

Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

VOLUME LXII ISSUE 7 | February 2016

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Our Executive Board:

President

Connie Semonite

Vice President

Maggie DeMello
Dominique Wilt

Treasurer

Jessica Gregris

Secretary

Open

AEMA Chairperson

Erica Shaw

While February is the calendar's shortest month, it promises to be one of this year's busiest! January 2016 was filled with extreme weather for most of the nation. In D.C., a blizzard buried us, extended school holidays, and even kept the Federal workforce at home. It's been a long time since many have had a "normal" schedule and all sorts of deadlines were pushed forward. February not only brings a little sunshine into our lives, but because 2016 is a Leap Year, it gives us an extra day to play catch-up. Thank goodness! If you have ever wished for "just a few more hours" or thought "if only I had a little more time", this is your chance. What are you going to do with those extra minutes? If you sleep for eight hours, work another eight, and use three to dress, eat, drive, etc., you are still left with five full hours or 300 blissful minutes to spend as you like. You've waited four years for them and won't see them again for another four – use them wisely and do something memorable!

February 2016 also gives our graduating high-school seniors an extra day to complete their applications for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards. The application can be downloaded from the home page at

www.ArmyEngineerSpouses.com. Please share this information with everyone who may be interested and encourage them to start the process NOW. The deadline for submission is MAR 1. – that's just a few days from today!

Believe it or not, we also begin looking for future board members in the month of February. Our elected positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and AEMA Chair will all be voted on in the next few months. Would you like to serve? Please contact our Nominations Chair, Bette Meuleners, or me with any questions you may have about the roles and responsibilities of the positions, or about serving the board while living outside of the D.C. area. It can be done! Feel free to email or call – our contact information can be found in your most recent RedBook or on the "Contact Us" button on the web-site.

And, of course, February also brings us Valentines' Day. I hope you have special plans and make wonderful memories, but don't wait for the 14th. Hug your Engineer today!!

Warmly, *Connie*

"Keeping our worldwide Engineer family connected through the years and across the miles"

AEMA

ACT NOW!!! The March 1st deadline is 3 weeks away!!! If you are the parent of a high school senior, you should go to our website NOW and help your student start the application for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards. <http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/army-engineer-memorial-awards-aema.html>

In 1967, our organization began recognizing high school seniors of Engineering Officers for their outstanding academic achievements. Then in 1973, we officially made these awards part of our mission by establishing the Army Engineer Memorial Awards to honor the memory of Engineer officers who died in Vietnam. And now, to honor all Engineers who have died in the line of duty.

The awards we present are available to children of all U.S. Army Engineers - Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard - serving, retired or deceased, and all current Department of the Army employees of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. It is very important to note that the awards are merit-based. Our AEMA chairman, Eric Shaw, is charged with forming a committee to process applications. Weighted scoring is placed on grade point averages, national testing, leadership roles, extra-curricular activities, sports, awards and employment. There are absolutely no points given for a sponsor's rank, position, time in service, etc., but the number of moves during the high school student's career is taken into consideration. our required essay is sent to educators outside of the club membership for scoring. All of the applications remain anonymous throughout the ranking process. In fact, our board learns the names of the recipients the same day as the recipients do. This process is quite lengthy, tedious and detailed. Erica and her committee do a fabulous job!

Q: *SAT/ACT test scores are not available to mail directly from The College Board and ACT Test Administration. Do you accept photocopies of the test score reports?*

A: Please include your SAT/ACT test scores on your official transcript, if your school does not include them on the official transcript, a print out from the SAT/ACT website is sufficient. If the awards committee has any questions regarding your test scores we will contact your school guidance counselor.

Q: *Can I include a letter of recommendation with my application?*

A: No. Please do not attach resumes, letters of recommendation, or certificates as they will not be reviewed or considered.

Q: *May I act as my own sponsor and compete for the awards?*

A: No. To qualify for an award, you must be a graduating high school senior who is a citizen of the United States and whose sponsor, parent, or legal guardian is a Member of the Army Engineer Spouses club and U.S. Army Engineer (active duty, reserve/national guard, retired or deceased) or current Department of the Army employee of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Q: *My sponsor is a USACE Civilian. Can I apply?*

A: Yes!

