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# The Society of American Military Engineers

GREATER KANSAS CITY POST  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

*“Proud Heritage - Promising Future”*

Vol. 13 No. 4  
August/September 2002

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## Upcoming General Membership Meetings

### Partnership 2002 Industry Day & Small Business Training Conference

August 27-29, 2002 • St. Louis, MO

Don't miss this one! Our August meeting will be superseded by our joint meeting with The USACE Rock Island, Kansas City, and St. Louis Districts and SAME–St. Louis Post. Come join us at the Partnership 2002 Industry Day at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in St. Louis. The theme is “Gateway to Opportunities.” Come experience three days of training dedicated to business networking and partnership. For registration details and conference schedule visit [www.same.org/stlouis/](http://www.same.org/stlouis/).

### September Meeting

LTC Gary Heer is currently planning our September meeting and has retained James Guilliford, EPA Region VII Administrator, as our featured speaker.

Date: September 26, 2002

Time: 11:30 – 12:00: Social/Registration • 12:00 - Lunch • Program to follow

Place: Cascone's, 3733 North Oak, Kansas City, MO

Cost: \$13.00

RSVP: Michele Mahoney by 8/23/02. Fx: 816/472-4086; Ph: 816/527-2348; [mmahoney@hntb.com](mailto:mmahoney@hntb.com)

*Did you know? By attending our SAME General Membership luncheon programs, you can earn Professional Development Hours (PDHs) required annually for maintaining professional certification. Most States require registrants (Professional Engineers) to acquire 15 PDH credits per year for re-licensing. Through SAME, you can earn 0.5 PDH per meeting and up to 6 hours toward this annual requirement. Additional hours can be earned by attending technical sessions presented at various SAME conferences, like the recent SAME National Conference. In short, it pays to be involved in your local SAME Post Chapter. This year we are tentatively planning to expand several luncheon programs so that we can award a full PDH to attendees.*

## KU Student Post Followup

School will soon be back in session and with the start of KU's Fall semester we will resume activities at the KU Student Post. We anticipate another exceptional year from this great group of young students and future engineers who achieved the honor of 2002 Distinguished Student Post. **Connie Cook of EMR, Inc.**, and our Post's representative at KU Post functions, will keep us informed of this year's activities. **Sean McKee** will be returning as Student Post President. Once finalized, meeting details will be posted on our SAME Kansas City Post web page.

## SAME Young Members

The Young Members group will be **hosting Happy Hour at Charlie Hooper's** on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. We are picking up the tab for the appetizers so mark the date on your calendars and plan to join us! It is our goal this year to boost membership and participation in the group, so feel free to bring a friend that might be interested in joining. See the post website for future updates or contact **Matt Metcalf** via e-mail at [mmetcalf@hntb.com](mailto:mmetcalf@hntb.com).

## Message from the President. . .

Time flies when you're having fun and much has happened in the past couple of months. Building on the success of serving as host for the National Conference, we've provided several scholarships for folks headed for college, toured the World War I Memorial, and are about to join our friends in St Louis and Rock Island for the Partnership 2002 Industry Day & Small Business Training Conference. But even though we're in the midst of a flurry of activity, I thought it would be appropriate to reflect on the purpose of SAME and the current focus on recruitment to see what direction we might want to head in the Greater Kansas City Post. The stated purpose of SAME is to:



Don Curtis, COL, Post President

- Improve and increase the engineering capacity of the Nation.
- Exchange and advance the knowledge of engineering technologies, applications, and practice.

On the upcoming anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001, the SAME purpose statement makes a lot of sense. After all, if we are to be successful in the war on terrorism, it will take the talents of the Nation's engineers to cope with problems like the protection of our infrastructure. With respect to exchanging and advancing knowledge, it isn't surprising **LTG Flowers** has stated our focus this year is to establish "an active program to recruit, develop and mentor young engineers."

Our Post is taking steps to accomplish both purposes. For example, we are constantly trying to improve our engineer networking capabilities by emphasizing enrollment in the Joint Engineering Council (JEC) database. To promote membership, we are offering a great deal on a Professional Engineering Refresher Course for those interesting in joining SAME. The Greater Kansas City Post is in tune with the SAME purpose and what we do this year is only limited by our collective imagination.

