



902 Kitty Hawk Rd.
Suite 170, PMB 425
Universal City, TX 78148

MEMORANDUM FOR SAME MEMBERS

March 17, 2026

FROM: San Antonio Post Secretary

SUBJECT: Post Board Meeting Minutes, February 19, 2026 via Zoom

Board Members present are in **BOLD**:

President

Vice President

Past President

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

2nd Assistant Treasurer

Partnership Director

Small Business Coordinator

Golf Committee Chair

Programs Director

Member Development Director

SMVET Support Coordinator

SMVET Transition Coordinator

Fellows Director

Young Professional Director

Individual Member Director

Sustaining Member Director

Leadership Lab (LLAB) Director

Leadership Lab (LLAB) Co-Director

STEM & College Outreach Director

K-12/STEM Outreach Coordinator

SAME E&C Camp Coordinator

College Outreach Coordinator

UTSA Student Chapter Mentor

UT Student Chapter Mentor

Texas A&M Student Chapter Mentor

Scholarship Director

Newsletter Editor

Website Manager

Awards Committee Chair

Holiday Celebration Chair

Ms. Sarah Fowlkes

Ms. Cathy Bond-Cassidy

Col. John Baker

Ms. Bridget Booth

Vacant

Mr. Sam Hutchins, F.SAME

Vacant

Mr. Dick Kochanek, F.SAME

Mr. Steve Holt, F.SAME

Ms. Cathy Bond-Cassidy

Mr. Michael Beach

Mr. John Enyeart

Mr. James Kisiel

Mr. Mike Monreal, F.SAME

Mr. Marcus Henneke

Mr. David Pratt, F.SAME

Mr. Andrew Silvas

Mr. Ed von Dran

Ms. Michele Torres

Ms. Shelby Gund

Mr. Braden Deines

Mr. Harold Eberbach

Mr. Scott Mikos, F.SAME

Capt. Varsha Savalia, USPHS

Mr. Terry Watkins

Mr. Terry Watkins

Vacant

Col. John Baker

Ms. Bonnie Hopke

Mr. Dick Kochanek, F.SAME

Mr. Dick Kochanek, F.SAME

Mr. Dick Kochanek, F.SAME

Vacant

Additional Attendees: Richard Mahn

1. The final minutes of the Jan 29 Post Board meeting minutes were sent to Board members and are at <https://www.same.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/260129sabod.pdf>. Are there any additional changes needed?

Minutes APPROVED unanimously.

2. Finances/Budget:

- *Attachment 2* is the 2026 Budget Update (as of Feb 14).
- Sam Hutchins has a Webex meeting with Merrill Lynch to discuss our Investments on Monday Feb 23 at 3:30 pm. If any Board members want to participate in the meeting, please email Sam.
- We have a large amount in our investments - \$743,486. Should we consider using some of it to increase our endowed scholarships (we currently have 2 endowed scholarships at TAMU and 1 at UTSA)?
- Sarah Fowlkes, Bonnie Hopke, Sam Hutchins and Dick Kochanek now have accounts in the new SAME re:Members financial system.
- Do we have our volunteers firmed up to accomplish the Post Financial Audit for this year.
- **DISCUSS Budget items – Before discussing budget issues Sarah introduced Richard Mahn from the Austin Field Chapter and a member of the current SAME LDP class. Richard discussed his group’s SAME LDP project selection on “How can Posts increase government, service member and YP memberships and what are some of the Post best practices to do so.” The results of the project will be pushed out to SAME at large. He mentioned that our Post’s SBMRF was one of those best practices. Sam Hutchins suggested TechSoup.org as a resource for Posts to get software and computer equipment at reduced prices. Richard also briefed that there was a group of 4-5 members involved in attempting to reinvigorate our Austin Field Chapter. They were looking to have quarterly events with possibly 1 event per year with Ft. Hood. They are planning a lunch/learn tour of construction in downtown Austin for their next event. Sam Hutchins reminded Rich that if any revenue funds were collected, Sam needed to be included in the communications. Dick Kochanek asked Richard about the possibility of getting a Field Chapter member to serve as the UT Student Chapter Mentor and help reinvigorate the Student Chapter. Terry Watkins will work with Richard on a meeting there at UT with any student(s) that may be interested and to see if the leadership of the AFROTC or Navy/Marine Book Strap Program would be interested in being the Faculty Advisor for the Chapter. Sam briefed on the budget. The Board discussed options for increasing the existing endowed scholarships and potentially expanding them to TAMUSA or UT. Dick Kochanek asked Bonnie Hopke and Terry Watkins to look into the process for increasing the endowed scholarship amounts at TAMU and UTSA. Sam briefed Andrew Silvas and Shelby Gund volunteered to do the Post audit again.**

