

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

October 15, 2017

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOE HASSINGER

Hurricane Nate gave us the opportunity to test our readiness, demonstrate collaboration and show that when the water comes, every component of the flood defense system will perform. Every department showed leadership, commitment, skill and the ability to get things done in a timely and orderly way. A couple of long days and nights for sure. The Board would like to thank everyone for their dedication and professionalism. We appreciate you and so do the citizens you protect.

Joe

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

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*"Change can either
challenge or threaten us.
Your beliefs pave your way
to success or block you."
Marsha Sinetar*

Scenes from Hurricane Nate



Hurricane Nate - Letters of Appreciation

To: FPA Family

FPA On the Front Line to Protect Citizens From Hurricane Nate

Over the past few days, I had the privilege of spending a lot of time at the EOC and visiting many locations throughout the system. What I saw firsthand was an incredible team of professionals, working tirelessly to ensure that the Authority's mission was accomplished. Teamwork, cooperation and respect for each other were constant. Every department did a great job supporting our engineering, operations and maintenance folks, both leading up to and during emergency operations. Tasks were well-planned and efficiently executed in an orderly way. All tasks were accomplished timely. (Of course, excellent inspections and maintenance throughout the year makes that possible.) It was an impressive display of how incredible the men and women of the Authority are. We even had requests for assistance and collaboration from other jurisdictions such as St. Bernard and Lafitte. Thank you all for doing an outstanding job. The Board of Commissioners is incredibly proud of the talent and dedication that you have shown during this storm, and do show on a day to day basis. I encourage everyone to maintain that spirit of teamwork, gratitude and respect every day. Again, thank you for an outstanding job. We appreciate you.

Joe Hassinger, Board of Commissioners



10/9/17 Subject: Important Message, Hurricane Nate

To: All Mechanic Shop Employees

For the last three days you were called upon to leave your homes and loved ones to stay here to prepare and activate our flood protection system, prior to the arrival of Hurricane Nate. Fortunately, we were spared a direct hit by the storm. Regardless of the outcome of the storm, we were ready for the worst.

I want to echo the sentiments of the President of the FPA Board of Directors Joe Hassinger in recognizing the truly amazing performance, and the outstanding dedication displayed by each and every one of you during the preparations prior to the arrival of Hurricane Nate.

I saw a group of foremen and mechanics who worked together as a team, followed instructions as given, and executed the plan safely, effectively, and ahead of schedule. I have nothing but upmost respect and admiration for your selfless dedication, technical knowledge, abilities, and overall sense of duty. For all of these reasons I want to personally thank you. I also want to extend these thanks for your families and loved ones who had to fend without you for the days you were away from home, I know that can be difficult at times.

With all that said, please read the attached letter from the FPA Board President Joe Hassinger.

Best regards, Joe Parsi-Gracian

The Authority's Employees of the Month for September



Deborah AbuNaser Recognized As Employee of the Month

Deborah AbuNaser was hired by the O.L.D. on May 17, 1982 as Deborah Barnes and began her career with the Flood Protection Authority as a Typist Clerk III in the Engineering Department; however, she steadily rose through the ranks. In June, 1987 she transferred to Human Resources and worked as a H.R. Assistant until June, 1992, when she returned to the Engineering Department as an Administrative Assistant 4. Deborah became Deborah Abu-

Naser in 1997 when she married Saed. They have a lovely daughter named Resan who graduated from Ursuline Academy in 2017. Resan is currently a freshman at LSU.

Deborah is currently an Administrative Assistant 5 and serves as a special assistant to the Regional Chief Engineer along with her many other responsibilities. Deborah is usually kept busy with Permitting - this requires close coordination with permittees, US Army Corps of Engineers Operations and CPRA personnel and representatives of various other governmental agencies. The work requires an extensive knowledge of permit requirements and the ability to communicate those requirements to the public. Deborah usually works well beyond expectations to ensure that permits are expeditiously handled. However, that's not all – Deborah is a key team player in keeping the Engineering Department organized. This involves maintaining Engineering Department records, acting as a liaison between Engineering and other Administrative Departments, and coordinating plan requests with Surveying and Engineering. Deborah handles preparation and distribution of Task Orders, correspondence with contractors and other agencies, and preparation and distribution of contracts. Deborah handles many requests from Executive level staff, including requests regarding historical files and permits, and interagency communications. She frequently receives requests from staff members and the public that require a great amount of research; however, Deborah cheerfully does the work necessary, even working late into the evening, to provide the information that is needed in a timely manner.

