

# WORDPASSER

*Dedicated to the*



*National Defense*

June 2009

## Upcoming Events

June 17<sup>th</sup> – Annual Installation Banquet  
Speaker: Jim McIngvale

July 15<sup>th</sup> – Annual Scholarship Luncheon  
with APWA

*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)*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In June issue of the WordPasser last year I reported that the Board would normally be halfway through the year. We weren't, of course, since we were getting on the National calendar and needed to complete a one-and-a-half year term to accomplish that feat. I, for one, can't believe it is about over. The June meeting this year is our Installation Banquet. Lee Lennard will be taking over the reins of the organization with the help of a very capable board. The Banquet is on June 17 at 6 PM at the Petroleum Club. I hope that all of the Sustaining Member firms decide to participate in this event to show the Society and Lee that there is tremendous support for what the Society stands for and accomplishes every year. Ramon Herrera has done a fantastic job over the past 18 months and this will be his swan song as Program Chair. I hope you will contact Ramon and reserve your spot at the Banquet.

I also reported last year that we get a 6 month do-over. The first 6 months of the year are always the busiest. I think it went pretty well with plenty of educational functions and recognition of students in various capacities. The Houston / Galveston Post was successful in sponsoring a student to a Engineering & Construction camp this summer. Mr. James T. Bonorden will be attending the U. S. Air Force Academy camp in Colorado Springs. We have agreed to sponsor two other students for the Seabee camp in California but at this writing we have not heard if the students will be accepted. If they are accepted we will report on who they are in the next WordPasser. All of the young men and women selected for these camps look forward to attending these camps.

The May general membership meeting was informative with Mr. Michael D. Talbott, P.E. of the Harris County Flood Control District presenting. Mr. Talbott gave an overview of the District's operations and some of the major issues facing the District today. This was the third presentation in a row from a leader in the public infrastructure arena. As with the previous presentations there was good news and bad news. The good news was that the District has requested significant funding for the coming years to address the drainage issues of Harris County. The bad news is that it hasn't been provided for yet and it is unknown when the funding might be forthcoming. Times are hard for everyone and all agencies. Let us all hope that the rough spot is short and we stay strong as individuals and as a society.

Speaking of issues facing the Society, we need all of the sustaining member firms and individual members to save the date of **December 7, 2009 for the Annual Ken Haveman Golf Tournament**. It will be held this year at Timbercreek Golf Course in Friendswood. This is the main event for our Education and Mentoring Fund Scholarships. We really need your support and hope that budgets are not so tight that participation suffers. Please contact Mr. Tom Martens for more details or go to the website at [www.houstonsame.org](http://www.houstonsame.org).



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The June general membership meeting is our annual Installation Banquet and will feature Mr. Jim McIngvale. Mr. McIngvale (also known as "Mattress Mack") is well known in the community for the business he has built as well as his generosity. His story and his life are inspirational and entertaining. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Joe Myers, P.E  
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**JUNE MONTHLY POST MEETING**

**Annual Awards  
and Officer Installation Dinner  
June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Petroleum Club (ExxonMobil Building - 43rd Floor)  
6:00 PM - Reception  
7:00 PM - Dinner & Program**

**SEE Pg 3, PROGRAM REPORT  
FOR INFORMATION ON RESERVATIONS**

**WEBSITE SPONSOR:**



***Please consider sponsoring a meeting, or our website,  
to see your company name highlighted here!!***



## **PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: RAMON HERRERA

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At our May meeting, our keynote speaker was Mr. Mike Talbott, Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Director. Mr. Talbott provided a very interesting and thorough overview of the District and gave us an update on current projects and upcoming projects. Many thanks to Mr. Talbott for taking time out of his busy schedule, and we hope to have him back for another speaking engagement at a later date.

