From the Young Member Council Chair

Hello fellow young members!

Thanks for taking the time to have a look at our latest newsletter. Our goal in our newsletters is to share ideas that encourage you to engage with SAME at all levels, and this issue is full of inspiration.

Check out Laura Rozumalski’s article on the mentoring program she’s implemented at the Rock Island Post to energize you to get involved in a mentoring program at your post, or to start one! Scotty Galloway fills us in on the very active young member group at the Los Angeles Post and how they’re supporting veterans and creating opportunities for young members. But I’m most excited about our upcoming professional development call that I think will be appealing to young and “non-young” members alike—now offering PDHs for the first time in Young Member Council history! Maj Matt Altman, our Council’s new Vice Chair of Programs, spells out the details on page 3.

SAME President-Elect John Mogge said to me recently that SAME’s councils are like “homeroom,” in that they give us a place as SAME members to check in with each other and see what’s going on around us before we head back to the areas we’re really interested in. I hope that this newsletter inspires you in your involvement at your posts, committees, and your jobs.

Best,
Ben

The National Young Member Council Monthly calls are held on the second Thursday of each month at noon eastern time. The folks on the call are all the YM Council members. The meetings typically run for 30 minutes to one hour. You can just listen in or bring a topic to the table for discussion. If you have any questions just let Ben know.

For quick access, go to https://ccc.spiderphone.com/46486713
(This link will help connect both your browser and telephone to the call)

OR dial 1 (888) 550-5602 or +1 212-812-2800 and enter 4648 6713 )
By Ann Ewy, Vice Chair – Programs (recently stepped down), SAME YM Council, annewysame@gmail.com

The quarterly Young Member Council Professional Development call was held on Wednesday, 04 December, with a record turnout. Over 100 callers participated in the call! The YM Council holds quarterly professional development calls on a wide range of topics. We have had calls focused on personal finance, engineering summer camps, and everything in between. This call was different, as we spoke to the topic of young members in a very general sense. A full recording of the call can be found at https://www.spiderphone.com/9679894002, but below is a summary of key points...let's call this Young Members 101!

- The Young Members Council (YMC) is lead by a Council Chair, Secretary, and 4 Vice Chairs (Programs, Communications, Conferences, and Recognition). A number of current and former council members, SAME Young Member Medal recipients, and SAME Fellows were on the call to offer their input regarding YM involvement.

- The National SAME Board of Direction has a spot in each group of Directors for a YM. That means every year a new YM is elected to a National leadership position! There is also a spot on the Executive Committee for a YM. In the past that position was reserved for the YMC Chair, although that is not the requirement.

- The YMC tries to have monthly Council calls. These calls are open to anyone, although they have not been advertised well in the past. Typically we talk about the upcoming newsletter, PD call, and things the Vice Chairs are working on. If you want to find a place to volunteer with the Council, these calls are a great way to find out what's going on.

- The YMC has a page on the SAME website as well as a LinkedIn page. We have committed to improving our use of these in the future and will make sure upcoming events and opportunities are listed there. You can also find a list of Vice Chairs on the website that you are welcome to contact at any time if you have questions.

- Most of the folks who serve in YMC leadership roles got there by word of mouth. If you want to be involved, just speak up! We are always looking for volunteers for short term and longer term tasks.

- The YMC publishes a quarterly newsletter. This has traditionally been sent out by email but we will look into making sure it's more readily available on our website as well.

- In October 2013 the YMC updated the Young Member Programs Guide. The Guide can be found on our website and is a great resource for YM activities at the Post level. The Guide discusses Recruiting & Retention, Young Member Activities, Recognition, and much more. Some of the activities include Professional Development, Networking, K-12 Outreach, College Outreach, and Community Service. The last page to the Guide is the Best Practice Program/Activity Submission Form. We are asking folks to fill this form out for activities they are doing at the Post level and we will make them available to all YMs thru our website. We want ideas!!! What has your Post done that worked, or didn’t work? Maybe a specific idea won’t work for your Post but reading about it may be enough to spark another idea for you.

