



Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume V, Issue VIII

April, 2015

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AESC Wine Tasting

Saturday, March 21, 2015
at the Fairfax Village
Neighborhood Center

Fort Belvoir, Virginia



April was a busy month for the Army Engineer Spouses' Club. Enjoy the highlights of the Wine Tasting and the Knollwood bake sale in this issue!

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



THE GAVEL

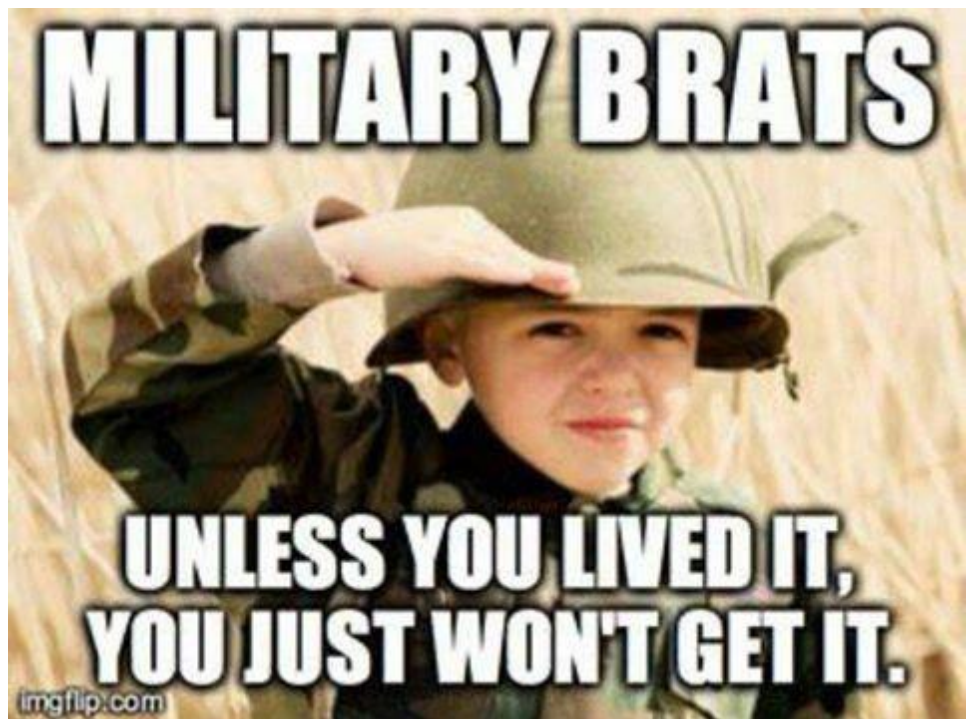


...a note from our President

April is such a special month - the one in which we honor 1.9 million children during the "Month of the Military Child". I am sure some of the images coming to mind are of pre-school or elementary age children at the end of a deployment. Perhaps you reminisce about your own children's homecoming experience. Do you think of a little guy running across a parade field or battalion area and jumping into Daddy's arms during a "Welcome Home" ceremony? Or maybe a Mommy in uniform standing outside of a school waiting for the final bell so she can surprise her kids - she's finally home! Those heartwarming visions tug on our heart, especially when we see tiny faces with tears of joy in their eyes.

Our Army Engineer Spouses' Club members are focusing on an older age group during this special time, our high school seniors. Like their younger counterparts, they are also affected by their parents' service in our Army. Quite a lot of them have moved at least once during their high school career and some have missed extra-curricular opportunities because of it. Most have had someone they know deploy over the past four years, and it's typically been one of their household family members. Certainly each of our military children deserves special recognition for serving America by supporting their parents.

Our Army Engineer Memorial Awards (AEMA) committee takes the service of our military children into consideration during the evaluation process along with many other factors. On Sunday, May 3, 2015, we will be recognizing the recipients of our 2015 Army Engineer Memorial Awards during a luncheon at The Fairfax at Belvoir Woods. These high school seniors come from both our Corps and Army Engineer Families and are selected in a lengthy and detailed process. Our organization is very serious about anonymity during the fair and just selection - not even board members will know the names of the recipients until a mere few days before the luncheon. We are honored that the Chief of Engineers, LTG Bostick will be our guest speaker and hope you can join us for this special recognition event. Your support and donations during the past club year have made these awards possible - thank you!



Our Knollwood Bake Sale was such a success! Priscilla Noah leads the effort in coordinating this annual event where every penny raised is donated to The Army Distaff Foundation's Benevolent Fund for Knollwood. She solicits the baked goodies and cocktail munchies, organizes a group of volunteers, and then arrives early and stays late the day of the sale. While the Knollwood residents and staff are always happy to meet and visit with our AESC members, it's truly Priscilla's lovely face and charming personality they recognize year after year.