**June 17 is our Annual Awards and Officer Installation Dinner.** Our keynote speaker will be Mr. Jim McIngvale (Gallery Furniture), who will no doubt give a very intriguing and motivational speech to kick off our new year. Regional Vice President (TEXOMA Region) Mr. Glen Turney will be installing our new officers and directors. In addition, we expect many public agency guests to be in attendance, so it should be a great networking event. Tables seating eight (8) can be reserved for \$800. 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 at \$100 per seat. Public agency employees are invited to attend at no charge. To RSVP, please contact Ramon Herrera at [rherrera@midtownengineers.com](mailto:rherrera@midtownengineers.com)

Beginning in July, Darrin Willer will be the new Programs Chairman and will continue our 2009 General Meeting calendar. Thanks to everyone who has helped with Programs in the last 18 months, and we will continue to bring interesting and valuable speakers to the Houston-Galveston Post monthly meetings.

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)

## **2009 GENERAL MEETING CALENDAR**

*June 17 – Annual Installation Banquet (Speaker: Jim McIngvale – Gallery Furniture)*

*July 15 – Annual Scholarship Luncheon with APWA (Speaker: Michael Marcotte – City of Houston  
Director of Public Works and Engineering)*

*August 26 – Ethics Luncheon (Texas Board of Professional Engineers – Executive Director Dale  
Beebe-Farrow, P.E.)*

*September 16 – Young Members Meeting at the University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering*

*October 21 - Joint Societies Meeting*

*November 18 – US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Galveston District Meeting*

*December 16 – Holiday Meeting*



## **AWARDS PRESENTATIONS** (submitted by Paul Marshall)

On April 22 at 9am, under a clear, blue sky Prairie View A&M conducted the twentieth annual Army/Navy Joint Spring Award Ceremony. As one of almost 30 presenters, the Houston/Galveston Post of the Society of American Military Engineers was pleased to present two awards. The Awards were a year's membership in SAME, a check for \$50.00 and a plaque from the Post.

Receiving the Awards were Army Cadet Regina Clark and Navy Midshipman Ural Thompson, III. Cadet Clark will be commissioned at a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and she will attend the Nurse Officer Basic Course in San Antonio. Midshipman Thompson will be commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy and will attend Surface Warfare School in Newport, R.I. Midshipman Thompson is an Electrical Engineering graduate and hopes to become an Electrical Officer aboard a Navy Combatant Ship.



The Awards are presented to the graduating cadet and midshipman who has chosen to pursue a demanding career encompassing both military service, engineering and related fields of service.

The awards were presented by SAME Fellow Capt. Paul Marshall, USNR (Retired). Following the Pass-in-Review Parade by both Army and Navy units, a reception was held in the ROTC buildings at Prairie View.



Another presentation of awards was made at Rice University by Darrin Willer.

On the following page is a copy of a letter of thanks received from the Navy ROTC Combined program for Prairie View A&M and Rice Universities.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS UNIT  
HOUSTON CONSORTIUM  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77005-1892

Mr. Joseph Myers, P.E.  
Houston Society of Military Engineers  
9900 N. W. Freeway  
Houston, TX 77092

On behalf of the entire Navy ROTC Unit, Houston Consortium staff, I extend my gratitude for your support of the NROTC Awards Ceremony(s). It is because of your generosity that we have such dedicated midshipmen working so diligently to achieve greatness. The selfless efforts of our midshipmen make this unit strong. You play a crucial role in helping us to develop outstanding future leaders.

These future leaders face an uncertain and challenging environment, one which will perpetually ask them to call upon their mental and physical development for success. Your support is crucial in this development. Providing exceptional future Naval and Marine Corps Officers with well-deserved laurels not only rewards them for their perseverance, but also reinforces the dedication to a job well done. For your critical assistance in the development of these outstanding young men and women, we are truly grateful.

We hope you will be with us next year when we honor a new generation of deserving midshipmen. Rest assured the hard work of next year's recipients will be just as fruitful as this year's group. Thank you again.

