FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have another outstanding year ahead of us, and it is truly an honor to serve this Distinguished Post. As you'll soon see, our refocused approach on "value-added" opportunities of membership, including workshops, monthly luncheons, networking events and educational opportunities, will preserve SAME’s spot as the premier networking organization for the A/E/C community wishing to resolve our national security infrastructure-related challenges.

A component of our 2017 focus shall be revitalizing SAME’s long-standing public-private sector multi-disciplined collaboration. To initiate this, the Greater Kansas City Post (GKC) returned to the Federal Building for our February luncheon and will again return for our June luncheon. This was the first of what we hope to be many opportunities offered this year to strengthen collaboration within our industry. You can get more information about our upcoming events on our website at http://www.same.org/GKC.

I am delighted to have you onboard and your participation in the Post is important to us. If you have any questions about our Post and the initiatives we will be working on in 2017, please contact our Post Vice President, Kim Pemberton, at (816) 810-4007, via email at klpemb@gmail.com, or email me at mturner@yainc.com.

The GKC Post continues to grow and I would like to thank this year’s annual sponsors. Without your continued support, we would not be so soundly positioned for the opportunities ahead.

I look forward to working with and serving you in 2017. Thank you for your continued support of the GKC and I look forward to another successful year!

Matthew Turner
SAME GKC President

UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 Joint Engineer Training Conference & Expo (JETC)
Date: May 23-26, 2017
Location: Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio
SAME GKC’s very own Victoria Mechtly will be presenting "Who Needs a Personal Brand? You Do." on May 23rd at 3:20pm.

Post Luncheon - Harlan County Dam Rehabilitation
Date: June 15, 2017, 11:30 am
Location: Richard Bolling Building, Cafeteria Conference Room
Mike Chirich, Project Manager in the Civil Works Branch of the USACE, KC District, will present a case study on the Harlan County dam rehabilitation project.

Leadville Trail Marathon & Heavy Half
Date: June 17, 2017, 8:00 am
Location: Leadville, Colorado (on the breathtaking Leadville Rocky Mountain Trails)
The GKC Post is sponsoring "Team Leadville" to raise funds for Warriors’ Ascent. Fundraising will kickoff on May 8, 2017. Contact Tony Hofmann for more information, or visit the link below to donate.

www.same.org/gkc
The GKC Post Warrior Transition Committee continues to make significant progress assisting military members in transition. This concept, which began in April 2014, has been sustained at Fort Riley, Kansas, and has since expanded locally to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Given the larger number of transitioning military personnel at Fort Riley, the installation has been fully engaged by hosting three to five panels annually.

Adam Chalmers was a transitioning Army officer stationed at Fort Leavenworth. He attended our February 2016 Warrior Transition Panel. Upon retirement and after 20 years of service to the nation, Adam had a smooth transition to a second career, ultimately landing a position with HNTB Corporation. He credits the insights and contacts gained during the February 2016 panel as a key component leading to his successful transition.

“Attending the Warrior Transition Panel at Fort Leavenworth really started my transition process. The insights were eye opening and provided me a perspective that the Army’s transition program did not. The panel certainly was a key factor as I was seeking a second career.”

Adam’s story is one of many that can be attributed to our program. The more veterans like him that we can get in front of, the more we can assist as they transition to the civilian sector.

Led by the efforts of Co-Committee Chair and Missouri River Regional Vice President, Jackie Hacker, an exceptional panel participation from numerous Post members (Merrill Watt, Al Osborne, Matt Metcalf, Joe Lykins, Scott Fehnel, Jerry Place, Jason Davis, Reed Brown and Nick Patch), combined with full support from Post President Matt Turner and Post leadership, Warrior Transition continues to benefit military personnel as they transition to civilian life.

More information on Warrior Transition Panels can be found by selecting the Learn More button at the bottom of this article.

Contributed by Tony Hofmann, PMP. Tony is Public Works Director at the City of Overland Park, Kansas. He can be reached at Tony.Hofmann@opkansas.org.

Communications

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PLAN IN FULL FORCE, POST CONTINUES TO ADD IMPROVEMENTS

The Greater Kansas City Post began a new initiative last year – building a strategic communications plan.

In 2016, the Post sent out an RFP to find a firm who could provide strategic communications planning, including an evaluation of the brand, recommendations on identity and messaging, and phased implementation assistance. The selected firm, Sturges Word Communications (Sturges Word) began close collaboration with Post Board Members and the Communications Committee. The goal was to help define communications and branding in support of the mission of SAME and our local Post.

Through a series of planning sessions and meetings, Sturges Word developed a recommended communications plan which included member retention and engagement, young member involvement, and Post-wide event communication. The Board of Directors approved the recommendations of Sturges Word and engaged them to develop the new communications materials including the new newsletter format and updated Post letterhead, among many other things.

Additionally, the Post welcomed a new Communications Chair, Kerry Patterson of Tepa, LLC. Kerry has managed the optimization of the new website, hosted by the National Post. The website features a new events interface and great functionality to help the Post stay connected to the SAME community.

We are excited to continue to introduce our membership to these new and updated tools in the year ahead. Keep your eye out for them on the website, in the Friday e-blast, and at Post events.

Contributed by Melissa Kelley, Melissa is Strategic Business Development Leader at Henderson Engineers, Inc. She can be reached at Melissa.Kelley@hei-eng.com.

