

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

January 15, 2019

Message From the President

New Year, Renewed Commitments

I am very excited about the outlook for 2019! We have an incredibly talented and committed team who will build upon the progress we made in 2018. I look forward to meeting with the Board this fall to present a long list of our 2019 accomplishments. This will be a year of training, HR strides, a renewed commitment to safety and security, and additional tweaks of our structure. No organization is stagnant. It is either moving forward, getting stronger and addressing weaknesses; or, it is backsliding into negative habits and outdated practices. We choose to move forward.

One final note, we have been trying to resolve challenges faced by the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District. Many, many hours of hard work have been invested. While we are not there yet, I expect 2019 to be the year that we and the parish cooperate and compromise to finally fix a longstanding problem, to ensure that our citizens of St. Bernard Parish are properly protected.

Happy New Year,

Joe

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr., - President
Richard A. Luettich, Jr., ScD - Vice President
Clay A. Cosse' - Secretary
Mark L. Morgan, P.E., Treasurer
Quentin D. Dastugue, CCIM
Andrew J. Englande, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., DEE
Jason P. Latiolais
Herbert I. Miller, P.E.
Herbert T. Weysham, III

*“If your actions
inspire others to
dream more, learn
more, do more and
become more, you
are a leader.”*

John Quincy Adams



FPA Challenge Coins

Challenge Coins have been an honored part of American military tradition for at least a century. While the origin of the tradition is unknown, the importance of Challenge Coins to today's members of the armed forces is unquestionable. A Challenge Coin is a small coin or medallion bearing an organization's insignia or emblem. Traditionally, the coins might be given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. Challenge Coins are given by commanders in recognition of a special achievement and to reward hard work, excellence and accomplishment, and are proudly collected and displayed by members of all branches of the military. The Challenge Coin tradition has been adopted by many non-military organizations.

Challenge Coins have been created for the FPA (left) and O.L.D. and EJLD Police Departments (right). Coins are given “on the spot” by supervisors to FPA team members to reward an accomplishment, extraordinary effort, outstanding performance or act of public service. The FPA is now a part of the Challenge Coin Tradition.



Welcome New FPA Team Members



Lyonel Lee Hill, Jr.
Mobile Equipment Operator 2
LBBLD
hired on 12/17/18

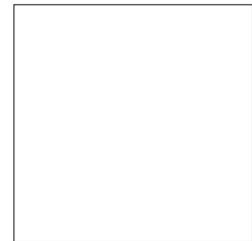


Randall Denny
Mobile Equipment Operator 2
LBBLD
hired on 12/17/18



Matthew Barbe
Laborer
LBBLD
hired on 12/17/18

George Granger
Mobile Equipment Operator 2
O.L.D.
hired on 12/17/18



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Patrick Brown
Maintenance Repairer 2
O.L.D.
hired on 12/10/18

Michelle White
Executive Counsel
FPA
hired on 01/04/19



“Appreciation is the deliberate, proactive valuing of your employee and what he or she has to offer. Appreciation is letting your employees know, in every way you can think of, the following: You matter. You count. You are important.”

Dr. Noelle Nelson

Best Wishes on Retirement



Edmond Gildig
Police Officer 2A
Hired on 2/1/93
Retired on 01/02/19
from EJLD PD



Troy Scott
Operations & Maintenance Coordinator
Hired on 8/15/80
Retired on 01/03/19
from O.L.D.



Keith Zimmer
Mechanic 3
Hired on 10/16 89
Retired on 01/03/19
from O.L.D.

Congratulations on Promotion



Shannon West
promoted to HR Analyst B
on 12/17/18



Brittany Roberts
promoted to Engineering Technician 3
on 12/31/18



Albert Pellitteri
Acting Commander OLD PD
on 12/17/18

FPA Welcomes New Executive Counsel

Michelle White joined the FPA as the new Executive Counsel on January 4th. Before coming on board, Michelle was Assistant Attorney General and Assistant Solicitor General for the Louisiana Attorney General. Prior to her service in the AG's Office, Michelle practiced law for more than fifteen years, primarily in the area of environmental, natural resources and energy regulatory defense law, representing clients in permitting, licensing, enforcement, incident investigation, and regulatory implementation disputes before state and federal agencies and courts.

Michelle received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry at LSU and a law degree from LSU Paul M. Hebert School of Law. She is a Past Chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association Environmental Law Section and currently serves on the Louisiana State Bar Association Ethics Advisory Service Committee.

Michelle participates in Volunteers in Public Schools and Thirst for Justice. She and her husband, Scott, enjoy Saints football, festivals and seeing live music.



Annual Safety & Progress Report Meeting



The FPA team joined together for the 2018 Annual Safety and Progress Report Meeting held on December 13th in the Atrium of the Lakefront Airport Terminal.

