

WORDPASSER

Dedicated to the



National Defense

January 2009

Upcoming Events

- Jan 21st – Annual Public Agency Award
Dinner – Petroleum Club
- Feb 28th – Post Monthly Meeting
(NASA)
- 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

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year. This is the time of year we typically reflect on what we have done and what we want to do. This past year had its ups and downs but, all in all, it was a good year. This coming year is full of potential. Ramon Herrera has planned a full year of meetings and events that will be beneficial to the Post members. The year will begin with honoring the City of Houston as the Public Agency of the Year. Having just lived through the biggest hurricane to hit the upper Texas coast in some time it would be easy to name several agencies for their work and dedication in the effort to recover from the hurricane. But the award is for **the**, singular, Public Agency so we have picked the City of Houston for the leadership they have shown this past year and for their very active participation in this Post. Personally I would like to thank all of the public agencies that participate in this Post without which we would not be as strong as we are.

We will take another stab at a Wetlands Workshop. The format may change but, with ever changing environmental rules and regulations, it is in everyone's best interest to stay on top of the issues. With the hurricane came a realization that the region we live and work in is not as prepared as it should be for such an event. Therefore, there is a need for a Readiness Workshop as well. Both of these events will be in the spring. Look in this issue of the WordPasser, or on our website, for more information. The monthly General Membership meetings should provide the members with valuable information from area leaders regarding the major issues that control our daily lives. As always, infrastructure will be the name of the game, so we are aiming to provide as much information on what will be happening in the near future.

My 18-month stint as president will end this June. Lee Lennard will take over at that time and finish out this year. A year and half seems like an eternity when it begins but really goes by fast. So far so good; I encourage anyone that would like to become a member of the Board to contact Lee and express their interest. The Post is in good shape financially. We made a few changes this year for the better that will set us to be in a better position as we move forward. I want to thank Katherine Mears for her service and dedication this past year. She has stepped down as Treasurer to take on a new role in another society. She has promised to remain active in this Post, just not as a Board Member. I wish her luck in her new duties. Robert Settle has stepped into the role of Treasurer.

Since the last issue of the WordPasser, we had a very entertaining presentation by Mr. Gary Garrett of the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD). Gary is the HCFCD resident historian. His Bio can read in last month's WordPasser. Gary gave an overview of the history of the relationship between Harris County, the City of Houston and the US Army Corps of Engineers. If you were not there you missed a very good and enlightening presentation.

I am very excited about starting a new year. I look forward to the challenges this year will bring and I hope to see more members at the meetings. Please contact Ramon regarding the Public Agency of the Year Banquet. I hope to see everyone there.

Happy New Year.

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



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THE SAME HOUSTON/GALVESTON POST

8TH ANNUAL

PUBLIC AGENCY AWARDS BANQUET

2009

PUBLIC AGENCY OF THE YEAR

AWARD BANQUET

January 21, 2009

Guest Speaker: Colonel David Weston
District Engineer and Commanding Officer
USACE Galveston District

Petroleum Club of Houston
Exxon Mobil Building – 43rd Floor
800 Bell Ave. 77002

6:00 pm Reception
7:00 pm Dinner

*See details regarding registration in the flyer at the end of
the WordPasser*



PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: RAMON HERRERA

Phone: (832) 515-3461

Email: rherrera@midtownengineers.com

For the December meeting, we had an interesting presentation by Mr. Gary Garrett, District Historian for the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD). Mr. Garrett gave an informative and at times, entertaining history of the District and the early years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It was interesting to hear how flood control policy was developed in the early years of the District and how it has shaped Houston to this very day. Some of the audience even requested a copy of the presentation. Thanks again to Mr. Garrett for his time and efforts.

In January, the Houston/Galveston Post of Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) invites you to the 8th Annual Public Agency Awards Banquet on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at the Petroleum Club of Houston. This year's award recipient is the City of Houston Department of Public Works and Engineering. Our speaker for the evening is COL David Weston, District Engineer and Commanding Officer of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District.

