FROM THE PRESIDENT

2018 is flying by. It has been a great ride so far due to the efforts of our volunteers and members.

We kicked off the year with Board of Directors Installation at our January meeting. A huge thanks to our new Directors in 2018 including COL Douglass Guttormsen (USACE), Nick Patch (Tetra Tech), and Victoria Mechtly (Tepa). You and your organizations’ support for SAME through the time you devote is greatly appreciated.

The Post has also seen a number of people step up into committee leadership roles. Our committees are the backbone of the Post and where the bulk of our work gets done. The Annual Sponsors Committee, led by Dave Kocour (Hg Consult, Inc.), once again set the Post up for financial success for the year. Industry Day this year saw record attendance and revenue for the Post. Thank you to Melissa Kelly (Henderson Engineers) and team for all you have done with Industry Day over the years. Jackie Hacker (HDR) is already making plans to build on those successes for 2019 with some exciting updates. Tony Hofmann (City of Overland Park) continues to provide national leadership to SAME regarding Warrior Transition including panels held across the country and presentations on the topic at a number of conferences and workshops. Our Young Members Committee, led by Bryanna Aldridge (Stantec), ramped up events in 2018 including technical tours and social events. We increased our social media presence thanks to Andrew Thornton (Aerotek) and Christy Wilson (Olsson Associates). There is so much more that could be mentioned.

We have also seen new initiatives launch in 2018. A few of our highly valued fellows (Tony Hofmann, Merrill Watt, and Dave Howe) drafted the Post’s first ever 5-Year Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is nested within National’s Strategic Plan with an eye towards SAME National’s Centennial Celebration in 2020. Within our Membership Committee, Mark Loes (Braun Intertec) launched and is defining a new Sustaining Member Engagement initiative. Our Sustaining Member firms are a vital piece of the Post’s continued success and further engagement with them will only make us stronger. The effort leverages the Strategic Communications Plan from 2016-2017 to increase involvement from individuals at those firms and to garner support from Sustaining Member firms’ leadership for that involvement.

Of course, our big news for 2018 was our having the honor to host SAME’s Joint Engineer Training Conference (JETC) in May. 1800+ professionals from around the world came to Kansas City for the event. The Post, led by Angie Rolufs (Paragon Star) and Matt Turner (Yaeger Architecture) provided over 70 volunteers in varying capacities. You all did a fantastic job representing and highlighting our community. Thank you!

We are not finished yet. There are still a number of great things to come in 2018. Watch our weekly communications, social media, and the Post website for updates.

Again, thank you all for your efforts to make the Post such a vibrant resource for the region. I am humbled to be associated with your excellence.

SAVE THE DATE

Young Member/Fellows Mentoring Social
Date: November 9, 2018
Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Location: Chicken N Pickle (1761 Burlington Street, North Kansas City, MO)
Cost: Free

Register On-Line
IGNITING PASSION THROUGH GROUP PROBLEM-SOLVING

Every year, SAME National hosts a Post Leaders Workshop (PLW), which gives members the opportunity to interact and learn together and from one another.

The whole thing kicked off with a social and “People Bingo.” Socializing outside of your normal groups is important because the purpose of the event is to help each other solve the issues our Posts face. It’s easy to feel like your Post is the only one with issues. Engaging with others helps us realize we all face the same issues. It’s also important to get all of our members engaged, because once they’re engaged, they tend to remain engaged.

The next day included a motivational presentation that made us think about how we are interacting with our membership and peers. We are all in the A/E/C industry for one reason or another, but I believe most are here because they’re passionate about the industry. Our Society is filled with people just like that – professionals who are passionate about the A/E/C community and the advancement of American infrastructure. SAME is a great avenue for channeling the energy that comes from doing what you are passionate about and expressing it to others. Being involved, 10 minutes or an hour, can help you grow professionally and personally.

We wrapped up the workshop with updates about the changes coming to the Society. The Academy of Fellows, College Outreach, and the National office are making significant changes. One of the changes at the national level is a new Leadership Training Course. You’ll hear more about these in our GKC SAME newsletter and The Military Engineer (TME) Bricks and Clicks e-newsletter.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the SAME Centennial. National has created fun ways for all of the Posts to be involved in the Centennial celebration. If this is something you would like to be a part of, please reach out to our GKC Post leadership.

Overall, this event got me fired up about our Society, not that I needed any more fuel for that fire. I’ve been a member for almost two years now, and I cannot believe how much the Society has helped me develop professionally and personally. This all didn’t happen overnight. I had to raise my hand and get involved. Our Society and our Post made it easy by allowing me to do the things I’m passionate about. So, I challenge you to reach out to our leadership and share what you are passionate about. Become more involved in the Greater Kansas City Post so that maybe we can send you, a future leader within the Society, to this amazing learning opportunity.

