CASTLE GRAM

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From the Gavel

Happy Easter! Spring break is almost here and I hope everyone gets a well-deserved break. Send us pictures of what you did during Spring Break. We love to see pictures of our Engineers out and about.

We have some great events coming up:

On April 20th, we are going to do a Scavenger Hunt at the Spy Museum.

On May 1st, we will have our annual AEMA Luncheon.

On May 12th, we will head to the Embassy of Sweden for a tour.

Castle House Readers Book Club had a wonderful time at Founding Farmers to discuss *Sparks Like Stars* by Nadia Hashimi. If you are interested in attending the next book club meeting in April, please email Urvi at urvi.avichal@gmail.com.

Come join our fabulous team! We are still searching for board members for the upcoming board year. If you are interested in joining the board, email Bette Meuleners at bmeuleners@gmail.com.

Warmly,

Mary Alice Jakso
AESC President

AESC 2022-2023 Executive Board Nominations

Members of the Army Engineer Spouses Club:

The AESC Executive Board (2022-2023) volunteer nominees are as follows:

President	Mary Alice Jakso
Vice-President	We need a volunteer
Secretary	We need a volunteer
Treasurer	Boumy Funes
AEMA Chairperson	Kerri Chase

Additional nominations for these elected positions will be accepted through April 24th. If you are nominating a member for a position, you must check with that member to make certain you have his/her permission! To make a nomination from the floor, please state "I nominate _____ for the position of _____."

You must be a member in good standing to nominate or vote in this process.

Please send any nominations to:
Bette Meuleners, Nominations Emeritus,
by email to bmeuleners@gmail.com
or by mail to
Army Engineer Spouses' Club (Nominations)
P.O. Box 6332
Alexandria, VA 22306

We will send out another message to our entire membership and voting will take place from Sunday, May 8th - Saturday, May 14th. This will enable all members to have a vote.

Election results will be posted in the June Castle Gram. In addition, an email will be sent to the entire AESC membership.

Summary of AESC Election Process

The membership of AESC, as you know, is varied - not only by the eligibility requirements, but also by the geographic locations of the membership. We truly do span the globe.

As your membership and its privileges are important to the Executive Board, we developed a virtual voting system to assure that all members were included in the decisions made for the organization. Roberts Rules of Order for Voting was the guiding framework for our virtual voting procedure.

A summary of the procedure for election of your Executive Board is as follows:

The Nominations Chairman surveys membership for volunteers/recommendations to fill the Executive Board positions.

The Nominations Chairman presents a PROJECTED SLATE to the serving Executive Board for their voting (approval of slate) by the April meeting.

The Nominations Chairman calls for further nominations from the floor in April after publishing the PROJECTED SLATE. The FINAL SLATE is presented in ballot form in the May Castle Gram for general membership voting.**

If a MAJORITY of the membership responds NAY, the ballot is reworked and the successive vote will be on each position with the ballots collected and tallied.

If a MAJORITY of the membership responds and casts an AYE vote, the ballot is approved by the general membership as submitted.

Election results will be presented in the June Castle Gram.

****Consensus voting is used in this general membership voting. While a ballot is published (in print and/or email), only a NAY vote need be returned. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this process.**

Vote on Changes to Constitution

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has met throughout the year and has recommended changes to the AESC Constitution. AESC members must approve any changes made to the Constitution. An email will be sent to all members with the proposed changes and instructions on how to vote.

We need you for the 2022-2023 Board!

It's almost time to elect the 2022-2023 AESC board. Our election will be held the end of May.

We are looking for volunteers to serve as Vice President and Secretary. While our board members live all over the country (and Germany), the Vice President and Secretary positions should be held by members that live in the DC area.

We will accept nominations from the "floor" until April 24th and the slate will be published in the May Castle Gram.

Please contact Bette at the information below if you are interested in serving on our board. If you know of someone you think would be a great addition to our board, please share that information with Bette.

Bette Meuleners - 571-235-3566
bmeuleners@gmail.com

Celebrate With Us

Army Engineer Memorial Awards

Sunday, May 1, 2022
11:00 am
The Harbour Grille
131888 Marina Way - Woodbridge, VA 22191

Guest Speaker
LTG Scott Spellmon
55th Chief of Engineers and
Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

We welcome all members of our Army Engineer family.

