

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

April 15, 2018

Start Preparations Now for Hurricane Season

Before you know it, hurricane season will be here. The season officially begins on June 1st and the FPA is making plans, preparations and gearing up to be ready for action come June 1st. It's not too early to begin making personal plans and preparations for the upcoming hurricane season. Researchers at Colorado State University predict 2018 will be a slightly above-average season with 14 named tropical storms, seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes. However, we need not be reminded that we only need one major storm to cross our path to result in a devastating hurricane season for us.

Communication is a vitally important component of hurricane preparation. Prepare in advance for evacuation. **All employees should update their Emergency Contact Forms with their most current contact information**, including cell phone number, personal email address, and evacuation location and telephone number. These forms are maintained by the Flood Protection Authority's Human Resources Department. Employees who remain on duty should prepare for the evacuation of their family. Employees can notify Kaz in the IT Department (kaz@floodauthority.org) of any changes in their cell phone information (provide new number and carrier) in order to receive text messages from the Flood Protection Authority.

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr., - President
Richard A. Luettich, Jr., ScD - Vice President
G. Paul Kemp, Ph.D. - Secretary
Mark L. Morgan, P.E., Treasurer
Clay A. Cosse'
Quentin D. Dastugue, CCIM
Andrew J. Englande, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., DEE
Jason P. Latiolais
Herbert I. Miller, P.E.

*“Management is
doing things right;
leadership is doing
the right things.”
Peter Drucker*

Message from the President Teamwork

Teams are like puzzles -- every piece has a specific place, every piece has a unique role, every piece is part of a larger picture, and you can't force the pieces together. One of the Authority's greatest strengths, in my opinion, is that we have an amazing collection of talent, experience and dedication. That strength fills every part of the organization - every department, every job, every responsibility. And while the Board of Commissioners does not work at the Authority fulltime, and receives no salary for its work, Commissioners, just like every component of the organization, have an important and unique role to play.

The Authority is fortunate to have a Board structure like the one we have today. Service is voluntary. Its members are motivated simply by a desire to provide a public service; and, they bring to the table an assortment of professional experience and training that allows them, as the law directs, to provide valuable oversight of, and direction for, the Authority. Ultimately, we are here to support every other piece of the puzzle--to ensure that you have the systems, tools, resources and processes that each of you needs to carry out your unique role.

The Board is but one piece of a much larger picture, doing our best to make sure the Authority is at its best. We can't promise that we won't make mistakes, or at times won't be irritating or frustrating (hopefully, none of that too often). But we can promise that we are dedicated to the Authority's mission and to your success.

Joe

Welcome New Flood Protection Team Members



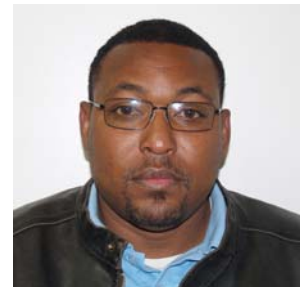
Robert Albright
PCCP –Controls Specialist Manager
Hired 03/19/2018



Rosa Alexander
Police Officer 2-A
Hired 03/26/2018



Gregory Faust
Police Officer 2-A
Hired 03/26/2018



Joshua Martin
Police Officer 2-A
Hired 03/26/2018

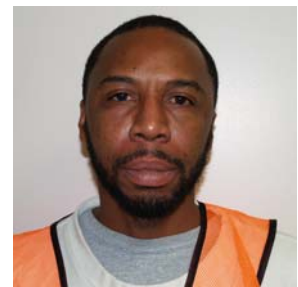


Jacob Coleman
Police Officer 2-A
Hired 03/26/2018

Flood Protection Team Moves



Mike Mai
Lateral Move from Painter to Maintenance Repairer 2
Effective 03/26/2018



Charles Williams
Moved from Laborer to
Mobile Equipment Operator 1
Effective 03/26/2018

**"One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team,
but one man cannot make a team."**

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Finance Welcomes New Team Members



Kimberly Preston is a veteran of the US Army and a graduate of Troy University. She has over 20 years of experience as an accountant in private industry and 15 years in the college classroom teaching Accounting, Finance, and Economics. Kim is responsible for various general ledger and OGB account reconciliations. She will also handle inter-company billings. Kim is a Zeta, and a member of DAV, Femme Fatale and the National Association of University Women. She works hard in the community giving back.

