

# WORDPASSER

*Dedicated to the*



*National Defense*

December 2008

## Upcoming Events

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> – Annual Golf Tournament

Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Luncheon at  
HESS (Gary Garrett of  
HCFCD)

Jan 21<sup>st</sup> – Public Agency Dinner @  
Petroleum Club

*The Wordpasser is the official publication of the Houston/ Galveston Post of the Society of American Military Engineers. If you have an event or information that you would like to submit for publication, please email your submission, in Microsoft Word Format, to [ppuckett@coseng.com](mailto:ppuckett@coseng.com)*

*The Wordpasser is published monthly the first week of each month. **The submission deadline is the last working day of the month prior.***

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

December is here. The holiday season is upon us. . I hope everyone had a safe and thankful Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a time to remember what we are truly thankful for over the past year. This has been a very interesting year with numerous bumps along the way, but we always find a way through it. The Society should be thankful for having dedicated individuals to carry out the daily tasks that keep an organization such as this moving forward. Personally, I enjoy working with all of the Board and Committee Chairs and salute their efforts. As we look forward to next year we will select a slate for installation in June. If you are interested in becoming a Board member or Committee Chair please contact a Board member, or Mr. Lee Lennard, to express that interest

The November meeting was held at the Galveston offices of the US Army Corps of Engineers. This is an annual event in which the Corps hosts a meeting and presents a project or topic near and dear to their hearts. The Corps is always a gracious host and the meeting was well-attended. The Corps is the only Federal Public Agency member of the Houston / Galveston Post of SAME. It is a pleasure to make this annual trek and hear about what they have been up to lately. This presentation was on the disaster recovery efforts following Hurricane Ike. The Corps plays a major role in these events, as we all know, but it doesn't hurt to hear it directly from their management staff.

December began with our now Second Annual Ken Haveman Golf Tournament, in support of our Education and Mentoring Fund. It was a beautiful day and well attended event (considering the times). The food was good, the company was great and from what I could tell, everyone had a great time. One of the members of my foursome commented that he was told by his dad that golf was "for exercise and fellowship". I don't know that the exercise part is true anymore but the fellowship is dead on. The Tournament numbers are still being cranked and the results will be posted either later in this edition, or will appear in the next edition.

The December meeting features a speaker from the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD). Mr. Gary Garrett is the historian for the HCFCD and gives presentations around town at various events in which the HCFCD participates, to give a historical perspective on the relationship the HCFCD has with the organization. He has a light-hearted perspective and



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### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)**

is very entertaining. I believe Gary will present on the long relationship the HCFCD has had with the Corps of Engineers. This is a topic to which this post can easily relate.

The Community Programs committee has set a date for the annual Elves and More Bike Building event. This is a very worthwhile event that provides bikes to underprivileged children in the Houston area. Please look for more information later in the WordPasser, or go to our website.

The post will be sending out letters shortly for the Public Agency of the Year dinner. The dinner will be held on January 21, 2009 so please make your calendars. Watch for more information as it becomes available.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> but if I don't, I hope everyone has a safe and blessed holiday season.

Thank you.

Joseph (Joe) T. Myers, P.E  
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E-mail: [joe.myers@hcfcd.org](mailto:joe.myers@hcfcd.org)



**THE SAME HOUSTON/GALVESTON POST  
DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**DECEMBER 10, 2008**

**MR. GARY GARRETT  
HISTORIAN FOR THE HCFC**

**Wed., December 10th, 2008 at H.E.S.S.  
5430 Westheimer  
Social at 11:00 am  
Lunch at 11:30 am**

**Cost \$25 (RSVP by 5 pm Dec. 8th), \$35 at door  
\$35 Non-members with RSVP, \$45 at the door  
\$10 Public Agency Employees with RSVP;  
\$15 at the door**

**MEETING UNDERWRITERS**

***PEPE ENGINEERING***





### **PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: RAMON HERRERA

Phone: (832) 515-3461

Email: [rherrera@midtownengineers.com](mailto:rherrera@midtownengineers.com)

The November meeting was held hosted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Galveston District at the Galveston District headquarters. Our speaker was Gus Marinos, Galveston District Emergency Management Chief. Mr. Marinos gave the Post and meeting attendees an overview of the impacts of Hurricane Ike and the recovery progress made since the storm made landfall on the Gulf Coast. Many thanks to Gus Marinos, for speaking, and Wanda Hollman, for procuring the caterer and preparing the venue for the meeting. Finally, thank you to COL David Weston for having us; we look forward to another meeting with the Corps of Engineers in November 2009.

