



Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume V, Issue VII

February, 2015

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Volunteers needed for AESC's Board for 2014-2015

It's time to start on working filling **next year's Army Engineer Spouses' Club (AESC) Board**. The Elected Executive Board for next year will be voted into place at the April AESC Board meeting. It's my job as the Nominations Chairperson, with my committee, to select nominees for the Elected Board. We also will try to help the upcoming President fill the rest of the appointed board positions.

We are working on finding out what positions will be available, but **please contact us if you might be interested in being on the board**. It really is a great way to connect with other members and is an enjoyable activity.

Another request would be for suggestions for members who you think might like to join the board for the next year-- **especially members new to the club**.

Thanks you so much for considering our request!

Bette Meuleners

Pat O'Neill

AESC Nominations, 2013-2014

bmeuleners@gmail.com

[pponeill6@aol.com](mailto:ppponeill6@aol.com)



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



THE GAVEL



...a note from our President

Snow, snow, snow - what a beautiful winter wonderland we've had in the past few weeks! Is there anything more peaceful than a walk in the woods during a snowfall? The miracle of the experience is magnified if you can break away from your daytime duties just before dusk, head outside and welcome the darkness of the evening while surrounded by snowflakes. It's also true that after a long chilly walk, there is nothing more inviting than the sight of your warm, cozy house. Does yours have an Engineer flag flying out front, perhaps a small castle in the window, or a regimental crest sticker on the car parked in the driveway? Check out our Castle Boutique if you need a little Engineer pride to welcome you home!

It is still white outside, but the Army Engineer Spouses' Club is all about the nectar of sunny, plump, harvested grapes for the foreseeable future. Our annual wine tasting is March 21 and we expect it to be a fun and educational evening. This is one of our most liked and well attended events – all of our favorite Engineer couples will be there. You and your spouse are one of them and just have to come! I'll be there without Todd, so don't let the "couple" status scare you away – I am anxious to welcome other lone tasters to the event. We will be trying lots of reds and whites, as well as some inexpensive and higher-priced offerings. We expect you can tell the difference between the two colors – but do you have the palate to distinguish the \$'s from \$\$\$'s? And most importantly, if you like the wine, does it really matter?? Find all the details about this special afternoon elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you will come sip some wine with us and warm up the winter!

As pretty as it is, this most recent snowfall was a surprise – my gardens were just starting to show the little green tops of daffodils breaking through when a blanket of snow put them back to sleep for a few more weeks. While they are preparing for spring, I will too. I plan on getting a jump on the months ahead by deciding which wine is perfect for a cool, spring evening next to the fire pit as well as the one I prefer on a hot, summer night under the stars. Tell me which ones you would choose at the Wine Tasting!

See you there,
Connie



AESC Wine Tasting

Saturday, March 21, 2015

4-6pm

Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center

10265 Fairfax Drive

Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Please join us as we conduct a blind tasting under the guidance of Sommelier, Diane McMartin of Chain Bridge Cellars, McLean, Virginia. We will test your taste buds to see if you can distinguish between an expensive bottle of wine and a more affordable one.

The cost of \$30 per person will not only cover the cost of the wine, but also allow us to support our favorite cause,

The Army Engineer Memorial Awards

We welcome our members, their spouses, and friends of AESC to attend. Please RSVP for you and any guests through the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aesc-wine-tasting-tickets-15814908818>

Or contact Allison Chamberlayne at 540-449-3061 or allison@chamberlayne.net



Dress- casual



AESC WINE TASTING

MARCH BOARD MEETING

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



AESC Board Meeting

will be held on

March 4, 2015

10:00 am - 12:00 am

at the

Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center

10265 Fairfax Drive

Ft. Belvoir, Virginia

Refreshments provided by Maggie

2014-2015 AESC BOARD

Elected Officers

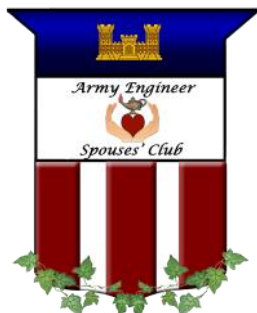
PRESIDENT – CONNIE SEMONITE
 VICE-PRESIDENT – ALLISON CHAMBERLAYNE
 SECRETARY – MAGGIE DEMELLO
 TREASURER – KATHY MOAKLER
 AEMA CHAIRPERSON – HOLLY SCHERER

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

JANUARY: BOWLING

Bowling Event: January

We had a great time bowling last month at the Fort Belvoir Bowling Center. When I made the reservations, the manager said, "Wow! I didn't know there were still Engineers at Belvoir!" I'm so glad so many of us came to show her we're here in force!

