

WORDPASSER

Dedicated to the



National Defense

August 2009

Upcoming Events

- Aug 25th – Joint Meeting w\Infrastructure, Readiness & Public Agency with Judge Hebert
- Sept 16th – General Membership Meeting hosted by the Young Members at Univ of Houston
- Dec 7th – Kenneth J. Haveman Scholarship 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 mike.bagstad@ch2m.com

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: ETHICAL DILEMMAS

POST RECAP

We enjoyed a wonderful scholarship luncheon in July with APWA and Mr. Mike Marcotte as our guest speaker. Through the fundraising efforts of individuals and sustaining member firms, we presented \$11,000 in scholarships to five exceptional college students. Also in July, we added two sustaining member firms to our ranks, and we are off to a good start in bolstering our membership. Planning for the fall and spring is underway in our various committees. I encourage you to get active in a committee and take full advantage of the personal and professional benefits that Post involvement brings. Remember, with your help, our goals this year are to grow the Post and build on our performance to be recognized as the Top Post in the Nation.

ETHICAL DILEMMAS

Don't you just love the color grey? Usually the answer to that question, as it relates to our professional lives, is "no, not particularly". Most of us tend to prefer operating in the realm of black and white. However, the practice of our profession often requires us to analyze risk and uncertainty, apply judgment without all of the facts, and create predictable and sustainable solutions even when we may not know all of the answers. For many of us, this can be an unsettling proposition. Like it or not, so much of life is not "right" or "wrong", it's just simply shades of grey.

With that said, make plans to attend our General Membership lunch on **Wednesday, August 26th**. Our guest speaker will be Ms. Dale Beebe Farrow, PE, Executive Director, Texas Board of Professional Engineers. She is certain to enlighten and entertain with updates to laws and rules passed this last legislative session, and provide real world examples of challenging situational ethics. PDHs will be issued for the meeting. Bring a colleague or young EIT or PE from your office to take advantage of a mentoring opportunity within your organization.

CLOSING

In keeping with the patriotic theme from July, I'll close with a bit of history about the Declaration of Independence. It was on August 1, 1776 that the document was formally signed by 56 members of the Continental Congress. The first, largest, and most famous signature is that of John



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Hancock, President of the Continental Congress. The youngest signer was Edward Rutledge (age 26). Benjamin Franklin (age 70) was the oldest. Two future presidents signed: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

Lee C. Lennard, PE
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MEETING SPONSOR:





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

**AUGUST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

**Dale Beebe-Farrow, P.E.,
Executive Director
Texas Board of Professional Engineers**

**Wed., August 26th, 2009 at H.E.S.S.
5430 Westheimer
Social at 11:00 am
Lunch at 11:30 am**

**Cost \$25 (RSVP by 5 pm 8\24); \$35 at door
\$35 Non-members with RSVP, \$45 at the door
\$10 Public Agency Employees with RSVP;
\$15 at the door**



OPERATIONS

(PROGRAMS, MEMBERSHIP, TOP POST COMMITTEE)

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Chair: DARRIN WILLER - Phone: 281-931-2737 - E-Mail: dwiller@hntb.com

2009 GENERAL MEETING CALENDAR

- 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

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: GREG WINE - Phone: (281) 496-0066 - E-mail: gwine@huitt-zollars.com

TOP POST / STREAMERS COMMITTEE

Chair: GREG WINE - Phone: (281) 496-0066 - E-mail: gwine@huitt-zollars.com



RELATIONSHIPS AND RECOGNITION

(PUBLIC AGENCY, INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL, SMALL BUSINESS, YOUNG MEMBERS, SPONSORSHIPS, AWARDS COMMITTEE)

PUBLIC AGENCY MEMBER COMMITTEE

Chair: ERIN GOING - Phone: (713) 684-4224 - E-mail: erin.going@hcfcd.org

On July 28th at a joint committee meeting between Infrastructure, Public Agency and Readiness/Homeland Security, Orlando Sanchez spoke about his current job as Harris County Treasurer. He also discussed his duties and responsibilities, the performance of Mayor White, the upcoming City elections as well as fielded questions on a number of topics.

Mr. Sanchez is currently the Harris County Treasurer and sees his role as an elected oversight of County spending and financial practices. He made it clear that it is the Commissioners Court that decides how the money is spent and he only comments if there is a conflict with State law or if there are not funds available to cover the expenditure. Although three counties have done away with the position of Treasurer, two were very small, and the third is having complications from their decision.

