

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

May 15, 2018

Message from the President

Welcome I-Storm Colleagues

This month, we have the privilege of hosting several of our partners from around the world who are responsible for the management and operation of storm surge barriers and related flood defense systems.

These men and women, all leaders in their fields, will work with us to evaluate our operations at the Lake Borgne surge barrier and barge gate, and Seabrook structure. Our goal is to receive valuable feedback on what processes work well and how we can improve, to ensure that we are implementing and executing best practices.

Flood Protection Authority personnel have participated in similar exercises in the past, so we recognize this peer review collaboration as incredibly beneficial.

Thank you, I-Storm!

Joe

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

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*“Most people say that it is the intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong: it is character.”
Albert Einstein*

Ready For Hurricane Season

While the Authority works year round to maintain and operate the flood defense system, June 1st signifies not only the start of Hurricane Season, but also our time in the spotlight as an agency. For the next six months, we really shine in our abilities to protect the people and property of the greater New Orleans area.

This year brings greater challenges than ever, with the addition of the lakefront Permanent Pump Stations (PCCP) to our responsibilities. Not only has each part of the organization had to test, operate and maintain the traditional parts of the HSDRRS but we have also had to hire new people and learn new equipment and procedures. It's been a major task, but the PCCP team is ready to go.

I strongly believe the system is in excellent shape. We've already had the Corps conduct their annual inspections, and feedback so far is that the Authority not only takes care of the system, but that it's in the best shape in years.

So, if your family, friends or neighbors ask if things are ready for this storm season, you should feel confident in telling them 'Yes!'

Thanks again for everything that each of you do every day to keep people safe.

Derek

Welcome New Flood Protection Team Members



Lyle Bulger
PCCP- Electrical Specialist Manager
Hired 04/23/2018



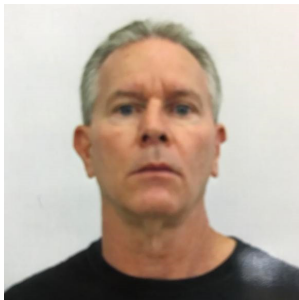
Devarian Menyweather
Mobile Equipment Operator 2
Hired 04/09/2018



Kenneth Thompson
Maintenance Repairer 2
Hired 04/09/2018



Kenneth Johnson
PCCP-Power Generation Specialist Manager
Hired 05/01/2018



Patrick Conaghan
Police Officer 2-A
Hired 04/11/2018



Wendell Fourcade
Police Officer 2-A
Hired 04/27/2018

Congratulations & Best Wishes on Retirement

Congratulations on Promotion



Craig Robinson, O.L.D. Lieutenant, retired on May 1, 2018, after 25 years of service.

Lt. Robinson joined the Orleans Levee District Police Department on November 30, 1992.

Coy Canulette
Lieutenant
Hired 04/23/2018



Team Collaboration on Police Technology Effort

East Jefferson Levee District Police (EJLD PD) and Orleans Levee District Police (O.L.D. PD), in conjunction with their respective Maintenance Supervisors and repair personnel, worked hand-in-hand to install laptop mounts and stands in every pool unit for the O.L.D. PD. Joseph Graciana, Orleans Mobile Equipment Supervisor, confirmed that the required pool vehicle laptop stands and totality of accessories have been completed.

A total of ten laptop stands from the EJLD were built in completed form and transferred to the O.L.D. for installation. EJLD Police Mechanic Phil Bacino worked with O.L.D. Mechanic Shop personnel, providing instruction on the methods used by the EJLD to install the computer stands for the EJLD police vehicles.

EJLD Police Sgt. Kenneth Pinkston was very instrumental on the technology side of this effort, coordinating both the technology and procurement processes for delivering the stands to the O.L.D. PD. It was learned early in the process that some of the computer stands had to be retro-fitted for the O.L.D. PD units. Some of the parts were procured from entities with long standing relationships with the Levee District, while other parts were gained from working with outside agency vendors.

