

WORDPASSER

Dedicated to the



National Defense

September 2009

Upcoming Events

Sept 8th – Public Agency Com. Mtg.

Sept 16th – General Membership Mtg.

Sept 22nd – Public Agency Bus. Mtg.

Sept 22nd – TAMU Chapter Mtg.

Sept 23rd – Infrastructure Mtg. at Brazoria County

Oct 21st – Joint Society Meeting

Dec 7th – 3rd Annual 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: INVESTMENTS

Investments – that can be a sore subject lately. As the now old joke goes, 401k's have become 201k's, the economy is in a recession, there is inflation, and an increasing national debt. Where should we invest our money? It seems the old mattress looks better and better every day. But believe it or not, there are solid investments out there. One that doesn't cost a dime, but pays huge dividends is when we invest in others. I see wonderful signs of this in our own Houston / Galveston Post.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

At our August General Membership meeting, I received news that one of our scholarship recipients from several years past gave \$1,000 to our scholarship fund along with a matching grant from her company. This generous act should serve as a reminder to all of us that our efforts to raise money for student scholarships continues to make a significant difference in the lives of member families.

Let's set the bar high this year and fill our scholarship fundraising event on **Monday, December 7th**. The 3rd annual Kenneth J. Haveman Golf Tournament will be played at Timber Creek Golf Course in Friendswood. We have lowered the cost of the event in recognition of the economy, which means we'll need a few extra teams to help raise the \$10,000 to \$15,000 we would like to award in scholarships. If only half of our sustaining member firms participate, we'll fill the course and easily achieve our financial goal. Please contact Tom Martens at TRMartens@terracon.com to register your team and invest in the lives of students.

INVESTING IN YOUTH

On **Wednesday, September 16th**, the Young Members will run our General Membership meeting at the University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering. They will organize and facilitate a panel discussion on career paths in public and private sectors. They will also feed students that show up for the free lunch (free only to students, not members)! As most of you know, our young members serve in numerous leadership capacities within the Post and do a remarkable job. I recently attended a planning meeting for the Young Member Committee and was thoroughly impressed with their commitment, enthusiasm and focus to bring value to the membership. If you have not already done so, please assign



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PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
GALVESTON DISTRICT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

a young member from your firm to the Young Member committee and ask them to contact Franco Puentes at FRPuentes@terracon.com to get involved.

INVESTING IN THE POST

Our goals this year are twofold: (1) to grow the Post, and (2) to build on past performance. Since the first of this year, twelve firms have joined our ranks as Sustaining Members. This reflects a 19% growth rate from 62 firms at the start of the year to 74 today. I want to thank the Past Presidents & Fellows Council for their focused efforts at recruiting and retention. For the new member firms, I encourage you to regularly attend the General Membership meetings and get involved in committee work.

CLOSING

Stocks rise and stocks fall, but the Houston / Galveston Post continues to be a good investment. Take my advice and jump into this market today! I look forward to seeing you in September.

Lee C. Lennard, PE
President
SAME Houston / Galveston Post

MEETING SPONSOR:



Hobas Pipe USA manufactures large diameter, centrifugally cast fiberglass reinforced polymer mortar pipes (CCFRPMP) to be used in both pressure and non-pressure service for corrosive applications. Pipe diameters currently offered are 18 to 110 inches and installation methods include direct bury, sliplining, jacking and micro-tunneling. Hobas Pipe is manufactured in Houston, Texas and has a 22 year history of success throughout the United States.



As a provider of geotechnical engineering services for more than 60 years, Fugro Consultants shows staying power — a valued trait in the unpredictable construction industry. Behind that stamina is global strength. We are part of the multi-disciplined, publicly traded Fugro Group of companies with over 10,500 employees in 275 offices operating in 50 countries. Fugro Consultants' staff of over 450 people is comprised of engineers, technicians, and administrators with these common traits — imagination, dedication, and pure talent.



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

**SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

**Engineering in the New Economy
Public vs. Private?**

A Panel Discussion Featuring:

COL Dave Weston – USACE Galveston

Mike Talbott, PE – HCFC

COL (Ret) Reid Mrsny, PE – Mont. & Assoc.

COL (Ret) Len Waterworth – Dannenbaum

SAME Young Member Representative

Wed., September 16th, 2009 at

Cullen College of Engineering

University of Houston

5430 Westheimer

Lunch at 11:30 am

**Cost \$25 (RSVP by 5 pm 9\14); \$35 at door
\$35 Non-members with RSVP, \$45 at the door
\$10 Public Agency Employees with RSVP;
\$15 at the door; Students are Free**



OPERATIONS

(PROGRAMS, MEMBERSHIP, TOP POST COMMITTEE)

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

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

2009 GENERAL MEETING CALENDAR

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

Please join the Public Agency Committee for a business meeting at Harris County Flood Control District's North Service Center (7522 Prairie Oak, Houston, TX 77086). The meeting is on Tuesday, September 8th, 11:30am – 1:00. **Pepe Engineering is kindly providing lunch.** We will be finalizing speakers and events for the upcoming year. The Program chair and other committee chairs will be in attendance so we can coordinate our speakers and meetings.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

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

On August 31, Readiness, Public Agency and Infrastructure committees held a joint meeting with Judge Robert Hebert as the luncheon speaker. Judge Hebert was elected as County Judge of Ft. Bend County in 2003. The County employs over 2000 with an annual budget over \$237M and population of \$540,000.

