President’s Message

by Anngie Richter – SAME Chicago Post President

Dear Chicago Post Members,

Happy New Year! I’m honored to serve as the SAME Chicago Post president for 2017. As in years past, the Post will continue to bring together professional engineers and those in engineering-related fields to improve and increase the engineering capabilities of the nation. We will also provide opportunities for members to exchange and advance the knowledge of engineering technologies, applications, and practices.

We will continue our support of Veteran’s and their families as well as support for STEM. We are currently accepting applications from students to attend engineering camps. For those interested please send an Email to Allen Peterson at allen.peterson@environmgmt.com.

We have an active calendar planned for this year, including our annual boat cruise in late June and a variety of programs.

As we continue to provide networking and professional development programs for the Chicago Post, to make these programs all they can be, we need members to volunteer to contribute to these programs. Contact anyone on the Board to be involved in the 2017 program.

Sincerely,

Anngie Richter, Chicago Post President
Lovell Joins Stanley Consultants as Senior Project Manager

Former USACE Chicago District Deputy Commander to focus on project and program management for DOD projects worldwide

CHICAGO, Illinois – Kevin Lovell has joined Stanley Consultants as a Senior Project Manager. Assigned to the Federal and International Group, his focus is on project and program management for Department of Defense projects worldwide. Stanley Consultants is a consulting engineering firm that provides program management, planning, engineering, environmental, and construction services worldwide. Lovell is based in the firm’s Chicago office.

After a distinguished 21-year career, Lovell recently retired from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as the Chicago District Deputy Commander. He was second in command of the 200-person organization and oversaw an annual $150 million design and construction program. Prior to that he was the first Engineering Analyst to serve in the Army’s Office of Business Transformation at the Pentagon and helped establish the Army’s Energy Initiative Office.

The new position with Stanley Consultants fits Lovell like a glove. “The company’s areas of focus – military, water/wastewater, energy – were my areas of focus at the USACE,” said Lovell. “I was attracted by Stanley Consultants’ excellent reputation that spans across multiple USACE districts. The company is large enough to punch above its weight class but small enough to be nimble and responsive to client needs.”

During his military career Lovell was awarded three Army Bronze Stars, and multiple Meritorious Service and Campaign Medals. This including a Bronze Star for leading the first engineering unit to deploy to central Asia after 9/11, which was the first Army construction unit to deploy equipment by air.

He is active in the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), currently serving on the organization’s National Board of Direction and national committees. He remains active in the local SAME Chicago Post, and is active in the local International Facility Management Association (IFMA) post. Lovell is also a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI.)

Lovell is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He has a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Marquette University, and a master’s degree in management, with a project management concentration, from the University of Maryland University College. He is a certified Project Management Professional.
Fellow Chicago SAME Members,

I wanted to pass on some messages from the SAME’s Executive Director BG (RET) Joseph Schroedel. He shared these with the Society’s National Board of Direction, which I sit on, last November. He reiterated them again last week at the SAME-IFMA Workshop.

First, he pointed out SAME’s make-up and composition. The Society is made up of vibrant posts at the local level that generally follow the National direction, and are involved at making an impact locally, regionally, and nationally.

Second is to measure how we make that impact. SAME will start to publish an Annual Report this year, a first ever occurrence for the Society. The National Office will use the Posts’ financial statements and streamer submissions to write this report. This is different than in the past. It is now critical for posts to understand how these submissions will affect us as a chapter, as a Society, and our interaction in the Professional community.

The SAME leadership have been very busy the last few years developing a strategy and campaign plan objectives, a veritable “Who We Are” as a professional Society. These are reflected in this year’s streamer criteria for the most part. The next step includes efforts to measure how well we as Society live up to who we say we are. This includes metric development to measure our progress, and publishing it in the annual report. The report will include a laydown of the Society’s financial health, our efforts and accomplishments relative to the campaign objectives, and other pertinent information.

Connection between the National Office and the Posts. The Executive Director expressed a great desire to invigorate the Regional Vice Presidents as a direct linkage. They will be help communicate new initiatives like these, the new SAME Foundation, the National Resiliency and Cyber Security Committee, as examples, to the Posts.

If you have questions, desires or issues that you would like addressed at the National level, please engage myself at kevin.j.lovell18@gmail.com or your RVP, as we both sit on the National Board of Direction.

Very respectfully,

Kevin Lovell, PMP, LSS-BB
UPCOMING POST EVENTS

FEBRUARY
21—USACE Chicago Industry Day

MARCH
29-30—SAME Small Business Expo

APRIL
19—Regular Meeting at USACE Office
    Tetra Tech—Update on Asian Carp Monitoring

MAY
TBD—Regular Meeting hosted by Stantec

JUNE
30—Boat Cruise

AUGUST
TBD—Golf Outing

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR SAME CHICAGO

Wednesday April 19, 2017 – Ms. Bethany Hand of Tetra Tech will provide an update on measures to control the spread of invasive species in the Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes. Ms. Hand provided a presentation in 2010 on efforts to control the spread of Asian Carp. Since then, Tetra Tech has expanded its capabilities and support to state and federal agencies regarding Asian Carp and other invasive species. This presentation will be at the USACE Chicago District, 16th Floor.

