

# In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

January 15, 2020

## *Message From President Herbert Miller*

As we begin a New Year, we remember those things that made 2019 so successful. The teamwork that resulted in our effective response to Hurricane Barry showed the value of working together to accomplish our goals. Our efforts during that storm, with the support of the National Guard, allowed us to protect the low spots along the Mississippi River in St. Bernard Parish and successfully close, for the first time that it was required, all the gates and control structures under our jurisdiction. We demonstrated our willingness and ability to assist our neighbors by supplying sandbags for neighboring areas that were impacted by Barry. The introduction of drones into our levee inspection system demonstrated our continued commitment to utilizing new technologies to improve our operations. The hiring of additional, highly qualified, key staff members to complete our Executive Staff showed the continuing support of the Board of Commissioners to ensure that we continue to mature as an organization in a controlled manner. Those and the many other accomplishments are truly a measure of the value of you, our employees, to our organization and the community at large.

As we advance into this new decade, we are working with our State and Federal partners to guarantee continued levee protection for the 100-year event and evaluating our options to provide an even higher level of protection for the citizens we serve. We are committed to making sure that our employees have the tools and training required to do their jobs. As President, it is an honor to work with all the highly motivated and qualified employees in our organization. I wish all of you a great 2020, both in your personal and professional lives.

Herbert Miller, President

### THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

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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. Weysam, III

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*“Be at war with  
your vices,  
at peace with  
your neighbors,  
and let every new  
year find you  
a better man.”*

*Benjamin Franklin*

\* \* \*

## *Resolve to Make 2020 a Better and Safer Year*

A New Year's resolution is a tradition in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their life. What better place to resolve to improve ourselves and set goals than the workplace starting with safety.

Phil Jackson, former professional basketball player, coach and NBA executive, stated, ***“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”*** The key focus for the FPA for 2020 is ***Safety***. The FPA as an organization will implement improvements, practices and policies during the upcoming year to try to ensure a safe working environment, but each individual must do his/her part in order for a safe working environment to become a reality. A common goal is “no one gets hurt”. But, to accomplish this goal each team member must get individually involved. If you see something, say something. Report all unsafe conditions. Practice risk prevention — remember, luck eventually runs out.

How are you going to resolve to make your workplace safer for yourself and your coworkers?

## Welcome New FPA Team Members



Akine Sanders  
Labor - Orleans  
12/16/19



LaGene Richards  
Laborer - Orleans  
12/16/19



Ashton Green  
Mobile Equipment Operator 1  
Orleans - 12/16/19

## Congratulations on Promotion



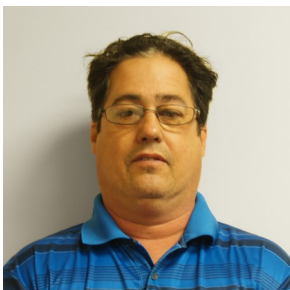
Kent Ural  
Maintenance Superintendent  
Orleans - 12/16/2019



Mike LeBlanc  
Maintenance Superintendent  
Orleans - 12/16/19



Timothy Pisciotta  
Maintenance Superintendent  
Orleans - 12/16/19



Michael Williams  
Mechanic 4  
Orleans - 12/16/19



Brandon Goff  
Mobile Equipment Operator 1  
East Jefferson - 12/30/19



Benjamin Dupuis  
Mobile Equipment Operator 1  
East Jefferson - 12/30/19

## Safety Message - Distracted Walking

We are all familiar with distracted driving as a well-established problem. But the problem with distracted walking is a relatively new one. Distracted walking is very real and has become a major problem. Injuries from distracted walking have skyrocketed. The National Safety Council has added "Distracted Walking" as a category for the first time.

Walking while distracted can slow your reaction time and the danger in your path goes unnoticed. People injured or near misses as a result of texting, reading, playing games and listening to music on their cell phones increases each year from collisions with vehicles/equipment, objects, tripping, falling or other distracted cell phone users. The list is endless.

