The September meeting will be a Small Business discussion addressing the mentor protégé program and other new topics from different perspectives from a panel of experts.

Panel Discussion: Small Business Panel
Mentor Protégé and Other Topics

- Gene Kuppenbender, Bay West, representing a small business
- Michelle French, Stanley Consultants, representing a large business
- Gwen Davis, US Army Corps of Engineers, Small Business Program
- Randy Czaia, US Small Business Administration, MN District Office
- Sherri Komrosky, Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)

Presentation Synopsis:
The September meeting will be a Small Business discussion addressing the mentor protégé program and other new topics from different perspectives from a panel of experts. The panel discussion will include the following as well as other topics posed by the audience and the panel: mentor protégé program, recent updates for small and large business requirements, challenges and solutions.

Speaker Bios:

Gene Kuppenbender, CHMM, is a Vice President and owner of Bay West. He has 27 years’ experience in the sales and marketing of environmental and industrial services. He served as Sales & Marketing Manager at Bay West for 8 years before becoming a Vice President/Owner in 2004. Since taking the helm, he has helped grow the company’s contract backlog by 150%, which led to Bay West twice being included on the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal’s Fast 50, a listing of the fastest growing companies in the Twin Cities. Gene is a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager and is active in SAME, National Association of Ordnance Contractors (NAOC), and various management groups. Prior to Bay West, his experience included sales positions with Superior Special Services, operational roles with Dynex Environmental and IT Group, and completed 6 years with the US Navy. Contact Gene at (651)291-3450 or genek@baywest.com

See page 2 for the remaining speaker bios.

Meeting Location:
Fort Snelling Officer’s Club at 395 Minnesota 5, St Paul, MN 55111
See map at http://www.same-msp.org/_images/934thOfficersClub.jpg

Agenda:
Social time and lunch (if you so desire) will be from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the dining room of the Officers Club. Post Meeting and Presentation will be from 12:30 PM to about 2:00 PM in the ballroom of the Officers Club.

The Club’s cafeteria-style lunches are typically $10.00 or less; people who partake in the cafeteria-style lunch will pay the Officers Club directly. If you come only for the presentations, there is no charge.

Please RSVP with your intent to either partake in the cafeteria-style lunch or to come for the presentation only; this will help the Officers Club staff to ensure that an adequate amount of food is prepared. Either leave a voice mail message with Michelle Larson at 651-290-5632, or click the RSVP button in the left-hand column, or send an email message to Michelle.J.Larson@usace.army.mil
Speaker Bios Continued… Mentor Protégé Small Business Panel

- **Michelle French, CIH**, is a Project Principal and the Federal Practice Leader at Stanley Consultants in the Chesterfield, MO office. Michelle is a certified industrial hygienist with 23 years of experience supporting the federal marketplace as a client service representative to lead strategic planning and development initiatives. Michelle is involved in establishing teams with both large and small businesses to pursue federal opportunities and works regularly with the Department of Energy, NAVFAC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Air Force. She is active in SAME having served as the Sustainability Track technical chair for the 2010 Missouri River Regional conference and the awards committee for the Omaha Post, and is the Regional Vice President for the Missouri River Region of SAME. Contact Michelle at (314)740-9955 or FrenchMichelle@stanleygroup.com

- **Gwen Davis** is the Small Business Specialist for the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers. Gwen works closely with the contracting office to determine acquisition strategy regarding set asides and achieving goals. Previously she was the contracting officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs and contract administrator for the Defense Contract Management Agency. Gwen started working in contracting while on active duty in the US Air Force at Minot AFB and then in civil service as a contract specialist and procurement analyst at Little Rock AFB. After leaving Little Rock she worked for 2 small businesses, a tool and die manufacturer and a commercial well drilling/geology services company, as an HR specialist and in accounting. Contact Gwen at (651)290-5723 or gwendolyn.k.davis@usace.army.mil

- **Randy Czaia** is the Supervisory Business Opportunity Specialist for the 8(a) Business Development Program at the Minnesota District SBA office. Prior to joining the SBA as a contracting officer for the 8(a) Business Development Program in 1997, Randy worked in procurement for 15 years with the DoD. He spent 6 years with the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Command in Warren, MI and 9 years at the Air Force Research Lab in Albuquerque, N.M. Randy has experience as a contract cost/price analyst, a procurement analyst, and as a contracting officer. He is also the Chair of the Federal Executive Board of Minnesota’s Small and Disadvantaged Business Opportunity Council. Contact Randy at (612) 370-2314 or randall.czaia@sba.gov

- **Sherri Komrosky** became the Minnesota Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) Program Director in June 2006. Prior to becoming Program Director, she was the Northern MN Area Manager for 15 years. Sherri’s initial experience with the government was with the VA Medical Center in Fargo, ND. She had various positions during her 10 years at the VA, many of which were in the procurement area. Sherri then joined the North Dakota PTAC where she worked for two years before transitioning to the MN PTAC program. Sherri is a member of the Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (APTAC) and holds the certification as a Certified Contracting Assistance Specialist (CCAS). She is also a member of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) and is a founding member of the Red River Valley Chapter. Contact Sherri at (612)259-6565 or skomrosky@mnptac.org

Would you like to be on the newsletter distribution list?