Wednesday May 17, 2017 – Mr. Aaron Feggestad, Stantec and Mr. Joe Roth, Openlands, will discuss storm water benefits of natural resource management. Openlands is one of the oldest metropolitan conservation organizations in the nation and the only such group with a regional scope in the greater Chicago region. Openlands has helped protect more than 55,000 acres of land for public parks and forest preserves, wildlife refuges, land and water greenway corridors, urban farms, and community gardens. This presentation will be at the Bank of America Building, 135 S. LaSalle St. Stantec will provide lunch to attendees.

UPCOMING SAME EVENTS

FY2018 DOD & Federal Agency Program Briefings
March 7, 2017
Bethesda, Maryland
CHICAGO DISTRICT SHOWCASES $70M IN CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES AT INDUSTRY DAY
By Vanessa Villarreal, Chicago District, Public Affairs Office

The Chicago District hosted an Industry Day on Feb. 21, 2017, to share information about upcoming and ongoing projects and programs, and to showcase its $70 million in anticipated contracting opportunities for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. The event was attended by more than 250 representatives of industries ranging from consulting groups to engineering companies.

“This day is not just about business,” District Engineer Col. Christopher Drew said. “It allows us as an organization to accomplish our purpose which is to be able to protect American citizens and institutions. Protect them from flood risk hazards. Protect the environment so that people can live where they want to live in the environment they want to live in. Protect the economy of this nation by keeping major ports and harbors open. Allowing navigation to occur, allow the steel industries to be able to perform. We are the nation’s engineers. And it’s about us building a capacity for our nation. And we can’t do the work ourselves.”

The Chicago District is one of the seven districts under the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. The other districts are Buffalo, Detroit, Huntington, Louisville, Nashville, and Pittsburgh. Forecasted contract opportunities for those districts were also highlighted.

The Chicago District is comprised of six counties in Northeast Illinois and 2.5 counties in Northwest Indiana, covering 5,000 square miles with a population of 9.3 million. Its major programs are flood risk management, navigation, ecosystem restoration, and aquatic invasive species.

The day began with briefings by key Chicago District leaders that covered a typical federal budget cycle, an overview of district operations, and major construction projects.

“The civil works project development process has four main phases,” Katarzyna Chelkowska-Risley, deputy for Project Management, said. “Feasibility; preconstruction engineering and design; construction; and operations and maintenance. Our major construction projects include Little Calumet River, McCook Reservoir, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal dispersal barriers, and environmental infrastructure in Cook County and the Calumet region.”

Afternoon small-group discussions included contracts, small business opportunities, construction, operations, and safety.

Phil Stavrides, chief of Construction Branch, spoke about current feasibility studies that have the potential to lead to future design and construction of various projects – Upper Des Plaines River and tributaries, DuPage River, and Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study. He also stressed the importance of safety.

“There are two cardinal rules,” Stavrides said. “Safety and quality.”

He gave tips to an effective safety program: understand the scope of work; follow the Accident Prevention Plan (APP) format presented in the Corps’ Safety and Health Manual, EM 385-1-1, Appendix A; engage with field workers; and make the APP site specific and use it as a reference guide.

“The APP is a document that the contractor develops for each project,” Stavrides said. “Therefore, it must be project specific so it covers the nuances of the job like, for example, the environment, facility under construction, and hazards. Plus, we have a specific format that should be followed. And that’s defined in EM385-1-1.”

“Doing business with the Corps is simple,” Bonita Carroll, deputy for Small Business, said. “Once a requirement is identified, we conduct extensive market research that may include ‘sources sought’ notices posted at the government’s federal business opportunities website, FedBizOpps.gov. We also use the Small Business Administration’s Dynamic Small Business Search, dsbs.sba.gov, to identify businesses that are not only interested, but competent and capable of performing the work.”

At FedBizOpps, government users may post, manage, and award opportunities; and vendors and citizens can search, monitor, and retrieve opportunities. According to Carroll, the USACE-wide goal is that 41.5 percent of contracts awarded go to Small Business.

Ron Miller, SBA’s business opportunity specialist, covered SBA’s role in subcontracting, its Mentor-Protégé Program, plus resources and more.

“We urge interested small businesses to go to our local website, www.sba.gov/il, and search our events calendars for training in our office, webinars, and our speaking engagements all over the State of Illinois,” Miller said. “We also have HUBZone orientations every second Wednesday of the month and 8(a) orientations every third Wednesday in our Illinois District Office. And small businesses can receive one-on-one counseling by appointment only.”

The SBA reports that the U.S. government is the largest single purchaser of goods and services in the world, awarding approximately $500 billion in contracts every year. The SBA’s Office of Government Contracting & Business Development works with federal agencies to award at least 23 percent of all prime government contract dollars to small businesses and help federal agencies meet specific statutory goals for small disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, and small businesses that are located in historically underutilized business zones (HUBZones).

“I am very pleased with the district’s second such event,” Carroll said. “Last year we had approximately 180 attendees. This year we exceeded that amount with 250, with the majority from the Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin area. We are looking forward to taking the feedback received to plan for next year’s event.”

Additional information about the event and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District is available at www.lrc.usace.army.mil.