Brandon McNabb is a US Air Force veteran with a beautiful wife and four wonderful children. He played semi-pro football for five years and retired in 2009. Brandon has a bachelor's degree from St. Xavier University and has earned his MBA from LSU. Brandon is currently working on his doctorate in Finance and working on his CPA. He is honored to serve as the Deputy Regional Finance Director for the Flood Protection Authority.



News from the Complex Structures Group



The Complex Structures Group congratulates Christopher Norfleet on his accomplishment of acquiring his Master's Electrical License. Chris is an Electrician Specialist and serves as the electrician for the Complex Structure Group (also known as the 3 1 7). He has been with the Flood Protection Authority for four years as of January, 2018. He worked as a contractor prior to joining the Flood Authority and continues to function in that capacity today. He is very methodical when he is diagnosing electrical issues and never quits until the mission is accomplished.

The Complex Structures Group (the 3 1 7) welcomes its newest member Mike Mai. Mike transferred from the Flood Gate Crew (Painter) to the 3 1 7 (Maintenance Repairer 2). He has been with the Flood Protection Authority for approximately 3-1/2 years and is making an impact as a member of the Complex Structures Group.



Thanks for the Assist

Brian Stropolo and his team at Lake Borgne send a special thanks to the Orleans team for help in repairing the bridge gate at Pump Station #7. Brian says, "Thank you to everyone who made this happen."



News and Updates

The FPA's new web-based permitting system is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. The system was designed by Vinformatix with funding for the project provided by a Community Block Grant.

New timeclocks have been received. The various processes and procedures required for the new timeclocks are being developed and implemented by the Finance Department. Clocks have been installed at the LBBLD and will serve to test the new system. Upon successful completion of the test, timeclocks will be rolled out to the remaining locations. The timeclocks are anticipated to be fully operational across the Authority by the end of April.

The email migration across the Authority has been completed. All FPA team members will have email addresses at @floodauthority.org.

The FPA's new Dell all-in-one desktop (Kiosk) work stations will allow all employees currently without computer access to check their emails and gain access to online/e-learning activities. Work stations will be set up in the following areas: three in the newly renovated O.L.D. Levee Maintenance area, one at the LBBLD, two at the EJLD (one each in the Mechanic Shop and Police conference room), and one at the Lake Vista Community Center for O.L.D. Police personnel. The work stations are anticipated to be fully functional by the end of April.

Information Technology Policies are being developed to promote and enforce the Authority's basic mission and to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to protect the FPA's IT infrastructure.

The updated Purchasing Policy was approved by the Board on March 15th. Work is being done to centralize most of the purchasing activities at the Franklin facility and to automate the purchase order issuance process.

The first edition of the Flood Protection Authority's quarterly Newsletter was issued the first week of April. The newsletter is a part of the FPA's public outreach effort. The purpose of the quarterly newsletters is to inform public officials, civic associations, the media and communities about the FPA's mission and how we are fulfilling that mission, how tax dollars are being spent, and news about FPA projects and activities. The Newsletter will be emailed to a subscription list and placed on the website.

The Architect for the O.L.D. Franklin Facility Renovations Project finalized the specifications for the modular/movable wall and furniture system. Bids were requested in March on the wall/furniture system. The advertisement for bids for the construction of the renovations is planned to take place in April.

The reconstruction of the Pump Station 5 office in Lake Borgne is almost completed. **Thanks to the FPA team members who worked hard to provide a safe, suitable workspace for their colleagues.** On the right are pictures of the newly renovated PS 5 office .



FPA - Coast Guard Partnership



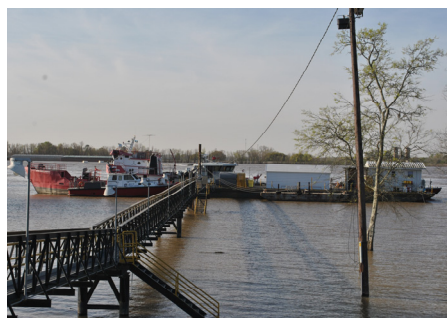
Assistant Director Tutty of the Port Authority and Reserve Lt. Al Hynes (Left to Right)



WDSU with Port Director



Captain's Station



Port Dock

The EJLD and O.L.D. Police Departments recently entered into an inter-departmental relationship with the United States Coast Guard, St. John Sheriff's Office and the Port Authority of South Louisiana. Our Levee District Police are committed to a joint Task Force working with the Maritime Security Operations Initiative.

