



Mount Tacoma Post Newsletter

Happy New Year!

NEXT EVENT:

SAME Meet the Agencies 2026

Thursday, January 22nd, 2026

Seattle Airport Marriott, 3201 S. 176th St., Seattle, WA 98188

8:00 AM Registration/Networking

8:30 AM Program Start

12:00 Adjournment

The program features senior personnel from nine public agencies with a Puget Sound footprint. Each agency will present their known and anticipated upcoming contracting opportunities, projected support needs, and recent funding and other development trends throughout the Pacific Northwest for the next several years. Agencies are also requested to bring representatives from their acquisition and program management to help answer questions about their programs.

Agencies Invited:

- Port of Seattle
- WSDOT
- WA DES
- King County
- Pierce County
- Sound Transit
- University of Washington
- PTAC/APEX Accelerator
- AICEF PTAC

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Questions? Contact Jason Hu jason.hu@hdrinc.com or
Kevin Stoll KStoll@kbacm.com



VISION

"To promote and facilitate engineering support for national security by developing and enhancing relationships and competencies among uniformed services, public and private sector engineers, and related professionals."

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& receive monthly updates on our post and events.

Letter from the Post President



Jen Tetatzin, PE, PMP Owner NextGov Solutions

- *U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps Commander (retired)*
- *Public Works Director, City of Tukwila*

Welcome to 2026! As we turn the page to a new calendar year, I am honored to formally step into the role of Post President. As many of you know, I have been serving in an acting capacity since June, and I want to start the new year by expressing my deepest gratitude to the Board of Directors and our committee chairs. While you are all volunteers with demanding careers and many other obligations, this team continues to dedicate time to adapt to our nation's priorities, critical infrastructure needs, and SAME's national security mission.

Looking Back, Moving Forward

Reflecting on the past year, we have maintained a strong rhythm of events and community support, but we also face realities common to volunteer organizations. We have seen a slight reduction in our membership numbers over the last two years and engagement with the community has been light. My goal for 2026 is to reverse that trend—not for the sake of numbers, but to deepen the impact we have on our local military and federal community and to ensure our Post stays relevant.

Our Unique Mission

We enjoy a fantastic partnership with the Seattle Post—and I encourage everyone to attend the "**Meet the Agencies**" event on January 22nd—but the Mount Tacoma Post holds a distinct and vital position. We are the neighbors and partners of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, a projection platform of immense strategic importance. Our proximity to JBLM gives us a unique opportunity to foster relationships between industry experts and military engineers that no other Post can replicate.

Strengthening our Structure

To capture this opportunity, we are renewing our focus on Post governance and organization. You will see initiatives this year focused on financial transparency, documentation, and clearer roles for directors and committees.

However, to build this robust future, **I need your help.**

We are looking for members who are ready to take an active role. Whether you have a calling to mentor students and young professionals, a love for event planning, or a passion for community engagement, there is a role for you. Many hands make light work; adding even a few hours of your expertise per month can significantly reduce the burden on our current volunteers and energize our programming.

If you are ready to help us shape the future of the Mount Tacoma Post, please reach out to me directly or any of the Post officers. Let's make 2026 a year of growth, connection, and service!

Sincerely,

Jen Tetatzin, P.E., PMP



MOUNT TACOMA POST

2026 Election

CALLING ALL POST MEMBERS:

In accordance with our Post Bylaws, the ballot for the 2026 Board of Directors is now open. Elected positions include **President**, up to two **Vice Presidents**, **Secretary**, **Treasurer**, and three **Elected Director positions**. Your vote ensures we have the governance in place to continue our programming, scholarship efforts, and professional engagement between the AEC industry and government.

HOW TO VOTE: [Click here](#) to access the official ballot.

DEADLINE: Voting will close at 9:00 AM PST on Wednesday, January 15, 2026.

Officers will be installed at the February member meeting.

