

Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

VOLUME LXIII ISSUE 7 | February 2017

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Our Executive Board:

President

Launa Klimowicz-Brown

Vice President

Carolyn Hudson

Treasurer

Jessica Gregris

Secretary

Laurel-Lee States

Christy Preston

AEMA Chairperson

Erica Shaw

Happy February from AESC! February is a month of celebrations of all kinds! We celebrate the of achievements by black Americans during Black History Month and take time to recognize the central role of African Americans in U.S. history, and Army Engineer History as well. Did you know that in 1978, Hugh G. Robinson, a 1954 graduate of West Point, was promoted to brigadier general and became the Corps of Engineers' first African American general officer. He served as deputy director of Civil Works and in 1980 assumed command of the Southwestern Division, a position he held until his retirement in 1983 as a major general.

We also celebrate the ones we love on February 14th... Valentine's Day! It originated as a Western Christian liturgical feast day honoring one or more early saints named Valentinus, and is recognized as a significant cultural and commercial celebration in many regions around the world, although it is not a public holiday in any country. But did you know that in the United State, Valentine's Day is on the decline? Recent retail trends show Americans are spending less and less on this holiday each year.

On February 20th, American's celebrate Presidents Day. But did you know that is not the official term for the day? Officially, the Federal Holiday is named "Washington's Birthday". The federal holiday honoring George Washington was originally implemented by an Act of Congress in 1879 for government offices in Washington and expanded in 1885 to include all federal offices. Colloquially, the day is also now widely known as Presidents' Day and is often an occasion to remember all the presidents, not just George Washington. Lincoln's birthday, February 12th, was never a federal holiday, nearly half of the state governments have officially renamed their Washington's Birthday observances as "Presidents' Day", "Washington and Lincoln Day", or other such designations.

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

A&M

Application Deadline is March 15th!! The Army Engineer Memorial Awards were established in 1967 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. A candidate for an award may be any graduating high school senior who is a citizen of the United States and whose sponsor, parent, or legal guardian is a U.S. Army Engineer (active duty, retired or deceased), National Guard U.S. Army Engineer, Reserve U. S. Army Engineer, or current Department of the Army employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as well as a current member of the Army Engineer Spouses Club. The merit based awards 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. A candidate for this merit based award may be any graduating high school senior who intends to enroll in a program leading to a nursing degree or certification, is a citizen of the United States and whose sponsor, parent, or legal guardian is a U.S. Army Engineer (active duty, retired or deceased), National Guard U.S. Army Engineer, Reserve U. S. Army Engineer, or current Department of the Army employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The candidate must also have a parent or legal guardian who is a current member in the Army Engineer Spouses Club. (Exceptions do apply if parent or legal guardian is deceased). This award will be renewable based on the student's GPA and their maintaining full-time enrollment in a nursing program.

The Fisher house Foundation announces the addition of a scholarship search

engine tailored to military families called "Search for Service". It's free, easy to use, and available on mobile devices or computers at the militaryscholar.org site. Students enter brief background information and educational goals and the search tool will identify military-affiliated scholarships they may be eligible for based on their input. Once the search is complete, students receive a list of scholarships with a summary of eligibility requirements, points of contact and links to the scholarship provider's website. Students can elect to have a PDF file of the results immediately emailed to them for use in selecting which scholarships to apply for.



Nominations

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 2017-2018. Our constitution states that we should have nominees for our elected positions **no later than the end of April 2017**. We will then vote at our May 2017 function.

The elected positions on AESC's 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 2017-2018 fill the appointed positions on our Board.

The elected positions that we know for sure will need to be filled are Vice-President , Treasurer and AEMA (Army Engineer Memorial Awards) Chairperson. We also know that some of the "jobs" appointed (by the President) will need to be filled—among these are Castle Gram Editor and Ways and Means.

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 serve in my "position" as Nominations Chairperson.

Information about the positions is in the latest copy of our "Red Book". You can also reach out to any current Board member to find out more information on Board positions. Go to [http:// www.armyengineerspouses.com/contact-us.html](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/contact-us.html) to find current contact information.

Also, 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!

