

# LOUISIANA ENGINEERING FOUNDATION

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# LOUISIANA ENGINEERING FOUNDATION

## At Large Directors

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AL. 12

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12

**Executive Director**      **Brenda W. Gajan**  
Bookkeeper      Cathy Guidry  
Secretary      Jason Pasqua

**wk (225) 924-2021**  
**fx (225) 924-2049**

1. **AL - At-Large Members (2), they shall serve two years.**
2. **Terms expire on June 30 of the noted year.**
3. **Chapter appointments - The names of chapters have been abbreviated (Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bayou, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, and Shreveport)**
4. **The President, Vice-President and Past President shall serve for (2) years.**
5. **The Sec. Treas. shall serve for one year concurrent with their term as LES Sec. –Treas.**

## LOUISIANA ENGINEERING FOUNDATION

The Louisiana Engineering Foundation was incorporated in 1978 by a group of Louisiana professional engineers, members of the Louisiana Engineering Society and other professional engineering groups. Its purpose was, and continues to be, the promotion of activities to support and strengthen the profession of engineering. The original officers were: Vincent A. Forte, P.E., President; A.J. Szabo, P.E., Vice President; Guy W. Miller, P.E., Secretary; and James L. Meyer, P.E., Treasurer. Mr. R. Carlton "Doc" Spears was appointed Executive Secretary.

The stated objectives of the Louisiana Engineering Foundation are to promote charitable, educational and scientific objectives. More specifically, its goals are:

- 1) To grant scholarships and fellowships to students in support of engineering;
- 2) To provide guidance and information to high school and college students who are interested in engineering careers;
- 3) To provide opportunities in the form of seminars, workshops and classes for practicing engineers to continue their education development;
- 4) To disseminate engineering information beneficial to the interested public; and
- 5) To establish and maintain an Engineering Center.

The last goal was initially accomplished by purchasing a building and surrounding grounds at 1213 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with a generous donation by Mr. and Mrs. Leo M. Odom and by loans and contributions of practicing engineers and corporations.

In 1996, the original building and location were found to be no longer adequate to fulfill the objectives of the Louisiana Engineering Foundation, and its Board of Directors developed a new Louisiana Engineering Center in Independence Plaza Business Park in Baton Rouge. The building houses the Louisiana Engineering Society, American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana, the Louisiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors and the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board.

The new Louisiana Engineering Center was constructed with more than 350 donations totaling more than \$6,000,000 from engineers, engineering firms, organizations and business dependent upon engineering. The donors are honored by having their names displayed on plaques in the lobby of the building where all members of the engineering profession and visitors may see who supported the project.

The Foundation supports MATHCOUNTS, the program to encourage the knowledge of mathematics among junior high school students; gives Graduate School Fellowships to graduate students who express an intention of teaching at the college level; and annually confers honors on an engineering faculty member selected by his peers in each of the accredited engineering schools in Louisiana. Since 1982, LEF has presented numerous Fellowships to graduate students at Tulane University, Louisiana State University, University of New Orleans, Louisiana Tech University, and University of LA Lafayette.

In the annual Engineering Faculty Professionalism Award Program, various engineering faculty members from Louisiana State University, Tulane University, Southern University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Louisiana Tech University, University of New Orleans, and McNeese State University have been recognized and each honored with a plaque of recognition.

The Louisiana Engineering Foundation is supported in its endeavors by contributions of dues-paying members of the Louisiana Engineering Society and by donations in support of engineering education. Persons, companies or foundations should communicate with the Executive Director at

Brenda Gajan, Executive Director  
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industry, the Directors invite you to consider donating funds, securities or property to the Louisiana Foundation.

MEMORIALS - Special contributions may be made to the Foundation in memory of a deceased friend, relative or associate. The funds received are used to carry out the goals of LEF. A memorial plaque is hanging in the Foundation headquarters building. The name of the deceased and his/her date of death are engraved on the plaque.

LOUISIANA ENGINEERING FOUNDATION  
ADOPTED JUNE 22, 1994 WITH AMENDMENTS  
October 21, 1988, JUNE 16, 1994, and June 31, 2006

**BYLAW I  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section 1.0: Composition:**

The Board of Directors, hereafter called "The Board", shall consist of Active Directors and Honorary Directors. Active Directors shall be elected to The Board in accordance with the provisions of Section 2. Honorary Directors shall be named to The Board in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.

