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Louisiana Post
ESTABLISHED IN 1920
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KENNER, LOUISIANA 70065

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

Hello Members!

This is my first newsletter as President of our Post. I want to thank you all for allowing me to lead the group this year. A little bit about me, for those of you that I do not yet know. I grew up in a small town in Montana and interned at a civil engineering company in high school and fell in love with it! I came to New Orleans to attend Tulane University and graduated in 2004 with a civil engineering degree. I love working in New Orleans, with its unique design challenges, history, and culture. I have my own small engineering firm, Marais Consultants. In addition to introducing myself, I also wanted to outline two areas of focus I am interested in during my presidency.

1. Scholarships – Through our scholarship program, we have awarded, on average, about \$4000 per year to engineering students in Louisiana! Based on my conversations with National SAME leadership, scholarship programs within the posts are a major interest of theirs, and seeing how these investments benefit not only the students but also the organization and industry as a whole, it is a specific topic that I would like to study. Over the next several months I will be researching and speaking with all of the posts who award scholarships to get details about their programs and ask them if and how they stay in touch with scholarship recipients. By continuing to engage with recipients, we can see if they graduate and enter the workforce as engineers and encourage them to become members and leaders within SAME as professionals. This information can also be used to show how the important donations that our members make are benefitting the organization and maybe even their firms if these students go on to jobs at our member companies. Within our Post, I would like to make our scholarship process more apparent to the general membership and develop a plan to follow and engage with recipients post-award. I hope to see a return on our investment in our youth and be able to track it!
2. Technology – My second goal for this year is to grow our online presence with a Facebook and LinkedIn page for the post. I hope that this will allow more people in the industry to connect with us and see our great monthly programming, encouraging new companies to become sustaining members and even encouraging non-member individuals to attend.

If any of you are interested in helping with these initiatives, please let me know and we will get you involved in these committees! Also, I very much encourage you, if you are interested, to apply for the Leadership Development Program for SAME. The deadline is December 2nd, so you need to complete the application very soon! I am currently in the program and have really enjoyed it. There is a link below for anyone who would like more information.

<https://www.same.org/career-leadership/leader-development-program/>

Finally, the Louisiana Post is partnering with ASCE to sponsor the upcoming ASCE/SAME Joint Holiday Party, scheduled for Friday Dec 9th at the Sidecar Patio & Oyster Bar, from 5:30-9:0 p.m. Please RSVP by December 7th if you plan to attend (link below).

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejh360idc6549eaa&oseq=&c=&ch>

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Thank you again, and I'm looking forward to the next year!

SAME Louisiana Post Members,

Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) is thrilled to announce the return of MathCounts *in person* this winter!

MathCounts is an exciting mathematics competition where 6th, 7th & 8th grade students compete against one another and the clock for an opportunity to participate in the State or, if successful, National Championship.

The event will take place on **Saturday, February 4, 2023** at the UNO Engineering Building. The New Orleans Region is currently **seeking volunteers to help proctor and grade tests** – the commitment is only from 8 a.m. to early afternoon on the 4th. Also, if you have a high school or college aged family member that needs community service credits, we have volunteer opportunities that qualify.

If you are interested in volunteering, or wish that your 6th – 8th grade student (or their school) could participate, please contact me at your earliest convenience at leah.read@aecom.com.

Thank you!
Leah Read, PE

HOST SUSTAINING MEMBER INFORMATION

We still have some luncheon meetings available for Sustaining Members to host. Hosting our monthly meetings is a great opportunity to put your firm in the limelight and showcase your firm's experience and abilities. If your firm is interested in hosting one of these meetings, please contact Charlie Settoon at (504) 889-0182.

We would like to thank all the Sustaining Member Firms who have hosted a monthly meeting in the past. If it has been a while since your firm hosted a meeting, you are welcome to host another meeting. Let's continue to show our support for the Louisiana Post through this great professional opportunity.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND NEWS

MEMBER INFORMATION

LOUISIANA POST MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2022

SOCIAL – 11:30 A.M.

POST LUNCHEON - 12:00 P.M.