  
DAVE A. MURRAY



### **MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: BUDDY BARNES, P.E.

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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. Thus far our raffle items have been few and far between; please help us raise money for our students.** 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.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR EDUCATION & MENTORING FUND RAISERS. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ken Haveman Scholarship Golf Tournament will be December 7, 2009; please consider sponsoring for this event.**

Our next National Fellows / Young Member call is being planned for June 2009, with Karin Lynn, P.E., FSAME, this years recipient of the Mentoring Award, this is a great call to be a part of and Karin has years of experience which she can share with you. 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.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:csaforever87@tamu.edu)

Howdy,

**The 2009/2010 officers are:**

**President:** Logan Roth

**Vice President:** Kirra Brooks

**Secretary:** Matt Whitaker

**Treasurer:** Brian Anderson

TAMU Student Chapter had a great year. We sent 4 students to the National Student Leadership Workshop, thanks to the Houston/Galveston Post and San Antonio Post. We had a great time, met a lot of SAME Leaders and as you would expect, we were the best represented Student Chapter at the meeting. We had six excellent meetings with interesting speakers and on April 20<sup>th</sup> we had our elections for 2009/2010 officers.

Logan Roth will be taking over as President; I hope to be graduating in December, but will be very involved until I depart. We continue to have about twenty students attend our meetings and we hope to continue growing next year.

**Finals are over and we are out of here. See you in September.**

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  
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E-Mail: [erin\\_going@yahoo.com](mailto:erin_going@yahoo.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 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Date</b>	<b>Program/Speaker</b>	<b>Priority (1,2,3....) for Underwriter</b>	<b>Priority (1,2,3...) for Website Sponsor</b>
06-17-08	Annual Installation Banquet		<b>Full</b>
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 your completed form to Erin Going at [erin\\_going@yahoo.com](mailto:erin_going@yahoo.com)

Please contact Erin regarding payment of the underwriting fee by Emailing her at the above address or by phoning her at (832) 656-0177



### **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: MARK METYKO, PE

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### **PUBLIC AGENCY MEMBER COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: ERIN GOING

Phone: (713) 684-4224

E-Mail: [erin\\_going@yahoo.com](mailto:erin_going@yahoo.com)

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

Chair: Darrin Willer

Phone: 281-931-2737

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

The Public Agency, Infrastructure and Readiness Committees held another joint committee meeting at HESS on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker was Daniel Menendez, Deputy Director of Public Works and Engineering.

Mr. Menendez updated the committees on expected timetables for recently submitted SOQs for Engineering and Construction Management projects. He discussed how, for the CM SOQs, they are experimenting with a paperless submittal and after evaluation; they may expand it next year. He also discussed that by accelerating the entire submittal process, which in the past wrapped up in July, they hoped to be able to get contracts out much sooner.

When asked, he elaborated on stimulus moneys that the City may be able to take advantage of. For projects that have the potential to receive federal or state funding, they are looking at adding up front environmental work, which is typically a requirement for these funds. They are also working to increase their backlog of projects at the 90% level to be able to take advantage of direct or indirect stimulus monies as they become available.



Next month we will have another Joint Committee Meeting and our speaker will be former City Councilman Mark Ellis, who is the Chairman of the local freight rail district, which can also construct commuter rail. When he spoke to the committees last year he mentioned that the District was rich with projects, but looking at funding options. At our next meeting he will update us on where they stand on some of the work they have moved forward with.

We will be meeting at HESS on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. An RSVP should come out about a week before the event. Because speakers' schedules can change, please always verify meeting details as dates and speakers may move to accommodate their schedules.

### **PUBLIC AGENCY/ INFRASTRUCTURE / READINESS JOINT MEETINGS 2009**

<b>June 23rd</b>	Gulf Coast Freight Rail District (Mark Ellis)
<b>July 27<sup>th</sup></b>	No Meeting (Summer Break)
<b>August 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Fort Bend County (Judge Hebert)
<b>September 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Business Meeting (Public Agency)
<b>September 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Brazoria County (Infrastructure)
<b>November 24<sup>th</sup></b>	TBD (Infrastructure)
<b>December 16<sup>th</sup></b>	No Meeting (Holiday Party)



## 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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#### San Antonio Post

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#### Fort Worth Post

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