We are wrapping up the 2008 year with our final meeting on December 10 at HESS. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Gary Garrett, District Historian for the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD). Mr. Garrett will speak about the history of the HCFCD and the early years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Garrett holds an M.A. in American History from the University of South Florida and an M.A. in Southern History from Rice University. He is also a Ph.D. Candidate at Rice and expects to defend his dissertation, "The Origins of Flood Control in Harris County, Texas," in May 2009. Mr. Garrett has been employed as the District Historian at HCFCD for the past three years. Before coming to work at the District, he was Assistant Professor of History at Chowan College in North Carolina.

Keep your calendars up to date and take note of the upcoming meetings, topics and speakers for the next few months. As always, RSVP e-mails will be sent out to register for these meetings. If you missed the RSVP e-mail for some reason, you can always register for the meeting at our website [www.houstonsame.org](http://www.houstonsame.org)

Here is a peak at our 2009 General Membership calendar:

*January 21 – SAME Annual Public Agency Dinner (Petroleum Club)*

*February 28 – Post Monthly Meeting (NASA)*

*March 18 – Post Monthly Meeting (METRO)*

### **READINESS / HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

Chair: Darrin Willer

Phone: 281-931-2737

E-Mail: [dwiller@hntb.com](mailto:dwiller@hntb.com)

### **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: MARK METYKO, PE

Phone: (281) 556-1030

E-Mail: [mark.metyko@atser.com](mailto:mark.metyko@atser.com)

### **PUBLIC AGENCY MEMBER COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: ERIN GOING

Phone: (713) 869-3433

E-Mail: [EGoing@PateEng.com](mailto:EGoing@PateEng.com)

The SAME Public Agency, Infrastructure and Readiness Committees did not hold a meeting in November and will not hold a meeting in December due to the holidays. We have locked down our schedule for next year and will have this information in the January WordPasser.



### **TAMU CHAPTER**

PRESIDENT: CHRIS JORDAN

E-Mail: [csaforever87@tamu.edu](mailto:csaforever87@tamu.edu)

Howdy,

The 2008/2009 officers are:

President: Chris Jordan  
Vice President: Wes Fite

Secretary: Matt Whitaker  
Treasurer: Leif Lugosch

TAMU Student Chapter met on November 18, 2008; we had over 20 students meet with LT JG Nick Douglas, USN, Officer Programs Recruiter @ TAMU. LT JG Douglas presented numerous Officer Candidate Programs to our student membership. The programs in the NUPOC included Teaching, Reactor Engineering, Submarines, Carriers, and of course Civil Engineering. The students also discussed attendance at the National Student Leadership Workshop, February 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Mr. Barnes let them know two students would be sponsored by the Houston/Galveston Post and that he had contacted the San Antonio, Fort Worth and Dallas Posts to see if more students could be sponsored.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17th, 2009 the speaker will be from Cape Environmental, discussing their national practice, San Antonio projects and their support of SAME. The meeting will be held in the Corps of Cadets Museum building @ 7:30pm, with pizza and drinks for all attendees.

As always we invite the Houston/Galveston Post members to attend and meet members of the student chapter.

### **MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: BUDDY BARNES, P.E.

Phone: (713) 803-2114

E-Mail: [buddy.barnes@jacobs.com](mailto:buddy.barnes@jacobs.com)

The Houston/Galveston Post Education & Mentoring Fund Raffle, previously the Scholarship Raffle, began at the February meeting. **If you missed a chance to participate in 2007, have no fear; we are back in 2008 Contact Francisco Puentes with your donations.** Donations by Members and Sustaining Members are welcomed, desired and appreciated. This money helps subsidize the annual Post Scholarship awards to high school and college students, sending Texas A&M Chapter students to National and Regional meetings, sending future leaders to National leadership training events and sending students and mentors to SAME summer construction camps.

