



Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

VOLUME LXIV ISSUE 4 | January/February 2018

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A Note from the Newsletter Chair:



I'm Jessica Gregris, AESC Newsletter Chair. I agree with Launa that we all love to hear what

our fellow Engineer families are doing. No matter if you live outside the DC area; if Engineers and/or their families gathered, or want to give a shout out welcoming or farewelling people in your local Engineer community...we would love to share those tidbits.

Please send submissions, comments and suggestions to newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com.

Happy New Year to all our Engineer Families where ever you may be! I cannot believe January and February have slipped away and Saint Patricks Day is right around the corner!!! Everything seems to be coming at us fast and furious! All of the sweet memories we made over the Holidays captured in photos safely stored in digits somewhere (some of ours can be seen in this issue) we look forward to what is next on our agenda. AND it is FULL!!!



Local members will be gathering for a few events so hopefully local members are getting their Evite!!! Please respond to our Evites so we know you are getting them. The event in March and just in time for Easter - we will get a little creative and learn the art of Polish Pysanky Egg Decorating.

Our AESC board will meet again in March to plan the final few months of our club year. There are just a few short months left! Members in DC, Fort Leonard Wood, and Europe have exciting monthly events planned and we will post pictures of the fun here in the Castle Gram and at www.armyengineerspouses.com. Send us pictures of your get-togethers too. Add a caption if you like and let us know a little bit about the event - we will share them with the AESC community. We love seeing familiar faces enjoying Engineer fun!

AESC Executive Board, 2017-2018:

Elected Officers

President	Launa Brown
VP	Rosemary Davis
Secretary	Christy Cramer Preston
Treasurer	Kimberly Oborski
AEMA Chair	Kara Anderson

Appointed Board Members

Circulation	Sheila Kelly
Corresp. Sec.	Laurel-Lee States
Fairfax Liaison	Kay Burlin
Historian	Lisa Stevenson
Hospitality	Terri Stevens
Knollwood	Priscilla Noah
Bake Sale	
Knollwood	Ann Kem
Liaison	
Membership	Jackie Caldwell
Newsletter	Jessica Gregris
Nominations	Bette Meuleners
Parliament.	Roz Riley
Publicity/FB	Louis Cook
Reservations	Lynne Jackson
Scholarship	Marguerite Theisen
Ways & Means	Kendra Lewis
Webmaster	Laura Putnam
Wel./Service	Vanessa Joly

Honorary Advisors

Hon. Pres.	Connie Semonite
Hon. VP	Kim Houston
AEMA Adv.	Bobby Buxbaum
SES Sp. Adv.	Jackie Caldwell

Happy New Year continued.

Please remember we are currently taking applications for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards and the GKM Award. The board and general membership - you! - spends an incredible amount of time raising funds for this endeavor and were proud to distribute eleven awards to deserving students in 2017. Please share the link with Engineer friends who have a high-school senior in the house for consideration this year. Copy and paste this link to all your social media sites. Let's get the word out there!!!

Army Engineer Memorial Awards Application Link:

http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/uploads/1/3/0/6/13061711/2018_aema_memorial_award_application-1.pdf

I wish you much love and joy in 2018!

Warmly,

Launa

President, AESC



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

Upcoming AESC Events



When: Saturday, March 10 at 12:00pm
Where: Lisa Pulaski's Home
 5202 Chapel Gate Court
 Alexandria, Virginia 22315

Want to learn the art of Pysanky? Please join in on the fun. Don't be intimidated. It's a lot of fun and there will be all levels of skill attending who are also willing to help. You can search the web for ideas or find out more about it...like <http://www.learnpysanky.com>. Also, if you are on Pinterest, search the site for all kinds of inspiration. This Pinterest board is amazing: <https://www.pinterest.com/jim102/great-works-in-pysanky/>

Lisa will provide the dyes, tools, and eggs (brown and white). If you have your own supplies you are welcome to bring them to use.