Please contact me, Bette Meuleners at nominations@armyengineerspouses.com if you are interested in serving. Once again, our election is in May, but we should have most of the nominations by the end of March with time for nominations from the "floor" in April.

Thank you for considering a place on our Board! We'd LOVE to have you join us!

Bette Meuleners

AESC Nominations Chairperson, 2016-2017
571-235-3566

nominations@armyengineerspouses.com or bmeuleners@gmail.com

Save the Date

Feb 7

Fundraiser @ Hard Times Café

Feb 22

Couples Night Out
John Strongbow tavern
7pm
710 King Street, Alexandria

Feb 28

Fisher House Meal
Volunteers needed

March 1

AESC Board Meeting

March 6

The Castle Boutique at Leaders
Emeritus from 9:30 -2pm

March 14

AEMA Award Applications Due

March 15

Tour & Lunch at Hillwood Estates

April 5

AESC Board Meeting and tour of
the Women's Memorial at Arlington
national Cemetery

April 19

Knollwood Bake Sale



Nuts & Bolts

The AESC Board meets the first Wednesday of each month. Board meetings are open to all members. Our last board meeting was held at roam at The Fairfax., hosted by our Retirement Residents liaison, Kay Burlin. Our next board meeting will be March 1st at the home of

Priscilla Noah. This will be a potluck brunch. Look for a sign up as we get closer to the event.



Future Castle Gram Delivery

The monthly AESC Castle Gram is delivered from Kara Anderson's inbox to yours each month. We have spent the past few years eagerly awaiting her emails with the latest news from AESC! AESC decided to streamline this process and will be sending future Castle Grams from the circulation@armyengineerspouses.com email address. The March Castle Gram will be sent from Kara's home email address and the circulation@armyengineerspouses.com address as well. She will send the April Castle Gram only from the circulation email address. Please make note in hopes the Castle Gram does not end up in your SPAM folder.

January Outing

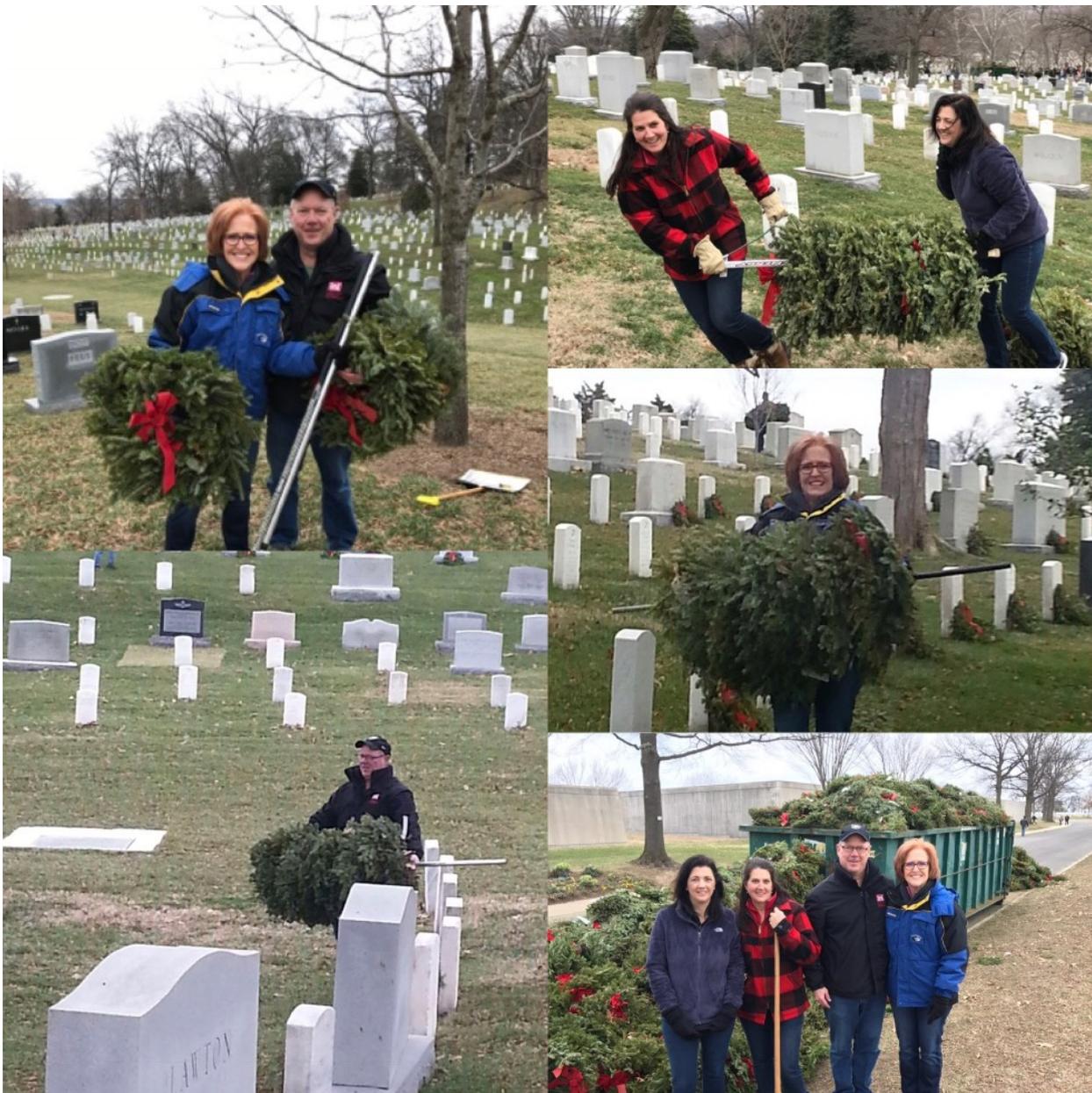
The AESC ladies spent a fun night out at the Fort Belvoir Bowling Center in January. Mad bowling skills were on display as we relaxed, snacked, and enjoyed some fun girl time. It's always a good night when we are able to spend time with our Engineer family, catching up with old friends and making new ones. Hope you can join us next time!



