

SAME Omaha Post Monthly Meeting – December 4, 2025

Date: 4 December 2025

Time: 12:00 PM Central Time (CT)

Future Post Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, December 9, 2025 – *USACE Update* - Multiple Districts presenting
- Thursday, January 15, 2026 – Eppley Airport Renovations Update; Speaker: Dan Owens, Director of Planning & Engineering, Omaha Airport Authority. Scott Conference Center* - Joint Meeting with NeSPE
- Tuesday, February 10, 2026 – *SCIF Construction* – Cooper Building Services
- Tuesday, March 10, 2026
- Tuesday, April 14, 2026 – *SMP Award Winner Presentation* – Nicole Hunter- Tentative
- Tuesday, May 12, 2026
- Tuesday, July 14, 2026 – *Change of Officers* and potential *Post Awards Presentation*
- Tuesday, August 11, 2026
- Tuesday, September 8, 2026
- Tuesday, October 13, 2026
- Tuesday, November 10, 2026
- Tuesday, December 8, 2026

Call to Order- Chris Artz: calls the meeting to order at 12:02 CT.

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum- Secretary Chris Artz conducted the roll call and confirmed a quorum was present (9 or more from this list).

☒ President: COL Robert Newbauer

☒ Secretary: Chris Artz

☒ Treasurer: Brian Schuele

☒ VP for Service Members and Veterans: Rob Hufford

☒ VP for IGE: Bobbi Jo Lang

☒ VP for Resilience: Don Fucik

☒ VP for Professional Development and Personal Growth: Kandi Srb

☒ VP for Leadership and Mentoring: Tom Svoboda

☒ Past President: Stephanie Heibel

☒ Director for Communications: Jill Zehr

☒ Director for Awards and Recognition: Laurie Smithers

☒ Director for Student Chapters: Stephanie Ling

☐ Director for Young Members: Devin Mueller

☒ Director for Fellows: Natasha Gromak

☒ Co-Director for Student Mentoring: Anne Peterson

☒ Co-Director for Student Mentoring: Bill Glismann

Members at Large in attendance (not counted toward quorum):

☐ Programs: Jake Batenhorst

☐ Industry Day: Cindy Lincome

☐ Industry Day: Jackie Olsommer

☒ Scholarships & Camps: Sean Bayer

☒ Small Business: Veronica Doga

- ☒ Roger Wozny
- ☒ Brec Wilshusen
- ☒ Chris Langan
- ☒ Ryan Watzke

Approval of Minutes – The November 2025 meeting minutes were presented for approval. Motion to approve was made by Rob Hufford and seconded by Natasha. The minutes were approved without objections.

Reports

President: COL Robert Newbauer reported that he will focus on FY26 opportunities and coordination with multiple districts. He confirmed that the Fellows nomination package for Tom Svoboda was submitted and acknowledged by SAME National.

Secretary: Chris Artz – No Report.

Treasurer: Brian Schuele provided YTD budget and monthly statement. He noted that the investment account balance is approximately \$861,000, which reflects an initial deposit of \$560,000, net contributions of \$20,000, and growth of nearly \$300,000.

Brian requested approval to withdraw \$27,000 from the investment account to the local checking account to cover upcoming expenses such as scholarships, E-Week sponsorship, and Industry Day costs. The motion was made by Tom Svoboda and seconded by Natasha Gromak. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian stated that the draft 2026 budget will be prepared for review at the January meeting

VP for Service Members and Veterans: Rob Hufford reported that planning for the Career Transition Workshop is underway. He raised the question of whether companies should be charged for interview tables during Industry Day. After discussion, the consensus was to either not charge or apply a nominal fee to encourage attendance and commitment.

VP for IGE: Bobbi Jo Lang reported that membership has decreased by 23 members, which is consistent with national trends. She is increasing recruitment efforts, including outreach at UNL and UNO events. Bobbi attended a UNL event earlier this month and will participate in the UNO Peter Kiewit networking dinner next week.

She also discussed retention strategies, including sending letters from the President.

VP for Resilience: Don Fucik reported that Nebraska Task Force 1 is unable to present at the February meeting due to scheduling conflicts. He will work to identify an alternative date. Don also plans to convene the Resilience Committee soon to develop a plan for the upcoming year.

VP for Professional Development and Personal Growth: Kandi Srb – See Industry Day and Programs committee updates below.

VP for Leadership and Mentoring: Tom Svoboda reported that newcomers' orientation sessions will continue, with the next session scheduled for late January. He confirmed that reminders are being sent to battle buddies to engage with new members.

Past President: Stephanie Heibel – No report.

Director for Communications: Jill Zehr reported that website updates are ongoing and requested that members send her news items for posting.

Director for Awards and Recognition: Laurie Smithers reported that an email requesting updates for streamer requirements will be sent this week.

Director for Student Chapters: Stephanie Ling reported that student leaders from UNO and UNL are exploring the possibility of combining their chapters into a single "University of Nebraska" chapter. Challenges include the need for separate faculty advisors and separate financial accounts, although funds can be transferred between accounts.

Stephanie also noted that the merch store launch is pending a decision on the chapter structure. Coupon codes for board members are under consideration, codes for student chapter members will be for \$35 each.

Director for Young Members: Devin Mueller – No Report.

Director for Fellows: Natasha Gromak reported that the “Journey to Fellows” event is scheduled for January 14. She emphasized that the Fellows Committee will support members who wish to pursue nomination rather than selecting nominees themselves. Link: [Webinar: Journey to Fellow: Navigating Your Journey by SAME](#)

Directors for Student Mentoring: Anne Peterson and Bill Glismann reported that the Millard West STEM event will take place on January 21 and the USACE presentation will be held on January 29 at the Relevant Center. They also noted that SMP submittals are due December 11.

Committee Reports

Industry Day: Cindy Lincicome and Jackie Olsommer (via Kandi Srb) – A walk-through at CHI is scheduled for Monday. The keynote speaker has not yet been confirmed, and suggestions are welcome. Registration committee meetings are ongoing.

Programs: Jake Batenhorst (via Kandi Srb) – Registration for the January meeting will open later today. The Scotch tasting event currently has 11 of 20 spots filled. Jake Batenhorst plans to transition out of his role in the spring, and Ted Kocher has been identified as a potential replacement.

Scholarships & Camps: Sean Bayer – Scholarship voting will conclude on December 5, and winners will be announced at the December 9 meeting. The committee is also considering increasing scholarship amounts for 2026..

Small Business: Veronica Doga- Virtual matchmaker was held on Tuesday, Dec 2 with 69 suppliers and 10 buyers, including USACE and EPA. A total of 60 meetings were conducted, and participants provided positive feedback.

Other announcements - One Omaha Post member has applied for the SAME Leader Development Program.

Meeting adjourned by Chris Artz at 1:08 PM.

Minutes prepared by Chris Artz on December 6, 2025