The program is directed by the United States Coast Guard and allows for the cooperation of Federal, State, County (Parish) and Municipal agencies to assist in the enforcement, protection and safety of the River Region. The program is administered by Port Authority supervisor, Mr. "Tootie" Noel. Under the direction of Mr. Noel, officers get the unique opportunity to see the other side of the levee systems that they patrol. In turn, maritime personnel see what the Levee District Police see, from the land areas of the Levee System.

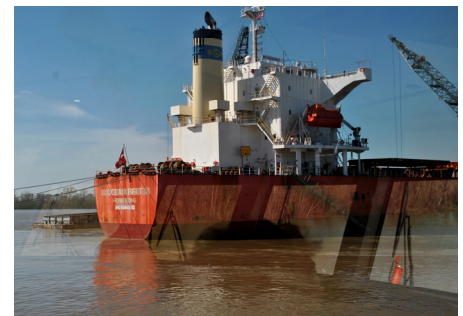
Our Police personnel meet every Wednesday morning at the Port of Louisiana Global Complex in Reserve, La. One officer from each agency boards a Security Maritime Patrol vessel at this location and a sweep of the Mississippi River is performed looking for possible danger and Homeland Security locations of interest. This exercise also avails all departments to monitor high river levels, identify encroachment issues and surveys the Mississippi River Levee System for any issues of concern.

This relationship supports multiple agencies working together, towards a common goal of Safety and Security along the waterways and land masses of the Mississippi River System.

WDSU accompanied our personnel on the exercise that took place on March 7th to see what our Officers see during high water and to understand the importance of these maritime exercises.



Loading Up



Checking Ship Docking



Top Left-right: Earnest Gray of the Port Authority, O.L.D. Reserve Lt. Al Hynes and EJLD Reserve Lt. Richard Prima en route to fleet barge checks at Marethorn



Left: River Traffic

Employee of the Month for March



Kelly DeRocha was recognized by the Board for being selected the FPA's Employee of the Month. Kelly is an Administrative Coordinator 2 in the Finance Department. Kelly has not worked with the FPA long, but has found her place in the Finance Department. Kelly embodies the values of **Teamwork** and **Valuing and Appreciation of Employees** as, more than once, she was witnessed offering to assist an overwhelmed colleague or encouraging a fellow team member. Kelly has experienced much change in her position throughout FPA's transition. In the face of constant change and uncertainty, Kelly has maintained an optimistic attitude and a forward-thinking mindset that makes her a pleasure with whom to work and collaborate.

A specific example of Kelly embodying both of these values is the time that she knew a colleague was feeling stressed and overwhelmed with the changes in duties and her workload, so Kelly pulled a few of the team members in and organized a plan for each team member to offer to take on specific duties for their overwhelmed colleague so that she could catch up her to-do list and feel more confident about her ability to perform her daily tasks. There is no finer example of the values of **Teamwork** and **Valuing and Appreciating Employees** than sharing in the difficulties in the same way we share in the successes. "To share" is the most basic definition of true teamwork - shared power, shared responsibilities, shared values, shared mission, shared stress, shared late nights, shared laughs, and SHARED SUCCESS!

Operations Employee of the Month for March

Remington Kreitzer was nominated and selected as Operations Employee of the Month. Remington is a Mechanic Supervisor A in the East Jefferson Division of the FPA.

Remington started with the EJLD in 2012 as a Mobile Equipment Overhaul Mechanic (Mechanic 2). As Remington became familiar with the types of vehicles and equipment used by the levee district, he commonly volunteered to take on repair tasks that were very technical and complex in nature. In addition, Remington handled large tear down projects for repairs. Remington also handled other repairs thoroughly and completely with determination and resolve. Remington commonly volunteered to go out on field repairs that were known to be difficult in nature, field repairs that were technically challenging, and at times, field repairs that included inclement weather.



In July and August of 2017, Remington and another mechanic from the O.L.D. worked side-by-side for Remington to demonstrate splitting an O.L.D. tractor for major transmission and other repairs; both worked extremely well together and completed the extensive repairs. Remington was promoted to Mechanic 3 in October of 2017.

Remington consistently demonstrates his proficiency at the FPA. Recently, Remington split two John Deere tractors for major repairs, and currently has a third John Deere tractor split for such repairs. Remington is typically asked by other mechanics for his assistance when they encounter difficulties with technical services and technical/complex repairs. Remington works well with all of his coworkers and with all FPA team members. Remington has been, and is, an exceptional asset to the FPA.

