



# SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS



PORTLAND POSTSCRIPTS | Dec 2023

## President's Corner

Portland Post Members,

Happy Thanksgiving! Please join us for our next Post meeting on Wednesday, December 6th where we will hear from WEST Consultants on Willamette Valley Hydrologic Risks. This is an important topic for our region and we hope you can join us. Attendees will receive one PDH credit. Sign up through Eventbrite by noon on November 29th.

December 6th will be our last monthly meeting at the DoubleTree. For 2024, we're returning downtown and will hold meetings at the historic Portland Embassy Suites, 319 Pine Street. Our first lunch meeting of the year will be on February 7th where we will hear from the US Coast Guard. We are not planning a lunch meeting in early January due to its proximity to the holidays, but will hold a Social/Young Professional Networking event in late January.



I'd like to thank Jason Bock, PE from GRI and Chris Pitt, PE from KPFF for their superb presentation during our November meeting on Portland Airport Terminal Core (PDX TCORE) seismic upgrades. I'd also like to thank everyone who joined our Social/Young Professional Networking Event in late October. Rumor has it our next YP event will involve axe throwing. Look for details soon.

Congratulations to our Post's own Karl Sonnenberg, RA, AIA. Karl was recognized by the American College of Healthcare Architects with a Lifetime Achievement award. This is a well-deserved honor and we are fortunate for all he has done for the Post.

Our Post vision is to serve our nation as the foremost integrator for leadership development and technical collaboration within the A/E/C profession. We hope you can join us for an upcoming event.

Sincerely,

Pete Helmlinger, PE  
Brig. Gen., USA (Ret)  
President, SAME Portland Post

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## Next Post Event – Dec 6, 2023

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**Presentation:** Willamette Valley Hydrologic Risks  
**Date:** Dec 6, 2023  
**Time:** 11:30 – 1:00 pm  
**LOCATION:** [DoubleTree Hilton, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232](#)  
\*\*Free Parking at DoubleTree is included in registration\*\*

**In-Person Cost:** See [EventBrite Link](#) for specific cost information

SAME Portland Post Members \$40.00 (+\$4.52 processing fee)

SAME Members \$45.00 (+\$4.87 processing fee)

All Other Registration Type: \$50.00 (+\$5.20 processing fee)

Donation for Portland Post Scholarship Fund: free

Retired/Govt (ID Required) \$35.00 (+\$4.19 processing fee)

**RSVP By:** **Wednesday, Nov 29 2023 (12:00 pm) (PREPAYMENT REQUIRED)** at

**Event:** [SAME Portland Post Monthly Lunch Meeting: DEC 2023 Tickets, Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 11:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

## Willamette Valley Hydrologic Risks

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**Abstract:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) vision is to achieve safe, secure, and more resilient Corps civil works infrastructure by enhancing its protection in order to prevent, deter, or mitigate the potential for dam failure and improve preparedness, response, and rapid recovery in the event of an attack, natural disaster, and other emergencies. A major initiative within this effort involves the updating of hydrologic data for the 700 plus USACE dams.

The Willamette River is a tributary to the Columbia River. The watershed's runoff fluctuates dramatically from heavy precipitation in the winter months, snowmelt in the spring months, and relatively rain-free summers. There are 13 USACE dams located in the Willamette River basin with each contributing to a water resource management system that provides flood risk management, power generation, water quality improvement, irrigation, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation on the Willamette River and many of its tributaries.

This presentation will present the hydrologic studies completed on the Willamette River Basin dams to assist in the hydrologic risk for seven of the WRB dams, including extreme storm analysis, hydrologic model (HEC-HMS and HEC-WAT) development and calibration, development of site-specific region Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) for the entire Willamette River Basin; and defined updated Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) for the seven WRB dams. State-of-the-art hydrologic studies that are currently being conducted will also be presented.

**Presenter: Chris Bahner, PE, D. WRE, WEST Consultants, Inc.**

Chris Bahner is a Senior Hydraulic Engineer with WEST Consultants in Salem, Oregon. He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science in Water Resource Engineering degree from the California State University of Long Beach, California. He is a licensed engineer in the state of Oregon, Washington, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah, and California and is a Diplomate of Water Resources Engineering

with the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers. Prior to WEST, Mr. Bahner worked for the Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Bahner has over 30 years of experience working in the water resources engineering field. At WEST, Chris has worked on a variety of water resource engineering project throughout the nation.

### [USACE and Portland SAME STEM Outreach Program Feb 2024](#)

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SAME and USACE will be hosting a STEM Outreach Program for Local High School Students during Engineering Week, coming up in February 2024. SAME representatives will be reaching out to our members to participate in a lunchtime career fair during the STEM event. The lunchtime career fair will give the student participants an opportunity to engage with STEM professionals, hear career advice from and ask questions of experienced professionals, and practice their networking skills. More information and details for how to register to participate in this rewarding event will be sent out in December! In the meantime, please contact Heidi Nelson at (503)481-6822 with any questions.

### [SAME Portland Post Young Professionals Winter Networking](#)

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Are you ready to sharpen your professional connections? Get ready for the January Young Professional networking event!

This is your chance to network in a unique, casual environment, so don't let it pass you by. Get together with the SAME Portland Post for some networking and axe throwing.

When: Last week of January 2024

Where: Portland, OR

Details: Event link and registration information to follow!

### [Portland SAME 2024 Program Preview](#)

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- **U.S. Coast Guard's new base "Base Astoria"**
- **Women in STEM**
- **Industry Panel**

### [Portland SAME's Karl Sonnenberg, RA Recognized](#)

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**Karl Sonnenberg of ZGF was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College of Healthcare Architects (ACHA)** at the Nov 2024 Healthcare Design Conference and Expo in New Orleans. The ACHA Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honor that the American College of Healthcare Architects can bestow on an architect. It is conferred by the national ACHA Board of Regents in recognition of a significant body of work of influence on the theory and practice of healthcare architecture.

Congratulations to Karl to his professionalism, dedication and outstanding contributions in Healthcare Architecture, a significant achievement and a great honor for a distinguished architect and active leader and mentor to our Portland SAME post.

## UPCOMING SAME NATIONAL EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE

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**Capital Week:** Mar 25-27, 2024, Rockville, MD. *Capital Week is open exclusively to SAME members, this opportunity will put you ahead of the curve in planning your company's acquisition strategy. Hear about the government's upcoming engineering, design, construction, and environmental programs during the FY2023 DOD & Federal Agency Programs Briefings. Network with senior leaders and meet directly from contracting representatives, flag and general officers, and other decision-makers from the engineering components of the military services and several federal agencies.*

**Joint Engineer Training Conference & Expo,** Orlando, Florida, May 14-16, 2024 at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center! *JETC offers a unique mix of education, training, leader development, networking, innovation, collaboration, and more. This premier annual event provides a venue for professionals in engineering and related fields to learn and collaborate in a joint environment that only SAME offers.*

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