In the coming months, we are planning some exciting events. In September, we're sponsoring a booth at the APWA International Conference. In October, please join us to hear from the Director of Region VII, EPA at our monthly program. Even further ahead, we're looking at the possibility of hosting a Homeland Security forum in November. Got ideas? We want to hear from you. As always, it's a pleasure to serve you.

**Don Curtis, COL, Post President**

[Donald.R.Curtis.COL@nwk02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Donald.R.Curtis.COL@nwk02.usace.army.mil)

## P.E Exam Refresher Course

Due to the great response for the PE Refresher Course, the SAME sponsorship for the course is full and the registration for the Fall course is now closed. Note, the University of Missouri is still accepting applications for the online course at full price. Individuals not signed up for the course and wishing to attend the FREE Informational Kickoff meeting on August 26 should contact Tom Poer for information at (816) 527-2357 or [tpoer@hntb.com](mailto:tpoer@hntb.com).

## Check It Out!

Thanks to the efforts of Tom Poer and Juan Uribe of HDR, our Post website is updated and continually growing. We now have a 'hit counter' to monitor web page activity. Please check the site frequently for updates: [www.same.org/kansascity/](http://www.same.org/kansascity/)

## Treasurer's Report

Following is a summary of the Post's funds and account statuses for the period of June 5, 2002 through August 12, 2002.

### Operating Fund:

\$3,787.12 UMB

Net Change = \$1,497.94

### Merrill Lynch Fund: (Scholarship & Future Operating Fund)

\$43,250.61 Principal

\$24,152.00 Accrued Earnings (Cash)

\$67,402.61

## 2002 Deadlines for KC SAME Post Newsletter

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submit Materials by:</u>
Oct/Nov	October 10
Dec/Jan	December 5

### **Please Help Us Maintain the Post Database**

Please submit address changes to Bill Koski at [koskiwa@cdm.com](mailto:koskiwa@cdm.com) to help us maintain current membership information. You can also update your personal information on the Post's website at [www.same.org/kansascity/](http://www.same.org/kansascity/)  
*Special thanks to Bill Koski for the effort he has exhausted in straightening out our membership database!*

### ***SAME Newsletter, Greater Kansas City Post***

**President:** COL Donald Curtis • **Secretary:** Frank Bader

#### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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#### **Oct/Nov Issue Deadline for Submittals: October 10, 2002**

*This newsletter is issued every other month. We are currently accepting project writeups, members in the news, and job opportunities for our next publication. Please email your entry to Phil Dula (see information above) or Lori Hintz (ph: 651/291-3436 or [lorih@baywest.com](mailto:lorih@baywest.com)).*

# General Membership Meeting Followups

by Phil Dula, Bay West, Inc.

## June Meeting Followup

Our June 27 meeting was extremely busy as we inducted our new Post Officers and Board Members and awarded scholarships to our scholarship winners. Cascone's again provided an excellent meal and great accommodations. Our Post awarded \$20,000 in college scholarships to 17 deserving and outstanding students. We were fortunate to have many of these students attend our June meeting with their parents.

We also recognized **LTC Gary Heer** for the tremendous leadership he provided during his term as Post President. Colonel Heer initiated many activities during his term to see that our Post raised the bar for performance. During his time at the helm (is this an appropriate term for a Colonel?), we:

- Initiated Strategic Planning for our Post and outlined specific duties of the Post Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs
- Hosted an extremely successful National SAME Conference
- Achieved the designation of Distinguished Post and Grand Slam Winner
- Awarded a record number of scholarships
- Achieved greater involvement and mentoring of the Kansas City Post Young SAME Member's Group and KU Student Post

These are a few of the accomplishments we achieved this year under LTC Heer's leadership. **Thank you LTC Heer!**



*New Post President Col. Curtis (left) presented last year's Post President LTC Herr with the Post award for his outstanding performance as Post President.*

*Right: Terry Flanagan, HNTB/SAME Fellow (left), swore in the new and continuing Kansas City Post officers and board members for 2002-03.*

*Bottom: 2002 Post Scholarship winners with Col. Curtis.*



## KC SAME Post 2002 Remaining Meetings Dates

August 27-29  
*Partnership 2002*  
*St. Louis, MO*  
September 26  
October 24  
November 21  
December 19