Be mindful of cell phone use both on and off the job. Pay attention to your surroundings while walking and arrive at your destination safely.

Your FPA Safety Team - [safety@floodauthority.org](mailto:safety@floodauthority.org)



## *Congratulations Dwayne Johnson - Employee of the Year*



**Herb Miller, President, Dwayne Johnson and Derek Boese, CAO.**

Dwayne Johnson was recognized as the FPA's Employee of the Year at the Annual Safety Meeting. Dwayne is a Painter Foreman in Operations and Maintenance/Facilities at Orleans.

Dwayne was recognized as the Employee of the Month in September after being nominated by his colleagues due to his professionalism, teamwork, and mission focus.

Dwayne joined the FPA on October 12, 2015 as a Painter and advanced to Foreman by setting the standard for his crew to follow.

Dwayne has a great working attitude and does not see anything as a problem or any job as being too hard. He plans out how to get the job done in the most effective and efficient way possible. Dwayne never has anything negative to say about anyone or anything and always has a positive attitude and an excellent outlook.

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 always pitches 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.

## *Congratulations P.O. Jerald Homes - Top Shot for 2019*

Police Officer Jerald Holmes received the Police Department's Top Shot Award for 2019 at the Annual Safety Meeting.

The goal of Top Shot is to test safe handling and shooting proficiency, and challenge the decision making skills of our police officers during stressful incidents. The objectives were drawing, loading, weapon manipulation and transition to different shooting positions. A total of 30 rounds were fired from various distances at multiple targets to challenge the officer's accuracy and shooting fundamentals while under the pressure of time.



**L-R: EJLD PD Lt. Coy Canulette, P.O.S.T. Firearms instructor, P.O. Jerald Holmes and Lt. Darnell Laurent**

The OLD and EJLD Police Departments are constantly utilizing contemporary training principles for the safety of officers, citizens and the Flood Protection Authority.

Lt. Darnell Laurent, OLDPD B Platoon Commander, P.O.S.T. Firearm Instructor and P.O.S.T. Training Coordinator, developed and supervised the competition. The Top Shot award for the Handgun Course was awarded this year (2019). The competition will expand to other weapons (rifle and shotgun) in upcoming years. The courses test in competition the officers skills to re-act and respond to stressful situations while they learn weapon handling and skillful manipulation. Metal targets were used in place of the POST paper targets.



# FPA Annual Safety Luncheon



The FPA’s Annual Safety Luncheon was held on December 19th in the New Orleans Lakefront Airport Atrium. President Herb Miller thanked employees for their hard work over the past year and introduced Eugene Joanen who has been appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve on the Board effective July 1, 2020.

CAO Derek Boese advised that in 2020 the FPA will focus on Project Management, Asset Management, Long-Term Planning, and most importantly on Safety. The FPA’s goal is to implement a Comprehensive Safety Program and instill safety in the mindset of each employee and the organization’s culture. ***Our goal is zero incidents!***

Deputy CAO Rusty Kennedy pointed out that a total of 90 incidents were recorded in 2019. These incidents included 16 preventable vehicle incidents and 22 preventable equipment incidents. Teamwork, awareness, communication, and supervisory and individual accountability were stressed.

In 2020 FPA employees will see an Updated Agency Safety Policy, facility drills, improved and increased training opportunities, increased field visits by Safety staff, new employee safety orientation, improved reporting forms and improved facility inspections. Safety surveys will be one of the tools used by staff. Input was encouraged at all levels, and everyone was urged to take advantage of the new safety boards installed at each of the FPA’s facilities.



The highlight of the meeting was President Miller’s presentation of the Employee of the Year Award to Dwayne Johnson and the presentation of the Top Shot Award by Lt. Darnell Laurent to P.O. Jerald Holmes.