If you have any - bring eggs from past years to show and share, we would all love to see them. Lisa will have hers on display including the ones from 30+ years ago when she was just learning. :-)

Light refreshments will be served, including Polish traditional foods like: kielbasa, haluski, pierogies, sauerkraut, cheeses, half sour pickles, and krischiki. You're welcome to add to the spread, if you like.

A donation of \$10 will be appreciated to cover the supplies and yummie food.

Past AESC Events



AESC celebrated another great year with a wonderful cookie party hosted by Connie Semonite. There were cookies, cookies and more cookies... what better way to spend a morning than sharing your favorite cookies, and recipes, with old friends and new ones! The idea was to bring one type of cookie to share and go home with a wonderful assortment.



Past A&SC Events

A special treat and surprise of the day at the cookie party was Terri Stevens award presentation! She was presented the Essayons Award by Major General Michael Wehr, Deputy Chief of Engineers/Deputy Commanding General U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



(L to R) Launa Brown, Terri Stevens, MG Wehr, and Connie Semonite

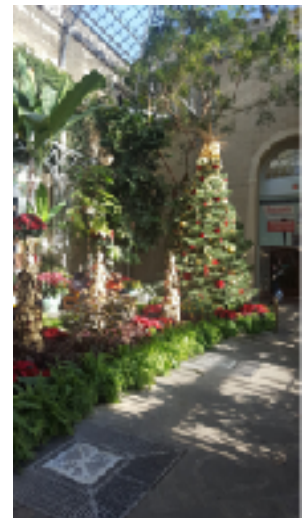
Past AESC Events



AESC did a tour of the U.S. Botanic Gardens Season's Greetings exhibit followed by lunch at California Pizza Kitchen in Pentagon Center. This year, the botanic gardens exhibit theme was take a trip across America showcasing Roadside Attractions! The exhibit featured iconic sights from across the United States. AESC viewed thousands of blooms throughout the Conservatory, including a showcase of heirloom and newly developed poinsettia varieties.



AESC Castle Gram



Past AESC Events

Holiday Reception for AESC at Quarters 7

The Semonite's hosted an amazing evening where old friendships were renewed and new friendships were made as we all celebrated the past year and the holiday season.



Membership

The hard copy of the Castle Directory (Red Book) is out, but keep in mind that you can still access the digital version of the current Member Directory (includes members that joined after the hard copy of the Castle Directory was published) in the Members Only area on the AESC website.

Membership is still available, and we will ensure your information gets included in the online version in the Members Only area of the AESC website. Remember, the Club year runs from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. For just \$25 Membership includes:

- One copy of the Castle Directory (The Red Book)
- E-mailed copy of the monthly newsletter, "The Castle Gram"
- Access to the Members Only page on the AESC website which includes member only specials for the Castle Boutique, archived files from past Castle Grams and meeting notes, and the current digital version of the Castle Directory (The Red Book)
- Invitations to our monthly programs, luncheons and special events
- Children of our members are invited to apply for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards

ONLINE membership application and payment can be done at <http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/online-membership-form.html>

Or

Fill out the 2017-2018 membership form included in this edition of the Castle Gram, include a check payable to AESC, and mail it in.



Need an extra copy of the Castle Directory (Red Book)? For an extra \$5 each, you can order as many as you need with your membership.

Not sure if your membership is current? Verify the status of your membership with our membership chair, Jackie Caldwell, by emailing membership@armyengineerspouses.com.



CORRECTIONS TO THE HARD COPY OF THE CASTLE DIRECTORY (RED BOOK):

The following member addresses were incorrect: Estelle Gibson and Willie Berwick. You can find the correct addresses under the AESC (member's only) section of the AESC website.

Additionally, please note that CSM Michael (Mike) Buxbaum was the 10th CSM at USACE and CSM Karl Groninger was the 11th CSM at USACE.

We apologize for any inconvenience these errors may have caused. If there are further corrections needed please let us know.

