President’s Message

by April Ricketts, PE, CPD, LEED AP BD+C – SAME Chicago Post President

Autumn Greetings!

It’s time to put away those summer sunglasses and trade them in for pumpkin donuts and apple cider.

We have a really great Fall edition of the newsletter for you, which includes articles from the two student essay winners of our Post’s STEM camp contest, highlights from this year’s Boat Cruise, information on the upcoming October Post Meeting, and photos of summer events.

Thanks to everyone who participated and sponsored this year’s Boat Cruise fundraiser. We were able to raise money for two fantastic veteran organizations as well as money for future Post scholarships/STEM Camps. Be sure to check out photos from this years cruise and Rob’s summary article.

Our Education and Scholarship Committee have been busy working with UIC on possibly having a student chapter with their College of Engineering. Stay tuned in future emails as things develop...

It is about that time to start compiling a list of Post members who are celebrating milestone SAME membership anniversaries this year. As we approach the end of this year, we will send an email acknowledging everyone celebrating a major anniversary (i.e., 10, 20, 30, 40, etcetera) and will be looking to order some anniversary pins for them. In the next month or so, we will be emailing out the list, so if you are on it, we hope to see you at our December meeting to pick up your pin.

For those who haven’t been at a meeting in awhile, we’ve increased our lunch price from $15 to $20. So far, this seems to have worked well and allows us to have more variety on the lunches provided (instead of sandwiches all of the time—smile).

Just a reminder that we do give out PDH continuing education credits at our Post Meetings. This is currently a free service that we are providing to our Members, so please take advantage of the opportunity. We may be looking to start charging a small fee for PDHs come next year to help raise money for scholarships and STEM camps. We are still figuring out all of the details (costs, applicable for all members or just non-members, etc.) so stay tuned.

With December just around the corner, it is time to start looking at potential candidates to fill the seats of the 2020 SAME Chicago Post officer roles. We’ve had a few unexpected vacancies this year (which the Board has been able to handle those duties). Additionally, we have a few folks on the current Officer roster who will not be seeking to run again. As such, there are some fantastic opportunities available in for new folks (or even former Officers) who would like to run and potentially help shape the direction of the Post next year. If you are interested in running for a position on the Board, please contact me or any of the current Officers.

Until Next Time…

April Ricketts
SAME Chicago Post President

The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) is the premier professional engineering association in the United States for connecting architects, engineers and builders in the public sector and private industry, unifying them to improve individual and collective capabilities for national security.

Its goal is to unite A/E/C entities and individuals in the public and private sector to prepare for – and overcome – natural and manmade disasters, acts of terrorism and improve security at home and abroad.

In 1919, Maj. Gen. William M. Black, USA, the Army’s Chief of Engineers, appointed a nine-officer board to consider the formation of an “association of engineers” that would preserve, and expand upon, connections formed in war and promote the advancement of engineering and its related professions. Early in 1920, the first SAME Posts were established.
FALL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER
9/18: Post Meeting. Topic—Diverting a River - The Albany Park Stormwater Diversion Tunnel

OCTOBER
10/16: Post Meeting. Topic—Operation Power Play

NOVEMBER
NO POST MEETING IN NOVEMBER—HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

October Chicago Post General Meeting

Join us for our upcoming October Post Meeting!

- Topic: Operation Power Play
  Operation Power Play, a disaster preparedness drill that tests how agencies would respond to a large storm damage scenario
- Speakers:
  Michelle Dojutrek with USACE Chicago District
  Tony O’Neal with Ameren
- When: Wednesday, October 16, 2019
- Where: US Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District Office, 231 S LaSalle St, 16th Floor, Chicago IL Time: 11:30am—1:PM

Lunch Fee: $20 (on RSVP form, please indicate if any dietary restrictions)

Continuing Education Credits will be available.

Additional information will be emailed out.

Visit us on the Web!
www.same-chicago.org

Or Follow us on Social Media!
Thanks to everyone who was able to join us for the September Post Meeting on “Diverting a River - The Albany Park Stormwater Diversion Tunnel”. We had a great turnout and were treated to a fantastic presentation by Justin Bartels, Abid Mirza, and Thera Novotny from Stantec.