Deborah's capability to get work done independently and her almost unfailingly pleasant personality makes the office a much more pleasant place than it would be without her. It is with great pride that we recognize Deborah as the Employee of the Month at the Flood Protection Authority.

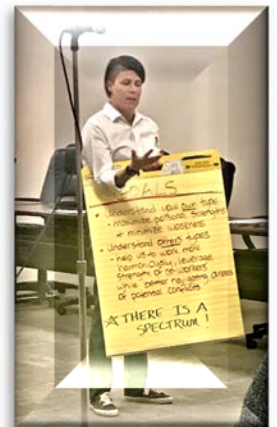
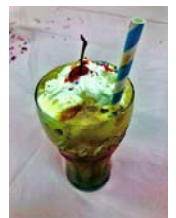
Lionel Irons Recognized As Operations Employee of the Month

Lionel Irons is a highly dependable and skilled mechanic. Since his employment in November, 2105, Lionel has demonstrated a high degree of diligence in the performance in his mechanic duties. He is resourceful, efficient, and completes all his work in a timely manner. Lionel has a very good attendance record and regularly volunteers to work overtime to support field activity when required.



P/O Warren Kimble Recognized As Police Employee of the Month

P/O Warren Kimble is a very dependable, hardworking officer who does his job above and beyond. P/O Kimble had some impressive statistics for the month of August, including one State Felony Arrest in which he made a traffic stop and after investigating the driver he discovered marijuana in the vehicle along with a gun. The driver was charged with traffic violations, possession of Marijuana and being in possession of a firearm while in possession of narcotics. August Statistics: 5 Traffic Arrests, 2 Municipal Attachments, 114 Traffic Citations, 3 Parking Citations, 3 License Plate Confiscations and one Insurance Tows.



Finance Team Building Strategy
Keep Calm and Love Your Finance Team
Contributed by Kelli Chandler, Regional Finance Director

Announce a team-building exercise for your staff, and watch the eyes roll. Team-building has a reputation for trust-falls and sing-alongs that waste time while important work piles up. However, an effective supervisor knows that team building is the most important investment to make in their team and can design exercises, activities, and programs to help the team reach specific goals and communicate effectively.

A successful teambuilding experience must be strategically designed with specific goals in mind. This starts with an assessment of the team's needs. Finance is constantly pushing to ensure that bills are paid, employees are paid, audits are successful, and the organization is within budget (to name only a few tasks), so there is no time to connect with one another. In the midst of the Flood Protection Authority's reorganization, new team members were added to Finance. The department needed a chance to develop rapport.

In order for the team to communicate more effectively, I emailed a link to an abbreviated version of the Myers-Briggs Personality Assessment one week prior to our staff meeting. This shortened version of the original Myers-Briggs takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and provides each person with a wealth of useful information about themselves, including a specialized section on how they function in the workplace. Each team member was asked to complete the assessment, paying specific attention to the section discussing how they function in the workplace, and prepare to discuss their results.

At first, there was reluctance by a couple of employees, but as the day of staff meeting approached, everyone completed their assessments. The day of the staff meeting brought satisfaction at seeing my team laughing and interacting outside of their daily routine. I was thrilled that 100% of my team completed their assessments and printed their profiles for discussion. Because I subscribe to the teambuilding strategy of "fun with a purpose," we started our staff meeting with an Ice Cream Social! We moved through the agenda while crunching waffle cones and slurping root beer floats, then moved our meeting to the Board Room to further discuss the results of our personality assessments.

As we discussed each of the traits and how they combine to create the 16 different personality possibilities, each team member moved to the part of the room that matched their results. This allowed everyone to have a visual of how each team member interacts with our surroundings, how we see the world and process information, how we make decisions and cope with emotions, and our approach to work, planning, and decision-making. It also revealed patterns in communication and thought processes between team members, such as which team members communicate similarly and which team members process information in different ways. When team members learn about their personalities, they increase their understanding of themselves and one another. Acknowledging differences is the first step to understanding and appreciating the contributions of everyone on the team. Not everyone processes information and interprets problems the same way. If a team member knows that someone has a different style than they do, they can adjust their expectations and better compromise.

Lastly, I reinforced that each person sitting in that room is an integral "link" in our Finance Department "chain." There was a renewed sense of camaraderie and a better understanding of how each of us reacts to certain situations. I sensed the foundation was already there for building a strong team, but our work has only begun. It takes time and intention to build trust and multiple experiences to create effective working relationships. But I'll let you in on a teambuilding secret... *Ice Cream!* Preferably, with sprinkles.