- Last year the YMC took on the task or revising the YM POC list. Some of you may remember this. In short, the YMC is working with HQ to figure out the most effective way to reach our YMs and the YM POC list is not the answer. Most of our correspondence comes out from HQ and they pull their distribution lists from their main database. We are trying to understand why so many people are having issues receiving those emails. The database is only as good as the info that is put in to it so please make sure your information is up to date. Until we can fully understand the distribution list issues, we will make every effort to get the word out by as many means as possible. We will post items on our LinkedIn page, on the YMC website, in our newsletters, and thru HQ emails. But we are going to rely a lot on word of mouth as well so please help us spread the word when you hear of something going on.

- The Vice Chair for Programs is responsible for putting on quarterly Professional Development calls. These calls are advertised by email, on our LinkedIn page, and in the newsletter. We are always searching for topics as we provide speakers on topics YOU want to hear about. We have received some great input for future calls but please let us know of any ideas you may have. The calls are typically over the lunch hour to allow people to put the phone on mute and just listen while you eat lunch. Calls are in the 30 minute to 1 hour range.

Again, I am amazed at the turnout we had on this call and thank you all for taking the time to participate. I would encourage any of you that want to be involved to simply speak up. Email someone from the YMC, call us, just get a hold of us! As I step down from my role as Vice Chair for Programs I can truly say it’s been a great experience and the Society of American Military Engineers is a remarkable group of folks. We are lucky to have the network we do with SAME! I am stepping down from the Council to serve as Post President for the Greater Kansas City Post, so I won’t be far away. Please don’t ever hesitate to get a hold of me if you have any questions or ideas.
Upcoming YM Professional Development Call

By Matthew Altman, Vice Chair – Programs, SAME YM Council

Please join us for our next YM Professional Development Call:

When: Tuesday, 25 Feb 14, 1100-1200 EST

Guest Speaker: Col. Sal Nodjomian, P.E., F.SAME, USAF (Ret.)

Topic: Engineering Leadership and Development

Description: We are honored to have Col (Ret.) Nodjomian as our guest speaker this quarter. Recently retired after nearly 24 years in the Air Force, Col Nodjomian is currently the Executive Vice President and Global Director of Federal Practices for the Matrix Design Group. He is also the SAME South Central Regional Vice President and was recently re-elected as Councilman for the City of Niceville, Florida. Col Nodjomian plans to discuss engineering leadership, both from his perspective as a former senior Air Force Civil Engineer leader and as a senior engineer in the private sector. His talk will cover things young engineers can do to improve themselves and advance in the engineering field. Further, he plans to talk in general terms about the transition to the private sector and his personal involvement in SAME.

Professional Development Hours: For the first time ever, the YM Council will award PDHs for participation in this call. Depending on the duration, you will likely earn 0.5-1 PDH towards certification requirements.

Logistics: For quick access, go to https://ccc.spiderphone.com/75303076 OR dial 1 (888) 550-5602 or +1 212-812-2800 and enter 7530 3076.

If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Matt Altman at ymprograms@gmail.com.

We hope to “see” you on the 25th!

Col. Sal Nodjomian, P.E., F.SAME, USAF (Ret.), is the South Central Regional Vice President and a member of the SAME National Board of Direction. He is the Executive Vice President of Matrix Design Group and the Global Director of Federal Practices, where he is responsible for the development and execution of strategic plans and leads the vertical integration of broad reaching Federal and Military practices. Prior to joining Matrix, Sal served for nearly 24 years in the United States Air Force, closing his career as the Installation Commander for Eglin AFB. He is a registered professional engineer in the states of Florida and Virginia and has led diverse teams in operations; delivering community services and public works; and, developing facility and infrastructure plans and programs.

