

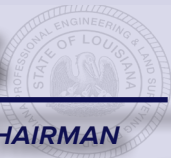
LOUISIANA ENGINEER & SURVEYOR JOURNAL



MAY 2026 - VOL. 29 NO. 2

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CLINTON C. PATRICK, PE, PLS

President
Louisiana Engineering Society
2026-2027



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Mary Claire Ruckert, Managing Editor

The Louisiana Engineering Society, the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board, and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana do not guarantee the accuracy of statements made or necessarily concur with opinions expressed in the publication.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

JANICE POPLIN WILLIAMS, PE CHAIRMAN, LAPELS



Janice Poplin Williams, PE
LAPELS Chairman

I would like to start this message with the acknowledgement of what an honor and privilege it is to serve on the Board and now as the chair. I want to recognize the dedicated professionals who have preceded me in this role. I have tremendous respect and admiration for those who have come before as well as the members I am currently serving with. I am humbled to report that service on this board was a career goal I set for myself many years ago and never really expected that it would happen. I had applied twice before I retired from DOD, was not selected and assumed it wasn't going to happen. I must recognize the late Ali Mustapha, P.E., for talking me into applying the third time, which seems to have been the charm. I have enjoyed my time serving as one of two members representing government engineers.

As a 2nd generation licensed professional engineer, I gained an early appreciation for what a professional engineer's stamp meant and how it was to be used. This experience was the result of two unsupervised children (my sister, age 5 and I, age 7) with access to a stamp and stamp pad in my father's office while he was using the mimeograph machine in the Civil Engineering Department office in Atkinson Hall at LSU. For those not familiar with the campus, Atkinson Hall is at the opposite end of the quadrangle from the former location of the Middleton Library. As we continued to be unsupervised after we found the stamp, we proceeded to use it and the stamp pad generously on the paper airplanes we had folded. Then, since we had run out of things to do in Dr. Poplin's office, we headed to the balcony with our stamped paper airplanes and proceeded to launch test flights from the 2nd floor balcony out into the quad. At some point, our aviation efforts were discovered when the Department Chair handed one of the stamped planes that he found on the ground to my dad. My parents have both been gone a long time, so I don't know the circumstances which led to him having my sister and I in his office. I also don't remember that ever happening again after this incident. But he made it very clear to us (me, in particular, as the elder) that an engineer's stamp is precious and only to be used by the owner as well as lots of

other things he had to say. He was livid and it made an impression on me. Needless to say, when I became licensed, I never left my stamp where unsupervised children could get hold of it.

I tell that story because, certainly at 7 years old I had no idea that I would eventually be a practicing engineer with my own stamp to hold precious and use responsibly. I expect most of our licensees hold the responsibility of being a licensed professional engineer or surveyor as a sacred duty and use their stamp with all the gravitas it deserves.

As our profession has transitioned to the digital world with electronic stamps and signatures, there is much less chance of a wayward child stamping paper airplanes. However, as the use of artificial intelligence grows and bad actors become increasingly clever, I caution that our profession must also increase vigilance and protection of our stamp and signature to prevent misuse, abuse, and/or theft of our credentials. Additionally, we need to pass this respect and care of the use of stamps along to the next generation as they come on board. Hopefully, not in the way my dad did regarding the paper airplanes but in a way that sticks, none the less.

I am happy to report that as a board, it is rare that we have disciplinary actions each year that are due to malpractice, plan stamping, or other serious infractions involving misuse of a stamp. Generally, the infractions are due to failure to renew a license and continuing to practice anyway. As a board we take such instances seriously, as you will see in the board investigators report each quarter.

I will conclude with recognition of the passing of Ara Arman, P.E. in January. He is a former member of the LAPELS board who served from 1988-1993. I received my license in July 1990, and Mr. Arman was the Chairman who signed my license. He will be missed.

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www.lapels.com

LAPELS

LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD – A LOOK BACK AT MY FIRST YEAR

BYRON E. TRUST, PE



Byron E. Trust, PE
LAPELS Board Member

Most engineers don't spend much time thinking about LAPELS...until they have to.

During my first year on the LAPELS Board, I've learned a great deal about the rules and regulations that govern us as licensed engineers in Louisiana. There's a lot that I knew going in, a lot that I didn't know, and a lot that I had taken for granted.

The LAPELS Board of Directors is made up of nine licensed engineers and two licensed land surveyors. The Board members are classified into the following categories:

- Construction – 1 Representative
- Education – 2 Representatives
- Government Sector – 2 Representatives
- Industry – 2 Representatives
- Private Practice – 2 Representatives
- Surveying – 2 Representatives

This makeup gives the Board the versatility needed to address issues across the ever-changing fields of engineering and land surveying. The Board, along with the LAPELS Executive Director, Assistant Director, legal, and technical staff, works to keep Louisiana's licensed engineers and land surveyors informed. Our group addresses rule changes, continuing education, state and federal legislation, ethics, fraud, and public awareness.

What I didn't fully appreciate coming onto the Board was how much the LAPELS staff does behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly. Here are a few examples of what the staff handles on a daily basis:

• License Applications

Each license application requires an extensive review by one of the LAPELS analysts. Applicants must submit the standard form, references, work history, transcripts, and complete two online quizzes. While that may seem like a lot, it doesn't compare to the work behind the scenes.

The analyst reviews everything submitted to ensure all requirements are met. This often involves multiple communications with the applicant to clarify and confirm information. Employment history must be verified, and education requirements must be confirmed through transcript review.

All of this is compiled into a license application package, which can range anywhere from 40 to 100 pages, and is then reviewed by the Executive Director and/or the Deputy Executive Director before moving forward.

• Board Review Process

The analyst submits the application package to two Board members for review and approval. The analyst works with those Board members to address any questions that arise during the review process. This may involve additional communication with the applicant, employment verifiers, and references.

Once a determination is made and the application is approved, the process moves back to the Licensing

Manager for notification to the applicant. If the application is not approved, the analyst notifies the applicant

• CPD Audits and Enforcement

The enforcement team handles its own set of challenges. Something as straightforward as reviewing a submitted CPD log can become time-consuming depending on how it's prepared.

Each CPD log should include a clear listing of hours along with supporting documentation for each entry. When logs are organized and complete, the review process is much more efficient. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. The more thorough and organized your CPD submissions are, the easier they are to process, which results in a quicker turnaround.

• Complaints and Violations

Our enforcement agents also handle complaints and potential violations of Louisiana rules and statutes. Investigating and reviewing these matters is a labor-intensive process, and in some cases, a single complaint can take years to fully resolve.

• Information Technology and Support

Our IT group plays a critical role in keeping everything running. They have been heavily involved in the rollout of LOLA.com, the user interface associated with your Louisiana license. Coordinating these systems is an ongoing effort.

In addition, the webinars provided by LAPELS for continuing education require multiple IT personnel working behind the scenes to ensure a smooth experience and timely delivery of participation certificates.

I share all of this to give credit where it's due, to the LAPELS staff that works hard every day to support both the Board and the engineering and surveying community. Their efforts often go unnoticed, but they are essential to keeping everything running.

The next time you are contacted during a CPD audit or waiting on a response, keep in mind the volume of work being handled behind the scenes. The more complete and organized your submissions are, whether it's an application or a CPD log, the smoother the process will be for everyone involved.