The presentation provided by CAO Derek Boese focused on the topics of safety and the 2018 employee survey.

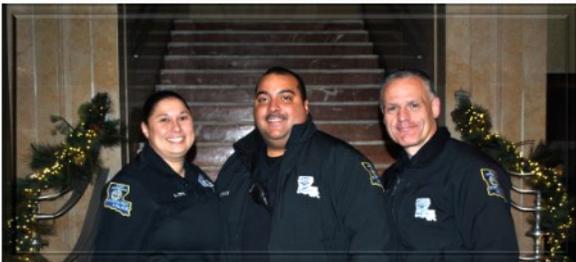


President Joe Hassinger spoke to the group about the past year's accomplishments and thanked team members for their service. A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Employee of the Year award to Shannon West.

Team members enjoyed posing for photos taken by photographer Kelly DeRocha who generously provided the pictures for this article.



Annual Safety & Progress Report Meeting



Annual Safety & Progress Report Meeting

Message—Safety First

The presentation provided by CAO Derek Boese at the December 13th meeting covered two subjects: 1) safety and 2) the employee survey conducted in September, 2018.

Following are the statistics for the FPA for calendar year 2018 and some takeaways:

Safety Statistics for 2018—How Did We Do?

Preventable Vehicle & Equipment Damage:

- 14 Vehicle
- 11 Equipment

Preventable Property Damage: 9

Work-Related Injuries: 37

Lost Time Injuries: 13

Vehicle/Equipment/Property Damage:

- 14 Vehicle
- 11 Equipment
- 9 Property

Themes: Weedeating, mowing and driving/backing.



Work Related Injuries:

7 Neck/Back	5 Leg/Knee	3 Shoulder/Wrist
2 Head	1 Ankle	4 Sting/Bites
2 Face	1 Foot	5 Arm/Hand/Finger
3 Eye	4 Rash	

Work Related Injuries - 37 Total

Themes:

Slip/Trip/Fall	Weedeating	Mowing
Uneven ground/lost footing	Mechanic Shop	

Lost Time Injuries - 13 Total

Equates to Incident Rate of **5.78** (Rate per 100 employees)

Comparison

All Louisiana Industries 0.9	State/Local Government 1.0
State/Local Heavy Construction 2.1	Private Heavy Construction 0.2

SAFETY STATISTICS TAKE-AWAYS

Positive/Sustain:

- ◆ Only 1 heat-related injury
- ◆ No Blame Games

Improve:

- ◆ Supervisor briefings
- ◆ Individual awareness
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Safety Program – Revised/revamped, coming in January

REMEMBER THE GOAL: EVERYONE GOES HOME SAFE EVERY DAY

WE CAN DO BETTER IN 2019

Annual Safety & Progress Report Meeting Message—Employee Survey

The second part of the presentation covered the results of the employee survey administered in September of 2018. Seventy-five percent of the FPA's employees participated in the survey (165 employees participated). A more detailed summary report will be coming in January. Listed below are points from the presentation:

Themes from the survey:

Things are better but there is still work to do

Improved:

HR

Certain communications, i.e., message boards, newsletter, job postings

Mixed:

Fairness/Accountability

Coordination/Cooperation between Departments

Training

Needs Work:

Staffing/Manpower

Supervisor Skills

The FPA's **Culture Initiative** will take on a new format in 2019. Different groups of employees will be selected each quarter by ES. Groups will consist of a range of employees by location, job function, supervisor, etc. The focus will be on a single topic each quarter. The first two topics will be training and communication. Employees interested in participating in the culture initiative, please let your HR/Employee Services representative and Chain of Command know. Please note that there are no guarantees and that all employees are eligible to participate.

The CAO's focus in 2019 is Risk Management, including safety, training and documentation.

Employee of the Year

Shannon West was recognized by the FPA as the Employee of the Year at the December 13th Annual Meeting. The Employee of the Year is selected from among the team members who were nominated, selected and recognized as the Employee of the Month in the categories of Administration, Operations or Police during the calendar year.

Shannon is an HR Analyst B in Employee Services (ES). She was nominated by her colleagues and selected as the Employee of the Month in August due to her commitment to the FPA's mission and outstanding performance of her duties. She is a hard working professional who cares about the organization and has earned the admiration and respect of all FPA team members.

Shannon was hired by the EJLD on February 24, 2003, as an Accounting Specialist and advanced to Accounting Technician and Administrative Program Specialist A. Shannon primarily performed Finance duties until she relocated from the EJLD to the Franklin Facility. She quickly adapted to her new environment and took on a completely new role—that of an HR Analyst—at a time when the FPA was being reorganized and urgently needed someone to provide much needed HR services. Shannon officially became an HR Analyst A on June 4, 2018 and was promoted to HR Analyst B on December 17, 2018.

