

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

March 10, 2017

New Logo Promotes Flood Defense System

The Flood Protection Authority is developing a public outreach and education program to enhance the public's understanding of the important mission of the Flood Protection Team and the magnitude and complexity of the vitally essential system it operates and maintains. Our new logo reflects this message. A new informative website, signage to identify critical structures and features, and various measures to educate and inform the public, including a pilot project to bring flood protection to the classroom, are also on the drawing board. A partnership is being developed with WWL-TV and WWL-Radio for 30 second public service announcements that will run during hurricane season.

Civil Service Commission Approves Rewards and Recognition Policy

The Louisiana Civil Service Commission at its March 1st meeting approved the Flood Protection Authority's Rewards and Recognition Policy. The policy expresses the Authority's appreciation for employees who excel in the performance of their duties and demonstrate a commitment to public service and safety in the workplace. The policy also promotes professional development, training and special licensure. A copy of the policy is posted on the Authority's website (slfpae.com) or can be obtained from the HR Department.

State of Flood Protection Summit

Governor John Bel Edwards will be the keynote speaker at the State of Flood Protection Summit to be hosted by the Flood Protection Authority on April 7th. The purpose of the event is to inform government, community and business leaders about our world class regional flood protection system and the remarkable Flood Protection Team that not only operates and maintains the system, but provides extraordinary service to the Authority and the public during hurricane and high water events. It will also call attention to the challenges of regional flood protection.

Message from the President

The art of communication is the language of leadership. (James Humes)

Our staff meeting this month to discuss the restructuring plan was our latest effort to better communicate with everyone, so that we all know what's going on, why we are traveling in a particular direction, where we are going, and how we will get there. Plus, we want to take advantage of every opportunity for you to ask questions and provide us with guidance and feedback. Thank you for attending and giving us your support.

Along those same lines, I want to urge our various supervisors to make effort to communicate well and often to those who look to you for guidance. It is said that the basic building block of good communications is the feeling that every human being is unique and has value. Every person in our organization is valued, so it is critical that all are treated with respect. In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it is easy to miss the opportunity to do simple things like give a compliment, recognize a job well done, or say thank you. As you go through your day, be alert for the chance to do those small things. They can make someone's day – and show your best side.

Joe Hassinger

FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

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Richard A. Luettich, Jr., ScD - Vice President
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"Individual commitment to a group effort--that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." --Vince Lombardi'

Best Wishes for a Happy Retirement !

EJLD Capt. Vincent Yetta Retires After 36 Years of Service

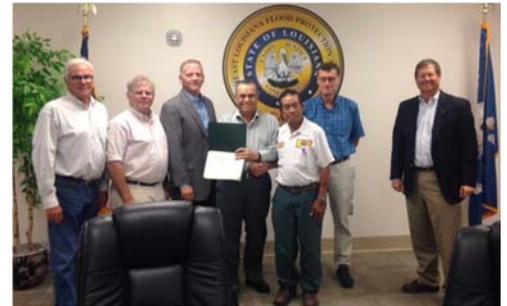


Vincent Yetta retired on February 18, 2017, after 36 years of service with the EJLD Police Department. Capt. Yetta started as a dispatcher with the EJLD PD in April, 1981, becoming a Police Officer in the field in 1984. His success and leadership led to promotions to Sergeant, Lieutenant, and in 2010 to Captain serving as the senior officer in the EJLD PD. His support of the Authority and EJLD included work with the Jefferson Parish Homeland Security Committee, fusion liaison and mentoring younger and newer officers in the law enforcement community.

Capt. Yetta will continue his public service as a reserve officer. Capt. Yetta stated, "Words cannot express how honored it's been being employed by the EJLD for the last 36 years."

O.L.D. Levee Foreman Inh Souriyavong Retires After 36 Years of Service

Inh Souriyavong will be retiring on March 30, 2017 after 36 years of service. He joined the O.L.D. in 1981 and works in the Lakefront Grounds/Maintenance Department. Inh was recognized and commended by the Flood Protection Authority in September, 2016, for his leadership, hard work and dedication.



The Flood Protection Authority thanks Capt. Vincent Yetta and Inh Souriyavong for their long and productive careers and congratulate them on their retirement. They will be sorely missed by their colleagues.

Authority Welcomes New IT Director and Police Chief

Roman Dody, Regional Director of Information Technology



Roman joins the Flood Protection Team with 16 years of experience with 14 years spent working in higher education. Most recently, Roman worked with United Way of Southeast LA as Director of Management Information Systems. Roman's leadership with United Way provided direction in modernizing their entire computing infrastructure, promoting efficiency and implementing industry best practices. Prior to that Roman spent time with LSU obtaining the necessary technical and leadership skills that can be administered in any business environment. Roman is a native of Louisiana and received his undergraduate in Business Administration with a concentration in Economics/Finance and his Master's Degree in Computer

Information Systems from Southern University. If you have questions or would like to speak with the new Regional IT Director please feel free to call him @504-286-3131 or email him at rdody@slfpae.com.

