

# The Society of American Military Engineers

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Louisiana Post  
ESTABLISHED IN 1920  
5321 TOBY LANE  
KENNER, LOUISIANA 70065

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**AUGUST 2023**

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee's recommended slate of officers to serve the next business year, starting in September, was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors & Post President, and an official election by the membership will be held to ratify the Board's decision at our August 9 monthly luncheon. Following is the list of candidates:

COL Cullen A. Jones, USA -----President  
Scott P. Smith, P.E. -----1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
Luan Nguyen, P.E. -----Jr. Vice-President  
Richard C. Entwisle, P.E. -----Vice-President & CAO  
Taylor Daigle Chassignac, P.E. -----Treasurer  
Nina Reins, P.E. -----Secretary

The new slate of officers will be installed at the upcoming monthly luncheon on September 13, 2023.

We cordially invite you and encourage your attendance to join us in this event and celebrate a very successful year in furthering your professional development.

Troy Jeanfreau, PE  
Chairman, Nominating Committee

## **HOST SUSTAINING MEMBER INFORMATION**

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### **Thank you to Dirks Companies for hosting last month's meeting.**

We still have some luncheon meetings available for Sustaining Members to host. Hosting our monthly meetings is a great opportunity to put your firm in the limelight and showcase your firm's experience and abilities. If your firm is interested in hosting one of these meetings, please contact Richard Entwisle at (504) 862-1377.

We would like to thank all the Sustaining Member Firms who have hosted a monthly meeting in the past. If it has been a while since your firm hosted a meeting, you are welcome to host another meeting. Let's continue to show our support for the Louisiana Post through this great professional opportunity.



**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND NEWS**

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**MEMBER INFORMATION**

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**LOUISIANA POST MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023**

**SOCIAL – 11:30 A.M.**

**POST LUNCHEON - 12:00 P.M.**

- LOCATION:** JEFFERSON ORLEANS SOUTH  
2536 EDENBORN AVE.  
METAIRIE, LA 70002
- GUEST SPEAKER:** SEAN DUFFY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BIG RIVER  
COALITION; EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT,  
LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION
- TOPIC:** MISSISSIPPI RIVER NAVIGATION CHALLENGES
- MENU:** SALAD, STUFFED PEPPERS, YELLOW RICE,  
CARROTS, DESSERT, ICED TEA & COFFEE
- COST:** \$40.00 MEMBERS; \$50.00 NON-MEMBERS; \$5.00 STUDENTS
- RESERVATIONS:** FOR RESERVATIONS VIA E-MAIL:  
[richard.c.entwisle@usace.army.mil](mailto:richard.c.entwisle@usace.army.mil)  
YOU MAY ALSO CALL RICHARD AT (504) 862-1377  
**NOTE THAT YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER & PAY FOR LUNCHEONS  
USING THE LINK BELOW:**  
<https://same-louisiana-post.square.site/>

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS 3:00 P.M. TUESDAY, AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**THIS WILL QUALIFY AS 1.0 PDH**

**DON'T FORGET THAT EVERY MONTH YOU CAN EARN 1.0 PDH (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOUR) FOR ATTENDING S.A.M.E. LUNCHEON MEETINGS.**

**Sean M. Duffy, Sr.**  
**Executive Director, Big River Coalition**  
**Executive Vice President, Louisiana Maritime Association**



The Big River Coalition is committed to ensuring the future of navigation on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC) as one of the nation’s fundamental natural resources and true economic powerhouse. The Mississippi River and Tributaries has an estimated annual impact of \$735 billion on the nation’s economy and is responsible for 2.4 million jobs (585,000 jobs on the Lower River – Cairo, IL to the Gulf of Mexico and over 1.86 million jobs on the Upper River – Lake Itasca, MN to Cairo, IL when including the IL River).

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Big River Coalition: 2011-Present**

“Advocating for a Mightier Mississippi River”

The Big River Coalition (BRC) is committed to protecting maritime commerce across the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MRT). The BRC focuses on maximizing efficient maritime transportation on the deep-draft Mississippi River Ship Channel from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico. The Coalition is concerned about the management of the Mississippi River system and is focused on holistic water management and adverse impacts related to flood protection, protecting water supplies, increasing coastal restoration to also protect commerce and minimize the negative impacts of runoff and pollutants. It is critical to the nation’s economy that navigation on the Mississippi River remains unimpeded. As visions of the future of the MRT are shaped, that navigation representatives strive to ensure that systematic approaches protect maritime commerce and maintain fully authorized channel dimensions while modernizing and maintaining our water infrastructure and the free flow of maritime commerce, on the Mississippi River Ship Channel and the locks and dams along the MRT. The Big River Coalition’s missions are focused on securing increased funding from the Harbor Maintenance Tax and the Inland Users Fuel Tax, the deepening of the Mississippi River Ship Channel to 50 feet and to increase the beneficial use of dredge material or “sediment recycling.”

The Big River Coalition is at the forefront of the deepening of the Mississippi River Ship Channel (50 feet). Mr. Duffy also serves as the Executive Vice President/Maritime Advocate for the BRC’s parent entity, the New Orleans Steamship Association d.b.a. Louisiana Maritime Association. As a proponent for the local maritime industry, Mr. Duffy has provided written and oral testimony to federal and state Congressional committees and the President’s Oil Spill Commission to advocate for channel maintenance while promoting safe navigation on the Mississippi River Ship Channel.

**PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT:**

Previous employment includes executive management positions with experience as a Boarding Agent, Deckhand, Stevedore General Superintendent and Marine Surveyor. Mr. Duffy is intimately familiar with obstacles faced by the maritime industry, both nationally and regionally, and has been recognized for his efforts to deepen the Mississippi River Ship Channel and to promote coastal restoration through the beneficial use of dredge material.

## **ASSOCIATIONS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS and APPOINTED POSITIONS:**

- \* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
Federal Advisory Committee Co-Chairman Hydrographic Services Review Panel
- \* Congressman Steve Scalise's Maritime Advisory Group
- \* Committee of 100 – Louisiana's Business Roundtable
- \* Louisiana's Governor Office: Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation
- \* American Petroleum Institute's Maritime Infrastructure Coalition
- \* Mississippi Valley Trade and Transport Council: Co-Chairman
- \* National Waterways Conference Navigation Caucus
- \* National Association of Maritime Organization Board of Directors
- \* Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's Freight Advisory Council
- \* Propeller Club Port of New Orleans
- \* Mississippi River Basin Stakeholder Advisory Team  
(USACE and Institute of Waterways Resources)
- \* United States Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley New Orleans Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Subcommittee
- \* Waterways Council, Inc.
- \* Making Sense of Sensors Alliance: Chairman

## **MARITIME AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS:**

- \* 2022 C. Alvin Bertel Award World Trade Center of New Orleans
- \* 2022 Admiralty Legend
- \* 2018 Crystal Lighthouse Award as Maritime Person of the Year  
Global Maritime Ministries
- \* 2016 Coastal Innovator Award  
American Shore and Beach Preservation Association