Louisiana Engineering Society Board of Direction Meeting
June 6, 2025 – 11:00 AM
GEC Offices

1. **Call to Order** — Melanie Caillouet
2. **Invocation** — Jeff Pike
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** — Gavin Gautreau
4. **LES Vision & Mission Statement** — Gavin Gautreau
5. **Acceptance of Agenda** — Melanie Caillouet
6. **Acceptance of April 2025 meeting minutes** — Melanie Caillouet
7. **President's Report** — Melanie Caillouet
8. **Secretary-Treasurer's Report**
    a. Financial Reports of 5/31/25 — Rachel Kenney
        1) LES P&L Statement
        2) LES Balance Sheet
    b. Review and acceptance of the 2025-2026 Budget — Rachel Kenney
9. **Executive Director's Report** — Mary Claire Ruckert
10. **Old Business**
    a. Bylaw Changes — Melanie Caillouet
11. **New Business**
    a. Engineers Selection Board Vacancy — Melanie Caillouet
    b. Alexandria Chapter & Membership Report — William Vollman
    c. Baton Rouge Chapter & Membership Report — Bliss Bernard
    d. Bayou Chapter & Membership Report — Jacob Waitz
    e. Lafayette Chapter & Membership Report — Joey Krefft
    f. Lake Charles Chapter & Membership Report — Kalyn Partin
    g. Monroe Chapter & Membership Report — Morgan McCallister
    h. New Orleans Chapter & Membership Report — Kevin Hurtt
    i. Shreveport Chapter & Membership Report — Jonathan Ratliff
    j. PEC — Stan Whitney
    k. PEE — Jeff Pike
    l. PEG — Patrick Furlong
    m. PEI — Jennifer Gemar
    n. PEPP — Alan Krouse
12. **Induction of the 2025-2026 LES Board of Direction** — Jim Ellingburg
13. **Announcements**
    a. The LES Annual Meeting will be held virtually on **July 21, 2025 at 2:30 PM**. Registration opens on July 1.
    b. The next LES Board of Direction meeting is scheduled for **August 22, 2025 in Baton Rouge, LA.**
14. **Adjournment**

LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING
April 11, 2025
Baton Rouge, LA

1. The meeting of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) Board of Direction was held on Friday, April 11, 2025, at the GEC, Inc office in Baton Rouge, LA. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order by President Melanie Caillouet at 11:07 AM.

Board Members Present
Melanie Caillouet, PE, President
Gavin Gautreau, PE, Vice-President
Clinton Patrick, PE, PLS, 2nd Vice-President
Rachel Kenney, PE, Secretary-Treasurer
Tyler Comeaux, PE, NSPE Representative
Kimberly McDaniel, PE, State Director
Gregory Trahan, State Director
David Gereighty, PE, State Director
Bliss Bernard, PE, Baton Rouge Chapter President
Jacob Waitz, Jr., PE, Bayou Chapter President
Joey Krefft, PE, Lafayette Chapter President
Morgan McCallister, PE, Monroe Chapter President
Kevin Hurtt, PE, New Orleans Chapter President
Jonathan Ratliff, PE, Shreveport Chapter President
Stan Whitney, PE, PEC Chair
Jeffrey Pike, PE, PEE Chair
Alan Krouse, PE, PEPP Chair
Mary Claire Ruckert, Executive Director

Board Members Absent
Oliver Neal, PE, Young Engineer Representative
James Ellingburg, PE, Past President
Hagan Lawrence, PE, State Director
William Vollman, PE, Alexandria Chapter President
Kalyn Partin, PE, Lake Charles Chapter President
Ali Mustapha, PE, PEG Chair
Jennifer Gemar, PE, PEI Chair

Guest Present
Chad Bacas, PE, LEF President

2. The Invocation was given by Jeffrey Pike.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. LES Vision & Mission Statement was read by Gavin Gautreau.

5. Acceptance of Agenda –
Melanie proposed moving item 9a to immediately follow the acceptance of the agenda. Alan Krouse proposed including an item under 11b to discuss nominating members to the Amite River Water Commission. A motion was made by Clinton Patrick to accept the agenda with those changes. The motion was seconded by Bliss Bernard. The motion passed unanimously.