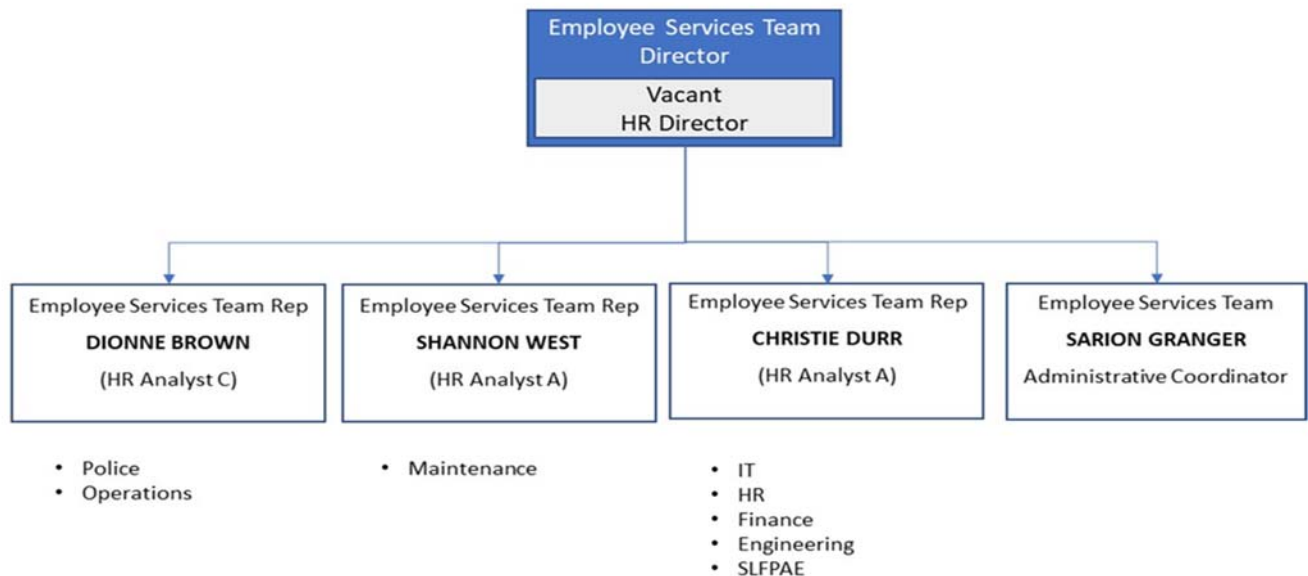
The items requested by Orleans were delivered and these efforts resulted in this assignment being completed ahead of schedule. Sgt. Pinkston advised that the Maintenance Divisions were highly professional, knowledgeable and committed to the mission.

Submitted by Capt. Donald Juneau, Police Administration and Management EJLD PD

Announcing: Employee Services Department (formerly known as HR)

As you all know, the Authority has dedicated a great deal of resources to improve the employee experience. As part of this initiative, the HR team has and continues to transform its presence and level of service it provides to all employees. As part of this transformation, the HR department will be known to internal audiences as the Employee Services Department. As listed below, each function will have a dedicated Employee Services Team Representative to serve as a total HR resource to members of their respective coverage areas. It is also with great pleasure that we announce the newest addition to the team, Shannon West, as the Maintenance Department Employee Services Team Representative.

While the brand is changing, we are fully aware that the level of service and support provided to all employees has to change as well. The team is working hard to accomplish this endeavor and add a new level of excellence and care to the Authority. We welcome your feedback every step of the way. Our door is always open. Sincerely, Your dedicated Employee Services Team!



News and Updates

The Hurricane Season All-Hands meeting will be held on May 17th in conjunction with the visit of I-STORM members to the FPA. A full report on the meeting and I-STORM's peer review of the IHNC Surge Barrier Sector and Barge Gates and Seabrook Complex Structure will be included in the June 15th edition of *In The Levee Loop*.

