

# LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING

November 20, 2020

Baton Rouge, LA

1. The meeting of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) Board of Direction was held on Friday November 20 in Baton Rouge, LA. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order by President Luke Miller at 12:00 PM.

## Board Members Present

William Luke Miller, President  
Tyler Comeaux, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Chad Bacas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
James Ellingburg, Secretary Treasurer  
Christopher Knotts, Past President  
Oliver Neal, Young Engineer Representative  
Alan Krouse, NSPE Representative  
Benjamin Chiasson, State Director  
James Geihlsler, State Director/Lake Charles Chapter President  
Joey Krefft, State Director  
Gavin Gautreau, State Director  
Ron Bordelon, Alexandria Chapter President  
Greg Trahan, Baton Rouge Chapter President  
Melanie Caillouet, Bayou Chapter President  
Hagan Lawrence, Monroe Chapter President  
Raoul Chauvin, III, New Orleans Chapter President  
Taylor Goldman, Shreveport Chapter President  
Stan Whitney, PEC Chair  
Jeffrey Pike, PEE Chair  
Mike Bares, PEI Chair  
Jason Thornhill, PEPP Chair  
Brenda Gajan, Executive Director

## Board Members Absent

Keith St. Germain, Lafayette Chapter President  
Ali Mustapha, PEG Chair

## Guests Present

Anthony Pounders  
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2. The Invocation was given.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. LES Vision & Mission Statement was read
5. Acceptance of the Agenda  
An item was added to go into executive session and to add item 10b2 to discuss amendments to the voting process for Honors & Awards. **A motion was made to accept the amended agenda, motion seconded, motion passed.**
6. Acceptance of 09/25/2020 revised minutes.

**A motion was made to accept the 09/25/2020 revised minutes, motion seconded, motion passed.**

**7. Secretary/Treasurer's Report -**

a. 1 & 2. The P&L and Balance Sheet for 10/31/20 was reviewed and discussed (see attached reports).

**A motion was made to accept the P&L and Balance Sheet as of 10/31/2020, motion seconded, motion passed.**

b. **A Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss the staff Christmas gifts, motion seconded, motion passed.** Came back into session; **the Board made a motion to give staff a Christmas gift totaling \$2,100, motion passed with 1 abstaining.**

8. **Executive Directors Report** – (see attached report) A lengthy discussion took place about how to retain members that were given free membership. Chapter presidents are encouraged to reach out to these members to invite them to an LES event to get them involved in the society. Another lengthy discussion took place on how to update members' emails as well as mailing addresses to make sure that they are receiving our dues statements. Brenda was asked to report on how many are using the on-demand seminars at the next Board Meeting.

**9. Old Business –**

a. **Incidental Practice Discussion with Architects** – Report was given – LAPELS met with architects to further discuss their stance. The last conference call ended with a discussion to follow up with the Attorney General for his opinion. In the meantime, LAPELS is currently reaching out to the national architect organizations so that they can work to come to an agreement on the wording before going to Attorney General. Once the Attorney General's opinion is heard they can speed the process along.

b. **CPD Speaker Agreement** – (see attached) A lengthy discussion took place about possible changes to the Speaker Agreement to include a release for reproduction and broadcast, along with adding a clause about the content being subject to approval from the CPD committee. The profit share was also discussed. The board decided that further discussion and research needs to be done and that the board will vote on the speaker agreement in January.

c. **Golf Tournament/General Membership Meeting** – (see attached) The golf tournament is being planned to be held at The Bluff's Golf & Sports Resort on June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The agenda was reviewed by the board for any potential changes. No changes were needed, and we can move forward with the agenda. Chapters are encouraged to reach out to any potential speakers to fill the agenda.

**10. New Business –**

a. **IT Update** – The LES state office has recently been switched to Microsoft 365. The next IT goal is to update the LES membership database next year.

b. 1. **Report from Honors & Awards Committees** – Report was given – the winners are as follows:

- F. Hugh Coughlin Young Engineer Award – Tyler Comeaux, P.E.
- A.B. Paterson Medal for an Engineer in Management – Mark Chenevert, P.E.
- Leo M. Odom Award for Services to the Profession – Richard A. Van Wooten, P.E.
- Andrew M. Lockett Award – Michael P. Leitzinger, P.E.
- Charles M. Kerr Public Relations Award – Nick Musmecij, P.E.
- James M. Todd Technological Accomplishment Medal – Dr. Salvador E. Longo, P.E.

**A motion from the committee to accept these winners was made, motion seconded, motion passed with one abstaining.**

b. 2. A lengthy discussion took place about how the voting system for the Honors & Awards committee should be changed. It was decided that this will be revisited and voted on at January Board Meeting.

c. **Report from Membership Committee** – No report was given

d. **Update on JESC** – The JESC registration forms and prices were finalized. The prices are to remain the same as last

year. The date of the JESC has been changed to April 27 – 28, 2021 and will be held at the Cajundome in Lafayette, LA. LES has a room block at the Hilton Garden. Chapters are encouraged to reach out to potential speakers and exhibitors.

e. **Alexandria Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 111 members. Will continue to try and reach out to dropped members. Had a meeting last week with good attendance.

f. **Baton Rouge Chapter Report** - Report was given – Currently has 610 members. Revisited board appointments and the roles within the board. Held an October luncheon with approximately 35 attendees. On October 2nd held a Sporting Clay tournament with approximately 40 attendees and on November 3<sup>rd</sup> held a golf tournament with a good turnout. A luncheon has been scheduled for December.

g. **Bayou Chapter Report** – Report was given - Currently has 86 members. Held a meeting with 5 attendees. Another meeting is scheduled for December in person based on a survey sent out to their members. Looking into hosting an event for high school seniors during National Engineers Week.

h. **Lafayette Chapter Report** – No report was given - Currently has 383 members.

i. **Lake Charles Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 129 members. Held their first meeting last week with a speaker from DOTD with 22 attendees. An ethics luncheon has been scheduled for December.

j. **Monroe Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 119 members. Hagan Lawrence was introduced as the new Monroe Chapter President. Recently held their first meeting with 30 attendees. Planning to attempt virtual meetings as well as a golf tournament if possible.

k. **New Orleans Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 675 members. Was forced to cancel the scholarship golf tournament that is usually held annually. Held their first meeting in October with approximately 17 attendees. The next chapter meeting is scheduled for December. Also attempting to integrate virtual meetings.

l. **Shreveport Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 146 members. Membership has remained constant. Has held virtual meetings since September with 25 – 35 attendees at each. Has been successful in reaching out to dropped members.

m. **PEC Report** – No report given.

n. **PEE Report** – No report given.

o. **PEG Report** – No report given.

p. **PEI** – No report given.

q. **PEPP Report** – No report given.

## 11. **Announcements** -

- a. The next Board of Direction Meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2021 at the Alexandria International Airport.

12. **Adjournment** - A motion was made to adjourn, motion seconded; motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.