

June 18, 2013 - Regular Meeting
Agenda Item #7

June 18, 2013

APPROVED IN OPEN SESSION
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, MANATEE COUNTY

Subject

Employee of the Month - Nicholas Azzara

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Contact: Tamie Langman, ERC Program Coordinator, Ext. 3861

Presenter: Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator

Action Requested

Presentation of the July Employee of the Month awarded to Nicholas Azzara, Information Outreach Coordinator, County Administrator's Office.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Manatee County Code 2-2-3, providing that certain expenditures constitute valid and proper County purposes (1) awards.

Resolution R-09-020- Performance Incentive Programs

Background Discussion

This award is presented monthly.

A designated parking space will be available to the "Employee of the Month".

This employee will receive a \$100.00 cash award and a paid day off to be used within 12 months of the BCC Presentation.

County Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Explanation of Other

Reviewing Attorney

N/A

Instructions to Board Records

None

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

\$125.00 0010003700-549001-Awards, Ad Valorem Tax

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

None

Attachment: [azzara.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Azzara EOM Nomination06042013133936.pdf](#)



SUBMITTED TO ERPC

4/3

ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION FROM

5/13

TO

10/13**MANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT****"EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH"
NOMINATION FORM**DATE: March 30, 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: Nicholas AzzaraDEPARTMENT: County Administrator's OfficeDIVISION: Information OutreachJOB TITLE: Information Outreach CoordinatorDATE OF HIRE: 12/01/2008NOMINATED BY: Karen WindonPHONE#: 745-3799

1. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE JOB DUTIES OF THE NOMINEE:

Nick is responsible for the organization's communications, both externally to our citizens and the media, and internally to our team. Nick facilitates the Manatee Government Access specialty programming and is responsible for our state legislative activities, developing the legislative platform, relaying that to elected officials and ensuring our local delegation has access to information framing their decisions.

2. DESCRIBE THE CHARACTERISTICS AND JOB COMMITMENT/PERFORMANCE THAT MAKES THIS NOMINEE EXCEL ABOVE AND BEYOND OTHER COUNTY EMPLOYEES.

Nick never shies away from any challenge. He is consistently forward looking anticipating opportunities for the organization or to address issues which may not be clear to our citizens and which may cast a negative light on this government. He has developed a strong relationship with the local media and works around the clock providing them with answers to questions and concerns. Nick works closely with our legislative delegation and is amazingly engaged on a broad variety of issues, which he is able to summarize in a concise yet descriptive manner. He is always responsive to those needing information.

3. SUBSTANTIATE WHY THOSE CHARACTERISTICS JUSTIFY THIS EMPLOYEE TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A MANATEE COUNTY "EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH". (BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE.)

Nick is the epitome of ACE. He is accountable in completing every task in a timely manner and has the ability to track and respond to multiple issues concurrently. His initiative is unparalleled and he always looks for opportunities for this organization. He has taken leadership of the Rising Stars, engaging his colleagues in a positive manner building bridges both internally and externally. His ethical barometer is excellent and he continually evaluates to ensure his actions are above reproach.

4. HOW DOES THIS EMPLOYEE BEST EXEMPLIFY THE COUNTY'S MISSION STATEMENT:

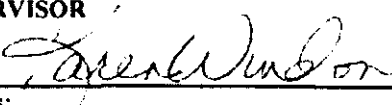
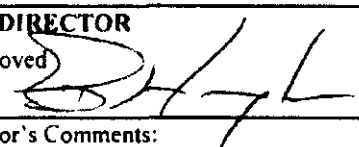

Manatee County Government's mission is to provide efficient, effective, responsive government that is always mindful of our sensitive natural environment while achieving the Commission's vision for the County: a premier place in which to live and work and play. Nick is responsive to requests at all hours and follows up to ensure they receive the information they need. He also works to make sure our visitors and citizens understand what a premier community we have using social media, the web, interviews and written materials

5.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

NOTE: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION AND/OR COMMENDATIONS MAY BE ATTACHED (UP TO 10 PAGES).

