

LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING

April 26, 2021
Alexandria, LA

1. The meeting of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) Board of Direction was held on Monday April 26 in Lafayette, LA. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order by President Luke Miller at 5:45 PM.

Board Members Present

William Luke Miller, President
Chad Bacas, 2nd Vice President
James Ellingburg, Secretary-Treasurer
Christopher Knotts, Past President
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
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
Mike Bares, PEI Chair
Jason Thornhill, PEPP Chair
Brenda Gajan, Executive Director

Board Members Absent

Tyler Comeaux, 1st Vice President
Oliver Neal, Young Engineer Representative
Greg Trahan, Baton Rouge Chapter President
Ali Mustapha, PEG Chair

Guests Present

Bart Kemper, PE

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. Item 10s was added – Legislative Report**A motion was made to accept the agenda, motion seconded, motion passed.**
6. Acceptance of 1/22/2021 minutes.
A motion was made to accept the 1/22/2021 minutes, motion seconded, motion passed.
7. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report -**
 - a. 1 & 2. The P&L and Balance Sheet for 3/31/21 was reviewed and discussed.

A motion was made to accept the P&L and Balance Sheet as of 3/31/21, motion seconded, motion passed.

8. Executive Directors Report – (see attached report) The LES 2021 election closed on 4/16/21. A Tellers Committee will be appointed to count ballots. Chapters are required to turn in their Chapter Annual Report by May 28. Handbook appointments are due May 21. Janice Williams was appointed to LAPELS Board as new PEG representative. The State office updated the fire system and the monitoring system with cell radios, which will result in savings each month. LES upcoming events include an ADA seminar May 17, a Life Safety Code Seminar on May 25, the LES June Meeting on June 3, the first board meeting of the new board on June 3, the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on June 4, and the General Membership Meeting on June 9. We removed the NSPE references from Appendix 8 in the handbook to correspond with the bylaws. LES applied for a PPP loan and it is still in the processing stage. If approved, it will be approximately \$38,000.

9. Old Business –

- a. **Mathcounts Competition** – (see attached report) A brief discussion took place about this year’s changes to Mathcounts due to it being virtual. Mathcounts National is hoping to resume normal practices for next year’s competition.
- b. **Recommendation from CPD Committee** - (see attached report) Members of the CPD Committee discussed and voted by email on March 22, 2021 on the proposed JESC Speaker Agreement. The original “Speaker Agreement” which was approved at the 9/25/2020 Board of Direction Meeting was edited to better suit JESC requirements.

A motion and a second was made to accept the JESC Speaker agreement, motion passed.

- c. **Vote on Changes to LES Strategic Plan** – (see attached report) An Ad hoc committee consisting of Luke Miller, Tyler Comeaux, Jim Ellingburg, Chad Bacas, Melanie Caillouet and Brenda Gajan was previously appointed to review and revise the LES Strategic Plan. Minor housekeeping and modernization was done to bring the plan up to date with the Society’s current structure. The board will begin reviewing the Strategic Plan annually. Changes will be reviewed and Board Members will vote on adoption at the June Board Meeting.
- d. **NSPE Update, AIA Update & Complete Streets Council** – Alan Krouse ran for NSPE Regional Chairman but did not get appointed. He will try again in the near future for another NSPE regional position and LES President will send a letter of recommendation. This will also be Alan’s last year as NSPE Chairman on our board of direction. NSPE Chairman will no longer be a part of the LES Board of Direction for now. AIA has started having meetings again. The discussion regarding defining incidental practices between engineers and architects is slowly moving forward and another meeting will be held next month. The Complete Streets Council has grown significantly since its start. Alan Krouse is now chairman.

10. New Business –

- a. **NSPE Open Forum Discussion** – A lengthy discussion took place about NSPE’s most recent open forum referencing the language in the Engineering Creed and what happened after NSPE sent a survey to all members. It was brought to the board’s attention that one LES member has taken the initiative to stand up for both sides as well as keeping LES informed as to what was being said. It was brought to LES’s attention as an example of how the board should handle situations like this in the future.
- b. **Report from LES Scholarship Committee** – (see attached report) The following five students have been selected to receive a \$500 LES Scholarship:

1. Jase Mayorga – UL Lafayette
2. Max Broussard – LA Tech
3. Ammar Naser - UNO
4. Dondy Dorlus – Southern University
5. Hongjie Zhu - LSU

A motion and a second was made by the committee to accept those names for the LES Scholarships, motion passed.

- c. **Appoint Tellers Committee** – The tellers committee was appointed consisting of Jim Geihlsler, Gavin Gautreau and Joey

Kreff. The meeting will be held virtually on May 5, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

- d. **Report from Membership Committee** – No report given.
 - e. **Update on JESC** – Report was given. 276 registrations, 42 exhibitors and \$5,000 in sponsorship donations.
 - f. **Alexandria Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 108 members. The Alexandria Chapter has continued with in-person meetings since November. Membership is holding steady.
 - g. **Baton Rouge Chapter Report** – No report was given – Currently has 567 members.
 - h. **Bayou Chapter Report** – Report was given - Currently has 77 members. Membership has held steady with nothing pressing to report.
 - i. **Lafayette Chapter Report** – Report was given - Currently has 352 members.
 - j. **Lake Charles Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 112 members.
 - k. **Monroe Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 120 members. Have had multiple meetings available both in person and virtually via GoToWebinar, all with good attendance. The Monroe board will remain the same for the upcoming 2021-2022 year.
 - l. **New Orleans Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 565 members. Hosting in person and online meetings with a good turnout. The New Orleans board will be meeting to discuss the appointments for the 2021 – 2022 year as well as possibly changing the Chapter President’s term to two years rather than one.
 - m. **Shreveport Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 143 members. Discussing board appointments for the 2021 – 2022 year.
 - n. **PEC Report** – No report given.
 - o. **PEE Report** – Will begin collecting names to send to LES leadership for upcoming LAPELS’s PEE vacancy.
 - p. **PEG Report** – No report given.
 - q. **PEI** – Mike Bares is retiring from his position, therefore PEI has to fill the vacancy on the LES Board.
 - r. **PEPP Report** – No report given.
 - s. **Legislative Report** – The legislative report was given and discussion took place. It was decided that each bill will be reviewed as they are heard and a generic resolution of support to funding of Transportation bills will not be given.
11. **Announcements** -
- a. The next Board of Direction Meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2021 at 9:00 AM at the Bluffs in conjunction with the Transportation Partners Golf Tournament & LES June Seminars.
12. **Adjournment** - **A motion was made to adjourn, motion seconded; motion passed.** Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.