

LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING

April 8, 2022
Ruston, LA

1. The meeting of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) Board of Direction was held on Friday, April 8, 2022 in Ruston, LA. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order by President Tyler Comeaux at 10:00 AM.

Board Members Present

Tyler Comeaux, President
Chad Bacas, 1st Vice President
James Ellingburg, 2nd Vice President
Melanie Caillouet, Secretary-Treasurer
Alan Krouse, NSPE Representative
Luke Miller, Past President
Benjamin Chiasson, State Director
Clinton Patrick, State Director
Roy Phelps, State Director
Ryan Barton, Alexandria Chapter President
Mark Aymond, Lafayette Chapter President
Kalyn Partin, Lake Charles Chapter President
Rachel Kenney, New Orleans Chapter President
Stan Whitney, PEC Chair
Jeffrey Pike, PEE Chair
Jennifer Gemar, PEI Chair
Brenda Gajan, Executive Director

Board Members Absent

Oliver Neal, Young Engineer Representative
James Geihlsler, State Director
Andy Shread, Baton Rouge Chapter President
Laura L. Barnes, Bayou Chapter President
Hagan Lawrence, Monroe Chapter President
Marcus Taylor, Shreveport Chapter President
Ali Mustapha, PEG Chair
Jason Thornhill, PEPP Chair

Guests Present

Kimberly McDaniel, 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 motion was made to accept the agenda, motion seconded, motion passed.**
6. **Acceptance of 2/1/2022 minutes.
A motion was made to accept the revised 2/1/2022 minutes, motion seconded, motion passed.**

7. Secretary/Treasurer's Report –

- a. **1 & 2. Financial Reports as of 3/31/22** - The P&L and Balance Sheet for 3/31/22 was reviewed and discussed (see attached reports).
- b. A lengthy discussion took place about the LES Annuity account since Brenda is the annuitant. Since the policy has to stay in Brenda's name and when the time comes to withdraw the funds, Brenda will come sign for it. The Board shall draft a letter containing the details of the agreement.

A motion was made to keep the LES Annuity account with Brenda as the annuitant in the terms that she will come to sign for any withdrawals after her retirement; motion seconded, motion passed.

A motion was made to accept the P&L as of 3/31/22, motion seconded, motion passed.

A motion was made to accept Balance Sheet as of 3/31/22 with the Annuity revision, motion seconded, motion passed.

8. Executive Directors Report – (see attached report)

- The LES Election will close on 4/25/22. The Tellers Committee will be appointed and will be meeting on May 3rd at 10:00 to count the ballots.
- Each Chapter is required to turn in their Chapter Annual Report by May 14, 2022.
- The Deadline for chapter officers and state appointments is Monday, May 2.
- Vijaya Gopu, PE was appointed to the LAPELS Board as the new PEE representative
- LES will offer 6 PDHs at the May 19 Meeting
- The board meeting on May 19 will be the first meeting for incoming Chapter Presidents.
- The 3rd Annual Transportation Partner's Golf Tournament will be held on May 20 at Carter Plantation in Springfield, LA.
- The LES General Membership Meeting will be held May 25 at noon and will be virtual.
- LES held an ADA seminar on April 7 in Baton Rouge with 14 in person attendees and 29 virtual attendees and a Life Safety Code Seminar with 15 in person attendees and 44 virtual attendees.
- LSUA has offered to host the Mathcounts State Competition for 2024

9. Old Business -

- a. **Mathcounts Competition** – (see attached) State Mathcounts 2022 was held at the Country Inn and Suites on March 11. 26 schools across the state participated. The top six individual winners are:
 1. Ishan Kunada – Paul Breaux Middle School
 2. Anna Wang – Glasgow Middle School
 3. Cecily Lu – Glasgow Middle School
 4. Kevin Zhao – Caddo Parish Middle Magnet School
 5. Nate McClean – Episcopal School of Baton Rouge
 6. Jaden Boubel – Providence Academy

The top 4 individuals will go on to participate in the National Competition, May 7 – 9 in Washington D.C.

