In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

September 15, 2019

Message From Vice President Mark Morgan

When Kathleen Blanco asked me to serve on SLFPA-West and CPRA in 2006, I recognized the challenges and as the Engineer representing the West Authority, I was deeply involved in all aspects from feasibility to design and construction review. Governors Jindal and Edwards asked me to move to the East Authority.



It has been a real pleasure and honor to serve on the Board of Commissioners for the SLFPA-East. As a south Louisiana resident since 1958, I have been mindful of the ever-present challenges and disruptions that hurricanes bring.

My first experience and memories was with Hurricane Carla (1961) which brought flood waters to the Westbank. I remember being carried through waters to dry land. Hurricane Betsy (1965) passed directly over our house. As a 10 year old I was not scared at all. We never stayed in Belle Chasse again when a storm threatened. Hurricane Camille (1969) wreaked havoc with my Grandmother's house and I spent several weeks and weekends helping her refurbish her place. Hurricane Andrew (1992) made me miss work, which I don't like. On August 24, 2005 my wife brought our youngest daughter to college in Birmingham, crying all the way home about an empty house. The next week Katrina (2005) made her parents, brother, and his wife, three kids and their pets, including a snake, a drum set and other relatives and friends find refuge at our place; no empty house. My brother lost his home in Isaac (2012). He rebuilt 18 feet above ground and is still waiting on FEMA reimbursement.

I know many of you have similar experiences and why we do what we do to protect our family, friends and neighbors from potential Hurricanes and storm related issues. I thank you for the job you do. I look forward to helping each of you to be as successful as we can.

Mark

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST COMMISSIONERS

Herbert I. Miller, PE, DDE, F. ASCE -President Mark L. Morgan, P.E. - Vice President Clay A. Cosse'- Secretary Quentin D. Dastugue, CCIM - Treasurer Andrew J. Englande, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., DEE Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr. Jason P. Latiolais K. Randall Noel Herbert T. Weysham, III

"Believe me that in every big thing or achievement there are always obstacles, big or small, and the reaction one shows to such obstacles is what counts, not the obstacle itself."

"Defeat is a state of mind; No one is ever defeated until defeat has been accepted as a reality."

Bruce Lee



September 2019 is the 30th anniversary of National Recovery Month, which was created to spread the message that treatment is effective, and people can and do recover—every day. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides a wealth of information about mental health, substance abuse and treatment programs on its website – **SAMHSA.gov**. The website also provides national helplines for people to talk to a professional about Treatment Referral, Suicide Prevention, Disaster Distress and Veterans In Crisis.

Every September, SAMHSA sponsors National Recovery Month to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders and celebrate the millions of Americans who are in recovery.

Welcome New FPA Team Members



Donnie Garner Laborer Orleans



Anthony Parker Mobile Equipment Operator 1 Orleans



Adrian Williams Mobile Equipment Operator 1 Orleans



Zack Wertz Electrician Specialist Orleans



Corey Holmes Mobile Equipment Operator 1 Orleans



Christopher Bailey Laborer Lake Borgne



Edwin Colar Laborer Lake Borgne



Garland Williams Laborer Lake Borgne



Jacqualyn Robinson-Hughes Police Officer 2-A, OLD All new hires as of 8/26/19



Gabriel Faucetta Police Officer 2-A, OLD



Myles Ledet Police Officer 2-A, EJLD



Edgar Merida Police Officer 2-A, EJLD



Brittany Roberts Engineering Intern 1 08/26/19



Darnell Laurent Police Lieutenant-A 7/15/19



Jarrett Dase Mobile Equipment Operator 1 Orleans 8/26/19



Joseph Bailey Mechanic 3 EJLD 8/26/19

Congratulations on Promotion

Congratulations on Promotion

Promotions to Mobile Equipment Operator 2 at Orleans on 8/26/19



Duane Gayden



Jeff Johnson



Korey Louis



Wendell Lewis



Roy Moss



Rontrell Jones

Welcome Randy Noel - New FPA Board Member



The Board's newest Member, K. Randall "Randy" Noel, was sworn into office by President Herb Miller at the August 15th Board meeting.

