



WORD PASSER

A Monthly Newsletter For The Houston/Galveston Post

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2019

October 4

YMI – ASIE and SAME
Volunteer Event

Join the Young Members and
volunteer with Meals on
Wheels

October 5

Tailgate with a Hero

Join SAME at the Michael E.
DeBakey VA campus for a
tailgate with veterans

October 16

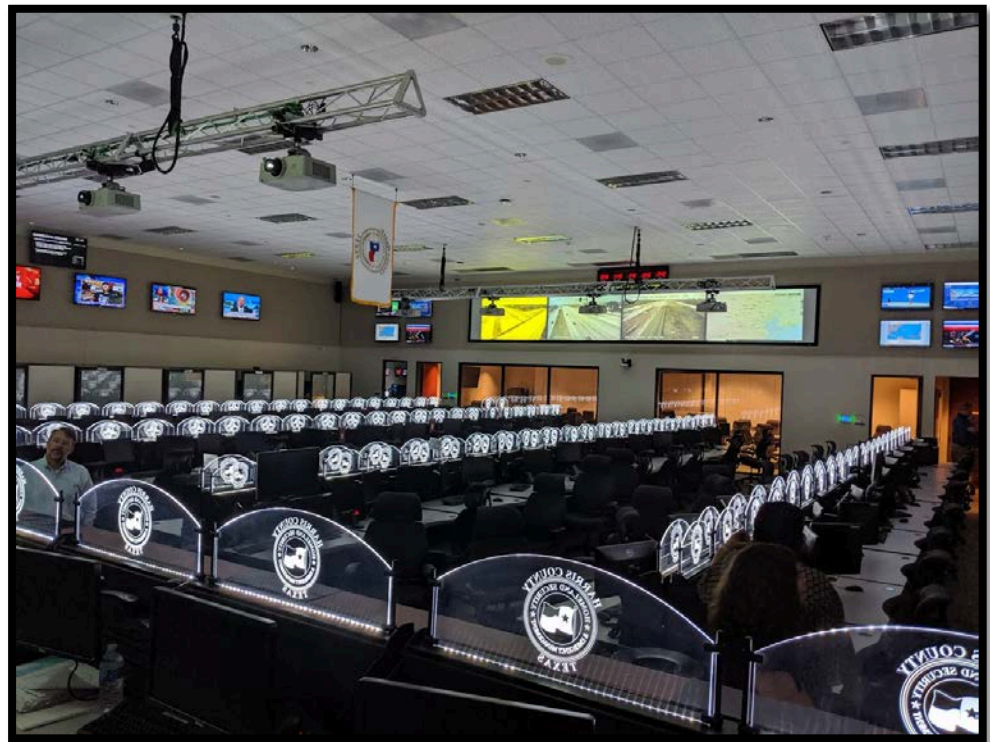
General Membership Meeting

Joint Meeting with APWA for
Capital Improvement Program
Presentations

October 22

Waters of the US Workshop

Multiple regulatory and public
agency representatives will
present current Waters of the
United States regulations and
policies, and applicability of
such regulations/policies on
local projects.



★ September 4, 2019

Harris County Resilience Meeting

Keynote Speaker Benzon John, MS Resilience
Planner for the Harris County Office of Homeland
Security & Emergency Management

★ September 11, 2019

General Membership Meeting

Keynote Speaker Ms. Elizabeth “Liza” H. Kirk, PE,
with Forterra

Harris County Resilience Meeting

By: Alene Efaw

On Wednesday, September 4, 2019, Benzon John, MS Resilience Planner for the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management lead a presentation about being Ready for Anything - Your Family, Your Plan and Your Safety. He went over and in detail about the four fundamentals of survival: Get a kit, Make a Plan; Stay Informed and Be Involved. He went through the updates that have been done keep the public informed during incidents. These included adding the channel status for flooding to the Harris County Flood Warning System. The roadway flooding risk is also now on Houston Transtar's traffic map.

After the presentation, the group was given a tour of the Emergency Management Office. A description of what was showing on all the television around the room was given along with where all the different emergency response teams sit.

“We aim to develop and maintain resilient strategies to current and new plans/systems, to enhance preparedness within the whole community and in turn the ability to return back to normal after an incident.” - Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management



General Membership Meeting - Ethics

By: *Tristan Robles*



Shaun Salle, Patee Bean, Alene Efaw, and Tristan Robles, all young members of SAME, performed duties that contributed to the overall outcome of the September General Meeting.

Elizabeth “Liza” H. Kirk, PE, with Forterra, gave the Ethics presentation. Lisa discussed the various definitions of ethics and how they are related. She stated that the definitions all lead to the same conclusion, that one must conduct themselves as professionals having obligations to decisions that are morally right or wrong. She stated that we, as engineers, have the moral obligation to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public. She discussed the reason why the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (“TBPE”) was created. It began in 1937 after the New London, Texas natural gas explosion destroyed a school and killing nearly 300 teachers and students. TBPE now requires engineers to be licensed professionals.

Lisa presented cases where engineers were not acting in the best interest of the profession and TBPE had to issue out disciplinary sentences to these individuals for their inactions. Most cases she described were malpractice issues where these individuals had their licenses revoked. The last case presented was about a group of airmen who decided to take a Blackhawk Helicopter to lunch. When the public saw this helicopter, they were alarmed that dangerous activities were occurring nearby. Fortunately, all the proper documentation had been provided for this lunch mission.