Most engineers don't spend much time thinking about LAPELS...until they have to. When that time comes, it's worth understanding what goes on behind the scenes to keep everything between the lines.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT

**KERINIQUE CAINES
BOARD INVESTIGATOR**



**Kerinique Caines
Board Investigator**

UNLICENSED OFFER AND/OR PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING OR LAND SURVEYING:

Code Red Consultants LLC, an unlicensed firm which subsequently became licensed as a professional engineering firm effective August 27, 2025 (EF-8127), was subject to enforcement action by the Board for practicing and/or offering to practice as an engineering firm in Louisiana without proper licensure in violation of La. R.S. 37:681 and La. R.S. 37:700(A)(1) and (9), to wit LAC Title 46:LXI§2301(B). Between August 21, 2023 and March 25, 2025 the firm admittedly offered to provide and provided engineering services on 2 projects in Louisiana without proper licensure. The firm has entered into a Consent Order with the Board, wherein it admitted to the referenced violations and agreed to pay a fine of \$6,000; to pay administrative costs of \$263.54; and to the publication of the Consent Order on the Board's website, the printing of a summary of this matter identifying Respondent by name in the Board's official Journal, and the reporting of this matter to NCEES, identifying Respondent by name.

FUTURE LAPELS BOARD MEETING DATES

Monday, June 1, 2026

Monday, September 14, 2026

Monday, July 20, 2026

Monday, November 9, 2026

NEWLY CERTIFIED & LICENSED • JANUARY 1 - MARCH 31, 2026

LAND SURVEYING INTERNS

Collins, Logan, LSI
Desselle, Joel, LSI
Enlund, Madison, LSI
Layssard, Evan, LSI
Melancon, Michael, LSI
Naquin, Seth, LSI

PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

Burklund, Austin, PLS
Hanks, Taren, PLS
Herpin, Stephen, PLS
Orgeron, Ty, PLS
Parsell, Dana, PLS
Roel, Christopher, PLS
Scott, Dakota, PLS
Vial, Leon, PLS

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Corbeau LLC, VF
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., VF
Phasor USA, LLC, VF
Primoris Pipeline, Inc., VF
S&E Engineers PLLC, VF
Twin G Consulting LLC, VF
Universal Surveying and Mapping, LLC, VF

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Abedel Majid , Marah, EI
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Aldash, Ayham, EI
Allen, Dalton, EI
Alley, Michael, EI
Beck, Branden, EI
Bellon, Zane, EI
Bernard, Andre, EI
Biggs, Miles, EI
Bolyer, Jonathan, EI
Bregman, Martijn, EI
Burns, Lilli, EI
Burton, Travis, EI
Cagnolatti, Kevin, EI
Cedotal, Victoria, EI
Chaplain, Benjamin, EI
Chassaignac, Robert, EI
Chatham, Eli, EI
Chowdhury, Aniruddha, EI
Courcelle, Matthew, EI
Deshotel, Tucker, EI
Dionne, Caitlyn, EI
Dismer, Nicholas, EI
Dupree, Ian, EI
East, Joseph, EI
Ebrahim, Zina, EI
Emerson, Mark, EI
Evans, Daniel, EI
Fuhrmeister, Gillian, EI
Gautreau, Bo, EI
Gomez, Corbin, EI

Graham, Sarah, EI
Grishman, Adam, EI
Hebert, Nicholas, EI
Hidalgo, William, EI
Hummel, Alyssa, EI
Hunt, Ethan, EI
Jarquin, Eduardo, EI
Johnson, Caroline, EI
Johnson , Kaitlyn, EI
Johnson, William, EI
Kameshwar, Sabarethinam, EI
Khadka, Aayush, EI
Khonsari, Maxwell, EI
Lacour, Samuel, EI
LeBlanc, John, EI
Lee, Julian, EI
Leon, Julian, EI
Levron, Sara, EI
Lindsay, Travis, EI
Liner, Dylan, EI
Lout, Nicholas, EI
Mancuso, William, EI
McKinney, Trent, EI
McMahon, Caitlin, EI
Medina, Joshua, EI
Pedarla, Madhusudanarao, EI
Poudel, Bipul, EI
Rester, Jacob, EI
Reyes Gonzalez, Benjamin, EI
Robert, Jared, EI
Ros, Melanie, EI
Santiago, Javier, EI
Sarmini, Omar, EI

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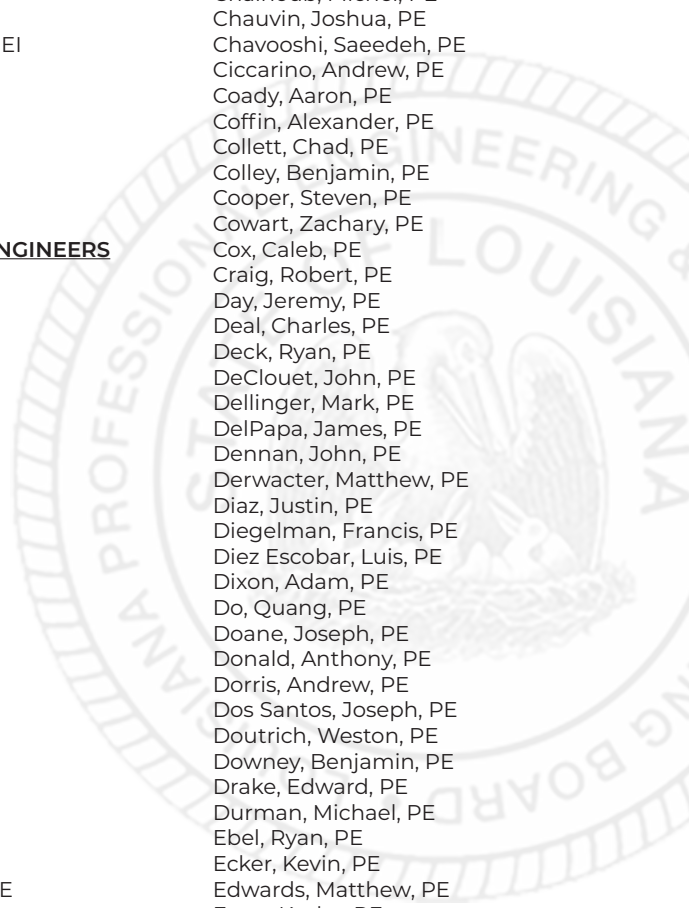
Schexnayder, Ryan, EI
 Schultz, Cooper, EI
 Schultz, Joshua, EI
 Smith, Justin, EI
 Splane, William, EI
 Stark, Cody, EI
 Thompson, Alaina, EI
 Tran, Peter, EI
 Traxler, Kelsey, EI
 Trotman, Sean, EI
 Utley, Austin, EI
 Waldron, Lucas, EI
 Walker, India, EI
 Wallace, Pamela, EI
 Wang, Xiangjie, EI
 Washington, Clark, EI
 Weatherford, Johnathan, EI
 Wenck, Brennan, EI
 Wills, Taj, EI
 Wilson, Peyton, EI
 Wolff, Brandon, EI
 Zullo, Joshua, EI

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Abu Al-eis, Khader, PE
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 Adcock, Joe, PE
 Al-Zubaidi, Ahmed, PE
 Algje, Alexandra, PE
 Ali, Anm Asad, PE
 Allana , Karim, PE
 Allicock, Dion, PE
 Alvarez-Ruiz, Mariann, PE
 Amiri Razavian, Amir, PE
 Ande, Mengisteab, PE
 Apenlis, Joshua, PE
 Ardoin, Conner, PE
 Arevalo, Osvaldo, PE
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 Badour, Myles, PE
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 Baumgartner, Timothy, PE
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 Bedell, Tiffany, PE
 Beery, John, PE
 Bennett, Brent, PE
 Bennett, Jordan, PE
 Bennett, Justin, PE
 Benoit, Seth, PE
 Bentivegna, Anthony, PE
 Berryhill, Joshua, PE
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 Bettis, Graham, PE
 Binkley, Michael, PE
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 Bouchareune, Steven, PE
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Bravante, Thomas, PE
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 Carr, Wade, PE
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 Chauvin, Joshua, PE
 Chavooshi, Saeedeh, PE
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 Collett, Chad, PE
 Colley, Benjamin, PE
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 Craig, Robert, PE
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 Dellinger, Mark, PE
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 Diegelman, Francis, PE
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 Donald, Anthony, PE
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 Graham, Zachary, PE
 Grass, Nicholas, PE
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 Guerin, Eric, PE
 Guha, Sanchita, PE
 Guillotte, Macie, PE
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 Heyl, John, PE
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 Hoang, Nguyen-Vu, PE
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 Huang, Chester, PE
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 Hudlow, Levi, PE
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 Judge, Michael, PE
 Jun, Je Gil, PE
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 LeBlanc, Matthew, PE
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 Maier, Marysa, PE
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 REI Utility Services LLC
 Ricau Engineering Group, LLC
 Salas O'Brien Consulting and Engineering
 Group of New York, Inc.
 Shaw USA, LLC
 SITESPAN LLC