Randy began his home building career at age 12 when his father placed a broom in his hand to clean a new home. After that he was a trim carpenter's helper, plumber's helper, marbella installer, and complaints manager. Soon he was Vice President in charge of operations for his father's company. In 1985 he began Reve, Inc., which builds custom homes. He was president of the Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans and the State of Louisiana. In 2008 he was inducted into the Louisiana Builders Hall of Fame.

Randy is currently serving on the LHBA General Liability Indemnity Trust Board. He has served on the National Association Board of Directors for 23 years and is a Senior Life Member. He is the past chairman of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Council. He was the second Member of the Institute of Residential Marketing in the State of Louisiana and the 2018 Chairman of the National Association of Home Builders, the first Louisiana Home Builder to serve as a National Chairman. Randy has spoken at numerous functions on building codes, marketing, and insurance.

Randy has participated in: drafting FEMA's "Local Officials Coastal Construction Reference Manual", drafting HUD's "Fact Sheets on storm mitigation construction", Louisiana GOHSEP Disaster Report for FEMA, writing and overseeing grants for Code offices while on LSUCCC, and soliciting IBTS to make code inspections after storms in 2006.

Randy expressed his eagerness to serve on the FPA Board at the August 15th meeting. He commented that clearly one of the most important things in this region is flood protection and stressed the importance of flood protection remaining at the highest level possible so that the communities in this region can thrive and grow.



Steve Spencer Recognized for Contribution to Flood Defense



L-R: Herb Weysham, Quentin Dastugue, Mark Morgan, Herb Miller, Steve Spencer, Joe Hassinger, Andrew Englande, Derek Boese, Jason Latiolais and Randy Noel

The Board at its August 15th meeting recognized Stevan Spencer, Regional Chief Engineer, who retired from State Service on September 9th.

Steve was presented with a plaque from the FPA in recognition and grateful appreciation for his 26 years of dedication and commitment to flood protection and to the citizens of Southeast Louisiana.

Steve has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Civil Engineering and has been a Civil Engineer for over 40 years and an Environmental Engineer for over 20 years.

Steve served the Orleans Levee District and the Flood Protection Authority for over 26 years, serving as the O.L.D.'s Chief Engineer and advancing to O.L.D. Executive Director in 2006. On March 19, 2009, Steve was appointed by the Board to the position of Regional Chief Engineer.

Steve's 26 years working with regional flood protection provided him with a wealth of accumulated knowledge and a familiarity and understanding of the system that very few possess. Steve's expertise, knowledge and understanding of the flood protection system and regional flood defense issues was crucial and indispensable in the rebuilding of flood protection after Hurricane Katrina and in the construction of the \$14 billion Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, as well as during post-Katrina recovery efforts and the establishment, development and growth of the Flood Protection Authority.

Steve remained on 24-hour duty for many major storms and every hurricane over the past 26 years, including Hurricanes Katrina, George, Ivan, Gustav and most recently Barry. His expertise and accumulated knowledge of the system made him invaluable when decisions had to be made during the most stressful of circumstances concerning the operation of the system. Steve spent many long and arduous hours with his fellow employees coordinating the closure of the flood defense system in exacting timeframes, and performing emergency operation activities, after storm inspections and recovery efforts.

Steve routinely worked closely with various Federal, State and local agencies in the performance of his day-to -day and emergency operation activities, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, LA Department of Transportation and Development and the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.

Steve's significant contribution to the recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina and the building of the world class Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, as well as his commitment to protect and serve the citizens of Southeast Louisiana, will be well remembered by his colleagues. He is well respected by the employees of the Flood Protection Authority and he will be sorely missed.

