FROM THE PRESIDENT

Only a few events left on the calendar as the year draws to a close, so come on out and have some fun!

In 2017, the GKC Post approached our execution of the 2020 SAME strategic plan with energy, passion and purpose. We implemented a “quality versus quantity” design that took our luncheons back into the USACE Kansas City District and hosted targeted events in partnership with GSA Region 6, VISN 15 VA Heartland Network and EPA Region 7 (Midwest). Our efforts were devoted to expanding SAME’s vision – and public-sector membership – into regional federal agencies not active with our Post.

The GKC Post continues to expand SAME’s presence with the students of the Command General Staff College (CGSC). We have established yet another robust recruitment of new members and field chapter officers. Additionally, we have begun a process to track members of the college, allowing the GKC Post to advise National of the students’ next duty stations when assigned.

The GKC Post continues to maintain mentoring initiatives with our active student chapters at both the University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC) and Kansas State University – each of which was recognized with distinction in 2016. In addition, we recently established a third student chapter at the University of Kansas! A challenge not commonly taken on by our society’s posts.

We are gaining momentum for the Joint Engineer Training Conference & Expo (JETC), which will be held in Kansas City May 23-25, 2018. Event volunteer sign-ups will be available to the GKC and Ft. Leonard Wood Post members in December. Members volunteering for a 3-hour time slot will receive a 30% registration discount, and members volunteering for 6 hours or more will receive FREE conference registration! If you would like to get involved in this planning effort, or have thoughts on how to best showcase our hometown, please contact Angie Rolufs.

It will be a pleasure turning over the Presidency to Jason Sweet of Stantec next year. Jason’s enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to the Post during my time here has been fantastic. With Jason and his team of Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs, there is no doubt that the Post will have another outstanding year in 2018!

Finally, without the engagement of our volunteers and annual sponsors, this year’s slate of events and community contributions would not have been possible. On behalf of our membership, I would like to thank you. For individual members looking to get more involved in 2018, please contact our President-Elect, Jason Sweet. For our incredible Annual Sponsors, plan on hearing from David Kocour about our 2018 sponsorship packages!
POST MEMBERS TRAVEL TO CRISIS CITY

The SAME GKC Resilience Committee hosted a day-long tour of Crisis City, located near Salina, Kansas, on September 8, 2017.

Crisis City is a full-scale crisis response training facility developed to enhance the state’s capability to defend against terrorism threats and respond to disasters and emergencies. This “one of a kind” facility provides Kansas first responders and those who do the dirty work, including the Kansas National Guard and our public and private partners, with a world-class, multi-discipline, multi-agency training environment.

Crisis City is operated by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) under the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department. The facility has a staffing level of 1.5 people and operates on a very thin budget.

The training venues visited include train/rail disaster, urban village, active shooter, agriculture, high-angle rescue tower, collapsed structure/rubble pile, pipeline safety, aircraft/helicopter, K-9 agility, and confined space/trench rescue simulations. These venues are primarily developed and maintained from donations from various agencies and groups from around the state. While they have quite a few training venues already established, they are always seeking donations to continue developing new scenarios and venues.

This visit may result in immediate value to Crisis City. Wichita Area Post member, Ross Draney, Cover Six Shelters, is coordinating a donation of CONEX boxes to expand the Urban Village training venue that will enhance the law enforcement and military training operations.

More about the Post’s trip to Crisis City can be found here.

contributed by Robert Crain, AICP. Robert is Project Manager/Aviation Planning at Burns & McDonnell. He can be reached at rwcrain@burnsmcd.com.

CRISIS CITY IS A FULL-SCALE CRISIS RESPONSE TRAINING FACILITY DEVELOPED TO ENHANCE THE STATE’S CAPABILITY TO DEFEND AGAINST TERRORISM, NATURAL DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES.

Warriors’ Ascent launches a new initiative this year with Veterans Day. KC Camo Day exists to raise awareness of the often hidden personal struggles many veterans deal with in the days, months and years following their service to our country.

The camouflage analogy represents the fact that most people still don’t “see” the struggles our veterans face as they attempt to transition into what most people think are normal civilian lives. We can all help by making sure veterans feel welcome and appreciated as they blend back into civilian life.

You can show your support by wearing your camo on November 9th to show Kansas City veterans you stand with them and support them as they blend back into civilian life. You can participate as an individual or get your company involved by registering here. Those who register during pre-launch will have several opportunities to be featured, such as being listed on the Supporters page of the Warriors’ Ascent website, and a company photo and quote that will be showcased on the Warriors’ Ascent website and the KC Camo Day social media. There are even talks with local media publications to cover KC Camo Day and the supporters participating during that day.

The goal is to honor the sacrifice, service and isolation of our veterans while they adapt back into our community.

If you wear camo to work, please consider donating a minimum of $5 to Warriors’ Ascent. Donations can be made here. Ask your boss if the company you work for will support KC Camo Day and encourage everyone to wear camo.

Contributed by Scott Perkins, GISP. Scott is Director of Federal Programs at Surveying and Mapping, LLC. He can be reached at sperkins@sam.biz.

Learn More

Similarly, the Sporting Clays Challenge continues to be a Member Favorite.

Zieson took this year’s trophy at the 11th Annual Sporting Clays Challenge held on September 28th at Powder Creek Shooting Park in Lenexa.

The GKC Post event included a 12-station, 50-clay sporting clays course followed by a BBQ dinner. Based on attendance and the feedback we have received, we think we have a winner with this event.

