Message From the President

I am honored to serve as President of our Post. During these somewhat uncertain economic times the networking and collaboration opportunities provided by SAME are even more important to the security and economic stability of our nation. The Omaha Post has a strong tradition of service to its members and I am dedicated to ensuring this tradition continues to grow and improve.

First, I would like to thank COL Ruch and the 2011-2012 board and committee members for their outstanding contributions to the post. Your professionalism and pride in a job well done is reflected in every aspect of the Post’s business. I would also like to welcome the incoming board and committee members. I look forward to working with you to achieve our goals.

I would like to challenge every member to get even more involved in SAME. From programs to Industry Day to student mentoring and more, whatever your skill or particular interest is we have something for you. All you have to do is ask.

While my goal is to continue to grow and improve the service to our present and future members in all areas, over the next year I would like to focus on three areas in particular: succession planning, scholarships, and membership (including the student chapter). Significant strides have been made in the past few years in these areas and I feel it is important to the future of our Post to maintain the momentum.

In light of the tight budgets at all levels in both the public and private sectors it is important to keep in mind the SAME mission, “To promote and facilitate engineering support for national security by developing and enhancing relationships and competencies among uniformed services, public- and private-sector engineers and related professionals, and by developing future engineers through outreach and mentoring.” Accomplishing our mission requires communication at all levels. I encourage each of you to participate in Post activities to the extent possible.

Thank you for the honor and opportunity of serving as President of the Omaha Post. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

John I. Remus, II, P.E.
Omaha Post President
Calendar of Events

**August 9, 2012**
General Membership Meeting: “Small Modular Reactors” at Willows Golf Course Clubhouse at Offutt AFB, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**September 13, 2012**
General Membership Meeting: “In-Situ Remediation of Munitions Constituents” at Field Club, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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**2012 Doug Plack Memorial Scholarship Recipient**
Jessica Branigan was presented with the $2,000 Doug Plack Memorial Scholarship at the recently held Industry Day. Ms. Branigan is a Senior in Civil Engineering at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). She is currently the Student Chapter President of the Omaha Post SAME Student Chapter at UNO. In accordance with the requirements of the Doug Plack Scholarship, Ms. Branigan participates in a variety of community service activities through her church, Bible study, or through school. As long as Ms. Branigan maintains the requirements of the Doug Plack Scholarship which are the following:

A. A sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student enrolled in any accredited university/college.
B. 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA.
C. Participation in community service activities within the last year.
D. Contact with their SAME Mentor

She can renew the $2,000 scholarship for up to 3 years for her graduate work. If you have any questions regarding this scholarship, please contact Natasha Hartley, 402.290.8457 or natasha.hartley@woolpert.com.

**Camp Sponsorships**
SAME Omaha Post is sponsoring 3 campers for the SAME Engineering Construction Camps. Look for their stories in the next issue!
Student Mentoring

By: Gail Frame

SMP is gearing up for its 19th year with 17 schools already expressing an interest in participating. We are communicating with an additional 30 schools to try to reach more students in the Omaha metro. We’ll be scheduling breakfast sessions throughout the summer to meet with potential teachers/team leaders to introduce them to the program.

The schedule for 2012-2013 has been finalized. The Workshop will be on Saturday, October 13 and Competition Day is April 11. While many appreciated the March competition date we had this year, the Easter holiday forced us to move the date back into April.

Continued on page 4...

As always, we are hoping to identify more SAME members who would be willing to commit an hour a week from October to April to serve as mentors. Mentors work in pairs to advise student teams on problem-solving, teamwork, sustainable design, presentation skills and the use of graphic materials, model development, cost estimating and technical writing. As a mentor, you will earn PDH hours and receive recognition for your firm but more importantly, you will influence the next generation of engineers and architects. First-time mentors also qualify for a reimbursement of one year’s SAME membership.

We are adding a new level of involvement for those who have considered mentoring, but weren’t sure they wanted to commit.
Stay Connected

To stay up-to-date on current events, view or join discussions by members or meet SAME Omaha Post members, visit www.linkedin.com.

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...Student Mentoring continued.

to a full year of partnering with students. We are collecting names of those who would be willing to serve as Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). These individuals would be available for on-call visits with teams to help them problem-solve in a particular area of expertise. This approach will offer potential mentors the opportunity to try on the program and offer full-fledged mentors a “bank” of additional resources.

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SAME Board Position: Programs Committee and assist with setting up monthly luncheons. I’ve handled the “Split Kitty” for the past year, which is a fund raising activity at the monthly luncheons for the college scholarship fund. I’m now taking over the Sustaining Member Spotlight Chair. In this role, I will line up Sustaining Member Spotlights for the monthly luncheons and be their Point-of-Contact for any questions during organization and set up of their presentations.

What I do (for my “day” job): I’m an Account Manager for Aerotek Government Services. I handle business development, account management and oversee the delivery process for staff augmentation. I specialize in supporting federal contractors in the Environmental, Construction and Engineering industries. I’ve been with Aerotek for 6 years.

Personal Life: I’m a single guy without children. I grew up in the Lincoln area and have lived in Omaha for the past 6 years. I’m interested in golfing, hiking, biking, backpacking, traveling and just about anything else outdoors or adventurous.

How did you become involved with SAME? Several of my clients were involved with SAME and spoke very highly about the association so I figured I would check it out. I was very impressed with the member representation and the organization of the association. I joined a couple of years ago and have been very active since. I truly enjoy the topics at the monthly luncheons and the people involved with the association.

What has been personally fulfilling/beneficial from your work with SAME? I feel like the more responsibility I assume in the association the more I push myself outside of my comfort zone. My involvement in the association definitely helps my personal development in the professional world.

