

I am humbled to lead the San Diego Post for the 2022-2023 year. It's an honor to follow in the footsteps of CAPT Cloyd, Kathy Stewart, and my other numerous predecessors, some of whom are here tonight. I look forward to the challenge.

In Cindy's Presidential Address at JETC this year, she spoke about several items. Her priority is Industry-Government Engagement. I think this is an area that San Diego has done well on. Many of our lunch topics focus on this, as does the Small Business Event and Camp Pendleton Day. Cindy also spoke about achieving measurable progress, specifically in growing the K-12 STEM outreach program, growing our credentialing program, and fostering young leaders. I am a product of fostering young leaders. I am fortunate to have been a member of the San Diego post since 2007 and a member of the board for most of that time, aside from my time in DC, which CAPT Maurer will never let me live down, as he mentioned at the camp a couple of weeks ago. I had many mentors on the board who fostered my leadership skills, too many to list here, starting from the beginning. A big thanks to those that got me involved in the Navy/SAME camp. It's thanks to all my mentors and cheerleaders within the Post and Society that I am standing here as the new Post President. I am a successful product of this within the Post, but we need to do this more. We need more mentoring of young leaders, more involvement, more support.

But if you know me, you know I am passionate about growing the K-12 STEM program. Okay, so maybe most of my focus is on the SAME/Navy camp, but I believe we need to grow the K-12 STEM pipeline now, so that we have the young leaders to foster in the future. I believe these 2 goals are directly linked. The San Diego Post has a K-12 STEM Outreach director on our board. My goal for the post this year is to make measureable progress in growing our K-12 STEM pipeline so we have future young leaders we can foster.

At JETC this year, we our keynote speaker talked about change and how we need to lead change, otherwise we are already falling behind. This hit me, especially when we think about all the change we have done in the last 2.5 years or so. The San Diego Post quickly started virtual lunch events. One thing we have learned from virtual events is that it allows us to have speakers from outside the local area. We then expanded upon this at our Small Business event in March, where we had a hybrid of in-person and virtual speakers. I hope we can keep doing virtual or hybrid events periodically that allow us to learn from dynamic speakers from around the country. We should be doing what works for us, what allows us to bring the best technical speakers and opportunities to our membership, regardless of the format. And if that's a new way of doing business, we should embrace it with open arms. If we don't lead the change, we are already falling behind. And I want us to lead the way.

Under CAPT Scott, we strengthened our connections and made new ones. I think this was incredibly important to do in the last year. In 2022-2023 I want you to say yes to something new.

The only way we can lead the way is to get involved and make changes, so I challenge everyone here to say yes one more time this year. Say yes supporting SAME in a new way this year. Say yes to helping plan an event. Say yes to nominating a lunch topic and helping find a speaker. Say yes to joining a national COI. Say yes to mentoring a young professional- here at the San Diego post that will get you invited to their monthly socials as well. Say yes to something new. It doesn't have to be big, but if each of us can say yes to one more thing this year, think of the impact it will have on the post, the society as a whole, and our community.

Think of what we can learn and achieve through doing just a little bit more. Think of the impact we can have. We should not just content to move along during our 2nd century, the San Diego Post should be helping to lead in the 2nd century. I know we have already sprinted here under Buddy Barnes' leadership; now we should be leading the way, continuing the charge and continuing to change. And we can't do it without your support.

Thank you. I look forward to working with all of you and learning from you.