Police Employee of the Month for March



Michael Brenckle was nominated and selected as Police Employee of the Month. Michael is a Police Officer 2A in the EJLD Police Department.

On Thursday February 15, 2018 at 2251 hrs, Officer Brenckle was at the Bonnabel Boat Launch when he heard a woman screaming for help. He determined that the screams were coming from a 2000 Nissan Xterra and observed a woman walking briskly toward him with a male subject close behind. Upon making contact with the subjects Officer Brenckle detained and identified the male subject. Upon investigation it was determined that the victim and the suspect were romantically involved and that he had forcibly abducted her from in front of her residence. In her statement the victim related that the suspect approached her as she was walking to her apartment and that she did not want to talk to him, which angered him. He struck her, pulled her hair, choked her and forced her into the vehicle. As the suspect was driving, the victim attempted to exit the vehicle at which time he pulled over, struck and choked her again. The suspect also made threats against the victim's life, stating that if she wasn't going to give him a chance that he might as well kill her.

As officers attempted to place the suspect in the rear of unit 140, the suspect became resistant, and a brief struggle ensued. The suspect was eventually able to be secured in the rear of the unit. The suspect was charged with LRS 14:45 Simple Kidnapping, 14:35.3L Domestic Abuse Battery (Gwens Law) and 14:108 Resisting arrest.

It is Officer Brenckle's alertness, professionalism and dedication to duty that the victim's life was most probably saved. Officer Brenckle is a great asset to the FPA and the community.

FPA Team Receives Active Shooter Response Training

CHIEF NAJOLIA PROVIDES VITALLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON A SUBJECT OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE IN THIS DAY AND AGE

Kerry Najolia, the FPA's Police Superintendent, gave a dynamic presentation on "How to Survive an Active Shooter Event" to a captivated audience of Authority employees. His voice reverberated around an otherwise silent room. Chief Najolia passionately projected in no uncertain terms "When an active Shooter is in your area you must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with the situation." You have only three options: Run, Hide or Fight in that order. You cannot hesitate to act. You cannot wait for the Police to arrive. Approximately 60 percent of incidents end before the police arrive. The presentation was given at the FPA's Orleans, East Jefferson and Lake Borgne Divisions. Thank you Chief Najolia for your time and effort...you may have just saved a life.

In The Levee Loop received the following endorsement and expression of appreciation for the training:

"I would like to thank Kerry Najolia and the Flood Protection Authority for the Active Shooting Training Session. From my perspective and from the feedback from 90% of Department 313 we feel that it was an eye opening experience with very specific topics. The course was very informative and interactive, which gave us practice and examples of what to do if a terrible situation was to occur. It was absolutely a pleasure that you all valued our safety as employees of this Agency. The run, hide, fight options are something that have stuck in my head and I have shared the training with my family and friends.

"On behalf of all departments, please accept my/our appreciation for the excellent training that Kerry did during the session. The session was an enormous amount of information, but Kerry aligned it in such a way that it went smoothly and efficiently. Thanks to his passionate leadership and energy we enjoyed the training.

"Again, I want to thank Kerry along with the gratitude of all the employees that witness the event."

Carroll Barriere, Foreman C, Group 313

FPA Public Outreach—Pilot K-12 School Program



**Classroom Activities:
Students building levees
along Mississippi River**

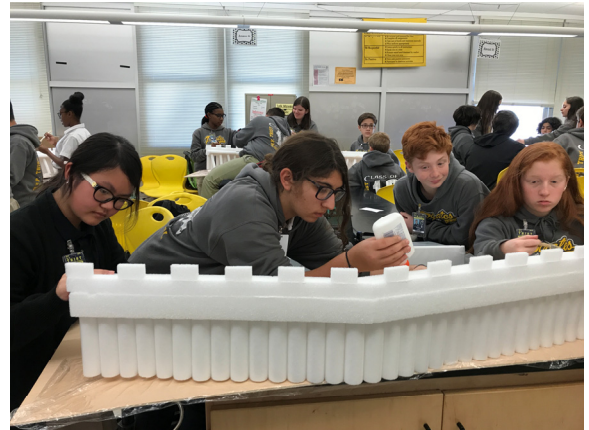
Flood Protection Authority's K-12 School Pilot Program

St. Bernard Parish Public Schools

The K-12 School Program is part of the Flood Protection Authority's public outreach to enhance understanding of its mission. The purposes of the school program are to ensure that future generations are equipped to deal with the risks and challenges associated with living with water, gain an in-depth knowledge of the flood protection system, and share their learning experiences with family and friends.