Shannon is always professional, positive, responsive and cares about her coworkers, and there have been nothing but excellent reports regarding the services she provides. She is an important part of the ES team, which is dedicated to performing excellent service for FPA team members. She is a tremendous asset to the FPA exemplifying the FPA's values in the daily performance of her duties.



Picture by Antwan Harris

O.L.D. Police Complex Ribbon Cutting



Board President Joe Hassinger welcomed everyone to the December 13th Ribbon Cutting for the new Orleans Levee District Police Department (OLDPD) Complex. He stated, “Prior to Katrina the facility was poor. After Katrina, the officers made do in a makeshift facility that they outgrew a long time ago. This project is a long time in the making, and we are extremely proud of our officers and happy to have this new beautiful new facility that fits their needs perfectly.”

“The Orleans Levee District Police Department is back home”, declared Police Superintendent Kerry Najolia. The former OLDPD station, a renovated former gas station enlarged to accommodate the levee district’s police personnel, was devastated by Hurricane Katrina and demolished to make way for the new modern facility. The Elysian Fields site has historically served the OLDPD and the public well, and is easily accessible and strategically located to accomplish the OLDPD’s mission.

Chief Najolia explained that the OLDPD is not only responsible for the Flood Protection Authority’s (FPA) facilities, as well as its critical infrastructure, but partners with local, state and federal law enforcement officers. Joe Hassinger stated, “The OLDPD protects and serves citizens throughout New Orleans from the lake to the river and from River Bend to the Rigolets. And they do it every day with little fanfare and little recognition.” He told the officers, “We are proud of you and thank you for your service.”

Derek Boese, FPA CAO, added, “This new police station is not only an amazing and beautiful new building, but the location also signifies our belief in community interaction and an active public presence, especially from our Police Department.”



Pictured: Joe Hassinger, President; Derek Boese, CAO; and Kerry Najolia, Police Superintendent (above).

Wilma Heaton, Governmental Affairs Director, backed by OLDPD Officers (below).



The facility includes a 24 hour dispatch and response line covering all three parishes served by the FPA and every structure operated by the FPA.

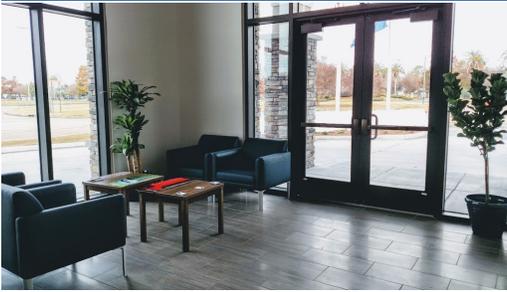
Wilma Heaton summed up the FPA’s thoughts when she stated, “This building symbolizes that our officers matter and they and the community deserve this building”.

View the ribbon cutting ceremony on the FPA website:

<https://www.floodauthority.org/videos/>



The New State-of-the-Art O.L.D. Police Complex



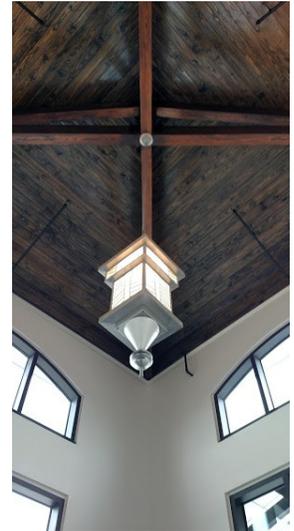
The new modern facility was constructed to support the OLDPD and its dedicated, committed team of professional P.O.S.T. certified law enforcement officers who are highly trained to accomplish the mission of the FPA and provide assistance to Federal, State and municipal law enforcement agencies whenever possible for the benefit of public safety.



The 10,000 sq. ft. complex includes a 7,500 sq. ft. police station with full generation power, storage garage for police vehicles and security fencing.



The police station includes a conference/training center, dispatch with state-of-the-art communications equipment, administrative offices, reception area with vaulted ceiling, holding cell, breakroom and locker rooms. The 1,183 sq. ft. conference/training center is fully equipped with audio/visual technology and furnished to accommodate the continuous training required by professional law enforcement officers.



The total construction cost for the new OLDPD Complex was \$3,185,579.

EJLD Safehouse and Consolidated Facility Update



The EJLD Safehouse and Consolidated Facility is nearing completion. New furnishings will be delivered to the facility in January. The FPA anticipates that EJLD employees will be able to move into the modern new facility in March and that the ribbon cutting ceremony will be held in late March or early April.

