

WORDPASSER

Dedicated to the



National Defense

February 2009

Upcoming Events

Feb 14th - MATHCOUNTS

Feb 25th – Post Monthly Meeting
Frank Wilson - METRO

Mar 18th – Post Monthly Meeting
(METRO)

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

*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

It is hard to believe it has been a year. The next six months will be a do-over. I would like to thank the entire Board and committee chairs throughout the Houston / Galveston Post that have worked so hard for the past 12 months. They have proven themselves to be excellent examples of leadership and professionalism and I look forward to working them to carry out the 2009 programs and initiatives.

The change in leadership would normally have occurred in January. However this year with the Post getting on the National Society calendar the change will occur in June. January instead had the 8th Annual Public Agency of the Year Banquet. This year we honored the City of Houston Department of Public Works. The evening was a huge success with representatives from many of our sustaining member public agencies. The representatives included the Directors from the City of Houston Department of Public Works, the Harris County Flood Control District and the Texas Department of Transportation District 12. The District Engineer of the Galveston US Army Corps of Engineers presented a lessons learned from Hurricane Ike and what to expect from the Federal government in the coming months. County Judge Ed Emmitt presented the City with the award. The award represents the City's role in the community as a leader and in the society as a vital partner. I want to congratulate the City on the recognition and thank their members for their individual leadership and participation.

The Mission of the Society of American Military Engineers is...

"To promote and facilitate engineering support for national security by developing and enhancing relationships and competencies among uniformed services, public and private sector engineers, and related professionals."

This puts us in a different category than most other societies. We combine education and learning with cooperation and business relationships. From the Education and Mentoring programs to Readiness we all work together for the interest of each other and the community at large and we recognize that everyone doesn't have to be an engineer to support engineering. The initiatives we will push for and the programs we will bring to the membership will fulfill our mission and the vision of the society.

The goals for this year are the same as last year. The Readiness and Homeland Security committee will have a workshop in the spring. Hurricane Ike taught us that we were not prepared for a hurricane of that magnitude and even if we thought we were we probably would not have been. Participation by sustaining members is vital to the success of the Post's Fast Start plan. Major emphasis will be to continue to make this plan the premier readiness tool for our community. The Educational and Mentoring Fund will need your support by participating in the General Meeting scholarship raffles and Annual Ken Haveman Scholarship Golf Tournament.



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The society will promote and build on the K to 12 national initiatives which are intended to promote engineering in school aged children. In addition to the need to promote engineering we need to promote good leadership. We will be sending society officers and young members to various leadership training conferences to increase our leadership abilities directly within the Society and indirectly within our engineering community. For this society to survive we must have good leadership. The young members of the society are our life line. We must be able to draw young members in and retain them for our future. We must be able to mentor these young people and provide them the tools to help themselves and thus the society.

The website will be constantly revisited and revised to better serve the members. Meeting notices and society news will utilize multiple sources to reach the members. I look forward to seeing each of you at our next monthly post meeting on February 27, 2008. The program was not identified by the time this edition of the WordPasser went to print. Cancellations and rescheduling conflicts are a way of life for a Program Chair. When the program is identified we will send out the notices. I apologize for this inconvenience but it will happen from time to time. I look forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

Joe Myers, P.E.
Phone: (713)684-4064 Fax: (713)684-412
E-mail: joe.myers@hcfcd.org

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Mr. Frank J. Wilson
METRO President & CEO.**

Wed., February 25th, 2009 at H.E.S.S.

5430 Westheimer

Social at 11:00 am

Lunch at 11:30 am

**Cost \$25 (RSVP by 5 pm Feb 23rd), \$35 at door
\$35 Non-members with RSVP, \$45 at the door
\$10 Public Agency Employees with RSVP;
\$15 at the door**



PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: RAMON HERRERA

Phone: (832) 515-3461

Email: rherrera@midtownengineers.com

In January, the Houston/Galveston Post of Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) hosted the 8th Annual Public Agency Awards Banquet on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at the Petroleum Club of Houston. This year's award recipient was the City of Houston (COH) Department of Public Works and Engineering. Harris County Judge Ed Emmett presented the award to Michael Marcotte (Director of Public Works and Engineering). In addition, we recognized our Young Member of the Year Kristin White, P.E. Our speaker for the evening was COL David Weston, District Engineer and Commanding Officer of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District. Thank you for all of the firms who sponsored tables and to all of the public agency guests who were in attendance that evening.