Congratulations to Ruby Gethers, Newly Commissioned Notary



Ruby is a Paralegal in the Legal Department. She recently sat for the Louisiana State Notary Exam and successfully passed. She is now a Commissioned Notary for the Parish of Orleans with Statewide Jurisdiction. Her commission is for life.

The FPA Team congratulates Ruby on this impressive professional accomplishment.

Congressman Steve Scalise Holds Press Conference at Lakefront Airport

U.S. Congressman Steve Scalise held a press conference on August 26th in the New Orleans Lakefront Airport Terminal after completing a one hour aerial tour along with other levee officials of Southeast Louisiana's massive flood protection system. Gaps in the Morganza levee system, as well as local flood protection issues, coastal restoration and navigation were of particular focus.

Congressman Scalise is making it clear that levees are a good investment ultimately saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. Reporters were advised by Congressman Scalise that more work needs to be done and that he wants to help finish critical projects.

Pictured Right: Congressman Steve Scalise addresses the media.



Left: Herb Miller, Chief Kerry Najolia, CAO Derek Boese and Congressman Scalise. Right: Congressman Scalise, Kyle Ruckert and Herb Miller.

Below: Col. Stephen Murphy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at microphone. Dwayne Bougeois, North Lafourche Levee District, Congressman Scalise, Rear Admiral John Nadeau, U.S. Coast Guard, Herbert Miller, FPA President, and Reggie Dupre, North Lafourche Levee District pictured behind speaker (L-R).



FPA Team Members Receive Levee Inspection Training

Seventy-one (71) FPA employees attended the Levee Inspection Certification course conducted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) in August at the Franklin Avenue Complex. The training consists of three parts: "Levee & Flood Control Works", "Floodwalls", and "Drainage Structures and Pump Stations".





The course offers a well thought-out introduction or refresher about what employees need to be aware of and the training required for employees to become certified Levee Inspectors. After attending the course and passing the test, each person receives a Levee Inspector Certificate that is good for five years.

Levee Inspection Training enhances each Team Member's contribution to the success of the FPA and the fulfillment of its flood protection mission.

Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



The Board recognized Dwayne Johnson as the FPA Employee of the Month. Dwayne was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Employee of the Month due to his professionalism, teamwork, and mission focus.

Dwayne is a Painter Foreman in the Operations and Maintenance -Facilities Department and has been with the FPA for almost four years. Dwayne started as a Painter and advanced to the Foreman position by setting the standard for his crew to follow. Dwayne has a great working attitude towards everything and he does not see anything as a problem or any job as being too hard to do.

Dwayne plans out how to get the job done in the most effective and efficient way possible. He never has anything negative to say about anyone or anything, and he always has a positive attitude and an excellent outlook about things.

Dwayne is always trying to learn and teach his crew how to do jobs the best way possible by first learning himself then laying it out in detail for his crew. He has always pitched in to help with everything from painting to storm preparation to moving file cabinets and furniture, cleaning up debris after storm events and many other jobs.

Dwayne exemplifies the FPA's values in the daily performance of his work. He is a tremendous asset to the FPA and enriches the environment of the workplace. His positive attitude, hard work and contribution to the FPA allows the organization to be a success and accomplish its mission to protect and serve the public.

Administrative Employee of the Month



Alexander Williams was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Administration Employee of the Month. Alexander is an Engineering Technician 3 in the Engineering GIS Department who has impressed his colleagues with his professional, demonstration of teamwork and his focus on the FPA's mission.

Alexander has been accessible and consistent with regards to utilization of his technical skillset throughout the extended High River Event. He has ingratiated himself across the Engineering Department, sharing his expertise and insight to streamline data collection and interpretation, and he clearly communicates concerning intent and actual work towards improving the FPA's electronic inspection tools and programs.