LOCATION: JEFFERSON ORLEANS SOUTH
2536 EDENBORN AVE.
METAIRIE, LA 70002

GUEST SPEAKER: COLONEL CULLEN A. JONES, USA, COMMANDER &
DISTRICT ENGINEER, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

TOPIC: UPDATE ON USACE ACTIVITIES

MENU: SALAD, STEAK, POTATOES, VEGETABLE
DESSERT, ICED TEA & COFFEE

COST: **\$40.00 MEMBERS; \$50.00 NON-MEMBERS;** \$5.00 STUDENTS

RESERVATIONS: FOR RESERVATIONS VIA E-MAIL:
richard.c.entwisle@usace.army.mil
YOU MAY ALSO CALL RICHARD AT (504) 862-1377

OR MAIL PAYMENT TO: SAME, LOUISIANA POST
5321 TOBY LANE
KENNER, LA 70065-2345

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS 3:00 P.M. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1st

THIS WILL QUALIFY AS 1.0 PDH

DON'T FORGET THAT EVERY MONTH YOU CAN EARN 1.0 PDH (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOUR) FOR ATTENDING S.A.M.E. LUNCHEON MEETINGS.

COL Cullen Jones takes command as the 65th Commander and District Engineer of the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He comes to New Orleans having recently served as the Chief of Staff for the Office of Security Cooperation–Iraq (OSC-I) at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, where he was a principal assistant to the Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché (SDO/DATT) with responsibility for staff operations and management of the MILGROUP-Iraq Joint Staff.



COL Jones is a native of Delaware and received his U.S. Army commission in 1999 from West Point. He has served in leadership and staff positions in Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, and multiple locations in the United States. Between 2000 and 2004, he was a platoon leader, executive officer, and battalion air officer with the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He remained at Fort Bragg from 2004 to 2005, transferring to the 18th Airborne Corps as a current operations officer. From 2005 to 2006, he deployed to Iraq, serving as the Multi-National Corps anti-terrorism/force protection engineer, before returning to the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Airborne) and deploying to Afghanistan in 2006 to assume command of B Company (Combat)(Airborne) (Rough Terrain) until 2008.

From 2010 to 2013, COL Jones was an Assistant Professor in the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Department at the United States Military Academy at West Point before transferring to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he served from 2013 to 2014 as the brigade engineer officer for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Strike). In 2014, he deployed with the Strike Brigade to Afghanistan as the battalion operations officer for the Special Troops Battalion. He continued with the Strike Brigade from 2014 to 2015 as the brigade executive officer. After completing a Training with Industry fellowship in the Washington D.C. area in 2016, COL Jones transitioned to serve as the Deputy District Commander for the Portland District, Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

COL Jones commanded the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District July 7, 2017, to June 28, 2019. As Commander and District Engineer, COL Jones managed the water resources development and navigable waterways operations for the Cumberland and Tennessee River basins covering 59,000 square miles, with 42 field offices touching seven states and a work force of over 700 employees. While in command, COL Jones also supported Taskforce Power Restoration in Puerto Rico helping restore the Commonwealth's power grid post-Hurricane Maria. Following command of the Nashville District, COL Jones served as the Executive Officer to the U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

COL Jones' awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with five oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with one oak leaf cluster), Army Achievement Medal (with six oak leaf clusters), Department of State Meritorious Honor Award, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with three campaign stars), Iraq Campaign Medal (with two campaign stars), Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal (with one campaign star), Kosovo Campaign Medal (with one campaign star), NATO medals for both Kosovo and Afghanistan, Armed Forces Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Ranger Tab, Air Assault Badge, and Master Parachutist Badge. He also wears the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (with one oak leaf cluster) for operations with the Multi-National Corps – Iraq and the Department of State Office of Security Cooperation - Iraq, the Meritorious Unit Citation (with one oak leaf cluster) for combat operations while serving with the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Airborne) and with Strike Brigade, both in Afghanistan, and the Army Engineer Association's Bronze De Fleury Medal.

COL Jones holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the United States Military Academy, a Master of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. His technical education includes the Blast Effects Estimation and Security Engineering courses from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Protective Design Center and his military education includes Command and General Staff College and U.S. Army War College. COL Jones is a licensed Professional Civil Engineer (P.E.), Project Management Professional (PMP), and a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM).

COL Jones is married to Sharon and has a son, Jameson, and daughter, Arden.