

# LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING

February 1, 2022

Lafayette, LA

1. The meeting of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) Board of Direction was held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 in Lafayette, LA in conjunction with the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual JESC. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order by President Tyler Comeaux at 5:45 PM.

## Board Members Present

Tyler Comeaux, President  
Chad Bacas, 1st Vice President  
James Ellingburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Melanie Caillouet, Secretary-Treasurer  
Alan Krouse, NSPE Representative  
Luke Miller, Past President  
Benjamin Chiasson, State Director  
James Geihlsler, State Director  
Roy Phelps, State Director  
Ryan Barton, Alexandria Chapter President  
Laura L. Barnes, Bayou Chapter President  
Mark Aymond, Lafayette Chapter President  
Kalyn Partin, Lake Charles Chapter President  
Hagan Lawrence, Monroe Chapter President  
Rachel Kenney, New Orleans Chapter President  
Marcus Taylor, Shreveport Chapter President  
Stan Whitney, PEC Chair  
Jeffrey Pike, PEE Chair  
Jennifer Gemar, PEI Chair  
Jason Thornhill, PEPP Chair  
Brenda Gajan, Executive Director

## Board Members Absent

Oliver Neal, Young Engineer Representative  
Clinton Patrick, State Director  
Andy Shread, Baton Rouge Chapter President  
Ali Mustapha, PEG Chair

## Guests Present

There were no guests 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 11/19/2021 minutes.  
A motion was made to accept the revised 11/19/2021 minutes, motion seconded, motion passed.**

## 7. Secretary/Treasurer's Report –

- a. **1 & 2. Financial Reports as of 12/31/2021** - The P&L and Balance Sheet for 12/31/21 was reviewed and discussed (see attached reports).

**A motion was made to accept the P&L and Balance Sheet as of 12/31/21, motion seconded, motion passed.**

## 8. Executive Directors Report – (see attached report)

- LES has several upcoming PDH opportunities including Life Safety Code, ADA, Ethics and Project Management seminars.
- Chapters are reminded that they are able to use the LES license for GoToWebinar to host their chapter meetings.
- LES has renewed our license as an AIA CES Professional Provider
- For the period of 10/1/2021 to 12/31/2021, we had 6 registrations for ADA On Demand, 15 registrations for Life Safety Code On Demand, and 144 registrations for Ethics On Demand.
- State Mathcounts will be held in person on March 11, 2022 at Country Inn & Suites in Pineville, LA.
- The General Membership Meeting will be held via GoToMeeting on revised meeting date of Wednesday, May 25, 2022.
- As of January 25<sup>th</sup>, LES has 2086 members.

## 9. Old Business -

- a. **Incidental Practice Discussion with Architects** – (see attached) In December 2021, LAPELS presented a definition of Incidental Practice of Engineering by an Architect, which got rejected by the State Board of Architectural Examiners. They came back with a different definition which cannot be accepted by LAPELS due to it being an insufficient definition. The LAPELS board decided that they will request a law change to define Incidental Practice of Engineering by an Architect. LAPELS requested that LES carry the legislation.

**A motion was made to move forward with the LAPELS recommendation to bring the law change to legislature; motion seconded, motion passed.**

- b. **NSPE Update** – NSPE is trying to be proactive in recruiting members. The NSPE conference will be held in Philadelphia, PA this year.

- c. **Review of Golf Tournament/Seminar Schedule** – (see attached)

- ADA Seminar on April 7, 2022 in Baton Rouge, LA & Virtual
- Life Safety Code Seminar on March 24, 2022 in Bossier City, LA & Virtual
- LES May Meeting on May 19, 2022 in conjunction with the 3rd Annual LA Transportation Partners Golf Tournament
- 3rd Annual LA Transportation Partners Golf Tournament on May 20, 2022 in Springfield, LA