9a. Real Estate Update – LES has found a space to move to along with LSPS and LBOPG; ACEC/L has found a different space. This new space is smaller than what we currently occupy, but it better fits our needs. LES's monthly expenses will go down. A lengthy discussion took place about whether LES or LEF should be named as the lease holder. It was decided that LES will put the lease in their name to skip having LEF as the middleman. The lease for the new space will go into effect on July 1, 2025.

A motion was made by Jeff Pike to have Louisiana Engineering Society as the main leaseholder and will sublet out to the LBOPG and LSPS. The motion was seconded by Joey Krefft. The motion passed unanimously with two abstaining.

A note has been made for LES to review the salary contribution amount received from LEF to determine if it changes because the landlord duties are no longer pertinent.

6. Acceptance of the February 2025 meeting minutes –
A motion was made by Gavin Gautreau to accept the February 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jacob Waitz. The motion passed unanimously.

7. President's Report – (see attached)
Legislative session is beginning soon, and there are bills that need to be on LES's radar. These bills were discussed in the Inter-Society Legislative Committee meeting, but not necessarily bills that LES will take a stance on during this session. Discussion of the bills and potential impact followed. No action is being taken at the time of the board meeting, but the Legislative Committee will be meeting soon to discuss how to move forward on these bills. The Legislative Committee will also provide a written synopsis of legislative affairs/bills for the chapters to share with their members. The bills that were discussed are:
    - HB 428 – SUNSET LAW: Re-creates the Department of Transportation and Development
    - HB 528 – TRANSPORTATION DEPT: Reforms the organizational structure for the Department of Transportation and Development including its duties, powers, and responsibilities of officers and employees
    - HB 556 – TRANSPORTATION: Reforms operations for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
    - HB 621 – TRANSPORTATION DEPT: Establishes the Louisiana Highway Construction Authority
    - SB 8 – CIVIL SERVICE: Constitutional amendment to provide for persons in the unclassified service and for appointment of persons on the State Civil Service Commission. (2/3 - CA13s1(A))

- HB 603 – BOARDS/COMMISSIONS: Amends the appointing process for certain occupational licensing boards, committees, and authorities
- HB 633 – LEVEES/BDS & DISTRICTS: Provides relative to the boards of commissioners for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank
- SB 97 – FLOODS/FLOODING: Creates the Coordinated Use of Resources for Recreation, Economy, Navigation, and Transportation Authority.

A break was taken to eat lunch.

8. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
    a. Financial Reports as of 3/31/2025 were reviewed and discussed. No questions were asked at this time.

    A motion was made to create a line item in the budget for $2,800 under JESC Expenses to distribute JESC 2024 profit share checks that were not distributed last year. The motion was seconded by Rachel Kenney. The motion passed unanimously.

    A motion was made to accept the P&L statement and balance sheet as of 3/31/2025. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Executive Director's Report (see attached report)
    a. JESC 2026 - The dates for JESC 2026 will be March 4 – 5, 2026. Please book your room now before they sell out.
    b. Logo Update – Please use your chapter logo in your chapter documents, emails, etc. and be sure to let your incoming chapter officers know.
    c. JESC 2025 final numbers – JESC 2025 profited $49,822.93 after profit sharing with chapters.
    d. Personnel Update – A discussion took place about the LES Staff's hours spent in the office and the ability to work remotely. As this current fiscal year has shown, it is possible for Mary Claire and Alexa to work remotely and get their work done. A hybrid work schedule was discussed.

    A motion was made by Kimberly McDaniel to allow Mary Claire Ruckert and Alexa Broussard to work as remote/hybrid as the two of them deem necessary to perform their job duties. This motion pertains to these individuals only and does not automatically include any potential future employees. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Ratliff. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business
    a. Bylaw Changes – The Bylaws have been updated to include the new nominating procedure for LAPELS Board vacancies making it a collaborative process between ACEC and LES for all seats (Bylaw 10). The proposed Bylaw changes also include an

update in the order of the Bylaws to make them more cohesive. Changes to the content of the Bylaws will be coming.

A motion was made by Kimberly McDaniel to accept the Bylaw changes as presented. The motion was seconded by Morgan McCallister. The motion passed unanimously.