3. Board Members:

- The following appointed Board positions are vacant (see *Attachment 2*):
 - Assistant Secretary
 - UT Student Chapter Mentor
 - Small Business Outreach Coordinator
 - Holiday Celebration Chair
- Other appointed positions issues:

- We had two Assistant Treasurer positions filled by Steve Holt and Dick Kochanek. Steve Holt is now filling the 2-year elected Partnership Director position. Do we need to find a fill for the Steve's vacated Assistant Treasurer position or will it suffice to just have the one Assistant Treasurer position filled by Dick?
- We have two SM/Vet Coordinator positions filled by Markus Henneke and Mike Monreal. The implementation of 2030 SAME Strategic Plan reduced the number of Post Streamer tasks associated with the SM/Vet program. Should we consider changing one of the positions to a Community Support Coordinator or Field Chapter Mentor position and realign it from under the Member Development Director to under the Partnership Director (see current Board structure in *Attachment 3*)?
- Are there other appointed positions to consider?

DISCUSS Board Positions – Sarah talked about the vacant Assistant Secretary and Holiday Celebration Chair positions at the LLAB session. Shelby Gund felt like it might be possible to get volunteers from the class to fill some of the vacant positions. Sarah was also looking at the possibility of getting Sam Barnette and/or Jennifer Peters to fill the Small Business Coordinator position. Sam Hutchins does not believe the re:Members system would require two assistant Treasurer positions and that we would not be conducting much of our accounting through that specific system which leaves Dick as Assistant Treasurer. Dick will advertise open vacancies to Post members to try and garner additional interest. James Kisiel will reach out to existing SM/VET (Markus/Mike) leads to discuss their interest in a broader community service leadership role.

4. STEM:

- *Attachment 4* is the update on the completed and upcoming 2026 STEM volunteer opportunities.

DISCUSS STEM Support. Scott Mikos briefed we were receiving many requests to support school STEM events and asked Board members interested in volunteering to contact him.

5. SAME E&C Camps:

- Post member, Pat Suermann, is interested in being a mentor at a SAME camp this summer.
- New Post Member SMSgt Richard Colon is interested in being a mentor at a SAME E&C Camp Mentor.
- He would fund his travel, but needs a Post President's endorsement letter for his application.
- We will be supporting Janice and Joe Dombi to participate again on the SAME USAFA Camp staff.

The Board approved endorsing Pat Suermann, Richard Colon and the Dombi's as a SAME Camp Mentors. Scott Mikos will work with Richard Colon to be sure Richard understands the government procedures he must follow for the Post paying for his travel to the SAME Camp. Sarah will prepare the endorsement letters for Pat and Richard.

6. College Outreach:

- John Baker represented the SA Post as a mentor at the Texas A&M Student Chapter Meeting on Feb 12 from 6pm-7pm. This was the kickoff meeting for the semester, and it was attended by 12 students and 3 mentors (H-G Post, SA Post, and Faculty). The Chapter President gave a short presentation on military shelters, then the audience broke into groups for an activity to design and construct small-scale shelters from aluminum foil, straws, cardboard, and tape which were then tested for resilience to wind, rain, and static loads. The next meeting is Thu, Feb 26, and the speaker will be Col Scott Dellinger '97, USA, the Texas A&M ROTC Professor of Military Science.

- The Texas A&M Student Chapter is inviting all San Antonio and Houston/Galveston Post Members to attend their monthly meetings to engage with student attendees and facilitate discussions on career development.
 - Thursday evening, Mar 26 (Social/Mixer at location TBD)
 - Thursday evening, Apr 23 (Kyle Field tour)
- The Student Chapter typically has 10-15 attendees, but they are planning for these events to generate more student interest. The Student Chapter President, Sean Dillman '27, has asked both Posts to solicit interest in attending.

DISCUSS College Outreach – Dick Kochanek briefed John Baker wanted Board members to know they are encouraged and invited to attend the TAMU Student Chapter meetings. Sarah stated she will try to attend the Mar or Apr event. Dick will also put out notice to general membership to generate more interest. Terry Watkins is working with the UTSA Chapter to try to generate more student interest in it.