Q: *Who can I contact if I have a question?*

A: Eric Shaw

aema@armtengineerspouses.com

Total Awards Given in 2015

\$12,000

February 10th... Join us!



Please join the Army Engineer Spouses Club

For Couples Night at

John Strongbow's Tavern

710 King St.

Alexandria, VA 22314

7-9PM

Live music provided by Scott Fallon starting at 7!

Enjoy some music, food, and chitchat!

Please RSVP to

Maggie DeMello at Maggie.liuzzi@gmail.com

Hope to see you there! 😊

Welfare & Service

Thanks to all of our members and their friends who bought wreaths from our Lynch Creek Farms Fundraiser. We raised \$522. That means The Fairfax and Knollwood will be getting about \$130 each. Our own AEMA will receive about \$260



Wreaths Across America

The original date to clean up the wreaths in Arlington National Cemetery was cancelled due to the blizzard. The new date is **MARCH 24th**. Meet at 0800 in the Parking lot by the Church on Ft Myer and walk down to the briefing scheduled for 0830 at the McClellan Arch Gate.



Amazon Smile - Please select the Army Engineer Memorial Awards as your charity when shopping on Amazon! What is Amazon Smile? Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization overtime you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop www.smile.amazon.com you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as www.amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to AEMA! So, select Army Engineer memorial Awards as the recipient of your Amazon Smile today!

Honor Flights

Honor Flights resume in April. However, on Thursday, March 24th a group of 30 of the 77 Medal of Honor recipients will be arriving at DCA at 1:30pm on American Airlines (Terminal C) Join us to welcome the American Heroes and wear red to show your Army Engineer Spirit!

Local Events

Feb 13

George Washington's
Birthright Banquet & Ball
Gadsby's Tavern Museum

Feb 13

Cupid's Undie Run
U.S. Capitol Building

Feb 20

DC Rollergirls
2001 East Capitol St, SE

Feb 20-21

Adventures in Travel Expo
Washington Convention
Center

Feb 26-28

Capital Home & Garden Show
Dulles Expo Center

March 4-13

Washington DC Independent
Film Festival

March 5

Alexandria Saint Patrick's Day
Parade

March 6-17

Annapolis Irish Week

**Through March
6th**

Intersections Arts Festival
Atlas Performing Arts Center

Around Town

Look what was spotted at the DC Big Flea & Antique Market at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly! The "DC Big Flea" is the Mid-Atlantic's largest indoor antiques and collectibles flea market. Shop for anything from fine antiques to vintage clothing and handbags. Dealers showcase a wide variety of merchandise, porcelains, glass, silver and jewelry, artwork, mid century modern, and collectibles of all eras. You can catch the Big Flea on one of the following dates:



March 5-6
April 30-May 1
July 23-24
September 17-18
Nov 5-6

You can also catch the Flea Market in Fredericksburg at the Premier Expo Center October 22-23.

But, you don't have to go far to get your flea market fix! Check out Eastern Market in D.C. Located in the heart of the historic Capitol Hill neighborhood, Eastern Market is DC's destination for fresh food, community events, and on weekends, local farm-fresh produce and handmade arts and crafts.

Standard Hours of Operation

Tuesday to Friday - 7am - 7pm
Saturday - 7am - 6pm
Sunday - 9am - 5pm
Monday - Closed



HELP WANTED

ACCEPTING ALL APPLICATIONS

I am looking for a Castle Gram assistant. I need a partner to attend the board meetings and help gather information for the newsletter. If interested, please contact Allison at newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com.



Once again it's the time for the Army Engineer Spouses' Club to start thinking about our Board for the next year—this time for 2016-2017. As recently changed in our constitution, we should have nominees for our elected positions **no later than the end of April 2016**. We will then vote at our May 2016 function.

The elected positions on our Board are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and AEMA (Army Engineer Memorial Awards) Chairperson.

It's my "job", with the help of a Nominating Committee, to secure nominees for these elected positions and to help our President for 2016-2017 fill the appointed positions on our Board.