- d. **Report from Membership Committee** – (see attached report) The membership committee held a conference call on 1/5/2022 attended by Ali Mustapha, Tyler Comeaux, Brenda Gajan, Marcus Taylor, Rachel Kenney, and Hagan Lawrence. The Membership Committee discussed ways to improve retainage for new members that are given free memberships. Some suggestions include reaching out to them as soon as they become members and creating a sub-committee within your chapter by discipline to reach out to their new members. The Membership Committee agreed that LES will continue to give free memberships to newly licensed members. The board voted in favor of the Membership Committee's recommendation to give all members 5 free PDHs per year when they renew their membership; the 5 free PDHs will be used during their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of membership. The board also voted in favor of the Membership Committee's recommendation to offer a 10% discount to corporations paying for 5 or more of their employees, their billing will be made the same month. Lastly, the Membership Committee is also recommending to the board that LES offers a new membership grade for governmental employees at the rate of \$50 annually named the "Government Employee Membership" which will not contain voting rights or the ability to hold office. This recommendation was tabled for future discussion at the next board meeting.

- e. **Mathcounts Update** – Chapter competition will be held virtually again this year on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The

coordinators agreed that the top 12 students from each chapter will be advanced to the state competition. Chapter coordinators will be reaching out to the registered coaches to let them know of the plans.

## 10. New Business –

- a. **Report from LES Nominating Committee** – (see attached) The Nominating Committee met on January 24, 2022 to consider nominations for the various state officers. The committee included Chris Knotts, Luke Miller, Byron Racca, Ryan Barton, Hagan Lawrence, Rachel Kenney, Marcus Taylor and Kaylin Partin. The board voted in favor with four abstaining to nominate the following:
  - First Vice-President – Jim Ellingburg
  - Second Vice-President – Melanie Caillouet
  - Secretary-Treasurer – Gavin Gautreau
  - State Director (two positions to be filled)
    - Taylor Goldman
    - Rachel Kenney
    - Hagan Lawrence
- b. **Nominations for LAPELS Board Vacancy** – (see attached) The LES ExCom met by conference call on January 11, 2022 to discuss the five candidates received for the PEE vacancy on the LAPELS board. The board voted in favor to advance the following candidates to the Governor:
  - Terrence L. Chambers, PE - Lafayette
  - William David Constant, PE – St. Francisville
  - Gianna M. Cothren, PE – New Orleans
  - Vijaya Gopu, PE – Baton Rouge
  - John C. Prindle, PE – Baton Rouge
- c. **Legislative Update** – As previously discussed, the issue with AIA is going to come up in legislature this session. There has also been a definition change of the word “day.” AGC will be carrying the calendar day change.
- d. **Update on JESC** – (see attached) As of January 31, 2022 there were 245 in person attendees registered, 33 virtual attendees registered, 49 exhibitor booths sold with 107 exhibitor representatives and 130 Honors & Awards banquet luncheon tickets sold. The final totals after the conference are as follows: 254 in person attendees, 50 virtual attendees are registered, 49 exhibitor booths sold with 108 exhibitor representatives.
- e. **Alexandria Chapter Report** – Report was given – (see attached report) Currently has 109 members. The membership plan consists of developing an advertisement email to recruit new members that includes the remaining dates for Chapter meetings, waiving the payment for first time meeting attendees, listing the benefits of becoming a member, listing the events that the chapter participates in, listing the benefits due to LES’s legislature representation and offers 5 free PDHs from the LES On Demand Library. The email will be sent to local firms with the request that it be distributed to their engineers. The chapter will also reach out to the recently dropped members monthly to try and encourage reinstatement. Lastly, the chapter will bring membership applications to the chapter meetings in case an interested member attends a monthly luncheon.
- f. **Baton Rouge Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 530 members. There will be an awards luncheon being held soon. The Baton Rouge Chapter just held a golf tournament that was successful.
- g. **Bayou Chapter Report** – Report was given - Currently has 77 members. The Bayou Chapter just held a December meeting utilizing the GoToMeeting software that was successful.
- h. **Lafayette Chapter Report** – Report was given – (see attached report) Currently has 352 members. The Lafayette Chapter membership plan consists of working with the LES State Office to find volunteers to fill vacant positions on the Lafayette Chapter board, contacting recently dropped members, scheduling consistent monthly chapter meetings, and consistently issuing chapter newsletters including links to LES member registration, upcoming events, a list of benefits of being an LES member, and to try and generate advertising income within the chapter.