Contributed by Victoria Mechtly. Victoria is Business Development Specialist at Tepa, LLC. She can be reached at Victoria.Mechtly@Tepa.com.
IN REVIEW:
A SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST QUARTER

VETERAN’S SUPPORT COMMITTEE:
CONTINUED MOMENTUM ON ALL FRONTS

The GKC Post’s Veteran Support Committee continues to provide a unique value to the Society, at both the Post and National levels!

SAME National coordinated the first-ever Veteran transition panel at May’s Joint Engineer Training Conference in Kansas City. The GKC Post led efforts coordinating the panel with Dr. Art DeGroat, Master Sergeant Jason Snell and Tamara Olson. This panel had the highest attendance of various sessions that day, and was recorded to serve as a great resource for all SAME Posts to assist veterans in transition (see video here).

Tony Hofmann represented the GKC Post and participated in the SAME Post Leader’s Workshop in August, educating over 70 Post leaders and 150+ personnel about our Veteran transition panels, and the opportunity for their own Posts to integrate this as part of their respective organizations. This panel served as an opportunity to expand these panels Veteran transition panel concept to other Posts, which ultimately will assist transitioning Veterans in their journey back to civilian life. As you know, the transition panel concept has already been initiated by the Pike’s Peak Post as well as the Seattle and Mount Tacoma Posts. Most importantly, SAME has assisted over 500 transitioning Veterans since 2014!

Another Veteran transition panel took place on September 27th at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. This was the fourth panel at this installation. Kudos to the 555th Engineer Brigade, as well as the Seattle, Mount Tacoma and GKC Posts, for working this collaborative effort.

Contributed by Tony Hofmann, PMP, F.SAME, USA (Ret.). Tony is Public Works Director at the City of Overland Park. He can be reached at tony.hofmann@opkansas.org.

CGSC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES: IT’S BACK IN YEAR 2

The 2018-2019 Command and General Staff College (CGSC) class is off and running. The class elected their field chapter leadership (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) in early August. Lieutenant Colonel Andy Theume and Lieutenant Colonel (retired) JT Wetack, working closely with Merrill Watt and Tony Hofmann, have a solid path forward for three key events this year. The first event was a quarry tour near Fort Leavenworth on September 21st. The field chapter leaders are coordinating another event for late November/early December to cap off professional development topics, facilitated by the GKC Post, to augment their military education at CGSC. The final event is a spring social, likely in April/May 2019. This is a unique value that SAME provides.

The Veteran Support Committee will keep the GKC Post informed of upcoming activities. Post members and leaders play a key role in supporting through their attendance and interest.

Contributed by Tony Hofmann, PMP, F.SAME, USA (Ret.). Tony is Public Works Director at the City of Overland Park. He can be reached at tony.hofmann@opkansas.org.
ANNUAL SPONSORS

FIRST-EVER 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN ADOPTED BY GKC POST

The GKC Post adopted its first-ever 5-Year Strategic Plan in 2018. The plan sets a direction for the Post that aligns with SAME National’s goals as the Society works towards its Centennial Celebration in 2020. The Post’s Strategic Plan’s goals and objectives are nested with National’s Strategic Plan yet specific to the GKC Post. The Strategic Plan will help:

- Set Post priorities and subsequent resourcing of those priorities
- Ensure Post members are working toward common goals
- Provide a disciplined effort to shape future decisions and actions for the Post

A big thank you to GKC Fellows Dave Howe, Merrill Watt, and Tony Hofmann for pulling together the draft plan.

Contributed by Jason Sweet, GISP, PMP and Tony Hofmann, PMP, FSAME, USA (Ret.). Jason is Project Manager, Federal Services, at Stantec and can be reached at jason.sweet@stantec.com. Tony is Public Works Director at the City of Overland Park and can be reached at tony.hofmann@opkansas.org.

KU STUDENT CHAPTER GAINS 21 NEW MEMBERS

The Kansas University (KU) student chapter of the Post met for an informative membership meeting. During this time, the Post greeted new members, socialized, provided information on membership benefits, and ate lots of pizza!

During this meeting on August 30th, 21 new members registered through the SAME National portal, which included a good mix of graduate and undergraduate students interested in internships and scholarships through the Post. Everyone that registered that evening received a coveted SAME pint glass filled with candy. Current membership has now hit over 30.

The Post’s Board of Directors is currently discussing future meetings, guest speakers, dinner with industry, graduate student mentor program, an Industry Day trip, and other potential opportunities to engage with our student chapters. If you have any ideas or would like to organize an event, please contact Chad Neidig.

Contributed by Chad Neidig, College Outreach Committee (KU Student Chapter Mentor). He can be reached at chad.neidig@kuruks.com.