A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I opened the last newsletter with the fact that it is a privilege to serve as Omaha Post President. It is worth repeating! I am extremely proud to be part of this illustrious and active post. The Post has distinguished itself year after year, and has been recognized in awards won, fellows named, and participation on the National Board of Direction. This year the Omaha Post once again maintained this reputation, by hosting the successful 2008 joint regional conference for the TEXOMA and Missouri River Regions. The October event was well attended from Society members from around the United States, both from the private and the public sectors. The conference provided training and networking opportunities, as well as helped fund the Post’s mentoring activities for the next few years.

The 2009 joint regional will be held in Oklahoma City September 1-3. In addition, the Omaha Post will be hosting a local Industry Day mid-year, to be held somewhere in downtown Omaha. Both these events offer opportunities to get involved, make a difference, and be noticed.

Another way to get noticed is to participate in the Sustaining Members spotlight. Each month, at the general membership luncheons, we offer one sustaining member firm the opportunity to pitch a three-to-five minute commercial about their firm.

If you are interested in higher participation, whether helping with an event or in presenting a firm spotlight, please contact me or any board member! I hope to see you at the General Membership meeting on the 18th of December and for many outstanding programs and functions planned for 2009!

Colonel David Press
President, Omaha Post
Society of American Military Engineers

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, December 18, 2008
General Membership Meeting - CANCELLED

There will be NO General Membership Meeting for the month of December!!

Thursday, January 22, 2009
General Membership Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
“Self Marketing Power: Branding Yourself as a Business of One“ - Mr. Jeff Beals
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
2-hour in-depth workshop
Location: Doubletree Hotel*

Thursday, February 19, 2009
Engineers Week Banquet
6:00 p.m. Social Hour
7:00 p.m. Dinner and Program
Program TBD
Location: Cascio’s Steakhouse, 1620 S. 10th Street

* Doubletree Hotel is located at 1616 Dodge Street

OPPORTUNITY TO ADVERTISE
Another year is nearly upon us! If you are interested in advertising in the SAME Omaha Post newsletter for the 2009 calendar year (4 issues, distributed quarterly), please contact Christie Kampschneider at c_kampschneider@urscorp.com, to reserve your space.

The rates are as follows:

Business Card Ad: $175/Sustaining Members
               $225/Non-Sustaining Members

1/4 Page Ad:   $250/Sustaining Members
               $300/Non-Sustaining Members

The deadline for ads is February 9, 2009. Additional information will be distributed via email in January 2009.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions!!
2008 JOINT REGIONAL CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

By Jeanne LeBron, F.SAME

The 2008 Missouri River/TEXOMA joint regional conference was a huge success! A strong claim – but one backed up by the following data points:

- Nearly 500 attendees, hailing from 35 States, from Alabama to Wyoming.
- 144 Golfers. (Slightly cold, wet, soggy, golfers. But, what a story they have to tell!)
- Great programs, including an update on the Missouri River Recovery, Flood Risk Management, the U.S. Army Environmental Command, and on the Afghanistan Contingency Operations as presented by COL Miroslav Kurka.
- The first ever networking event for the Senior Executive Group, the Followers, and Young Members.
- Networking, networking, networking!
- Great Food!
- Over 80 exhibitors.
- Generous sponsors.
- A truly joint committee – with committee members from Virginia, Kansas, Colorado, and of course, Nebraska!

Dezso – finding dry clothes after the golf drenching!

Opening night entertainment.

Distinguished speakers.

Opportunities to network!

Good food, good friends!

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URS CORPORATION ANNOUNCES TIM FEELEY AS SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER

The URS Corporation Omaha office has recently brought on board retired Colonel Tim Feeley. Col (R) Tim Feeley served over 26 years with the United States Air Force. And will be leading URS’ initiatives on doing work for STRATCOM and related Air Force operations.

He was stationed at the US Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force base from 2003 to 2006. While there he led the Global Strike Capability office responsible for weapons and weapon systems supporting both non-nuclear and nuclear strike capabilities, as well as scientific and technical studies, and supporting the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He has commanded the 91st Air Refueling Squadron at MacDill AFB, Florida, has been assigned to the Pentagon and was there during the attack on September 11, 2001, plus did a tour in Bagdad, Iraq in 2004 as the Chief of Air Operations with the Multi-National Force – Iraq. Most recently, prior to coming to URS, he was working for a defense contractor in Washington D.C.

THE SCHEMMER ASSOCIATES NAMES RITA ROCKER AS MANAGER OF ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Schemmer Associates Inc. recently named Rita J. Rocker as Manager of Organizational Development. She will be responsible for human resources recruiting, relationship strategies, communication, employee development and organizational effectiveness.