We are sending 2 students from our TAMU Student Chapter to the National SAME Student Leadership Workshop, February 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Los Angeles. The way we pay for these worthwhile events for our future leaders is thru the Education & Mentoring Fund; without your support of the raffles and golf tournament, we can not support these students and their development. **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR EDUCATION & MENTORING FUND RAISERS.**

Our National Fellows / Young Member call is planned for December with Bob Wolff, Executive Director, SAME the date is being set at this time. We try to make these calls "on point" and meet the YM needs; check the National web site and call in for the next one.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR 2008 RAFFLES- Contact Francisco Puentes with your donations.** Raffle prize donations are always appreciated. As a thank you for the donation, Sustaining Member firms will be offered time to give a brief, two minute speech about their firm before the drawing. Individual Members are welcome to donate prizes and will be recognized individually for their contribution. Please email Francisco Puentes, Post Secretary at [frpuentes@terracon.com](mailto:frpuentes@terracon.com) or call (832) 309-0932 if you would like to donate a raffle prize.



## **UNDERWRITING AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Contact: Erin Going  
Phone: (713) 869-3433  
[E-Mail: epg@binkleybarfield.com](mailto:epg@binkleybarfield.com)

### **HOUSTON / GALVESTON POST SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS UNDERWRITER AND WEBSITE SPONSOR SIGN UP**

1. A maximum of 5 Underwriters will be assigned per meeting and 1 Website Sponsor per meeting.
2. Underwriters for a given meeting will be selected on a first come first served basis, based on when this form is received by E-mail or Fax as noted below.
3. The amount to underwrite a meeting will be \$100.00/Underwriter/meeting; Website Sponsors will be \$200.00/Sponsor/meeting.
4. Please select a minimum of three choices for the meeting you would like to underwrite. We will endeavor to assign you to your first choice, but should that meeting be unavailable, we will use your priority list to make an assignment. Number your choices in order with "1" being your first choice.
5. Please note that speakers and dates are subject to change based on speaker availability.

Name of Firm: \_\_\_\_\_  
Point of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Amount Enclosed: (See #3 above) x \_\_\_\_\_ meetings = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tentative Program/Speaker</b>	<b>Priority (1,2,3....) for Underwriter</b>	<b>Priority (1,2,3...) for Website Sponsor</b>
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Luncheon Meeting		
Jan 21st	SAME Annual Public Agency Dinner		
Feb 28th	Post Monthly Meeting (NASA)		
Mar 18	Post Monthly Meeting (METRO)		

#### **TRANSMITTAL AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:**

E-mail or Fax your completed form to Pate Engineering at:  
E-mail: [EGoing@PateEng.com](mailto:EGoing@PateEng.com) Fax: 713-462-1631

Payment of the Underwriting/Website fee is due no later than the date of the meeting and should be mailed to: SAME, c/o Erin Going, Pate Engineering, 13333 Northwest Freeway, Suite 300, Houston, Texas 77040-6071



### **YOUNG MEMBERS**

CHAIR: COURTNEY BIRD, P.E.  
Phone: (713) 803-2120  
Email: [Courtney.Bird@jacobs.com](mailto:Courtney.Bird@jacobs.com)

### **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COMMITTEES**

CHAIR: ELIZABETH PARENT  
Phone: (713) 520-6320  
E-Mail: [Elizabeth.Parent@dannenbaum.com](mailto:Elizabeth.Parent@dannenbaum.com)

### **OCTOBER RECAP**

The community programs group was scheduled to host bingo at the VA Hospital in September. Unfortunately, Hurricane Ike hit on the same day! Thanks to all of you who volunteered. We will reschedule after the holidays!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



# Elves & More

Changing lives - one bike at a time!

**December 13<sup>th</sup>, 9am – Noon**  
**Reliant Center**

This is one of our most rewarding community programs. At the end of every year, we get together at Reliant and help Elves and More put together bikes for needy children. Or as Elves and More would say we "change lives - one bike at a time"

If the engineer in you can't resist the temptation to build, please sign up using the link below and select SAME as your group.

<https://secure.netministry.com/gateway/nmc/secureform.asp?forceministryid=60751&formid=3325>

All volunteers must register online and must bring a copy of their registration confirmation email to check in at the Bicycle Program.

Please shoot an email to [elizabeth.parent@dannenbaum.com](mailto:elizabeth.parent@dannenbaum.com) if you are planning on attending or if you have any questions!