Public agency officials that will be in attendance (confirmed to date):

- **Delvin Dennis (TxDOT)**
- **Gabe Johnson (TxDOT)**
- **Michael Marcotte (City of Houston)**
- **Peter Key (HCTRA)**
- **Judge Ed Emmett (Harris County)**
- **COL David Weston (US Army Corps of Engineers)**
- **Tom Kornegay (Port of Houston Authority)**

We welcome all public agency employees, as they will be recognized for their service and efforts. Public agency employees are invited to attend at no charge, and will be seated by the Post.

For non-public agency attendees, you may reserve at table for eight (8) in advance for \$850. The Post will reserve two (2) of the 8 seats for public agency employees. Please reserve your tables by completing the attached PDF registration form and submitting it per the written instructions.

Social 6:00 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

COST: \$850 per table; \$110 for individual seat

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:

- *January 21 – SAME Annual Public Agency Dinner (Petroleum Club)*
- *February 28 – Post Monthly Meeting (NASA)*
- *March 18 – Post Monthly Meeting (METRO)*



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, Earth Tech; 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.

The Houston/Galveston Post, 2nd Annual Kenneth J. Haveman Scholarship Golf Tournament occurred December 2, 2008 at Memorial Golf Course; the weather was great and we had a super time. Please make plans to sponsor and attend at the 3rd Annual in December 2009.

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 or call (832) 309-0932 if you would like to donate a raffle prize.

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 took off for finals in December. 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 next Student Chapter meeting.

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.



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	NASA		
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



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)

PUBLIC AGENCY/ INFRASTRUCTURE / READINESS JOINT MEETINGS 2009

January

27th No Meeting (Annual Public Agency Dinner)
22nd San Jacinto River Authority (Infrastructure)

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)

The Society of American Military Engineers



HOUSTON/GALVESTON POST

Post President Joe Myers, P.E.
along with our Executive Board of Officers and Directors
invite you to our

8th ANNUAL PUBLIC AGENCY AWARDS BANQUET

Petroleum Club of Houston

ExxonMobil Building – 43rd floor
800 Bell Avenue – 77002

January 21, 2009

6:00 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Dinner

**KEY NOTE SPEAKER: COLONEL DAVID WESTON
DISTRICT ENGINEER AND COMMANDING OFFICER
USACE, GALVESTON DISTRICT**

PUBLIC AGENCY OF THE YEAR

City of Houston Department of Public Works and Engineering – 2008

RECOGNITION OF PAST RECIPEINTS:

USACE, Galveston District – 2007

Harris County Flood Control District – 2006

Harris County Office of Emergency Management – 2005

City of Missouri City – 2004

METRO – 2003

Harris County Public Infrastructure – 2002

City of Houston Department of Public Works and Engineering – 2001

Music by Jazz Quartet

~ Cocktail Dress/Business Attire ~

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Tables seating eight (8) can be purchased in advance for \$850. The table will be reserved and your company's name will be displayed prominently in the center of the table. The Post will reserve two (2) of the 8 seats to seat public agency members. Individual seating is also available in advance at \$110 per seat. Public Agency members will be invited to attend at no charge, and will be seated at sponsored tables by the Post.

Sponsor Table and Individual Tickets Sales

Table at \$850 _____ Individual Ticket @ \$110 ea. No. Of tickets _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Registration Information:

Name: _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Attendees:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

Mail Check Payable to **SAME** and mail or fax registration Form to:

Mr. Ramon Herrera
Midtown Engineers, LLC
5225 Katy Freeway, Suite 400
Houston, Texas 77007
Office: (713) 862-8848
Fax: (713) 862-8840

If you have any questions, please contact Ramon Herrera at (713) 862-8848 or e-mail at rherrera@midtownengineers.com

PUBLIC AGENCY EMPLOYEE REGISTRATION

Public Agency employees are invited to attend at no charge, and will be seated by the Post. Public Agency employees accepting our invitation to attend should fill in this registration form and return it to SAME. Please mail, fax or email as shown above:

Public Agency Employee Registration (free)

Registration Information:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Guest: _____ E-mail: _____

Organization: _____ Work Phone: _____