SMG Engineering, LLC
 Stewart Engineering Group, Inc.
 Structural Edge Engineering PLLC
 Tecnimont USA Inc.
 Tectonics Design Group INC
 Terrell Engineering Consultants, P.A. (CO)
 Timberlab, Inc.
 Tower Pinkster Titus Associates, Inc.
 United Sign Engineering LLC
 Universal Surveying and Mapping, LLC
 Velocity Engineering, LLC
 VIP Engineering, PLLC
 WC2 ENGINEERING S.C. INC

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND FIRMS THAT EXPIRED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025. IF THIS IS NOT CORRECT, PLEASE CONTACT US AT CANDE@LAPELS.COM

LAND SURVEYING INTERNS

Ward, Jared (LSI.0000764)

PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

Bernard, Thomas (PLS.0000614)
 Fazekas, David (PLS.0004755)
 Flettrich, Alvin (PLS.0004073)
 Gardner, William (PLS.0004972)
 Henderson, George
 (PLS.0001854)
 Lanier, Eric (PLS.0004684)
 Scheinuk, Arthur (PLS.0003365)
 Smith, Walter (PLS.0004439)

SURVEYING FIRMS

Gulf Coast Land Solutions, LLC
 (VF.0000861)
 Premier Engineering &
 Surveying, Inc. (VF.0000576)
 Republic National, Inc.
 (VF.0000708)
 Texas Professional Surveying,
 L.L.C. (VF.0000891)

ENGINEER INTERNS

Abbott, Brandon (EI.0034820)
 Aguilard, Allen (EI.0031062)
 Al-Busaidi, Bil Arab (EI.0035457)
 Albritton, Joel (EI.0035344)
 Aldridge, Hayden (EI.0034905)
 Ashkar, Karl (EI.0034050)
 Bergeron, Emily (EI.0016300)
 Bezerra Neto, Rafael (EI.0036010)
 Bonin, Zachary (EI.0032449)
 Bossley, Gerald (EI.0012015)
 Bowers, Clay (EI.0035949)
 Capdeville, Colby (EI.0034881)
 Cassidy, Bernadette (EI.0016527)
 Chiasson, Matthew (EI.0020909)
 Davis, Austin (EI.0034785)
 Dennis, Mason (EI.0033218)
 Deshotels, Noah (EI.0036009)
 Dreher, Cameron (EI.0035725)
 Dugas, Tyler (EI.0031514)
 Faulkner, Quentin (EI.0035998)
 Forrest, Andrea (EI.0019902)
 Fradella, Rachel (EI.0031447)
 Gottschalk, Andreas (EI.0020764)

Guevara, Victor (EI.0035958)
 Hadizadeh Purbasti, Mohammad
 (EI.0036092)
 Hardy, Jake (EI.0032968)
 Hasten, Patti (EI.0034884)
 Henderson, Charles (EI.0001032)
 Hufft, Raymond (EI.0034781)
 Jackson, Barry (EI.0035452)
 Jacobs, Marvin (EI.0035378)
 Kelly, Jamie (EI.0030474)
 Khan, Falak (EI.0036037)
 Kipp, Cy (EI.0034750)
 Knighten, William (EI.0035380)
 Laughlin, Noah (EI.0035968)
 Le, Johnny (EI.0035961)
 LeBlanc, Anthony (EI.0033288)
 Leger, Jade (EI.0034013)
 Leon Wong, Alejandro
 (EI.0036045)

Lewis, Brandon (EI.0034851)
 Lopez, Nicholas (EI.0035947)
 Maharjan, Binod (EI.0029633)
 Mahdi, Moinul (EI.0035366)
 Meadows, Luke (EI.0036051)
 Metcalf, Austin (EI.0035481)
 Miller, Kajun (EI.0035424)
 Munoz, David (EI.0033988)
 Murray, Kenneth (EI.0035406)
 Muse, Khai (EI.0034786)
 Nguyen, Thien (EI.0035713)
 Pankey, William (EI.0035960)
 Pennington, Zachary
 (EI.0029638)
 Poirrier, Devin (EI.0031499)
 Ponville, Robert (EI.0028116)
 Potter, Robert (EI.0031537)
 Price, Ernest (EI.0020896)
 Protti, Hunter (EI.0034977)
 Rabalais, Christian (EI.0035369)
 Rewerts, Jay (EI.0031451)
 Roland, Robert (EI.0031010)
 Roussel, Christopher
 (EI.0035425)
 Ruiz, Andrew (EI.0035383)
 Russell, Nicholas (EI.0036065)
 Sadiq, Muhammad Rehan
 (EI.0035445)
 Sampite, Ryan (EI.0036005)
 Sass, Baylen (EI.0035735)
 Shapiro, Benjamin (EI.0035499)
 Shipley, Brian (EI.0030413)
 Sievenpiper, Laura-Briana
 (EI.0034783)
 Soileau, Maximillian (EI.0034805)

St. Martin, Richard (EI.0036019)
 Sternberger, Edwin (EI.0034825)
 Tetreau, Adam (EI.0034430)
 Thompson, Jean Pierre
 (EI.0035373)
 Touchard, Lacyn (EI.0034048)
 Tungkahotara, Siroj (EI.0029531)
 Villarroel-Rojas, Javier
 (EI.0030255)
 Winterberger, Karla (EI.0033639)
 Zakharov, Daniil (EI.0036018)

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Abboud, Gordon (PE.0039411)
 Aillet, Richard (PE.0020065)
 Al-Bustami, Haytham
 (PE.0039412)
 Alexander, Elaine (PE.0024400)
 Alexander, Stephen (PE.0034973)
 Alvarado, Sandra (PE.0045379)
 Anderson, Shawn (PE.0028942)
 Ardelean, Robert (PE.0031669)
 Arrington, Mark (PE.0039653)
 Auld, Bernie (PE.0030601)
 Babb, James (PE.0037979)
 Bachman, Thomas (PE.0039741)
 Bansal, Anshul (PE.0050189)
 Banta, Garrett (PE.0047604)
 Barbe', Donald (PE.0016993)
 Barron, James (PE.0037859)
 Beck, Paul (PE.0039603)
 Bellemare, Simon (PE.0036151)
 Bernard, William (PE.0013534)
 Bess, David (PE.0034646)
 Beye, Gregory (PE.0049679)
 Bilderbeck, Michael
 (PE.0022948)
 Bishop, Henry (PE.0026546)
 Bixler, William (PE.0047901)
 Bloom, Michael (PE.0027214)
 Bohlen, William (PE.0033834)
 Borzok, Michael (PE.0047725)
 Boyd, Richard (PE.0037914)
 Braun, Ian (PE.0047955)
 Breaux, Maria (PE.0025264)
 Burrows, Gregory (PE.0028366)
 Byndas Prakhov, Jacqueline
 (PE.0045232)
 Caldwell, Marvin (PE.0045612)
 Callahan, Matthew (PE.0043358)
 Canaday, Andrew (PE.0047902)
 Cano, Marco (PE.0043243)
 Cantrelle, Jude (PE.0039429)

