**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**November 2019**

**November 6**
General Membership Meeting
TdOT presentation on the ongoing repairs to the I-10 Bridge over the San Jacinto River

**December 2019**

**December 4**
General Membership Meeting
Keynote Speaker Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

**December 12**
Joint Society Holiday Social
Join SAME, TAEP and A&WMA-GCC at St. Arnold Brewing Company

**December 16**
Annual Golf Tournament
Join SAME at Black Horse Golf Course

* October 4, 2019
Young Member Initiative – ASIE and SAME Volunteer Event
Volunteer with Meals on Wheels

* October 5, 2019
Tailgate with a Hero
Join SAME at the Michael E. DeBakey VA campus for a tailgate with veterans

* October 16, 2019
General Membership Meeting
Joint Meeting with APWA for Capital Improvement Program Presentations

* October 22, 2019
Water of the US Workshop
Multiple regulatory and public agency representatives will present current Waters of the United States regulations and policies, and applicability of such regulations/policies on local projects.

* October 28, 2019
Public Agency Committee Meeting
Keynote Speaker Mr. Reid Mrsny, P.E., F.SAME, Harris County’s Division Manager for Recovery and Resiliency.
On Wednesday, October 4, 2019, ASIE and SAME young members joined Meals on Wheels to help prepare holiday cards. After a brief introduction about the Meals on Wheels non-profit organization, we got creative on making cards with supplies that the organization keeps onsite. These holiday cards will be delivered to their clients when meals are delivered this holiday season. We hope they add a little extra cheer this holiday season!

Tailgate with a Hero

On Wednesday, October 5, 2019, SAME attended the 11th Annual Tailgate with a Hero at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Campus in Houston. This tailgate party served to honor our veterans and active duty service personnel, letting them know their services are not forgotten. SAME members performed volunteer tasks as assigned, provided over 400 water bottles and worked in the parking lot on the south side of the main hospital building on the DeBakey campus, transporting the lunch meals into the hospital first and helping with outside food service as well after.
On October 22, 2019, Houston/Galveston Post of SAME and the Houston Chapter of APWA held a joint Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Briefings meeting on October 16, 2019 at the HESS Club. Eighteen public entities in our region presented on their 2020 CIPs which represent several billion dollars of engineering and construction projects. The following is a list of presenters:

- City of Pearland, Raj Shrestha, PE
- Port Houston, Ross Talbot, MBA, PMP, CPC, PMI-SP
- North Harris County Regional Water Authority, Jun Chang, PE, D.WRE
- METRO, Mustaque Rumi, PE
- Harris County Flood Control District, Alan Black, PE
- Texas Department of Transportation, Dee Rader, PE
- City of Sugar Land, Jessie Li, PhD, PE
- North Fort Bend Water Authority, Robert Patton
- West Harris County Regional Water Authority, Melinda Silva, PE
- City of Missouri City, Shashi Kumar, PE, CFM
- City of League City, John Baumgartner
- City of Bellaire, Michael Leech
- City of Friendswood, Jil Arias, PE
- City of Houston, Michael Ereti, PE
- City of Galveston, Daniel Christodoss, PE
- Harris County Toll Road Authority, John Tyler, PE
- Coastal Water Authority, Greg Olinger, PE
- City of Webster, Shannon Hicks, PE

Well over 100 people attended the event that awarded 4 PDHs per attendee.
Waters of the US Workshop
By: Yvonne Hernandez

The Environmental Committee held a Waters of the US Workshop for the professional community on October 22, 2019. Attendees varied from civil engineers to environmental consultants and from industry professionals to public entities. The half-day event held at the HESS Club offered an opportunity for attendees to earn 5 PDH credits.

The committee was grateful to have participation from TXDOT, USACE and HCFCD that provided regulatory updates and insights. Janet Botello, Acting Deputy Chief, Regulatory Division presented. The USACE, in particular, spoke of the challenges they have in responding to an higher workload and less resources. The region is busy with over 4,091 finalized actions in 2019. TXDOT Deputy Director of Environmental Affairs Division, Sue Theiss, provided an overview, updates and training opportunities. TXDOT is rolling out streamlined processes and procedures. Jonathan Holley, Regulatory Compliance Department Manager with HCFCD, provided insight to managing Waters of the US locally. HCFCD has some innovative projects with wet bottom detention basins, bio-stabilization, and natural stable channel design. An attorney, Paul Seby, presented the history of the ruling and how clients can be affected throughout the process. Brett Jordon is with a firm doing design-build restoration and stream mitigation; he presented a compensatory mitigation project for unavoidable impacts to nearby streams resulting from a multi-lane TXDOT highway project.
On October 28th, the SAME-Houston Galveston Post held a Public Agency Committee meeting at the HESS Club. The speaker for this event was Reid Mrsny, P.E., F.SAME who serves as Harris County’s Division Manager for Recovery and Resiliency. The main topic at this meeting was an overview of what this particular Division does, the current and future public infrastructure projects it oversees, and the funding sources that make these projects possible.

We learned that this Division was recently created, in part, to help implement and accomplish subdivision infrastructure improvement projects with the funds made available by the Harris County bond program and the associated Federal and State funds that match and/or supplement the local bond money. This Division works hand-in-hand with Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) on large drainage improvement projects and progress updates are made available through the HCFCD web site. Reid reviewed for the audience the complicated sequence of events and the multiple sources of government matching funds. For example, he illustrated how funds will be coming from such sources as: the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), the US Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, the Texas Water Development Board and also Community Development Block Grants (part of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development). And many of these will be coming in various phases or “rounds” of funding. Reid’s group has the important task of managing all these funds and allocating them properly to local projects. Thank you Reid for a great presentation that helped educate our members on the Recovery and Resiliency Division of Harris County and how it is accomplishing its work to help improve drainage across our region!