

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

June 15, 2018

Message from the President

Inaccurate information will not go unanswered

Recent media coverage of the Corps' ranking of the flood defense system as "minimally acceptable" has implied that the Flood Protection Authority's inspection and maintenance procedures are inadequate. We will not allow misinformation like that to go unaddressed. So, we have circulated the Authority's statement in response and the Op Ed piece.

This week, we also attended a public education forum to push out accurate information about the Authority's work. Despite the pitiful efforts by media, and even at least one levee safety advocacy group, to go for the attention-grabbing headlines, the fact is that this Authority has extremely strong inspection and maintenance procedures, implemented and supported by a team of over 200 dedicated individuals who are committed to the mission.

You understand the importance of what you do, and you do it well. Thank you for that. Keep doing what you are doing. Always look for opportunities to improve the process. Share your ideas and suggestions. We are on a continuous path of never accepting the status quo, always looking for ways to do it better, smarter, and more efficiently. That's the nature of a strong and vibrant organization. The general public has great confidence in you, and it is well-deserved.

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr., - President
Richard A. Luetlich, 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.

*“Courage is contagious.
When a brave man takes
a stand, the spines of
others are stiffened.”
Billy Graham*

Louisiana Legislature

The LA Legislature adopted Act No. 490, which authorizes Levee Districts to pay its Police Officers an amount equal to the State's Supplemental Pay. Officers must be full time, P.O.S.T. certified and have completed one year of service with the Levee District. Act No. 490 becomes effective on August 1, 2018.

The Flood Protection Authority has attempted for a number of years to obtain authorization to provide the additional compensation that is currently paid to municipal police departments, sheriffs offices and numerous other agencies.

Legislators realized that our Officers operate within major metropolitan areas and are faced with the same challenges and risks as Federal, municipal and State law enforcement officers. Flood protection infrastructure for metropolitan areas in many instances is located adjacent to parkways, recreational areas, highways and roadways frequently used by the public. Levee District Police Officers partner and assist Federal, State and municipal police agencies whenever possible for the benefit of public safety. They not only patrol and secure levees, but must secure major complex flood defense structures valued in the tens to hundreds of millions of dollars. As with any type of urban infrastructure, flood defense infrastructure protecting major metropolitan areas is subject to security risks and requires heightened security measures. And, last, but certainly not least, our Levee District Police Officers remain on active duty and act as first responders during and after hurricane and storm events.

Chief Kerry Najolia expressed the Police Department's appreciation of the support of the Flood Protection Authority team and Board of Commissioners.

Thank You Veterans!

The Flood Protection Authority is extremely honored to have a number of team members who have served in the Armed Forces. In the Levee Loop is pleased to recognize, honor and thank these dedicated men and women who served to protect our country and freedom and have earned our lasting gratitude. Our colleagues who have served include (at time of print):



Joe Parsi-Gracianai
OLD ME Shop Superintendent
U.S. Air Force
Retired in 1998 after
23 Years Service



Arthur Brisset
EJLD Maint. Repr. 2
U.S. Marines
5 Years Service



P.O. Mike Rosenbohn
EJLD Police
U.S. Air Force
1968-1974
6 Years Service



P.O. Calvin Hills
OLD Police
U.S. Army/
LA National Guard
8 Years Service



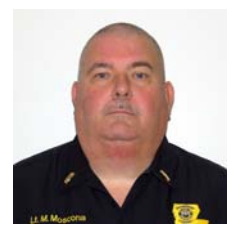
P.O. Brad Baradell
EJLD Police
U.S. Air Force 1992-1996
LA Air National Guard
1996-2006



P.O. Noel Sanders
OLD Police
U.S. Army
1989-1997



P.O. Vance Bieniemy
OLD Police
U.S. Navy
2 Years Service



Lt. Michael Moscona
EJLD Police
U.S. Army
1978 - 1981



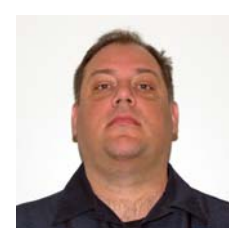
Lt. Coy Canulette
EJLD Police
U.S. Marine Corps
1989 - 1993



Sgt. Kenneth Pinkston
EJLD Police
U.S. Army 1987 - 1990
U.S. Army Reserve
1990—1995