Senior staff and the Culture Change Group met separately in April to review the status and timelines of the FPA Goals and Culture Initiatives distributed in December, 2017. The documents will be reviewed and updated quarterly with addendums for each to be circulated within the FPA.

Finance is nearing completion of the program to implement a consolidated and fully automated payroll process. Employees now utilize programmed timeclocks, computers and/or smart phones, depending on job assignment, for logging in and out daily with the data automatically fed into the payroll system. **Congratulations Finance on completing your long, arduous journey to modernize the FPA's timekeeping/payroll process!**

Implementation of the revised Purchasing Policy continues. Staff is implementing efficiencies and savings across the FPA by consolidating vendor contracts.

Regionalization of FPA operations continues. A standard floodgate numbering system has been implemented across the levee districts. FPA decals have been placed on all the Authority's vehicles and equipment. Portable signage is being obtained to place at work sites to identify the various FPA crews (e.g., levee, floodwall, floodgate, maintenance).



The FPA was handed over the maintenance and operational responsibilities for the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) at the 17th Street, Orleans and London Avenue Canals effective May 1st. Seven of the eight PCCP staff positions were filled by May 1st, including two by internal detail/promotion.

Left: O.L.D. Police Complex
Below: EJLD Safehouse & Consolidated Facility



A Challenge to My Fellow Colleagues

By Kelli Chandler, Regional Finance Director

Why are you at FPA?

The obvious answer is to make money. This is the reason we get up and go to work every single day, and it is the reason for the cliché – *if so-and-so were to hit the Power Ball...* However, many of you also say that we can make more money elsewhere. Government jobs are known to be under market value for the same work. So that leaves the question, “*Why are you really at FPA?*”

I asked the Finance Team at a Department Picnic recently to introduce a culture initiative specific to our department. I reassured my group that there were no right or wrong answers to this question, and there may be multiple reasons. The only thing that mattered is that there be an honest discussion.



Why is this question important? Because not only does research show it directly impacts the way each employee approaches their workday, performs their daily task, interacts with colleagues, sets goals and expectations, and develops a management style, but I have observed this in my own personal experiences.

After receiving great feedback and a variety of honest reasons from the group, I shared with them why I am at FPA. First, I believe in our mission. Although I lived in Baton Rouge during Katrina, I had friends from New Orleans that lived with me for three months. I was moved by the devastation experienced by the region. Second, I have a challenge from our Board and leadership, as well as their support, to create an amazing workplace environment and culture.

This opportunity – to have great work environment – is why I am at FPA. I have worked for organizations where the environment was toxic. In one job I was written up for moving my computer monitor several inches to the left on my desk, and I was asked to leave the premises for lunch so the rest of the staff could discuss my salary. I hated going to work every day and was only there to collect a paycheck. I was truly only working to make money, and it showed in my performance. When I had the first opportunity to leave, I accepted, taking a significant pay cut in the process. These experiences are what drive me to want to invest in our culture and environment. Culture and environment are why I take the time to have ice cream socials and picnics and why I strive to exemplify the values we have adopted.



So I ask my fellow colleagues, “*Why are you at FPA?*”

**“Success is liking yourself, liking what you do,
and liking how you do it.”**

Maya Angelou

Employee of the Month for April



Carol Purcello Recognized by Board

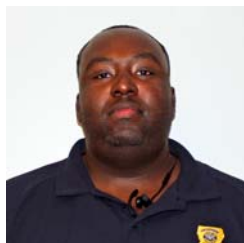
Carol Purcello is the Administrative Assistant 3 for the East Jefferson Operations and Maintenance Division of the FPA. Carol joined the EJLD on March 3, 1999 as a Clerk III. She advanced to Administrative Coordinator I on January 17, 2005, Mobile Equipment Operator Light on April 20, 2006, Mobile Equipment Operator 1 on October 31, 2006 and was promoted to Administrative Assistance 3 on August 14, 2008.

