



Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume V, Issue V

December, 2014

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Listening For Santa

A squeak on the stairs.
Could Santa be here?
Better pull my blankets,
Up to my ears.

He comes down the chimney,
That's how he gets in.
Santa uses magic,
To make himself thin.

I better keep still,
Can't make a peep.
He doesn't leave toys,
Unless you're asleep.

My door just opened
Someone's by my bed.
It wasn't Santa after all,
Cause Mom just kissed my head.

By Annabel Sheila



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



THE GAVEL



...a note from our President

The holidays are here!! While I hope this finds you caught up in the delightful hustle and bustle of celebration preparations, I am especially happy that you have found a moment to enjoy reading our Castle Gram. Each month our editor, Karen Anderson, finds a bit of volunteer time to create and publish our cherished newsletter. The rest of her life is filled with juggling the many duties included in being a Mother of two very active boys, the loving wife of a deployed soldier, and a passionate college professor. Pretty impressive! All of our AESC volunteers are amazing – Karen is just one example among many. Oh, and we are all thrilled her husband will be joining the family stateside soon.

Erica Shaw is another busy volunteer this time of year. As scholarship chair, she is responsible for updating and publishing our awards application. The process was more detailed this year as she incorporated our recent requirement that an applicants' parent be a member of our club. After Roz Riley, our parliamentarian, prepared the general membership vote, oversaw the process, and reported the effort "passed"; Erica did a phenomenal job in creating a "fill-in" pdf. application than the electronic generation will find so very easy to use. Glenda Hudson, publicity chair, will ensure that as many qualified students as possible learn about our awards, and Laura Putnam, our web-master, continues to make certain the on-line application process is fully functional. Holly Scherer, our Army Engineer Memorial Awards Chair, has oversight of this group of volunteers as they coordinate the philanthropic hallmark of our organization. Word of mouth is vital for these awards - please share our application information with anyone who might know a qualifying senior!

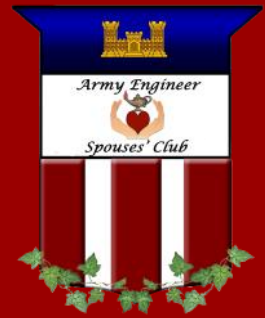
I know you are aware our membership chair, Jackie Caldwell, is responsible for putting together the Red Book, coordinating the publishing and then sending it out to our members. While you will have your copy in hand very soon, Jackie's job isn't over! We continue to accept memberships throughout the club year. In fact, for the very first time we will be offering reduced dues starting JAN 1 and continuing until MAY 31. While anyone joining our organization during that period will not have their name published in the Red Book, they will be able to take full advantage of our other membership benefits for a reduced dues rate of \$15. Jackie will be happy to accept either a mailed application printed from the back page or through our on-line application process at www.armyengineerspouses.com.

The holidays are also very hectic for the Castle Boutique. Sheila Kelly is constantly on the move filling on-line orders and setting up sales in some of our local Engineer work places. Merchandise sells very quickly this time of year. I hope you were able to take a look at our “members-only” specials offered at www.armyengineerspouses.com for the short time they were available. We were pleased these fun and unusual Engineer items SOLD OUT much sooner than anticipated. Shelia hopes to offer more popular pieces like those in the future so continue to check back on a regular basis. We want you to do your holiday shopping with us! Remember, ornaments make perfect hostess gifts, Tervis tumblers are a must-have, and we ALL want a new jewelry piece to show a little Engineer pride.

As always, I want you to share our organization with others and our reduced dues offer the perfect opportunity! Consider printing out this newsletter and an application, then give your holiday hostess, Corps friend, Engineer buddy, or unit representative, the gift of a five-month membership in our club. For \$15, you can share the opportunity to network with other Engineer supporters all over the world, educate others on the availability of our student awards, and stay connected with Engineer mentors, admirers, and peers. Just send in their completed application so it is postmarked after JAN 1 for the reduced rate – we won't tell them you paid just \$15 – but before the 10th so they can receive the JAN Castle Gram. \$15?! - that's probably less than you spent on a gift for the ornament exchange!

On behalf of the entire AESC board we wish you the very best of holidays. Whether snow-capped mountains, sunny surf, or busy city, I hope you celebrate surrounded with loved ones, too much food, joyous music, and lots of children's laughter! ... and when the quiet comes, please take a few moments to remember those who are serving too far away to share the holiday at home and their families that miss them so.

Warmly,
Connie



THE GAVEL

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

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

AESC Board Meeting
January 7, 2014
10:30 a.m.

Location:
The Fairfax
9140 Belvoir Woods Parkway,
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

As a special treat, we have been invited to have our January Board Meeting at The Fairfax. After our meeting, we will enjoy lunch in the dining room.

About The Fairfax:

“At Sunrise Senior Living, we believe where you live is more than just an address - it's a place for comfort, freedom, and happiness. And you'll enjoy just that at The Fairfax, one of Northern Virginia's finest retirement homes and senior Independent Living communities. Established in 1989 by the non-profit Army Retirement Residence Foundation-Potomac (ARRF-P), The Fairfax is a unique military retirement community that serves retired officers and their spouses from the U.S. Uniformed Services, CIA, FBI, Foreign Service and other Federal Agencies as well as the parents of active and retired military personnel and civilians.”