Nick is a unique individual and never hesitates to offer counterpoints to any discussion. This creates a strong and concise summary for all the issues that we must consider and address as a local government. His leadership and growth has been phenomenal. As related by Deputy Administrator Dan Schlandt: Nick has been the leading voice to bring the county into the world of social media. He was also the leader in efforts to develop a new county website that recently won a Sunny Award as one of the most transparent government websites in the country. He has quickly developed an understanding of state legislative issues and the sometimes confusing state processes and has done a great job of coordinating our efforts to have our voice heard in Tallahassee. Nick also takes on those "extra" assignments that enhance where we are trying to go as an organization such as a leadership role and "guiding light" for the Rising Stars program. All these accomplishments, as well as many others, reflect the professionalism, integrity and commitment that Nick brings to everything he is involved with.

EMPLOYEE'S SUPERVISOR	
Approved/Disapproved: 	Date: 4/19/13
Supervisor's Comments:	
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR	
Approved/Disapproved: 	Date: 4-19-13
Department Director's Comments:	
Reviewed by Human Resources:	
	Date: 4/23/13

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR - NOTE:

Please notify Tamie Langman, Human Resources Department of any change in status regarding the nominated employee.

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.
ATTN: Tamie Langman, ERC Coordinator.**



Employee of the Month
Dan Schlandt to: Karen Windon

03/25/2013 08:44 AM

Follow Up: Normal Priority.

Karen

I would like express my support for Nick Azzara to be Employee of the Month. In the relatively short time that Nick has been responsible for the Information Outreach efforts for the County we have seen remarkable improvement in our ability to communicate with the community and our employees. Nick has been the leading voice to bring the county into the world of social media. He was also the leader in efforts to develop a new county website that recently won a Sunny Award as one of the most transparent government websites in the country.

He has quickly developed an understanding of state legislative issues and the sometimes confusing state processes and has done a great job of coordinating our efforts to have our voice heard in Tallahassee.

Nick also takes on those "extra" assignments that enhance where we are trying to go as an organization such as a leadership role and "guiding light" for the Rising Stars program.

All these accomplishments, as well as many others, reflect the professionalism, integrity and commitment that Nick brings to everything he is involved with.

Thanks,

Dan

Dan M. Schlandt
Deputy County Administrator
Manatee County Government
1112 Manatee Ave. West
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-745-3732
dan.schlandt@mymanatee.org



Nick Azzara Employee of the month
John Barnott to: Karen Windon

03/16/2013 06:37 AM

Karen,

I first met Nick when he was a reporter with the Herald. Nick was and remains the only reporter I ever trusted to report the facts, without fail. When he joined our team, I was elated. Nick has brought not only a professionalism to our organization, but more importantly, an attitude of what can I do to help you today.

Nick gets things done. You barely mention something and the next thing you know, he is off and running with it. We(Manatee County Gov) are lucky to have a professional like Nick. His honesty and integrity is second to none. I know I can speak for my staff, they feel comfortable that Nick is always there to assist no matter what.

The most important qualities Nick has is he is a great family man. Nick is a major asset to our community. He can be depended on to share the truth with staff and our customers.

Nick is more than worthy of being chosen Employee of the Month. We need Nick more than Nick needs Manatee County. This young man is going to go a long way before he settles into retirement.

John R. Barnott
Director
Building and Development Services
Manatee County Government
941-748-4501 x-3887



My recommendation for Nick Azzara as Employee of the month!

Charlie Bishop to: Karen Windon

04/19/2013 10:42 AM

Charlie Bishop	My recommendation for Nick Azzara as Employee of the month!

Nick is a dedicated County professional who strives for perfection in all endeavors. In all of my interactions with him, he has demonstrated sound, mature judgement and flexibility not normally noted in someone of his paygrade. He is friendly and has an active, outgoing personality. I have frequently called upon him for his advice and to head off any negative press. Nick is resourceful and has a strong sense of professionalism, these traits are reflected in his every action to include, press releases, updates from the Florida Legislation and FRS. He would make an outstanding employee of the month and should be considered for employee of the year!

Charlie Bishop, PMP
Director, Property Management Department
WP 941-749-3004 Extension 3004
Fax 941-749-3018

Please, let's all work together to slim down our building's energy "waste"line

Commissioner
Benac



Re: Employee of the Month
Betsy Benac to: Yvonne Tryon

05/31/2013 02:37 PM

Nick is a great resource for the BOCC to keep us informed about legislative issues that affect Manatee Co. He is also to be congratulated for keeping county residents informed of what is happening on a regular basis, as evidenced by the county's website receiving a "Sunny" award for providing transparency in local government. We are lucky to have him!