Sal earned his bachelors of science in civil engineering from the University of Delaware in 1988. He went on to earn five masters degrees, with extensive studies in Public Administration, Engineering, Organizational Management and National Security Strategy.

Sal is involved in many non-profit activities and has leadership positions in numerous organizations. He was recently re-elected as Councilman for the City of Niceville, Florida, and is a Society of American Military Engineers Fellow. He is a board member for the United Way of Okaloosa and Walton County, for the Florida Military Family and Community Covenant, and co-chairs a national committee for the Association of Defense Communities.

Sal has been awarded numerous major military decorations, including two Legion of Merit Awards and two Bronze Star Medals, and received the University of Delaware’s “Presidential Citation for Outstanding Achievement”.

Married to Carla since 1992; they have two sons, Adam (University of Florida) and Jason (Niceville High School).
Emerging Leaders Alliance Workshop

By Ann Ewy, Vice Chair – Programs (recently stepped down), SAME YM Council

In November 2013 I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend The Emerging Leaders Alliance (ELA) Workshop. The ELA is a partnership among leading engineering, research and science-based organizations that provides high quality leadership training. Essentially this annual conference is leadership training geared towards engineers and scientists. Participation in the ELA is still new to the Society of American Military Engineers, as SAME just joined as a partner in ELA a couple years back. Current partners are ALME, AIST, ASCE, NACE, SAME, SEG, SME, SPE, and TMS. Each of these organizations sends 8-10 individuals to the conference. Although any individual is welcome to apply, the majority of attendees come from these partner organizations.

The application process for SAME begins in the early summer timeframe. Each SAME Region was able to select and submit 1 applicant to SAME HQ and then 10 individuals were selected. The selection process for 2014 may be slightly different from 2013 but be looking for information shortly after JETC in May.

As a professional in the engineering industry, I can say this was the single best non-technical training I have ever attended. What a great experience! Many of the topics initially sounded like standard leadership training topics. That’s where I think ELA is unique. A combination of remarkable presenters as well as the collaboration from the partner organizations made this training top notch. The two and half day training in Reston, VA included topics such as: Making the Transition from Technical to Management, Developing Emotional Intelligence for Success, Engineering Diversity within Leadership, and Social Styles. One topic of particular interest to me was “Insights and Ideas for Leading Volunteers.” It was very positive to me to know that this organization recognizes what a difference there is working with a volunteer organization. The Society of American Military Engineers’ success is driven by the countless volunteers that give their time and talent every day.

Dr. Bob Wolff, Executive Director of SAME and Heather Wishart-Smith, Jacobs, lead SAME in the ELA initiative. Both Dr. Wolff and Heather attended portions of the conference to include hosting a dinner for the SAME attendees one evening. I’d like to express my sincere appreciation to the GKCP and the Missouri River Region for nominating me, and to SAMEHQ for sponsoring such an amazing conference. I would highly encourage anyone who is able to consider this training in the future. The Emerging Leaders Alliance is a fantastic experience!
What a great year! Early in 2013, the Los Angeles Post set a focus on the Young Members’ Committee. Two young member co-chairs, CPT Sean Peterson and Jane Curren, were sworn in and immediately got started. The goals for 2013 were to increase young member participation in the Post and get involved in the post’s STEM and charitable outreach programs. Since then we were able to put together some fun and challenging events, meeting these objectives.

In April, we hosted a happy hour following the Post’s Small Business Open House with great turnout from both young members and “non-young” members. The Young Member Committee organized a team of Los Angeles SAME members to run in the New Directions Walk for Warriors 5K, over Memorial Day weekend. We were able to raise over $1,500 for New Directions, an organization that supports veterans. During the last week of June, we sent a young member to assist as a mentor at the SAME Engineering and Construction Camp for High School students at the US Air Force Academy. In August we hosted a Los Angeles Post and USACE 101 lunch-and-learn for young members. A lot of new faces attended the event and we were able to recruit new young members to the Los Angeles Post. Over the Veteran’s Day holiday, we volunteered with Habitat for Humanity; building new homes and renovating homes for low income families. In November we sent a young member, sponsored by National SAME, to the Emerging Leader’s Alliance conference in Virginia. We concluded the year by attending the Los Angeles Post’s Holiday Ball.