“We enjoy the amenities and activities
of a beautifully landscaped campus and a thriving,
well-managed enterprise.” -William, Resident

2014-2015 AESC BOARD

Elected Officers

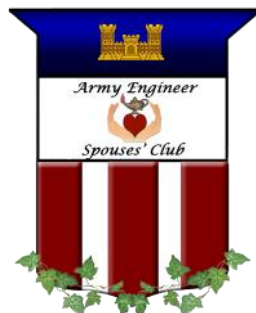
PRESIDENT – CONNIE SEMONITE
 VICE-PRESIDENT – ALLISON CHAMBERLAYNE
 SECRETARY – MAGGIE DEMELLO
 TREASURER – KATHY MOAKLER
 AEMA CHAIRPERSON – HOLLY SCHERER

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

A NOTE FROM AN ADVISOR



As the holiday season approaches, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of the board members who volunteer their time to make the AESC such an amazing club-we could not do this without your tireless efforts. Please remember to think about all of our Soldiers and Civilians that have loved ones deployed and say a prayer for them and their Families. This time of year, Karl finds himself giving holiday safety briefs to the Soldiers and Civilians at USACE, so I thought I would jump on the bandwagon. Each and every one of you is so very important to us and we want to ensure that your holiday season is full of joy and happiness. If you are planning on travelling during this season, please plan appropriately for the weather. When decorating your homes, remember that just because you can plug five or six extension cords together doesn't mean you should. Once again, Karl and I wish you a joyous and safe holiday and many good wishes for the New Year! ESSAYONS!! Vicky



December Board Meeting and Cookie Exchange

Our December Board Meeting was held at Connie Semonite's home on December 3. After our meeting, we enjoyed a cookie exchange. Thanks to Connie Semonite for hosting such a wonderful event for our club!



Coming next month:
Recipes from the cookie
exchange!



DECEMBER BOARD MEETING



In December, the Castle Boutique was busy selling items at the following locations:

December 10 at the Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

December 18 at the Humphrey's Engineer Support Center

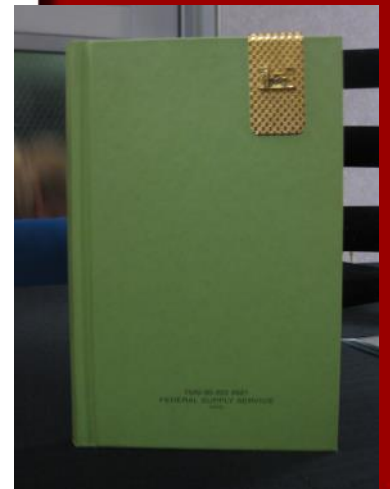
The profit made from the sale of these items goes into our scholarship (AEMA) fund and is awarded to children of Engineers.

CASTLE BOUTIQUE





CASTLE BOUTIQUE



ARMY ENGINEER SPOUSES' CLUB
Army Engineer Memorial Awards
Geraldine K. Morris Award

The Army Engineer Spouses' Club announces the availability of the 2015 Army Engineer Memorial Awards and the 2015 Geraldine K. Morris Award.

The Army Engineer Memorial Awards were established in 1973 as a living memorial to Engineer Officers killed in Vietnam and are given annually to honor all Engineer Officers who died in the line of duty. 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, U.S. Army Engineer (active duty, reservist, retired or deceased) or current Department of the Army employee of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The scholarships are open to students in all fields of study and are based on academic and extracurricular achievement during high school. All monies awarded must be applied toward tuition or scholastic expenses at a college, university, technical or vocational school.

The Geraldine K. Morris Award was established in 2006. Mrs. Morris served as an Army nurse, was Honorary President of the Army Engineer Spouses' Club and wife of the 44th Chief of Engineers, LTG (Ret) John Morris. The award designed to honor her service and memory is available to a graduating high school senior who intends to enroll in a program leading to a nursing degree or certification, and is a citizen of the United States whose sponsor, parent, or legal guardian is a member of the Army Engineer Spouses Club, U.S. Army Engineer (active duty, reservist, retired or deceased) or current Department of the Army employee of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. This award will be renewable based on the student's GPA and their maintaining full-time enrollment in a nursing program.

The Army Engineer Spouses' Club, through efforts of its membership and outside contributors, has established a permanent fund for the perpetuation of the Army Engineer Memorial Award. Individuals may make a tax-deductible contribution to this fund, either as a gift or as a memorial.

The AESC 2015 Application is now available through March 15, 2015 at <http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/army-engineer-memorial-awards-aema.html>

If you have any questions, please email scholarships@armyengineerspouses.com

For more information about scholarship donations, contact the AE-MA Chairman at aema@aesc.com.



2014-2015 AWARD INFORMATION

Road Trip to Purcellville, VA!

On November 19, members of the AESC enjoyed shopping and lunch in Purcellville, Virginia!



Birthdays.....

December

Vicky Groninger	Dec 3
Janice Smith	Dec 4
Mary Beth Savre	Dec 5
Jay Burcham	Dec 7
Shelley Hatch	Dec 7
Jenny Offringa	Dec 10
Tanya Dalton	Dec 14
Isabel Stevens	Dec 15
Holly Scherer	Dec 21
Nicole Gallagher	Dec 28
Joan Stockton	Dec 29
Shannon Hendrickson	Dec 31

January

Joyce Rebh	Jan. 5
Priscilla Noah	Jan. 6
Marna Rockwell	Jan. 10
Harbans Singh	Jan. 10
Lynne Jackson	Jan. 13
Julie Strock	Jan. 16
Sheila Hancock	Jan. 21
Brandie Sinkler	Jan. 22
Elisa Kinsman	Jan. 23
Paula Van Antwerp	Jan. 25
Marilyn Milne	Jan. 28



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.

2014-2015 AESC MEMBERSHIP

There are two options for submitting 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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 July 1, 2014 until June 30, 2015. Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2014 will be included in the 2014-2015 Castle Directory.

Thank you!

Annual dues + 1 copy of the Castle Directory \$25 _____

Additional Castle Directory: Each \$5 _____

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