Carroll, Donald (PE.0041742)
 Carter, Ronald (PE.0036164)
 Castlow, Cynthia (PE.0039620)
 Castleberry, Benjamin
 (PE.0038044)
 Catalfomo, Anthony
 (PE.0045324)
 Clark, Matthew (PE.0031717)
 Codling, James (PE.0050097)
 Coffey, Martin (PE.0027466)
 Coira, Christopher (PE.0045222)
 Cole, Kelly (PE.0034483)
 Cook, Jack (PE.0034622)
 Cook, Stephen (PE.0047565)
 Copeland, Andrew (PE.0041738)
 Covington, Andrew (PE.0026307)
 Crawford, Dale (PE.0020766)
 Cretini, Gus (PE.0026397)
 Cullens, Matthew (PE.0047802)
 Cunningham, Daniel
 (PE.0043437)
 Currier, Jonathan (PE.0026894)
 Curto, Victoria (PE.0041774)
 Daley, Patrick (PE.0047526)
 Das, Tridib (PE.0047600)
 Davidow, Steven (PE.0041621)
 Davis, Charles (PE.0041450)
 Dawson, Susanne (PE.0031661)
 deBarros, Gerry (PE.0021423)
 deGeneres, David (PE.0049750)
 DeMatteis, Skylar (PE.0047581)
 Devereux, James (PE.0027373)
 Ding, Yongcong (PE.0041775)
 Dirbaz, Mojtaba (PE.0041608)
 Dorward, Martin (PE.0028597)
 Douglas, Dustin (PE.0043438)
 Edmundson, Paul (PE.0029332)
 Ellingson, Kevin (PE.0049871)
 Elmendorf, Jeffrey (PE.0039789)
 Emmons, Scott (PE.0035663)
 Etemadi, Napelon (PE.0030845)
 Faiola, Joseph (PE.0048039)
 Fandozzi, Andrew (PE.0039723)
 Farlow, Thomas (PE.0033192)
 Farmer, Michial (PE.0036115)
 Fincher, Richard (PE.0043209)
 Fletcher, Chad (PE.0047481)
 Flettrich, Alvin (PE.0012516)
 Fort, Michael (PE.0013656)
 Fowler, Michael (PE.0038176)
 Fruchtbach, Joseph
 (PE.0024312)
 Gajbihiye, Yash (PE.0043289)
 Gallegos, Frank (PE.0041505)

THE WORKFORCE SQUEEZE: A PROFITABILITY PROBLEM IN DISGUISE



Barker Dirmann
President and CEO
ACEC of Louisiana

Louisiana's engineering industry is facing a workforce challenge that extends beyond hiring, it is a business issue. Today's profitability issues are directly impacting workforce development, operational efficiency, and long-term sustainability.

Demand for engineering services has rarely been stronger. Infrastructure investment, industrial growth, and public-sector programs continue to drive a steady pipeline of work.

Yet, despite increased demand, many firms are not seeing improved profitability. In some cases, margins have remained flat or even declined.

At the same time, competing industries such as technology, construction and energy are expanding margins and increasing compensation. These industries can offer higher salaries, larger bonuses, and more flexibility, pulling talent away from engineering at every level. Graduates are choosing alternative paths, early-career engineers are leaving, and experienced professionals are being recruited into higher-paying sectors, leaving engineering firms competing in a market where their ability to respond is constrained.

Why Engineering Firms Are Feeling the Pressure

Engineering firms operate within a business model shaped by external constraints. Revenue is tied to project-based work, often governed by public procurement practices that limit flexibility. Here are some of the compensation issues firms are facing:

- Fixed compensation structures that do not adjust to rising labor costs
- Fee pressure where price is introduced too early
- Increasing project complexity without proportional fees
- Contractual risk provisions that strain financial performance

In this environment, firms are being asked to do more while earning less. The inability to adjust compensation in line with market conditions makes it difficult to attract and retain talent, reinforcing the workforce shortage.

The Middle Gap

The most critical squeeze is in the mid-level professionals with 10 to 15 years of experience who manage projects, mentor staff, and maintain client relationships. As this group thins, firms experience:

- Fewer experienced project managers
- Senior leaders pulled into execution roles
- Reduced mentorship for junior staff
- Delays and inefficiencies in project delivery

This "middle gap" directly impacts profitability. Without a strong mid-level bench, firms lose efficiency, stretch resources, and reduce their ability to scale.

The workforce crisis is not just about talent...it's about the sustainability of the engineering business model. The profession must continue to fight against commoditization trends we are experiencing and continue to raise the tide for all firms. Increasing profitability will be critical to ensure firms can recruit and retain the qualified professionals necessary to design the infrastructure Louisiana depends on.

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PRESIDENTIAL PRIVILEGE

GAVIN P. GAUTREAU, PE
LES PRESIDENT



Gavin P. Gautreau, PE
LES President 2025-2026

It has truly been an honor to serve as the 128th State President of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) during this past year. There are so many people to thank for their support and contributions. Here are a just a few:

- LES Board (Officers, Chapter Presidents, Practice Division Reps, NSPE, etc.)
- LES Executive Director, Mary Claire Ruckert, and LES Assistant Director, Alexa Broussard
- LES Legislative Committee Chair, Miles Williams, P.E., and LES Lobbyist, Haynie & Associates
- LES Volunteers (JESC, MATHCOUNTS, etc.)
- LES Members (Engineers across Louisiana of all disciplines of Engineering)
- LES Sponsors – We appreciate all your support on State and local levels
- LES Partner organizations (LAPELS, LSPS, LPBOG, ACEC, etc.)
- Family (Alyssa, Griffin, Bonnie, and Glynn Gautreau)
- The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)
- The Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC)

There were some big events this year. The [Louisiana Engineering Foundation \(LEF\)](#) building was sold and LES found a new work space shared with the [Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors \(LSPS\)](#) and the [Louisiana Professional Board of Geoscientists \(LPBOG\)](#). The proceeds from the LEF building sale should open up more scholarship opportunities to future Engineers. The 2026 Joint Engineering Societies Conference ([JESC](#)) was well attended and extremely successful, and we hosted another successful State MATHCOUNTS competition. We also honored fellow Engineers at the annual Honors and Awards Banquet.

LES continues to serve its members in a variety of ways. One important way is to follow legislation that may affect Licensure and the practice of Engineering in Louisiana. LES supports members through the employ of legislative lobbyists to help ensure the competent practice of Engineering in Louisiana to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

This year, I enjoyed attending a meeting at each [Chapter](#), especially knowing that we, as a Society, share the same values. I learned some new skills via their presentations, met some new engineering friends, and found some new specialty (butcher) grocery stores across Louisiana, along the way. Networking through monthly chapter lunch meetings can help young Engineers meet their next employer. Continuing education events like chapter meetings, the Joint Engineering Societies Conference (JESC), and the [LES CPD Library](#) help Engineers meet licensure requirements and learn new skills. More-seasoned engineers may find their next employee, job connection, and/or an opportunity to reminisce with colleagues.

As an Engineer I (we) choose to live by the [Engineers Creed](#). As an Eagle Scout, I continue to live my life according to the [Scout Oath and Law](#). In addition to these core principles, I recently heard three other admirable traits on a podcast. (unfortunately, I cannot remember which) that I appreciate, and hope you will too. Be: Grateful, Happy, and Present. Each day we make choices in both our professional and personal lives. Choices like a lunch spot should be easy, but choosing to volunteer, attend an LES meeting, mentor a young engineer, or make a difficult project decision can be tougher. I choose to share personal and professional energy toward the [Vision and Mission](#) of LES, and the time, friendships, insight, and experiences enrich my life and (hopefully) the lives of others. It is Worth it!