- i. **Lake Charles Chapter Report** – Report was given – (see attached report) Currently has 116 members. The Lake Charles membership plan consists of having LES membership applications available at the meetings, which will also be distributed to current members to try to recruit their colleagues. They will work on implementing a monthly email containing all of the chapter information rather than sending out multiple emails every month. The chapter is also working on creating a Facebook page in order to make information available. Lake Charles wants to start planning more events other than just monthly meetings to get the chapter more involved as well as creating a survey to send out to current members to see what is needed of the chapter. Lastly, the chapter will strive to be more proactive in recruiting student members from McNeese University.
- j. **Monroe Chapter Report** – Report was given – (see attached report) Currently has 120 members. Chapter Meetings have been held both in person and virtually and have been well attended each month. Members are taking advantage of the virtual option. The Monroe Chapter Membership plan consists of sending out a monthly flyer and requesting that members leave copies in common areas of their workplace containing LES membership benefits, sponsorship opportunities, a link to the LES State website, and a reminder that being an LES member automatically gives you 1 PDH. The flyer will also be posted on member’s LinkedIn accounts. The flyer will also be distributed to all past members that have dropped in the last 5 years. The chapter is planning to ask current members of the names of potential future members so that they can be contacted. Membership applications will be available and distributed at every chapter luncheon. The Monroe chapter is also planning to hold a membership drive within their chapter, offering a prize to the member that recruits the most people.
- k. **New Orleans Chapter Report** – Report was given – (see attached report) Currently has 536 members. The New Orleans membership plan consists of having a registration link for new members on the LESNO website as well as having a registration link to receive the monthly chapter newsletters. The plan also includes creating a flyer including a LESNO registration link, list of meeting dates, sponsorship opportunities, list of benefits due to LES’s legislature representation, a link to the LES State On Demand Library, and a list of additional benefits of being an LES member. The flyer will be included with every newsletter sent out from the chapter, as well as posted to member’s LinkedIn accounts. The chapter will reach out to current and past members via email to try and encourage reinstatement. New Orleans will also attempt to reach out to firm presidents/CEOs and encourage them to get their employees to become members. The chapter is planning to host a few social events every year including joint association socials and Young Engineer events to reach out to potential members. Chapter luncheons will now have membership applications available for distribution. The New Orleans chapter also thinks that it would be good to offer an incentive to members that help gain new members such as a gift or voucher. Lastly, the chapter requests that a referral blank goes on the membership application as well as a section for choosing their Chapter and a secondary email section.
- l. **Shreveport Chapter Report** – Report was given – (see attached report) Currently has 128 members. The Shreveport Chapter membership plan consists of reaching out to HR departments of local firms that have members of LES in order to gain new members, designating/creating an LES College Director position within the Chapter to reach out to the surrounding colleges and meet with students and faculty and to possibly host a presentation on why becoming an LES member is beneficial, making sure all emails are current in the chapter making it easier to contact members when their memberships are due, hosting more social events throughout the year and inviting potential members to these events, and lastly, the chapter will get involved in local community projects.
- m. **PEC Report** – No report given.
- n. **PEE Report** – No report given.
- o. **PEG Report** – No report given.
- p. **PEI Report** – There will be a PEI vacancy on the LAPELS board in 2023, so names will start to be collected soon.
- q. **PEPP Report** – No report given.

11. **Announcements -**

- a. The next Board of Direction Meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2022 in Shreveport. A suggestion was made to move the meeting to LA Tech University in Ruston, LA. Once the decision on meeting location is made, Brenda will send a calendar invite.

12. **Adjournment - A motion was made to adjourn, motion seconded; motion passed.** Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.