The Minneapolis-St Paul Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) sends a monthly newsletter out via e-mail to inform all members of the activities the SAME-MSP Post has been involved with, as well as documenting past meetings and providing information on the future meetings. If you have not been receiving the monthly newsletter announcements, please e-mail **Ann Banitt** at ann.m.banitt@usace.army.mil, and she will be sure to add you to the distribution list.
Highlights of the Previous Meeting

During the June SAME meeting, Peter Gillitzer, a certification and research coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, gave a presentation on the Minnesota Water Quality Certification Program. This program is jointly promoted through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Board of Soil and Water Resources and the Dept. of Natural Resources. Instead of regulating for pollutants in the water, the program’s focus is on partnerships with producers to set parameters on their own operations to benefit water quality. Once enrolled in the Certification Program, a producer is “deemed to be in compliance” with any new water quality regulations for a period of 10 years. There are currently 4 certification pilots in Minnesota – Whitewater, Sauk, Elm Creek and Whiskey Creek watersheds. The certification process includes three steps: 1) a Certification advisor visits with the producer, and assesses the processes used on the farm, and determines how the farmer is currently meeting existing rules. 2) a score is generated for the farm (Scores range from 1 to 10) that summarizes the operation’s risk to water. Farmers scoring a 8.5 and higher are eligible for certification. 3) The Certification advisor verifies practices in the field.

Department of Agriculture is hoping that the partnerships with the producers will help to reduce nitrogen in the Mississippi River by 20% by the year 2020, a goal set by the Minnesota Pollution Control.

Matt Metzger, a civil engineer from Barr Engineering Company, spoke about Barr’s small business program. Barr provides engineering and environmental consulting services to clients around the world. Barr’s approach to working with small businesses is to customize each team to the specific needs of the client and project opportunity. In this way, Barr looks to build long-term relationships with small businesses that both clients and team members find valuable. For example, Barr is teaming with a small business (FYRA Engineering) located in Omaha, Nebraska to implement environmental improvements to a lake in western Iowa. In this teaming opportunity, Barr benefits from their local presence, relationships and expertise. The small business benefits from Barr’s sediment, environmental and geotechnical experience. Barr is building its internal intranet site to make sharing small business profiles across various teams at the company streamlined and accessible to encourage teaming with small businesses.

Matt recently took on the duty of serving as Barr’s Small Business Liaison Officer (SBLO), assisting with internal and external efforts to build Barr’s small business profile. Matt’s background is in the water resources field, assisting communities with infrastructure solutions related to flood risk reduction and water quality improvement. Matt currently coordinates with the USACE in his role as Project Manager for Barr’s work on the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion project and was recently credentialed in the use of the Envision™ sustainable infrastructure rating system. For additional information, contact Matt at 952-832-2830 or mmetzger@barr.com.

Winners of the Drawing for a Free Lunch

At the June Meeting — Paul Dierking, HDR
Paul Senne, RESPEC

At the May Meeting — Terry Zien, US Army Corps of Engineers
Nicholas Crovetti, MN Air National Guard

At the April Meeting — Mike Noonan, Portable Barge Service
Bonnie Greenleaf, US Army Corps of Engineers
Conceived by the members of the SAME St. Louis Post, in partnership with ASCE St. Louis Section, this exchange is held every other year for the purpose of raising awareness of levees and flood risk. As part of the exchange, there will be numerous presentations and discussions on the latest issues affecting levees and rivers including (1) the safety program and policies, (2) repair and rehabilitation, (3) engineering and design, and (4) navigation and environmental concerns. The 2014 exchange is scheduled for 27 October through 29 October 2014 in St. Louis, Missouri. For more information about his upcoming event, including registration details, please visit the exchange website at [http://www.meetmeinstlouis2014.com/index.html](http://www.meetmeinstlouis2014.com/index.html)

**Beacon Prep Grant Check Presentation & Fighting Calculators**

On May 16th, 2014, Peter Allen presented Beacon Preparatory School with the SAME Grant Check during their weekly school assembly. Pictured on the left (L to R): Peter Allen, Ashley Siljenberg (Teacher), and Chris Lamprecht (Teacher).

On July 17th, the SAME sponsored robotics team, the Fighting Calculators, gave a demonstration of their robot before the scholarship golf tournament. SAME has sponsored the Fighting Calculators through its educational grant program for the last several years. The team participates in FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, a program to increase STEM education in schools. Each year, the team gets a new challenge in January, and has 6 weeks to plan, design, build, program and test a robot to meet that challenge. The Fighting Calculators had a very successful year, winning both their Regional Competition and the Minnesota State tournament.

Pictured to the right: Ines Siepmann of the Fighting Calculators sends SAME golfers out for a round of golf.

**SAME Midwest Levees and Rivers Technical Exchange 2014**

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**SAME Bridges to the Future 2014**

Great Lakes & Ohio Valley

Joint Engineer Training Symposium (JETS)

Louisville, KY

19 - 21 November 2014
The 29th Annual MSP Post Education and Mentoring Fund Golf Tournament was held at Oak Marsh golf course on July 17th, 2014. The Post sincerely thanks all the golfers who participated and the hole sponsors who ensured that the event was a financial success. This year’s hole sponsors included Ayres Associates, Barr Engineering, Landmark Environmental, Portable Barge Service, SEH, Stanley Consultants, and Stantec.

Two members of the SAME Student Post at the University of St Thomas (Ethan Podritz and Henry Kinane) were also able to golf through sponsorship from Tim Thoreen and Chris Afdahl. One of our two 2014-2015 scholarship recipients, Ethan Ryan, was able to attend the golf tournament and assist with registration and contests. Ethan is pictured to the right. Our second 2014-2015 scholarship recipient, Leo Mose, was unfortunately unable to attend.

Congratulations to the 1st place team which comprised of Jack Bolke, Troy Gamble, Paul Dahlberg, and Curt Claeys.

The 2nd place team was comprised of Ken Anderson, Mark Rolfs, Matt Haefner, and Bill Weckman.

The award for most photogenic group goes to Paul Felming, Joe Schrotter, Bill Holman, and Roger Anderson.