Our February monthly meeting will be on February 25 at the HESS Club. The speaker will be Frank Wilson with METRO.. The e-mail RSVP will be sent out as soon as possible this week. 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

Here is a peak at our 2009 General Membership calendar:

- *February 25 – Post Monthly Meeting (Frank Wilson - METRO)*
- *March 18 – Post Monthly Meeting (TBD)*



SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

CHAIR: Tod Henning P.E.
Phone: (713) 832-498-7003

E-Mail: tod.henning@h2bengineers.com

You are cordially invited to attend.

08:00 a.m. to 10:30a.m.

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Houston Community College System

3100 Main Street @ Elgin

2nd Floor Auditorium

Houston, TX 77002

Speakers: Houston Community College System (HCCS)

Houston Independent School District (HISD)

Midtown Redevelopment Authority

Admission: \$5.00

Please RSVP by replying to: lzeng@gacompanies.com or www.houstonbiz.org.

TAMU CHAPTER

PRESIDENT: CHRIS JORDAN

E-Mail: 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 is back from Christmas Break. Thanks to the Houston/Galveston Post and San Antonio Post we are sending 4 students to the National Student Leadership Workshop, February 11th & 12th, 2009. We will report on the meeting at our February Student Chapter meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17th, 2009 the speaker will be Troy Blackmon, project manager from Cape Environmental, discussing their national practice, San Antonio projects and their support of SAME. The meeting will be held in the Dashiell Room, 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

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 2008, have no fear; we are back in 2009 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 and San Antonio Post is sending 2 students from our TAMU Student Chapter to the National SAME Student Leadership Workshop, February 11th & 12th, 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 February with Jane Penny, P.E., FSAME, Senior Vice President, Federal Programs, AECOM; 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.

It is time to have your dependents and SAME student members to apply for our Post Scholarship. The application is now on the web site and the submittal date is June 8, 2009.

It is also time to get High School sophomores and juniors to apply for SAME Engineering & Construction Summer Camps. The camp information is found on the SAME site: www.same.org/camps/2009. The Air Force Academy camp applications are due: April 24, 2009 and Seabee and U. S. Army camp applications due: May 15, 2009. We sent students to both the Seabee and Air Force Camps last year and they really learned a lot.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR 2009 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 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: _____
Firm Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$200.00/meeting X _____ meetings = \$ _____

Date	Program/Speaker	Priority (1,2,3....) for Underwriter	Priority (1,2,3....) for Website Sponsor
01-21-08	Annual Public Agency Dinner		
02-25-08	TBD		
03-18-08	METRO		
04-15-08	Readiness Meeting		
05-20-08	Transportation Issues		
06-17-08	Annual Installation Banquet		
07-15-08	Annual Scholarship Luncheon		
08-19-08	Texas Board of Professional Engineers		
09-16-08	Young Members Meeting		
10-21-08	Joint Society Dinner Meeting		
11-18-08	Galveston District Issues		
12-16-08	Holiday Meeting		

TRANSMITTAL AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

E-mail or Fax your completed form to Pate Engineers, Inc. at:

E-mail: egoing@pateeng.com Fax: 713-462-1631

Payment of the Underwriting/Website fee is due by not later than the date of the meeting and should be mailed to:

SAME
Pate Engineers, Inc.
13333 Northwest Freeway, Suite 300
Houston, TX 77040



YOUNG MEMBERS

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

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COMMITTEES

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

DECEMBER RECAP

The Community Programs group volunteered at Elves 'n More putting bikes together for kids in need. We had a great turn out, and can't wait for next year! Thanks to all who attended.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Community Programs Group will be volunteering again this year at the annual **MATHCOUNTS** competition on Saturday, February 14th.