If you are interested in being on our Board, please do let me know!!! It really is a great way to meet other Engineer spouses and participate in fun and rewarding activities. Whether you are a stay at home mom, a retired member, a member from out of the DC area, a part or full time working member, older or younger, we'd love for you to consider being on the Board. I'm actually out of the DC area for about half of our Board year and I am able to help out with my "position".

Also, please let me know if you have any suggestions of other members who might like to join us on the Board, especially those new to the club!!!

Thanks for your help! We really appreciate it!

Bette Meuleners
AESC Nominations Chairperson, 2015-2016
bmeuleners@gmail.com
571-235-3566



Save the Date

Feb 10th
Couples Night
John Strongbows Old
Tavern

Feb 22nd
Castle Boutique
USACE HQ

March 2nd
AESC Board Meeting

March 24
Wreaths Across America
Honor Flight

March 26th
Wine Tasting

April 6th
AESC Board Meeting
&
Knollwood Bake Sale

April 14th
Merlot's Masterpieces



Do You Know.....

it's almost time to apply for the National Military Family Association's



Operation Purple Camps? What's Operation Purple Camp, and why is it PURPLE? That's a great question, we're glad you asked! At OPC, we offer military kids a FREE WEEK of camp where they connect with other kids, just like them. And purple happens to be the perfect mix of Army Green, Coast Guard Blue, Air Force Blue, Marine Corps Red, and Navy blue! In the military world, purple symbolizes all who serve, and at our Association, we know families serve, too!

At Operation Purple Camp, being a military kid ROCKS and we celebrate by bringing together kids from all ranks and services, including National Guard and Reserve components. They bond through a unique and memorable "purple" summer camp experience, which includes everything from kayaking and hiking to rock climbing, and zip lining. The only thing better than that? S'MORES!

Applications for Operation Purple camps are accepted March 6th through April 6th.



Honorary Advisors

Renee Bostick - Spouse, Chief of Engineers

Jackie Caldwell - SES Spouse, Director of Military Programs

Joan Stockton - SES Spouse, Director of Civil Works

2015-2016 Volunteers

Parliamentarian

Roz Riley

Membership

Jackie Caldwell

Hospitality

Terri Stevens

Historian

Laurel-Lee States

Castle-Gram

Allison Chamberlayne

Webmaster

Laura Putnam

Circulation

Kara Anderson

Castle Boutique

Sheila Kelly

Welfare Services

Launa Brown

Retirement Residences

Liaison

Kay Burlin

Knollwood Bake Sale

Pricilla Noah

Nominations

Bette Meuleners



Volunteer Spotlight Publicity/Historian Laurel-Lee States

Born in Point Pleasant, New Jersey. Moved in Jr. High to Branson, Missouri which I now call home.

I have been married to my husband, Bill, for 25 years in October. One month before he joined the military and left for basic! We have three wonderful boys, two of which live in Missouri, 26 and 20yrs old. Our youngest is 15 and lives with us here in Lorton, Virginia. We have five fantastic fur babies. Ages ranging from 3yrs to 18yrs. Two dogs and three cats. Yes, they go everywhere with us! Never left behind.

My husband started out his army life in Korea for a year before we joined him in Fort Bragg, NC. Then on to Vicenza, Italy and back to Fort Bragg, NC. From there we came to Fort Belvoir, VA, left to Schofield Barracks, HI and after back here to Fort Belvoir, VA.

I am a very new AESC member. I was invited to attend the beginning of this year and fell in love with the group and all the board, so I joined them!

We have been to some amazing places and I have no complaints about any of them. The best thing about each one is them are the friends I have made over the years.

As much as I do not like electronics it is fair to say there is no music on my device! I like listening to 91.9 while in the car and I have calming music on while doing any of my crafts at home.

Dinner tonight will be pork chops, mashed potatoes and green beans. (Best meal the family has had all week!)

We are not big board game or card players, but at our neighbors holiday party this last weekend we did play 'Compatibility'. We lost, we always do, haha!

