive Board looks forward to seeing you at the function.



## 2ND YOUNGER MEMBER NETWORKING SOCIAL

The August LES Social boasted moderate success to kickoff the year. Now to improve upon it, LES will be teaming up with the ASCE Younger Member group to make the September Social the place to be this month. Come hang out with your colleagues for a little networking and a ton of enjoyment.

**When:** September 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm until...  
**Where:** The Bulldog  
**What:** Networking, Socializing, and having a good time  
**Incentive:** Not needed...but if it helps, the first drink will be on us

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals are new members of LES.  
 If you see these individuals, please welcome them to the Society.

Adaobi Obih, E.I.  
 Christopher Brown, E.I.  
 Kevin Chenier, E.I.  
 Zhiwei Wang, E.I.  
 Jason Ellis, E.I. – Forte and Tablada, Inc.  
 Kyle Gautreaux, E.I.  
 Dennis Hymel, E.I.

## UPCOMING CPD OPPORTUNITIES

Check out <http://www.lapels.com>, <http://www.les-state.org/>, and <http://www.les-state.org/brchapter/> to see what's coming up.

**Remember, your membership in LES counts as 1 PDH per biennial renewal period!!!**

- **2009 Construction Specification Institute Seminar**  
*When:* September 18, 2009  
*Where:* Burden Conference Center (Essen @ I-10)
- **Life Safety Code Seminar**  
*When:* September 18, 2009  
*Where:* Cypress Bend Resort (Many, LA)

Visit <http://www.les-state.org> for more information.

## LES CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 18, 2009  
 Life Safety Code Seminar  
 Many, LA

◆  
 September 24, 2009  
 General Meeting

◆  
 October 22, 2009  
 General Meeting

◆  
 November 3, 2009  
 Nominations for LAPELS  
 Board Vacancies Begin

◆  
 November 5, 2009  
 Ethics & Student Function  
 Patrick F. Taylor Hall, LSU

Any announcements? Contact Geoff Wilson at [gwilson@sigmacg.com](mailto:gwilson@sigmacg.com)

## Louisiana Engineering Society Mission Statement

*The Louisiana Engineering Society is dedicated to the advancement of the engineering profession by pursuing an active leadership role through:*

1. *Providing avenues for members to elevate their skills, competencies, and ethics.*
2. *Communicating that engineering work must be performed by a professional engineer or supervised by a professional engineer.*
3. *Public awareness activities.*
4. *Services to the public and profession.*
5. *Advocating registration of all engineers.*
6. *Recognizing engineering achievements.*

## LES BATON ROUGE CHAPTER 2009-2010 OFFICERS

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225-926-1620

Visit us on the web

<http://www.les-state.org/brchapter/>

## NEWSLETTER / WEBSITE ADS FOR SALE

The Baton Rouge Chapter is offering advertisement in both the monthly Newsletter and Chapter Website for \$100 per calendar year. Advertisements can be done for one (1) or two (2) year periods.

Anyone wishing to place an ad in the newsletter and website can send a copy of a company business card and a check (made out to LES-BR Chapter) to the following address:

LES Baton Rouge Chapter (c/o Eric Erikson)  
9029 Jefferson Highway, Suite 200  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Please call or e-mail Eric Erikson at 926-1620 or [eerikson@evans-graves.com](mailto:eerikson@evans-graves.com) with any questions.



*For the latest news and information about the  
Baton Rouge Chapter, visit us on the web at*

[www.les-state.org/brchapter](http://www.les-state.org/brchapter)



## ENGINEERING SOCIETY NEWS/EVENTS

One of the missions of LES is to provide avenues for members to elevate their skills, competencies, and ethics. With that in mind, this section of the newsletter will be continuously updated with information from other local engineering societies that might benefit the membership.

### American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

Website: <http://www.ascebr.org/>

Upcoming Events: Chapter Meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> at Juban's Restaurant

### American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)

Website: <http://www.sections.asme.org/BatonRouge/>

### Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

Website: [http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r5/baton\\_rouge/](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r5/baton_rouge/)

### American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE)

Website: <http://gbr.asse.org/>

Upcoming Events: Chapter Meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup> at Sno's Restaurant

Topic: OSHA Update

### Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

Website: <http://www.swe.org/swe/region/sections/c003/>

### American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)

Website: <http://www.acec.org/memberOrganizations/chapterDetails.cfm?chapterIndex=3>

### Engineers Without Borders – Baton Rouge Professionals Chapter (EWB-BRP)

Website: <http://www.ewb-brp.org>

Monthly meetings are currently held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and are open to members and non-members alike.

### American Public Works Association (APWA)

Website: <http://louisiana.apwa.net/>

### LA-American Planning Association-Capital Section

#### **Baton Rouge Bicycle Facilities Public Meeting – September 17**

The Mayor's Office, through Melissa Guilbeau, Urban Transportation Coordinator, Public Works - Infrastructure Planning Division, has invited public input for planning the growth of Baton Rouge's bicycle facilities. In furthering Mayor Holden's Healthy BR initiative, the Department of Public Works will present a hands-on session for mapping proposed enhancements to the network of bike paths, shared lanes, and multi-use trails that serve East Baton Rouge Parish.

BRASS (Baton Rouge Advocates for Safe Streets) will host this public input session at the Carver Branch Library, 720 Terrace, Thursday, September 17, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. Please attend this important meeting and share your ideas for making Baton Rouge more bike-friendly. Can't attend? Go to <http://www.mapmyride.com/> create an account, and map your suggestions! These routes will be taken into account when the maps are being created by the Public Works - Infrastructure Planning Division. Questions, comments, and suggestions may be sent to [info@brsafestreets.org](mailto:info@brsafestreets.org).

#### **Luncheon Date Change to September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The next Capital Section Luncheon has been rescheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will hear a presentation on planning activities underway in the City of Central. Contact Krista Goodin at [krista@fenstermaker.com](mailto:krista@fenstermaker.com) for more information.

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<http://www.brprojects.com/sewer/pages/Sewer.htm>

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