Alexander has seamlessly transferred field experience garnered during High River and Storm events into practical computation programing and practices that have increased efficiency and communicability across the Engineering Department

For the best part of six months, Alexander has selflessly given a volume of hours over to ICC, EOC and High Tide Inspection efforts. His technical skillset has helped advance the level of competency of the Engineering Department as a whole as he has helped both educate and implement computational methods and practices that have improved the EOC/Survey crew's efficiency and accuracy several times over.

Alexander clearly exemplifies the FPA's values in his day-to-day conduct and work, and is an invaluable asset to the FPA and its mission to protect and serve the public.

Police Employee of the Month Recognized by Board

Sgt. Gary LeRouge was nominated by his colleagues for his demonstration of leadership, incredibly positive attitude even in difficult times, teamwork and professionalism. Sgt. LeRouge was unable to attend the August 16th Board meeting and will be recognized by the Board at the September Board meeting.

Gary LeRouge is a Police Sergeant A with the EJLD Police Department. Sgt. LeRouge has displayed leadership beyond words during the last couple of months. While dealing with a serious medical diagnosis, he continued to demonstrate his tremendous value to the FPA by working on various projects, including a Port Security Grant and NIMS and AARP training while being on light duty status.



After having to be off duty, he is always ready to return to work. His upbeat personality is contagious to all who are around him.

Sgt. LeRouge has invested many hours training to become a NIMS instructor and not only conducts the FPA's in house NIMS training, but does it incredibly well. His passion and drive is greatly admired by all those around him and he is well known by his colleagues for his determination, perseverance and positive "can do" attitude. He has shown inner strength second to none and exemplifies the courage, fortitude and resilience needed to overcome any obstacle.

Sgt. LeRouge epitomizes the values of the FPA. He is a tremendous asset to the FPA and the East Jefferson Levee District Police Department and an incredible example to all FPA team members.

CAO Derek Boese Recognized by Board



President Herb Miller presented a plaque signed by FPA Directors to Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer for his dedication and outstanding leadership during Tropical Storm /Hurricane Barry and the 2019 Flood Fight.

Pictured L-R: Herb Weysham, Quentin Dastugue, Mark Morgan, Herb Miller, Derek Boese, Joe Hassinger, Andrew Englande, Jason Latiolais and Randy Noel.

Congratulations to the FPA's First Certified Drone Pilots



Congratulations to Roger Colwell, IT Geographic Project Supervisor, Darrin Austin, Engineer 6, and Darren Nichols, Facilities Maintenance Manager (pictured L-R) for receiving their Remote Pilot Certificate from the FPA for piloting drones.

Certificate holders must pass the FPA's aeronautical knowledge test demonstrating an understanding of the regulations, operating requirements and procedures for safely flying drones. Drones are fast becoming an innovative way to accomplish numerous tasks, such as quickly viewing remote and difficult to access sites, aerial photography and gathering post-storm information. The development of new drone technologies and the customization of drones will open the door to a wide array of new functions in the future.

OLDPD and NOPD Partnership



Captain Mike Brenckle recently met with Superintendent Shaun Ferguson at the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Headquarters to discuss strategies on crime fighting initiatives and deploying Orleans Levee District Police Department (OLDPD) assets to best accommodate and serve the residents and visitors in our city.

Captain Brenckle assured Chief Ferguson that the OLDPD is committed to continuing to be great partners with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies!

Both agencies pledged to continue to provide and support mutual Police training initiatives to ensure that our officers are learning and practicing contemporary police standards.

Pictured: (L) NOPD Superintendent Shaun Ferguson and (R) OLD PD Captain Mike Brenckle

Wellness Program for Levee District Police



all Police Officers. The wellness program will consist of a holistic approach, including, but not limited to: classes in Diet/ Nutrition, Smoking, Stress Management, Exercise, etc.

The Police Department has begun a Wellness Program for

A major component will consist of all officers taking yearly medical physicals (provided by the FPA Health Insurer), then getting assessed physically in categories including flexibility, upper / lower body strength and cardio vascular endurance. The results will be compared to national statistics based on age and sex. The goal of this program is to get each employee at a fitness level consistent with the (50%) percentile which is an average national fitness level for the USA.