I am in adventurer. I love the outdoors! I love to scuba dive. I am a runner. I have jumped out of airplanes for the fun of it. I have my own motorcycle that I ride. I love to work on our vehicles. I used to cater out of my home. I have recently started making knives.

My passion is crafting. I love making things for other people. Recent quote from my dear husband:
"My house has more paper in it than my office!"



Did you see the United State Army Band at the Super Bowl? A few vocalists from "Pershings Own" represented the Army as a part of the Joint Forces Chorus and performed America the Beautiful at Super Bowl 50! Two of the ceremonial percussionists flanked the Joint Services Color Guard as well.

Protocol Points to Ponder

How many of our readers think Castle Ball when February rolls around? So even though the event has been moved to the warmer days of summer, I'll take this opportunity to cover a couple of Frequently Asked Questions about attending a military ball.

The Receiving Line - This part of the event tends to be the most confusing part of the entire evening! While in the receiving line, you will walk in front of your service member. He/She will first introduce you and then introduce himself to the first person in the line, who is there to act as an adjunct or aide. That person will introduce you to the next person in line, who is likely the guest of honor, by saying "This is (rank) So-and-So and Mrs. (or Ms. or Mr.) Such-and-Such." You shake their hand, say something like "nice to meet you" and move down the line. If the dining area is open, we recommend visiting your seat before the receiving line so that you can leave your drink and anything else there. You shouldn't carry a drink through the receiving line and, if you're wearing gloves, remove the one on your right hand beforehand.

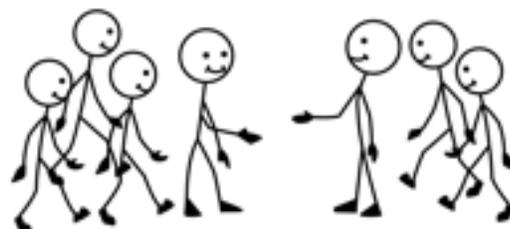
Introductions - The three basic rules to introductions are:

Woman's name first: Men are introduced to women by stating the woman's name first.

Older person's name first: When two people are of the same sex, the younger adult is introduced to the older adult by stating the older person's name first.

Senior officer's name first: Junior officers are introduced to senior officers by stating the senior officer's name first; the same for senior officer's spouse.

If you are nervous about introducing someone, if you forgot names, politely ask for the person(s) to repeat their name. This is certainly not a reason to avoid conversation.



Castle Boutique



New sizes available for our exclusive cookie cutters. Our special “Member’s Only” prices are:

Set of three (one of each size) \$25.00
small \$10
medium \$12
large \$13

Castle Boutique Open at Leaders Emeritus!

Have your Engineer check out all the new things at the Castle Boutique on February 22nd! We will be at Headquarters from 9am to 2pm.

Visit our website under the MEMBERS ONLY TAB for new items and exclusive discounts



Photo Gallery

Please enjoy these photos of our recent events!

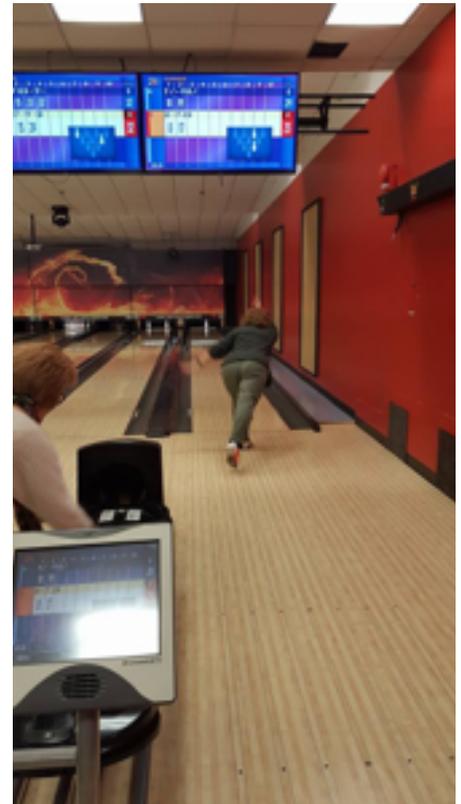
These are some pictures of our Ladies' Night at Fort Belier Bowling Center.