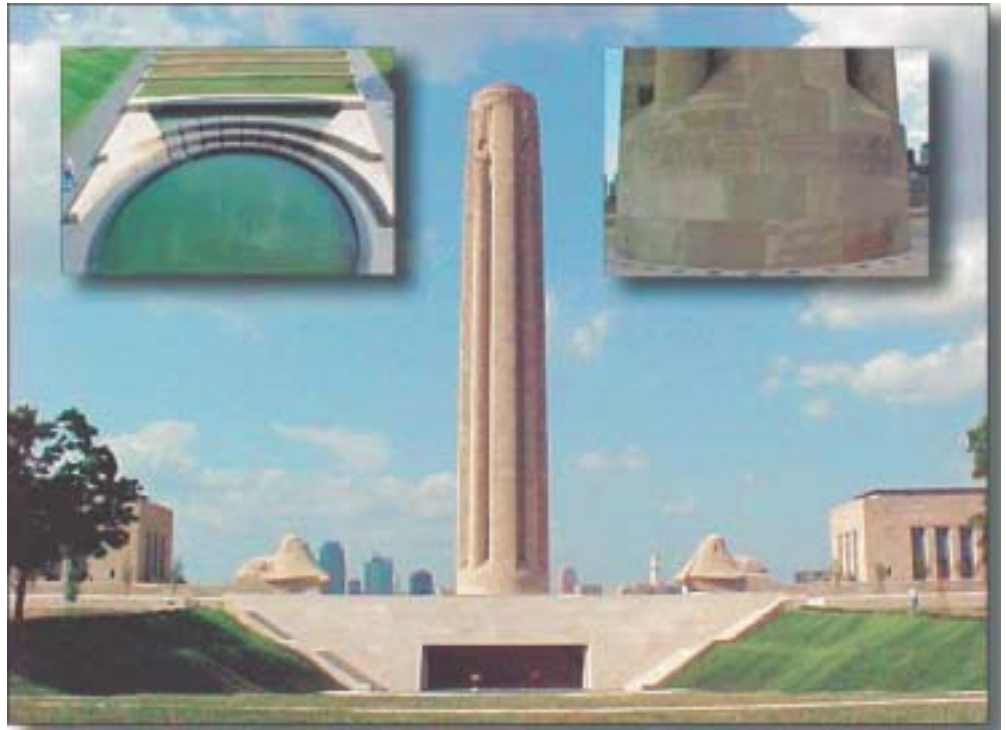
# General Membership Meeting Followups

(continued)

## July/August Meeting: Liberty Memorial Field Trip

Living up to the predicted weather in the July meeting announcement, we had a hot summer day for our August 1, 2002 field trip meeting. I believe it was 102°F in the shade! In spite of the heat, our trip to the Liberty Memorial was well attended with more than 60 folks tolerating our sticky tropical weather. Thanks to **Mark McHenry**, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, and **John Brake**, J.E. Dunn, for co-hosting this event.

If you have not had an opportunity to visit the Liberty Memorial since its grand re-opening this past May, I encourage you to do so. The Liberty Memorial was completed in 1926 as our nation's only memorial dedicated solely to WWI. The Memorial was closed in 1994 due to structural and material deterioration. Over the next 7 years, the joint efforts of the firms of J.E. Dunn (general contractor), ASAI (architect), and Bob D. Campbell and Company (structural engineer), the Memorial has been restored to its original splendor and also includes some significant improvements. This was an extremely enjoyable event!



.....  
*Top: Liberty Memorial with inserts of the reflecting pool and base of the memorial.*

*Right: Arl Altman, Pangea, "Is this thing loaded?"*

*Bottom:  
Col. Curtis  
(left) presented  
our Post's  
Certificate of  
Appreciation to  
John Brake,  
J.E. Dunn  
Construction,  
general  
contractor for  
restoration of  
the memorial.*



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# On Station in the Everglades

by Steve Whitfield

*(Steve is a Resident Representative for Burns & McDonnell on a project to restore the Florida Everglades, and transferred from Burns & McDonnell's Kansas City Office to Florida. As a former Kansas City Post President and active Board member, Steve has been keeping us updated on his new endeavors.)*



## June 30, 2002:

It is June here in South Florida and the start of the rainy season. The northbound 2-lane highway-bridge is complete and the southbound traffic has been rerouted onto the new bridge. The bridge contractor put together a big Komatsu excavator (PC750) and has started to dig the western portion of the new canal that will necessitate the bridges we are building. The exit required from our construction village is a little hairy, requiring going north a ways, then a U-turn into the southbound highway traffic, at high speed. We brainstormed possible alternatives today and will build a temporary rock road lane in the drainage swale for incoming traffic and create an exit through the barrier wall further south for exiting the village.