(L) Capt. Vincent Yetta, (M) Mackie Shilstone, Sports Trainer, (R) Capt. Mike Brenckle

Mackie Shilstone met with Captains Yetta and Brenckle in an effort to provide guidance with state of the art fitness methodologies to utilize for our agency's wellness program!

Although the fitness assessment component is mandatory, voluntary participation in a consistent and long range fitness program will be encouraged.

Please support Captain Yetta and the other fitness instructors so this program will be successful by enhancing the Quality of Life for our employees!

Kerry Najolia Police Superintendent

Pictured Right: Lt. Charlie Hill... Night-Watch PT Agility Test



Levee District Police Participate in Active Shooter Drill



At least 20 East Jefferson Levee District and Orleans Levee Districts Police Officers and Reserve Officers participated in the active shooter exercise with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Causeway Police, Jefferson Parish Fire Department, EMS and other agencies from across the metropolitan area in a simulated active shooter drill at Lakeside Mall in Metairie.

In addition to the participating levee district officers and reserves, Police Superintendent Kerry Najolia helped oversee aspects of the drill. Captain Michael Brenckle, Sergeant Kenneth Pinkston and Officer Richard Robinson served as monitors in the exercise.

The drill began at about 10 pm (an hour after closing time at the mall) and included multiple and single shooter scenarios and casualties and placed approximately 200 law enforcement, EMS and fire departments personnel in high stress situations in order to proactively prepare for the worse case scenario. The drill allowed first responders from different jurisdictions an opportunity to learn how to work together quickly and effectively in case of an emergency.



Congratulations Challenge Coin Recipients



EJLD Police Captain Terry Durnin presented Challenge Coins to Carol Purcello, Remington Kreitzer, and Joe Bailey for their exemplary performance during Hurricane Barry.

Captain Terry Durnin also presented a Challenge Coin to Authur Brisset for his "awesome" assistance and willingness to help the police department in times of need.

FPA Team Members Receive ATV Training

This past month 33 FPA employees took part in ATV training activities. Currently four wheelers are used on levee areas where trucks and tractors cannot be driven. Each participant was required to take an e-course on the ATV Safety Institute website and then attend hands on classes on how to properly trailer an ATV, which included the correct technique on driving an ATV on and off of a trailer, securely strapping an ATV onto a trailer and backing up a truck with a trailer attached.

The final part of training was completed by having each participant drive an ATV on a pre-mapped road course that included riding up and down different heights of levees and over road obstructions typically found on levees.

Trailering instructions were given at the OLD by Keanon Brisco, with assistance from Darrin Richards and Monica Ross, and at the EJLD by Glenn Hartline, assisted by attendees familiar with trailering. Training on properly riding and operating an ATV was given by Captain Terrance Durnin, assisted by Shawn Boudion and Dorris Vidrine. The training was customized to each person's experience level prior to going out on the road course.





Safety Message - Safe Driving Tips

- Know Where You Are Going: Plan your travel route ahead of time.
- Make Adjustments for the Weather: Use extra precaution.
- Buckle Up: Seat belts are the 1st line of defensive against injuries.
- Mirrors: Check rear view and side mirrors and adjust accordingly.
- Don't Text and Drive: Texting is against the law.
- Share the Road: Respect other drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Obey Speed Limits: Speed Limits are selected to maximize safety.
- **Respect Yellow Lights:** Do not accelerate...be prepared to stop.
- Stop Signs: Come to a complete stop and look both ways.
- Yield to the Right of Way and Pedestrian Crosswalks: It's the law.
- Use Turn Signals: When making turns and lane changes.
- Exercising Patience may save your life and the lives of others.