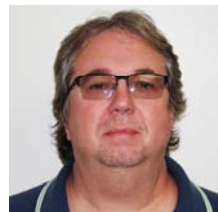
P.O. Edmond Gildig
EJLD Police
U.S. Navy
1972 - 1975



P.O. Robert Tewis
EJLD Police
U.S. Navy
1989 - 1993



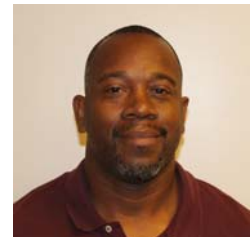
Robert Albright
PCCP Controls
Specialist Manager
U.S. Navy 1974 - 1978
Navy Reserve 1978 - 1980



Lyle Bulger
PCCP Electrician
Specialist Manager
U.S. Air Force
1986 - 1994



Ken Johnson
PCCP Power Gen.
Specialist Manager
New Zealand Scottish
Armored Regiment 1986-87
1987 - 2007 Reserve



Lyle Johnson
Complex Structures
Maint. Repairer 2
U.S. Marine Corps
1984 - 1999

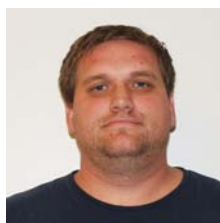
Thank You Veterans!



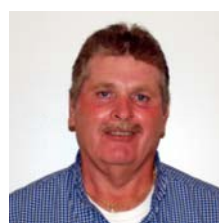
Phil Bacino
EJ Mechanic 2
LA Air National Guard
6 Years Service



Kerry Migliore
EJ Operations Superintendent
LA Air National Guard
3 Years Service



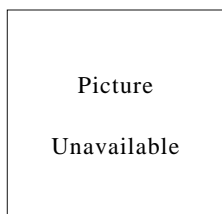
Remington Kreitzer
EJ Mechanic 3
U.S. Marines
6 Years Service



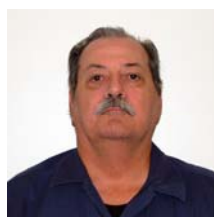
Philip Lapara
LB Operating
Engineer Master
U.S. Army and
LA Army National Guard
1981 - 1986



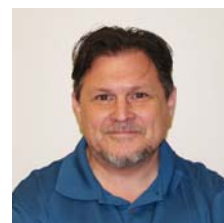
Brian Lee
OLD Maint. Equipment
Operator 1 Heavy
U.S. Army



Keaton Brisco
OLD Maint. Equipment
Operator 2
Air Force National Guard



Charles "Mike" Croll
LB Operating
Engineer Master
U.S. Navy
1973 - 1979



Kenny Albarado
Accountant 2
U.S. Army
4.5 Years Service
(Desert Storm)



Kimberly Preston
Accountant 3
U.S. Army
10 Years Service



Brandon McNabb
Deputy Finance Director
U.S. Air Force
9 Years Service



Roger Colwell
GIS Project Supervisor
U.S. Army
3 Years 5 Months



Kevin Kazmierczak
IT Tech Support Spec. 3
U.S. Air Force
4 Years Service



Derek Boese
CAO
U.S. Army
11 Years Service



"Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as best he can, the same cause."

Abraham Lincoln

FPA Annual Hurricane Preparedness Day



Hurricane Preparedness Day was observed on May 17th by the FPA.

FPA team members gathered at the Franklin Warehouse where CAO Derek Boese presented information on being personally prepared for hurricane season and on summer safety. I-Storm team members joined the FPA team to enjoy a meal of crawfish and other southern foods served by Mr. Mudbug.



FPA Team Members Receive Service Awards

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to FPA team members with a 2017 employment anniversary of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of services.



