YP’s Review of the Post Leader’s Workshop
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Louisiana Post
August 28-30, 2016

SAME hosted its annual Post Leaders Workshop to train leaders around the country and the world on how to more effectively accomplish their leadership responsibilities. I attended this year's workshop in St. Pete Beach, Florida at the end of August along with 250 other SAME leaders. It was a diverse group, spanning a wide range of ages, representing a large number of industries, with various levels of responsibility within the society.

The diverse group lent itself well to collaborative brainstorming, which was one of the main focuses of the event. Cynthia D’Amour, an outside volunteer leadership consultant, instructed the attendees on volunteer management. She led six interactive sessions which scheduled breaks to practice the principals discussed in her presentations. These activities ranged from an on-stage visualization of team building to an “appreciation” exercise in which we were instructed to spend a full minute appreciating and complimenting a partner without them being allowed to say anything other than their choice between, “thank you,” and, “thank you, it’s true.” The breakout exercises helped attendees to practice the new skills that Ms. D’Amour promoted, while also facilitating connections amongst the attendees.

One of the biggest takeaways that Cynthia gave us was the benefit of acting as a “lazy leader.” A lazy leader’s top skill is delegation. Although it is easy to revere the “martyr leader,” a lazy leader with a team of volunteers will always be able to accomplish more than a martyr leader, who may dedicate great time and energy but can only do so much. Another skill that Cynthia taught was the idea of “hot buttons.” This technique can be used by any SAME member. When talking to a potential member or volunteer, you should always try to determine what their “hot button” issue is, and speak to that. According to Cynthia, everybody who has an interest in getting involved in the society is motivated by one of three things: learning, helping, or meeting. If someone shows up because they want to help get more students involved in science, and you give a monologue about all of the great networking opportunities that SAME offers, they are likely to get turned off and might not return. Even though SAME had exactly what the potential volunteer was looking for, their first introduction to the society made no mention of it. The key is to make sure that you not only talk about why you love the society, but also about why they would love it, based on what they are looking for.
Other speakers included Colonel Stretch Dunn (Ret.), who spoke on his tour of Vietnam. He detailed some of the operations that he would see on a daily basis, and then told us about Veterans Leadership Ministry, an organization that he works with to help veterans deal with manage post-traumatic stress. One thing that stuck with me was when he reiterated that what Cynthia D’Amour said about verbally appreciating people. “Thank a veteran; you have no idea how important it can be.”

The leadership training that I received at the Post Leaders Workshop was only the tip of the iceberg of what I got out of this event. The historic Don CeSar Hotel in St. Pete Beach was a beautiful setting. I connected with society leaders who I know I will continue to keep in touch with throughout various SAME events nationally. To anybody who may have the opportunity to attend a Post Leaders Workshop in the future, take it!

HOST SUSTAINING MEMBER INFORMATION

This month’s meeting will be hosted by Entrescan, LLC. Thank you to Hernandez Consulting for hosting last month’s meeting.

We still have some luncheon meetings available for Sustaining Members to host. Hosting our monthly meetings is a great opportunity to put your firm in the limelight and showcase your firm’s experience and abilities. If your firm is interested in hosting one of these meetings, please contact Charlie Settoon at (504) 889-0182.

We would like to thank all the Sustaining Member Firms who have hosted a monthly meeting in the past. If it has been a while since your firm hosted a meeting, you are welcome to host another meeting. Let’s continue to show our support for the Louisiana Post through this great professional opportunity.
LOUISIANA POST MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016
SOCIAL – 11:30 A.M.
POST LUNCHEON - 12:00 P.M.

LOCATION: JEFFERSON ORLEANS SOUTH
2536 EDENBORN AVE.
METAIRIE, LA 70002

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. SHAUN WILSON, LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

TOPIC: UPDATE FROM LOUISIANA DOTD

MENU: SALAD, SHRIMP PASTA, PETIT POIS PEAS
DESSERT, ICED TEA & COFFEE

COST: $25.00 MEMBERS; $30.00 NON-MEMBERS; $5.00 STUDENTS

RESERVATIONS: FOR RESERVATIONS VIA E-MAIL:
RICHARD.C.ENTWISLE@USACE.ARMY.MIL
YOU MAY ALSO CALL RICHARD AT (504) 862-1377

OR MAIL PAYMENT TO: SAME, LOUISIANA POST
5321 TOBY LANE
KENNER, LA 70065-2345

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS 3:00 P.M. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

THIS WILL QUALIFY AS 1.0 PDH

DON'T FORGET THAT EVERY MONTH YOU CAN EARN 1.0 PDH (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOUR) FOR ATTENDING S.A.M.E. LUNCHEON MEETINGS.
Louisiana DOTD’s Secretary, Dr. Shawn Wilson

For the past 10 years, Dr. Shawn Wilson has served as Chief of Staff for the Department of Transportation and Development, a role he filled under three Secretaries and two Governors. Wilson previously served Executive Director of the Louisiana Serve Commission and Deputy Legislative Director in the Blanco Administration.

A New Orleans native, Wilson earned a B.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Louisiana, where he served as Student Government President and Member of the University of Louisiana System Board. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Southern University.

Shawn’s community service covers a variety of personal and professional interests, including Scoutmaster for Troop 271 Boy Scouts of America in Lafayette, Evangeline Area Council of Boy Scouts Board, and American Associations of State Highway and Transportation Officials. His former Board memberships include Past President of the University of Louisiana Alumni Association, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, United Way of Acadiana, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Shawn and his wife, Rocki, reside in Lafayette. Together they have two children, Shawn Denise (22) and Joshua Bakari (14).