11. New Business

    a. Proper Use of Email Lists – As a reminder, the monthly chapter rosters are to be used to distribute LES Chapter information (newsletters, updates and meeting information) only. Please be cautious of the emails and contact information being distributed to our members.

    b. LBOPG Appointee Vote – The following names have been submitted for the LBOPG Board nomination: Johnnie A. Craig, PE, PLS, Carl D. Rascoe, PE, and (John C.) Charlie Wildman, PE, PG.

A motion was made by Bliss Bernard to submit the following names to the governor's office: Johnnie A. Craig, PE, PLS, Carl D. Rascoe, PE, and (John C.) Charlie Wildman, PE, PG. The motion was seconded by Kimberly McDaniel. The motion passed unanimously.

- The Amite River Watershed Commission has two vacancies for engineers on their board. LES has not been approached by the Commission for nominees as of this time but the Board should be thinking of nominees as the vacancies are present. The one requirement that we know of is that the person must be a PE, but other requirements are unknown since the attorney for the board, Larry Bankston, would prefer to speak with potential nominees over the phone. Mary Claire will send out more information to interested parties.

    c. Young Engineer Vacancy – Our current Young Engineer Representative, Oliver Neal, is aging out of the position so we will have a vacancy on our board for the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year. Gavin Gautreau previously spoke with Bliss Bernard and found that she is willing to be the incoming Young Engineer Representative. There is nothing in the LES Handbook about how the Young Engineer Representative is selected as of right now, so a discussion took place about having a board vote to appoint Bliss into this position or soliciting to LES members to see if any members are interested. It was decided that after this year, solicitation will go out to LES membership to see if anyone would like to run for the Young Engineer Representative and the position will be added to the ballot.

A motion was made by Kimberly McDaniel to appoint Bliss Bernard as the Young Engineer Representative for the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Gavin Gautreau. The motion was passed with one opposition.

- A discussion took place about including verbiage about having term limits on Practice Division chairs in the upcoming Handbook changes.
- A discussion took place that the Handbook should include verbiage about missing consecutive board meetings.

d. Alexandria Chapter Report – No report was given. Currently has 106 members.

e. Baton Rouge Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 610 members. The chapter celebrated E-Week by hosting a cocktail social event. Scholarships were awarded as well as chapter awards. The Annual Wintz Memorial Golf Tournament was held on March 10, and it had a great turnout. The last event of the year will be the Annual Ethics Crawfish Boil on May 9.

f. Bayou Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 75 members. Membership is holding steady. The Annual Golf Tournament has been scheduled for June 2.

g. Lafayette Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 392 members. The chapter held a luncheon in March that hosted Randy Haynie who gave a legislative update. The upcoming meeting in April is going to host Jeff Stewart, Director of LUS, to discuss a new power plant being constructed in Lafayette. The local IEEE chapter has been invited as well. The chapter is hosting a joint societies crawfish boil with IEEE and ASCE. Warren Abadie, LCG Director of Public Works, will be presenting at the upcoming May luncheon.

h. Lake Charles Chapter Report – No report was given. Currently has 111 members.

i. Monroe Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 105 members. Membership has dropped by 7 members compared to last year. Meeting attendance has been steady. Noah Sampognaro will be the new Monroe chapter president. The Annual Skeet Shoot will be on May 3 at Wild Wings. Sponsorships were at a record high this year. The chapter has increased their endowment for scholarships.

j. New Orleans Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 534 members. Hosted an engineering forum for local high school students to spread the word about LES. The director of New Orleans public works, Rick Hathaway, presented at the previous chapter meeting in March. The upcoming April meeting will host Sergio Girau who will present on ethics. The Annual Chapter Golf Tournament will be held on October 31, 2025. The final chapter meeting for this year will be held in May and will be a joint meeting with IEEE.

k. Shreveport Chapter Report – Report was given. Currently has 124 members. It has been a profitable year. $2,600 has been raised in Sponsorship. April 16 chapter meeting will host a representative from Contech that will present on bridge and culvert technologies. This was the first year that the Shreveport chapter has had a scholarship program, and it has turned out to be successful. The chapter has been able to communicate with local high schools about the scholarship and their applications will close on April 18 and five scholarships will be distributed.

l. PEC Update – No report given.

m. PEE Update – Reggie Jeter and ViJay Gopu are the PEE representatives on the LAPELS at this time. Reggie Jeter will be rolling off the board this year. Nominations for his replacement have been submitted to the Governor's office, but there has been no update.

n. PEG Update –There is a PEG vacancy that names will have to be submitted for. The following names have been put forward to submit to the governor's office: Patrick Furlong, PE, Eric Hudson, PE, and Eric Tillstrom, PE. A question was raised about all of the names being submitted are from North Louisiana and if more names needed to be put forward. The board had no issues with this.