Pamela Zeringue
45 Years

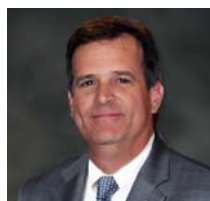
Deborah AbuNaser
35 Years



Carl Allen
25 Years



Carroll Barriere
25 Years



Gerry Gillen
25 Years



Kevin Kazmierczak
25 Years



Larry Ducote
20 Years



Darryl Franatovich
20 Years



Mary Johnson
20 Years



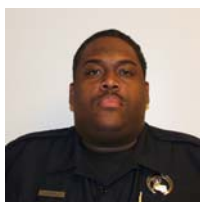
Frankie Williams
15 Years



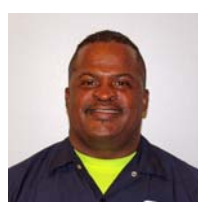
Lyonel Hill
10 Years



Brian Stropolo
10 Years



Jamel Brown
5 Years



Gilbert Charlot
5 Years



Marvin Duret
5 Years



Remington Kreitzer
5 Years



Wendell Lewis
5 Years



Rick Luettich
5 Years



Timothy Pisciotta
5 Years



Felton Suthon
5 Years

Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



Arthur Brisset is a Maintenance Repairer 2 in the East Jefferson Maintenance Division. Arthur joined the EJLD on October 17, 2008 as a Maintenance Equipment Operator 1. He advanced to Maintenance Equipment Operator 2 and then to Maintenance Repairer 2.

Arthur is a mainstay at the East Jefferson Kenner Facility and keeps the offices and shop running. Whether it is installing lights, building something that one of the FPA team members needs in order to make work and life easier, picking up parts, redesigning and securing storage and sensitive areas, he is always professional and helpful. Having been a US Marine, Arthur is committed to completing the mission no matter the obstacle or conditions. Although constantly busy, he is always willing and eager to put something else on his plate. Arthur is not discouraged by setbacks or even failure in equipment. He abides by the philosophy of **improvise, adapt and overcome**.

Arthur's abilities and efforts keep the facility running making it possible for the FPA to perform its mission. Arthur is valued and respected by his colleagues and is clearly a team player who exemplifies the Authority's values. The FPA is fortunate to have Arthur as a member of the FPA team.

Administrative Employee of the Month



Maria Chedid is the Accountant Administrator in the Finance Department. Maria has been with the FPA for three years and serves as the Controller for the FPA. Maria has been instrumental in the implementation of processes and procedures for the regionalization effort. Maria developed a plan to bring East Jefferson and Lake Borgne onto the MIP financial software so that all of the districts are on one accounting package. She is assisting with the development of the required journal entries needed for the consolidated payroll and with the reconciliation of cash transfers between all of the entities. Maria always remains calm and deliberate in stressful situations and takes time to meet and talk with her direct reports.

Due to the number of new employees in Finance, it was determined that a formal training program needed to be developed. Maria took the lead in organizing the first departmental training on the accounting system. She conducted an organized session with handout materials for everyone and even provided refreshments for the attending Finance Team members. Maria's demonstration of teamwork, professionalism and focus on mission make her an important asset to the FPA.

Police Employee of the Month

Officer Noel Sanders is a Police Officer 2 in the O.L.D.PD. He is recognized as a team player who is always willing to help his fellow officer. He can always be counted on to pitch in when a difficult situation comes about. He communicates well with his fellow officers and his supervisors.

Officer Sanders was instrumental in apprehending a carjacking perpetrator wanted by the NOPD. He remembered the description of the perpetrator's vehicle involved in a carjacking the day before and observed the vehicle parked on Lakeshore Drive. He observed a subject that matched the description of one of the perpetrators. He watched the subject and the vehicle while he contacted the NOPD Detective assigned to the case. Officer Sanders along with Lt. Pellitteri, Sgt. Laurent, and P.O. Holmes took the subject into custody without incident. The victim made a positive ID of the vehicle and a handgun was recovered.

Officer Sanders' demonstration of teamwork, keen observation and attention to detail and awareness of his surroundings, and his professionalism make him a tremendous asset to the FPA and the community.



Welcome New Flood Protection Team Members



Morris Washington
Painter at O.L.D.
Hired 4/23/18



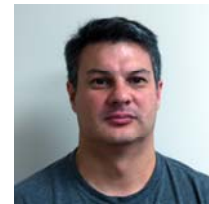
Juan Suarez
Maintenance Repairer 2 at O.L.D.
Hired 5/14/2018