The rainy season is just about upon us and we get some afternoon thunderstorms. Bankruptcy proceedings for our prime earthwork contractor have concluded with their purchase by a larger company. This has provided a source of funding to pay off subcontractors who had stopped work for non-payment. The newly named firm now has a major challenge to restore confidence in subs and suppliers, to obtain replacement and new equipment, and to hire operators who left in droves. We are anxious to see what will happen and the earthwork is now behind schedule by about three months.

Construction of the first control structure has started with the initial placement of pre-cast box culvert sections. The 48 structures will range in size from single barrel 7' x 7' to two barrel 10' x 12' boxes. Initially, the Contractor had problems

with his surveyor, requiring re-grading of the first pad several times over a range of 4 feet! Shortly after, the rains began in earnest, overwhelming the inadequate dewatering scheme of the earthwork Contractor. June has seen record rainfall in parts of Florida. Alligators on the move and see many killed on the highways. Structure work is about at a standstill.

My oldest daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren are making their first visit to Florida. Seeing Disney World, Sea World, and spending lots of time with grandma and grandpa. We celebrated Grace's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday and William, age 3 is a delight. He likes construction equipment and owns at least 30 hot wheels racers, all of which traveled to Florida. Our plan is to make them like it so much here, they refuse to go back up north with their parents. So far, it seems to be working.

More to follow...



## August 20, 2002:

Rainy season here but not too wet this year. Had a lot of rain in July but August storms have been spotty. Spotty, but unusually violent. Within the past two weeks, a lightning bolt destroyed three large royal palms near the house, they looked like large burned matchsticks; and another strike, was close enough to burn up a TV and VCR in the master bedroom and put the phones out of order. This was how I discovered that the house is not grounded. Am looking for a lightning rod installer as we speak.

Today has been beautiful, with temperature about 85F. Funny summer with temperatures that have been cooler here than most of the rest of the country. Thunderclouds are now building, common for this time of year. The sunrise on the way to work this morning was especially beautiful. Many of them are. A few dark clouds over the coast let the rising sun peek through at various locations to illuminate the undersides with reds and purples—my favorite time of

*Dispatch from the Glades*

*Continued on Page 6*

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the day. Raining now and thunder booming overhead. Expect the sun to be back before I leave for the day.

Work is proceeding well. We have poured nearly 21,000 of 35,000 cubic yards of concrete that go into the two pump stations. Yesterday we poured the base slab for the first of 48 gated concrete structures that will transmit water through the levees into distribution canals. The earthwork Contractor is finally getting back up to speed after going through bankruptcy proceedings, although we now have some schedule to make up. The highway bridges are ahead of schedule and should be complete by October. Canal bridges are having difficulty because of poor surveying and failure of the Contractor's quality control procedures. They will not impede schedule and we are holding the Contractor's feet to the fire to do them correctly.

Still practicing "Partnering" and it helps as long as both sides are sincere. It requires constant attention to achieve success. The effort includes informal social get-togethers for things like cookouts and golf matches. Wife and I are well ensconced as Floridians and regularly curse the Yankee tourists who come here to crowd our highways. We are finding all of the good restaurants, especially for seafood. We'd love to see friends if any of you get this way. Please look us up.

More later...



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## Post Notes

### Advertise in the Newsletter

by Phil Dula, Bay West, Inc.

As Editor of our Newsletter, I would like to thank **Bay West, Pangea, and HDR** for their year-long commitment to advertise in the newsletter. Thanks also to our newest advertisers, **TetraTech** and **Waste Express**, for their commitment. We still have available advertising space for upcoming issues, so please show your support and sign up for the October/November issue. Your business card-size advertisement could be included at nominal cost of \$30 per issue or a discounted price of \$150 for 6 issues. Advertising fees are used to support development of our web page, to offset meeting announcement mailing costs, and to supplement our scholarship fund.

### Career Opportunities

Did you know that our sustaining member firms are linked to our Post web page? By accessing these company links, you can search for personnel resource needs at these firms. In addition, Federal job openings can be searched at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) and [www.kchasjobs.com](http://www.kchasjobs.com). These include opportunities at the USACE, EPA, GSA, etc. You can also utilize this newsletter to list your current employment opportunities. Please contact Phil Dula to have your career opportunities included in the newsletter ([phild@baywest.com](mailto:phild@baywest.com)).