Rita’s background includes communications, writing, corporate training, human resources administration, recruiting, event planning, and public relations. She has been a national speaker, trainer, coach, and workshop presenter for over 20 years.

CONTI AWARDED BW-89 CONTRACT

Conti of New York, LLC was awarded Contract BW-89, the Replacement of the Bronx Approach and Miscellaneous Repairs to the Queens Approach at the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge in New York, NY. The award was made on October 23, 2008 of by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Bridges and Tunnels in the amount of $192,777,291. The Project is generally described as the staged replacement of the existing Bronx approach up to the Bronx anchorage while maintaining traffic and miscellaneous repairs to the Queens approach.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JOHN REMUS

Position on the SAME Board?

Vice President for Membership and Chair of the Membership Committee. The duty of these positions is to work with the other leaders of the Post to develop and implement a plan to continually grow both our individual and sustaining memberships.

What's your "day" job?

I am the Chief of the Hydrologic Engineering Branch for the Omaha District of the Corps of Engineers. Our group of 55 engineers and scientist are responsible for all aspects of design and operational support to the Omaha Districts water resources mission.

Personal Information

My wife, Pat and I have a daughter Rebekah (junior) and son Jack (freshman) at Westside High School. The big thing right now is sorting through the university maze with Rebekah. I enjoy golfing (if you can call it that) and pheasant hunting.

How did you become involved with SAME?

My first experience with SAME was in the summer of 1985, when General Heilberg (then Chief of Engineers) was the speaker at a monthly meeting. General Heilberg talked for over an hour. I left unimpressed. I probably would have been the end of my SAME experience if not for the Corps sending me to the 1985 National Conference and paying my first years membership. I remained a member, but not at all active, and was going to drop my membership until I got involved with the Student Mentoring Program.

What has been personally fulfilling/beneficial from your work with SAME?

The most rewarding activity I have been involved with is the Student Mentoring Program. The unique thing about this program is it really allows the students work on real world projects. Several of the projects that have been presented at the competition have been built. I think this really demonstrates to young people the role that engineers, architect, and related science/technology professionals have in the quality of our lives.

What are the goals you hope to accomplish during your time in your position on the board?

For a long time the membership Committee has essentially been a committee of one. We have had some good people head this up, but there is little continuity. I would like to set up a process where younger members could grow into this position and then move on to larger leadership roles.

What would you say to an individual thinking about joining SAME?

I feel that SAME has two distinct advantages over discipline specific professional societies. First, is the diversity, SAME encompasses the full range of engineering and construction professions, as well as government agencies that need these services. Other societies can not offer this type of network. The second advantage is value. SAME can offer the networking, and professional development that is convenient and at a pretty reasonable cost.
RVP MEDALS PRESENTED AT 2008 JOINT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

By Don Curtis, Missouri River Region RVP

One of the most rewarding things I get to do each year as Regional Vice President (RVP) of the Missouri River Region is presenting RVP Medals for service to the Society. Receiving these medals is quite an honor because we typically make only 5-8 awards per year. The selection criteria states the award may be given to “individuals who have made a significant contributions within the Region or local Post in the past year or for longer durations.” Normally, we try to make these awards when as many SAME members as possible are present to witness the presentation of awards and this year’s Regional Conference in Omaha provided a wonderful opportunity to do just that. I received nominations from three Posts this year and presented four of them at the conference. This was the first time we presented the medals in a shadow box provided by the Society’s national headquarters. What is particularly nice is the medal may be removed from the box and worn at events.

This year’s awards were presented to the following individuals at the conference:

Tim Fobes, Greater KC Post – Took on duties actively as Assistant Treasurer & Treasurer, implemented new chart of accounts into QuickBooks, huge contributions on newly formed Endowment, led Post to balanced budget, and developed new clearer monthly reporting.

Mark Loes, Greater KC Post – Post Secretary, ensured Post met Streamer Awards and helped us to obtain Grand Slam in ’07, worked diligently with Historian, active support for all Post events, bringing new members to Post. He has served on the Post Board in various positions over the last seven years.

Mary Erwin, Omaha Post – She has faithfully served the Omaha Post in 2007/2008 years as Director of Communications. She is currently the 1st Vice President and was one of the key planners of the 2008 Regional Conference.

Jeanne Lebron, Omaha Post – Has been an active member for the past ten years. She has demonstrated her ability to recruit new members (both Individual and Sustaining Members), held a position at Post level for each of those ten years. She is also an SAME Fellow.