Carol is known throughout the FPA for her willingness to help anyone who needs assistance. She is always kind, courteous and proficient, and truly exemplifies the Authority's values. She is clearly a team player who values all members of the Flood Protection Team. Her actions demonstrate her commitment to the mission of the Flood Protection Authority.

A submittal by a member of the EJ Police Department for inclusion in GEM's (Going the Extra Mile) section of the Employees' newsletter demonstrates her willingness as a member of the Operations and Maintenance staff to do whatever she can to help anyone in any part of the organization. The submittal reads:

"Ms. 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, Captain Terry Durnin."

Police Employee of the Month for April



Officer Authur Agee is a Police Officer II with the East Jefferson Levee District. Officer Agee always openly accepts assignments and tasks promptly, paying close attention to detail and engaging his responsibilities willingly. He is also one of the district's Field Training Officers.

On April 10, 2018, Officer Agee conducted a traffic stop near Riverdale High School. The driver of the vehicle refused to stop, fleeing into Orleans Parish. The driver of the suspect vehicle attempted to physically harm Officer Agee with his vehicle. Upon fleeing into Orleans Parish, the suspect intentionally struck an assisting officer's vehicle causing it to flip over. Officer Agee made the final stop of the fleeing vehicle near COSTCO in New Orleans with assistance from Deputies from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office. The suspect was booked with multiple felony charges including: Attempted Murder of a Police Officer, Aggravated Assault and Possession of Heroin.

Office Agee is truly a valuable asset to the Flood Protection Authority, EJLD and the community that he serves.

Operations Employee of the Month for April



Kerry McKinney was hired at the Orleans Levee District as a Maintenance Repair Master on April 17th of 2017. Kerry was hired to work in the newly formed Floodwall Repair Crew. Since he began working for the District, Kerry has demonstrated his skills not only in concrete repairs but many other skills working with roofing, plumbing, carpentry and framing.

Kerry is a “team player” and is willing to go the extra mile to make sure any task given him is done correctly and in a timely manner. He is dependable and willing to help out his immediate co-workers, as well as other workers in other departments of the agency. Kerry was very instrumental in helping to build the new office area inside of Pump Station #5 located in Lake Borgne.

Kerry exemplifies the values of the FPA and we are fortunate to have him as a member of the FPA Team.

Sparky the Loser Turns Winner !

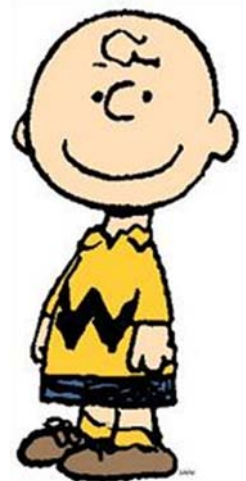
Transcribed from Youtube video by Wilma Heaton

When he was a little boy his uncle called him “Sparky,” after a comic-strip horse named Spark Plug. School was all but impossible for Sparky. He failed every subject in 8th grade. He flunked Physics, Latin, Algebra and English in high school. His record in sports wasn’t any better. Although he managed to make the school’s golf team; he promptly lost the only important match of the season. Oh, there was a consolation match; he lost that too.

Throughout his youth, Sparky was socially awkward. It wasn’t that other students disliked him; it’s just that no one really cared that much. Sparky was a loser. He, his classmates... everyone knew it. So he learned to live with it. He made up his mind early that if things were meant to work out, they would. Otherwise he would content himself with what appeared to be his inescapable mediocrity.

One thing was important to Sparky, drawing. He was proud of his artwork. In his senior year of high school, he submitted some cartoons to the yearbook. His editors rejected the concept. Despite this brush-off, Sparky was convinced of his ability. He even decided to become an artist. After completing high school, Sparky wrote Walt Disney Studios. They asked for samples of his artwork. Despite careful preparation, it was also rejected. One more confirmation that he was a loser but Sparky still didn’t give up.