P/O Aurthur Agee Recognized by Harahan City Council



On September 11, 2017 at 1349 hrs. Officer Aurthur Agee assisted the Harahan Police Department with the apprehension of a fleeing subject. The subject was running to evade arrest and was eventually captured in the rear yard of 7708 Norton Street in Harahan. The subject had a firearm near his person. Due to his efforts, Aurthur Agee was recognized by the Harahan City Council at its meeting held on Thursday, September 21, 2017. Office Agee was presented with a Recognition Award Certificate by Harahan Chief of Police Tim Walker.

Hazards in the Field !



Pictured above is a rattlesnake inches from the security gate/cattle gate (Yellow Post). The snake was found on Wednesday September 27, 2017 on the Maxant Levee near Hwy 90. The cattle gate, which doubles as a security gate, has a 389 master lock attached to the yellow post that must be locked and unlocked by personnel entering and exiting the Maxant Levee. Levee Maintenance crews must also trim the grass around the post using weed eaters.

Pictured right is a Rattlesnake found by a construction crew on the Maxant Levee in 2014.

Personnel have leg guards for protection, but these images show one of many hazards the Levee Maintenance crews come against in the field while fulfilling the Authority's mission.

Contributed by Carroll Barriere, Levee Foreman C



Google map of Maxant Levee and Chef Menteur Hwy. Red box indicates gate where the snake was found.



Reminder to Get Your Flu Shot

OGB Blue Cross Health Insurance covers the flu shot at no charge to members. Flu shots are now available at Walgreens, CVS and Rite Aid with your OGB/Blue Cross Health Card or you can check with the pharmacy of your choice to see if the flu shot is free with the Office of Group Benefits Blue Cross Insurance Plans.

Flood Protection Team Best Wishes to Recent Retirees



Gaynell Rome –
Finance\Admin. Coordinator
Retired on 08/18/2017



Alvin Alford
Auxiliary Services\Admin. Coordinator
Retired on 09/08/2017

Congratulations on Flood Protection Team Promotions



Courtney Jimison – Promoted on 08/14/17
To Police Officer 1A
(Promoted from Police Radio Dispatcher-
Currently in the POST Academy)

Coy Canulette
Promoted on 7/10/2017
To Police Sgt. A



Kirt Arnold
Promoted on 8/1/2017
To Police Lt. A



Rocky Hart
Promoted to
Reserve Police Captain

Justin Williams
Promoted on 9/20/2017
To Mobile Equip. Operator I/
Heavy Equipment



Technology Safety Tips

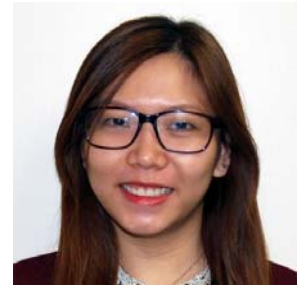
Be wary of suspicious emails and pop-ups. Look carefully at the email address of the sender to see if it's coming from a legitimate address. ***Even if the email message appears to come from a particular sender that you know and trust, please use the same precautions that you would use with any other email message.*** Contact that person directly ***(not through the email you received)*** and ask for confirmation on the validity of the message. Also, look for obvious typos and grammatical errors in the body. Hover over hyperlinks ***(without clicking on them)*** inside emails to see whether they direct you to suspicious web pages. If an email appears to have come from your bank, credit card company or internet service provider, keep in mind that they will **never** ask for sensitive information like your password or social security number. Finally, do not forward chain email messages. Not only you lose control over who sees your email it also make you more susceptible to attacks. Consequently, you may be furthering a hoax or aiding in the delivery of virus.

Roman Dody, MSCIS, Director of Information Technology

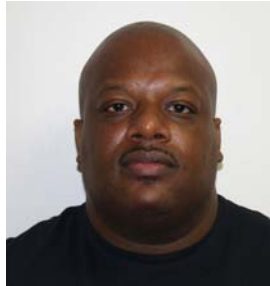
Welcome New Flood Protection Team Members



Frank Alfonso Jr. –
Operations & Maintenance\Mechanic 3
Hired on 07/31/2017



Thuy Do –
Finance\Accountant 1
Hired on 09/11/2017



Jerald Holmes –
Police Officer 2A
Hired on 09/25/2017



Audrey Boskent-Guess –
Police Officer 2A
Hired on 7/26/2017



Michael Brenckle –
Police Officer 2A
Hired on 9/22/2017



Luis Munguia
EJLD Police Reserve Officer



Dennis Guidry
EJLD Police Reserve Officer

Police Engaging Public at Neighborhood Party



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.