President’s Corner

Change is in the air…are you willing to help?

Hello cooler weather and November! Just love it when the temps drop, air freshens, and the humidity goes somewhere for the winter. Ahhh yes, change is in the air, not only for the weather, but our SAME Post too. Now that we’ve wrapped up the 17th Annual Fall Scholarship Golf Tournament, back on 9 October, at The Landings Golf Course raising nearly $5,000 for up and coming engineer students (thanks Mike Coats for pulling that all together for the 10th year in a row) we turn our attention to our last regular Post meeting of the year on 19 Nov…will sure be a doozy with Mr Mike Keene, GA Department of Transportation Area Manager of the Hwy 96 road widening project from I-75 to I-16. You won’t want to miss that presentation on all the strategy, coordination, design, and construction it takes to widen a two-lane road to four-lanes with divider and construct an overpass while the existing road is still in use. Much needed improvements that in the spring time we’ll take a site tour of. One other critical item for the November meeting is elections for who will be the 2015 Post leadership team of officers and directors. And that’s the change we really need your help on. If you’ve got an extra hour or two to invest a week and you like the direction we are headed or want to help take our Post in a new direction, the time is now to step up and become a SAME officer or director. Many of our Post leaders have been graciously giving of their time for 5 to 10, or more years and ready to take a pause. So, what the heck, raise your hand, put your name in the hat, and give back to the organization that has given so much to each of us. If you are interested, please get your name to any Post leadership member (contact info at back of this newsletter) and they’ll make sure your name goes on the ballet. Remember, nothing good happens when good people do nothing. So do good. Confront evil. And press on! See you at the meeting!

SAME National Focus Areas

1. Ensure Vibrant and Value Added Programs—Create Value for All
2. Support STEM—Share Your Passion, Grow Your Replacement
3. Focus on Veteran Transitions—Help 6,000 military transition from Service over the next 4 years

One Person, One Idea…Every ONE makes a difference!

In 2013, our Post had the 3rd LARGEST DROP in membership in the nation. Thanks to your help in 2014 we’ve GROWN by 9! If you are a member but haven’t participated in a while, c’mon back out and reconnect with your peers. And if you’re new altogether, we’d love to have you. Once at the meeting, share ONE idea as to what our Post can do better to keep you coming back to develop professionally, network, and build a stronger America. Every ONE makes a difference!
Michael Keene of the Georgia Department of Transportation will be giving a presentation explaining a massive project for expanding a highway that connects two major interstates in the middle Georgia area, which would allow for better access to both interstates.

Currently, the GA DOT is working 3 of 4 phases of a single project that will widen SR 96 to 4 lanes from I-75 to I-16. This is to give a corridor to connect the 2 interstate systems. Presently, 3 phases are under construction: Phase 1 is from I-75 eastward to Lake Joy Road; Phase 2 is from Lake Joy Road to Moody Road; and Phase 3 is from Moody Road to Old Hawkinsville Road. Phase 4 is from Old Hawkinsville to I-16.

Phase 3 encompasses Bonaire and will be a realignment of the existing SR 96 down Old Hawkinsville Road which will create an overpass of SR 247 and the railroad just north of Bonaire. This is to assist in the correction of the signalized intersection of SR 96 and SR 247 which cannot handle the increased traffic that has come as the area has grown. The new intersection/overpass will be a signalized interchange with SR 247.

The entire project is a widening to a divided median 4 lane. The median will be grass and/or concrete depending on the location. The utilities along the roadway will be upgraded and replaced as necessary to accommodate the widening as well as drainage structures.

Michael Keene of the Georgia Department of Transportation will be giving a presentation explaining a massive project for expanding a highway that connects two major interstates in the middle Georgia area, which would allow for better access to both interstates.

In May of 2007, Michael became the Area Engineer over all construction and maintenance for the Augusta area which was a 4 county area encompassing Augusta/Richmond Co., Columbia County, Lincoln County and Wilkes County and was also responsible for I-20 in Warren and Jefferson Counties. After 5 years in Augusta, he transferred to the Perry Office in January of 2012 as Area Engineer where he had a 5 county area which includes Warner Robins, Perry and Americus as well as a corridor of I-75 that goes from Cordele to Macon.

Presenters Bio

Michael Keene, EIT, is a graduate of Georgia Southern University with a BS in Civil Engineering Technology and has been with the Department of Transportation for 20 years. He started in September of 1994 in construction inspecting interstate maintenance rehab projects and other projects in the Dublin Area Office, and shortly afterwards became the Survey Party Chief of a district location party. He then became the District Access Management Supervisor for 5 ½ years reviewing and approving commercial driveway and special encroachment permits for the Traffic Operations Section of the district. Then he became the District Signal Engineer for 1 ½ years where he was responsible for 490+ signals in the District which has 28 counties including Augusta, Georgia.

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Preview of November 2014 SAME Presentation entitled “Interstate Connections: A Transportation Project of Epic Proportions”. This presentation will be given by Michael Keene of the GA DOT.

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Georgia Department of Transportation
Are You Interested in Becoming a Director for the Robins SAME Post?

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! This is a call for nominees for the 2015 Election of the Board of Directors for YOUR Post!

The Post has several positions available for YOU to get more involved with SAME. Becoming a board member allows you to influence what your Post will focus on for the coming years and gives you the opportunity to promote the wonderful aspects of science and engineering.

Below are the positions available for nominations, which will be officially announced at the November meeting. If interested, please talk with any current Board Member today!

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Senior Enlisted Advisor
- Director, Programs
- Director, Education & Mentoring
- Director, Finance
- Director, Membership

Sustaining Member Spotlight:

CTI and Associates, Inc. (CTI) was founded in 1976 and today is an SBA Certified 8(a) and Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) providing environmental, Engineering and Construction services to Federal, municipal and private sector clients located throughout the United States. Since 2008, CTI has been awarded over $45M in Federal and DoD Contracts and is continuing to expand its presence in the southeast. Today, we employ approximately 80 professionals and work out of 10 office locations.

For more information on CTI, please contact Kathy Chaffin at 251-545-8427.
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SAME Robins Post
Sustaining Member News

Are you with a Sustaining Member Firm?
If you would like to become one, or if you are not sure of your company’s registration status, please contact Ms. Kathy Chaffin, our Sustaining Member Director, at 251.545.8427 or at: kchaffin@cticompanies.com.

Accepting Abstracts
We are accepting abstracts for presentations for 2015. Let us know what presentation topics, presenters, or tour ideas would most interest you. We want to know what is important to you. Please contact Mr. Ken Branton at: Kenneth.Branton@urs.com with feedback or for more information.