Though my term is ending, I will stay involved through the Board as LES Past-President, and on the LEF Board, where we hope to expand our endowments and scholarships. I will also finish the LEF time capsule display cabinet so it can live on, and be opened by the Engineers of tomorrow in 2098. Locally, I will continue to be active in the Baton Rouge Chapter through the [LES Statewide Golf Tournament](#) (benefitting LEF), the [LES Baton Rouge Chapter Golf Tournament](#), MATHCOUNTS, LES Sporting Clays, LES Socials, and monthly luncheons.

I know we will all do our part to help advance Engineering in Louisiana, and I know LES will thrive under the leadership of Clinton Patrick, P.E. as the 129th President for the 2026-2027 term. Geaux LES!



LES CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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LES

MAY 2026

9-12: National MATHCOUNTS Competition (Orlando, FL)
15: Chapter officers & committee appointments due to State Office

JUNE 2026

1: Legislative session adjourns
5: LEF Board Meeting (Baton Rouge)
5: LES Board Meeting (Baton Rouge)

JULY 2026

15: Deadline for copy, Louisiana Engineer, August issue

LES Vision Statement

The Louisiana Engineering Society is the recognized advocate of all licensed engineers in the state of Louisiana.

LES Mission Statement

The Louisiana Engineering Society serves to advance the engineering profession by:

Encouraging ethical and competent practice through licensure and legislative involvement.

Nurturing public awareness of engineers' contributions to society.

Growing the society through licensure & LES membership and public service.

Recognizing engineering achievements.

Become an LES Sponsor!



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Street, Ste. D
Gonzales, LA
70737
225.532.1406

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Alexandria Chapter

Andrew C. Dressel, PE Member
Samuel John Lacour, EI Member*

Baton Rouge Chapter

Alden (Casey) Allen, PE Member
Abduallah Bayomi, Associate Member
Martijn Cornelis Bregman, EI Member**
Orien Butler, PE Member
Jacques Albert Cancienne, PE Member
Julius Codjoe, Governmental Employee
John Douglas Darnall, PE Member
Robert Degeyter, PE Member
Jarrid Durand, PE Member
Maximilian Ernst, Associate Member
Abbey F. Falcon, PE Member
Jacob Fuslier, PE Member
Jon Gary, Individual Sustaining
Sarah Joy Graham, EI Member*
Nicholas Joseph Grass, PE Member
Nicholas Jude Hebert, EI Member*
Travis Honore, PE Member
Leigh Hoppe, Individual Sustaining
Brian Hugman, PE Member
Sabarethinam Kameshwar, EI Member**
Sanjay Kumar Kalyana Kumar, PE Member
Cody Paul Lauret, EI Member*
Julian Lee, EI Member*
Hugo Antonio Leiva, PE Member
Sara Anne Levron, EI Member*
Catherine Mastin, PE Member
Trent Lee McKinney, EI Member*
Caitlin Marie McMahon, EI Member*
Brice Garth Michel, PE Member
Barry L. Moore, PE Member
Angela Murrell, PE Member
Charles Nickel, PE Member
Christopher Nipper, PE Member
Jorge Emilio Pacheco, PE Member
John Andrew Patterson, PE Member
Madhusudanarao Pedarla, EI Member**
John Rasi, PE Member
Jacob Leon Rester, EI Member**
Jay Richardson, PE Member
Javier Santiago, EI Member*
Ryan Schexnayder, EI Member*
Jacqueline Begue Sheehan-Dean, PE Member
Jesse Shaun Sherron, PE Member
Taniya Sultana, EI Member**
Venu Tammineni, PE Member
Elijah Dylan Taylor, PE Member
Tyler Tullier, Individual Sustaining
Xiangjie Wang, EI Member**
Graham Wilfong, PE Member
Peyton Joseph Wilson, EI Member*

Bayou Chapter

Joseph Charles Joseph, III, PE Member
John Oliver LeBlanc, EI Member*
James Randall Viguerie, PE Member

Lafayette Chapter

Alexander Rabi Ajam, PE Member

Conner R. Ardoin, PE Member
Seth Benoit, PE Member
Marc Berard, PE Member
Andrew Bienvenu, PE Member
Erin Billeaud, EI Member*
Logan Gregory Blood, PE Member
Matthew James Broussard, PE Member
Brock Cambre, PE Member
Bradley Cooper Castille, PE Member
Michael DeSelle, PE Member
Christopher Brent Domingue, PE Member
Nicholas Jeffery Drozda, EI Member*
John English, Governmental Employee
Madison Claire Terro Enlund, PE Member
Blake Guidry, PE Member
Hannah Guinn, Associate Member
Tedmund D. Habetz, PE Member
Amy Hargroder, PE Member
Zachary Hatch, PE Member
Matthew Louis Hebert, PE Member
William Blake Hidalgo, EI Member*
Ethan Thomas Hunt, EI Member*
Andrew Juneau, PE Member
Jayden Lanning, Associate Member
Edward Scott LeBlanc, PE Member
Dustin Leger, Associate Member
Julian Michael Leon, EI Member*
Dylan Matthew Liner, EI Member*
Daniel Marks, PE Member
Thomas Mizelle, Individual Sustaining
Serwah Yaa Ofosu, Associate Member
Lane Patrick Pourciau, PE Member
Robert G Quirk, III, PE Member
Anna Rozyskie, PE Member
Lea Smith, PE Member
Travis Smith, PE Member
Glen Alan Smith, PE Member
William Michael Splane, EI Member*
Brittany Stanonis, PE Member
Tyson Thevis, PE Member
Ivy Thibodeaux, PE Member
Diep Khac Tran, PE Member
Matthew Vincent, PE Member
India Skye Walker, EI Member*
Adam Webre, Associate Member
Skyler Williams, Individual Sustaining

Lake Charles Chapter

John Ange, PE Member
Jada Brockhoeft, PE Member
Dawson Doucet, Associate Member
Clint Dyke, PE Member
Leigh Fontenot, PE Member
Blake Fontenot, Associate Member
Caleb Fontenot, Associate Member
Benjamin Reyes Gonzalez, EI Member*
Trent Hargrave, PE Member
Samuel Cappel, Associate Member
Logan Loftin, Associate Member
Andres Maldonado, Associate Member
Bryan McReynolds, PE Member
Jade Miller, PE Member
Matthew Morris, PE Member

Shalin Mulligan, PE Member
Heather M. Powers, Associate Member
Madison Reid, Associate Member
Mitchell Sewell, PE Member
Leroy Skellham, PE Member

Kristin Stanley, Associate Member
David Trisler, Associate Member

Monroe Chapter

Branden Keith Beck, EI Member*
Aniruddha Chowdhury, EI Member**
Nicholas John Dismar, EI Member*
Michelle Hamley Howington, PE Member
Lance Delane Mulhearn, PE Member
Colby Rybicki, PE Member
Joey Smith, PE Member
Justin Rylan Smith, EI Member*
Cody Stark, EI Member**

New Orleans Chapter

Ayham Aldash, EI Member*
Dalton Caleb Allen, EI Member**
Michael George Alley, EI Member*
Munir Al-Tamimi, EI Member*
Callie Baker, PE Member
Andre Denison Bernard, EI Member*
Miles Monroe Biggs, II, EI Member*
Max Bodin, PE Member
Austin Marcellus Burke, EI Member*
Sean Burkes, PE Member
Lilli Ann Burns, EI Member*
Travis Michael Burton, EI Member*
Benjamin Louis Chaplain, EI Member*
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Matthew Albert Courcelle, EI Member*
Zach Cowart, PE Member
Joseph Dupepe, EI Member*
Ian David Dupree, EI Member*
Joseph Paxton East, EI Member*
Daniel Halphen Evans, Jr., EI Member*
Steven Mark Fall Jr., PE Member
John Foley, PE Member
Gillian Grace Fuhrmeister, EI Member*
Corbin Alexander Gomez, EI Member*
Luis Carlos Heredia, PE Member
Alyssa Angel Hummel, EI Member*
Innocent Ituah, PE Member
Aayush Khadka, EI Member*
Morgan McKissack L'Hoste, PE Member
Justin Loupe, PE Member
Marah Abedel Majid, EI Member*
Chloe McDonald, Associate Member
Payton James McNeil, PE Member
Joshua Manuel Medina, EI Member*
Matthew James Melancon, PE Member
Jenna Necaize, Associate Member
Zion Odia, Associate Member
Bipul Poudel, EI Member**
Barry Reed, PE Member
James V. Reuter, III, PE Member
Carson Joseph Rigol, PE Member
Ryne Anthony Robert, PE Member
Jared Robert, EI Member**