7. Post Meetings:

- Next meeting is scheduled for Feb 26. As of Feb 18, we have 30 signed up.
- Speaker is Dr. Tim Allison from SWRI on Geothermal Energy and Battery Storage technology developments.

DISCUSS Post Meeting – Dick briefed the Steakhouse is agreeable with having less than the 40 specified in the contract for the meeting. Dick is sending out reminders about the meeting and more reservations are slowly coming in.

8. JETC:

- During the 2025 Post Leaders Workshop's SAME 101 session, Bridget Booth won a free registration to the 2026 JETC registration for our Post.

DISCUSS FREE JETC Registration – Goal would be to use the free registration to give YPs/LLAB participants the opportunity to attend JETC. The Board agreed the Post would also cover the travel and hotel expenses of the member selected. Dick will create an application similar to what we have done in the past for sponsorships/scholarships for people to apply. The opportunity for a free registration to our May 6-7 SBMRF will also be included in the application.

9. SAME Awards/Recognition:

- The following National Awards were submitted to SAME and confirmation received by the Feb 1 deadline. No results to date from SAME. Based on Dick's experience with being a judge for one of the other SAME awards, judging will not be finished until mid-late Mar.
 - Joshua Graham – Goethals Medal
 - Sarah Fowlkes – Post Service Medal
 - Don Gleason – Leader Development Award
- The Post Streamer for our 2025 accomplishments was uploaded to SAME on Jan 30 and confirmation received. Results are not expected until late Mar or early Apr.
- Rene Cortez and Don Gleason were nominated for the Academy of Fellows and selected as new SAME Fellows.

INFORMATION UPDATE ONLY

10. Mar Newsletter – Inputs for the Mar issue are due Monday, Mar 2, to Dick.

INFORMATION UPDATE ONLY

11. Any Other Issues/Updates:

- **Sarah briefed on the Texas Region’s leader meeting:**
 - **Post Leaders Workshop will be Aug 2-4 in Phoenix. SAME will sponsor the registration and hotel of 2 Post leaders and the Posts cover the travel expense. Sarah said the Board should be thinking about who we should send. She indicated interest in attending.**
 - **Since the SAME Foundation did not approve continuing the financial support of the Texas Region LDP. The Texas Region RVP is asking all of the Region’s Posts to donate \$1,200 to the Texas Region LDP. James Kisiel will be leading the Texas Region LDP in 2027.**
- **Ed von Dran mentioned briefed he was sending letters to members whose membership was coming up for renewal or had lapsed. There has been very little response.**
- **Sarah briefed on the upcoming Texas Valero Open. She indicated the sponsorship packages were very expensive and probably not something we as a Post would get involved with.**
- **James Kisiel also submitted an item on the West Point Texas Tamale Tailgate event (see *Attachment 5*). Since there are many Texas students at West Point, it is potentially something we might support.**

The Board approved providing \$1,200 from the Investments to donate to the Texas Region LDP. The Texas Valero Open will be advertised and passed along to our membership for informational purposes in the Post newsletter. Discussion on the support of the West Point event will be tabled to the Mar Board meeting.

12. Next Board Meeting: **Thursday, Mar 26, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, by Zoom**

Attachments

1. 2026 Budget Update as of 2/14/2026 (to Board Only)
2. 2026 Appointed Board Positions
3. 2026 Board Structure
4. 2026 STEM Volunteer Opportunities
5. West Point Texas Tamale Tailgate

