



WORD PASSER

A Monthly Newsletter For The Houston/Galveston Post

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2018

May 3

General Membership Meeting

USACE Galveston District
Meeting at the Lone Star
Flight Museum

May 16

Sporting Clay Tournament

SAME's Annual Tournament at
American Shooting Centers

June 2018

June 6

Public Agency Banquet
Hilton Houston Westchase

July 2018

July 11

Joint Meeting with APWA

Recognizing Students through
Scholarships



In this edition...

- ★ **March 22, 2018**
Young Member Initiative Trivia Night
 SAME Young Members attend the first annual Young Member Initiative Trivia Night
- ★ **March 29, 2018**
SAME Public Agency Committee – City of Missouri City
 Keynote Speaker Scott Elmer, Assistant City Manager for the City of Missouri City
- ★ **April 4, 2018**
General Membership Meeting
 Keynote Speaker David Hagy, with Texas Central, discussed developing the high-speed passenger rail system

Young Member Initiative Trivia Night

By: Patrick Korn

The first annual Young Member Initiative Trivia Night went off without a hitch at Sherlocks pub on March 22nd. ASCE, WTS, and EWB coordinated a terrific private “Geeks Who Drink” trivia event, with one round of questions tailored towards our specific group. The competition was fierce, with 60 people in attendance, and many questions left teams scratching their heads. The highlight of the evening was the expression on peoples faces during the “Listening” round when the song “Call me Maybe” was played at a slowed down pace and autotuned. It was a truly memorable event that I am already looking forward to next year!



Public Agency Committee – City of Missouri City

By: Yvonne Rivera

On March 29, 2018, the Public Agency Committee hosted its first meeting of the year. Scott Elmer, Assistant City Manager for the City of Missouri City, gave an update on the City’s efforts in preparing for Hurricane Harvey and on how they have efficiently repaired the subsequent damages. In addition, he presented the City’s 5-Year CIP plan which includes, a bridge replacement, the second phase of the wastewater treatment plant, the second phase of the regional wastewater treatment plant, and many roadway and drainage improvement projects.

April General Membership Meeting Texas Central – The Texas Bullet Train

By: Yvonne Hernandez

North Texas to Houston in less than 90 Minutes

- ★ Trains will travel at speeds nearly 200 miles per hour
- ★ Will serve 3 stations – Dallas, Brazos Valley and Houston
- ★ Trains will leave every 30 minutes during peak hours

Texas Central is developing a new high-speed passenger rail system that will connect Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston using a proven, world-class technology that will provide a travel time of less than 90 minutes.

Several factors were considered in the feasibility study including Texas' business friendly environment, the growing populations of the two major metropolitan areas, the distance fit the target range, and the planned route is generally flat. An estimated 50,000 "supercommuters" are already traveling between the Dallas area and Houston area.

Two legislative issues are being considered. One, that no state money be used, and two, safety along the route be implemented. David Hagy emphasized the project is investor owned and investor led. The safety performance of the Japanese train and technology have a proven safety record. One aspect is the use of viaducts and earthen berms so that there are no road crossings. Public personnel will also be trained to deal with the unique issues a train like this brings with it.

Regulatory milestones for the project include the submittal of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to the Federal Railroad Administration and a Record of Decision is expected in 12 to 18 months.

Additional details such as alignment, passenger stations, and business opportunities can be found on the website:

<https://www.texascentral.com/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2018

★ **May 2nd
General Membership Meeting**

COL Lars Zetterstorm, USACE Galveston District Commander, will be providing updates for the future, planned and current USACE projects in the Galveston District. The meeting will be held at the Lone Star Flight Museum located at Ellington Field - 11551 Aerospace Avenue, Houston, TX 77034.

★ **May 16th
Sporting Clay Tournament**

SAME will host the 3rd Annual Sporting Clay Tournament at the American Shooting Center. Proceeds benefit the SAME Scholarship Program.

June 2018

★ **June 6th
Public Agency Banquet**

The 17th Annual Public Agency Awards Banquet will be held on the evening of June 6 at the Hilton Westchase. At this banquet, the Post will recognize the Public Agency of the Year, the Large Sustaining Member Firm of the Year, and the Small Sustaining Member Firm of the Year. Our keynote speaker will be the City of Houston Director of Public Works and Engineering, Ms. Carol Haddock, P.E.

July 2018

★ **July 11th
Joint Meeting with APWA**

Our Post and APWA will host a lunch meeting to present college scholarships.

National Events

For More information on upcoming National events such as elections, scholarship applications, and STEM camps, please visit the SAME National's calendar: <http://www.same.org/calendar>