What project/task/endeavor have you been most excited/pround to work on in conjunction with SAME? I haven’t had a chance to do anything here yet, but I’m looking forward to answering this differently in the near future.

What are you looking forward to in the next year? 5 years? 15 years with SAME? I’m looking forward to continuing my active involvement within the association. I’m committed to getting more involved with the Young Members side in the near term and eventually holding higher positions on the board in the next 5 years. It’s difficult enough for me to look 5 years out, let alone 15 years, I’ll keep that on the radar for now, but no goals just yet.

What are the goals you hope to accomplish during your time in your position on the board? I’m looking to create some strong organization and simple processes for lining up the Sustaining Member Spotlights. Jim Wathen has done a fantastic job of lining up strong spotlights over the past few years and I want to continue the trend.

What benefits do you see for our community through SAME’s work? I think the association does a lot for young engineers in the community. We need to continue our involvement with high school and college students interested in the Engineering field.

What would you say to an individual thinking about joining SAME? It never hurts to check it out. It has strong membership and a good foundation.

Any other info you wish to share. I appreciate the opportunity to be a member spotlight for the monthly newsletter.
Congratulations to Weston Solutions, the recipient of SAME’s 2011 J.W. Morris Award. The J.W. Morris Sustaining Member Award is named in honor of Lt. Gen. John W. Morris, USA (Ret.). The Award was first presented to an SAME Sustaining Member company in 1981.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the award, an SAME Sustaining Member company in the private sector must be a Sustaining Member of at least two or more SAME Posts in each of the previous five years.

Nomination Criteria: The company will be evaluated based on the extent to which during the previous calendar year:

- The company appoints individuals to sustaining member representative positions for each Post affiliation.
- Company representatives take on leadership positions at the Post, Region and National level, including Board of Direction, standing committees and conference planning committees.
- Company supports Young Member participation in Society activities and mentoring programs.
- Company supports K-12, College Outreach and community service activities.
- The number of Posts supporting the nomination with validation of the company’s participation during the past year (in the form of attached letters of support).
- The company advertises in SAME publications (The Military Engineer, and the print version of the Directory of Member Companies & Organizations).
- The company exhibited and sponsored activities/events at SAME National and Region Conferences.

Weston Solutions delivers integrated environmental, sustainability, property redevelopment, energy, and construction solutions by 1,800 employees at 60 offices worldwide. Weston is a great supporter of SAME at all levels and is currently involved in several Corps of Engineers projects for the Omaha District including Missouri River levee repair, nationwide fuels projects, and Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) projects. John Popelka received the Omaha Post’s endorsement of the award nomination during the Third Annual Omaha Post Holiday and Awards Event in December 2011. The national award was presented to Weston Solutions during the 2012 Joint Engineering Training Conference & Expo on May 24, 2012. Give Mr. Popelka and associates an “attaboy” next time you see them! We truly appreciate the support we receive from our great sustaining members.
Change of Omaha Post Officers

By: David Packard

Outgoing Omaha Post President COL Robert Ruch introduced incoming Omaha Post President, John Remus, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District during the General Membership Meeting held June 19, 2012 at the Omaha Field Club. Missouri River Regional Vice President, Jeanne LeBron, presided over installation of the incoming board, made up almost entirely of previous board members. In fact, the only new name for 2012-2013 is First Vice President LTC Joel Cross, the incoming Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District. Jeanne administered the SAME Oath, officially swearing in the 2012-2013 Board of Directors. COL Ruch thanked the board for their support during the past year and noted the commitment made by board members, which is reflected in their willingness to serve another year in their current positions.

The 2012-2013 Omaha Post Board of Directors (elected by ballot) consists of the following individuals:

President, John Remus, USACE-Omaha District
Secretary, Kim Collins, USACE-Omaha District

Treasurer, Paula Wells, The Wells Resource LLC
1st Vice President, COL Joel Cross, USACE-Omaha District

Vice President for Program and Industry Day, Christie Murray, URS Corporation
Vice President for Student Mentoring, Anne Peterson, HDR, Inc.
Vice President for Membership, Jim Wathen, EA Engineering

Director for Young Members and College Outreach, Cybil Boss, URS Corporation
Director of Communications, Lara Syrocki, Kleinfelder
Director for Awards and Recognition, Dave Packard, USACE-Northern Division
Director for Black Hills Field Chapter, Bryan Vulcan, FourFront Design, Inc.

The true extent of involvement by and support of Omaha Post members can really be appreciated by viewing the entire list of those who participate in various committees under the leadership of this Board of Directors. Please visit the Omaha Post website at http://www.sameomaha.org/Omaha_Post_Site/Post_Officers.html for a comprehensive list of the people and their respective employers who work tirelessly throughout the year to make this one of the strongest posts in the Society.
James Hagan joins Stantec as Federal Business Development Lead

James (Jim) Hagan has joined Stantec as a Senior Principal and Federal Business Development Lead based in Chicago, Illinois. Hagen has more than 30 years of experience in marketing programs for the Department of Defense and other federal agencies. His background includes delivery of integrated solutions related to design, environmental and water resources, and program/construction management.

Hagen has experience leading multiple engineering firms and other corporations to procure and manage more than $500 million in federal contracts across the U.S. A recognized leader in the profession, Hagen is a Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Fellow, and has served two terms on SAME's National Board of Direction. In addition, he currently serves on the boards of directors of three SAME Posts: Chicago, Rock Island, and New Orleans and is a past board member of the Omaha Post. Hagen is also a member of the Army Engineer Association.