Want to see more? check out our web site

www.armyengineerspouses.com

Or like us on FaceBook

www.facebook.com/ArmyEngineerSpousesClub



Thanks to all those who came out in the pre-blizzard blizzard. The measly 1/2 inch of snow gridlocked the Metro D.C. Area. Only the lucky few who stayed on Ft. Belvoir survived with less than a two hour drive home!





Keepers of the Castle

In January the Keepers of The Castle group at Ft. Leonard Wood MO hosted a Sapper Leader Course. Check out some of the pictures of these fun challenges they accomplished. Connect with the Keeper's Of the Castle on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KeepersOfTheCastle or via email FLWKeepers@gmail.com.



Engineers In Europe

Look how busy our European Engineer Friends have been! Makes we want to get on a plane and join them!



AESG Europe continues to have great success with their monthly Lego League.



AESG Europe has kicked off the New Year with a bang! They supported a USACE blood drive that had 27 successful blood donations! That means they possibly saved up to 81 lives with their blood drive. Thanks to everyone that volunteered and donated.

The Engineer Ball was held in January, and their February Coffee looks like it's going to be a delicious treat!



Chit Chat

Get to know our members!

This section is all about you! Give us the gossip about where you are, where you are heading and what you are doing. Send all pictures and submissions to Allison Chamberlayne newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com.



<<<Have you seen the video for Tim McGraw's song "Humble & Kind"? Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awzNHuGqoMc>. Just before the 2 1/2 minute mark, you will see a familiar face. Our dearly departed friend Donna Wizenried. Not to mention is is an AWESOME song. Please listen!

>>>This little cutie is Asher Wilt, Born Dec. 15th at 12pm. Weighing 5.5 pounds 18 cm long. He joins his 3 older siblings, David 9, Josiah 6, and Hadessah 4. Our VP, Dominique and her husband Bart are so excited to welcome this little guy into their family.



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Recipe

Champagne Cupcakes

...a perfect treat to share with your Engineer Valentine! These cupcakes were a big hit at our February board meeting. Please enjoy the recipe from the kitchen of Connie Semonite.

Cupcake Ingredients

- ♥ 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups cake flour, sifted
- ♥ 3 teaspoons baking powder
- ♥ 1 teaspoon salt
- ♥ $\frac{2}{3}$ cup butter
- ♥ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar
- ♥ 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup champagne, muscato, or prosecco
- ♥ 6 egg whites
- ♥ Pink food coloring



Cupcake Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 350 F. Prepare cupcake pans with liners.
2. In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until very light and fluffy. In a separate bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, and salt.
3. Alternately add the flour mixture and champagne into the creamed mixture, beginning and ending with the champagne.
4. In another large bowl, beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Using a rubber spatula, by hand, gently fold $\frac{1}{3}$ of the whites into the batter to lighten it, then fold in remaining egg whites
5. Fill cupcake liners about $\frac{2}{3}$ full.
6. Bake regular size cupcakes for 20 minutes, mini cupcakes for 10 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out with just a few crumbs.

Frosting Ingredients

- ♥ 1 cup plus 1 tablespoon champagne, muscato, or prosecco
- ♥ 2 sticks of butter softened
- ♥ 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ cups confectioners' sugar
- ♥ Pink food coloring

Frosting Instructions:

1. Place 1 cup of champagne in a small saucepan. Simmer over medium-high heat until reduced to 2 tablespoons. Transfer to a small bowl or condiment cup and allow to cool.
2. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, cream softened butter and powdered sugar together. Once the frosting is thick and fluffy, pour in the reduced 2 tablespoon champagne plus 1 tablespoon champagne from the bottle and mix well.
3. Frost and decorate cupcakes as desired.

