

# North Winds

## VOICE OF THE ANCHORAGE POST

APRIL 2006

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Monthly Luncheon

20 April 2006, 11:30 a.m.  
**Moose Lodge No. 1534**  
4211 Arctic Boulevard

*RSVP by Wednesday 19 April to Andy Larson at  
277-5488 or via e-mail at  
[alarson@northwind-inc.com](mailto:alarson@northwind-inc.com)*

#### Executive Board Meeting

28 April 2006, 6:30 a.m.  
**Country Kitchen**  
346 E. Fifth Avenue

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

The Society of American Military Engineers, Anchorage Post, along with the American Public Works' Association (APWA) will host a joint monthly meeting starting at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, 20 April 2006 at the Moose Lodge. A catered buffet lunch will be available for \$15.00. Members and guests are welcome!

The lunch program will feature Hurricane Katrina first-responder Peter Madsen, P.E. Peter is a Vice President for CH2M HILL. His current role is as the Operations Center Lead coordinating and supporting CH2M HILL disaster response activities in the Gulf area following Hurricane Katrina. As part of a 500 million dollar FEMA contract, CH2M HILL and the Gulf Operations Center guides utility and infrastructure repairs, multi-state temporary housing missions, rapid identification and movement of levee bags for the USACE, as well as field operations such as site assessments, building inspections and sampling of environmental media, and debris removal.

Please refer to the Calendar of Events above, for RSVP details.

### 2006 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As a substitute writer for Col Hass while he is traveling, I'd like to take this opportunity to follow-up on one of his goals for this year. In last month's column Col Hass challenged us to increase individual membership by 15 percent. Recruiting Young Members will be key to meeting that goal. We need to make sure potential Young Members understand SAME is much more than monthly lunch meetings.

Only in the last couple of months as I joined the Board of Directors did I become aware of the extent of SAME's charitable and service contributions. The BG Benjamin B. Talley Scholarship fund will provide \$12,000 to college students this year. The Post will also provide at least another \$4,600 to organizations and students in the local area. These donations will allow high school students to attend SAME Construction Camps and provide prizes and support to science fairs, robotics competitions, Math Counts, and other activities that will encourage elementary through high school students in math and science. Besides the financial contributions, the Post also provides volunteers for these same activities to provide judges, teachers, and mentors for the students.

For those of you with potential Young Members in your firms or organizations please let them know all the benefits of SAME...being a part of a society that serves the community, networking opportunities, and yes, the monthly lunch, and encourage them to join today.

*Kevin Thomas, SAME 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President*

## MARCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Attendees:** 1<sup>st</sup> VP Mark Syren, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Kevin Thomas, Treasurer Kathy Jacobson, Newsletter Editor Kathy Riker, Andy Larson, John Magee, Bruce Steely, Chris Turletes, Leo Von Scheben, and Todd Pfennig.

**President's Report:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mark Syren opened the meeting and asked Mr Leo Von Scheben to provide an update on the Senior Executive Group (SEG). Mr Von Scheben is a member of the SEG, which meets four times a year to provide guidance on issues that affect the Society, the military, or sustaining members. The SEG is made up of 22 members, including the engineering chiefs from each service and senior leaders of various sustaining members. The topic for the April meeting is ACAS/CCAS – how useful and timely is the system, how corrections can be made, etc. Mr. Von Scheben will advertise our regional conference and keep us informed of other SEG topics and activities.

A request was made from the Boretide Robotics Education Association for assistance in sending the Alaska champions to the World Lego Robotics Festival in Atlanta. The festival is a competition for teams made up of students from ages 9-14. The Board approved \$500 contingent upon the team coming to a meeting to tell us about the competition and demonstrate their robot.

A committee will be co-chaired by John McGee and Chris Turletes to establish this year's goals for the Post. If you would like to be a part of the committee or want to pass on some ideas please contact John or Chris.

## SAME VOLUNTEERS ANSWER THE PHONES FOR KSKA

On 3 April 2006, Kathy Gardner, Alyeska Pipeline, Andy Larson, North Wind, Chris Turletes, UAA, Irene Turletes, Dimond High School, and Bo and Bonnie York, Equinox Consulting LLC, tended the phones for KSKA Anchorage's Public Radio station during their Spring Fund drive. SAME was recognized on the "air" as the volunteer organization taking the calls. SAME volunteers had a good time and will volunteer again. If this is something you would like to do, please send Andy Larson an e-mail so he can add you to the list for volunteers.