Instead, he decided to tell his own life’s story in cartoons. The main character would be a little boy who symbolizes the perpetual loser and chronic underachiever. It was what he knew best. Sparky’s cartoon character went on to become a cultural phenomenon of all sorts. People readily identified with this “loveable loser.” He reminded people of the painful and embarrassing moments from their own past, of the shared humanity. The character soon became famous worldwide and Sparky, the boy whose many failures never kept him from trying, whose work was rejected again and again ... is the highly successful cartoonist Charles Schultz. His cartoon strip, “Peanuts,” continues to inspire books, T-Shirts and Christmas specials reminding us, as someone once commented, that life somehow finds a way for all of us, even the losers.



We all face difficulty and discouragement from time to time, but we also have a choice in how we handle it. If we’re persistent, if we hold fast to our faith, if we discover and develop the unique talents that each one of us have, then there is no limit to our potential. In the end, there are no “losers”. Some winners just take longer to develop!

Preparing for Inspections Takes A Group Effort



The New Orleans East Polder was scheduled for Annual Inspection by the Corps of Engineers on April 24, 2018. The FPA Orleans Station had all hands on deck — foremen, operators and laborers. Members from the FPA East Jefferson station provided assistance in order to complete the mission. The FPA team gave its maximum effort to complete the required work .



Team Collaborations for Maintaining Regional Defense

Orleans and East Jefferson FPA team members join efforts to exercise all (159) hurricane defense floodgates across the Authority prior to hurricane season. The Orleans Floodgate Crew is transitioning to take over the floodgates in the East Jefferson and Lake Borgne stations.

The new numbering system across the FPA will help team members and stakeholders quickly identify and locate floodgates during normal and emergency operations. Sill elevations will be stenciled at the floodgate sills to inform team members and stakeholders on site.



Area Students Learn About Geosciences & Flood Defense



Above: At the plenary session with approx. 800 attendees, Mayor-elect Cantrell welcomes AAG to New Orleans.

Below: Mayor-elect Cantrell speaks with Emerging Workforce Scholars and program supporters.



Wilma Heaton talks to scholars while they enjoy lunch at Historic Lakefront Airport

AAG Annual Meeting Emerging Workforce Scholars Program

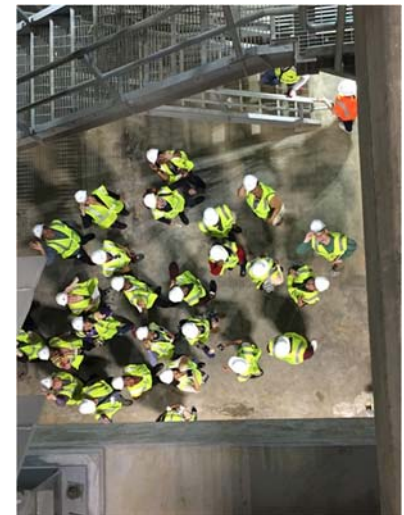
The American Association of Geographers (AAG), a nonprofit scientific and educational society, held its Annual Meeting in New Orleans on April 10-14. The AAG Annual Meeting is the largest gathering of Geographers and Geoscientists in the world.

As part of AAG's Advancing Diversity initiative, local students and young adults (18 to 24 years old) from New Orleans' ethnically and financially diverse communities were invited to participate in the Emerging Workforce Scholars Program and be an integral part of the annual meeting. Young New Orleanians visited unique area infrastructure (Lake Borgne Surge Barrier, PCCP, Entergy Nine-Mile power plant, Lakefront Airport) to learn first-hand from facility operators and hiring managers how to apply for jobs, about career pathways and skills needed for entry and success, and talked with educators about where to get real-world skills training. Mayor-Elect Latoya Cantrell met with and inspired the AAG's 2018 Emerging Workforce Scholars and spoke at the opening Plenary session.

During the tour Scholars learned about the Flood Protection Authority's critical flood defense system. At the AAG conference, students met practicing geoscience professionals, attended technical sessions, visited 60+ exhibits, and participated in professional skills workshops.