Other award winners will be presented their medals at Post meetings over the next couple of months.
The Schemmer Associates Announces John Williams as Senior Landscape Architect

The Schemmer Associates Inc. announces that John G. Williams, RLA, ASLA, has joined the firm as senior planner and landscape architect in the firm’s Lincoln office. A graduate of Iowa State University, Williams has over 18 years of experience, and is a Registered Landscape Architect in the states of Nebraska and Iowa. He focuses on streetscape/urban design, site development, planning and landscape design. Williams’ responsibilities include project management, design, public meeting facilitation, and construction document coordination / preparation.

URS’ EG&G Division Ranks Tenth on the G.I. Jobs List of Top 50 Military Friendly Employers

The EG&G Division ranks tenth on G.I. Jobs Magazine’s list of Top 50 Military-Friendly Employers in 2008. G.I. Jobs helps service members transitioning out of the military find information about companies that may be hiring. The magazine also serves as a recruitment vehicle for those companies.

“This achievement is the result of a dedicated team effort from management, operations, HR/recruiting and other EG&G units,” says Bob Rudisin, EG&G Vice President, Human Resources.

The annual G.I. Jobs list contains a “Who’s Who?” of FORTUNE 1,000 firms that have made the greatest effort and have had the greatest success in hiring military veterans. The list spans the entire spectrum of industries in the U.S. and uses weighted criteria to determine each company’s ranking. Out of the 2,500 companies that were eligible, only two percent made the list. EG&G was ranked tenth.

“Hiring America’s military veterans is a smart business decision,” says Bob. “These companies understand how military knowledge, training and real-world experience positively affect their bottom line.”
Paula and Jim Wells were the recipients of this year’s Golden Eagle Award which was presented at the 2008 Missouri River/TEXOMA Regional Conference on October 22. The award was established by Mr. Bill Stutz, S&A Environmental, in memory of Doug Plack, an employee of the Omaha District COE who was killed in 2006. Mr. Stutz selects recipients who demonstrate values similar to that of Doug including dedication to God and Country, dedication to the engineering profession, dedication to and love of family, strong support of community programs, support of youth programs, and a willingness to respond to those in need. The Wells’ fit the criteria and then some.

**Dedication to God and country**

The Well’s have always been active in their church. Paula is currently a volunteer in the nursery and both participate in Wednesday evening outreach and Bible study. They pray together daily as a couple and with their children at bedtime.

Jim served with an ROTC commission in the Corps of Engineers following graduation and was in charge of the heavy equipment school at Ft. Leonard Wood while on active duty.

Their son, Thomas, served in the Army in Iraq, and is currently fulfilling his tour with the Army Reserves.

**Dedication to the engineering profession**

Jim has a B.S in Civil Engineering from UNL and a M.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Michigan. Paula has a B.S in Civil Engineering from UNL, a M.S. in Structural Engineering from UNL and a PhD in Industrial Engineering and Management Systems from UNL. Both are registered professional engineers and have been active and held offices in technical and professional engineering organizations.

Both are currently employed full-time as consulting engineers in Omaha. Jim is employed by HDR Engineering as a Technical Director-Food Industry, and Paula is the Senior Project Manager in the Omaha office of Gonzales Companies.

**Dedication to and love of family**

Jim and Paula have been married for 53 years and have 17 children - three biological and 14 adopted, and have also been foster parents periodically over the last 25 years. Several of the 17 are special needs children. They have five children still living at home, ages 8 to 17, plus are raising two grandchildren, ages 4 and 8. In addition, they have a developmentally challenged 22-year-old son living at home and working for ENCORE.

**Strong support of community programs**

Both Jim and Paula have been active in the community for the 50 years they have called Omaha their home. Jim is currently on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Children’s Home Society, and Paula has served on the Board of Adoption Links Worldwide. Paula was one of three founders of an adoption orphanage in Haiti and served as the treasurer from 2003-2006. She is currently a project coordinator for the new $2.5 million dollar facility under construction for the Omaha Christian Academy where the Wells’ children attend school. Both Jim and Paula are involved as ongoing volunteers at the Omaha Christian Academy.

Paula has served as VP for Education with the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and served as Chair of the Governor’s Task Force on the Protection of Children. Paula also serves as a trainer and speaker for the Nebraska Association of Adoptive and Foster parents.

**Support of youth programs**

Jim has served as soccer coach and basketball coach for his children for 20 years, and is currently coaching YMCA soccer for his second grade daughter. Their children have all been involved in YMCA sports and camps for as long as they can remember.