This is a junior high level math competition sponsored by TSPE. They need volunteers to grade exams, serve lunch and pass out awards. If you have never been, then you should come out and see the countdown round. These students have worked so hard and usually can out-calculate most of the engineers in the crowd. Their speed and accuracy are so impressive. **So please volunteer!**

There are multiple time slots. Please call or email elizabeth.parent@dannenbaum.com 713-527-6320 for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Isaac M. Abouafia
Phone: 713-585-7008
E-Mail: isaac.abouafia@mecx.net

The following is the anticipated schedule for the environmental committee meeting for 2009. As you will see, most of the speakers are still "TBD," but there is a plan for the topics. All meetings are anticipated to be lunch meetings at HESS, with the exception of the July meeting which will likely be held at Brady's Landing.

March 12, 2009	Metro Transit Authority Environmental Program (Speaker TBD)
April 9, 2009	Regulatory Update - Wetlands (Speaker TBD)
July 8, 2009	Regulatory Update - TCEQ (Joint society meeting with TAEP)
Sept 10, 2009	Carbon Credit Trading (Speaker TBD)
Nov 12, 2009	TBD

Our "standard" date is the second Thursday, as TAEP meets the second Wednesday of each month.



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)

We did not have a meeting in January and will have a joint committee meeting in February. We are inviting speakers from IKE devastated coastal communities for an update on the clean up and what is next.

We will meet at Hess on the 4th Tuesday at lunch. An RSVP will come out about a week before the event.

PUBLIC AGENCY/ INFRASTRUCTURE / READINESS JOINT MEETINGS 2009

February

22nd City of Galveston or City of Kemah (TBD)

March

24th METRO (TBD)

April

15th No Meeting (Readiness Workshop)
22nd Port of Houston (Infrastructure)

May

25th Harris County Toll Road Authority (Peter Key)

June

17th No Meeting (Annual Installation Banquet)

July

27th No Meeting (Summer Break)

August

25th Fort Bend County (Judge Hebert)

September

22nd Business Meeting (Public Agency)
23rd Brazoria County (infrastructure)

October

27th Gulf Coast Freight Rail District (Mark Ellis)

November

24th TBD (Infrastructure)

December

16th No Meeting (Holiday Party)



READINESS / HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Chair: Darrin Willer
Phone: 281-931-2737
[E-Mail: dwiller@hntb.com](mailto:dwiller@hntb.com)

JANUARY MEETING:

The Readiness/Homeland Security Committee held the 2009 Planning Meeting on Monday, January 27th, 2009. Discussions centered on available committee positions, the upcoming Texas Hurricane Conference in San Antonio, Regional Fast-Start Plan update, upcoming streamer submittal and upcoming meetings.

Franz Schmidt, San Antonio Post Readiness Chair and Andrew Cueto, Tulsa Post Readiness Chair attended via teleconference.

The highlight of the meeting was introducing our new Readiness/Homeland Security Chair - Esmeralda Valague.

A few of Esmeralda's qualifications:



- Master's Degree in International Relations/National Security from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas
- Flotilla Staff Officer – Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (Flotilla 612)
- Nominated for Unit Commendation for Hurricane IKE response force
- Community Emergency Response Team/Harris County Citizens Corps (CERT)
- Houston World Affairs Council
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services Northwest Quadrant (KE5YFH)
- Former exercise design volunteer, Houston Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

I will continue to serve in the Director role supporting Esmeralda as she leads the committee to the next level. Welcome aboard Esmeralda!

Another highlight of the meeting was the selection of Peter Borsack, P.E. as Fast Start Co-Chair. Peter and Bill Pugh were the original founders of the Houston/Galveston Post Fast Start Plan and helped me through the challenging web-based conversion over the past few years. Thanks to Peter for continuing to help Regionalize the Plan.

FEBRUARY MEETING:

We will continue in 2009 our effective practice of combining meetings with the Public Agency and Infrastructure Committees.

Please see the Infrastructure Committee update for details on the February meeting with the City of Galveston.



