

SAME Omaha Post Monthly Meeting – September 3, 2026

Date: 3 September 2026

Time: 12:00 PM Central Time (CT)

Future Post Meeting Dates

- 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- The meeting was called to order by Chris Artz at approximately 12:00 PM CT.

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum- Chris Artz conducted the roll call and quorum was confirmed.

☒ President: COL Mark Russell

☒ Secretary: Chris Artz

☒ Treasurer: Brian Schuele

☒ VP for Service Members and Veterans: Aaron Wilt

☒ 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 Rep: Stephanie Heibel

☒ Director for Communications: Jill Zehr

☒ Director for Awards and Recognition: Laurie Smithers

☒ Director for Student Chapters: Matt Coan

☒ 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: Ryan Watke

☐ Scholarships & Camps: Sean Bayer

☒ Small Business: Veronica Doga

☒ Roger Wozny

☒ Brec Wilshusen

☐ Chris Langan

Approval of Minutes – The August 2026 Board Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Gromak, Natasha made a motion to approve the minutes and Zehr, Jill seconded the motion. During discussion, Svoboda, Tom requested a revision clarifying that Rick Wice provided a shout-out to the Battle Buddy Program. Artz, Chris agreed to make the correction and redistribute the revised minutes.

Reports

President: COL Mark Russell: No Report.

Secretary: Chris Artz: Chris reported that SAME National responded to questions regarding financial signature authority and advised that Posts may either maintain a separate financial authority document or incorporate the authority into their bylaws. He noted that the current bylaws grant signature authority to the President and allow the authority to be delegated but do not specify the delegation process. Chris recommended documenting delegated authority in meeting minutes and establishing spending thresholds for board positions.

Chris also discussed the annual Board Planning Session and proposed October 21, 2026, as the meeting date. The session is expected to be held from approximately 8:00 a.m. to noon with both in-person and Teams participation available. Proposed agenda topics include bylaw updates, board position responsibilities, signature authority provisions, Post priorities, and discussion of future uses of Foundation funds. The Post investment account is approaching \$1 million, making long-term planning discussions increasingly important.

Treasurer: Brian Schuele: Brian reported that financial activity during the month was relatively limited. Significant expenditures included the Avenue Scholars contribution and previously approved sponsorships and camp support activities. He reported that the Post's investment account balance increased from approximately \$893,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year to approximately \$977,000 at the end of July, an increase of approximately \$85,000.

Brian reported that Industry Day exceeded its targeted net revenue goal of \$115,000 even after accounting for the planned payment to the Kansas City Post. Discussion followed regarding monthly program costs, budget performance, registration revenue, and anticipated increases in Field Club costs beginning in 2027. Board members agreed that registration pricing should be reviewed during the next annual budget process.

VP for Service Members and Veterans: Aaron Wilt: Aaron reported that he has continued outreach to veteran-support organizations previously engaged by the Post, including HETRA and Moving Veterans Forward. He is meeting with organizational leaders to identify opportunities for financial support, volunteer activities, and collaborative programming.

Aaron also reported on discussions regarding a potential Veterans Career Transition Workshop associated with the 2027 Industry Day. He recently met with leaders from the Texas and Southwest Career Transition Workshop to learn about their event structure and available National support resources. Lessons learned from their October event will help inform future planning for Omaha.

VP for IGE: Bobbi Jo Lang: Bobbi Jo reported that nearly 40 welcome letters were distributed to new members. Several recipients have already expressed interest in participating in the Member Engagement Program. She also reported that a volunteer is assisting with outreach to organizational members to gather content for member spotlights on LinkedIn, the Post website, and other communications channels.

VP for Resilience: Don Fucik: Don reported on his attendance at a July IAEM symposium in Omaha, where he met emergency management professionals from Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, and surrounding states. He discussed the mission of SAME and opportunities for collaboration.

Don is also coordinating discussions with emergency management personnel at the University of Nebraska at Omaha regarding resiliency initiatives and lessons learned from similar regional efforts. He additionally noted that the Philadelphia Post is planning a resilience symposium in November and that he is evaluating participation opportunities.

VP for Professional Development and Personal Growth: Kandi Srb: Kandi reported that Industry Day planning is progressing well under the leadership of Ryan Watzke and Ted Kocher. She is collecting event statistics and promotional information to support future marketing efforts and Save-the-Date communications. She is also coordinating with Ted Kocher regarding future program venues and facility arrangements.

Committee Reports

Industry Day: Ryan Watke and Kandi Srb: The Industry Day Committee continues refining budgets,

sponsorship opportunities, registration fees, and long-range planning efforts. Save-the-Date communications are expected to begin in November. The committee is also documenting processes and developing planning resources to support future event transitions. Several keynote speaker opportunities are being evaluated.

Programs: Ted Kocher: Ted reported that approximately 40 individuals were registered for the September 8 program on PFAS soil remediation. Program planning is complete for the remainder of 2026, and planning has begun for 2027 events. Field Club contract negotiations are nearing completion and dates are being reserved.