**Willingness to respond to those in need**

Jim and Paula have responded to the needs of homeless and low income families through their church, support of an African pastor, and a missionary couple in Mexico. They contribute to the Salvation Army, Open Door Mission, and by opening their arms to children who need love and safety.

**Well-known in the engineering community either locally or nationally**

Jim and Paula have practiced engineering for many years, and as such, are well-known in Omaha. In addition, Paula was National E-Week chairperson for the National Society of Professional Engineers, and both Jim and Paula were state Presidents for the Nebraska Society of Engineers.

In addition to a check for $500 to go to their favorite charity, the Wells’ received a beautiful Eagle statue, shown in the photo. Congratulations Paula and Jim!
MEMBERS OF THE OMAHA DISTRICT PACK AND LABEL CARE PACKAGES TO BE SHIPPED OVERSEAS

By Tom O’Hara, Support our Troops Committee Chair

This year the Omaha Post of the Society of American Military Engineers partnered with the Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assemble and send care packages to the thirteen deployed members of the Omaha District who are serving overseas during this holiday season.

Thanks to the generous support of the post, fellow district employees and several members of the local Omaha community, 23 boxes of candy, cards, cake mixes, notes, school supplies, clothes for children, and other items (nearly 450 lbs!) were packed by district personnel and sent overseas to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

In addition to district employees and post members, community donations included items from: The Omaha Royals (AAA baseball team), Omaha Beef (Arena Football Team), Nebraska State Soccer Association, HDR, URS, Mutual of Omaha, DoubleTree Hotel, as well as cards from the 1st graders at Springfield Elementary School in Springfield, Nebraska.

Letters of support were also sent to the deployed member’s local families to ensure they knew the post, the district, and members of the Omaha community appreciated their service and sacrifice during this holiday season.

"Thanks to the generosity and support of the post, the district and the local community, our care package effort was a huge success," said COL David C. Press, Omaha Post President and Omaha District Commander. "While it may seem like a simple gesture, these packages will hopefully help bridge the distance for our deployed district team members and their family and friends back home."
THE SCHEMMER ASSOCIATES ANNOUNCES  
DENNIS PETERS AS ARCHITECTURAL  
PROJECT COORDINATOR

The Schemmer Associates Inc. has named Dennis Peters as an architectural project coordinator. He has more than 37 years experience in architectural projects including senior living facilities, commercial, retail centers and office structures. Dennis also has a specialization in construction specifications.

The Schemmer Associates Inc. is a full-service, multidiscipline architectural, engineering and planning firm focused on meeting our clients’ diverse needs. Schemmer began providing consulting services nearly 50 years ago. Since then, our reputable firm has developed into a comprehensive, single-source organization prepared to offer clients a complete range of architectural, civil, structural, mechanical and electrical engineering, as well as planning services.

ARCHER ENGINEERS JOINS HDR

HDR has acquired E. T. Archer Corporation, known as Archer Engineers, an engineering-project management firm headquartered in Lee’s Summit, Mo. Going forward, Archer Engineers will conduct business as HDR|Archer.

“Archer Engineers is a well-respected presence in the Kansas and Missouri markets,” said George Little, P.E., HDR Engineering Inc. president. “By joining the HDR team, Archer will strengthen HDR’s presence in these markets, while HDR brings additional bench strength to Archer clients and staff. We are very pleased to have them on board and look forward to the additional expertise they will bring to the HDR family, particularly in the water/wastewater engineering arenas.”

“One of the things that attracted us to HDR was their long history as a company, a quality they share with Archer,” said Stan Christopher, P.E., Archer Engineers president and chief executive officer. “Providing consistent, quality services to our clients for 100-plus years is a testament to the Archer team and a reflection of our corporate mission. To continue to grow, we needed a business partner that shared our values, our commitment to excellence and our focus on extraordinary customer service. We also wanted to make sure our employees had ample opportunities for professional growth, and HDR is the right partner.”
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Kimberly Remmereid, Kimcon Inc.

Donald W. Baker, PE, D. WRE, Water Resources Solutions, LLC

DOUG PLACK SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Please help us remember Doug and continue his legacy of mentoring, assisting, and participating. Please donate to the Doug Plack Memorial scholarship by sending your check, made payable to SAME-Omaha Post, to Box 24804, Omaha, NE 68124. Please note on the memo line that the check is for the Plack Scholarship Fund. Thank you to those who have donated so far!

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR
The Omaha Post is currently accepting press releases, members in the news, job opportunities, etc. for our Spring 2009 newsletter. Please email your articles by February 9, 2009, to Christie Kampschneider at c_kampschneider@urscorp.com.