Participants in Program (above)



At PCCP Pump Station (looking up -38') (above)



Stevan Spencer & FPA team members provide information about the Surge Barrier and flood defense operations. (left)

The scholars visit the Carrollton Water Treatment facility. (right)



G E M — Going the Extra Mile

I would like to recognize a very important person to the EJLD Police family, my friend and mentor Lt. Richard Prima. He has always given his heart and soul to this agency and the people we serve. Currently, he is a reserve officer who volunteers for a weekly assignment patrolling the river with the US Coast Guard and the Port Authority. He is a dedicated employee and an even better person. I'm truly honored to get to write such praise for such a deserving individual. He lives by the standard of going the extra mile. Submitted by Terrance Durnin

Pictured Right to Left: EJLD Reserve Lt. Richard Prima, O.L.D. Reserve Lt. Al Hynes and Ernest Gray of the Port Authority



PUBLIC OUTREACH to our youngest citizens !



East Jefferson Levee District Police participate in Read Across America Day at Jefferson Heights Elementary School.



Special Recognition for an Outstanding Effort

FPA Mechanics Frank Alfonso and Craig Simon were recognized for their outstanding work during a special project that consisted of installing mounts, stands, tablets and power supplies in the O.L.D. Police vehicles.

On February 8, 2018, Frank and Craig attended a training class with Mr. Phil at the East Jefferson Mechanics Shop where they learned the details about the installation of the pedestals, including the differences in installation procedures for the different models of Police cars. Frank and Craig performed both the mechanical and the electrical installation on all the pedestal mounts.

Work started on February 14, 2018 and a deadline of May 3, 2018 was given to complete this very needed project; however, Frank and Craig completed the installations on April 24th, eight days ahead of schedule. The entire project took 70-days to complete, but Frank and Craig worked as a team and were able to work around part supply problems and vehicle availability problems to complete this important project ahead of schedule.

Frank Alfonso and Craig Simon received a special recognition award of \$250 for completing this critically essential project for the Police Department, and for their outstanding efforts, mechanical expertise and professional behavior during the effort.



Frank Alfonso



Craig Simon

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.” Abraham Lincoln

FPA Team Receives Microsoft Office Training

Microsoft is partnering with the FPA and its Information Technology staff to offer self-placed interactive training designed for current employees. This web-based training program can be accessed either at home or at work. Employees will have the opportunity to increase and enhance their everyday work skills with applications such as Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. The software offers features such as assessments, audio and multimedia content. Each employee will receive a separate email invite with a link and login instructions. If you have any questions, please contact your IT staff for assistance.

Have You Checked Out the FPA's Website Recently?

If you haven't recently visited our website (floodauthority.org) you're missing out on our new informative videos. The videos (lasting one to seven minutes) show the operation (closure) of a number of the FPA's critically important major structures, including the IHNC Surge Barrier Sector Gate, new Bayou Bienvenue Lift Gate, old Bayou Bienvenue Structure Gate, Seabrook Sector Gate, Bayou Dupre Gate, Caernarvon Sector Gate, Highway 39 Floodgate, Bonnabel Floodgate and West End Floodgate, and the East Jefferson levee lifts.

A very interesting video features a school field trip to the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier. FPA staff members not only provide the class with a wealth of information about the surge barrier and flood defense, but also interacted with students. Several students provided comments on the important learning experience.

Calendar of Events

May

May 17 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings and FPA Annual Hurricane Preparedness Day

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

Newsletter Corrections

In the April 15th edition of *In The Levee Loop* Kelly DeRocha's position is shown as Administrative Coordinator 2 (Employee of the Month for March). Kelly is actually an Administrative Coordinator 3 in the Finance Department. Also, Remington Kreitzer's position was incorrectly identified (Operations Employee of the Month). Remington is a Mechanic 3. Our apologies for our errors.

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.