## 2007 PACIFIC/NORTHWEST REGION EDUCATION AND TRAINING CONFERENCE

The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) 2007 Pacific/Northwest Region Education and Training Conference will take place at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska from 28 February through 2 March 2007. The theme of the conference is "Tropics to Tundra: Spanning the Pacific." The conference will provide thought-provoking guest speakers, interesting technical programs, an opportunity to network with participants, and several entertaining social events.

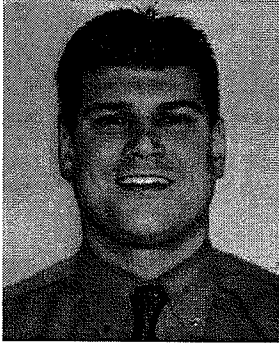
Planning for the conference is well underway and many subcommittees require additional volunteers to assist with making the event a world-class affair. Please contact co-chairs Bill Kontess or Pat Coullahan for additional conference information.

## SAME ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SUMMER CAMPS-- ONE SLOT FILLED; ONE STILL OPEN

SAME Anchorage Post has nominated Alex Kontess for the U.S. Air Force Academy's Engineer and Construction Camp for this summer. Alex is the son of former Post President Bill Kontess, who is also a retired military engineer. Alex is interested in the military and engineering, and he participates in High School sports. He is a Boy Scout and involved in community events. Alex is an excellent candidate for the Engineer and Construction Camp.

We are still looking for a nominee to attend the Seabee Engineer and Construction camp in Port Heuneme, California 22-28 July 2006. Check out <http://posts.same.org/camps/Seabees.htm> if you are interested or know of an interested student that meets the qualifications as listed on the web site, please have them give Chris Turletes (244-8063) or Pat Coullahan (727-3934) a call. We need to have their application by 1 May 2006 so we can endorse it and submit it to the Camp Registrar. Anchorage Post will pay the Camp tuition of \$500 and provide a check for \$250 to the student for transportation expenses.

**SAME YOUNG MEMBER PROFILE:  
JOHN G. BLEES, P.E.**



Mr. Blees is a civil engineer with Bristol Environmental & Engineering Services Corporation. He has nine years of project experience in road, civil site, and water and wastewater facility design for municipal, state, federal, and private entities. His background also includes construction and construction inspection. Mr. Blees has coordinated reviews by multiple agencies and is familiar with the permitting process and standard specifications. He graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage with a B.S. in Civil Engineering.

**Recent Accomplishments**

Lead Civil Design Engineer:

- The Old Harbor Health Clinic and Multi-use Facility on Kodiak Island. This 7,135-square-foot project has a construction cost of \$3.8 million and was designed for construction using force account labor.
- Health Clinics in Kokhanok, Manokotak, Koliganek, and Chignik Lake. Work included site layout, drainage improvements, parking facilities, and sanitary utilities for four approximately 2,500-square-foot structures. These clinics were designed for construction using force account labor.

Civil Design Engineer:

- Design Engineer for a BIA project consisting of designing improvements to existing road and designing new road for about 1.1 miles of roadway in Chenega, Alaska. The roads were designed to meet 20-year projected traffic loads.
- Happy Valley Extension to the Kenai-Kachemak Pipeline. Civil design engineer responsible for the preparation of the plan and profile design for 14.7 miles of natural gas pipeline. The project included eight creek crossings that require horizontal directional drilling.

Project Manager:

- Containment upgrade projects for the Alaska Army National Guard at seven sites: Bethel, Nome, Juneau, Fairbanks, Wasilla, and Anchorage (two Fort Richardson facilities). Upgrades included providing secondary containment to storage facilities, adding roof structures, and providing lighting and electrical grounding systems.

**Affiliations**

- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Society of American Military Engineers

**SAME ANCHORAGE POST BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS SEEK  
MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR**

If you are interested in becoming a Membership Co-Chair (Maj. Gordon Taylor is the other co-chair), please contact Lyn Dokoozian at 646-0296.

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*This month's newsletter sponsor:*



(See enclosed color insert for contact information.)

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