Welfare & Service

The Wreaths Across America is a nation-wide event placing a holiday wreath at every grave in each national cemetery. While they are a beautiful addition for the holidays, the wreaths must be picked up each January. Several AESC members and their family members joined literally thousands at Arlington National Cemetery January 28 for this clean-up. Scout groups, active duty soldiers and the general public joined together to retrieve all the wreaths in about one hour. The weather was cloudy and a bit cool but the warmth of the service made it all worth while.

Dave and Kara Anderson, Shannon George and Holly Dailey met up to share in the wreath clean-up.



2016-2017 Volunteers

Parliamentarian

Roz Riley

Membership

Jackie Caldwell

Hospitality

Terri Stevens

Lynne Jackson

Historian

Lisa Stevenson

Castle-Gram

Allison Chamberlayne

Webmaster

Laura Putnam

Circulation

Kara Anderson

Castle Boutique

Sheila Kelly

Welfare & Service

Vanessa Joly

Retirement Residences

Liaison

Kay Burlin

Knollwood Bake Sale

Pricilla Noah

Nominations

Bette Meuleners

Scholarship Committee

Marguerite Theissen

Volunteer Spotlight:

AESC Nominations Chair:

Bette Meuleners



Hometown: I was born in RI. My father was in the Army and I've lived many places in the US and Germany. I went to high school (JEB Stuart) and college (William and Mary) while living in Falls Church, VA, so I guess I'd call that my "Hometown".

Family: 4 children. 2 sons and a daughter are married and live in Northern Virginia with 9 grandchildren— 2 girls (16 and 14) and 7 boys (ages 13 to 1). Our youngest daughter lives in San Francisco.

How long have you been an Army Engineer Spouse: I have been an Engineer spouse most of my adult life—my first husband was an Engineer (and a Cobra helicopter pilot who was shot down and died in Viet Nam). I've been married 40 years to Mike who was an Engineer with the Corps until he retired in 2000.

How long have you been a member of AESC? Really not sure, but at least since 2001. I've been on the board since 2001—have been Vice President, President, and Nominations

How many places have you called home? I'm not sure—at least 25 since I was born.....

