

SAME Omaha Post Monthly Meeting – May 7, 2026

Date: 7 May 2026

Time: 12:00 PM Central Time (CT)

Future Post Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, May 12, 2026 – Nebraska Task Force 1 – Ashley Engler
- Tuesday, July 14, 2026 – USAF - Modern Drone Application - *Change of Officers* and potential *Post Awards Presentation*
- Tuesday, August 11, 2026 – Crossroads Development Presentation - Jen Perez, MCL Construction
- Tuesday, September 8, 2026- PFAS soil remediation strategy - Rapid Leaching Technology (RLT) and its applicability to MILCON - Shaun Malin – Principal & Director of Strategic Development at HRP Associates Inc.
- Tuesday, October 13, 2026 - Secure Construction (ICD 705, SCIFs), Laurie Smithers- Conti Federal
- Tuesday, November 10, 2026 – Placeholder for Public Sector Event
- Tuesday, December 8, 2026 – Placeholder for USACE Omaha District Program Update

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

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum- 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: Ted Kocher

Industry Day: Cindy Lincicome

Industry Day: Jackie Olsommer

Scholarships & Camps: Sean Bayer

Scholarships & Camps: Lannae Long

Small Business: Veronica Doga

Roger Wozny

Brec Wilshusen

Chris Langan

- Ryan Watzke
- Matt Coan

Approval of Minutes – The March and April 2026 meeting minutes were presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by Natasha Gromak and seconded by Stephanie Heibel. The minutes were approved without objection.

Reports

President: COL Robert Newbauer: No Report.

Secretary: Chris Artz: No Report.

Treasurer: Brian Schuele: Reported that he was unable to attend the meeting but provided updates via email. Reported that recent transactions primarily reflected Industry Day revenue and final Student Mentoring Program expenses, and noted that the annual tax return has been filed

VP for Service Members and Veterans: Rob Hufford: No Report.

VP for IGE: Bobbi Jo Lang: Reported an increase of 26 individual members and 11 organizational members. Reported ongoing coordination of the JETS program and encouraged registration, and noted an opportunity for volunteers to support a Creighton University emergency response exercise.

VP for Resilience: Don Fucik: Reported intent to support the Creighton emergency response exercise as a volunteer. Reported that the May program will feature Nebraska Task Force One.

VP for Professional Development and Personal Growth: Kandi Srb: Reported that Industry Day planning is in final stages with weekly coordination meetings. Reported that registration is approximately 14% higher than the prior year and sponsorships have reached approximately \$100,000, with additional opportunities still available. Stated that discussions are underway to formalize future leadership structure, including potential chair and chair-elect roles supported by standard operating procedures.

VP for Leadership and Mentoring: Tom Svoboda: Reported that Tom Svoboda was unable to attend the meeting but provided updates via email. Reported that the Post Newcomers Orientation was held on April 23 at Offutt Air Force Base with approximately 12 participants and that the next event is scheduled for July 16 at USACE Omaha District. Noted that all high school scholarships have been awarded and mentor pairings completed. Reported that three Omaha students were selected for the SAME Hawaii Camp and that funding support is being evaluated. Stated that the STEM Mentoring Program is in summer recess and coordination continues with Avenue of Scholars. Reported plans to attend JETC for induction as a SAME Fellow.

Past President: Stephanie Heibel: Reported that Industry Day golf participation is approximately 97% sold out.

Director for Communications: Jill Zehr: No Report.

Director for Awards and Recognition: Laurie Smithers: Reported preparation of Post awards including RVP Medal, Rising Star, and President's Award, with communications to be issued prior to Industry Day. Noted that award presentations are planned for the July meeting and coordination is underway for RVP participation.

Director for Student Chapters: Stephanie Ling: Reported no significant updates due to end of academic year activities.

Director for Young Members: Devin Mueller: Reported a recent Young Members event had limited attendance and that planning is underway for a future event, potentially including a go-karting activity. Noted personal pursuit of National Guard enlistment.

Director for Fellows: Natasha Gromak: Reported coordination of a Fellows luncheon at Industry Day, including guest invitations to prospective Fellows. Reported that the Fellows ballot has been finalized and noted the need for a bylaw review next year. Reported that the SAME Post Leader Workshop (PLW) will be held August 2-4 in Scottsdale, Arizona. COL Mark Russell, as incoming President, was recommended as a potential attendee. Noted

that Laurie Smithers and Ted Kocher were identified as additional potential participants and will review availability, and that Natasha Gromak will assist with coordination as needed.

Directors for Student Mentoring: Anne Peterson with Bill Glismann: Reported ongoing summer coordination with the steering committee and planning for next program cycle in April. Noted continued school recruitment and identified a candidate for the elementary STEM grant.

Committee Reports

Industry Day: Cindy Lincicome and Jackie Olsommer: Reported under VP for Professional Development and Personal Growth.

Programs: Ted Kocher: Reported that the May luncheon will feature Nebraska Task Force One, with Aerostar providing the member spotlight and a presentation on the STEM Mentoring Program. Noted current registration of approximately 25 attendees with efforts underway to increase participation. Reported that the 2026 program schedule is fully booked and confirmed that no monthly meeting will be held in June. Noted that planning has begun for potential fall tour opportunities, including construction tours such as Project Beacon (Mutual of Omaha tower), the Omaha Streetcar project, UNMC campus developments, and Omaha Airport improvements, with coordination to continue based on funding and availability.

Scholarships & Camps: Sean Bayer and Lannae Long: Reported that three local students were selected for SAME camps and that the Post will fund their participation. Reported consideration of additional travel assistance pending board review. Noted that all scholarship renewals were received and approved, with \$4,000 in unused funds to be evaluated for alternative uses, including support for camps or Avenue of Scholars.

Small Business: Veronica Doga: Reported an upcoming webinar to support Industry Day participants, including guidance on capability statements. Reported anticipated costs for a future Matchmaker event and coordination with the Treasurer to confirm budget allocation.

Other Items:

Member at Large: Roger Wozny: Reported that GEN David Hill will become the incoming SAME National Executive Director and noted that engagement during Industry Day may provide opportunities to promote Omaha as a future national conference host. Reported that Bobbi Jo Lang intends to run again for National Board of Directors next year.

Meeting adjourned by Chris Artz at 1:00 PM CT.

Minutes prepared by Chris Artz on May 7, 2026.