President’s Message

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

SummerGreetings!

We have had a fantastic start to this year, including some great presentations at our January, February, and April Post Meetings. In addition to our meetings, we’ve had representation at the Annual Chicagoland Engineers Week Awards Dinner and will be passing out water bottles at the SAME LMP Golf tournament later this month. Check out our Calendar of Events in this newsletter as well as on the Post website.

Batter up! Our Young Member Rep, Ryan Hopkins, has been busy planning a Young Member’s Baseball event, tentatively planned at the White Sox Stadium. We are hoping to have more information to share with you on that in the next few weeks.

As in year’s past, the Chicago Post is proud to be able to send students to the SAME STEM Camps. This year, the Post is sponsoring two students—one will be attending the USMC Camp Lejeune (Jacksonville, NC) and the other will go to the USAF Academy (Colorado Springs, CO). Both camps take place later in June and we will plan to have articles from our two campers in the Fall newsletter.

You’ve probably have noticed on the list of Board positions (just to the left of my article) that we have a few vacancies (or situations where folks are doing double-duty). We’ve had a few folks who had to step down because of workplace commitments...however, the show must go on. If you have time and would like to participate in shaping the future of the Chicago Post, please contact me or any of the other Board members.

We’ve updated our process for getting continuing educational credits at our Post Meetings to be more in line with SAME requirements. We will have a sign in sheet for folks wanting PDH credits that will need to be filled in upon arrival at the meeting and signed out when leaving (and we will keep as a copy on file). We tried this new method at our April Post meeting (I guess it really isn’t new, but it hasn’t been done for a few years) and it seemed to work out well. If you have any suggestions for streamlining things, please let us know.

In appreciation for your continued support, the Board has voted to start passing out SAME Membership Anniversary pins to acknowledge milestone anniversaries. We are looking to start doing this at our December meeting...so mark your calendars.

Lastly, SAME is looking for the local Posts to give thoughts on how to recognize the upcoming SAME Centennial Anniversary (in 2020). If you have any ideas on a good way to commemorate things, please let me know.

Until Next Time...

April Ricketts
SAME Chicago Post President

SAME HISTORY

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, uniting 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.
UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

JUNE
6/21: Lake Michigan Golf Outing

JULY
NO POST MEETING THIS MONTH!
7/30: Chicago and LMP Post Annual Boat Cruise

AUGUST
8/4 to 8/6: SAME Post Leaders Workshop

SEPTEMBER
9/18: Post Meeting. Topic TBD

The SAME Chicago Post holds regular lunch meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, unless “special events” supersede. Networking begins at 11:30, with presentations starting at about 12:00. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the USACE Chicago District Office, 231 S. LaSalle Street, 16th Floor. Reservations are required for lunch and for building access.

Photos from Past Meetings

April Post Meeting—Presentation on Emergency Interstate Bridge Closures and Responses by Kent Zinn, Regional Director at Michael Baker International

Visit us on the Web!

www.same-chicago.org

Or Follow us on Social Media!
Greetings SAME Chicago Members,

We hope you can join us at our upcoming Post Meetings! See below for information on the June and August Post Meetings.

If you have any topics you’d like to hear about in the future, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Papakos

June Post Meeting - USACE Chicago Presentation

Join us for our upcoming June Meeting to hear from the USACE Hydraulic Engineers talk about Flood Risk Management Studies in Texas, Puerto Rico and California.

• Speakers: Matt Dircksen, Kristine Meyer, and Joel Schmidt with the USACE Chicago District
• When: Wednesday, June 19, 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: $15 (on RSVP form, please indicate if any dietary restrictions)

Kristine Meyer Bio
Ms. Meyer is a Civil Engineer with a background in Water Resources. As a Hydraulic Engineer at the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kristine completes hydrologic and hydraulic analysis to evaluate alternatives for flood risk management studies and ecosystem restoration projects. Prior to joining the Corps 3 years ago, Kristine worked as a Water Resources Engineer for WBK Engineering in St. Charles, IL. Kristine is a PE in the State of Illinois and is an Illinois CFM.

Matt Dircksen Bio
Mr. Dircksen is a Hydraulic Engineer at the US Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District and is a Professional Engineer. He has worked for the Corps of Engineers for 10 years in Chicago, New Orleans, and Brazil, completing projects on inland rivers and coastal environments to reduce flood risk and enhance navigation opportunities.

Joel Schmidt Bio
Mr. Schmidt is the Chief of the Hydraulics and Environmental Section and has working in the Chicago District performing hydrologic and hydraulic analysis for flood risk management and ecosystem projects for the past 12 years. He is a Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois.

August Post Meeting - Illinois Tollway Program

Join us for our August Meeting to hear Paul D. Kovacs, P.E., Illinois Tollway Chief Engineering Officer talk about the Tollway Program.