Your FPA Safety Team



Civil Service Tours East Bank Hurricane Protection System

In its continuing effort to regionalize the three levee districts, the FPA has strongly partnered with Civil Service to forge an understanding of how the FPA maintains the complex system that protects Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard Parishes from flooding during a hurricane or other severe storm event. To that end, Derek Boese, FPA CAO, and Employee Services invited the State Civil Service POD D team to tour the east bank hurricane protection system.

On Thursday, August 22, 2019, Antwan Harris, Public Information Officer (PIO), Sandy West, HR Director, Madriana Montes, HR Analyst B, Shannon West, HR Analyst B, and Kerry Najolia, Police Chief, welcomed Pod D members, Elizabeth Montalbano, Agency Relationship Manager, Kevin Carter, Assistant Agency Relationship Manager, and Patrice Davis, POD Supervisor, to the EJLD Safe Room and Consolidated Facility.

Escorted by EJLD and OLD police officers, the entourage covered three parishes in five hours, visiting the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier, French Quarter Floodgate, Franklin Avenue Facility, 17th Street Canal PCCP, and the levees along the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain.





The tour was a collaborative cross-functional team effort.

Special thanks to the tour guides: Darren Austin, Engineer 6 (IHNC Surge Barrier), Derek Boese, CAO (Lunch and Franklin), Harold Daigle (17th Street Canal PCCP), Ryan Foster, Engineer 7 (French Quarter Floodgate), Jacinta Gisclair, Engineer 4, and Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering (Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain levees), and Rusty Kennedy, Deputy CAO (EJLD); police escorts and assistance: Vance Bieniemy, PO3-A, Gerald Duplessis, Police Sergeant-A, Ryan Frazier, PO2-A, Mike Hoctel, PO2-A, Jerald Holmes, Police Investigator, Joshua Martin, PO2-A, Edgar Merida, PO2-A, Kerry Najolia, Police Chief, and Sean West, PO3-A; Employee Services: Madriana Montez, HR Analyst B, Sandy West, HR Director and Shannon West, HR Analyst B; tour coordinator and host: Antwan Harris, PIO; and photographer: Trai Thomas, Public Information Student Intern.

GEM—Going the Extra Mile



I would like to recognize someone who I truly consider a friend for going the extra mile. This individual is always there when I need help and yes I need plenty of that. He has installed our mailbox at the new facility and put up our new dry erase board upstairs and installed 2 new key lock boxes for us. Mr. Arthur Brissette is the true definition of going the extra mile. He does it daily and I have come to admire him for his work ethic. The only issue I have with Arthur is that he still can't cook good red beans. Red beans were made to be thick!

Capt. Terry Durnin, EJLD Police

Calendar of Events

September

September 19 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

October

October 17 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

November

November 11 (Monday) - Veterans Day (State holiday)

November 21 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

November 28 (Thursday) - Thanksgiving (State holiday)

November 29 (Friday) - Acadian Day (must be declared by Governor)

December

December 19 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

December 25 (Wednesday) - Christmas (State holiday)

January

January 1 (Wednesday) - New Year's Day (State Holiday)

Reminders

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

All employees must complete one hour of Ethics training and one hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training for calendar year 2019. Supervisors must complete one <u>additional</u> hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training for calendar year 2019.

FPA Safety Concerns and Suggestions

Teamwork Improves



An email address has been set up for the FPA Safety Team to receive emails about your safety concerns, suggestions and suggested topics for future safety meetings.

Send your emails to safety@floodauthority.org .

The Flood Protection Authority urges everyone to become informed about their flood defense system and encourages organizations and business and community groups to schedule a tour of the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier and Permanent Canal Closure and Pumps (PCCP) Stations.

To schedule a tour of the IHNC Surge Barrier and/or PCCP, visit our website at floodauthority.org and click on "Schedule Facility Tours" at the bottom of our home page. Fill out the Tour Information Sheet and click on "submit" at the bottom of the sheet.

> 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 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.