Sent from my iPad

On May 31, 2013, at 9:09 AM, "Yvonne Tryon" <yvonne.tryon@mymanatee.org> wrote:

To All Department Directors,

Marianne Lopata suggested I forward this request to each of you - please see complete details below. Also, feel free to pass this along to any of your staff members who may have worked with Nick. Any and all comments are welcome.

Because Nick works closely with your departments' on special events, press releases, ribbon cuttings, ground breakings, etc., it would be nice to get comments from you also. Please forward your stories and comments to me by 3:00 p.m. today. (If you can't make this deadline, please send kind comments at your leisure - Nick is eligible for Employee of the Month until October, 2013.) Many, many thanks for your consideration.

Yvonne C. Tryon, Executive Assistant
Manatee County Government
Board of County Commissioners
1112 Manatee Avenue West, Suite 903
Post Office Box 1000
Bradenton, FL 34206-1000
Telephone: 941-745-3708
yvonne.tryon@mymanatee.org

----- Forwarded by Yvonne Tryon/MCG on 05/31/2013 08:38 AM -----

From: Yvonne Tryon/MCG
To: betsy.benac@mymanatee.org, carol.whitmore@mymanatee.org, john.chappie@mymanatee.org, larry.bustle@mymanatee.org, michael.gallen@mymanatee.org, robin.disabatino@mymanatee.org, vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org, Ed Hunzeker/MCG@MCG, Karen Windon/MCG@MCG, Dan Schlandt/MCG@MCG, Kaycee Ellis/MCG@MCG, Yvonne Houston/MCG@MCG, Kim Godbee/MCG@MCG, Marianne Lopata/MCG@MCG, Shirley Talley/MCG@MCG
Date: 05/30/2013 05:02 PM
Subject: Employee of the Month

John Barnott



Fw: Employee of the month

Candace Carver to: Tamie Langman, Yvonne Tryon

05/31/2013 11:23 AM

Kandi Carver
Administrative Services Coordinator
Manatee County Building and Development Services Department
(941) 748-4501, ext. 6873
candace.carver@mymanatee.org

----- Forwarded by Candace Carver/MCG on 05/31/2013 11:22 AM -----

From: John Barnott/MCG
To: Candace Carver/MCG@MCG
Date: 05/31/2013 09:58 AM
Subject: Employee of the month

Kandi,

I am writing in support of Nick Azzara for Employee of the Month. I am not sure how we got along before Nick. He has made such a positive impact on this organization to both our internal and external customers. Nick has ALWAYS been a can do type of guy and always has time or makes time for you. He almost instantly creates positive news releases for us to assist in our mission and goals. I know Nick has shaped Manatee County's image in a positive light. He works tirelessly to carry out our mission of being the friendly county.

It would be remiss of me if I did not comment on the work Nick does with our younger group of employees. He has taken the lead in our Shinning Stars program. This effort will pay huge dividends to the future of this organization.

Nicks work on the legislative side of the business is another extremely important accomplishment. An example of Nicks effort in this area is the funding he worked hard on to get for Manatee County out of the last session. Millions of dollars coming to us because of Nicks leadership and effort.


My last comment about Nick will be about his "ACE" qualities. He fulfills all of the qualities to the extreme. He is an honorable, honest man who I am proud to call a team member and friend.

I PLEDGED MY FULL SUPPORT FOR NICK BEING EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH.

John R. Barnott, Director
Building and Development Services
Manatee County Government
941-748-4501 x-3887

DAN GRAY



Re: Fw: Employee of the Month 
Dan Gray to: Yvonne Tryon

05/31/2013 09:41 AM

History:

This message has been replied to.

Yvonne....What I see in Nick is what I want to see in "my government". An individual that is committed to making his community stronger thru his own personal sacrifices and successes. Regardless of the assignment he is always engaged and focused, creating an environment of collaboration for all parties on either side of the issue. I highly recommend Nick for this award and as a County employee I would be honored to have him represent Manatee County in this role.....dan

Daniel T. Gray, Director
Utilities Department
(941) 792-8811 x 5323
dan.gray@mymanatee.org

Yvonne Tryon

To All Department Directors, Marianne Lopata...

