



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

MEMORANDUM FOR SAME MEMBERS

May 13, 2026

FROM: San Antonio Post Secretary

SUBJECT: Post Board Meeting Minutes, April 30, 2026 via Zoom

Board Members present are in **BOLD**:

<b>President</b>	<b>Ms. Sarah Fowlkes</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Ms. Cathy Bond-Cassidy</b>
Past President	Col. John Baker
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ms. Bridget Booth</b>
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mr. Sam Hutchins, F.SAME</b>
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
<b>2nd Assistant Treasurer</b>	<b>Mr. Dick Kochanek, F.SAME</b>
<b>Partnership Director</b>	<b>Mr. Steve Holt, F.SAME</b>
Small Business Coordinator	Mr. Chris Scott
Golf Committee Chair	Mr. Michael Beach
<b>Programs Director</b>	<b>Mr. John Enyeart</b>
Member Development Director	Mr. James Kisiel
SMVET Support Coordinator	Mr. Mike Monreal, F.SAME
SMVET Transition Coordinator	Mr. Marcus Henneke
Fellows Director	Mr. David Pratt, F.SAME
Young Professional Director	Mr. Andrew Silvas
<b>Individual Member Director</b>	<b>Mr. Ed von Dran</b>
Sustaining Member Director	Ms. Michele Torres
<b>Leadership Lab (LLAB) Director</b>	<b>Ms. Shelby Gund</b>
<b>Leadership Lab (LLAB) Co-Director</b>	<b>Mr. Braden Deines</b>
STEM & College Outreach Director	Mr. Harold Eberbach
K-12/STEM Outreach Coordinator	Vacant
SAME E&C Camp Coordinator	Capt. Varsha Savalia, USPHS
<b>College Outreach Coordinator</b>	<b>Mr. Terry Watkins</b>
<b>UTSA Student Chapter Mentor</b>	<b>Mr. Terry Watkins</b>
<b>UT Student Chapter Mentor</b>	<b>Mr. Richard Mahn</b>
Texas A&M Student Chapter Mentor	Col. John Baker
<b>Scholarship Director</b>	<b>Ms. Bonnie Hopke</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Mr. Dick Kochanek, F.SAME</b>
<b>Website Manager</b>	<b>Mr. Dick Kochanek, F.SAME</b>
<b>Awards Committee Chair</b>	<b>Mr. Dick Kochanek, F.SAME</b>
<b>Holiday Celebration Chair</b>	<b>Kelsey Edwards</b>

Additional Attendees: None

1. The draft Mar 26 Post Board meeting minutes was sent out to the Board on Apr 6 and Apr 28 and is also available at <https://www.same.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/260326saboddraft.pdf>.

**Mar 26 Board meeting minutes were approved**

2. Finances/Budget:

- *Attachment 1* is the 2026 Budget Update as of Apr 25.
- Sam Hutchins met with the accountant on Mar 26. The accountant now has access to our QuickBooks.
  - He recommended changes in how Sam used Classes within QuickBooks. He suggested that Sam increase the number of classes to breakout items such as the small business conference, leadership lab, etc. so that they could be highlighted in the Statement of Program Service Accomplishments portion of the tax return.
  - Accountant provided a draft tax return for review. Sam will review prior to the meeting. If anyone would like to review it prior to submittal, let Sam know at the meeting and he will provide you a copy (it is 31 pages long).
- Sam has stopped updating the SAME HQ's new re:members financial system. Without changes in the program, he cannot provide the budget information the Board is currently receiving.

**Sam briefed the Board on recommendations from the tax accountant and plans to add new class groupings in our QuickBooks software as the accountant recommended. Board members concurred that Sam's review of the tax submittal is sufficient for Sam to submit it to the IRS. Sam will prepare a list of the issues in the new SAME re:members software that precludes it being useful for us to replace using QuickBooks so that our attendees can bring up the issues at the 2026 SAME Post Leaders Workshop in Aug.**

3. Board Positions:

- Kelsey Edwards has been appointed as the new Holiday Celebration Chair.
- Still looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:
  - Assistant Secretary
  - STEM Coordinator

**Sarah Fowlkes introduced Kelsey Edwards as the newly appointed Holiday Celebration Chair. Shelby Gund mentioned that Danielle Genzer from the 2025-26 LLAB class may be interested in the Assistant Secretary position and will follow up with her. Sarah asked Board mention to let her know about any other potential candidates for the vacant positions.**

4. 2026 Golf & SMBRF:

- Get update on our May 5-7 events.

