FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! 2018 is shaping up to be a very busy year.

As always, we will be hosting a great Industry Day event at the end of March. Melissa Kelley (Henderson Engineers), Matt Turner (Yaeger Architecture), Jackie Hacker (HDR), and their team are working hard to pull together an outstanding program. Industry Day is a phenomenal opportunity for all of our members to learn about emerging technologies in the A/E/C industry, network with regional and national leaders, and serve the Post in various capacities. Keep an eye on our Greater Kansas City (GKC) Post's website and our weekly emails for information regarding registration and volunteer opportunities. For our sustaining members, the best way to make the most of Industry Day and your overall Post involvement is through our annual sponsors program, administered by Dave Kocour (HG).

The Post also is fortunate enough to host this year’s SAME National Joint Engineering Training Conference (JETC) at the end of May. Post Fellow Angela Rolufs is coordinating with the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) National Post to ensure the GKC and Fort Leonard Wood Posts are well represented at the event. As hosts, we will offer our members the first chance to volunteer. Volunteering results in free attendance to an event with 2,500 professionals from around the country.

This year, we will begin implementation of the Post’s communication plan, which focuses on awareness of the many benefits offered by the Post to our members, both individuals and sustaining member firms. Elements of the plan’s implementation will be led by Kerry Patterson (Tepa), Eric Cenovich (Wilson & Company), and Mark Loes (Braun Intertec). The Post also is in the middle of drafting a strategic plan to take us through 2020, SAME’s centennial birthday. Adoption of the strategic plan is targeted for the first quarter of 2018 with a kick-off shortly afterward. Implementation of these two plans will be the focus for the second half of 2018. This is in addition to our sporting clays, Vice President’s dinner, warrior support program, young members’ events, college outreach program, and STEM initiatives.

None of this would be possible without our fantastic pool of volunteers. A huge thank you to all of those who have and continue to volunteer. You make the GKC Post such a great organization!
“I don’t consider myself a hero,” said Zeke Crozier during a presentation to Kansas City employees of the Tepa Companies. But to everyone else, Crozier IS a military hero – and a walking miracle.

In 2011, Crozier was 41 days into his deployment to Afghanistan as a Chinook helicopter flight engineer when the helicopter crashed. Crozier suffered a severe brain injury and doctors did not expect him to regain consciousness, let alone walk and talk again. He beat the odds and accomplished all three. Now six years later, he shares his story of survival and the will to live.

Crozier’s presentation highlighted the first annual KC Camo Day™ in the Kansas City offices of the Tepa Companies. KC Camo Day is an awareness and fund raising event for the Warrior’s Ascent program. On this day, people wear camouflage clothing as a way to shine a light on the often hidden personal struggles of veterans as they transition back into civilian life.

As part of the celebration, the Kansas City Tepa Companies and employees contributed more than $500 to Warrior’s Ascent to help veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress.

Contributed by Kerry Patterson. Kerry is Proposal Manager at Tepa, LLC. She can be reached at Kerry.Patterson@tepa.com.

The Kansas City Tepa Companies’ employees with Staff Sergeant Zeke Cozier (Ret.), U.S. Army Reserve (center, back row).

A Tepa Companies’ employee stands with Staff Sergeant Zeke Cozier (Ret.), U.S. Army Reserve, next to the chart showing Tepa employees exceeded their fund raising goal.

### SAME’S ACADEMY OF FELLOWS SELECTS THREE OF OUR OWN

Congratulations to Jackie Hacker, Colonel Tony Hofmann (PMP, F.SAME, USA (Ret.)), and Commander Allen Osborne (Ret.) on their selection as a SAME Fellow.

The SAME Academy of Fellows recognizes those members who have rendered dedicated and outstanding service to the Society, military engineering, and the A/E/C profession. Only 2% of SAME’s 30,000+ members worldwide achieve this honored distinction.

The GKC Post is blessed to have these three industry leaders among our ranks of volunteers. Thank you each for more than a decade of service to SAME. We are thrilled to be a part of your accomplishments and look forward to your continued guidance on the path ahead!

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.

### GKC POST RESUMES MILITARY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

The GKC Post resumed its Military Professional Development Series on January 12th with engineering students from the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) at Baan Thai restaurant in Leavenworth, Kansas. Led by Field Chapter President and Army Captain Jeff Cox, and Vice President and Army Major Katie Werback, the students chose to focus on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Emergency Response Capabilities and the role of Army Engineer Officers.

The GKC Post coordinated with the Kansas City District of USACE to facilitate and moderate this professional discussion. Lieutenant Colonel Brent Legried, Deputy District Commander of the Kansas City District, provided a detailed briefing of USACE’s emergency management capabilities and its role with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in disasters. The engagement included specific examples from Legried’s recent deployment assisting in hurricane relief efforts with USACE. Colonel Tony Hofmann added examples from major disaster recovery experiences associated with Missouri River flooding, tornado recovery in Joplin, Missouri, as well as Superstorm Sandy.

Sixteen CGSC students attended the session, gaining expert insight into USACE’s unique role and responsibilities during disaster relief operations. Attendees were extremely engaged in the 2-hour dialogue, gaining a variety of perspectives linked directly to SAME’s mission of enhancing national security. Likewise, the GKC Post was able to communicate the value of life-long membership, SAME’s “Run to 2020” and the 2018 Joint Engineering Training Conference (JETC) opportunities in Kansas City. Lieutenant Colonel Merrill Watt (PE, F.SAME, USAR (Ret.)) provided an overview of numerous opportunities at the local Post level for the CGSC students to volunteer and contribute during their tour of duty in the area.