Diego Rodriguez, PE Member
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Cooper Anthony Schultz, EI Member*
Joshua James Schultz, EI Member*
Adam Michael Solino, EI Member**
Brady Alexander Souther, PE Member
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Whitney Taylor Thoms, PE Member
Peter T Tran, EI Member*
Trent J. Varnado, PE Member
Lucas Alexander Waldron, EI Member*
Pamela Schill Wallace, EI Member**
Charles E Williams, PE Member
Brandon Michael Wolff, EI Member*
Joshua Zullo, EI Member*
The Personnel Consulting Group, Corporate Sustaining

Non-Resident Chapter

John Adams, PE Member
Eli Timothy Chatham, EI Member*
Emily Gagnon, Individual Sustaining
Kanan Gojavey, EI Member*
Charles Jordan Smollen, PE Member
John Hughes, Individual Sustaining
Mark Johnson, PE Member
Maxwell Khonsari, EI Member**
Sean Hunter Trotman, EI Member*

Shreveport Chapter

Brandon Alexander Ashlock, EI Member**
Mark Joseph Hall, PE Member
Nolan James Matthews, PE Member
Brandon Smoak, PE Member
Johnathan Henry Weatherford, EI Member*
Taj Tarenz Wills, EI Member*

*Denotes members under 30
**Denotes members over 30



LOUISIANA CAPITOL VIEW

FROM HAYNIE AND ASSOCIATES

LES

Session Update: Midpoint of the 2026 Regular Session

The Louisiana Legislature is near the halfway point of the 2026 Regular Session, which convened on March 9 and must adjourn no later than June 1, 2026. As a general session, lawmakers continue to consider a wide range of policy issues affecting state government, industry, and professional practice, while remaining constitutionally prohibited from advancing new taxes or increasing existing state taxes.

Bill Introductions Complete; LES Monitoring Activity

Bill introduction deadlines have now passed, and the full scope of legislation for the session is set. A total of **1,241 House bills and 523 Senate bills** have been filed, reflecting a typical high-volume general session.

The Louisiana Engineering Society Legislative Committee has been actively reviewing legislation and monitoring developments as bills move through the committee process. At this time, there are **no bills of major concern to LES**, but we remain engaged and prepared to notify membership should any issues arise requiring outreach to lawmakers.

Budget Advances to the Senate; Key Decisions Ahead

The Legislature has made early progress on the state budget. **House Bill 1 (general appropriations), House Bill 2 (capital outlay), and related budget instruments have passed the House** and are expected to be taken up by the Senate in late May.

However, the Senate is not expected to finalize the budget until after two critical events occur: an updated forecast from the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) and the outcome of the upcoming statewide election on constitutional amendments. Both will have a **major impact on available state revenues and overall spending priorities**, making them key drivers of final budget decisions.

REC and Budget Outlook

The Revenue Estimating Conference will play a central role in shaping the final weeks of session by providing the official revenue forecast that determines how much the Legislature is authorized to appropriate. As lawmakers continue to navigate long-term fiscal challenges—including the expiration of temporary revenue measures and broader tax reform efforts—the REC’s projections will be closely watched.

Any changes in the revenue forecast, combined with the outcome of the constitutional amendments election, could significantly influence how the Senate approaches spending levels, capital outlay priorities, and potential adjustments to the budget before final passage.

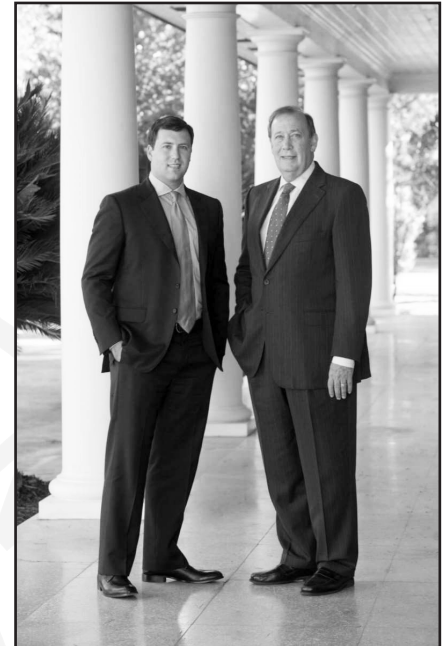
Statewide Election on Constitutional Amendments

Voters will return to the polls on **Saturday, May 16, 2026**, to consider several proposed constitutional amendments supported by the Governor and Legislature. These measures are intended to advance key components of the state’s broader tax reform efforts as well as a teacher pay raise, following the failure of the previous package at the ballot.

While the current proposals take a different approach, they remain an important part of ongoing discussions around modernizing Louisiana’s tax structure and improving long-term fiscal predictability.

Continued Engagement Encouraged

As the session progresses into its final weeks, LES members are encouraged to stay engaged and continue serving as a resource to lawmakers on engineering-related issues. Your expertise remains critical in informing sound policy decisions based on public health and welfare across infrastructure, transportation, and economic development.



Ryan Haynie and Randy Haynie
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CHAPTER UPDATES

Baton Rouge Chapter

Laurence Lambert, PE, PTOE, PTP



Laurence Lambert, PE, PTOE, PTP
Baton Rouge Chapter President



As we begin 2026, the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society continues its commitment to technical excellence, professional recognition, student outreach, and community engagement. The first quarter featured strong collaboration with our peer organizations, successful fundraising and scholarship efforts, and meaningful programming tied to the issues most relevant to our region. Thank you to our members, volunteers, and sponsors for your continued support. I look forward to another productive year serving alongside you.

January Chapter Luncheon

The Baton Rouge Chapter held its January luncheon jointly with the American Public Works Association (APWA) on January 22nd at Drusilla's Restaurant featuring Paul Sawyer of the Amite River Basin Commission. Mr. Sawyer delivered an engaging presentation on regional watershed challenges, flood mitigation initiatives, and ongoing efforts within the Amite River Basin.

The joint luncheon highlighted the importance of cross disciplinary collaboration in addressing infrastructure and water resource issues throughout the Capital Region. The chapter extends its appreciation to Mr. Sawyer and to Drusilla's for hosting.

Student Outreach – MathCounts Tournament

The Baton Rouge Chapter proudly supported the annual MathCounts Tournament, held on February 6th, welcoming 130 middle school students from across the Greater Baton Rouge area. Students competed in rigorous mathematics challenges designed to promote problem solving skills and interest in STEM careers.

MathCounts remains a cornerstone outreach event for LES, helping inspire the next generation of engineers. Thank you to all members and volunteers who contributed to the success of this event.

Engineers Week Celebration

In celebration of National Engineers Week, the Baton Rouge Chapter partnered with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) for a special awards luncheon, held on February 24th, recognizing excellence in the engineering profession.