A total of 11 of our members bowled three games, ate some delightfully greasy burgers and fries and maybe kicked back a few beers. This type of event helps us learn more about each other. Can you guess who the following Engineer Spouses are:

1. Which spouse brought her own bowling ball?
 2. Two of the eleven of us had our own bowling shoes. Can you guess who?
 3. Which AESC member bowled 4 strikes in a row?
 4. Which AESC member found the gutter more than anyone else?
 5. Can you guess who came out to join us but did not bowl so as not to ruin her nails?
 6. Our top bowler was the member with 4 strikes. Can you guess who came in second?
- (Answers on the bottom of the page)



1. Maggie DeMello
2. Maggie DeMello & Allison Chamberlayne
3. Connie Semonite
4. Lisa Stevenson
5. Launa Brown
6. Glenda Hudson



JANUARY: BOWLING

SERVICE PROJECT

Helping homeless veterans

AESC is supporting Zero 2016, a national campaign designed to help local communities end veteran and chronic homelessness in the next two years. Now through March 31, 2015 AESC will be collecting new and gently used kitchen items at all events and board meetings. Zero 2016 organizations in Arlington, VA will provide these items to local veterans moving into their new residence. We will be posting a donation link on our website for those interested in supporting but unable to attend events. Click [HERE](#) to read about Erie Mass, a success story from Arlington County in 2012. Click on the following link for more information on the [Zero 2016 Campaign](#).

The following items most in demand; however all donations are happily accepted :

Garbage/recycling containers	Pot (with lids preferred)
Garbage bags	Frying pan
Measuring cups and spoons	Mixing bowls
Can opener	Microwave
Wooden spoons	Cookie sheet
Spatulas	Cutting board
Serving ladle	Knives
Pepper and salt shakers	Dish drying rack
Oven mitts	Dishwashing liquid
Tea Kettle	Dish cloth
Coffee maker	Cutlery
Colander	Cutlery divider
Casserole dish	Pot scrubber
Food storage containers (microwave safe preferred)	Broom / dust pan



FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING



Above: Members of the board at February's meeting



*Our February AESC Board Meeting
Was held on February 4, 2015 at
10:00 a.m.*

RED HOT & BLUE FUNDRAISER



Let's Eat BBQ!!!

Support the Red Hot & Blue AESC Fundraiser
You'll enjoy a delicious meal at [Red Hot & Blue](#), [ranked among the top 3 BBQ chains in the nation](#); what's more, you'll be supporting the AESC scholarship fund.

Who: EVERYONE! Please invite your family, friends, and colleagues.

What: AESC scholarship fundraiser at the Red Hot & Blue Restaurant

When: April 9th & 10th

Where: [Red Hot & Blue](#) at 6482 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria, VA 22315 (this location ONLY)

How: Present the flyer to your server and [Red Hot & Blue](#) will donate 15 % of your total bill to the AESC Scholarship Fund! Applies to both dine-in and carry-out orders.

(Note: please print the flyer on the next page)



Team up with

RED HOT & BLUE

for a fund-raising event

Army Engineers Spouses Club
bring your family and friends
dine-in or carry-out
April 9 and 10, 2015

6482 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria

Just print out this flyer and present it to your server
April 9 and 10, 2015, and RED HOT and BLUE,
will then donate 15% of all sales generated by this flyer
to your organization.

Sign up for **FREE FOOD**, join our Birthday & Anniversary Club

name

birth date or anniversary date

address

email address

RED HOT & BLUE FUNDRAISER

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15: Award submission deadline

March 21st – 4pm to 6pm: AESC Annual Wine tasting Event to be held at the Fairfax Community Center on Fort Belvoir. We will be putting your taste buds to the test! Can you tell the difference between an inexpensive glass of wine and an expensive one?

April 8, 2015: 10 am—12 pm: Knollwood Bake Sale

April 9th & 10th - Red Hot & Blue; 6482 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria, VA 22315.

May 3rd – 1pm AEMA Luncheon at The Fairfax Senior Living Community, Fort Belvoir. Time: TBA

August 7, 2015: Castle Ball

Birthdays.....

February

Deborah Kalisz Wehr	Feb. 4
Elizabeth Hill	Feb. 5
Sharise Spellmon	Feb. 6
Sue Wright	Feb. 6
Karen Anderson	Feb. 7
Bobby Buxbaum	Feb. 16
Rex Finley	Feb. 18
Toni Mudd	Feb. 29

March

Beth Mazzanti	March 4
Barbara Fleming	March 8
Diane Messinger Galloway	March 11
Lynn Munch	March 15
Roz Riley	March 16
Tammie Morris	March 17
Mollie O'Neill	March 20
Susan Hill	March 22
Susan Welch	March 23
Jytte Hambric	March 27



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