

WORDPASSER

Dedicated to the



National Defense

October 2008

Upcoming Events

- Oct 4th Young Members – Race for the Cure
- Oct 8th Environmental – TBD
- Oct 11th Young Members - Houston SPCA Mutt Strut & Runway Race
- Oct 22nd Post Monthly Meeting – Joint Society Dinner Meeting with ASCE, TSPE and APWA (HESS)
- Oct 21-23 TEXOMA and Missouri River Regional Conference – Omaha, Nebraska
- Nov 13th - Environmental Committee Wetlands Workshop
- Dec 2nd – Annual Golf Tournament

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

We didn't know when. We didn't know where. But it eventually happened. Hurricane Ike hit the Houston – Galveston area late Friday, September 12, 2008. It was one of the largest known hurricanes to hit the upper Texas coast and the first hurricane in 25 years to hit this area. Our society prepares for this event every year. The Fast Start Plan is intended to be a resource for those in need. Our members can provide personnel and equipment to assist local governments in preparing for these events or recover from the disaster once it has passed. Hurricane Ike was without a doubt a very large storm. The devastation along the coast and the damage inland is well documented in the 24 hour news coverage the area received during and after the storm.

What most of you may not know is the behind scenes efforts of many of your fellow members. Darrin Willer visited the Harris County Office of Emergency Management with offers of assistance. Our members were ready and are still ready to assist in whatever way necessary. Many engineering firms were displaced when the buildings they occupied no longer functioned. The Harris County Flood Control District offices were without power for 17 days. Through all of this we cooperated and worked together to get the work done. This was no small event and will take months if not years to recover. We will continue to provide the leaders of this community with the resources need to assist the recovery effort. The years of preparation will pay off and we will become better prepared for future events.

In the midst of the post storm hysteria we managed to have a very successful meeting at the University of Houston. This event featured speakers from the public and private sector that addressed questions from engineering students. It was very well attended as indicated in the article later in this WordPasser. I want thank all the members that attended the meeting. We underestimated the appetite of a starving college student so many members did not even get anything to eat. The event was a huge success none the less. It was nice to see many of the students stay and participate in the program.

The next meeting will be the Joint Society meeting on October 22, 2008 at HESS. Registration is through the ASCE Website and the information is also on our website. I look forward to seeing everyone at this event.

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



OFFICERS

President
JOE MYERS, P.E.

President Elect
LEE LENNARD, P.E.

Past President
GITI ZARINKELK, P.E.

Secretary
FRANCO PUENTES

Treasurer
KATHERINE MEARS

Assistant Secretary
KRISTIN WHITE

Assistant Treasurer
ROBERT SETTLE

Chairman PP & FC
GREG WINE, P.E.

DIRECTORS

LEE DORGER
TOM MARTENS
COURTNEY BIRD
BRETT BINKLEY
DANIEL KRUEGER
TOD HENNING
SANDRA MUSGROVE
DARRIN WILLER
MICHAEL McENANY

PAST PRESIDENTS

FRANK ANDREWS
JAMES E. ARENZ
DIONEL D. AVILES
MICHEAL BAGSTAD
WENDELL L. BARNES
GLENN CARLSON
C. HAROLD COBB
WADE H. COCKBURN
JOSE CORREA
BAZEL E. CROWE
SAM B. DIXON
KENNETH J. HAVEMAN
ROBERT (KEN) JAYNE
HERB JOHNSON
E.C. KOBS
CHARLES W. LIEBL, SR.
ELBERT W. LINK
L.C. LOPER
ROBERT G. MACLENNAN
PAUL MARSHALL
EDWARD M. MATUSZAK
JACK B. MOGER
REID MRSNY
HOWARD PIEPER
JAMES M. SIGLER
LARRY SCHORR
JON N. STRANGE
JOE B. THOMAS
JOHN A. TUDELA
DICK WESTFAHL
BOBBY T. WHITE
JAMES F. WHITE
GREGORY R. WINE
GITI ZARINKELK

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

OCTOBER 22, 2008

**Joint Society Dinner Meeting with ASCE
featuring**

**Harris County Judge candidates
Ed Emmett and David Minberg**

in a

Political Roundtable Forum

HESS - 5430 Westheimer

Social at 6:00 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

**Registration will be handled through the ASCE website
under the following link: www.ascehouston.org/en/cev/55**

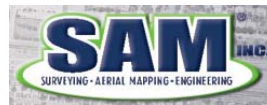
Pricing is as follows:

By 10/17 Late/Walk-up

ASCE Member:	\$30.00	\$33.00
ASCE Non-Member:	\$35.00	\$38.00
Student Member:	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Engineering Societies:	\$30.00	\$33.00
Government Agency:	\$23.00	\$26.00

MEETING UNDERWRITERS:

 **LANDTECH CONSULTANTS, INC.**
civil engineering • land surveying



WEBSITE SPONSOR:





PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: RAMON HERRERA

Phone: (832) 515-3461

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

The September meeting was held in the Cullen College of Engineering building at the University of Houston. The speakers consisted of panel of professional engineers from the Houston engineering community to answer questions from University of Houston students, faculty and Post members about the engineering profession. The panel was quite diverse and included the following individuals:



- Mike Talbott, P.E. - Director of the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD)
- Buddy Barnes, P.E. – Senior Engineer/Private Sector (Jacobs Carter & Burgess)
- Reid Mrsny, P.E. – Senior Engineer/Public Sector (City of Houston)
- Kristin White, P.E. – Young Member/Private Sector (Dodson & Associates)
- Ramon Herrera, P.E. – Young Member/Private Sector (Midtown Engineers)

Despite the disruption caused by Hurricane Ike, the event was well-attended by our Post membership and University of Houston engineering students. Food and drinks were served and students had the opportunity to confer with the panelists about career opportunities in the engineering industry. Overall, the event was quite successful, and we plan on repeating this event in the 2009-2010 calendar.