- b. **NSPE Update** – The NSPE monthly southwest region conference call is April 12 in which continuing education comparison by each state will be discussed. The House of Delegates conference call is June 30th. The Annual Conference will be held in Philadelphia on August 1-3.
- c. **Vote on Recommendation from Membership Committee** – (see attached) **A motion was made by the Membership Committee recommending that LES creates a new membership grade for Governmental Employees with the annual dues of \$50 with no voting or office privileges.** A brief discussion took place about the potential membership grade. The board voted in favor of creating the new membership grade for Governmental Employees with the annual dues of \$50. **Motion seconded, motion passed.**

10. New Business –

- a. **Report from LES Scholarship Committee** – (see attached) The LES Scholarship Committee met to review the 2021-

2022 LES Scholarship applications. The available funding for 2021-2022 scholarships is \$3,130; \$1,785 collected via dues check-off, \$340 collected via interest on annuity, and \$1,005 via LEF endowment. Based on the available funding, the Scholarship Committee recommends awarding six \$500 scholarships to the following individuals:

- Christina Canale – McNeese University
- Taylor Samantha Ferguson – LSU
- Alexis Nguyen – McNeese University
- Andrew Sharpless – UL Lafayette
- Sarah Jimenez – LSU
- Hunter Guidry – McNeese University

A lengthy discussion took place on the selection process for LES Scholarships. It was decided that LES & LEF will collectively develop more criteria for the selection process.

A motion was made to award six \$500 scholarships to the students listed above; motion seconded, motion passed.

- b. **Appoint Tellers Committee** – A tellers committee was appointed consisting of Kimberly McDaniel, Clinton Patrick and Bliss Bernard. The tellers committee will meet on May 3 at 10:00 am via GoToMeeting to count ballots.
- c. **Report from Membership Committee** – The chapters are reminded to reach out to recently dropped members to try and get them reinstated.
- d. **Legislative Update** – (see attached) HB 305 is a bill filed by Representative Gadberry on behalf of LES/LAPELS relating to the Incidental Practice of Engineering for Architects and will be heard this session. Members in the Baton Rouge area are encouraged to attend at the capitol. The Legislative Committee recommends the following actions be taken for each bill other than HB 305 (see attached report):
- SB 106 – No action
 - SB 183 – No action
 - SB 303 – LES will oppose this bill
 - HB 390 – LES will oppose this bill
 - HB 555 – LES will oppose this bill
 - HB 597 – LES will oppose this bill
 - HB 639 – LES will oppose this bill
 - HB 692 – No action

A motion was made to accept the recommendations from the Legislative Committee; motion seconded, motion passed.

- e. **Executive Director Position** – A small committee was formed to find a replacement for Brenda for the Executive Director position. We received multiple candidates and held virtual and in person interviews with no success. There are two more interviews scheduled. If we still do not have a potential replacement after those interviews, we will repost the job advertisement. LES will be hosting a retirement celebration on June 9 from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Red Stick Social in Baton Rouge, LA for Brenda.
- f. **Alexandria Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 113 members. Since the January Board Meeting, the Chapter has been steadily hosting presentations at the monthly meetings. Mr. Andy Brown with D&W System Sales presented “Practical Solutions for Common Inflow and Infiltration Problems” in their March meeting and Ms. Cyndi Glascock with Gainey’s presented “The Truth About Converting to Precast: Faster Schedules, Lower Costs, and Greater Resilience.” The chapter is looking forward to the last meeting of the year which will be an ethics presentation on May 3, 2022.
- g. **Baton Rouge Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 577 members.
- h. **Bayou Chapter Report** – Report was given - Currently has 85 members.

- i. **Lafayette Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 389 members. – Membership has grown since the last meeting.
 - j. **Lake Charles Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 127 members. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 12 with Cyndi Glascock with Gainey’s Concrete speaking. The next meeting will be on May 10 at the Governors Mansion in Lake Charles.
 - k. **Monroe Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 125 members. Monroe held a meeting last month to select their scholarship winner. Membership is steady.
 - l. **New Orleans Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 597 members.
 - m. **Shreveport Chapter Report** – Report was given – Currently has 138 members. Held a meeting in March with Jeff Pike speaking and a joint meeting with ASCE in February. Membership is steady.
 - n. **PEC Report** – No report given.
 - o. **PEE Report** – Vijaya Gopu, PE was appointed to the LAPELS Board as the new PEE representative.
 - p. **PEG Report** – No report given.
 - q. **PEI Report** – No report given.
 - r. **PEPP Report** – No report given.
11. **Announcements -**
- a. The next Board of Direction Meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2022, at Carter Plantation in conjunction with the Transportation Partners Golf Tournament & LES May Seminars.
12. **Adjournment - A motion was made to adjourn, motion seconded; motion passed.** Meeting was adjourned at 11:43 AM.