He also served three terms as an at-large City of Houston Councilman and ran for Mayor twice. With this perspective, he discussed the coming City elections. He feels it will be a good contest but noted all candidates are not raising as much funds as in past elections. Because of the time it takes to set up a viable mayoral campaign, he believes there will not be a major surprise candidate out of the wings this year. He did not venture a prediction, but did say it should be a very interesting race and the real fund raising will begin during the runoff.

He also discussed the Dynamo Stadium, better utilizing our resources like the Washington Avenue clubs and the Buffalo Bayou to make Houston a major tourist and convention destination and why he chose not to run for mayor this year. On the latter, he left the door open for future campaigns and noted his daughter would be heading to college in two years giving him more time to devote to other pursuits.



Orlando Sanchez puts a Personal Spin on Coming Elections and Other Points of Interest

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Chair: MARK METYKO - Phone: (281) 556-1030 – E-mail: mark.metyko@atser.com



PUBLIC AGENCY/ INFRASTRUCTURE / READINESS JOINT MEETINGS 2009

August 25th Fort Bend County (Judge Hebert)

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

November 24th TBD (Infrastructure)

December 16th No Meeting (Holiday Party)

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Isaac M. Aboulafia - Phone: (713) 585-7008 - E-mail: isaac.aboulafia@mecx.net

SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Chair: TOD HENNING P.E. - Phone: (713) 832-498-7003 - E-mail: tod.henning@h2bengineers.com

YOUNG MEMBER COMMITTEE

Chair: FRANCO PUENTES, P.E. - Phone: (713) 690-8989 - Email: frpuentes@terracon.com



SPONSORSHIPS COMMITTEE

Chair: ERIN GOING - Phone: (713) 684-4224 - E-mail: erin.going@hcfcd.org

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 is \$100.00/Underwriter/meeting. Website Sponsorship is \$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: _____

\$100.00 / Meeting Underwriter X _____ meetings = \$ _____
 \$200.00 / Website Sponsorship X _____ = \$ _____
Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Date	Program/Speaker	Priority (1,2,3....) for Underwriter	Priority (1,2,3...) for Website Sponsor
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@hcfcd.org

Please contact Erin regarding payment of the underwriting fee by emailing her at the above address or by calling her at (713) 684-4224.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: SUE STRANGE - Phone: (281) 391-3366



READINESS & HOMELAND SECURITY

READINESS / HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

CHAIR: PETER BORSACK - Phone: (713) 462-3242 - E-Mail: pborsack@cobfen.com

JULY AND AUGUST MEETINGS:

The July Meeting was shared with the Infrastructure and Public Agency Committees and was held Tuesday, July 28 featuring Orlando Sanchez. A big thanks to Mark Metyko for inviting the former Mayoral candidate as speaker. Our next joint meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2009 as we welcome Fort Bend County Judge Robert Hebert to the podium to speak about current developments in Fort Bend County.

FAST START PLAN:





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

Houston Post
Mr. Darrin Willer
HNTB Corporation
Direct 281-931-2737
Cell 713-306-3501
dwiller@hntb.com

San Antonio Post
Mr. Franz Schmidt
Earth Tech, Inc.
Direct 210-253-7514
Cell 210-859-1693
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Fort Worth Post
Mr. Paul D. Krebs
Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers
Direct 817-886-1445
Cell 817-919-5406
Paul.D.Krebs@usace.army.mil

We are continuing work to upload the database for S.A.M.E. firms' capabilities to the Texas Regional Response Network (TRRN). We will be holding a Committee meeting in the next couple of weeks to complete the compilation of the database so that these capabilities can be recognized and utilized during disaster recovery efforts. Please see the FAST START PLAN Article attached below to find out how you can update your firm's information. We will be highlighting these firms that have completed this update during some of our future meetings to show our appreciation for their continued support.



OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

(COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, WORDPASSER, PUBLICITY, WEBMASTER, WEBSITE OVERSIGHT)

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Chair: PAUL MARSHALL - Phone: (713) 664-7890 - E-mail: pmarshall@comcast.net

WORDPASSER COMMITTEE

Chair: MICHAEL BAGSTAD - Phone: (281) 721-8548 - E-mail: mike.bagstad@ch2m.com

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Chair: LIZ PARENT - Phone: (832) 351-6000 - E-mail: e.parent@dannenbaum.com

WEBMASTER

BOB POWELL - Phone: (281) 496-0066 - E-mail: bpowell@Huitt-Zollars.com

BRENT DANIEL (Readiness Database) – Phone: (713) 674-9009 – E-mail: brent@abengineering-llc.com