After the sale this year, Mr. Thomas P. Hamer, The Army Distaff's Chief Philanthropy Officer, provided our AESC volunteers with a tour of Knollwood. We visited all four areas of care; independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing care, and the Special Care Center for individuals with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. In addition, we saw numerous dining facilities, the indoor pool, an auditorium where a choir was performing, the resident store, exercise room, personal storage facilities, reading and visiting nooks everywhere, the list goes on and on. We were warmly welcomed by both staff and residents at each location - what an amazing place! Our volunteers were especially honored when MG (Ret) Sam and Ann Kern, longtime AESC member, gave us a personal tour of their lovely and spacious new home. Ann told us that living at Knollwood was like being on a beautiful cruise ship every day - just without the water! It was such a special day - many, many thanks to Priscilla for giving it to us.

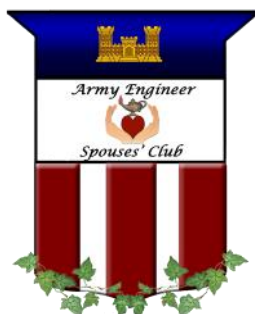
Wow! - It was great to run into so many familiar faces at Red, Hot and Blue a few days ago. This "Eatin' BBQ and Supportin' AESC" fundraiser was coordinated by Kimberly Oberski, our AESC Welfare Chair, all the way from Colorado. Although she couldn't see us munching away and licking the sauce from our fingers, I know she was there in spirit - thanks Kimberly! Many of you supported this event by sharing the information with friends and placing orders yourself. It was such fun and casual event and we hope to repeat it in the future - who doesn't like BBQ?!

I truly hope you can be with us on Sunday afternoon, May 3, at The Fairfax to share in the recognition of our Army Engineer Memorial Award recipients!

Warmly,
Connie



THE GAVEL



MAY BOARD MEETING

Upcoming Events: May Board Meeting
Please join us at our upcoming Board Meeting



*The next AESC Board Meeting
will be held on
May 6, 2015
from
10:00 am - 12:00 am
at the
Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center
10265 Fairfax Drive
Ft. Belvoir, Virginia*

2014-2015 AESC BOARD

Elected Officers

PRESIDENT – CONNIE SEMONITE
 VICE-PRESIDENT – ALLISON CHAMBERLAYNE
 SECRETARY – MAGGIE DEMELLO
 TREASURER – KATHY MOAKLER
 AEMA CHAIRPERSON – HOLLY SCHERER

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

PARLIAMENTARIAN – ROZ RILEY
 MEMBERSHIP – JACKIE CALDWELL
 HOSPITALITY – LYNDA FLOWERS
 AEMA SCHOLARSHIP – ERICA SHAW
 MEDIA TEAM: PUBLICITY/HISTORIAN – GLENDA HUDSON
 NEWSLETTER – KAREN ANDERSON
 WEBMASTER – LAURA PUTNAM
 FACEBOOK – LISA STEVENSON
 CIRCULATION – KARA ANDERSON
 RESERVATIONS – ANITA LINK
 WAYS AND MEANS – SHEILA KELLY
 WELFARE/SERVICES – KIMBERLY OBORSKI
 LIAISON CHAIR: KNOLLWOOD – VACANT
 FAIRFAX – JOYCE REBH AND KAY BURLIN
 KNOLLWOOD BAKE SALE – PRISCILLA NOAH
 NOMINATIONS – BETTE MEULENERS
 AD HOC VOLUNTEER—PAT O'NEILL AND
 BETH MAZZANTI

ADVISORS

RENEE BOSTICK - SPOUSE, CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
 VICKY GRONINGER - SPOUSE, CSM OF ENGINEERS
 JACKIE CALDWELL- SES SPOUSE, DIRECTOR- MILPO
 JOAN STOCKTON-SES SPOUSE, DIRECTOR-CEO



2014-2015 AESC BOARD

NOMINATIONS

Nominations Report April 2015

As per AESC's Constitution and By-Laws, in March the Nominating Committee presents a slate of officers for the upcoming year (2015-2016).

This year's election will be held at the AEMA luncheon on Sunday, May 3. After the election, the newly elected President appoints the committee chairmen, often with the help of the Nominating Committee.

