Building a Foundation for the Future

By Brig. Gen. Joseph Schroedel, P.E., F.SAME, USA (Ret.)

In December 2014, the SAME Board of Direction approved the establishment of a National Foundation. After more than a year of deliberate and careful planning that was guided by the Founding Board, the SAME National Foundation was formally announced in May at the 2016 JETC in Phoenix, and is now incorporated in Washington, D.C. But still there remains significant work ahead—principally, establishing the first full Board of Directors.

The establishment of the SAME Foundation is a major step toward achieving the 2020 SAME Strategic Plan goals and objectives. We now have an enormous opportunity to support the development of the next generation of military, government, and A/E/C industry leaders.

The primary intent of the Foundation is to be able to provide for philanthropic needs separately from the national office budget. There are a number of envisioned purposes that will benefit our members and our profession:

- Fund professional development opportunities aligned with the SAME mission through the use of grant-making programs.
- Develop restricted and unrestricted community endowments that shall be used to develop, facilitate and coordinate services to meet the changing needs of the A/E/C community.
- Memorialize important contributions to SAME by its members, including acts of memorial such as coordinating attendance at services by SAME members, floral recognitions when appropriate, and providing a member’s SAME service record.
- Provide a secure repository as a trustee for charitable trust bequests, endowments, trust and estate distributions, and gift annuities directed in their purpose by individual donors and their own unique philanthropic focus. Posts also can use the National Foundation in lieu of creating their own foundations (they would retain total control over use of their funds).
- Provide convenient and effective ways so that donors can contribute assets to charitable purposes.
- Advocate for the development of endowment funds and provide appropriate means by which permanent endowment funds can be built and managed to provide long-term support of an unrestricted corpus fund, sufficient to ensure the on-going operations of the SAME Foundation and the Society through any adverse economic impacts.

There are many individuals to thank for helping bring the SAME Foundation to reality. The initial task force of Jennifer Fogg, F.SAME, Tony LeKeta, F.SAME, and Maj. Gen. John Peabody, USA (Ret.), as well as Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, F.SAME, USA (Ret.), Vice Adm. Mike Loose, F.SAME, USN (Ret.), Maj. Gen. Del Eulberg, F.SAME, USAF (Ret.), Roger Wozny, F.SAME, and Col. Bud Griffis, Ph.D., F.SAME, USA (Ret.), who also comprised the Founding Board, put in tremendous work. Sincere thanks as well to SAME General Counsel Hal Rosen, F.SAME, and Finance & Administration Director Allison Ingram who shoulder the incorporation and Internal Revenue Service submission.

The Foundation Founding Board and SAME Board of Direction approved the Foundation Board Nominating Procedures in May 2016. The Founding Board had already approved the bylaws, business plan, logo, initial investment management strategy and key development milestones. These documents can be viewed on the SAME website. The Foundation webpage will be established by the beginning of 2017.

While the Founding Board continues work on establishing the Council of Trustees to plan and guide fundraising efforts, the immediate task at hand is ensuring that the first full Board of Directors is set by January 2017. There is no doubt given the dedicated and experienced individuals in our membership, who have spent a lifetime serving others, that we will achieve this goal. If you are interested in serving as a Foundation Board Director or want to nominate someone, nominations are being accepted online at www.same.org/foundation until Sept. 1, 2016.

As SAME nears its Centennial in 2020, we are positioned for growth. America’s future is bright. Let’s help make it brighter.

Foundation Board Nominations

Individuals need to meet the following criteria to be qualified to serve as a Foundation Board Director:

- Active SAME member of substantial tenure who is distinguished in her or his service to the Society (Fellow desired).
- Unquestioned ethics, behavior, loyalty and integrity.
- Strong multi-level communications skills (speaking and writing).
- Complete understanding of and commitment to the Society’s mission, vision and strategic plan.
- Complete understanding of the Foundation’s purposes.
- Preferably, experience with other philanthropic organizations.
- Preferably, diverse backgrounds within the full spectrum of Society membership.
- Willingness to actively participate in fundraising activities.
- Exceptions: The Foundation Board will likely encounter the desire to offer persons such as well-known philanthropic figures and major donors the opportunity to participate in the Foundation Board. These and other exceptions will be addressed by the SAME Executive Committee.

Nominations will be accepted online until Sept. 1, 2016. Visit www.same.org/foundation for more information.

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