///SIGNED///
Bridget Booth
2026 Post Secret

APPROVED AS WRITTEN

///SIGNED///
Sarah Fowlkes
2026 Post President

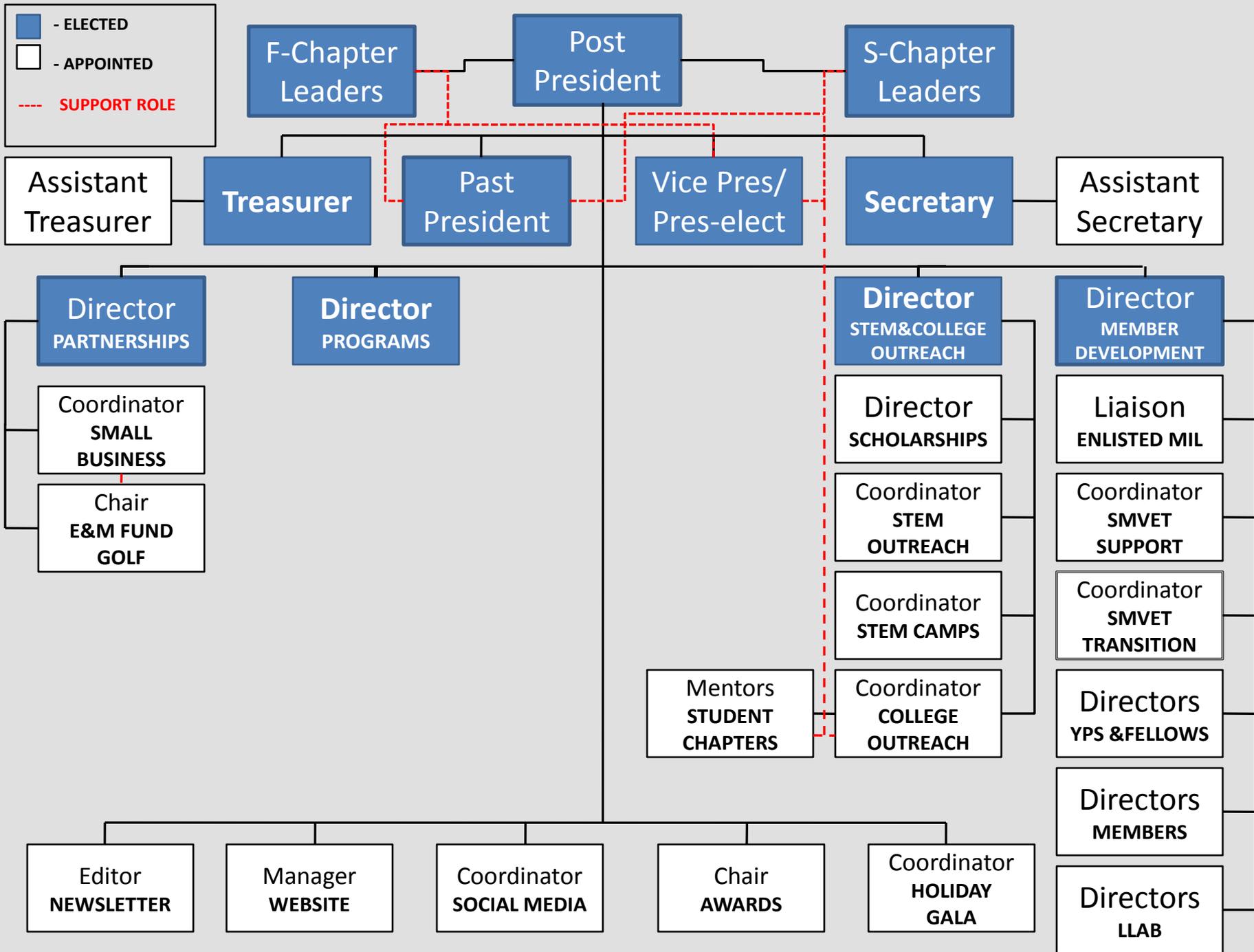
ATTACHMENT 2

SAME San Antonio Post 2026 Board Appointments

| Position | 2025 Fill | 2026 Interest | 2026 Appoitment |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Young Professional Director | Andrew Silvas | YES | Andrew Silvas |
| Fellows Director | David Pratt, F.SAME | YES | David Pratt, F.SAME |
| Sustaining Member Director | Michele Torres | YES | Michele Torres |
| Individual Member Director | Ed von Dran | YES | Ed von Dran |
| Scholarship Director | Bonnie Hopke | YES or Holiday Celebration Chair | Bonnie Hopke |
| Assist Treasurer | Steve Holt, F.SAME | | VACANT |
| 2 nd Assistant Treasurer | Dick Kochanek, F.SAME | YES | Dick Kochanek, F.SAME |
| Assistant Secretary | VACANT | | VACANT |
| K-12/STEM Outreach Coordinator | Scott Mikos | YES | Scott Mikos |
| E&C Camp Coordinator | Capt Varsha Savalia, USPHS | YES | Capt Varsha Savalia, USPHS |
| College Outreach Coordinator | Terry Watkins | YES | Terry Watkins |
| UTSA Student Chapter Mentor | Terry Watkins | YES | Terry Watkins |
| UT Student Chapter Mentor | VACANT | | VACANT |
| TAMU Student Chapter Mentor | John German | NO | Col. John Baker |
| Small Business Outreach Coordinator | Cathy Bond-Cassidy | | VACANT |
| SM/Vet Support Coordinator* | Mike Monreal, F.SAME | YES | Mike Monreal, F.SAME |
| SM/Vet Transition Coordinator* | Markus Henneke | YES | Markus Henneke |
| LLAB Director | Shelby Gund | YES | Shelby Gund |
| LLAB Co-Director | Vacant | Braden Deines Interested | Braden Deines |
| Golf Committee Chair | Mike Beach | YES | Mike Beach |
| Holiday Celebration Chair | Hilda Quinones | NO | VACANT |
| Awards Committee Chair | Dick Kochanek, F.SAME | YES | Dick Kochanek, F.SAME |
| Newsletter Editor | Dick Kochanek, F.SAME | YES | Dick Kochanek, F.SAME |
| Website Manager | Dick Kochanek, F.SAME | YES | Dick Kochanek, F.SAME |