The following are the committee's nominations for the elected officers:

President - Connie Semonite
Vice-President--Maggie DeMello and
Dominique Wilt
Secretary- Lisa Stevenson
Treasurer-Jessica Gregris
AEMA Chairperson-Erica Shaw



Army Engineer Memorial Award Scholarship Luncheon

Sunday, May 3rd, 2015

1:00 pm

*The Fairfax at Belvoir Woods
Community Center*

*9140 Belvoir Woods Pkwy, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
\$30 per person, no charge for residents of The Fairfax*

Guest Speaker: LTG Thomas Bostick

*53rd Chief of Engineers of the United States Army and
Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

*We welcome ALL members of our U.S. Army
Engineer family (past and present)*

RSVP by April 29th

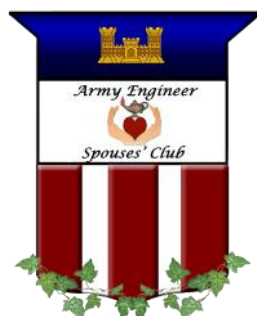
<http://aema-awardslunch.eventbrite.com>

or

Allison Chamberlayne

540-449-3061

Allison@chamberlayne.net



AEMA AWARD LUNCHEON

KNOLLWOOD BAKE SALE



**Knollwood Bake Sale
Washington, DC 2015
April 8, 10:00 am**

We were delighted to have the opportunity to revisit Knollwood with baked goods and other special goodies! Knollwood is a home for retired military and their spouses. Our special treats were sold with all the revenue to return to Knollwood for the benefit of residents who need some financial assistance. We Engineers love to take care of our military families.





Castle Boutique:

Visit our Members Only section on our website for EXCLUSIVE Castle Boutique Items!

www.armyengineerspouses.com



CASTLE BOUTIQUE

APRIL BOARD MEETING



APRIL

AESC Board Meeting



APRIL BOARD MEETING



*AESC Board Meeting
was held on
April 1, 2015
at the
Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center*



WINE TASTING

The AESC Wine Tasting event was held on Saturday, March 21, 2015, at the Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.





WINE TASTING

WINE TASTING



Special thanks to Lisa Stevenson for sharing photos for this month's Castle Gram!





WINE TASTING

AESC WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO HELPED TO PLAN AND COORDINATE THIS EVENT. THANKS, ALSO, TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE EVENT. WE HOPE THAT EVERYONE ENJOYED THE WINE AND





UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3: Army Engineer Memorial Award Luncheon at 1:00 pm.
Location: The Fairfax at Belvoir Woods Community Center,
9140 Belvoir Woods Pkwy, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

August 7, 2015: Castle Ball



Where do you hang your Engineer flag? We at AESC would love to share photos of Engineers and their flags or castles around the world. Please submit your photos to the AESC Facebook page!

Birthdays.....**April**

Michelle DiCiro	April 1
Sally Ball	April 2
Robin Hakala	April 3
Karen Moseley	April 3
Jackie Beck	April 8
Carol Pawlowski	April 9
Jackie Danielson	April 12
Karen Moseley	April 12
Mary Scott	April 15
Lee Boutin	April 18
Anneliese Boutin	April 18
Susan Oliveri	April 20
Mary Lorber	April 23
Niddavone (Mui) Zecchini	April 24
Dolores Felch	April 29
Jennifer Riordan	April 30

May

Karen Voigt	May 1
Allison Chamberlayne	May 2
Linda Stockton - Liedl	May 5
Claire Strand	May 7
Kathy Candido	May 9
Lynda Flowers	May 13
Ruth Bond	May 18
Pam Jacobson	May 21
Kathy Moakler	May 22
Debbie Rapp	May 26
Bette Meuleners	May 28

***Please let me know if I have missed your Birthday!**



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS



The Army Engineer Spouses' Club welcomes membership from spouses of all U.S. Army Engineers and civilian employees of USACE and, with approval of the Executive Board, other persons who are associated with the Corps of Engineers.

2015 AESC HALF-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

There are two options for submitting 2015 half-year membership forms and dues.

- 1. An electronic membership form with paypal on the AESC website**
- 2. Our traditional mail-in membership form**

We look forward to receiving many electronic memberships. As always, our AESC post office mailbox will be checked frequently for mailed memberships.



"LIKE" us on Facebook!

AESC 2015 HALF YEAR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PRINT NAME

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 DeceasedSpouse'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 January 1, 2015 until June 30, 2015. Thank you!

Half year dues : \$15

Total: _____

Please make check payable to AESC and mail to:

AESC MEMBERSHIP

P.O. Box 6332

Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

Join online at www.armyengineerspouses.com

The AESC mission is to keep our Army Engineer family connected. We value membership as a way of keeping Army Engineer friendships alive through member information in the Castle Directory. We welcome your active participation. Let a board member know if you would like to:

- write regular or occasional articles for the Castle Gram,
- volunteer your computer skills,
- host an AESC-sponsored activity or fund-raising event in your area,
- provide pictures of member weddings, births, retirement, or other events of interest to the Army Engineer family.

MEMBERSHIP



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