05/31/2013 09:09:37 AM

From: Yvonne Tryon/MCG
To: Brenda Rogers/MCG@MCG, Charlie Bishop/MCG@MCG, Charlie Hunsicker/MCG@MCG, Cheri Coryea/MCG@MCG, Cindy Turner/MCG@MCG, Dale Garcia/MCG@MCG, Dan Gray/MCG@MCG, Elliott Falcione/MCG@MCG, Jim Seuffert/MCG@MCG, John Barnott/MCG@MCG, Paul Alexander/MCG@MCG, Ron Schulhofer/MCG@MCG, Ronald Koper/MCG@MCG
Cc: betsy.benac@mymanatee.org, carol.whitmore@mymanatee.org, john.chappie@mymanatee.org, larry.bustle@mymanatee.org, michael.gallen@mymanatee.org, robin.disabatino@mymanatee.org, vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org, Candace Carver/MCG@MCG, Janice DunbarSmith/MCG@MCG, Monica Luff/MCG@MCG, Marjorie Lofts/MCG@MCG, Michelle Petrilla/MCG@MCG, Terri Kristoffy/MCG@MCG, Kay Rogers/MCG@MCG, Simone Peterson/MCG@MCG, Cynthia Gray/MCG@MCG, Lettie Willis/MCG@MCG, Carol Miers/MCG@MCG, Barbara Gilmore/MCG@MCG, Amy Pilson/MCG@MCG
Date: 05/31/2013 09:09 AM
Subject: Fw: Employee of the Month


To All Department Directors,

Marianne Lopata suggested I forward this request to each of you - please see complete details below. Also, feel free to pass this along to any of your staff members who may have worked with Nick. Any and all comments are welcome.

Because Nick works closely with your departments' on special events, press releases, ribbon cuttings, ground breakings, etc., it would be nice to get comments from you also. Please forward your stories and comments to me by 3:00 p.m. today. (If you can't make this deadline, please send kind comments at your leisure - Nick is eligible for Employee of the Month until October, 2013.) Many, many thanks for your consideration.

Yvonne C. Tryon, Executive Assistant
Manatee County Government
Board of County Commissioners



Re: Fw: Employee of the Month 
Cheri Coryea to: Yvonne Tryon

05/31/2013 09:16 AM

Nick's addition to the County in his role with Public Information was just the right move for Manatee County. He has taken us from a crisis management response to information requests to a factual, timely and informative response that employees, citizens and media needs to understand what's going on with the County. As a side note, his personal health transformation has been an inspiration to everyone.

He would be an outstanding candidate for Employee of the month.

Cheri Coryea, Director

Neighborhood Services Department ||

1112 Manatee Avenue West || Bradenton, Florida 34205

ph: 941-749-3029 x3468 || fax: 941-749-3027 || cell: 941-713-3899

cheri.coryea@mymanatee.org

www.mymanatee.org/neighborhood



Kim Godbee



Re: Employee of the Month 📄

Kim Godbee to: Yvonne Tryon

05/30/2013 05:16 PM

Hi Yvonne,

Nick is a wonderful asset for our office - he uses his insight and imagination to put our best foot forward with the local media. He oversees the MGA-TV operation, interacts with all the press requesting information, and has learned to navigate the workings of the state legislature. Nick started a Facebook page for the County because he realizes that people want information quickly and easily. His fresh approach and enthusiasm has been an awesome addition to Manatee County.

Kim Godbee

Administrative Services Analyst

Manatee County Administrator's Office

1112 Manatee Avenue West, Ste. 902

Bradenton, FL 34205


Phone: 941-745-3725

Fax: 941-745-3790

kim.godbee@mymanatee.org

Shirley Talley



Re: Employee of the Month 

Shirley Talley to: Yvonne Tryon

05/31/2013 08:47 AM

Nick has a very special place in my heart. Whenever he sees anyone, there is no doubt his smile truly comes from his heart. He makes us all feel important and is always humble in every way. If he sees someone is being left out, he naturally comes over to include them. Nick always has time for others. Even though Nick is, in my opinion, above excellent at his job, to me, he is above and beyond, a people's person! He is without a doubt, the most deserving person, in my opinion for Employee of the Month.

Shirley Talley, Executive Assistant
Manatee County Government
Board of County Commissioners
1112 Manatee Avenue West, Suite 903
Post Office Box 1000
Bradenton, FL 34206-1000
Telephone: 941-745-3709
Shirley.Talley@mymanatee.org



Talley_Shirley.vcf