**Section 2.0: Active Directors**

There shall be two classes of Active Directors. One class of Director shall be called Area Directors and the other class of Director shall be called At-Large Directors.

**Section 2.1: Number and Tenure of Active Directors**

There shall be a total of eight (8) Active Area Directors and two (2) Active At-Large Directors.

Area Directors: Each of the Louisiana Engineering Society Chapter Presidents or their designee shall serve as Area Directors on The Board.

The term of the Area Directors shall be one (1) year. Area Directors shall be eligible to serve consecutive terms should they succeed themselves as LES Chapter President or they are selected as the Chapter's designee in successive years.

At-Large Directors: At-Large Directors shall serve two (2) year terms and shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw IV.

**Section 2.2: Vacancies on The Board**

Should one or more vacancies occur on The Board for the offices of President, Vice-President, Past-President, and/or At-Large Director(s) for any reason, the vacancy or vacancies may be filled by appointment by The Board for the remainder of the vacated term(s).

Should one or more vacancies occur on The Board for the offices of Secretary-Treasurer and/or Area Director(s) the vacancy or vacancies may be filled by the Louisiana Engineering Society in accordance with the Society's Constitution and Bylaws for the remainder of the vacated term(s).

**Section 2.3: Removal from The Board**

An Active Director may be removed at any time by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those Active Directors voting in person or by proxy at an Annual or Special Meeting of The Board. Proxies voted for removal from The Board shall not constitute more than one-half (1/2) of the total votes cast unless the proxy is certified to be specifically for the purpose of removal of one or more named Active Directors.

**Section 3.0: Honorary Directors**

An Honorary Director shall be any person who has achieved prominence in the field of engineering or has greatly contributed to the realization of the goals and purposes of the Louisiana Engineering Foundation.

**Section 3.1: Number and Tenure of Honorary Director**

There shall be no limit to the number of Honorary Directors, who shall serve for life or unless and until removed from office by The Board.

Honorary Directors shall be elected to The Board in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw IV.

### **Section 1: Annual Meeting**

An Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held for the purpose of transacting such business as may come before the meeting. The meeting shall be held concurrent with the Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Engineering Society. The Board of Directors shall designate the date, hour, and place of the Annual Meeting.

### **Section 2: Special Meeting**

Special Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or be scheduled by the Board of Directors or may be called by any five (5) Directors at such time and place as may be specified by the person or persons calling the meeting, upon ten (10) days written notice to all Directors giving the purpose of the meeting and the names of those calling the meeting.

### **Section 3: Quorum**

A quorum consists of one-half of the number of authorized Active Board Members plus one present in person or represented by written proxy. No business may be validly transacted unless a quorum is present or represented.

### **Section 4: Executive Committee:**

There shall be an Executive Committee of The Board consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and the immediate Past President. Within the provisions of the Constitution and the Bylaws, the Executive Committee shall act for The Board between Board meetings provided that such action is not inconsistent with The Board policy. All acts of the Executive Committee shall be reported to The Board at the next Board meeting. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

## **BYLAW III OFFICERS**

### **Section 1: Officers**

The officers of the Foundation shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Past President. All officers shall be members of The Board. There may also be an Executive Secretary or other non-voting officer(s), (as assistant secretary, for example) who need not be a member of The Board, appointed by a vote of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 2: Election and Term of Office**

The President and the Vice-President shall be elected by the Board of Directors at least forty-five (45) calendar days prior to the end of the administrative year. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Louisiana Engineering Society shall also serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Louisiana Engineering Foundation Board. The immediate Past President of The Board shall serve as an officer of The Board.

The President, Vice-President and Past President shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for the term of one (1) year, concurrent with their term as Louisiana Engineering Society Secretary-Treasurer.

Each shall take office at the Annual Meeting.

### **Section 3: Duties**

The duties of the officers shall be such as are usually attached to their offices, and in addition thereto, such further duties as may be designated from time to time by the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Engineering Foundation.

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### **Section 4: Power of the Board of Directors**

In case of the absence of any officer of the Foundation, or for any other reason that the Board of Directors may deem sufficient, The Board may delegate the powers or duties of any officer or member of The Board. The Board of Directors is hereby empowered to hire persons for any services necessary for operation

of the Foundation.

### **Section 5: Removal**

Any officer may be removed at any time by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those voting in person or by written proxy at an Annual or Special Meeting of the Board of Directors.