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

JOE MYERS - Phone: (713) 684-4064 - E-Mail: joe.myers@hcfcd.org

FRANCO PUENTES - Phone: (713) 690-8989 - Email: frpuentes@terracon.com

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(EDUCATION/ECH, K-12, MENTOR/SCHOLARSHIP/TAMU, GOLF (SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER), ENGINEER'S WEEK, SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE)

EDUCATION / ECH COMMITTEE

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

K-12 COMMITTEE

CHAIR: TERRY ROWE - Phone: (281) 528-9945 - Email: rowet@sbcglobal.net

MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: BUDDY BARNES, P.E. - Phone: (281) 775-4650 - E-Mail: bbarnes@gmont.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 Edward Hohlt 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 3rd Annual Ken Haveman Scholarship Golf Tournament will be at Timber Creek Golf Club, December 7, 2009; please consider sponsoring for this event.



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR 2009 RAFFLES- Contact Edward Hohlt 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 call **Edward Hohlt, Post Assistant Secretary at (713) 821-0434** if you would like to donate a raffle prize.

TAMU CHAPTER

President: LOGAN ROTH - E-Mail: newt_89@hotmail.com

Howdy,

The 2009/2010 officers are:

President: Logan Roth

Vice President: Kirra Brooks

Secretary: Matt Whitaker

Treasurer: Brian Anderson

TAMU Student Chapter is ready for another great year. We will begin meeting again in September when we return to campus. We continue to have about twenty students attend our meetings and we hope to continue growing next year.

If any Houston/Galveston Post members have a design or construction project at TAMU or in College Station/Bryan and wish to present a project to our student chapter we would really like to have you do it, please let Buddy Barnes know and he will schedule the presentation. Our meetings are usually the third week of the month.

See you in September.

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



GOLF (SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER) COMMITTEE

Chair: TOM MARTENS, P.E. - Phone: (713) 939-6403 - Email: tmartens@terracon.com

The 3rd Annual Ken Haveman Scholarship Golf Tournament will be at Timber Creek Golf Club, **December 7, 2009**. Make plans to attend this singular scholarship fundraising event for the Post. See flyer at the end of this WordPasser and sign up Today!

I would like to thank Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc. and Fugro Consultants, Inc. for their quick support by registering teams already.

ENGINEER'S WEEK COMMITTEE

Chair: KATHERINE MEARS - Phone: (281) 589-7257 - E-mail: katherine.mears@klotz.com.

PAST PRESIDENTS AND FELLOWS COUNCIL

CHAIR: - Phone: () - E-mail:

PAST PRESIDENTS

FRANK ANDREWS - JAMES E. ARENZ - DIONEL D. AVILES - MICHEAL J. 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 - JOSEPH T. MYERS - 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



SUSTAINING MEMBER PUBLIC AGENCIES

City of Houston, Public Works & Engineering Depart
Coastal Water Authority
Harris County Flood Control District
Harris County Public Infrastructure Department

North Harris County Regional Water Authority
Port of Houston Authority
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Galveston District

SUSTAINING MEMBER FIRMS

ABEngineering LLC
AECOM
AEI Engineering, Inc.
ASRC Gulf States Constructors, LLC
Aviles Engineering Corp.
Binkley & Barfield, Inc.
Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp.
Brown & Gay Engineers Inc.
Brown and Caldwell
C. H. Fenstermaker & Assoc. Inc.
Cobb, Fendley & Assoc. Inc.
Corrigan Consulting, Inc.
Dannenbaum Engineering Corp.
EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc.
Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Fugro Consultants LP
GC Engineering, Inc.
Geotest Engineering, Inc.
Ground Technology, Inc.
H2B, Inc.
Halff Assoc.
HNTB
Hobas Pipe USA
Huitt-Zollars Inc.
HVJ
Infrastructure Associates, Inc.
International Facility Management Association

J. K. Wagner & Co., Inc.
Jacobs
JNS
KBR
Laughlin-Thyssen Ltd.
LOPEZGARCIA GROUP
Malcolm Pirnie Inc.
MECX, LP
Metropolitan Transit Authority Houston
Moffatt & Nichol
Pate Engineers Inc.
PB
PBS&J
Pepe Engineering
Rolf Jensen & Associates
S&B Infrastructure, Ltd.
Sunland Group
Surveying And Mapping Inc. (SAM, Inc)
Terracon Consultants, Inc.
Tetra Tech Inc.
Texas Engineering Experiment Station/Texas A & M
The Shaw Group Inc.
Tolunay-Wong Engineers Inc.
URS Corporation
WALTER P MOORE
Weston Solutions, Inc.
Zarinkelk Engineering Services Inc.

Welcome back HVJ and JNS!