The October meeting is a Joint Society meeting with ASCE and TSPE at the HESS Club. ***THE MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO OCTOBER 22.*** The meeting will feature Harris County Judge candidates Ed Emmett and David Minberg in a political roundtable forum. Registration will be handled through the ASCE website under the following link:

www.ascehouston.org/en/cev/55

The pricing is as follows:

By 10/17	.Late/Walk-up
ASCE Member:	\$30.00 \$33.00
ASCE Non-Member:	\$35.00 \$38.00
Student Member:	\$0.00 \$0.00
Other Engineering Societies:	\$30.00 \$33.00
Government Agency:	\$23.00 \$26.00



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 (except for the October meeting).

- *October 22 – Joint Society Dinner Meeting w/ASCE, TSPE and APWA (HESS)*
- *November 19 – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – USACE Galveston District Headquarters*
- *December 10 – Holiday Meeting (Speaker TBD)*

UNDERWRITING AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Contact: Erin Going
Phone: (713) 869-3433
E-Mail: 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: (See #3 above) x _____ meetings = \$ _____

Date	Tentative Program/Speaker	Priority (1,2,3....) for Underwriter	Priority (1,2,3...) for Website Sponsor
Oct 22 nd	Joint Society Dinner Meeting w/ ASCE, TSPE & APWA		FULL
Nov 19 th	Galveston USACE District Issues		FULL
Dec 10 th	Holiday Luncheon Meeting		FULL

TRANSMITTAL AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

E-mail or Fax your completed form to Pate Engineering at:

E-mail: 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



READINESS / HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Chair: Darrin Willer
 Phone: 281-931-2737
 E-Mail: dwiller@hntb.com

LAST MEETING : Please see Public Agency / Infrastructure Report below.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Date	Meeting Location	Time	Speaker
January 22	Quality Management*	11:30AM-1:00PM	Leroy McCown
February 26	North Fort Bend Water Authority*	11:30AM-1:00PM	David Scholler, Brown & Gay Engineers
March 13	Business Meeting/ Houston TranStar	11:30AM-1:00PM	NONE
March 26	US Coast Guard*	11:30AM-1:00PM	LCDR Dave Berliner, USCG Marine Safety Unit (MSU)
April 28	Business Meeting/ Houston TranStar	11:30 AM-1:00PM	NONE
May 20-22	Annual Workshop/Training Texas Hurricane Conference Galveston Island Conference Center	TBD	None. Committee presenting Online Fast Start Plan at Conference
May 26	HGAC*	11:30AM-1:00PM	Alan Clarke
June 24	HCFC Update*	11:30 AM-1:00PM	Burton Johnson
July 22	Job Order Contracting*	11:30AM-1:00PM	Paul Marshall /Ken Jayne
August 20	Gulf Coast Freight Rail District (GCFRD)*	11:30AM-1:00PM	Mark Ellis (Chair)
September 23	City of Houston*	11:30AM-1:00PM	Reid Mrsny (Dep Dir) <i>Cancelled due to Hurricane Ike</i>
October	TBD	11:30AM-1:00PM	TBD
November	Business Meeting/ Houston TranStar	11:30AM-1:00PM	NONE
December	No Meeting	*****	*****
January	No Meeting <i>Public Agency of the Year</i>	*****	*****

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

FAST START PLAN UPDATE:

Hurricane Ike Response. The Fast Start Plan was activated for Hurricane Ike and we received over 50 updates to member firms' contact and response capabilities on our web-based system. I personally delivered this list to the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management the day before Ike arrived and was standing by, as the SAME representative, at the EOC for a few days following the storm. The EOC was very thankful that we were proactive in helping to support them in their time of need.

Cooperation with ASCE Houston Chapter. We will be coordinating with the local ASCE chapter to add their member firms to our Fast Start Plan database. This will avoid duplication of efforts and give the local officials and emergency responders a "one stop shop" for contacts and response capabilities.

How do I sign up? Even if you have already submitted your firm's contact and response capability information through the old system, please follow the link below to fill out the online questionnaire so we have the most current information to provide to our Public Agency members. If you are unsure whether your firm has previously submitted the info, please refer to the link below.

<http://www.houstonsame.org/faststart/questionnaire/>

http://www.houstonsame.org/attachments/wysiwyg/602/FastStartParticipatingFirms_200707.pdf



Note: The online form is still in development to fix some known issues with regards to separate address / phone entry boxes.

Please feel free to contact me with questions:

Darrin Willer, PE
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)

For September, our joint committee meeting was hosting our own Reid Mrsny with the City of Houston's Public Works and Engineering Department. However, Hurricane Ike rearranged many priorities, including PW&E.

We are working with Reid to reschedule, but at this time we do not have a date set, so look for an e-mail RSVP.

For October, we had planned to hear from Galveston's PW Department and again, they have more pressing Ike Recovery related duties. If we can reschedule Reid for this month, that will be our October Meeting, otherwise we will announce a new program later in the month.



Mark Your Calendar!

The Houston/Galveston Post
of
The Society of American Military Engineers
will be hosting the
2nd Annual Kenneth J. Haveman Memorial
Scholarship Golf Tournament

When: **December 2, 2008**

Where: **Memorial Park Golf Course**

Dinner, Awards, and Special Guest Speaker (to be announced later), will follow play.

Annotate your calendar, Plan your budgets, and be sure to join us in December.

Watch for future announcements!