Post Priorities and Opportunities for 2026

1 MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

- Increase awareness of SAME and the Mount Tacoma Post across the JBLM community through outreach and strategic communications
- Engage with companies who attend SAME events and share the benefits of corporate membership at the Post level
- Organize meaningful events to attract and retain new individual members
- Provide more frequent and relevant communications through [LinkedIn](#), e-mail, the newsletter, and our [website](#)

2026 - 2027 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

- This year's application cycle will be open from February 1 - April 15
- New, online application forms will be posted on our website in January
- Decisions will be made and awardees notified by May 15
- To be eligible, the applicant must have an affiliation with an active SAME member
- Learn about 2025 [scholarship winners](#)

2026 SUMMER STEM CAMP SEASON

- STEM camp applications opened December 1 and there will be six camps held in June and July. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- Our Post can support campers traveling from the Tacoma region by offsetting a portion of the camp fee.
- We would also love to have at least one member serve as a Camp Mentor. [Learn more and apply](#)

4 CONTINUITY AND ORGANIZATION

- Create a central repository for the Post's files and documentation
- Update the board's organization to clarify roles and assist with recruiting future officers and directors
- Draft written procedures to help Committee Chairs succeed
- Attend training for Post Leaders to ensure compliance with SAME standards

UPCOMING EVENTS

★ CLICK HERE TO VIEW SAME NATIONAL EVENTS ★

★ **JANUARY 22**

Meet the Agencies *Seattle Airport Marriott*

★ **FEBRUARY 10**

City of Dupont | PFAS Water Filtration Plant |
Presentation by Gus Lim *Eagle's Pride Golf Course*

★ **MARCH 24-26**

SAME Capital Week *Rockville, MD*

★ **APRIL (SPECIFIC DATE TBD)**

Small Business Symposium & Meet the Chiefs
SeaTac, WA

★ **MAY 19-26**

JETC 2026: Innovate Forward!
Oregon Convention Center

MOUNT TACOMA POST

Welcome New Members

- **Lt. Col. Celio Biering**
- **Mark Kerr**, Shive-Hattery Architecture + Engineering
- **Christopher Dodos**, AHBL
- **Jen Teckenburg**
- **Linda Stroud**, JTS



Why join the Society of American Military Engineers?

If you are thinking of joining a professional association, it is critical that you ask yourself “what does membership provide for you?” We can all agree that there is little value in paying dues and investing time into an organization just to check a box. After all, the relationship you have with a professional association should create a connection to something that you can relate to and have a passion for. Personally, I struggled with finding what was right for me when considering membership for many professional associations, but then I discovered the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). My initial impression was that it very much felt like an officer’s club that did not have much to offer a young noncommissioned officer.

I discovered, however, that SAME is a diverse organization that routinely invests in the development of its members. From new member, to the President of the Society, this professional association wants to help you become a better leader supporting the defense of our Nation. SAME provides fantastic networking opportunities, plenty of options for volunteering, technical information through webinars and publications, and even offers stipends to pay for professional certifications. Plus, the membership fee covers the life of your uniformed service!

Everyone can benefit from what SAME has to offer, and you do not need to be an Engineer or have a degree to join. You can volunteer with your local Post, participate in networking events and professional development briefs, and even get a one-day pass for the annual Joint Engineer Training Conference (JETC) or Small Business Conference (SBC) at no cost.

SAME offers professional NCOs tangible value with real rewards, over three distinct periods in a career.

Near-Term: Active SAME membership thrusts us into an environment of exposure to engineering techniques and practices of industry and Military Departments other than our own. We soak up information and knowledge without realizing it, immediately making us better NCOs.

Mid-Term: SAME offers unique opportunities to continue our technical education and pursue licenses and certifications from affiliated associations. Over a few months, credentialing can better posture NCOs for increased responsibility and promotion. Taking advantage of these industry-recognized certifications will also assist with a smoother transition when exiting the military.

Long-Term: NCOs will one day move on from direct military service whether Active Duty or Reserve Component. Most of us change employers but we still prefer technical employment in such a rewarding field. If you want to secure the future, SAME offers the best opportunity for networking with potential employers.

I truly wish I had learned these things sooner in my career, so I urge you not to wait. Come see what SAME can do for you!

CMSgt Adam Boubede

MOUNT TACOMA POST

POST OFFICERS

Post President (Interim)

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Past President

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First Vice President

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OPEN POSITIONS

- Second Vice-President
- Small Business Liaison
- Leadership Development
- STEM

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