The GKC Post is honored to assist in the professional development of military officers while providing an archetype for other SAME Posts to mirror. Likewise, the Post will build on this success at other military installations while promoting the vast benefits SAME offers and serving as “The Reachback Post” for these military professionals.

Contributed by Jackie Hacker, F.SAME, Tony Hofmann, F.SAME, and Allen Osborne, F.SAME.
JOIN THE MISSOURI SAVE COALITION

Use your skills in engineering, construction, or architecture to help your neighbors in a crisis.

The Missouri Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition is a group of volunteer engineers, architects, building inspectors and other professionals that assists the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) with building damage inspections. After a disaster, SAVE volunteers move quickly to determine which buildings are safe to use.

SAVE Coalition volunteers are called to assist when a disaster, such as a tornado or earthquake, causes so much structural damage that local officials need help determining the safety of buildings. SAVE inspectors are trained in rapid visual evaluations to get people back in their homes and businesses as soon as possible.

If you are an architect, professional engineer, building inspector or skilled construction industry worker with at least five years of verifiable general building design, construction or inspection experience, you are eligible to join the SAVE Coalition. All that’s required is completion of a training course to become a certified team member, with recertification every three years.

The one-day course provides training and procedures for rapid building evaluations in the aftermath of a disaster. The Midwest is at risk for tornadoes and earthquakes, so the training focuses on quick inspections to determine whether homes and other structures can be used after these disasters.

Training is provided at no charge and will provide 7 PDH’s. This is a great opportunity to advance your career while helping others! Registered attendees will receive a SAVE Coalition Training Certificate. Space is limited, so registrations will be taken until filled.

For more information, contact SEMA’s Jeff Briggs at (573) 526-9232 or Jeff.Briggs@sema.dps.mo.gov.

Contributed by Robert Crain, AICP. Robert is Project Manager with Burns & McDonnell. He can be reached at rwcrain@burnsmcd.com.

register online

PULSE AEROSPACE DEMONSTRATES UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

The GKC Post Resilience Committee held a luncheon meeting to learn about the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS, aka drones) in emergency response situations on December 11, 2017. The meeting featured an invited guest presenter, Alex Hinkle of Pulse Aerospace, based in Lawrence, Kansas. Alex provided a detailed briefing on the UAS platforms (small helicopters) offered by Pulse Aerospace and video clips of the systems in use. This included images of post-Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, which provided crucial communication links with the UAS serving as the equivalents of an airborne cell tower, as well as the systems used for search and rescue of lost hikers in mountainous terrain.

The meeting was well attended with guests from MARC and GKCP members from Tukuh Technologies, Hg Environmental, Wilson & Company, SAM, Yeager Architecture, and local law enforcement officers from Lee’s Summit, Leawood, Belton, Overland Park and Leavenworth. Special thanks to Jason Davis (Affinis) for hosting the meeting.

Matt Turner took the opportunity during the meeting to thank Scott Perkins with a commemorative service plaque for his contributions to the Post Board of Directors over the past three years.

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

IN REVIEW: A SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST QUARTER

Small Business Workshop

ASCE Luncheon
On November 14th, Jackie White (City of Grandview) and Jason Meyers (Burns & McDonnell) explained the need for the MO 150 Outer Roads Design-Build project and how it has improved access to the area.

Holiday Party
The GKC Post celebrated the holidays at Yaeger Architecture on December 7th. Matt Turner presented awards and recognized volunteers for their involvement in the Post.

Perkins Recognized for Service
At the Affinis-hosted lunch-and-learn on the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) in emergency response situations on December 11th, Matt Turner recognized Scott Perkins with a commemorative service plaque.

Change of Command Ceremony
On January 18th, Change of Command ceremony and swearing in the new Leadership of the GKC Post at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center, followed by remarks from past President Matt Turner and current President Jason Sweet.
GKC POST HONORS VOLUNTEERS

On December 7th, our membership gathered to celebrate and honor our volunteers that helped make 2017 another great year for the GKC Post. Honorary stand-outs include our transitioning post officers, directors, and committee members.

Special recognition included Jason Meyers of Burns & McDonnell, who received a Regional Vice President’s (RVP) Medal for his outstanding service to the Industry Day Committee and his many additional past post contributions. There are only five RVP medals given out each year to members of the Missouri River Region, which is comprised of five Posts.

Post Service Medals were awarded to Jerry Adams of Alpha Energy and Electric Inc. and Ann Ewy of USACE, Kansas City District, in recognition of more than 10 years of continued dedication to the fulfillment of the GKC Post’s 2020 vision.

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

WARRIOR TRANSITION PANELS: GAINING MOMENTUM IN MULTIPLE SAME POSTS

The GKC Post Warrior Support Committee continues to make significant progress assisting military members in transition across the country. In 2018, we will enter our fourth year of conducting Warrior Transition panels, positively impacting approximately 500 transitioning military members!

On December 6th, the GKC Post assisted the Pike’s Peak Post with its second panel of 2017 at Fort Carson, Colorado. Through the leadership of the 52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Brian Brobeck, this event was a huge success with 52 transitioning veterans (Army and Navy) attending. SAME National played a vital role, working closely with the Pike’s Peak Post to not only promote the event via social media but also live-stream it - a first for the Warrior Transition Program!

Hosting Warrior Transition panels with military units on installations in close proximity to SAME Posts provides one of MANY opportunities to showcase the value of the Society to our military. This is directly aligned with multiple goals in the SAME Strategic Plan as well as National’s “Run to 2020 and Beyond.”

The GKC Post Warrior Support Committee thanks all of our volunteers who continue to make a positive impact on Veterans in numerous ways.

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