* May look at re-structuring positions due to reduction in SPlan 2030 Post Tasks related to SM/Vet area

ATTACHMENT 3



ATTACHMENT 4

2026 STEM Volunteer Opportunities

- Completed Events:
 - **29 Jan / Will Rogers Academy Family STEAM Night** = Three volunteers (Harold, Scott, & Sam Ortiz)
 - **31 Jan / Alamo Junior Academy of Science (AJAS) Fair** = Two volunteers (Dick & Scott)
 - **07 Feb / MATHCOUNTS** = Three volunteers (Dick, Nancy Kalter, and Katherine McGookey)
 - **17 Feb / TSPE E-Week** = 9 Attendees (Sarah Fowlkes, Cathy Bond, Bridget Booth, John Baker., Scott Mikos, John Enyeart., Dick Kochanek, Terry Watkins, & Varsha Savalia)
- Upcoming Events:
 - **Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair (ARSEF)**
 - Date: 21-22 February (1:30 pm Start)
 - Location: St. Mary's University = 1 Camino Santa Maria San Antonio TX 78228
 - Info: <https://arase.org/home/index.php/volunteer>
 - **Robert F. McDermott Elementary STEAM Night**
 - Date: Thursday, 5 March (5:00 PM – 6:30 PM) Booth Set up at 4:30 PM
 - Location: 5111 USAA Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78240/
 - **National Science Teaching Assoc. e-CYBERMISSION STEM Competition**
 - Date: 11-25 March
 - Location: Virtual = <https://www.ecybermission.com/> (Website is currently down – this event may not occur because of cutbacks in types of DOD training)
 - **St. Phillips College Breaking Through STEM Conference**
 - Date: Tuesday, 10 March (10 AM – 2 PM)
 - Location: 800 Quintana Road San Antonio, TX 78211
 - Info: <https://www.alamo.edu/spc/academics/academic-resources/academic-centers/centers-of-excellence/Centers-of-Excellence-for-Mathematics/>
 - **Forester Elementary 5th Annual Community STEM Night**
 - Date: Wednesday, 1 April (5:00 PM – 6:30 PM)
 - Location: 10726 Rousseau Road San Antonio, TX 78245
 - Info: School anticipates 375 students
 - **Great Texas Air Show & Cyber Expo**
 - Date: Saturday, May 2
 - Location: Joint Base San Antonio Randolph
 - Info: <https://www.jbsa.mil/GreatTexasAirshow>

ATTACHMENT 5



31 years

1995

to

2026



Dear Friend,

The life of a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point (USMA) is considerably different from that of most college students. It is a four-year immersion experience designed to produce leaders of character and integrity. Being active duty as well as college students, they must fulfill military obligations, stay in top physical condition and carry a heavy academic load all four years at West Point. After graduation, these cadets must serve at least 5 years in the US Army and 3 years in the Army Reserve.



Perhaps most daunting of all for Texas cadets, they must leave behind the best Tex-Mex and barbecue in the entire country!

In support of our native sons and daughters at USMA, currently numbering 430 (out of 4400 total cadets), the West Point Parents' Clubs of Texas host an amazing event every fall after a home football game, called the **Texas Tamale Tailgate (T3)**. For **31 years**, T3 has provided BBQ, tamales, and all the fixins', along with Texas music, decorations and camaraderie, for every Texas cadet and all their lucky invited friends. This all-volunteer, privately funded effort serves up an incredible taste of home and typically serves more than 500 cadets from all over the USA. West Point recognizes T3 as one of the premier volunteer-supported events in the lives of the cadets at the Academy. This kind of service to cadets is part of why our Parent Club has once again been awarded the distinction of being a West Point Distinguished Parent Club.