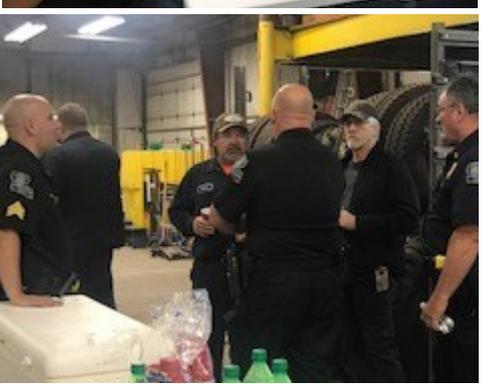
EJLD Holds Goodbye Lesan Facility Christmas Party



Carol Purcello shared some snapshots of the EJLD “Goodbye Lesan Facility Christmas Party”. Carol reported that the party was great, the food was plentiful, and employees and guests were awesome.



Carol thanked everyone involved for making the last party in the EJLD Lesan Facility memorable, adding that staff looks forward to moving into its new Consolidated Facility in early 2019.



O.L.D. Police Ride in NOE Christmas Parade



Pictured: Officer Ryan Frazier, Reserve Sgt. Edwin Brauner and Officer Vance Bieniemy.

Mary Johnson, Administrative Assistant for the O.L.D. Police Department, commented, "It was so great to see our officers, leading the New Orleans East Christmas Parade, riding with such pride!"

The New Orleans East Christmas Parade was held on Saturday, December 15th. The Orleans Levee District Police Department participated in the parade with a number of various public safety agencies, such as the New Orleans Police Department, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, First and Second City Court Constables' Offices and New Orleans Fire Department, along with numerous other participants. The parade featured 12 floats and at least 30 marching or dancing groups and traveled along Crowder, Hayne and Read Boulevards.

St. Pius X Student Carolers Visit OLD PD



On Wednesday December 19, 2018 St. Pius X students visited the Orleans Levee District Police Department Substation in the Lake Vista Community Center to sing Christmas Carols and present gifts to the O.L.D. Police Officers.

Reserve Captain S. Eagan, Lt. A. Pellitteri, PO J. Holmes and PO W. Kimball are pictured with the students.



"Make New Year's goals. Dig within, and discover what you would like to have happen in your life this year... The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals."

Melody Beattie

Corps of Engineers Schedule for 2019 Annual Inspections

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued its schedule of Annual Inspections for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) and Mississippi River Levees (MRL).

Tuesday, January 15 – Meet **East Jefferson Levee District** at 8:00 a.m. on the Mississippi River levee at the Orleans/Jefferson Parish line. Inspect Mississippi River Levee & completed HSDRRS levees/floodwalls on the eastbank in Jefferson Parish in the **New Orleans East Bank System**. **SEGMENT: EJL1**

Wednesday, January 30 – Thursday, January 31 – Meet **Lake Borgne Basin Levee District** at 8:30 a.m. on the Mississippi River Levee at the Orleans/St. Bernard Parish line. Inspect Mississippi River levees/floodwalls and completed HSDRRS levees/floodwalls in St. Bernard Parish in the **New Orleans East Bank System (St. Bernard Subbasin)**. **SEGMENT: LBL1**

Tuesday, February 5 – Leave MVN at 7:45 a.m. Inspect the HSDRRS levees & Mississippi River levee in Orleans Parish in the **New Orleans East Bank System (St. Bernard Subbasin)**. **SEGMENT: OLD3**

Thursday, February 7 – Meet **Orleans Levee District** at 8:00 a.m. on the MRL at the foot of Eagle Street near the Orleans-Jefferson Parish line. Inspect Mississippi River levees and floodwalls and the Seabrook Complex in Orleans Parish in the **New Orleans East Bank System (Orleans Metro Subbasin)**. We will also inspect the IHNC West floodwall if time permits. **SEGMENT: OLD1**

Tuesday, February 12 – Wednesday, February 13 – Meet **Orleans Levee District** at 8:30 a.m. at their office at 6920 Franklin Avenue. Inspect the completed HSDRRS levees/floodwalls in Orleans Parish in the **New Orleans East Bank System (Orleans Metro Subbasin)**. **SEGMENT: OLD1**

Wednesday, March 27 – Meet **Orleans Levee District** at 8:30 a.m. at their office at 6920 Franklin Avenue. Inspect the completed HSDRRS levees in the **New Orleans East Bank System (Orleans East Subbasin)**. **SEGMENT: OLD2**

TBD – Leave MVN at 7:45 a.m. Meet **Orleans Levee District** at the **Lake Borgne Surge Barrier** & inspect the structure in the **New Orleans East Bank System (Orleans East Subbasin)**. **SEGMENT: OLD2**

Calendar of Events

January

January 17 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

January 21 (Monday) - Martin Luther King Day (State Holiday)

February

February 21 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

March

March 5 (Tuesday) - Mardi Gras Day (State Holiday)

March 21 (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@floodauthority.org or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.