The Pilot K-12 School Program was developed and taught by Anne Rheams, FPA Public Education Consultant, in collaboration with Doris Voitier, St. Bernard Parish Public Schools Superintendent, the school board's Science Director, Gena Acevedo, and 8th grade science teacher, Alisha Capstick at Trist Middle School in Meraux. Alisha was recently awarded Science Teacher of the Year by the Louisiana Science Teachers Association. Thirty, 8th grade students participated in the program throughout the month of January.

The curriculum was developed in accordance with the National Next Generation Science Standards and the Louisiana Department of Education's Performance Expectations. The lessons and activities are based on the 5 E's learning model (engage, explore, explain, elaborate, evaluate). Major topics covered in the program are: Geographical Orientation (where do the students live in relation to the water surrounding St. Bernard); Storm Surge (what is the science behind it); the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (where and what is it); the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier (field trip and model building); Risk Reduction (what is it and how can they protect themselves and educate others). Students participated in a number of classroom activities under each topic resulting in a comprehensive understanding of flood protection and risk reduction.



**Students building model of IHNC-
Lake Borgne Surge Barrier**

Special thanks go to Bob Turner for connecting us to St. Bernard Parish Schools and Stevan Spencer, Elbert Williams and Audrianna Bluthgen for a great and informative field trip to the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier.

We hope to have an event in May for the students to share their experiences with Flood Protection Authority Board members and staff and the St. Bernard School Board at the Maumus Center in Arabi. The Flood Protection Authority anticipates future development of the program for schools in East Jefferson and Orleans Parishes.

Submitted by Anne Rheams

"Education is the foundation upon which we build our future."

Christine Gregoire

FPA Public Outreach—Pilot K-12 School Program



Students in the Pilot K-12 School Program tour the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier. Elbert Williams, Maintenance Foreman Complex Structures Group, teaches the class about flood defense (picture 1) and talking with students as they tour the structure (picture 2). Stevan Spencer, Regional Chief Engineer, with students (picture 3)

FPA's New Facilities Under Construction



The EJLD Safehouse/Consolidated Facility (pictured above) is currently scheduled for completion in December, 2018. The construction schedule had some challenges due to inclement weather and high river events.



The construction of the O.L.D. Police Complex (pictured left) remains on schedule and should be completed October, 2018.

Riding Along With the 3 1 3 !

“Drove my Chevy to the Levee and the Levee was dry (thanks to the Team Members of Department 313)”

(quoting Don McLean)

Over the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to “ride along” with Department 313 in Orleans Parish. My normal duties keep me behind a computer, so this was a special treat and one that I will repeat in East Jefferson and Lake Borgne. My first ride along was for the Corps’ Annual Inspection of the Lakefront Polder. Carol Barriere was my tour guide and he did not disappoint. My first impression of Carol was that of a multi-tasking, air-traffic controller. He was on his cellphone and had no less than two people on the radio at all times making sure that everything was coordinated. That brings me to the Team Members of Department 313. All I can say is WOW! Their performance during the Corps’ Annual Inspection was nothing short of award-winning. Monica Hall, Mike Leblanc & Lavell Lane made sure that every instruction given by Carol was carried out perfectly. Brian Lee, Todd Polk, Keanon Brisco, Vashon Hall, Sergio Cardenas, Jeremy Coubarous, Darrell Dempsey, Jeff Johnson, Rontrell Jones, Deron Moore, Wendell Lewis, Roy Moss, Michael Redditt, Charles Williams, Jeffery Beverly, Tyus Long and Christopher Neyland all made sure debris was removed from levees/floodwalls, that sandbags were in place, that grass was trimmed and that our caravan never had to wait in traffic. If our levee district police officers ever need extra hands to assist with traffic flow management, they should call one of these guys. An inspection that in the past has taken two days took five hours because of the precision and hard work of Department 313 Team Members. At the end of the inspection, the Corps praised the work of these gentlemen and woman (Go Monica!) for the condition of our levees and how quickly we were able to get through the inspection.