In the spirit of "Bloom where you are planted", what was your favorite thing about your least favorite duty station? Honestly, I have found a reason to LOVE everywhere I've ever lived. When Mike was selected as the Omaha District Commander I thought I might be going to the "end of the earth" and was not excited at all as it was not at the top of my "list" of places to move, in fact it was not even on my list. It turned out that it was one of my favorite places! We loved living there!

What's for dinner tonight? Chicken salad

What's the last game you played? Hand and Foot (form of Canasta)

What's one thing we would be surprised to learn about you? I've been able to stay on the AESC board and an active member even though I live in Arizona half the time.

AESC Fundraisers

Army Engineer Spouses Club

AEMA Fundraiser Day at



When: All Day Tuesday February 7th

Where:

Alexandria - Old Town

1404 King Street
(703)837-0050

Fairfax

4069 Chain Bridge Road
(703)267-9590

Springfield

6362 Springfield Plaza
(703-913-5600

AEMA will receive 20% of ALL food and non-alcoholic purchases.

Must present a copy of this flyer - either printout or an any electronic device.

Don't forget! When you are online shopping, click through Amazon Smile! Go to www.smile.amazon.com and select Arm Engineer Memorial Award as your charity. It costs you nothing and a portion of your purchase goes to AEMA.

Castle Boutique

**COUPON
10% OFF**

**Members Only
Discount
Online Code:
MEMBERS10**

*Army Engineer Spouses' Club
Castle Boutique*

Offer valid online only for any purchase in the Castle Boutique. Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid on previous purchases. Only one coupon per purchase. For AESC Members Only.



EXPIRES: February 28, 2017

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who worked our castle boutique Sale in December at the Humphries Center! The Castle Boutique raised over \$2500 during its live sales in December for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards!



Just in time for Valentine's Day

Engineer Castle earrings beautifully designed for the Castle Boutique

Choose Silver or Gold

Find them under our Members Only Tab

The Castle Boutique will be set up for Leaders Emeritus on
March 6th from 9:30 -2pm

We need volunteers to staff our table! Contact Sheila Kelly at
castleboutique@armyengineerspouses.com

Local Events

Feb 11
Cupid's Undie Run

Feb 17-26
Alexandria Restaurant Week

Feb 18
George Washington's
Birthnight Banquet and Ball

Feb 25
DC Rollergirls

Feb 24 - Mar 5
Intersections Arts Festivals

Feb 28th
Clarendon Mardi Gras Parade

Mar 10
Grand Opening Harriet
Tubman Underground Railroad
Visitor Center (MD Eastern
Shore)

Around Town

It's Black History Month and many residents and visitors to the DC area are trying to get in to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture. Tickets are very hard to come by! Advance timed entry passes are released monthly and sell out in minutes. The next release will be March 1st at 9am. You can try same day online or walkup passes, but your chances are slim. However, have no fear! There are many black history museums throughout the D.C. area that you can visit in the meantime.

Alexandria Black History Museum

Where: Alexandria

Admission: Suggested admission \$2

Located in Old Town Alexandria, this museum currently explores the day in the life of slaves in Alexandria and issues of preservation in the state. In addition to the main building, the museum also includes the nearby Watson Reading Room and African-American Heritage Park. The Watson Reading Room has over 3,000 books, periodicals, dissertations and videos documenting African American history. The park, which is nine acres, also preserves a 1-acre 19th century African-American cemetery.

African American Civil War Memorial and Museum

Where: 1925 Vermont Ave. NW

Admission: Free

This museum and memorial highlights the heroism of African-American soldiers during the Civil War through artifacts, photographs, presentations and seminars. The Spirit of Freedom: African American Civil War Memorial and Wall of Honor stands just across the street from the museum and tells the story of the United States Colored Troops. There are 209,145 soldiers names engraved onto the wall. The museum is housed in the Grimke Building, named after one of the most prominent African-American families in Washington, D.C.

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

Where: 1411 W St. SE

Admission: Free for entrance; \$1.50 to reserve a guided tour

Tour the home where Frederick Douglass lived from 1877 until his death in 1895. Visitors can see original artifacts, watch a film on Douglass' life or tour the grounds. A partnership with Google makes it easy to tour the house from home with a virtual 360-degree, interactive tour.