## **BYLAW IV ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

### **Section 1: Time of Election**

Directors shall be elected or confirmed by the Board of Directors each year at any Annual Meeting to replace those whose terms are expiring or to fill vacancies on The Board.

### **Section 2: Methodology**

At-Large Directors shall be nominated and elected by the Board of Directors. Each of the eight (8) Chapter Presidents of the Louisiana Engineering Society, or their designee, shall serve as the Area Director from their chapter. Area directors will be presented to The Board for confirmation in accordance with Bylaw IV, Section 3 (C).

### **Section 3: Nominations and Manner of Elections**

The manner of nomination and election of Active Directors shall be as follows:

A. All Active Members of the Board of Directors shall be eligible to vote for the President, Vice-President, and At Large Directors and to hold office. Any member of The Board may secure a place on the ballot by written application to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Foundation not more than sixty (60) days nor less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of election.

B. The Board of Directors shall appoint from among The Board a Nominating Committee, which shall review suggested candidates and make nomination for the elected positions. The committee shall ensure that all nominees are qualified and willing to serve and shall ensure that there are suitable candidates for each position to be filled. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be filed with the Board of Directors not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of election. President, Vice-President, and At-Large Directors shall be elected to The Board at least forty-five (45) calendar days before the end of the administrative year.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute a list of the candidates for the President, Vice-President, and At-Large Director positions to all Board members of the Foundation not less than three (3) days prior to the date of election.

C. Area Directors from the respective Chapter Areas of the Louisiana Engineering Society shall be presented to the Louisiana Engineering Foundation Board of Directors for confirmation at least forty-five (45) calendar days before the end of the administrative year.

D. Elected positions shall be voted on one at a time, beginning with confirmation of the Area positions first and, then, election of the President, Vice-President, and At-Large positions.

E. A majority vote will be necessary to elect. If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, there shall be a run off between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. In the case of a tie that cannot be broken after several ballots, the successful candidate will be selected by lot as decided by The Board.

F. Voting in elections for President, Vice-President and At-Large Directors shall be by secret ballot.

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G. Honorary Directors may be nominated by any member of The Board at any meeting at which a quorum is present. A simple majority of the vote present shall be sufficient for election to The Board as an Honorary Director.

The President or his representatives shall notify in writing those individuals named to be Honorary

Directors.

## **BYLAW V FEES**

### **Section 1: Fees**

Fees or other means of monetary support for the Louisiana Engineering Foundation may be fixed by the Board of Directors.

## **BYLAW VI HONORS AND AWARDS**

### **Section 1.0: General**

The Board of Directors shall establish awards and confer honor upon members of the engineering profession in fulfillment of the purpose of the Foundation.

### **Section 2.0: MATHCOUNTS**

The Foundation supports the program “MATHCOUNTS”, established by the National Society of Professional Engineers, in order to promote excellence in the teaching of mathematics in the Nation’s schools.

### **Section 3.0: Vincent A. Forte Graduate School Fellowship**

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

### **Section 3.1: Amount and Form of Award**

The award shall be in the form of a stipend deposited with Universities, the amount to be established by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 4.0: Engineering Faculty Professionalism Award**

The **Engineering Faculty Professionalism Award** is given annually to one engineering faculty member in each engineering school in Louisiana with EAC/ABET accredited engineering programs. The objective of this award is to bring to the attention of all faculty at their school, those members who are registered professional engineers; to present registration in a new light which should encourage faculty to work toward registration and professionalism; and to benefit the students and the profession with the promotion of professionalism in the Universities.

### **Section 4.1: Amount and Form of Award**

The award shall consist of a plaque and such other gratuities as shall be deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors. It is recommended that the award be presented at a public meeting attended by the recipient’s peers.

## **BYLAW VII CHECKS**

### **Section 1: Checks**

All checks, drafts, and notes of the Foundation shall be signed by such officer or officers or such person or persons as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate.

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## **BYLAW VIII AMENDMENT**

### **Section 1: Amendment**

The bylaws may be amended or replaced and new bylaws may be made by the Board of Directors by majority vote at any meeting at which a quorum is present.

Adopted by the Board of Directors and effective the 22nd day of June 1984. Revised by the Board of Directors and effective the 21st day of October 1988. Revised by the Board of Directors and effective the 16th day of June 1994. Revised by the Board of Directors and effective the 31st day of June 2006.