• Speakers: Paul D. Kovacs, P.E., Illinois Tollway
• When: Wednesday, August 21, 2019
• Where: US Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District Office, 231 S LaSalle St, 16th Floor, Chicago IL
• Time: 11:30am – 1 pm

Paul D. Kovacs Bio
Mr. Kovacs is the Chief Engineering Officer for the Illinois Tollway and is responsible for the policies, practices and procedures of the Engineering Department, which oversees all design and construction operations on the agency’s 294-mile system of roadways serving 1.6 million daily users in Northern Illinois. Currently, he is responsible for delivering the Illinois Tollway’s 15-year, $14 billion capital program, Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future. Mr. Kovacs earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois and is a registered professional engineer in Illinois and Michigan. In his nearly 37 years of professional engineering experience, 17 were spent in the consulting industry. He joined the Illinois Tollway in 1999 and prior to his appointment to Chief Engineer, he served as the Open Road Tolling program manager and deputy chief of project implementation. In this role, he managed the conversion of 20 mainline plazas to open road tolling and improvements along the Tri-State (I-94/I-294/I-80), Jane Addams Memorial (I-90) and Reagan Memorial (I-88) tollways.
The 13th Annual SAME Chicago River and Lake Michigan Boat Cruise Fundraiser is on Tuesday July 30. This major summer event will again support the Friends of Fisher House—Illinois, which we have done every year of the event. This year, we will also be supporting Honor Flight Chicago, which just completed its 91st flight on June 5, now honoring veterans of the Vietnam Era.

Sign up now to attend or sponsor this year’s Cruise to recognize the important contributions of these two programs that are discussed below.

What’s new with Friends of Fisher House—Illinois (FOFH-IL)?
FOFH-IL is a completely volunteer non-profit whose mission is to sustain the 20-private bedroom suite Hines VA Fisher House in Illinois. Hines Fisher House with the support of FOFH-IL has provided 10,000 families with free lodging with meals since 2010, saving Veterans and their families thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs.

FOFH-IL raises funds, solicits grants and conducts events to fulfill their mission. Through these efforts, they ensure that there is never a lodging fee and provide all food and beverages and quality of life outings [including the SAME Annual Boat Cruise] for our military families who sacrifice so much for our freedom and safety.

Military Families’ Humanitarian need is so great a 2nd Illinois Fisher House Is coming to Captain James A. Lovell Federal Healthcare Center (FHCC).
FHCC opened Naval Station Great Lakes on Oct. 1, 2010, and is the first US health care center that partners the Department of Veterans Affairs and the DoD into a single, fully integrated federal health care facility. This center is a system of facilities throughout Northeastern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin that provide medical and dental services to U.S. military veterans, recruits, active duty and eligible beneficiaries. https://www.fofhil.org/captain-james-a.html

FOFH-IL has pledged support to all Fisher Houses in Illinois, and SAME is in a unique position with Posts in close proximity to both Hines VA and FHCC. To learn more, consider attending Fisher House Hines VA Open House on June 25, 11:00 to 1:30, or visit www.fofhil.org.

What is Honor Flight Chicago’s Mission?
Honor Flight Chicago (HFC) was founded in 2008 to recognize America’s senior war veterans by flying them to Washington, D.C. to tour the memorials built in their honor. The one-day, all-expense paid trip is filled with appreciation, tributes, memories and gratitude. Proceeds from the Boat Cruise will pay for one or two veterans to recognize the bravery, determination and patriotism of America’s senior military veterans with this one-of-a-kind journey to Washington, D.C. for a day of honor, thanks and inspiration.

HFC is a 501(c)(3) organization and part of a nationwide network of Honor Flight hubs, yet each operates independently. HFC has flown more veterans than any hub and is a standard bearer for others to emulate. Each honor flight day begins long before sunrise. Veterans arrive at 4 a.m. to Chicago’s Midway Airport, and for the next 16-plus hours, they are treated as heroes everywhere they go. Learn more at: https://www.honorflightchicago.org/
Society of
SAME
American Military Engineers

**ALL ABOARD!!**
13th Annual Chicago River and Lake Michigan Boat Cruise Fundraiser

SAME’s Chicago and Lake Michigan Posts invite you to attend our 13th Annual Boat Cruise Fundraiser. This two-hour cruise is an enjoyable way to spend a summer evening with fellow SAME members and guests, and has become a highlight of our summer programs!

Started in 2007, the event has raised over $35,000 for various veteran and military family support organizations. Our goal for this year’s event is to raise $10,000 through corporate sponsorships and attendance. We are continuing our long-standing support to Fisher House—Illinois, and this year, also plan to raise enough to send one or two Chicago-area veterans on an “Honor Flight” to Washington, DC.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019
7:00-9:00 P.M. Twilight Cruise
(6:45 P.M. Boarding Time)

**WHERE:** Board at: Wendella Boats Trump Tower Dock
401 North Wabash Ave., Chicago

**COST:** Early Bird Discount
“Save $10/ticket by registering by July 1! “Online Sales Only
$65 General Admission—Private Sector
$50 General Admission—Public/Military
(Includes Open Bar and Light Dinner)

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Please consider making a one-time donation and supporting this event. Sponsors will receive recognition on our web page, social networking sites and at the event. And more importantly…our thanks for your support!

**Sponsorship Levels**

- **Admiral** $1,500 includes 4 admissions to the boat cruise event.
- **Captain** $750 includes 2 admissions to the event.
- **First Mate** $350 includes 1 admission to the event.
- **Additional Tickets for sponsors at any level:** $50

Have questions? Please contact:
Annie Richter - annie.richter@cardno.com; 708-516-2544
or
Rob Foster - robert.foster@akana.us; 708-533-7111

Register on line through Chicago Post Website:
[www.same.org/chicago](http://www.same.org/chicago) (then link to Eventbrite)

Or scan and email to robert.foster@akana.us

And mail a check as indicated below.
(Sponsors also provide electronic logo.)

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Mail checks payable to **SAME Chicago Post** and mail to:
SAME Chicago Post
P.O. Box 6232
Chicago, IL 60606

MEMO: SAME Boat Cruise
Have a Wonderful 4th of July Celebration!

From the SAME Chicago Post