A motion was made by Kimberly McDaniel to submit the following names to the governor's office for the LAPELS Board PEG vacancy: Patick Furlong, PE, Eric Hudson, PE, and Eric Tillstrom, PE. The motion was seconded by Kevin Hurtt. The motion passed unanimously.

o. PEI Update – No report given.

p. PEPP Update – PEPP representative, Byron Racca, will be rolling off of the LAPELS board in 2026, so LES will work with ACEC to compile names to submit to the governor's office.

- State Mathcounts update – There was a behavioral incident at this year's Mathcounts competition. Due to this event, a disciplinary policy will have to be written for future years. A discussion took place about whether LES insurance covers events such as Mathcounts. Mary Claire will ask the insurance agent about this and report back.

12. Announcements
    a. The next LES Board of Direction meeting is scheduled for **June 6 2025, in Baton Rouge, LA at GEC and will include all outgoing and incoming board members.**

13. Adjournment – **A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 PM.**

Executive Director's Report

June 6, 2025

JESC 2026 – Important Notes

Please be aware that the dates for JESC 2024 will be March 4-5, 2026. The conference will be held again at the Cajundome in Lafayette, LA. Please book your room at the Hilton Garden Inn as early as possible using the code LESC26. Once registration is open, the hotel may book up quickly.

Logo Update

Please ensure that your chapter uses the new logos in all communication and materials. This includes newsletters and email signatures. The state office is working on a newsletter template for each chapter to utilize if they so wish.

LES Apparel Store

We can run an apparel store through MembershipWorks for the state as well as the chapters. We are exploring options of what that can look like in practice and are seeking advice from the Board on preferences.

Moving and Office Inventory

We are scheduled to move into our new space on July 1. We are working to schedule the logistics of the move, especially to ensure we have internet upon arrival (for us and our tenants).

We have researched the costs of digitizing the photos and historical records in our office that we couldn't scan. The price to do it all was around $20,000. We plan to bring all of these items and records to our new space and will explore the possibility of digitization in phases in future years.

Other moving costs to consider: downsizing our phones/phone lines, installing a video camera doorbell, setup of alarm system, mounted lockable outdoor mailbox, key access for tenants (possible mag lock access), exterior signage, relocating the copy machine, postage for mailing plaques in our current space, and moving expenses (U-Haul and boxes).

We have also discussed purchasing an Owl camera for board meetings, given that we have seen an uptick in virtual participation. These run around $1,000, and LBOPG and LSPS have also expressed interest in utilizing this tech. LES can purchase the camera outright and rent it to these other organizations as needed, or we can look at splitting the expense three ways.

We also need to make a plan for the following items:

- Various plaques related to donations to the building
- Plaques commemorating spaces in LES's previous office on Nicholson Drive
- Bricks in the courtyard (and if we remove the bricks, something to replace them)
- The time capsule in the wall of the conference room
- Board photos and signage around the conference room
- Unlabeled photos from various LES events over the past several decades
- Meeting minute books from 1897 onward

New Officer Training

We will be hosting a virtual training for all new officers of the LES Board in July. It will be a brief but thorough thirty-minute call, and we will be reaching out to schedule it following the June Board meeting.

Annual Reporting

Each year, the chapters have to provide an annual report, separate from their financial reports, to the Board and the State Office detailing the activities of their chapter throughout the year. These reports, largely, go unreviewed after being submitted. Beginning in 2025-2026, the State Office is proposing that we compile these reports and publish them online for members to review.

Membership Update:

As of June 1, 2025, we have 2,120 members:

- New Licensees (LAPELS) – 528
- PEs – 1,186
- EIs - 477
- Governmental Employees - 17
- Life Members – 238
- Corporate Sustaining Members (Business Card Ads) – 77
- Individual Sustaining Members - 27
- Honorary Members - 6
- Student Members – 92

Last year, as of June 1, 2024, we had 2,085 members.