**Bonnie Hopke and Sara Fowlkes provided an update on the Golf Tournament and SBMRF. We are 2 golf foursomes short of the contracted amount - currently at 92 out of 100 spots filled. Board members were asked for ideas to fill the positions. Terry Watkins will try to see if some UTSA students might be interested. Steve Holt will also contact Dr. Salas from the Alamo Colleges District to see if they might be interested. Dick Kochanek mentioned he provided Mike Beach with contacts from the local APWA Branch, I-LinCP organization and Texas Emergency Response Team as other possibilities to find people to fill the vacant**

**foursomes. Sarah briefed AFCEC legal representatives mentioned a new rule that DOD speakers for the event can't be more than 50% of the total speakers presenting in accordance with Department of War (Defense) policy. Sarah briefed they are working through the agenda for a better balance for the SBMRF presentations for a legal department review of the final SBMRF agenda. Sarah also mentioned this new requirement was a surprise because she had just returned from an Industry Day where all the presentations were given by DOD speakers. Bonnie briefed there are 287 registrants for 2-day participation, 18 registered for 1-day for the Wednesday presentations and 10 more were coming on Thursday for the 1-on-1 sessions.**

5. Post JETC Stipends:

- The Board approved a Post stipend for Don Gleason to attend the May 19-21 SAME JETC at the Mar Board meeting.
- After the Board meeting, SAME announced that Don Gleason had won the SAME Leader Development Award. As a result, Don's participation at the 2026 JETC will be covered by SAME freeing up the Post stipend money.
- Capt. Andrew Perham, President of our Laughlin AFB Field Chapter requested Post support, if possible, for the Field Chapter(s) member(s) to attend the 2026 JETC. Since the Board had already approved a JETC stipend that was not used, Sarah Fowlkes approved re-allocating the planned funds for the JETC stipend to cover the cost of Capt. Perham's attendance at JETC. Capt. Perham is a uniformed service SAME member so his JETC registration cost is free and the expense would just be the travel and hotel costs for him to attend.

**Sarah briefed about shifting the previously approved JETC sponsorship to Capt. Perham since Don Gleason's participation at the 2026 JETC was now covered by SAME as a SAME award winner.**

6. Post Leadership Lab (LLAB):

- Shelby Gund indicated the LLAB is finishing up one-on-ones with the 2025-26 cohorts.
  - They really enjoyed the book choice, all the speakers, and the connections they made.
  - Feedback for improvement was given such as providing additional guidelines on the mentor/mentee program, stricter structure for the role play part of sessions, and advertising that this program is not solely for engineers (we welcome all backgrounds).
- In May they will start planning for the 2026-27 session. Also planning to have LLAB flyers at the SBMRF again.

**Shelby Gund briefed they were finishing up the 2025-26 LLAB sessions and received excellent feedback from the participants on improving the program. She also mentioned that they will soon start recruiting efforts for the 2026-27 class.**

7. YP Event:

- Get an update on the planned May Post YP event.

**Sarah briefed that Andrew Silvas was still planning a May YP event and would soon start advertising it.**

8. Post Leaders Workshop (PLW):

- SAME PLW is scheduled for Aug 2-4 in Scottsdale, AZ.
- SAME covers the registration and hotel for 2 Post leaders to attend. Post is responsible for travel costs.
- Posts can send other leaders, but must cover registration and hotel (was \$400 in 2025) and travel costs

- Registration is scheduled to open about mid-May. Sarah Fowlkes has indicated interest in attending.

**Sarah briefed that she was still interested in attending the PLW since it had been 7 years since she last participated. She also asked other Board members that were interested to submit their request to her and Dick Kochanek. Following the meeting, Board member Richard Mahn indicated his interest in attending the PLW.**

9. College Outreach:

- Dick Kochanek judged in the FACILITHON Competition on Apr 10, at the Texas State 2026 SkillsUSA Leadership & Skills Conference in Corpus Christi. Thousands of post-secondary (community college) students participated at the conference in all types of competitions (culinary, welding, carpentry, robotics, auto/motorcycle mechanics, etc.). Nine community college students competed in the FACILITHON from 3 colleges – Dallas College El Centro Campus, Dallas College Cedar Valley Campus and Texas State Tech College in Harlingen. The FACILITHON exposes students to the possibility of pursuing careers in facility management. Roland Garcia, a facility manager for a local area hospital group, judged with Dick.
- Get an update on Texas A&M, UTSA and UT Student Chapters.
- Get update on whether Houston/Galveston Post wants to share a sponsorship of the TX Tamale Tailgate event for TX USAFA cadets.