Ted also reported that a tour of the Omaha Streetcar Maintenance Facility is being planned for early November. The event is expected to include a facility tour, discussion of construction progress, and a networking happy hour. Attendance will likely be limited to approximately twelve participants.

VP for Leadership and Mentoring: Tom Svoboda: Tom reported that development of the second Member Engagement Program cohort is underway. Several additional members have expressed interest in participating. The first session is planned for October 8, 2026, at Big Grove Brewery prior to the fiscal year-end networking event.

Tom also reported that Avenue Scholars provided a thank-you note for the Post's recent \$5,000 contribution. Additional opportunities will be available this year for members to support Avenue Scholars through mock interviews and other mentoring activities.

Committee Reports

Scholarships & Camps: Sean Bayer: Tom Svoboda reported on behalf of Sean Bayer that the Student Chapter Scholarship application is open and applications are due October 31, 2026.

Past President Representative – Stephanie Heibel: Steph reported that she met with representatives from the Kansas City Post regarding Industry Day revenue distribution. Based on the existing Memorandum of Understanding and volunteer participation levels, it was agreed that the Kansas City Post will receive \$25,000 while the Omaha Post will retain the remaining balance above previously established thresholds. The total Industry Day proceeds were approximately \$150,000.

Director for Communications: Jill Zehr: Jill reported that all organizational member information on the Post website has been updated. Member spotlight content has been scheduled through the end of the year, and she will work with Colonel Russell to update the President's Message on the website. She also noted that the website will be updated to reflect Stephanie Heibel as Past President Representative.

Director for Awards and Recognition: Laurie Smithers: Laurie Smithers reported that Scott Nall's Regional Vice President Medal has been received. Plans are underway to present the award during the October 13 luncheon, pending coordination with the recipient.

Director for Student Chapters: Matt Coan: Matt reported that he is focusing on understanding the current status of student chapters and establishing relationships with chapter leadership. He has identified contacts at MCC and UNL and plans to meet with students during the September 18 resume workshop.

Matt reported that neither chapter is currently recognized as an official student organization by its institution. Achieving official recognition will be a priority to improve student outreach and recruitment. Additional focus areas include industry networking opportunities, mentoring, resume support, and increased student exposure to the A/E/C industry.

Matt proposed using available Student Chapter funds to sponsor student leaders to attend the Student and Young Member Leadership Workshop. Board members generally supported the concept and noted that it aligns with the intent of increasing student engagement. Matt also reported that he is exploring opportunities to collaborate with UNO and potentially engage Iowa State University students in future chapter activities.

Director for Young Members: Devin Mueller: Devin reported that no dates have been finalized for planned facility tours. He also asked questions regarding payment methods for future events, and the Treasurer

confirmed that all Post payments are currently issued by check.

Director for Fellows: Natasha Gromak: Natasha reported that work is underway to review and update board position descriptions. Tom Svoboda will distribute prior descriptions for review, and board members will be asked to update and refine them. The effort will support gap analysis discussions during the October Board Planning Session.

Natasha also discussed the need for a more transparent and structured annual nominations process. She volunteered to develop a draft schedule and proposed process for identifying future board and committee leaders. The proposal will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Directors for Student Mentoring: Anne Peterson with Bill Glismann: A report was submitted by Bill Glismann and Anne Peterson. The Student Mentoring Program Committee is scheduled to meet on September 10 to finalize planning efforts for the year. Teacher and mentor orientation will be held on September 24 at the Scott Conference Center. A field trip to the Luminarium is scheduled for November 9, and the annual competition will be held on April 15, 2027, at the Scott Conference Center.

The program currently has commitments from thirteen middle schools and nine high schools, with two additional high schools still considering participation. Volunteers are still needed to mentor several participating schools.

Middle Schools - 13

Committed:

Logan Fontenelle
Mission
Bluestem
Conestoga
King Science
LaVista
Liberty
Louisville
Papillion
Springfield Platteview
St. Gerald
St. John Paul II
St. Columbkille

High Schools - 9 Committed:

Bellevue East
Omaha Central
Duchesne
Gretna HS
Gretna East
Gross
Papio Lavista
Papio South
Westview

High Schools - 2 Still Deciding:

Bellevue West
St. John Paul II HS

If anyone is interested in mentoring a team this year or knows anyone that would be, please contact Nicole Hunter.

We need mentors at the following schools:
Louisville
St. Gerald
Bellevue East
Bellevue West - maybe
Gretna HS - maybe
St. John Paul II HS - maybe

Committee Reports

Small Business: Veronica Doga: Veronica Doga reported that the SAME Small Business Council will host a webinar on September 10 titled A Practical Guide to Winning Federal Contracts, and that she will serve as one of the presenters. She also reported that registration is open for the October Matchmaker Event and encouraged members to promote participation among both small businesses and prime contractors. The event is fully sponsored by SAME.

Veronica further reported that the SBA is considering revisions to small business size standards that could expand eligibility and allow larger firms to qualify as small businesses. She noted that these changes could negatively affect many current small businesses.