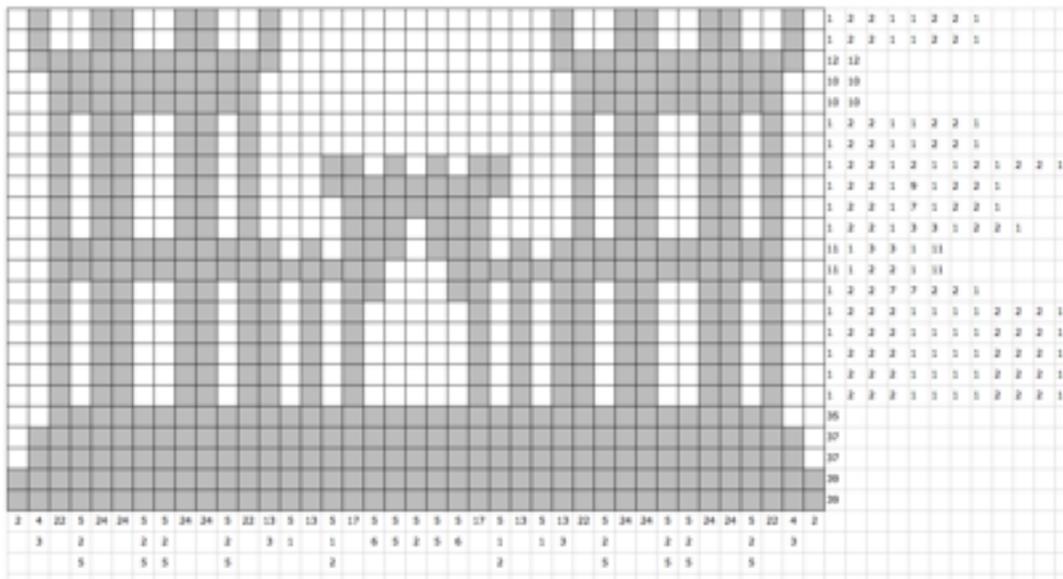
Fun & Games

I forgot to publish the answer to the December Jumble Puzzle in our last edition.

The Army Engineer that cried at the movies was...

“A Sappy Sapper”

Here is what your Griddler from January should have looked like:



THE SILENT RANKS

I wear no uniforms, no blues or greens.
 But, I am in the military, in the ranks rarely seen.
 I have no rank upon my shoulders. Salutes I do not give.
 But in the military world is where I live and am rarely seen.
 I am not in the chain of command, orders I do not give or get.
 But my husband is the one who does, this I can not forget.
 I am not the one who fires a weapon, Who puts his life on the line.
 But my job is just as tough, I'm the one who is always left behind.
 My husband is a patriot, a brave and pride filled man.
 And the call to serve his country not all can understand.
 Behind the lines, I see things needed to keep this country free.
 My husband makes the sacrifice, but so do my kids and me.
 I love the man I married. The military is his life.
 So I pledge to support my hero
 and stand among the silent ranks known as
THE MILITARY WIFE.

This month, for Fun & Games, please enjoy this poem. Forgive the use of the term “wife” rather than spouse. I mean no offense to our male members! February is the month of love and we all love our Army Engineers!

Membership

Join online at
www.armyengineerspouses.com/membership.html

Questions?

Contact our
Membership Chair

Jackie Caldwell
membership@armyengineerspouses.com



AESC 2015-2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PRINT NAME as you would like to be listed in the Castle Directory (The Redbook)

Last _____

First _____

Mailing Address:

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Preferred contact phone:

E-mail:

Your Birthday (month/day only) _____

Check one: New member Returning member Rejoining member

Spouse's Name: _____

Check one: Is Spouse: Active Retired Reserve/National Guard Deceased

Spouse's title/rank/job assignment or firm:

By sending this application, you agree to have the above information listed in the Castle Directory.

Membership runs from July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2016.

Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2015 will be included in the 2015-2016 Castle Directory. Thank you!

Half Year Membership Dues \$15 _____

Additional Castle Directory: Each \$5 _____

(while supplies last)

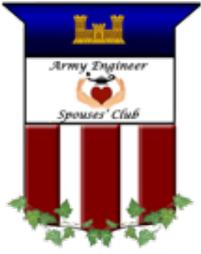
Total: _____

Please make check payable to AESC and mail to:

AESC MEMBERSHIP

P.O. Box 6332

Alexandria, VA 22306-6332



AESC
P.O. Box 6332
Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