**Dick Kochanek briefed on his experience at the Texas State 2026 SkillsUSA Leadership & Skills Conference and encouraged other Board members to participate in the FACILITHON program. Terry Watkins and Richar Mahn met with UT Austin students that were interested in the student chapter. The chapter needs to have at least 3 officers and a total of 10 members to be a viable student chapter. The UTSA student chapter is also struggling, but the chapter leader is trying to encourage more students to participate. Bonnie Hopke briefed the Board that she has been unsuccessful in getting return calls from UT Austin on the possibility of an endowed scholarship, but was able to find out an endowed scholarship with UT Austin requires a minimum of \$100K to start. The Board felt that amount is too high to pursue. Bonnie was able to get the information on adding money to our existing endowed scholarship at UTSA. The process was easy to implement. Dick Kochanek motioned to increase the existing UTSA endowed scholarship by \$50K which would be taken from our investment funds. Bonnie Hopke seconded and the Board APPROVED the motion. Sarah will contact Director James Ksiel to get an update on the Texas Tamale Tailgate event.**

10. SAME E&C Camp:

- We agreed to sponsor 4 students to the SAME E&C Camps:
  - Roklan Dionne from Bastrop TX – junior at New Mexico Military Academy; Hawaii Camp
  - Henrik Dotzlaf from Converse TX – junior Randolph High School; USAFA Camp
  - Matthias Ray from San Antonio TX – junior Central Catholic High School; Hawaii Camp
  - Nikolai Mezokh from Austin TX – sophomore at Westwood High school; Navy Camp
- Dick didn't realize that the Hawaii Camp was open to all candidates. He thought it was created for students in Hawaii and Pacific region area to reduce travel costs for them.
- Janice and Joe Dombi are scheduled to be on the staff of the USAFA Camp. SMSgt Richard Colon and Pat Suermann are also scheduled to be Camp mentors.

**Dick briefed we are supporting 4 students and 4 mentors the SAME Camps. Sam Hutchins reminded everyone that funds for camp tuition need to be requested and processed as soon as they are received.**

11. STEM Outreach:

- We were planning on having a STEM activity exhibit at May 1-3 Great Texas Air Show & Cyber Expo. We only got one volunteer besides Harold Eberbach and Dick for the event. Harold and Dick decided that there were insufficient volunteers to participate.
- With the STEM events we have already supported and the science fairs and robot competition in the fall, we have enough to complete the STEM-related Post Streamer tasks.

**The Board agreed with the decision to cancel our participation at the Texas Air Show because of the lack of volunteers to support it.**

12. Veteran Support:

- Get update on changing position description of Service Member & Veteran Support Coordinator position.
- Get update on what's planned for the service member & veteran support activities this year.

**Sarah will contact Director James Kisiel to get an update on these issues.**

13. Post Meetings:

- The Apr 23 Post meeting was rescheduled to Jun 25 because there was insufficient time to advertise the event once we got a speaker.
- Post meetings remaining: Jun 25, Aug 20, Sep 17, Oct 15 and Nov 19.
- New research topics are surfacing, which could provide interesting speakers – micro portable nuclear reactors for power supply at Air Force installations; UT's Center for Electromechanics looking at dunking tanks for cooling electronics in data centers to reduce their energy use.

**John Enyeart briefed that the presentation topic for the Jun 25 meeting will be the same as originally planned for the rescheduled Apr 23 meeting, but the speaker will be different. He will follow-up with AFCEC to identify the new speaker. John stated that the micro portable nuclear reactor concept would likely be included in the presentation.**

14. SAME Awards:

- SAME announced the annual award winners: unfortunately, Joshua Graham and Sarah were not selected for the Goethals and YP Medals; Don Gleason, however, did win the Leader Development Award:
- We did earn the 2025 Post Streamer.

**INFORMATION UPDATE ONLY**

15. Membership:

- As of the Apr 1 SAME Post Membership Stats report, we have 762 individual members against our 2026 baseline of 683 and 89 organization members against our 2026 baseline of 82 for a net cumulative change of +86 and are currently eligible for the 2026 Membership Streamer.

**Dick briefed that as of the Apr 1 SAME Membership Report we would be eligible for the 2026 Membership Sreamer.**

16. May Newsletter – Inputs for the May issue are due Friday, May 1, to Dick.

**INFORMATION UPDATE ONLY**

17. Any Other Issues/Updates:

- **Steve Holt briefed he is working a potential partnering agreement with Dr. Salas from Alamo Colleges District and invites anyone interested to participate in a May teleconference. Sarah indicated her interest in participating.**

18. Next Board Meeting: **Thursday, May 28**, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, by Zoom

Attachments

1. 2026 Budget Update as of 4/25/2026 (to Board Only)

**///SIGNED///  
Bridget Booth  
2026 Post Secretary**

**APPROVED AS WRITTEN**

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