Dave Dabney
Administrative Coordinator 1
Hired 5/7/2018



Matthew White
Police Officer 2A
Hired 6/4/2018



Brian Corte
Mechanic 1—PCCP
Hired 5/21/2018



Susan Jenkins
Administrative Coordinator 4
Hired 5/21/2018



Scott Meunier
Police Officer 2A
Hired 6/4/2018



Jonathan Downing
Police Officer 2A
Hired 6/4/2018

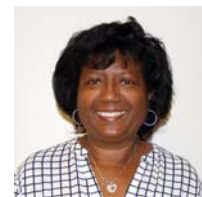
Congratulations on Promotion



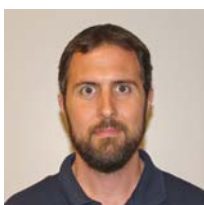
Glenn Hartline
Levee Foreman C
Effective 5/7/2018



Jorge Sisson
Procurement Specialist 3
Effective 5/21/2018



Deborah AbuNaser
Administrative Assistant 6
Effective 4/4/2018



Ryan Foster
Engineer 6
Effective 6/4/2018



Lucius (Felton) Suthon
Engineer 7
Effective 6/4/2018



Gary Lerouge
EJLD Police Sergeant
Effective 6/4/18

I-STORM Peer Review - Promoting O&M Excellence



The Flood Protection Authority joined I-STORM, the International Network for Storm Surge Barriers, in 2012. Last fall the FPA requested an I-STORM peer review of our major storm defense complex structures. The peer review started on May 12th and ended on May 21st with a presentation on the team's findings.

The goals of an I-STORM peer review are to promote the highest level of excellence in operation, maintenance and management of storm surge barrier assets by identifying areas for improvement, strengths and best practices, and to continue the development of an international network of surge barrier professionals through which knowledge, expertise and experience can be shared.

The team included twelve members from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, along with three Corps of Engineers and three FPA staff members. The team spent three days in the field, in record breaking heat, inspecting the IHNC Surge Barrier Sector Gate, Barge Gate, Bayou Bienvenue Sector Gate and the Seabrook Complex Gate Structure. Team members took hundreds of pictures documenting every aspect of the structures and developed a list of over 600 on-site facts identifying areas that need improvement and best practices that can be shared with I-STORM members.

The team met over the next several days pouring over and evaluating the 600+ collected facts with the skill, expertise and seriousness consistently exercised by this unique group of professionals that included environmental scientists, and electric/electronic, civil, mechanical, hydraulic and coastal engineers. The team developed a fifty page draft report with 203 pages of appendices. A final report will be submitted to the FPA by I-STORM.

The FPA is truly grateful for the opportunity to receive such a thorough professional evaluation of its critical flood defense infrastructure.



FPA Hosts PCCP Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Flood Protection Authority hosted the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) at the 17th Street Canal Pump Station on May 31st.



Public officials and guests were welcomed by President Joe Hassinger (left) and Commissioner Herb Miller. Speakers (left) included Col. Michael N. Clancy, New Orleans District Commander, Corps of Engineers, Ignacio Harrouch, CPRA Chief of Operations, Joe Sensebe, Interim Operations Manager for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, and Derek Boese, FPA CAO.

The ceremony took place just inside the massive pump station with a tour of the facility provided after the event.



Pictured clockwise from left: Herb Miller, Col. Michael Clancy, Ignacio Harrouch and Derek Boese. Pictured bottom left: Joe Sensebe.



Pictured below from left to right are the 17th Street Canal PCCP pumps (two 900 CFS pumps and six 1,800 CFS pumps), 15 Caterpillar generators and fuel storage tanks.



Our Levee District Police Serving the Community

EJLD PD Participates at Baby Cakes First Responder Night at Zephyr Field



On Saturday May 12th the EJLD Police Department was invited, along with a host of other police agencies, to participate in the Baby Cakes First Responder Night at Zephyr Field.

Pictured under the tent is Reserve Capt. Gerald Hart and Reserve Lt. Jack Marcey.

On the police bike is Reserve Captain Vincent Yetta.

Pictures taken by Capt. Donald Juneau.



O.L.D. PD Public Outreach at Lake Terrace Property Owners Association Crab Boil

Capt. C. Boudreaux and C Platoon members received the opportunity to interact with the community at the Lake Terrace Property Owners Association crawfish boil at Killdeer Park on Saturday May 19, 2018. Citizens were able to see some of the equipment officers use to do their jobs, and children received “Be Smart Say No to Strangers” activity books, book marks, and pencils. Parents were provided with “Tips to Protect Your Children from Strangers”.