AESC Out and About

Charlene Austin-Connie Semonite-Holleyanne Milley

Launa Klimowicz-Brenda Schultze-Sharise Spellmon

Joint Armed Forces of Washington Luncheon

Engineer spouses enjoyed JAFOWL at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. The guest speaker was astronaut LTG (R) Susan Helms.

Mary Alice Jakso-Stephanie Sattinger-Brenda Schultze

Pat O'Neill-Helgard Zebell

Judy Jagielski-Michelle Funkhouser-Mary Alice Jakso-Linda Byers-Sharise Spellmon
Pat O'Neill-Stephanie Sattinger-Launa Klimowicz-Brenda Schultze

Connie Semonite
Sharise Spellmon

Stephanie Sattinger-Launa Klimowicz
Mary Alice Jakso-Jennifer Phillips

Connie Semonite
Michelle Funkhouser

Launa Klimowicz

Joint International Showcase

International spouses from the Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area and Air Force Officer Spouses' Club DC shared their countries, culture, and amazing food and drinks with attendees.

Mary Alice Jakso-Jennifer Phillips

Sharise Spellmon-Stephanie Sattinger-Launa Klimowicz-Pat O'Neill

Happy April Birthday!

Melonie Quander	4
Patricia Stevens	5
Jennifer Broderick	12
Stephanie Kelly	12
Mary Alice Jakso	13
Meghan Monney	14
Deborah Milhorn	17
Megan Rendon	17
Anneliese (Lee) Boutin	18
Erica Van Epps	18
Renee Chapman	25
Erin Beer	29

Upcoming Tours

INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM SCAVENGER HUNT

April 20, 2022

9:45 a.m.

International Spy Museum
700 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20024

https://www.spymuseum.org/host-an-event/adult-team-building/scavenger-hunt/

Please register by April 15
Mary Jakso
904-814-9599

Save the Date

Embassy of Sweden Tour

Thursday, May 12th
9:45 am

Discover the history of the embassy and architecture of the building, visit current exhibits/installations, and view how they embody Swedish ideals and culture.

AESC Board 2021- 2022

ELECTED BOARD

President
Mary Alice Jakso
Vice President
Urvi Avichal
Secretary
Brenda Schultze
Treasurer
Boumy Funes
AEMA Chairperson
Kerri Chase

APPOINTED BOARD

Castle Boutique
Stacy Lloyd
Castle Gram Editor
Michelle Funkhouser
Circulation
Basia Kent
Fairfax Liaison
Isabel Stevens
Historian
Erin Beer
Hospitality & Reservations
Erin Caswell
Knollwood Bake Sale
Priscilla Noah
Knollwood Liaison
Ann Kem
Membership
Jackie Caldwell
Nominations
Vacant
Nominations Emeritus
Bette Meuleners
Parliamentarian
Launa Klimowicz
Publicity/Facebook
Vanessa Joly
Webmaster
Terri Stevens
Service/Welfare
Jennifer Broderick

HONORARY ADVISORS

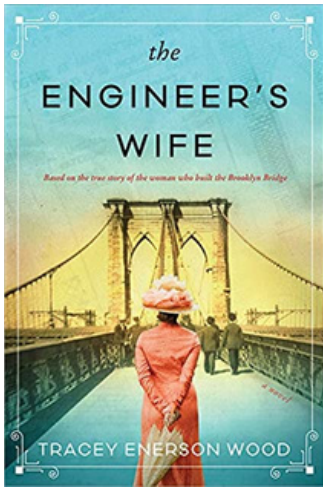
Honorary President
Sharise Spellmon
Honorary Vice President
Tanya Toussaint
SES Spouse Advisor
Jackie Caldwell

Castle House Readers Book Club

The Castle House Readers Book Club met on March 29th at Founding Farmers Tysons. They discussed the book *Sparks like Stars* by Nadia Hashimi.