My second ride along was also with Department 313 so that I could get a feel for what they do on a daily basis. I never want to hear anyone refer to these Team Members as “just grass cutters.” They are so much more than that. They are snake charmers, alligator wranglers, landscape architects and a construction crew all rolled into one. They get up at 4:00 am to be at work and out the door by 6:30 am. They work in 100 degree heat and freezing cold and they are our first line of defense for flood protection. I had no idea of the attention to detail that is required. Not only does our Team look for major issues like sand boils and erosion, but they also look for grass growing out of small cracks and rodent holes that look small but can actually burrow 4’ or more into the levee, which can significantly impact it if not filled. It takes

some kind of skill to navigate a zero-turn mower on a 90 degree slope – where you may encounter a snake or alligator, both of which we saw while out in the field. We watched Steve Durr’s crew open and close a flood gate on Highway 11. They had some difficulty getting it re-opened. However, they kept working on that gate until they got it opened. Monica Hall’s Team had multiple dump trucks that were trying to get to an area that needed to be filled with clay. It was so muddy the trucks could not make it in. But, instead of giving up for the day, they brought in bulldozers and were moving earth to get to the site. What I saw on both of these days in the field were Team Members who were professional, proud, determined and committed to their jobs.

This entire experience has left me impressed and grateful for the work that our Team does to keep us dry. I look forward to seeing what our Teams in Lake Borgne and East Jefferson can teach me.

-Nyka Scott, Executive Counsel



GEM — Going the Extra Mile

Special Thanks for a Helping Hand !

Carol Purcello has always been a go to person for EJ Police. She is always helping us with internal matters and does a lot of work behind the scenes. I personally rely on her for assistance and she never refuses. She is an angel of a person and I'm glad to have such a great relationship with her. Ms. Carol always goes the extra mile. She is a true GEM and I want to personally thank her for all her cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely submitted, Terry Durnin, Captain EJLD Police



PUBLIC OUTREACH to keep some of our littlest citizens safe!



OLDPD Capt. C. Boudreaux, Sgt. D. Laurent, and P.O. T. Canfield attending the Lake Terrance Easter Egg Hunt Saturday March 24, 2018. Officers handed out **BE SMART SAY NO TO STRANGERS** packets which included a coloring book, tips for parents, book markers, and pencils. (pictures left)

Lt. A. Pellitteri and P.O. T. Canfield attending the St. Pius Cub Scout Meeting to discuss Stranger Danger with the scouts. (pictures right)



"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime."

George Herman "Babe" Ruth, Jr.



LASERS Prep Workshops

LASERS offers a Pre-Retirement Education Program (PREP) workshop that provides information employees need to plan for their future. Information is provided on eligibility requirements for retirement, purchase of service credit, the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), the Initial Benefit Option (IBO), and much more. PREP seminars are approximately four hours in length. Employees considering retirement within the next five years should consider attending a workshop. Applications for PREP Workshops can be submitted online at lasersonline.org or a PREP application form can be mailed to LASERS.

The next PREP Workshops to be held in New Orleans are scheduled for April 25, June 7 and November 28, 2018 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. The Workshops will be held at the University of New Orleans, University Center Atchafalaya Room #208.

LASERS Individual Retirement Sessions

LASERS will hold individual retirement counseling sessions for members as follows:

June 5 & 6, 2018 - 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
at the University of New Orleans, University Center
Registration deadline is May 18, 2018.

Please keep in mind that these sessions are for active full-time members who are within 18 months of eligibility for retirement or DROP. Each individual counseling session will last approximately one hour. Members can schedule an appointment by calling LASERS at 225.922.0600 (Baton Rouge area), or 800.256.3000 (toll free, outside Baton Rouge). Member should be prepared to submit when scheduling the appointment: their name, social security number, two phone numbers, email address, anticipated retirement date, beneficiary name and their date of birth, and current annual and sick leave hours. A limited number of appointments are available, which will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Calendar of Events

April

April 19 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

May

May 3-4 (Thursday-Friday) - Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana Workshop

May 17 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

May 7 (Monday) - Corps of Engineers inspection of IHNC Surge Barrier.

June

June 1 (Friday) - Start of Hurricane Season

June 21 (Thursday) - Board-Committee Meetings

July

July 4 (Wednesday) - State Holiday—Independence Day

July 19 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

Reminders

Submit your Employee of the Month Nomination Forms by the last day of each month

Suggestions, comments, news items (weddings, births, significant anniversaries and other events you wish to share with your coworkers) , original articles and other submittals are welcomed.

Editor: Glenda Boudreaux
Associate Editor: Wilma Heaton

Submittals can be placed in any "In the Levee Loop" suggestion box, emailed to gboudreaux@slfpae.com or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.