2026 Baton Rouge Chapter Award Recipients

- Engineer in Management (A. B. Paterson Award): Chad Winchester, PE
- Civic Activities (Andrew M. Lockett Award): Peggy Jo Paine, PE
- Young Engineer (F. Hugh Coughlin Award): Drake Helton, PE
- Technology (James M. Todd Award): Gavin P. Gautreau, PE
- Service to the Profession (Leo M. Odom Award): Rhaoul Guillaume, PE
- Public Relations (Charles M. Kerr Award): Edward Wedge, PE
- President's Award (Vincent A. Forte Award): Kimberly McDaniel, PE



Award recipients and chapter leadership during the 2026 Engineers Week Celebration Luncheon at Ruffino's.

The chapter congratulates all recipients for their outstanding leadership, service, and contributions to engineering in Louisiana.

Engineers Week Social

Engineers Week continued with a social event at Juban's Restaurant on February 26th, offering members and guests an opportunity to connect in a relaxed setting and celebrate the profession.

Young Members Social

The Baton Rouge Chapter hosted a Young Members Social on March 12th at The Bulldog, providing a welcoming environment for early career engineers to network and engage with peers across the industry.

Annual Golf Tournament

The Chapter's annual Golf Tournament was held on March 16th and featured 20 registered teams and successfully raised funds to support the LES Baton Rouge scholarship program. While temperatures were cooler than usual, golfers enjoyed an excellent day on the course. The chapter thanks all sponsors, participants, and volunteers for their continued support of engineering education.

(Continued on next page)

CHAPTER UPDATES

Scholarship Program

The Baton Rouge Chapter awarded four scholarships, each valued at \$1,250, to deserving engineering students. Awards recipients are Amira Hamilton (Southern University), Tashaun Lewis (Southern University), Ethan Long (Louisiana State University), and Jeremiah George (Southern University). These scholarships reflect the Chapter's ongoing investment in the future of the engineering profession.

March Chapter Luncheon

The March luncheon was held on March 26th at Mike Anderson's Seafood featured a technical program recognizing the 10 year anniversary of the 2016 Flood, focusing on research, modeling, and lessons learned. Our speaker was Mr. Dave Ramirez, head hydrologic & hydraulic (H&H) modeler for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Ramirez provided an in depth discussion of advances in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and how data driven approaches continue to improve flood resilience in South Louisiana.

Ethics Session & Crawfish Boil

Join LES and ASCE for an upcoming Ethics Session, featuring crawfish and a professional ethics presentation from Mr. Chris Knotts on May 15th at Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux. Additional details and registration information will be announced soon.

Bayou Chapter

Jacob Prosperie, PE

The Bayou Chapter has scheduled our annual golf tournament fundraiser for Monday, June 8, 2026 at Ellendale Country Club in Houma. This is a four-man scramble tournament with a shotgun start at 12:30 P.M. All proceeds benefit Chapter Scholarships, Mathcounts competitions, and Foundation Grants. All golfers are welcome to participate!

Our next scheduled chapter meetings will be held on Wednesday, May 20th and Wednesday, June 17th. We will be holding an election of officers at our meeting on May 20th. I look forward to seeing everyone at our meetings.



Jacob Prosperie, PE
Bayou Chapter President

Lafayette Chapter

Grant Besse, PE

The Lafayette Chapter has had a strong start to the year, with a variety of technical programs and outreach efforts. In January, we hosted Rudy Simoneaux, Chief Engineer of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), who shared insight into coastal restoration and flood protection initiatives across Louisiana. February included a professional panel hosted at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette moderated by the LES Student Chapter, providing students and professionals an opportunity for meaningful discussion and mentorship. That same month, the Lafayette Chapter supported the local MathCounts competition, which was the largest competition held to date. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make that event such a success. In March, we welcomed George Femmer, CEO of the Drone Institute, who discussed emerging drone technologies and their expanding role in engineering applications.



Grant Besse, PE
Lafayette Chapter President

On April 22, Dr. Tyson Rupnow with the Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC) presented on advancements in 3D printed concrete, an innovative technology with significant implications for future construction and infrastructure projects. In May, we invite members to join us on May 12 for the Joint Societies Crawfish Boil, a longtime favorite that offers an excellent opportunity to network and connect with fellow professionals across multiple engineering organizations.

As we move forward, the Lafayette Chapter is seeking volunteers to serve in leadership roles across the board, including chapter officer positions ranging from Secretary/Treasurer through Vice President. We are also asking for volunteers interested in serving as chapter representatives to LES practice divisions and standing committees. These roles are vital to maintaining an active and effective chapter. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or if you are interested in volunteering. We would greatly appreciate your involvement and support.

CHAPTER UPDATES

Lake Charles Chapter

Kalyn Partin, PE

It's been a bit of a reset-and-reload season for the Lake Charles LES chapter, with a great March meeting and more to come this May. In March, we were honored to host Lake Charles Mayor Marshall Simien, providing a great opportunity to hear directly from him and connect on what's happening locally. His presentation made for a meaningful and well-attended meeting.

We took a short pause in April as we make a few adjustments to enhance the overall meeting experience, and we appreciate everyone's patience as we get things dialed in. We're looking forward to getting back together this month, with our next meeting scheduled for May 21 at the new LNG Center of Excellence, where Jadah Brockhoeft will be giving a presentation on the impacts of the growing LNG industry on local engineering. We're excited to check out the new space and hear what she has to share. As always, we continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, and we hope to see you there.

We're also introducing a new option to purchase local chapter apparel! If you're interested, email leslakecharles@gmail.com to check out catalog options and place an order. Additionally, we'd like to extend another congratulations to Ted Thompson for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award in February. This recognition is well deserved, and we are proud to celebrate his accomplishments. Finally, we want to recognize the outstanding local students who participated in the State MATHCOUNTS competition on March 27. Their dedication and achievements reflect positively on our community, and we are proud to support and highlight their success.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming meetings and continuing to grow together as a chapter.



Kalyn Partin, PE
Lake Charles Chapter President

LES

Monroe Chapter

Noah Sampognaro, PE, LSI

Looking back over the 2025–2026 year as President of the Monroe Chapter of LES, it has been an incredible year. Our monthly meetings have continued to bring our engineering community together for camaraderie and great food. It is always refreshing to see engineers from different backgrounds, disciplines, and companies visiting with one another before the meeting begins. It often takes a few attempts to get everyone's attention to start, which is a good problem to have.

We have been fortunate to host a variety of informative speakers and to step outside of our usual meeting location for a change of scenery. This year's topics have ranged from endangered species and subsurface utility engineering to ethics and new products from industry vendors. We also had the opportunity to learn about construction testing methods through a hands-on lab visit and to tour the new Monroe Water Treatment Plant, where we saw their treatment processes firsthand.

Serving as President has also allowed me to represent our chapter at the state level and participate in State Board Meetings. This experience has reinforced just how important LES is, not only in bringing engineers together as one voice to protect our profession, but also in providing opportunities for individuals to grow in their careers and expand their professional networks.

While we have had a successful year, we are not finished yet and look forward to maintaining this momentum. Our Annual LES Monroe Chapter Skeet Shoot is scheduled for May 8, 2026, at Wild Wings Sporting Club from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This event continues to provide a great opportunity for engineers, contractors, and sponsors from across Louisiana to come together for friendly competition and networking.

We will conclude the year with our May meeting, featuring Taylor Maldonado with StormTrap, who will present on Stormwater Detention and Retention, a topic that is becoming increasingly important in our area as new development continues.

The Monroe Chapter has had a strong year, and we look forward to carrying this momentum into next year. Thank you to our members, presenters, and sponsors for making this year such a success.



Noah Sampognaro, PE, LSI
Monroe Chapter President

CHAPTER UPDATES

LES

New Orleans Chapter

Eric R. Wright, PE

As the New Orleans Chapter wraps up another successful year, I would like to personally thank all our chapter members and board members for giving me the opportunity to serve as your chapter president.

