

SAME Omaha Post Monthly Meeting – June 4, 2026

Date: 4 June 2026

Time: 12:00 PM Central Time (CT)

Future Post Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, July 14, 2026 – USAF - Modern Drone Application - *Change of Officers* and potential *Post Awards Presentation*
- Tuesday, August 11, 2026 – Crossroads Development Presentation, Sam Howe, Josh Gorczynski, MCL Construction Business Development
- 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- COL Robert Newbauer 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 May 2026 meeting minutes were presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by Rob Hufford and seconded by Jill Zehr. The motion passed without objection.

Reports

President: COL Robert Newbauer: Discussed Post Leaders Workshop (PLW) attendance options and upcoming leadership transition. Thanked the team for support of the JETS conference and noted strong positive feedback from both government and industry participants.

Secretary: Chris Artz: Provided an update on PLW coordination and identified interested attendees including Ted Kocher, Laurie Smithers, COL Russell, and Matt Coan. Noted that Matt Coan's company will cover travel expenses. Coordination will continue pending national confirmation and board approval.

Treasurer: Brian Schuele: No Report.

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

VP for IGE: Bobbi Jo Lang: Membership increased to 642 total members, representing a gain of 29 members year-to-date.

VP for Resilience: Don Fucik: Nothing significant to report this month. Noted upcoming retirement ceremony scheduled for June 12 and requested updated contact information be shared. Recognized as the Omaha Post Golden Eagle award recipient.

VP for Professional Development and Personal Growth: Kandi Srb: Industry Day and JETS events were successful with strong participation. Encouraged members to complete the feedback survey. Confirmed CHI Health Center contract is secured for 2027 with dates held for 2028 and noted that advance payments are required approximately one year in advance.

VP for Leadership and Mentoring: Tom Svoboda: Reported that Tom Svoboda was unable to attend the meeting but provided updates via email.

The Newcomers Quarterly session is scheduled for Thursday, July 16 at the USACE Headquarters beginning at 4:00 PM, followed by a networking happy hour. Scholarship and camp updates were also provided, including funding adjustments and student participation.

Scholarships & Camps (Detailed Update)

Scholarship checks have been distributed to all renewing scholarship recipients and presented to new recipients. Two graduating students did not require a fifth year of funding, resulting in approximately \$4,000 of unused scholarship funds.

Three students from Millard were selected to attend the SAME STEM Camp in Hawaii. The original camps budget included \$1,600 to sponsor two campers. National has confirmed a \$400 fee per camper.

A request was made to reallocate \$1,400 of unused scholarship funds to the Camps budget line to support all three selected students and increase travel reimbursement to up to \$500 per student.

Chris Artz will serve as a mentor at the Hawaii SAME STEM Camp and requested the \$1,500 travel stipend. The board agreed to reimburse up to \$1,500 in travel and meal expenses.

Tom Svoboda will be presenting at the Avenue of Scholars summer program boot camp on June 16.

Past President: Stephanie Heibel: Continuing coordination for Industry Day leadership transition and onboarding of incoming co-chairs.

Director for Communications: Jill Zehr: Most JETS presentations and PDH documentation have been

uploaded. Coordinating with USACE Public Affairs to obtain photos for future communications and post updates.

Director for Awards and Recognition: Laurie Smithers: Award nomination email will be distributed this week. Scott Nall will attend the July meeting to support the change of officers and award presentations. Confirmed that the Golden Eagle award has been received.

Director for Student Chapters: Stephanie Ling: Reported via email that the MCC Student Chapter will elect officers for the 2026–2027 academic year during the summer.

Director for Young Members: Devin Mueller: Will assist with Programs Committee activities. Shared plans to pursue service in the Air National Guard.

Director for Fellows: Natasha Gromak: The Fellows Luncheon at JETS was successful and will be rebranded as the “Fellows and Fellows Candidate Luncheon” to increase inclusivity. A Fellows candidate webinar will be held by National on July 14. The 2026–2027 ballot will be distributed on June 15.

Directors for Student Mentoring: Anne Peterson with Bill Glismann: No report.

Committee Reports

Industry Day: Kandi Srb: Industry Day was successful and well received. A follow-up planning review meeting will be held to capture lessons learned, clarify roles, and improve execution for future events.

Programs: Ted Kocher: The July 14 meeting will feature a presentation on modern drone applications. Registration is open for July, August, and September programs. The 2026 program schedule is fully booked, and planning for 2027 will begin in the coming months.

Scholarships & Camps: Sean Bayer and Lannae Long: Student chapter scholarship applications are due in October, with submissions accepted now. Camp funding updates and scholarship reallocations were covered in the Leadership and Mentoring report.

Small Business: Veronica Doga: Industry Day workshop had approximately 30 attendees and strong engagement. CMMC and Project Spectrum generated significant discussion, highlighting a need for continued education and potential future programming.

New Business:

Post Leaders Workshop (PLW) Attendance

- Motion to support attendance for up to four Post members, pending national approval
- Post to cover additional registration and travel costs as required
- Matt Coan to self-fund travel
- Aaron Wilt identified as alternate if needed
- Motion: Bobbi Jo Lang
- Second: COL Robert J. Newbauer
- Result: Approved unanimously

Scholarships & Camps Funding Adjustment

- Agreed to reallocate approximately \$1,400 of unused scholarship funds to the Camps budget to support three Omaha students attending the SAME STEM Camp
- Funds will be used to cover national registration fees (\$400 per camper) and increase travel reimbursement up to approximately \$500 per student
- Approved reimbursement of up to \$1,500 in travel and meal expenses for Chris Artz to serve as a mentor at the Hawaii STEM Camp
- This adjustment falls within the existing Scholarships & Camps budget, and a separate motion was not required.

Other Items:

A high school student from Virginia expressed interest in supporting the Post remotely. Opportunities for

engagement and support tasks will be identified.

Meeting adjourned by COL Robert Newbauer at 12:48 PM CT.

Minutes prepared by Chris Artz on June 17, 2026.