AESC Save the Date

March 7

AESC Board Meeting
Fort Belvoir, VA

March 10

Pysanky Egg Decorating
Lisa Pulaski's home in
Alexandria, VA

April 3

Fisher House Meal
Fort Belvoir, VA

April 4

Knollwood Bake Sale
Washington, DC

April (TBD)

AESC Board Meeting
Fort Belvoir, VA

May 2

AESC Board Meeting
Fort Belvoir, VA

June 6

AESC Board Meeting
Fort Belvoir, VA



Army Engineer Memorial Awards

The Army Engineer Spouses' Club established the Army Engineer Memorial Awards (AEMA) 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. Through the efforts of its membership and outside contributors, AESC established a permanent fund for the perpetuation of the awards.

These are **merit awards based on the student's academic and extracurricular achievement during high school** so no consideration is given to the students planned college, university, technical, vocational school, or field of study. The awards committee doesn't even see this information when reviewing applications. There is one exception, and that is the Geraldine K. Morris Award, which is for a high school senior who intends to enroll in a program leading to a nursing degree or certification.

If you are a current member of AESC, and your child is a high school senior, then you may want to consider submitting an application for an Army Engineer Memorial Award. More information on these awards, the complete criteria and application are available online at:

<http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/army-engineer-memorial-awards-aema.html>

***Applications must be postmarked by
February 28, 2018***

AESC Board Meetings

The weather worked against us for the last meeting, but technology saved the day allowing us to hold a virtual meeting via Zoom!

Board meetings are always open to the general membership, and prior coordination of attendance is not required. If you are curious or think you might want to assist please come join us.

The next AESC Board Meeting will be on March 7th, 6pm, at the Community Center (Fairfax) on Fort Belvoir.

AESC Board 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 2018-2019. Our constitution states that we should have nominees for our elected positions **no later than the end of April 2018**. We will then vote in May 2018.

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 fill the appointed positions on our Board for 2018-2019.

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> 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, 2017-2018

571-235-3566

nominations@armyengineerspouses.com or bmeuleners@gmail.com

AESC Across the Miles!

While Sheila Kelly was house hunting in Florida she got a chance to link up and have dinner with the Wallace's in historic Saint Augustine. Pictured below is Carolyn Wallace and Sheila.



AESC Member Birthdays

If you see any of the following AESC members please wish them a Happy Birthday!

Laurel-Lee States 1-Feb
Marion Dornstauder 2-Feb
Kara Mangan 2-Feb
Janet Graham 4-Feb
Deborah Kalisz Wehr 4-Feb
Donald Swygert 4-Feb
Susan Wright 6-Feb
Karen Anderson 7-Feb
Sharon Fentress-Bussey 9-Feb
James Holland 12-Feb
May Toy 14-Feb
Bobby Buxbaum 16-Feb
Carla Asbery 18-Feb
Latoya Manzey 20-Feb
Tessie LaRose Ballard 28-Feb



Volunteer Spotlight

AESC presents another great volunteer:

Christy Cramer Preston

We are all very thankful for having Christy Cramer Preston as our AESC Secretary. She has been a member of AESC since 2016, is always willing to help, and keeps us all straight with detailed meeting minutes! Christy has been an Engineer spouse since 2001, and although she claims Independence, Missouri as her hometown she does great wherever she lands.



Pictured here is Christy with her husband (Scott, undetermined age), daughter (Bailey, 13 years old) and 'dabbing' son (Ethan, 7 years old). For those of you that don't know 'dabbing', or the 'dab', is a simple dance move in which a person drops the head into the bent crook of a slanted arm, often while raising the opposite arm in a parallel direction but out straight. Since 2015, it has also been used as a gesture of triumph or playfulness, becoming a youthful American cultural sensation. The move looks similar to someone sneezing into the inside of the elbow. Not pictured is their French Bulldog (Coco), another dog (Emma), cat (Daisy) and 5 (yes I wrote 5) guinea pigs. They inadvertently purchased a pregnant guinea pig.

Christy has lived in 7 states (some more than once) and Germany. She doesn't have a "least favorite duty station". She ventures out and discovers all that she can at each duty station. There are multiple things she misses about each place. When they move from Northern Virginia, Christy said she will definitely miss the AESC, Chartreuse & Co, Lucketts and Wegman's.