Jennifer Phillips
Mary Alice Jakso
Brenda Schultze

Terri Stevens
Erin Caswell
Allison Chamberlayne



The next meeting of the CHRBC will be on April 26th at 6:30 pm at Verre Wine Bar (2415 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA).

The group will discuss the very aptly titled novel, *The Engineer's Wife,* by Tracey Enerson Wood.

Please RSVP to urvi.avichal@gmail.com by April 19th if you would like to attend.

Service/Welfare

Honor Flight

Honor Flights in the DC area have resumed. Please check the schedules for the latest flight information via the links below:

Reagan National Airport (DCA) flight schedule
https://honorflightdca.com/2022-schedule/

If you do plan on attending an arrival or departure, please make sure to review the following information:
https://honorflightdca.com/2021/07/06/2021-honor-flight-season-all-volunteers-must-read/

You can participate even if you aren't in the DC area. The schedule for all Honor Flights around the country may be found at https://www.honorflight.org/current-trip-schedule.html.

Wreaths Across America

If you would like to get a head start on sponsoring wreaths for this year's event, which will occur on December 17, 2022, you can visit our group page via this link: https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/157166/

Castle Boutique

Click here to shop!

2022-2023 Executive Board Nominees

President - Mary Alice Jakso

I am honored to be considered for a third term as President of the Army Engineer Spouses Club (AESC). As a cancer survivor, I am blessed to have had some of the most amazing doctors and nurses. I wanted to do something that would honor them. I started volunteering when I was 16 years old. I joined the volunteer rescue squad in Piscataway, NJ, and volunteered as an EMT for eight years. I volunteered as the Survivor Chair for Relay for Life and participated in three events with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. I volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and was on the board for the Joint Spouses Conference in Hawaii. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Florida Atlantic University and my Master's degree from the University of Central Florida. Go Knights!

Since moving to Fort Belvoir, I have served on the board of the Belvoir Spouses Club (BSC), Army Spouses Club of the Greater Washington Area (ASCGWA), and as Vice President in 2019/2020 and President in 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 for Army Engineer Spouses' Club (AESC). I also volunteer as a CASA for Fairfax County. I currently work as a Title IX Investigator for Fairfax County Public Schools.

Army Engineer Memorial Awards Chairperson - Kerri Chase

It's been such a pleasure to volunteer with the AESC! It's a privilege to continue to serve the club for another year.

I was born in New York state and grew up on the Great Sacandaga Lake in the famous Adirondack Mountains. I attended Morrisville State College and then the State University of Cortland where I earned my undergraduate degree. In 2001 I was a participant in the Disney college program, where I met my husband LTC Matthew S. Chase. I'm currently a cybersecurity and project management instructor on Fort Carson. We are currently in Colorado but will be moving to Tampa this summer! We absolutely cannot wait for warm weather and the beach!

When I'm not training Fort Carson leadership you can find me chasing her highly active 4-year-old son Roman, playing bunco with my neighborhood ladies, walking my three dogs, or traveling with family and friends.

2022-2023 Executive Board Nominees

Treasurer - Boumy Funes

My husband and I are both from California and our journey with USACE has been incredible!

He started active duty with the 84th Engineer Battalion in Hawaii. Later, we became civilians working for USACE in San Francisco, where the opportunity to move to Wiesbaden, Germany came along.

We were in Germany for seven years, loving the European experience, traveling and growing our family. All three of our children: Diego, Viera & Dante were born in Germany.

Three and a half years ago we moved to Alexandria, a couple of West Coasters that couldn't wait to explore the East Coast! We're having a great time visiting National Parks with the kids and showing them great American historical landmarks and events.

Smithsonian FUTURES Tour Photos

AESC members, along with members of the Belvoir Spouses' Club, visited the FUTURES exhibit at the Arts and Industries Building. A few of the ladies also visited the Hirshhorn Museum.

Linda Henry-Brenda Schultze-Mary Alice Jakso-Jennifer Stepetic Jackie Habel-Sandra Christman

Linda Henry-Brenda Schultze

Brenda Schultze-Jackie Habel Mary Alice Jakso

Mary Alice Jakso-Brenda Schultze

Mary Alice Jakso-Brenda Schultze Sandra Christman