The Lakefront Management Authority (LMA) joined the FPA in the event. Wilma Heaton, FPA Director of Governmental Affairs and LMA Chair, informed the group about how the LMA was created after Hurricane Katrina and its role of managing the non-flood protection assets of the Orleans Levee District. Louis Capo, LMA Executive Director presented the LMA’s Employee of the Year award to Shelly Raborn, LMA HR Director, for outstanding performance and dedicated service to the LMA Board and her fellow employees.





# FPA Annual Safety Luncheon



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## *FPA Annual Safety Luncheon*



## *Congratulations!*



Matteo Giuseppe Najolia was born on December 30th—a healthy 6.8 lb. and 21” baby boy. Matteo is pictured on his first ride after being evicted from Labor and Delivery. Baby Matteo is the son of Police Chief Kerry Najolia.

On December 3rd at 1:25 am, Earl and Yvette Kugelmann were blessed with their first grandchild, a healthy baby girl, named Magnolia Grace Kugelmann. Earl is the FPA’s Maintenance Director.





## Police Officers Participate in Gift Giveaway



The Orleans Levee District Police teamed up with the NOPD 3rd District Police to collect toys and gifts for the underprivileged children in their district. The event was a Christmas Breakfast and gift giveaway at Mary Coghill Elementary School. District D Councilman Jared Brossett played Santa Claus. Buttermilk Drop Bakery provided pastries and beverages. Attorneys White, Pichon & Gray sponsored the event making it possible for the officers to give away bicycles.



Officer Tammy Canfield and School Resource Officer Nahlisha Johnson would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated to make this event a success. The event would not have been possible without the generosity of FPA and Levee Police donations. The leftover toys were donated to Martin Luther King Elementary and Children's Hospital.

Officer Canfield would like to individually thank Officer Warren Kimball, Officer Troy Johnson, Reserve Sergeant Lacey Gerhold, and Officer Jeffery Johnson who helped at the event the entire day. Also, Officer Canfield would like to thank the officers who came to support the event throughout the morning, Sergeant Noel Sanders, Reserve Officer Mark Green, Officer Courtney Jimison, Reserve Officer Raymond Stevenson, Officer Benjamin Wilson and Officer Sean West.



## Calendar of Events

### January

January 16 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

January 20 (Monday) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (State Holiday)

### February

February 20 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

February 25 (Tuesday) - Mardi Gras (State Holiday)

### Reminders

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

## Using Technology Safely

Recently, Information Technology (IT) executed a Phishing Simulation exercise. The objective was to gather data intelligence, in determining the FPA's email security posture. The use of phishing simulations help to identify deficiencies and opportunities for improvement. Findings will allow IT to develop and administer customized training programs on a global or individual basis. Training will help staff in spotting the warning signs of malicious emails and proper reporting.

Phishing simulations consist of email templates that regularly turn up in our inboxes. *A phisher's success is contingent upon establishing trust with its victims.* Phishing campaigns utilize a technique known as Social Engineering. Social Engineering, in the context of information security, is the use of deception to manipulate individuals into divulging confidential or personal information that can be used for fraudulent purposes. Listed below, are some techniques used by attackers;

- ◆ Embedding a link(s) in an email that redirects the employee to an unsecure website that requests sensitive information.
- ◆ Installing a Trojan via a malicious email attachment or ad that will allow the intruder to exploit loopholes and obtain sensitive information.
- ◆ Spoofing the sender address in an email to appear as a reputable source and requesting sensitive information.
- ◆ Attempting to obtain company/agency information over the phone by impersonating a known company vendor or IT department.

Results from this exercise indicate a need for improvement. In the future, IT will conduct a variety of security exercises with higher frequency to heighten awareness and to ensure compliance. If necessary, IT can provide individual consultation for employees who need and/or request it.

**Please exercise extreme caution, when opening solicited and/or unsolicited emails.** If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your IT department for further information.

**Roman Dody, MSCIS, Regional Director of Information Technology**

**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](http://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](mailto:gboudreaux@floodauthority.org)  
or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225,  
6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.