For those of you who were not able to attend, here is a summary:

The $70M Albany Park Stormwater Diversion Tunnel, completed in August of 2018, provides much needed flood relief to the Albany Park neighborhood in Chicago, IL. The Diversion Tunnel can passively divert over half of the North Branch of the Chicago River flow (2,100 cfs) to the North Shore Channel. Flow through the 5,800-ft long, 18-ft diameter tunnel is governed by a 210-foot long weir inlet structure located near Foster Avenue. Diverted flow exits the tunnel through a 64-foot outlet structure and tunnel dewatering pump station. The tunnel is about 150 feet below grade.

Paired with the restoration improvements at the inlet and outlet sites, both within Chicago Park District parks, this project will improve neighborhood aesthetics, property values, and the overall quality of life for Albany Park residents. This project was jointly funded by the City of Chicago, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and crossed three aldermanic wards. City of Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) Staff spearheaded efforts and coordinated consultant and contractor teams in the successful delivery and completion of the project.

This presentation focused on the geotechnical and hydraulic aspects of the project, including discussion on the use of unsteady 1-D riverine and 3-D computational fluid dynamic modeling. A general overview of the project, construction and post construction photos were highlighted.
Highlights of SAME STEM Camp at USME Camp Lejeune

by Jackson Fleming

Dear SAME Chicago Post,

At the Marine Corps SAME camp, I learned how to better operate within a team and how to accomplish our goals. I also gained a better perspective on what it’s like to be in the military and it’s daily routine. The military personal there at base were great mentors for me and my squadmates.

I gained insight into how the Marine Corps uses the Buffalo MRAP to protect their convoys, and how the technology behind the vehicle is vital in its role as an instrument in the Marine’s arsenal.

My team and I were tasked with coming up with the best design for a catapult. We started with drawing up a design, then had the necessary materials cut for us, and finished by nailing the parts together. Our team competed against other teams to see who’s catapult threw the furthest.

I couldn’t have gained the experiences given to me without the selection and sponsorship of the Chicago Post.

Thank you for your support,
Jackson Fleming
Highlights of SAME STEM Camp at USAF Academy

by Mirella Eldridge

From constructing concrete beams to building three-legged chairs to nail relays, every activity was well planned, engaging, and worth the challenge. My experience at the SAME Academy was amazing.

I had an outstanding time meeting student from all over the United States, as we competed in a variety of engineering activities, and explored the academy campus in Colorado Springs. Throughout this week, I was faced with many tasks that challenged my leadership, teamwork, and engineering skills. It was a constantly moving, competitive environment that gave me hands on experience as to what civil engineers, and similar careers, do. Every day, our team of about 10 students competed in a variety of events that included building a cardboard vessel to compete in speed and agility-based tests.

With the help from our mentors, we were encouraged to not only focus on working on completing a challenge, but also doing so in the best way possible. It was important that we learned how to hear and understand everyone’s ideas. Another facet I liked was that the teams were constantly changing our leadership roles within the group. Every activity required a project manager, safety officer, and quality control advisor, all of which changed for every activity. Additionally, we learned quickly how to value everyone’s strengths, whether you were physically strong or mentally, the skills required varied on every task and forced you to truly assess the challenge and make sure everyone was included in every activity.

We had multiple events where we had the opportunity to listen and interact with several leadership panels. This was a highlight of the week because we got to talk to a variety of engineers and hear about their experiences in the military, academics, etc. My favorite presentation was when the guest speaker, a current air force member, spoke to us about his experience with the military. It was interesting to see how the discipline from the military changed his life for the better and pushed him to explore career and educational opportunities beyond one college degree.

Towards the end of camp, we were given the opportunity to tour the facilities at the Air Force Academy and get a grasp on the admissions process required. I loved to see all of the different labs they had available: mechanical, chemical, civil, computer science, and drone technology. Each one was diverse and unique in its approach to the material being taught. All of the labs focused on hands-on curriculum, which I absolutely loved. Although admission to the Academy challenges both your mental and physical strength, exploring the campus, and participating in competitive based engineering events encouraged me to push myself and take steps in pursuit of applying for the academy.