Kerry Najolia, Superintendent of Police

Kerry joins the Flood Protection Team with a 30-year unblemished career in law enforcement. He retired from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office in 2015 with the Rank of Major holding dual responsibilities as a SWAT Commander and Training Director. Kerry is POST certified by JPSO, a graduate of the FBI National Academy and has BS and Masters degrees in Criminal Justice. He is classified as a Master Instructor (only 150 worldwide) and has trained several thousand police officers from the US and foreign nationals. He completed DHS Incident Command and Basic and Command Terrorism Courses. During his long impressive career Kerry receives multiple national and international police instruction certifications and numerous commendations and letters of appreciation. Kerry replaces Robert Garner who leaves us as of February 27th.



Excellence in the Workplace

Members of the Flood Protection Team Commended by the Flood Protection Authority Recognizes Gilbert Charlot



Gilbert Charlot, EJLD Operator 2, was recognized by the Flood Protection Authority at its January 19th Board Meeting for outstanding public service. Gilbert joined the EJLD in February, 2012, and works with the mowing crew. He was praised for the great pride that he takes in his work and for his enthusiasm and positive attitude.

Authority Recognizes Rontrell Jones

Rontrell Jones, O.L.D. ME01, was recognized by the Flood Protection Authority at its February 16th Board Meeting for outstanding public service. Rontrell joined the O.L.D. three and a half years ago and was commended for his dependability, positive attitude and outstanding work.



The Flood Protection Team congratulates Mr. Charlot and Mr. Jones and wish them continued success.

Officers Commended for Rescue of Boaters



The Flood Protection Authority at its February 16th Board meeting commended Police Officers Sean West, Tammy Canfield, Marius White and Warren Kimball for their heroic efforts in the rescue of three boaters from two sailboats that had capsized in Lake Pontchartrain on January 29, 2017. The four officers risked their lives by going to the bottom of the seawall, where one of the sailboats was beating against the seawall, and while in full duty gear, rescued two of the boaters. A life ring was deployed to convey one person to safety and one of the boaters was towed to safety. Due to the courage and quick work of these officers, three people were rescued without injury.

O.L.D. Platoon C Honors Leadership

The Officers of O.L.D. Platoon C took the opportunity on February 16th to recognize and present plaques to Capt. Craig Boudreaux in appreciation for his visionary guidance and undaunting leadership and dedication, and to Lt. Albert Pellitteri and Sgt. Darnell Laurant in appreciation for their superior leadership qualities and dedication to the O.L.D. Police Officers.



Nick Cali To Become Director of Operations for West Authority

Nick Cali, Executive Director of the LBBLD since June 25, 2012, will be leaving the East Authority on March 14th to become the Director of Operations for the West Flood Protection Authority. The Flood Protection Authority-East congratulates Nick on his promotion and wishes him great success in his new position.

Share your good news with us -- certifications, graduations, births, weddings, significant anniversaries –let us celebrate with you !

Bids to be Advertised for Construction of New Facilities



O.L.D Police Complex

The new approx. 10,000 square foot complex that will stand on the former O.L.D. police station site is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2018. The Flood Protection Authority at its February 18th Board meeting approved the advertisement for bids for the demolition of the structures that have stood blighted since Hurricane Katrina on the Elysian Fields

Avenue site and the construction of the new police station complex. The building currently houses OLDPD staff (Loft Building) at the Franklin Avenue Complex will be demolished after the new station is completed.

EJLD Safe House & Consolidated Facility

The Flood Protection Authority at its February 16th Board meeting approved the advertisement for bids for the construction of the new EJLD Safe House and Consolidated Facility to be located on Reverend Richard Wilson Drive in south Kenner. The approx. 26,868 sq. ft. complex will provide facilities for EJLD administrative, maintenance and police personnel, as well as a safe room to house critical EJLD staff during storm events. The new facility is anticipated to be completed in June, 2018.



Tax Tips

Before you know it, April 18 will be upon us, and we will be required to file our annual return with Uncle Sam. To ensure a smooth and stress-free filing, it is a good idea to keep all of your information in one place and label your receipts as you go. In addition, don't forget to take advantage of these benefits that may be available to you.



- * According to the IRS one out of five workers fails to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit. If you worked and earned less than \$53,930 in 2017, then you may qualify for this valuable credit. Credits are more valuable than deductions because they provide a dollar for dollar reduction of your tax liability.
- * Maximize your retirement plan contributions! While our contribution rate to LASERS is set by statute, consider making contributions to the state deferred compensation plan or to an IRA. Your taxable income will be lower, and you will have a bigger nest egg for retirement.
- * Do some spring cleaning! Plan a day to clean out closets, get rid of things you no longer need, and make a donation to a charitable organization. The fair value of items donated is tax deductible, and you will be helping those in need.

Kelli Chandler, Finance Director

LASERS Updates to be Presented at Local RESA Chapter Meetings

LASERS officials will speak at each of the nine meetings in the 2017 RSEA Chapter Tour. Up-to-date information will be provided on current issues affecting state employees' and retirees' pension and healthcare benefits. The New Orleans Chapter meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m. at the Landmark Hotel, 2601 Severn Avenue, Metairie, LA. Information can be found on the LASERS website LASERS.state.la.us.

WE NEED FEEDBACK!

Please submit ideas, topics and suggestions for future newsletters.

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