Letter of Appreciation to EJLD Police from a Grateful Citizen

“May 18, 2018 Dear Chief Najolia:

“I live on Riverside Drive in Harahan. I frequently observe your EJLD officers providing backup or otherwise assisting the Harahan Police Department. Over the past year, I have observed your officers independently providing traffic enforcement in Harahan.

“I thank you and your officers for your assistance to my City. As you likely know, Riverside Drive in Harahan is 100% residential on one side and the other side is the park-like Mississippi River levee. The narrow two-lane Riverside Drive is posted at 20 MPH. Often drivers going west fail to reduce their speed from the posted 35 MPH (and higher speeds) in Old Jefferson.

“While radar speed signs have been installed, your officers' traffic enforcement in Harahan is a great help.

“Again, thank you for your service to Harahan. Sincerely, Robert Johnson”

G E M — Going the Extra Mile

Peggy Sembera Always Doing a “Job Well Done”!

A rare occasion it is to have the privilege of working with a colleague who consistently reaches above and beyond job requirements to take on anything for the sake of the agency and the mission. The FPA is privileged to have several such team members. One, in particular, is Peggy Sembera in the Finance Department. This November 11th, Peggy will have worked with Flood Protection for 28 years. She began her career at the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District and, due to organizational restructuring, Peggy transitioned to the Franklin office as a member of the regionalized Finance Department. Due to the unexpected resignation of our Human Resources Director, she accepted a temporary assignment as Interim Director in October, 2017. She passionately leapt into the Human Resources work ensuring that the employees received the level of service required during FPA’s search for another HR Director. More than providing great employee service, she built relationships quickly and collaborated successfully with her new colleagues, while continuing to complete many prior duties from the LBBLD during staff transitions. Peggy worked long days, longer nights, and even weekends to ensure the job was completed. Not once did Peggy complain about the workload. Peggy recently began her transition back to the Finance Department and she is as dedicated to the mission as ever.



Peggy, thank you for the fantastic job you do. Your hard work and dedication really helped during a challenging time. We want to welcome you back to our Finance Team and make sure you know how much you are valued and appreciated!

Kelli Chandler and the Finance Department Staff

Expression of Appreciation to EJ Maintenance Department

I would like to recognize the whole EJ maintenance department for their professional work ethic. They have always assisted me in a time of need and I respect each and every one of them. From the top down they are exactly what you want representing our agency. I couldn't just recognize just one guy. Not only do I consider them great coworkers, but I consider them friends. I am proud to work with these men and women.

Capt. Terrance Durnin, EJLD Police

FPA Team Begins Preparations for Subtropical Storm



Left: Steve Durr’s floodgate crew closing gates on May 24th in preparation for Invest 90L (Subtropical Storm Alberto).



Right: PCCP crew cross-training two EJ Mechanics, one Orleans Mechanic and Elbert Williams, Complex Crew Maintenance Foreman, at one of the PCCP pump stations.



LASERS Retirement Readiness Planner

The **Retirement Readiness Planner** is a valuable new tool designed to assist active LASERS members in the retirement planning process. The 32 page planner includes a helpful **Personal Data Organizer** and a **12-month Countdown to Retirement checklist**.

The **Retirement Readiness Planner** also covers valuable topics such as:

- Submitting your retirement application,
- Service credit purchases,
- Disability and survivor benefits,
- W-4P tax information,
- Returning to work for a LASERS member agency,
- Social Security and Medicare information,
- and much more!

The **Retirement Readiness Planner** and additional Retirement Readiness resources are available on the LASERS website at www.lasersonline.org/retirement-readiness.

Schedule Your Appointment for FREE Health Screening

A free health screening will be held in the Franklin Avenue Warehouse Safe House (2nd floor) on June 27 – 28, 2018 for any Office of Group Benefits Primary Blue Cross Policyholders who wish to participate. The health screening will be held from 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and is at no out of pocket cost to you. Participants will earn their premium credit for 2019 and get to know their health status related to diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

In order to participate, you must schedule your appointment in advance at www.TimeConfirm.com/OGB or by calling 1-877-841-3058.

Calendar of Events

June

June 1 (Friday) - Start of Hurricane Season

June 21 (Thursday) - Board-Committee Meetings

June 27-28 (Wednesday-Thursday) - On-Site Health Checkup OGB Blue Cross participants with appointments

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.