She is whiz at making pizza and hot wings, but be prepared for a ripping game of Rummikub afterwards! Many of you may not know, but Christy is an attorney with over 18 years of experience. She loves traveling and antiquing. Her ultimate travel destination is St. Petersburg, Russia (The Land of the Czars). She is addicted to auctions, Facebook Marketplace and Craigslist. Lastly, she is a big fan of Downton Abbey, The Walking Dead and Casablanca.

Welfare & Service

AESC Supported  WREATHS *across* AMERICA

On December 16, 2017 AESC was at Arlington Cemetery to remember and honor our veterans through the laying of remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes, and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

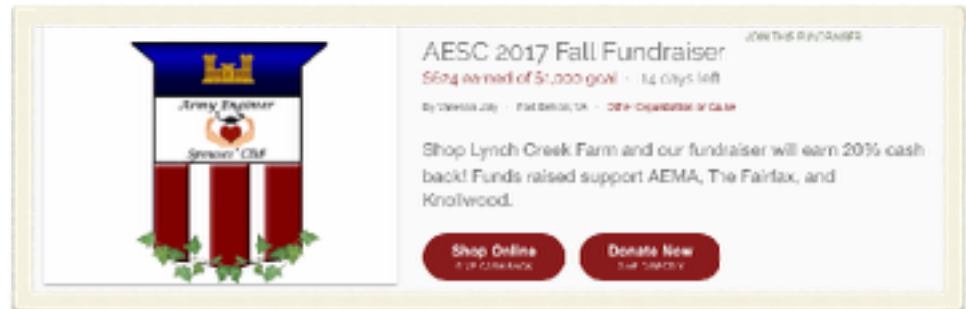


Welfare & Service

AESC Lynch Creek Farm Fundraiser - Closed December 17th

We set a goal of \$1,000 for this year's campaign which was pretty aggressive considering we made about \$400 the previous year. Although we didn't achieve our goal we still received \$700 which is incredible!

Thank you for doing your holiday shopping with Lynch Creek and know this money will go towards supporting the Army Engineer Memorial Awards, The Fairfax and Knollwood.



Yankee Candle Fundraiser - Closed January 1st

We raised \$120 in our first attempt at using this fundraising venue. Thank you to everyone who did their holiday shopping through Yankee Candle.

Welfare & Service



**ARMY DISTAFF
FOUNDATION**



Knollwood Military Retirement Community

The Knollwood Bake Sale will be on 4 April. Stay tuned for more information on this great event. All proceeds from the bake sale will be given to the Army Distaff Foundation in support of the Knollwood Military Retirement Community.

AESC Support to Fisher House

AESC continues to provide monthly meals to the families (usually approximately 8-10 guests) staying at the **Fort Belvoir Fisher House**. The following dates are available:

February 27
April 3
April 24
May 22



Thank you to **Vanessa Joly** for providing the meal in January. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about how you can support the Fisher house, please contact our Welfare Services Chair, Vanessa Joly at service@armyengineerspouses.com

The Amazon Smile logo, featuring the word "amazon" in black and "smile" in orange, with a curved arrow under "amazon".

amazon smile



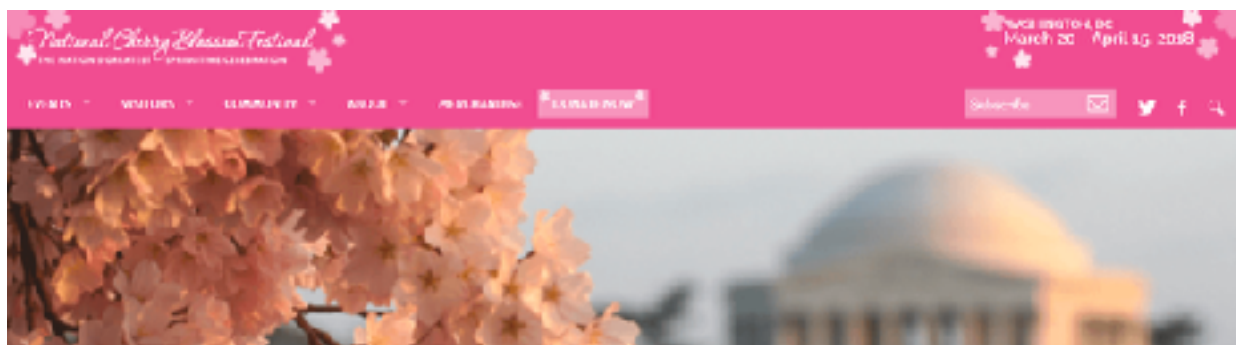
Don't forget! When shopping online use Amazon Smile! Go to www.smile.amazon.com and select Army Engineer Memorial Award as your charity. It costs you nothing and a portion of your purchase goes to AEMA.