We believe we have created opportunities for young members to get more involved in Post activities. We hope to build on this in 2014, involving even more young members in SAME and creating opportunities for community service, networking, and mentorship.
Mentoring Program Kickoff for the Rock Island Post

By Laura Rozumalski, PE – Rock Island Post, Junior Vice President

The Rock Island Post kicked off its mentoring program late last fall and is off to an exciting start already. Having taken a break for a few years, the Post decided to reinvigorate the program. There was a lot of interest from the Young Members in the Post, ranging from people with many years of work experience to those just out of college. Participants got to select their own mentor or recommendations were made for those who wanted to get involved, but didn’t have a specific mentor in mind.

To start, mentors and protégés were given a handbook explaining what to expect from the program. It included how to set goals for a mentoring relationship and how to get the most from the relationship as either the mentor or the protégé. Participants are encouraged to meet together once a month. The kickoff party was held at a local restaurant and we plan on meeting as a whole group for a social event at least twice a year.

With the benefits of a mentoring relationship including increased productivity, better socialization, and less stress, we are very happy to see the eagerness of members to participate in the mentoring program. Our overall goal is to help Young Members become more involved with SAME and to help with career guidance and satisfaction. We plan to continue the program indefinitely and will survey participants yearly for feedback and ideas for improvement.

We’d love to get feedback or advice from other Posts as well. Please feel free to contact me with any words of wisdom you may have or for any additional discussion on what our Post is doing (lrozumalski@baird.com). It would be great to hear from you!

Join the SAME Young Members LinkedIn Group!

Through the members-only SAME group, you can leverage the power of the SAME network to find and reach the new business contacts you need, accelerate your career through referrals from SAME members, know more than a name by viewing profiles from fellow SAME members, and let other SAME members know what you have to offer professionally to them and their contacts. Access to the special SAME group features on LinkedIn is free, and is available to SAME Members only.

SAME Members are encouraged to join the SAME network.
JOIN HERE: www.linkedin.com/e/gis/2633/363BDB4528E2/
Interested in pitching in?

Help us fill our vacant liaison vacancies. Let Ben know you’re interested: same.ymchair@gmail.com

LinkedIn for your Post, Committee, Council or Conference

- Use your group’s LinkedIn page to create opportunities for two way discussion about important issues relevant to your group. Discussion threads are open conversations that any group member can respond to. Groups can be open or closed – it is up to the moderator to decide, and can be changed later if needed.
- Be sure to link your group to SAME HQ as a subgroup so members can easily find you, and list your group on the SAME social media webpage so members can easily find you
- Seek feedback for upcoming events (what topics are of interest, dates/time, etc?); post industry related articles with brief your commentary or invite the comments of others.

TWITTER for your Post, Committee, Council or Conference

- Create a Twitter account for your group to share information and provide real-time information to your followers by sending out important updates about event dates, speakers, membership goals, honors, awards, etc.
- Link tweets to your group’s LinkedIn and/or Facebook page where members can find more details and information, or link tweets to the event or article you are referencing.
- Post information relevant to your members beyond your group’s boundaries—connect members with other organizations and other aspects of SAME.
- Begin to follow similar groups, people, and firms to share their news and updates with your followers (retweet).
- Use hashtags (#) for events to create and track conversations (e.g. #JETC2014)

Facebook for your Post, Committee, Council or Conference

- Create a Facebook page to share news of interest to your group and encourage their participation and sharing with their friends and colleagues
- Facebook is a great resource to showcase pictures of events, accomplishments of members, and industry news
- Connect your network to other organizations that would benefit from knowing what is happening in your group; Members who “Like” your page receive your post updates in their timeline