In February we held our annual joint meeting with the Society of Tulane Engineers at Tulane's Yulman Stadium. Dr. Hriday Rajan, the Dean of Tulane's School of Science and Engineering, gave a talk on recent developments in artificial intelligence and its future role in engineering. Then in March, Johann Palacios, President and CEO of PACE Group LLC, discussed virtual design and construction. He highlighted the importance of collaboration between disciplines and being able to streamline the design process through VDC. At our latest meeting in April, we held our annual ethics presentation. This year's ethics discussion was given by Dr. Norma Jean Mattei on influencers vs experts.

Our last general meeting will be held on May 13th and will be our annual joint meeting with IEEE. Kimberly Cook-Nelson, who is the executive vice president and chief operating officer at Entergy, will be giving a presentation on meeting the demands of data centers and industrial load growth.

LES New Orleans also participated in another very successful local MATHCOUNTS competition in February. We would like to thank everyone who donated and volunteered for the event.

As always, we thank you for supporting LES and our New Orleans Chapter!



Eric R. Wright, PE
New Orleans Chapter President

Shreveport Chapter

Luke Haney, PE

The LES Shreveport Chapter has continued its strong momentum in 2026 with a series of well attended and engaging gatherings. On March 19, the chapter hosted a joint Ethics Luncheon presented by Jeff Pike, PE. The luncheon saw excellent attendance, and the presentation was both informative and well received, reinforcing the importance of ethical practice within the engineering profession.

In addition, the April luncheon was held on April 8 and featured a presentation by Coretechs titled "Securing the Future of Engineering." The discussion focused on cybersecurity and the growing need to protect engineering systems and data. The presentation was highly engaging and provided valuable insight into the evolving challenges facing the industry.

The chapter's final meeting of the year before the summer break is scheduled for May 13. Members are encouraged to attend and stay connected before the summer hiatus.

We appreciate the continued support and participation from our members, speakers, and sponsors. The LES Shreveport Chapter looks forward to carrying this energy forward and continuing to provide meaningful opportunities for professional development and networking. Be sure to watch for future announcements and join us at an upcoming luncheon.



Luke Haney, PE
Shreveport Chapter President

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2026 - 2027 PRESIDENT

LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY



Clinton C. Patrick, PE, PLS
Incoming LES President

The Louisiana Engineering Society is proud to introduce Clinton C. Patrick, P.E., P.L.S., as its incoming State President.

Clinton, a Shreveport native now residing in Bossier City, has spent his entire career investing in the communities he calls home. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Louisiana Tech University in 2012 and immediately put that education to work, joining Denmon Engineering in Monroe upon graduation.

Eleven years later, Clinton joined Volkert, Inc., where he now serves as Assistant Vice President overseeing the firm's Bossier City office. He holds dual licensure as both a Professional Engineer and Professional Land Surveyor — a distinction that he does not take lightly.

Over the course of his career, Clinton has built a wide-ranging portfolio spanning nearly every discipline of civil engineering — from wastewater and water treatment facilities, sewer rehabilitation, and statewide flood control projects, to roadway and airport improvements, commercial development, wetland restoration surveying, and the master planning of subdivisions exceeding 400 homes.

Among his most notable roles, Clinton served as Assistant City Engineer for Bossier City for three years, during which he oversaw more than \$100 million in active design and construction projects. His work on landmark projects such as the Jimmie Davis Bridge rehabilitation, Kings Highway Corridor Improvements, and community sports complexes including the Tinsley Sports Complex has left a lasting mark on the infrastructure of northwest Louisiana.

He has served for over a decade in the Society starting at the Monroe Chapter. Through Denmon Engineering, he became involved with the Monroe Chapter in 2012, and by 2015 he had stepped into chapter leadership, serving successively as Secretary/Treasurer, 1st Vice President, and President. During his tenure with the Monroe Chapter, he helped coordinate fundraising efforts that enabled the chapter to fully endow two scholarships through the Louisiana Engineering Foundation.

His leadership continued to grow at the state level, where he served as 1st Vice President of the Louisiana Engineering Society before ascending to the presidency. In recognition of his sustained contributions to the profession, he was honored with the F. Hugh Coughlin Young Engineer Award in 2024.

Although making an impact on the engineering community is important, his commitment to the community itself is equally vital. He serves as a youth baseball coach, investing time and energy into young athletes both on and off the field. His faith is a cornerstone of his life, and he and his family are active members of Cypress Baptist Church.

At the center of it all is his family. Clinton and his wife of fifteen years, Lauren, are raising their two sons — Rhett, age 11, and Oliver, age 6 — in Bossier City. He credits Lauren and the boys as his greatest source of inspiration and support, the driving force behind his passion for mentoring, service, and building something that lasts well beyond any single project or term in office.

As he steps into the role of State President, Clinton C. Patrick carries with him the experience of a seasoned engineer, the heart of a servant leader, and the perspective of someone who has seen firsthand how strong infrastructure and vibrant professional communities change lives across Louisiana.



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2026 STATE MATHCOUNTS

Matt Redmond, Shreveport Chapter
2025-2026 Committee Chair

The 2026 State MATHCOUNTS Competition was held on Friday, March 27, 2026, drawing strong participation from across the state. A total of 27 schools were represented, with 116 middle school students competing in this prestigious academic event.

The competition showcased the exceptional mathematical talent of Louisiana's youth. The top four individuals who will represent the state at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Orlando, Florida, are John Wang (1st Place), Emerson Chen (2nd Place), Rishaan Reddy (3rd Place), and Sylvia Weng (4th Place). These students will be coached by Allyson Morthland of Glasgow Middle School.

We are proud of their accomplishments and wish them the best of luck at the national competition. We also commend all students, coaches, and volunteers whose dedication and hard work contributed to the success of this outstanding event.

LES



First Place Individual: John Wang (Edgar Martin Middle) with Coach Alaura Raila



Second Place Individual: Emerson Chen (Episcopal School of Acadiana) with Coach Lauren Dugas.



Third Place Individual: Rishaan Reddy (Glasgow Middle School) with Coach Allison Morthland.



Fourth Place Individual: Sylvia Weng (Episcopal School of Baton Rouge) with Coach TaShawnda Jamison.



First Place Team: Glasgow Middle School



Second Place Team: Episcopal School of Acadiana



Third Place Team: Edgar Martin Middle



Fourth Place Team: The Willow School

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THE LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Who we are:

Since 1898 LES has been the flag bearer for the licensure and professional practice of engineering in Louisiana. The Society represents the individual Engineer in all technical disciplines and all occupational areas of practice, including construction, education, government, industry, and private practice. Our organization is dedicated to the continuous advancement of the professional engineer by:

- Encouraging engineers to elevate their skills, competencies, and ethics
- Upholding that the health, safety, and welfare of the public are best served when engineering work is performed by or under the supervision of a professional engineer
- Supporting and promoting high standards for engineering education
- Recognizing engineering achievements and academic scholarships
- Contributing services to the public and the profession
- Advocating professional registration of all engineers

What we do:

Through our eight chapters in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bayou, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, and Shreveport, LES exemplifies its long-term legacy and commitment to our state by providing:

- Recommends appointments for 9 of the 11 LAPELS Board members
- Best legislative lobbyist in Louisiana tracking legislative bills for the Society
- Two Annual Conferences for members to acquire multiple PDHs and further education Host multiple 8-hour seminars to help members gain Life Safety Code & ADA compliance Appointment of two LES members to the State's Facility Planning and Control Engineering Selection Board
- Recognize members' accomplishments by awarding up to 8 annual awards
- Offer On Demand Recorded Webinars for members to help meet PDH requirements Provides excellent networking opportunities Publishes The Louisiana Engineer & Surveyor Journal quarterly
- LES Members get a discounted rate for all LES conferences and seminars both live and virtual Provide Leadership Opportunities by serving on State Board, Chapters' Boards, and State Committees
- Provide scholarships for college students studying engineering
- Sponsors state level & participates in national level MATHCOUNTS Competitions