Professional Development Stipends

A limited number of professional development stipends are 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.

Scholarships for College Upperclassmen

The mission of SAME is to promote and facilitate engineering support for national security by developing and enhancing relationships and competencies among uniformed services, public and private sector engineers, and related professionals. Consistent with this mission, the GKC Post will provide scholarship opportunities to local students excelling in academics, community involvement, and leadership with the potential of contributing to the spirit of the Society.

The GKC Post is currently reviewing our scholarship program for 2017. It is anticipated that a new multi-year scholarship program will become available to college upperclassmen (junior, senior and 5th year students) enrolled in a STEM program later this year.

Application period will open in early May and will be posted on the Scholarships for College Underclassmen page on the GKC website. Applications are due by June 30, 2017.
IN REVIEW: A SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST QUARTER

Passing the Gavel
Melissa Kelley, 2016 Post President, passed the gavel to current President, Matt Turner, at the January 2017 Board meeting. Melissa continues to serve the GKC Post as Chair of both Industry Days and Nomination Committees.

Luncheon Returns to KC Federal Building
Attendance hit a 3-year high when the Post returned to the Kansas City Federal Building to host their monthly luncheon. This was the first of three luncheons that will be held at this location in 2017.

Tony Hofmann Awarded Medal
Matt Turner awards Tony Hofmann the Missouri River Region Vice President’s Medal for his outstanding leadership and service to SAME. Tony is currently serving as the Post’s Warrior Transition Committee Chair.

Walk of Honor Brick Laid at WWI Museum
The SAME GKC Post honored all veterans by having a brick laid at the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. Proceeds from brick purchases helps further the Museum’s mission.

Warrior Support Visits Fort Riley
In support of our Warrior Support Committee, past Post Presidents Tony Hofmann and Al Osborne attended the Warrior Transition Panel at Fort Riley, Kansas in March.

Amy McCurdy Awarded Medal
Jackie Hacker awards Amy McCurdy the Missouri River Region Vice President’s Medal for her outstanding leadership and service to SAME. Amy served as Post Secretary in 2016, and is currently a Post Director.

MWEME Gift Awarded
Merrill Watt awarded the UMKC Baja Racing Team of Computing and Engineering with a $500 Merrill Watt Education & Mentoring Endowment gift.

Relationships
SAME SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE: MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

I wasn’t even supposed to be there.

Only seven days on the job, and I found myself at the 2016 Society of American Military Engineers’ (SAME) Small Business Conference (SBC) in Atlanta, Georgia, representing my new company, Tepa, LLC. As a last minute replacement in an unfamiliar industry, I wasn’t sure where to begin. SAME is an organization that helps build collaborative relationships by connecting the federal market with private businesses like mine, so I set out to do just that. Connect.

First up was the SAME Young Member meeting. When I stepped into that meeting, I stepped into my future. In just one hour, I was hooked – ready to sign up and do whatever SAME needed to succeed. At the end of the meeting, I approached Lieutenant Colonel Matt Altman, chairman of the Young Member Council, and asked how I could get involved. Ideas were already forming in my mind on how to engage more young members.

The ideas continued to develop as I listened to Lieutenant General Todd Semonite talk about how vital federal-private collaboration is to developing innovative solutions for military challenges and heard Gil Brindley, PE, CPSM, discuss how companies can build their bottom line through targeted, federal business development. It is this kind of insight that makes the SAME and the SBC so valuable for companies like mine.

From these sessions and numerous others I attended, my fundamental takeaway was how important it is to connect the people, ideas and resources necessary to keep American infrastructure strong and ever evolving for future challenges.

I see my future so much more clearly now. The two-day conference was an “ah-ha” moment for me, a personal and professional development experience leading me to discover my true passion for a career in federal marketing and business development. My passion runs deeper than my own development. I want to help college engineering students develop key soft skills (communication, problem-solving, teamwork, etc.) to complement their technical abilities and propel them to successful engineering careers and a lifetime of participation in SAME.

I’m reminded of what Brigadier General Joseph Schroedel, PE, F. SAME, USA (Ret.), told me on my first day at the conference when he said the real value of SAME participation is the relationships you build. I look forward to reaching out and building those relationships with more SAME members, Fellows and engineering students – connections that will make a difference.

Guess I really was meant to be there.

Contributed by Victoria Mechty. Victoria is Marketing Coordinator at Tepa, LLC. She can be reached at Victoria.Mechty@tepa.com.
GKC Industry Days sets a new high for attendance!

Our 9th annual Industry Days Education & Training Workshop was held in partnership with the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Computing and Engineering (SCE) on campus at the UMKC Student Success Center. The record number of 330 registrants enjoyed program events such as a keynote from Colonel Douglas Guttormsen, Commander – Kansas City District USACE; District program briefings; as well as various educational programs focused on technology advancements in A/E/C, civil works restoration and environmental remediation.

A donation of $7,500 was made from the event proceeds to the UMKC SCE’s Dean’s Discretionary Fund.

The event was finished off with an evening social sponsored by Black & Veatch at Tomfooleries. Hands were shook and toast were made.

Contributed by Matt Turner, AIA, PMP, NCIDQ, LEED AP BD+C. Matt is Vice President at Yaeger Architecture. He can be reached at mturner@yainc.com.

See Photos