Engineer History

This bit of Engineer History was plagiarized straight from our own Chief of Engineers, LTG Todd Semonite. In his weekly update on January 16, 2017, LTG Semonite let us know...

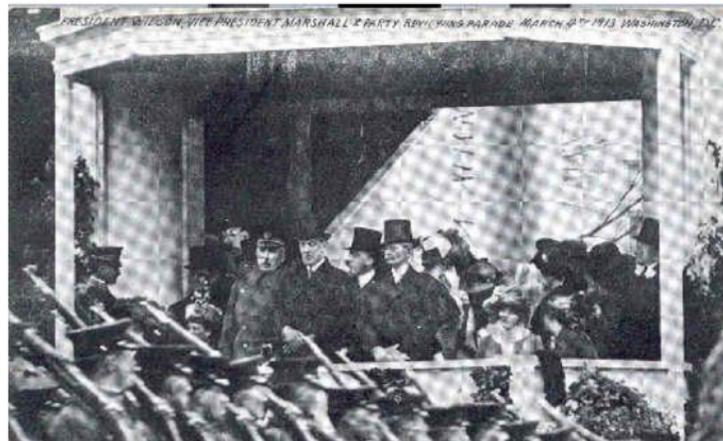
SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT USACE: WHITE HOUSE ADMINISTRATOR

— In early 1877, President Ulysses S. Grant began what was to become a 57-year tradition for Army Engineers by appointing COL Thomas L. Casey as his Commissioner of Public Buildings for the District of Columbia. As such, he served both as Administrator of the White House and as the Army's military aide to the President. Of note during these years, COL Spencer Cosby, serving from March 1909 to October 1913, oversaw design and construction of new executive offices at the White House, one of which during President William H. Taft's term, became known as the Oval Office. Like Casey, Cosby was "first" in his West Point class and remained commissioner into the early months of President Woodrow Wilson's administration where he not only helped guide the new president through his first inauguration, but also worked with his family on remodeling their quarters. (photos attached) Appropriately, the last Army officer and Engineer to hold this post before President Franklin D. Roosevelt transferred the Commissioner's position to the National Park Service in 1934, was Colonel Ulysses S. Grant III, grandson of President Grant who made the initial appointment

COL Spencer Cosby, (center), Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds for the District of Columbia, and President Woodrow Wilson (right) prepare to leave the White House for the inaugural parade in 1913.



COL Cosby, (front, left), leads President Wilson's inaugural party to the reviewing stands.



COL Cosby, (left in reviewing stand), joins President Wilson, Vice President Marshall, and their inaugural party as they review the inaugural parade.

Protocol Points to Ponder

Whether it be gifts for the holidays, hostess gifts, promotions, changes of command, we are frequently blessed to be receiving gifts! Being in the Armed Forces, active duty personnel are regulated as to receiving gifts and this article will NOT attempt to provide legal advice. See your unit legal counsel or JAG office for guidance there. What this article will attempt to cover is the ins and outs of gift giving in social settings and how to mind your Ps and Qs while doing it! There is no greater telltale sign of good manners than responding properly to receiving a gift.

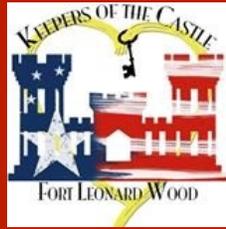
You Don't Love It: Receiving a gift requires a big dose of enthusiasm even when you don't particularly love the gift. Why? Simply because maybe up to the age of ten you could have been forgiven for that disappointed look, however after that point an ungrateful look can be considered rude.

The Giver Asks Questions: If the gift giver asks you to tell them if the particular clothing doesn't fit or whether you already have the yellow polka Babushka Doll set, it is polite to respond honestly. They would not be happy to know that the dress you received was hanging in your closet collecting dust because it is too small, or the book is on your bookshelf next to the identical title. Politely comment that you do in fact already have the item, or mention that it may be a little too small. Whilst this may feel awkward, the giver will appreciate your honesty. Don't outwardly say anything unless asked however as this could cause embarrassment on all accounts. There is a fine line between honesty and politeness.

