



# Lake Michigan Post

Society of American Military Engineers

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## Passing the Gavel

"As I finish my tour as President, I want to say thank you to our wonderful leadership team. They are the folks who work tirelessly each month behind the scenes to ensure our Post's success... As I turn over the gavel, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve."



*Capt Robert Gibbs, 2007 President, S.A.M.E. Lake Michigan Post*



Best wishes for a Happy New Year to all of our Lake Michigan Post Members! As we recover from the holiday break, and get back to work, I'm happy to report that there is a tremendous amount of activity and excitement about the programs and new initiatives that are planned for the coming year in our Post.

On behalf of the entire Board, I'd like to thank members for allowing us to lead the Post in the coming year, and thank Captain Gibbs for leaving the Post in such good shape.

Just to provide a little taste of things to come, this year for the first time we are planning to host a two and a half day Design/Build conference presented jointly with the Chicago Post and specialists from the national office of S.A.M.E. Raj Rajaram will take charge of the planning and logistics for this conference scheduled for summer of 2008. A date between June and September will be finalized soon. Our Readiness Committee, led by Anthony Bilotti, has prepared a survey for all members. In this way we will collect information to be placed in a database that will enable us to quickly tap into our Post's internal expertise in the event of an emergency. This survey will be distributed via e-mail, at our meetings, and available on our website.

We have a new Chairperson of our Young Members Committee, Andrew Bergholz, who along with LTJG Nathan Cross will be organizing events specifically aimed at our younger (under age 35) members. We welcome Robert Leick who has joined our Programs Committee. Our Yellow Ribbon Committee is under the new (since October 2007) leadership of Jim Powell.

Our February 14, 2008 luncheon meeting will feature Drew Orsinger of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, speaking on water security issues. Please be on the lookout for information on our Small Business Expo planned for spring of 2008. And, of course, we will continue with our educational presentations at our regular, second Thursday of every month, luncheons and the distribution of PDHs to all those attending.

Remember, all of these activities are organized by volunteers. So, in order to continue the strong programs, grow our membership, host a successful golf outing to raise scholarship funds, take part in Math Counts competitions, gather supplies for our Yellow Ribbon Committee, facilitate educational and interesting presentations, put out a regular newsletter, we need your help! Don't be shy, you'll find that all of the Board members are ready and willing to help members get involved. And best of all I guarantee that you will find the rewards that come from volunteering well worth the effort. I look forward to serving you, participating in all of the great activities planned for 2008. If you wish to contact me I can be reached at [johnno@fgmarchitects.com](mailto:johnno@fgmarchitects.com). *John Ochoa, S.A.M.E. Lake Michigan Post President*

Visit Our Website for Updates & Committee Contacts  
Info <http://www.same-lakemichigan.org/>

Join S.A.M.E. LMP  
Encourage Others to Join

## 2008 Officers and Board of Directors

### Dec 13<sup>th</sup> Holiday Luncheon Toys for Tots Collection & Gift Exchange



<u>President</u>	John Ochoa
<u>Vice President</u>	CDR Rob Ganowski
<u>Treasurer</u>	Steve Blinderman
<u>Secretary</u>	ENS Nathan Cross
<u>Asst Secretary</u>	LTJG Jeremy Theis

<u>Elected Directors</u>	
Al Behring	Ken Endress
Al Esche	CDR Beth Hartmann
Jeff Markey	Emma Kowalenko

#### Committee Chairs

<u>Yellow Ribbon</u>	Jim Powell jim.powell@amec.com
<u>Outreach</u>	Ken Endress ken.endress@navy.mil
<u>Membership</u>	Al Esche AEsche@EscheLee.com
<u>Programs</u>	Raj Rajaram rrajaram@technknow-eng.com
<u>Young Members</u>	Andrew Bergholz andrew@tapconet.com
<u>Readiness</u>	Anthony Bilotti abilotti@kowalenkogroup.com
<u>Golf Fundraiser</u>	Blayne Kirsch john.kirsch@navy.mil
<u>Website</u>	Manny Costeira manny.costeira@westonsolutions.com
<u>Small Business</u>	Steve Blinderman sblinderman@blinderman.com
<u>Communication</u>	Emma Kowalenko ekowalenko@kowalenkogroup.com

**Mentor Young Members!**

**Be an Active Member**

## Coming Up ...

**Lake County Chapter  
Math Counts 2008  
Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
College of Lake County  
Registration 8:00 am  
Volunteers Needed  
Contact Ken Endress  
ken.endress@navy.mil**

**Illinois State Math Counts  
Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Feb 14**

Drew Orsinger, U.S Dept. Of Homeland Security - Highland Park Country Club 11:30 am – Regular Meeting, PDHs Distributed

**Spring**

Regular Meetings – For Small Business Expo Contact Steven Blinderman, 773-864-5820, sblinderman@blinderman.com

**Summer**

Regular Meetings – Golf Outing – For Two and a Half Day Design/Build Workshop by S.A.M.E. National Contact Raj Rajaram, rrajaram@technknow-eng.com

**Fall**

Regular Meetings – Joint Meeting with Chicago Post - For Yellow Ribbon BBQ and School Supplies Collection Contact Jim Powell jim.powell@amec.com

Interested in communicating news or ideas for our next edition? Contact Emma Kowalenko 312-853-0500 ext. 24, [ekowalenko@kowalenkogroup.com](mailto:ekowalenko@kowalenkogroup.com)