As you can imagine, putting on T3 is an ambitious mission that we couldn't possibly accomplish without the support of others who fiercely love and support our military service members. With your support, our Club can continue to honor our cadets and their classmates with a few hours respite from the rigors of West Point. Each year more than 100 volunteers organize and work the tailgate, but we cannot make this event a reality without generous financial contributions from companies like yours. In the past, we have also been very fortunate to have the support of in-kind donations from HEB, Buc-ee's, Southwest Airlines, Texas Tamale Company, Shiner Beer, Whataburger, Arriba Foods, Goode Company, The Houston Texans, Houston Astros, Houston Rockets, Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Cowboys. **We hope you will join our generous sponsors and support this year's event scheduled for this Fall.**

Help us make our **31st year anniversary event** a memorable one for West Point cadets as we take a little Texas up to West Point and give back to our country's future Army Officers. Please refer to the

sponsorship levels attachment for more information. Our 2026 budget for T3 is approximately \$35,000. Funds raised over and above the cost of T3 will also benefit cadets through a donation to the Margin of Excellence program run by West Point's Association of Graduates (AOG). The Margin of Excellence program provides academic development opportunities to supplement the basic elements provided for with Federal dollars. If you have any questions, please contact us. We greatly appreciate your consideration and support of our military.

James Kisiel
2026 T3 Chair
West Point Parents' Club of Greater Houston
713-823-7068
t3chair@wppcgh.com
<https://wppcgh.com/t3>

A 501(c)(3) Organization
Tax ID No. 31-1703346



honoring OUR military

31st Anniversary
of
The Texas Tamale Tailgate at West Point
the story



This is the story of how Texas volunteers and companies rally every year to bring a piece of the Lone Star State to West Point cadets.

In 1995, Cadet Powell made a call home from West Point to his dad 1,400 miles away in Texas to deliver the dire news. He wasn't failing classes. He didn't have frostbite (yet). He didn't need money. But he was ailing from something without a simple cure. He was suffering from an acute lack of Tex-Mex.

"Dad," he said. "We're starving for tamales up here."

Doug Powell then did what any true Texan would do for his son stationed in faraway upstate New York. He packed 80 dozen tamales in dry ice and headed for the airport. When he told a representative from the airline what he was shipping to his son and why, the representative (no doubt a native Texan as well) immediately understood the seriousness of the situation. "Just put 'em in the plane," he said. No charge, no further explanation needed. That very first tamale shipment from Texas was delivered to cadets under a tent on Buffalo Soldier Field at West Point, near the historic Thayer Hotel.

From that original mission of culinary mercy, the Texas Tamale Tailgate was born. Now commonly called T3, the transport of Tex-Mex and barbecue from Texas to West Point is an annual post-football game event hosted by Texas parents for Texas cadets and their fortunate friends. It has evolved into one of the largest, most significant events that the combined West Point parents' clubs of Texas host, with planning and preparation undertaken throughout the year. Housed in the '49er Lodge (an amazing gift from the West Point class of 1949 to the United States Military Academy) a short walk from Michie Stadium, T3 has drawn a steady stream of cadets seeking a taste of home one Saturday afternoon every fall since 2002.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of big-hearted companies looking out for the well-being of the state's native sons and daughters at West Point, the event has grown to serve upwards of 600 cadets and guests, and virtually everything needed for this Texas-sized party is donated free of charge. From one dad answering the call, an army of volunteers and iconic Texas companies and sports teams now join forces to let cadets from Houston to Dallas and from El Paso to Beaumont know that even though they are 1,400 miles away, Texas remembers them and is proud of everything they are doing for our country.



31 years

1995

to

2026



Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum Title Sponsor (1 available): \$10,000+

Gold: \$5000

Silver: \$2500

Bronze: \$1000

| Sponsorship Levels | Title Sponsor | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|--|---------------|------|--------|--------|
| Recognition in all promotions as "T3 presented by" | ✓ | | | |
| Reserved table for 8 guests | ✓ | | | |
| Football Tickets | 4 | 2 | | |
| T3 Swag Basket | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| T-Shirt Name Recognition | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Recognition on Website | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Company Name to be displayed prominently at event | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Table Sign | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Appreciation Plaque | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Platinum Title sponsor level applies to monetary donations only. All other sponsorship levels apply to both monetary and in-kind donations. We are happy to discuss additional opportunities and customize recognition benefits to suit the specific needs and situation of our sponsors.