



SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS



PORTLAND POSTSCRIPTS | Sep 2023

President's Corner

Portland Post Members,

After our traditional hiatus in July and August, we are excited to kick off the 2023-24 program year on September 6th, 11:30 – 1:00 for a Lunch Meeting at the DoubleTree Portland. We'll be joined by CDR Todd Wimmer, P.E., Commanding Officer of US Coast Guard Base Astoria, and hear how the Coast Guard restructured its mission support for the Oregon Coast and stood up its newest installation. Please RSVP by noon on August 30th through [Eventbrite](#)



Look for details soon on other upcoming Portland Post events, including our annual Golf Tournament in September and a Social/Mixer for Young Professionals in October. Also in October, we'll hear from LTC Dale Caswell, P.E., PMP, District Commander of the US Army Corps of Engineers Portland District, during our October 4th Lunch Meeting.

Enriching the nation's STEM pipeline remains an important SAME goal. The Portland Post supports this by awarding Bud Ossey Scholarships to deserving college engineering students. We are pleased this year to award scholarships to:

Gavin Doherty - \$2,500 award. **Oregon State University** sophomore studying civil engineering.

Jonah Wald - \$1,250 award. **Oregon State University** sophomore studying mechanical engineering.

Eric Ovcharenko - \$1,250 award. **Portland State University** junior and member of the Oregon National Guard. Majoring in mechanical engineering and computer science.

We were also pleased to sponsor a high school student attending SAME's Engineering & Construction Camp at Scott AFB, Illinois. This year's deserving student was **Madeline Littleton** of **Sherwood High School**.

The Pacific Northwest Small Business Outreach and Industry Day (Meet the Chiefs) in June was a huge success. I'd like to thank our many sponsors, presenters, volunteers, and attendees for helping achieve our goal as the region's premier industry government engagement event for the Architect/Engineer/Construction community. My special appreciation goes out to **Kathryn Thomas** for her tireless leadership as the event coordinator. The annual event is held jointly by the Portland, Mount Tacoma, and Seattle Posts. We hope you will join us in June 2024 when the next Meet the Chiefs to be held in Seattle.

Sincerely,

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

Next Post Event – Sep 6, 2023

Presentation: U.S. Coast Guard’s new base “Base Astoria”
Date: Sep 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, Aug 30 2023 (12:00 pm) (PREPAYMENT REQUIRED)** at

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

U.S. Coast Gurad’s new base “Base Astoria”

Abstract: Come learn how the Coast Guard’s reorganization of mission support to the Oregon Coast provided opportunities and avenues to strengthen shoreside engineering command, control, and execution across 336 miles of coastline from Westport WA to Brookings, OR.

In 2022, the US Coast Guard established its newest Base in Astoria, OR. Base Astoria’s Commanding Officer and Executive Officer will discuss the leadership lessons learned and challenges encountered while restructuring mission support along Oregon’s coastline. Historically, mission support activities, to include facility shoreside maintenance, repair, and construction were led at the installation level by an operational commander, for Astoria, this was a career aviator. With the re-organization, the Coast Guard established a Base Commander whose sole focus is mission support and is charged with overseeing and leading the region’s facility engineering, naval engineering, personnel admin, supply, contracting, medical, electronics, and information technology departments. A facet of this change is of particular interest to SAME members, CDR Wimmer and LCDR Becker’s numerous and significant changes to the area’s shoreside maintenance programs as a pair of career Civil Engineers. Specific challenges and leadership milestones overcome by the pair regarding facilities engineering included the following. Developing a method to provide outlying operational units with adequate shoreside facility guidance. Cultivating and generating dec-plate-level buy-in for data collection on recurring maintenance completion. Improving communications between deck-plate-level maintainers and outlying units and regional engineering design and construction units. Reinvigorating relationships with area stakeholders to further real property, permitting, and land use initiatives at the installation commander level.

Speakers:

Commander Todd M. Wimmer, USCG Commanding Officer USCG Base Astoria, OR

Commander Todd Wimmer currently serves as the Commanding Officer of Base Astoria responsible for mission support and operational logistics across the 13th District's Southern Washington & Oregon Region. He recently served as Chief of Facilities at Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma from 2019-2022. Prior to Petaluma, he served as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit Honolulu from 2016-2019, and as Division Chief for the Shore Infrastructure Logistics Center's Mission Readiness Product Line in Oakland, California from 2012-2016.

Other assignments include Civil and Construction Project Engineer with Civil Engineering Unit Juneau, Alaska; Facilities Planner and Construction Engineer with Facility Design & Construction Center Atlantic (Norfolk, Virginia) supporting Coast Guard Units across the Eastern United States, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean; and shipboard engineer aboard Coast Guard Cutter ALERT homeported in Astoria, Oregon.

Originally from Cañon City, Colorado; Commander Wimmer graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He also holds a Masters of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He is a licensed Professional Civil Engineer registered with the State of Alaska, and a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional under the U.S. Green Building Council. Additionally, he is a Department of Homeland Security Level III Acquisition Program Manager and a Society of American Military Engineers Fellow.

Commander Wimmer is married to Ms. Denise Adamic, also of Cañon City, Colorado. They have a newborn daughter Maia, and can be found most weekends out surfing, hiking or outdoors enjoying the beautiful Northwest together.

Lieutenant Commander Steven A. Becker, USCG Executive Officer, USCG Base Astoria, OR

LCDR Steven Becker is the Executive Officer for the Coast Guard's newest Base in Astoria, Oregon where he oversees the Coast Guard's execution of mission support roles in the Columbia River area. Commissioning from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2011, he began his career as a Weapons Officer onboard the 110' coastal patrol boat, USCGC ROANOKE ISLAND, in Homer, Alaska where he conducted over 100 law enforcement boardings at sea. Next, he served onboard the 225' seagoing buoy tender, USCGC ELM, in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina as the Operations Officer where he serviced floating aids to navigation from North Carolina to New York. After 4 years of sea duty, the Coast Guard selected LCDR Becker for the Civil Engineering Advanced Education Program obtaining a Master's of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

After graduate school, he served as a Regional Facility Manager and Construction Manager for Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit Miami, Florida. There, he responded to hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria providing on scene engineering support and damage assessment to countless affected Coast Guard facilities. In 2020, LCDR Becker assumed the duties of Facility Engineer for Coast Guard Base Miami Beach, Florida where he was responsible for overseeing the engineering plant and facility operations across the 11-acre



Causeway Island as well as 300 additional acres covering three satellite locations. In his spare time, LCDR Becker achieved his Juris Doctor through the Florida International University College of Law and passed the Florida Bar becoming a licensed Florida attorney in 2020. LCDR Becker is a Texas licensed professional engineer and native of Austin, TX.

Portland SAME Post Scholarship Winners

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UPCOMING SAME EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE

Small Business Conference: November 1 – 3, 2023, San Antonio, TX. *The Federal Small Business Conference is welcoming to small businesses seeking one-on-one matched networking appointments with government agencies or learning about upcoming federal contracts, a medium/large company interested in discovering subcontracting partners, or a government agency focused on conducting extensive market research to best understand the breadth and diversity of industry capacity available for your needs.*

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, May 14 – 16, 2024, Gaylord Palms, Kissimmee, FL. *JETC offers a unique mix of education, training, leader development, networking, innovation, collaboration, and more, drawing over 2,200 professionals from across the military engineering community, private industry, federal agencies, and academia. 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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