This event is not a large fund raiser for the Post; however, after seeing the interest after the first few years, the decision was made that this event would focus on socializing, having fun, networking and marketing. We have also seen firms use this event as a client or employee appreciation event, while others use it as a marketing tool to entertain potential clients. Whatever reason you’re joining us, we want to thank you for your support and hope to see you next fall at Powder Creek.

Contributed by Ann Ewy. Ann is at the US Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District. She can be reached at annewysame@gmail.com.

Learn More
College Outreach (CGSC Student Chapter)

COMMAND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE SOCIAL WILDLY SUCCESSFUL, NATIONAL PRESIDENT ATTENDS

On July 27th, the GKC Post returned to Boulevard Brewery to welcome in the new class at the Command General Staff College (CGSC), located at Fort Leavenworth. This year’s class of 66 students, over 80% of whom have STEM-related degrees, contains approximately 12 Professional Engineers!

This event pulled in a crowd of 100 students and members, including the likes of SAME’s National President Col. Sal Nodjomian (Ret.) and Executive Director BG Joseph Schroedel (Ret.). President Sal took this opportunity to visit with our Post leadership and students, and also shared his targeted goals of his term:

- **Time is Precious.** Sal encouraged leadership and volunteers to pursue opportunities that ensure value to our membership.
- **Find Your Place and Do the Most Good.** No better time than now to get involved. Whether your passion is to meet, help or learn - SAME has an initiative that is right for you!
- **Quality vs. Quantity.** Approach your involvement with a passion and a purpose. Engagement is the key to maximizing your SAME experience and the opportunities this organization has to offer.
- **Finally, have fun!**

In addition, President Sal recognized several of GKC’s outstanding volunteers, presenting each of them with a SAME President’s Challenge Coin. Recipients included LTC Merrill Watt (Ret.), RVP Jackie Hacker, Col. Tony Hofmann (Ret.), CMD Al Osborne (Ret.) and LTC Brian Manus.

*Contributed by Matthew Turner. Matthew is currently GKC Post President, as well as Vice President at Yaeger Architecture. He can be reached at mturner@yainc.com.*

**IN REVIEW: A SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST QUARTER**

*Clockwise, from top: LTC Merrill Watt (Ret.) receives SAME President’s Challenge Coin; the JETC Planning Committee meets in Kansas City to scout venues; President Sal addresses CGSC students and guests of the social; social guests take time to pause for a photo; social guests enjoy hors d’oeuvres and drinks while networking.*

**Ethics for Professional Licensure Luncheon**

Bob Lambrechts of Lathrop Gage, LLP, presented to membership at our October luncheon held inside of the Richard Bolling Federal Building. His interactive presentation, which focused on professional ethics, kept our licensed professionals engaged and reminded us of our responsibilities as members of the A/E/C community.

**Vice President Happy Hour**

Post Vice President, Kim Pemberton of Advantage Project Management, hosted the annual Vice President’s Event at Topgolf of Overland Park. Kim put on a golf clinic in front of a crowd of 50 annual sponsors and Post members, all of whom went away from the evening as winners! Honorable Mention went to David Renetzky of HNTB, who won this year’s “longest drive of a driver,” landing his driver into the 20-yard basket!

**Young Members / Fellows Social**

The GKC Post Council of Fellows took a time-out from the grind to share their stories of success and lessons learned to an energetic group of our Post’s Young Members.

**Mark Brown Educational Keynote**

Post President, Matthew Turner of Yaeger Architecture, presents world-renowned motivational keynote speaker, Mark Brown, with a GKC Post challenge coin concluding the August luncheon at Union Station. Mark’s unique blend of humor and hard-hitting honesty left our membership and GSA Region 6 guests both challenged and compelled to take our performance to the next level!
This year, the GKC Post Fellows and Young Members met at the District Pour House in Kansas City for a fun evening of socializing and mentorship. With a wide variety of their own in-house infused cocktails and delicious appetizers, including their inimitable flatbreads, this local restaurant proved to be an exceptional venue for a happy hour meet and mingle.

There were approximately 30 in attendance from several different professional backgrounds, including UMKC, Stantec, Building Controls and Services, Braun Intersect, HNTB, Tepa, Poole Fire, Burns and McDonnell, Yaeger Architecture, Alpha Energy and Electric, and more. There was a noteworthy increase in Young Member attendance from last year with plenty of mentorship from the GKC Post Fellows.

Fellows were encouraged to offer Young Members guidance on professional and personal growth, both within SAME and within their occupation. Young Members were encouraged to ask any questions that could help them achieve their goals and aspirations.

Several Young Members were interested in ideas on how they can make a bigger difference in SAME, how they can help the Post achieve their goals, and inquired about volunteer opportunities. While some sought guidance on career paths and how they can continue to climb the professional ladder in their field of expertise, others took advantage of the opportunity to simply meet with other professionals. This social was a great opportunity for Young Members and Fellows to socialize, meet and mingle, and partake in a mentorship event within a casual setting.

Contributed by Bryanna Aldridge, GISP, CFM. Bryanna is currently Young Members Chair, as well as GIS Manager at Stantec. She can be reached at Bryanna.Aldridge@stantec.com.

Professional Development Stipends

A limited number of professional development stipends are still available to augment costs associated with professional certification exams and/or review courses. These stipends are available to new and active SAME members of the Greater Kansas City Post who are current on their dues (those who have a SAME number). A stipend application does not guarantee an award. The program supports stipend awards for credentials, licensures or certifications considered to have an intrinsic value to SAME’s mission and the architecture, engineering and construction (A/E/C) professions. Applications can be found on the Professional Development Stipends page of the GKC website.