## 2002 Missouri River Regional Training Conference

*“Responding to New Challenges in  
National Defense”*

**Ft. Leonard Wood, MO • October 15-17, 2002**

The Missouri Region Districts and SAME invite you to attend the 2002 Missouri River Regional Training Conference, October 15-17, 2002. The theme for this year's symposium is "Missouri Region—Responding to New Challenges in National Defense." The objective of the training conference is to provide a regional forum for the presentation and exchange of ideas and potential solutions to military engineering challenges related to meeting the needs of our Nation's defense. We will look across service boundaries and open channels to academia, the private sector and non-DoD government agencies with proven solutions to engineering problems. For conference details please visit [www.same.org/leonardwood/](http://www.same.org/leonardwood/).

### Tetra Tech Performing Local Restoration Project, Wins Homeland Security Contract

#### Brush Creek Habitat Restoration Planning

Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) has been working on a growing number of innovative biological engineering and habitat restoration projects. Tetra Tech is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> overall on the ENR list of the largest engineering firms, and has a Kansas City-based staff of 120 engineers and scientists. Tetra Tech's Kansas City office is rapidly developing as a center of expertise within the firm for bioengineering and habitat restoration projects.

This summer, Tetra Tech has been preparing the design and specifications for flood control and streambank stabilization on the reach of Brush Creek extending from the Plaza downstream to approximately Troost Avenue. Tetra Tech is finalizing detailed drawings and plans for construction of various bioengineering measures, including turf-reinforced matting; open-cell, articulated concrete blocks; streamco willow live stakes; geocellular confinement; and stacked stone walls. There also will be in-stream aquatic features such as rock weirs, pools, riffles, and the establishment of various native plant communities, including short- and tall-grass prairies, wetlands, wet meadows, and wooded embankments.

The project design also includes two new and innovative wetland "eyebrows" or in-stream cells, located at the outfalls of storm water discharge pipes. The wetland eyebrows are designed to provide two different types of treatment: subsurface-flow and surface-flow. Each eyebrow design incorporates a unique system of stacked stone stem walls, rock and soil substrate, and subsurface drain inlets and outlets sized to collect and treat storm water from adjacent street and lawn areas.



**Tetra Tech, Inc.**

- Homeland Defense Projects
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- Stormwater Engineering
- Habitat Restoration
- NEPA/Wetlands Permitting
- Geotechnical Investigations

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<http://www.ttemi.com>

The project is expected to provide opportunities to demonstrate how in-stream wetlands can be designed to treat storm water, as required by future Phase II storm water treatment standards. Wetlands and prairies also will provide educational opportunities for local schools.

For additional information about the Brush Creek project or general information about Tetra Tech's biological engineering, habitat restoration, and other capabilities, contact Ed Hubert, Kansas City Operations Manager for the resource management group, or Scott Schulte, project manager for the Brush Creek project, at (913) 894-2600, or by email at [ed.hubert@ttemi.com](mailto:ed.hubert@ttemi.com) or [scott.schulte@ttemi.com](mailto:scott.schulte@ttemi.com).

#### Tetra Tech Wins Homeland Security Contract

Tetra Tech was recently notified that it will be awarded a multiple award task order contract (MATOC) from the Kansas City District of the Corps of Engineers to provide homeland security services for federal facilities. The 3-year contract will have a capacity of \$15 million. The scope of work includes threat and vulnerability assessment; training, preparedness, and prevention; engineering design and construction of force protection measures; and crisis management. Program management for the contract will take place in Tetra Tech's Kansas City office, which employs 120 engineers and scientists.

Tetra Tech's work in the homeland security arena is growing rapidly. In addition to the Corps of Engineers MATOC, the firm is currently performing work under a number of other homeland security contracts for a variety of municipal and state governments, and for federal agencies including the US EPA, the GSA, and the National Park Service. For additional information about Tetra Tech's homeland security capabilities and projects, contact Ed Hubert, Kansas City Operations Manager for the firm's resource management group, or Bob Fortin, Federal Services Coordinator, at (913) 894-2600, or by email at [ed.hubert@ttemi.com](mailto:ed.hubert@ttemi.com) or [fortinttemikc@yahoo.com](mailto:fortinttemikc@yahoo.com).



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