Action Items

- Chris Artz will distribute revised August meeting minutes incorporating corrections discussed during the meeting.
- Chris Artz will schedule the Board Planning Session for October 21, 2026.
- Tom Svoboda will distribute board position descriptions for review and update.

- Natasha Gromak will develop a draft nominations process and annual schedule.
- Brian Schuele will provide Industry Day financial information to Ryan Watzke for planning purposes.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:04 PM CT.

Minutes prepared by Chris Artz on Sept 3, 2026.



S.A.M.E. OMAHA POST INCOME STATEMENT

August 2026

Category	8/1/2026- 8/31/2026	OVERALL TOTAL
INCOME		
Treasurer	99.34	99.34
VP for Development and Growth		
Industry Day	1,709.41	1,709.41
Monthly Meeting Registrations	259.87	259.87
Scholarships - Split Kitty Sales	1,748.00	1,748.00
TOTAL VP for Development and Gro...	3,717.28	3,717.28
TOTAL INCOME	3,816.62	3,816.62
EXPENSES		
VP for Development and Growth_		
Monthly Programs	3,028.00	3,028.00
Scholarships and Camps	8,700.00	8,700.00
TOTAL VP for Development and Gro...	11,728.00	11,728.00
VP for Relationships_		
Director for Awards and Recognition	100.00	100.00
National SAME Event Support	822.85	822.85
TOTAL VP for Relationships_	922.85	922.85
VP for Young Members and Students		
Student Chapter	116.07	116.07
TOTAL VP for Young Members and ...	116.07	116.07
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,766.92	12,766.92
OVERALL TOTAL	-8,950.30	-8,950.30

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$111,201.03
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$988,918.00
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	\$553,000.00

S.A.M.E. OMAHA POST
 2026 BUDGET

As of 09/03/26

Category	Actual	2026 Budget	Difference
INCOME	432,093.79	372,100.00	59,993.79
Treasurer	1,045.90	100.00	945.90
VP for Development and Growth	422,830.14	360,000.00	62,830.14
Industry Day	408,710.58	315,000.00	93,710.58
Monthly Meeting Registrations	4,229.04	12,000.00	-7,770.96
Scholarships - Donations	8,092.52	1,000.00	7,092.52
Scholarships - Interest Income	0.00	30,000.00	-30,000.00
Scholarships - Split Kitty Sales	1,798.00	2,000.00	-202.00
Other VP for Development and Growth	0.00	0.00	0.00
VP for Leadership and Mentoring	2,916.00	5,000.00	-2,084.00
Fellows Coordinator	0.00	0.00	0.00
SMP Steering Committee	2,916.00	5,000.00	-2,084.00
Other VP for Leadership and Mentori...	0.00	0.00	0.00
VP for Relationships	5,301.75	7,000.00	-1,698.25
Annual Membership Dues	5,301.75	7,000.00	-1,698.25
Small Business Liason	0.00	0.00	0.00
Veterans Outreach	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other VP for Relationships	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES	354,296.56	371,145.00	16,848.44
Treasurer_	389.86	3,600.00	3,210.14
Misc. Expenses	389.86	3,600.00	3,210.14
Other Treasurer_	0.00	0.00	0.00
VP for Development and Growth_	300,101.60	269,200.00	-30,901.60
Industry Day	242,690.36	200,000.00	-42,690.36
Monthly Meeting Registrations	94.85	100.00	5.15
Monthly Programs	11,690.49	21,000.00	9,309.51
PDHs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scholarships and Camps	45,625.90	48,100.00	2,474.10
Other VP for Development and Grow...	0.00	0.00	0.00
VP for Leadership and Mentoring_	50,507.38	66,625.00	16,117.62
Fellows Coordinator	1,311.68	1,500.00	188.32
SMP Steering Committee	49,195.70	65,125.00	15,929.30
Other VP for Leadership and Mentori...	0.00	0.00	0.00
VP for Relationships_	1,997.04	19,920.00	17,922.96
Community Donations	250.00	3,500.00	3,250.00
Director for Awards and Recognition	100.00	970.00	870.00
Director for Black Hills Chapter	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Director for Communications	24.19	200.00	175.81
Engineering Roundtable and E-Week	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
National SAME Event Support	1,622.85	9,550.00	7,927.15
Public Agency Partnerships	0.00	500.00	500.00
Small Business Liason	0.00	500.00	500.00
Veteran Outreach - Comm. Involvem...	0.00	700.00	700.00
Other VP for Relationships_	0.00	0.00	0.00
VP for Resilience	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
Resiliency Expenses	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
Other VP for Resilience	0.00	0.00	0.00
VP for Young Members and Students	1,300.68	10,000.00	8,699.32
Student Chapter	1,064.94	7,500.00	6,435.06

SAME Budget (YTD) - 2026

1/1/2026 through 12/31/2026 Using SAME 2026 Budget

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Category	Actual	2026 Budget	Difference
Young Members	235.74	2,500.00	2,264.26
Other VP for Young Members and St...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Difference:	77,797.23	955.00	76,842.23