Around Town



America's Run for the Fallen

America's Run for the Fallen, runforthefallen.org, recognizes our nation's fallen service members over a 6,000 mile relay foot run through 19 states from April 7-August 5. It begins at Fort Irwin, CA and ends at Arlington National Cemetery. The website provides further information on the heroes being honored, the schedule for the run, and how to sign up to participate as a runner. The cause may also be supported through a virtual run, www.virtualstrides.com/product/americas-run-for-the-fallen. Volunteers are needed for the event.



National Cherry Blossom Festival

The National Cherry Blossom Festival, www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/category/latest-news, will take place from March 20-April 15, 2018. There are a number of activities planned throughout the festival, to include a kite festival and a parade. Volunteers are needed for the event.

The National Park Service will be announcing their initial forecast for peak bloom on March 1. Bloom updates are available on the Cherry Blossom Watch Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cherryblossomwatch, and at cherryblossomwatch.com.

Keepers of the Castle *Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri*

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.



SAVE THE DATE

February 22, 2018

*Our next Keepers of the Castle Social event.
Please look out for an email 2 weeks prior to event.*



Army Engineer Spouses Group - Europe District

Europe District's Kastle Keepers have stayed busy for the past couple of months. Rachel Baker continues to graciously provide pictures to share with us!



Europe District spouses held a Beach Party coffee to shake off the gray, winter skies



Europe District's Kastle Keepers organized the USACE Winter Ball at the Kurhaus in Wiesbaden, Germany with a snowy day creating a perfect scene.



Castle Boutique

Now is the time to visit the *Castle Boutique* online or in-person to get your special Engineer items!



New Tervis sizes are now available (16oz tumbler, and 24oz tumbler or water bottle). Each is personalized with a custom red and white Engineer Castle emblem created as a replica of an unofficial uniform patch worn between 1948 and 1956.



The **Artel Eggs** (pictured left) are now also available in black and gold, and black and silver (pictured right). These are currently only available at in-person sale events or online at armyengineerspouses.com in the AESC (members only) section.



Don't miss out! The *Castle Boutique* will be conducting the following in-person sale event:

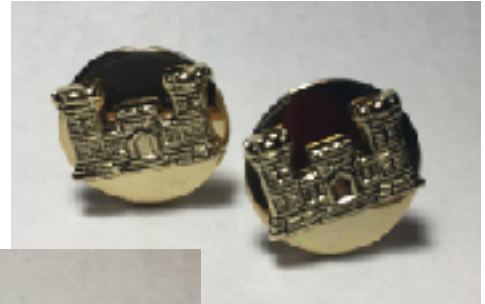
- ◆ March 7th, 10am - 3pm, at USACE Headquarters, GAO Building
 - If you can volunteer to help with sales for this event anytime between 9am - 3pm please contact Kendra Lewis at (254) 220-7142
- ◆ May (TBD)

Castle Boutique

Check out these new items available through the *Castle Boutique!*



Green or Black
Castle Lapel Pin \$20



Cufflinks \$10



Engineer Hat \$12



Silver or Gold
Lapel Pin \$4



Silver or Gold
Earrings \$7

Membership

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

Questions?

Contact our
 Membership Chair

Jackie Caldwell

membership@armyengineerspouses.com



AESC 2017-2018 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, 2017 until June 30, 2018.

Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2017 will be included in the 2017-2018 Castle Directory (hard copy). 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