Overall, I do not regret participating in this camp at all. I am so grateful for my sponsorship from the Chicago Post of the SAME engineers and the many skills and experiences I came home with as a result of participating in this camp. I am encouraged even more to challenge myself every day, and to take advantage of every opportunity. Life is not going to be perfect, we are bound to make mistakes, however focusing on the moment and not in the past will guide me to my success.
On a perfect Chicago summer evening, another record crowd attended this year’s boat cruise! The Chicago Post’s signature event provided a great opportunity to network with your SAME colleagues and to support several worthy veteran and military family support organizations.

This year’s cruise took place on Tuesday, July 30, with a preboarding party at City Winery on the Chicago River before boarding at Wendella’s West Docks. Over 125 SAME members and guests, including invited members of related professional societies – American Public Works Association (APWA) and Illinois Society of Professional Engineers (ISPE) – and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). We were joined by several members of our partnering Lake Michigan Post; the Detroit Post, represented by our Regional Vice President, Tricia Muxlow; and several retired USACE and SAME members.

We gratefully acknowledged the attendance of several veterans of foreign wars – Vietnam, Korea, and WWII. And thanks to the support of 15 sponsor companies (see next page), we raised over $3,500 for Friends of Fisher House Illinois and Honor Flight – Chicago. As in past years, we were joined onboard with several current residents of the Fisher House at Hines VA. We look forward to continuing this rewarding relationship in the future, and joining FOFH at its upcoming TopGolf Benefit on October 13 (see www.fofh-il.org for registration info). On the other hand, this was our first year supporting the Honor Flight program, which sends senior war heroes to Washington, D.C., for a day of honor at the memorials built in tribute to them. The donation from the Boat Cruise event supported two veterans on HFC’s 93rd flight, which occurred in August. HFC’s Director, Doug Meffley, introduced the program to the group; for more information, go to www.honorflightchicago.org. Again, we look forward to continuing this new relationship in the future.

This year’s 50-50 Raffle raised over $1,200 for the Chicago Post Scholarship Fund thanks to the generosity of attendees who purchased raffle tickets and Kerri Daniels of DLZ who donated her winning share back to the Fund. Additional thanks to Bernard Deir of Midwest Business Consulting who donated White Sox tickets, which were also repurposed.

Thanks to our Boat Cruise Committee this year: Alex Masters – Registration, April Ricketts – Post President, Michele Atkinson – Post 1st VP, Jim Wescott – Treasurer, Kim John- son – Food, Ryan Hopkins – Preboard Party, Sudhir Mantri and Jason Cristino – Sales, Anneg Richter and Rob Foster – Co-Chairs, and to Bannerville USA, which provided our signage and new event banner.

As always, we welcome your suggestions regarding this event and, with your continued support, plan to hold the 14th Annual SAME Chicago Boat Cruise Fundraiser in late July 2020 – mark your calendars!
Photos from 2019 Boat Cruise
Helping out at the Lake Michigan’s Post Golf Tournament
by Michele Atkinson-- SAME Chicago Post 1st Vice President

The SAME Chicago Post was proud to be a hole sponsor the SAME Lake Michigan Post’s 2019 Annual Golf Outing earlier this summer on June 21st at the Midlane Golf Resort in Wadsworth. In addition to being a hole sponsor, the Chicago Post provided bottles of water to the golfers.

I was able to attend the event, which was a great success. I brought along her camera and met each team of golfers at the 17th hole, where I greeted them on behalf of the Chicago Post and snapped a team photo. Each team received their photo that same day. After the event, a $11,000 check was presented to two SAME scholarship recipients.

We look forward to attending next year!
Photos from June and August Post Meetings

June Post Meeting—Presentation on Flood Risk Management Studies by Kristine Meyer, Matt Dircksen, and Joel Schmidt with the USACE Chicago District Office

August Post Meeting—Presentation on Illinois Tollway Program by Paul Kovas and Lanyea Griffin with Illinois Tollway