FUTURE MEETINGS:



The Committee, in conjunction with the San Antonio, Ft. Worth, and Tulsa Posts, will host a booth at the Texas Hurricane/Homeland Security Combined Conference on March 20-22, 2008 in San Antonio. We hosted a booth at the 2008 conference in Galveston and received many visits from our Public Agency members and government officials. Focus will be on marketing how the web-based Regional Fast-Start plan ties to the State's Texas Regional Response Network (TRRN) and the benefit it provides to the agencies.

http://ftp.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/conference/2009_secure/conf_registration.pdf

Date	Meeting/Location	Time	Speaker
January 27	Business Meeting/Houston TranStar	11:30AM-1:00PM	Darrin Willer, PE Director and Chair
February 22	City of Galveston*	11:30AM-1:00PM	TBD
March 23-26	Texas Hurricane/Homeland Security Conference, Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center San Antonio, Texas	11:30AM-1:00PM	None. Committee presenting Web-based Fast Start Plan tie to TRRN at Conference
April 15	Annual Workshop/Training HESS	9:00 AM-1:00PM	Judge Ed Emmett (invited)
May 25	Annual Workshop/Training	11:30AM-1:00PM	Peter Key, Deputy Director
June 17	No Meeting Annual Installation Banquet	No Meeting	*****
July 23	City of Houston*	11:30AM-1:00PM	Reid Mrsny, PE
August 25	Fort Bend County*	11:30AM-1:00PM	Judge Hebert
September 23	Brazoria County*	11:30AM-1:00PM	
October 27	Gulf Coast Freight Rail (GCFRD)	11:30AM-1:00PM	Mark Ellis
November 18	Annual USACE Galveston Meeting in Galveston	11:30AM-1:00PM	COL Weston
December	No Meeting	*****	*****

* Joint Meeting with Infrastructure & Public Agency Committees. All joint meetings will be held at the HESS Club unless otherwise noted.


FAST START PLAN:

We are continuing to add new Posts and their local firms to the Regional Fast Start Plan. The San Antonio and Fort Worth Posts have been actively participating since last year and now the Tulsa Post is on board. now entering their respective firms into the Houston Post managed database so that we have one quarterly upload to the Texas Regional Response Network (TRRN).

Please sign on to the Fast Start Plan webpage for more details on the plan and how to enter your firm's response capabilities: <http://www.houstonsame.org/faststart/>





If you have any issues entering your firm's response capabilities, please contact the Post Deputy Chair Peter Borsack, P.E. at pborsack@cobfen.com or me, Darrin Willer, P.E. at dwiller@hntb.com.



RESPONSE RESOURCES


through the

TEXAS REGIONAL RESPONSE NETWORK (TRRN)



SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS

Formed "in the interest of National Defense... bringing together all phases of U.S. engineering, [in both the] civil sector and military, for the advancement of knowledge...and the rapid mobilization of engineering capabilities." - The Charter of the Society of American Military Engineers, founded in 1920.



SAME is the premier professional engineering association in the United States for connecting architects, engineers and builders in the public sector and private industry, uniting them to improve individual and collective capabilities for national security. Our goal is to unite A/E/C entities and individuals in the public and private sector so that we can prepare for – and overcome – natural and manmade disasters, acts of terrorism and improve security at home and abroad. (<http://www.same.org>)

Sustaining member firms from SAME's Houston, Fort Worth, and San Antonio Posts have all entered their capabilities into the TRRN database. These resources range from engineering services in support of Public Works requirements to equipment and other resources.

TEXAS REGIONAL RESPONSE NETWORK (TRRN)

TRRN is a web-based application developed by the Texas Forest Service for the Governor's Division of Emergency Management. The purpose of TRRN is to aid in response and planning efforts by allowing system users to access resource information. Basically, it is an electronic inventory system for available resources and equipment for use by emergency management organizations throughout Texas.

Apply on-line for system access at <https://www.trrn.state.tx.us>

SAME READINESS & HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

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Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers
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Paul.D.Krebs@usace.army.mil

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
CHAIR: GLENN CARLSON, P.E.
Phone: (713) 869-3433
E-Mail: gac@binkleybarfield.com

From ECH, a "heads up" about their upcoming Science and Engineering Fair.

One of the most valuable annual opportunities for educational outreach is the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH). Greater Houston holds one of the best science fairs in the country. The SEFH gives students a chance to learn about the scientific method and the steps involved in an actual science project. Furthermore, it gives future scientists, technicians, and engineers a feel for where their skills and talents might fit in future employment. Check out the extensive SEFH web site at www.sefh.org or <http://hunstem.uhd.edu/sefh>.

The Science and Engineering Fair of Houston will be held at the Brown Convention Center on March 12 - 14, 2009. The judging will occur on Friday, March 13. This will be the 50th anniversary of the SEFH, and they hope to use it as the occasion for an upward step change in the SEFH.