After Opening The Gift: An email thank you or text message is not enough unless the gift was from your immediate family, mom, dad, brother or sister. However even then, nothing beats putting pen to paper. To really show your heartfelt appreciation, there is no substitute for the good old fashion, hand written, stamped and snail-mailed, thank you note. If you do not send a thank you note, not only is this bad manners, but the person who sent you the gift will forever be wondering if the gift arrived. When it comes to thank you notes you must be quick. Genuine and quick. If your thank you note shows up in the mail three weeks after receiving the gift from Grandma, it would have lost some of its impact. There are exceptions. A bride has 3 months to thank her guests. Thank you notes from the grieving or ill should be written when the patient has recovered or taken over by a close friend or relative.

The gifts was received and thanked in person: It's never wrong to send a written thank you, and people always appreciate getting "thanks" in writing. If you open a gift in the presence of the giver, then your verbal thanks are sufficient. For example, when you receive a hostess gift, or a holiday/birthday gift from a good friend or relative and you open it and express your sincere thanks personally, then a follow-up thank-you is optional.





Keepers of the Castle

Keeper's of the Castle is an Engineer Spouses' Club located in Fort Leonard Wood Missouri. They welcome members from Active Duty Army, National Guard, Reserve, Retired, allies and sister services. They aim to instill pride in Engineer spouses through camaraderie by educating, sharing, and embracing our roles – past, present, and future. Connect with the Keeper's Of the Castle on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KeepersOfTheCastle or via email FLWKeepers@gmail.com.

Keepers of The Castle

Invites you to our Quarterly Meeting



Building Regimental Pride

Join us to learn more about regimental week, meet fellow spouses, enjoy some great food, have fun on a scavenger hunt and more!

Feb 16, 2016
6:00 - 8:00pm
Essayons Room, Engineer Museum
14296 S. Dakota Ave, FLW

Pot Luck: Bring Your Favorite Dish To Pass

Open to Engineer Spouses of all ranks

Coming Soon:

May: Progressive Dinner Party

Keepers is looking to sponsor a dress donation/swap before the Regimental ball (date tbd). Bring any clean gowns to the meeting and stay tuned for details.



Army Engineer Spouses Group - Europe

The Engineer Spouses Group - Europe hosts a monthly coffee on the third Tuesday of each month from September to May. For more information on joining this active group, contact Michelle Tyler at mtyler1015@aol.com.



A flyer for a Valentine's Day Bake Sale. It features six colorful hearts arranged in two rows of three. The top row hearts are purple, pink, and teal, with the phrases 'KISS ME', 'LOVE YOU', and 'BE MINE' respectively. The bottom row hearts are pink, light blue, and yellow, with the phrases 'CHARM ME', 'YOU & ME', and 'TRUE LOVE' respectively. Below the hearts, the text reads 'SWEET AS CANDY VALENTINE'S DAY BAKE SALE'. Underneath that, it says 'Join us as we celebrate love in the sweetest way!'. The date '02.14.17' is prominently displayed, followed by the time '11:00-13:00' and location 'AEC Lobby'. At the bottom, it states 'Donations Accepted' and lists the Point of Contact (POC) as 'Ivette Clark x2780 & Susanne Kelly x2380'.

**SWEET AS CANDY
VALENTINE'S DAY BAKE SALE**

Join us as we celebrate
love in the sweetest way!

02.14.17 11:00-13:00
AEC Lobby

Donations Accepted
POCs: Ivette Clark x2780 & Susanne Kelly x2380

Recent Activities

- AESG-Europe is supporting the Europe District Castle Keepers Bake sale this Valentine's Day.
- Their Lego league has become so popular that they were asked to support the Boy Scouts' Pinewood Derby with an activity station for scouts and siblings waiting their turn to race.
- Many AESG-Europe members supported the Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club Gala. They help prepare more than 45 silent auction items for the event.

Membership

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

Questions?

Contact our
Membership Chair

Jackie Caldwell
membership@armyengineerspouses.com



AESC 2016-2017 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, 2016 until June 30, 2017.

Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2016 will be included in the 2016-2017 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



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