The County expects to maintain the same tax rate in 2010 as this year, but due to the high number of property appraisal protests they are not expecting to have a certified tax roll until later this year, which will delay their final action.

Judge Hebert sees light at the end of the economic tunnel and pointed out some of the ways it has impacted Ft. Bend:

- ❖ Plats are up this quarter having been almost zero earlier in the year.
- ❖ They plan to continue selling bonds at a rate around \$50M/year to keep pace with on going County construction of roadways and facilities.
- ❖ 47 roadway projects are underway and all their facility projects are underway or completed.
- ❖ Projects currently are coming in lower then expected. For example, on the new Justice Center they sold \$74M in bonds and it came in under \$60M, which allowed them to add a parking garage earlier then planned.

Other hot topics in the County include:

- ❖ The Grand Parkway. This facility crosses 7 counties and is part of the State system. The legislature gave each county the option to take over the Grand parkway within their county, but they have to accept it by September 25th and they have to “break ground” within 2 years of accepting it. He expects all 7 counties will exercise this option.
- ❖ FEMA will release Preliminary new Flood Plain maps for Ft. Bend County in September. It is his understanding that all but one levee district will be certified and that district is making the required levee modifications to also be certified shortly.

Judge Hebert then responded to questions from the floor.

Next month (September) we will have another joint committee meeting and Gerald Roberts, County Engineer for Brazoria County will be our speaker. In October our speaker will be John Tyler from HCTRA. These meetings are tentatively scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of each month and RSVPs will be sent about a week before the events.



PUBLIC AGENCY/ INFRASTRUCTURE / READINESS JOINT MEETINGS 2009

September 8th	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
09-16-09	Young Members Meeting		
10-21-09	Joint Society Dinner Meeting		
11-18-09	Galveston District Issues		
12-16-09	Holiday Meeting		
1-20-10	Annual Public Agency Dinner		

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

FAST START PLAN:



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

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
franz.schmidt@earthtech.com

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 update: We have been working to repair/update/synchronize our website "members" list with the Houston/Galveston Post members lists obtained from SAME national.

Membership is handled at SAME national and our websites are not connected, but we are using data obtained from "national" to keep the Hou/Galv members list current.

Here is the SAME National page where you can Check, Renew or Update your SAME Membership Info:

<http://www.same.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4104>

If you have a problem with "Member Login", or you have trouble using the website to register for events, please email me directly at bpowell@Huitt-Zollars.com and I will work with you to try and resolve the problem.

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

This month we have a First for our Education & Mentoring Fund. Tina Ten-Li Maa a scholarship recipient in 1998, 1999 & 2000, while attending University of Texas, has made a \$1,000 donation and her dad's employer GE is considering making a matching donation. We want to thank Tina and her mother Yeh Min Maa one of our Public Agency members with HCFCD and her father T. J. Maa for these special donations.



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. Just think, if just 36 of our 74 Sustaining Members could sponsor a team and the rest of our non-Public Agency Sustaining Members could choose another sponsorship; we could double our Mentoring and Scholarship commitment to our youth.

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. Our 2009/2010 year will start September 22, 2009 when we return to campus. Our meetings will be at the Corps of Cadets Center and start at 7:30pm; and yes we will have pizza and drinks. We continue to have about twenty students attend our meetings and we hope to continue growing next year. At our first meeting we will have Buddy Barnes and Professor Mathewson give an overview of SAME, the Houston/Galveston Post and benefits of being a member and involved in SAME.

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.

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. KOBBS - 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	Metropolitan Transit Authority
Coastal Water Authority	NASA
Fort Bend County	North Harris County Regional Water Authority
Harris County Flood Control District	Port of Houston Authority
Harris County Public Infrastructure Department	Texas Engineering Experiment Station/Texas A & M
Harris County Deptment of Education	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Galveston District

SUSTAINING MEMBER FIRMS

ABEngineering LLC	IDC Inc.
AECOM	Infrastructure Associates, Inc.
AEI Engineering, LLC	International Facility Management Association
ASRC Gulf States Constructors, LLC	Jacobs
Aviles Engineering Corp.	JNS Consulting Engineers Inc.
Binkley & Barfield, Inc.	KBR Government & Infrastructure
Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp.	LEO A DALY
Brown & Gay Engineers Inc.	MACTEC Engineering and Consulting Inc.
Brown and Caldwell	Malcolm Pirnie Inc.
Burns & McDonnell	MECX, LP
C. H. Fenstermaker & Assoc. Inc.	Midtown Engineers, LLC
Camp Dresser & Mckee Inc.	Moffatt & Nichol
Centennial Contractors Enterprises Inc.	Montgomery & Associates
Cobb, Fendley & Assoc. Inc.	Pate Engineers Inc.
Corrigan Consulting, Inc.	PB
Dannenbaum Engineering Corp.	PBS&J
EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc.	Pepe Engineering
Freese and Nichols, Inc.	Rolf Jensen & Associates
FTG Consulting	S&B Infrastructure, Ltd.
Fugro Consultants LP	Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc.
GC Engineering, Inc.	Sunland Group
Geotest Engineering, Inc.	Surveying And Mapping Inc. (SAM, Inc)
Gorrondona & Associates, Inc.	Terracon Consultants, Inc.
Ground Technology, Inc.	Tetra Tech Inc.
H2B, Inc.	The Shaw Group Inc.
Half Assoc.	Tolunay-Wong Engineers Inc.
HNTB	URS Corporation
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HVJ Associates, Inc.	Zarinkelk Engineering Services Inc.