

LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING

January 22, 2021

Alexandria, LA

1. The meeting of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) Board of Direction was held on Friday January 22 in Alexandria, LA. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order by President Luke Miller at 10:00 AM.

Board Members Present

William Luke Miller, President
Tyler Comeaux, 1st Vice President
Chad Bacas, 2nd 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
Mark Aymond, Lafayette 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
Ali Mustapha, PEG Chair
Mike Bares, PEI Chair
Jason Thornhill, PEPP Chair
Brenda Gajan, Executive Director

Board Members Absent

No board members were absent.

Guests Present

No guests were present.

2. The Invocation was given.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. LES Vision & Mission Statement was read.
5. Acceptance of the Agenda
A motion was made to accept the agenda, motion seconded, motion passed.
6. Acceptance of 11/20/2020 minutes.
A motion was made to accept the 11/20/2020 minutes, motion seconded, motion passed.
7. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report -**
 - a. 1 & 2. The P&L and Balance Sheet for 12/31/20 was reviewed and discussed (see attached reports).

A motion was made to accept the P&L and Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2020, motion seconded, motion passed.

8. **Executive Directors Report** – (see attached report) We are planning several PDH opportunities for the spring (LSC, ADA, PM). They will preferably be virtual and live. We are looking for new speakers as well so that we can add to our virtual library and have diversity. Reminder that chapters have access to our virtual platforms for chapter meetings. LES has been AIA approved so we will now advertise to architects. Our on-demand seminars for the quarter have been profitable (see attached report for numbers). State MATHCOUNTS will be held virtually; CLECO has donated \$5,000 again this year.

9. **Old Business** –

a. **Update from Honors & Awards Committee** – (see attached report) **Thirteen of the eighteen committee members voted with the tally being 3 in favor, 10 against the changes, motion failed. The Honors & Awards Committee recommends no changes at this time.**

b. **Review of CPD Speaker Agreement** - (see attached report) There were no new changes to the speaker agreement from the last meeting. A lengthy discussion took place about using the pre-recorded videos from the on-demand library at chapter meetings and the fees necessary for that. It was suggested that the state not profit share with speakers at the chapter meetings.

A motion was made to amend the Speaker agreement that it will now say the chapter will give the state up to \$10, motion seconded, motion passed with one opposed.

c. **Review of Golf Tournament/Seminar Schedule** – (see attached report) A discussion took place about the golf tournament and the corresponding seminars on the agenda. The General Membership meeting will be the following week. That board meeting will be the first meeting of the new board, so chapter presidents are encouraged to let their incoming presidents know.

A motion was made to authorize Brenda to sign the contract with the Bluffs, to host the LES June Seminars and Ice Breaker and Dinner event in conjunction with the golf tournament; motioned seconded, motion passed.

d. **Vote on Constitution & Bylaw Changes** – (see attached report) The proposed change is to remove the reference to NSPE representatives in our bylaws since LES is no longer a part of NSPE.

A motion was made for the option to decouple the NSPE representative from our board to be included on the ballot; motion seconded, motion passed.

e. **NSPE & AIA Update** – A conference call took place between LES and the NSPE liaison. The NSPE liaison stated that it is possible to revisit some of the issues that LES has had with NSPE being able to choose the Louisiana representative. A lengthy discussion took place on the involvement of NSPE in Louisiana's engineering professions and LES along with the importance of the Louisiana NSPE representative being an LES member. Luke appointed an ad hoc committee charged with reworking the LES Strategic Plan. The ad hoc committee consist of: Luke Miller, Tyler Comeaux, Chad Bacas, Melanie Caillouet and Jim Ellingburg. A summary of the new strategic plan will be given at the board meeting in April and a vote will be taken to adopt the new strategic plan at the board meeting in June with the new board.

10. **New Business** –

a. **Report from LES Nominating Committee** – (see attached report) Nominating report was given and a discussion took place on the location of state directors around the state. Roy Phelps was nominated to be included on the ballot. The ballots will be emailed in March.

A Motion was made to include Roy Phelps as a State Director on the ballot, motion seconded, motion passed.

a. **Nominations for LAPELS Board Vacancy** – (see attached report) A discussion took place on the LAPELS Board vacancy. The following names were recommended to be submitted to the governor's office for the PEG vacancy.

- Joe E. "Butch" Ford, PE
- Tim Ruppert, PE
- Eric Tillstrom, PE

- Janice Williams, PE

A motion was made to submit those names to the governor's office, motion seconded, motion passed.

b. **Report from Membership Committee** – Member report was given in executive director's report.

c. **Update on JESC** – (see attached report) Currently have 26 exhibitors, 6 sponsors, and we have 6 speaker slots left to fill. We still need help finding a speaker for the governmental ethics training. Discussion took place.

d. **Alexandria Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 111 members. The Alexandria Chapter has continued with in-person meetings since November with the next upcoming meeting scheduled for March 2, 2021. Attendance has progressively increased since in-person meetings began.

e. **Baton Rouge Chapter Report** - Report was given – Currently has 642 members. Held a luncheon January 21 with a speaker that was virtual and live. Currently has 88 MATHCOUNTS participants.

f. **Bayou Chapter Report** – Report was given - Currently has 84 members. Bayou Chapter had meetings in November and December. The December meeting had about 12 members in attendance. Planning a meet and greet at Fletcher Community College for High School seniors for Engineer's Week and possibly a spot on the local TV channel.

g. **Lafayette Chapter Report** – Report was given - Currently has 397 members. Mark Aymond is now the chapter president.

h. **Lake Charles Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 125 members. Starting to meet in person again. Held a meeting in December where the on-demand ethics seminar was used with a good turnout. There will be another meeting at the end of January. The school board put a ban on extracurricular activities which is why no schools have been committed to MATHCOUNTS this year.

i. **Monroe Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 130 members. Met in January with a bigger turnout than the last two months. This meeting was also available virtually through the state office which went very smoothly.

j. **New Orleans Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 686 members. Sponsorships are coming in despite not having the golf tournament. Held an in person meeting in December with a speaker with about 20 people. Also just had a meeting in January with a good turnout of about 30 people. Still trying to have their meetings in person as well as virtual.

k. **Shreveport Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 150 members. Voted last month to continue virtual meetings until April due to COVID. Membership is slightly up. Held a meeting January 21 joint with ASCE with a good turnout. Will have another meeting in March with ASCE.

l. **PEC Report** – No report given.

m. **PEE Report** – No report given.

n. **PEG Report** – Has been working to get names for the LAPELS PEG vacancy.

o. **PEI** – No report given.

p. **PEPP Report** – No report given.

11. **Announcements** -

- a. The next Board of Direction Meeting is scheduled for April 26 at 5:00 PM in conjunction with the JESC in Lafayette, LA.

12. **Adjournment** - **A motion was made to adjourn, motion seconded; motion passed.** Meeting was adjourned at 11:46 AM.