

Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume V, Issue VI

January, 2015

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AESC Bowling night!
Fort Belvoir
January 22, 2015



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



THE GAVEL

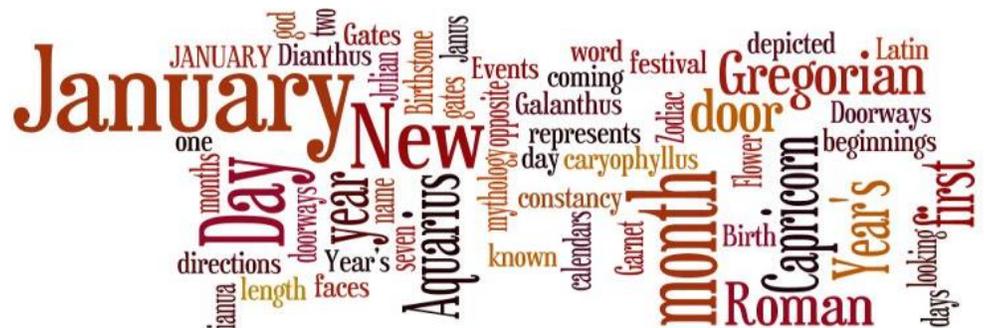


...a note from our President

This morning I opened my "Thought for the Day" email from USACE Chaplain Wright and read, ""If the pace and the push, the noise and the crowds are getting to you, it's time to stop the nonsense and find a place of solace to refresh your spirit." Chuck Swindoll (Author, pastor) I read the words again, very slowly, and realized that the phrase describes my opinion of the month of January perfectly. It's my time to renew, refresh and re-evaluate. It is so nice to get back to a regular work routine after putting away the holiday decorations and vacuuming up weeks of celebrations and needles. And there is nothing more self-indulgent than a rainy – or snowy – January Saturday afternoon spent inside with a bubbling pot of dinner on the stove and a few hours spent enjoying a favorite hobby. The holidays can be a wonderful luxury ... January is necessity.

Whew! Now let's get out of the house! Our Vice-President, Allison Chamberlayne, has planned a casual fun ladies night at the Ft. Belvoir Bowling Alley this month. Don't bowl? That's really okay – we need someone to keep us from crying over our scores and to help order the pizza. Put on your jeans, comfy sweatshirt and come on over!

Kimberly Oborski, our Welfare and Services Chair, has identified a fantastic charity cause for our organization to focus on during the months of January, February, and March 2015. Zero 2016 is national campaign with the initiative to end veteran homelessness in the next two years. Their goal is to house one veteran/family per month. AESC will be supporting the endeavor by donating new or gently used kitchen items. We will have a donation box at every function during the next few months and ask that our local DC members consider contributing to this cause. Out of town? Kimberly and Allison have coordinated a secure web-donation capability. You can find a list of needed items and a link for monetary gifts in this edition of the Castle Gram. We very much appreciate your donation.



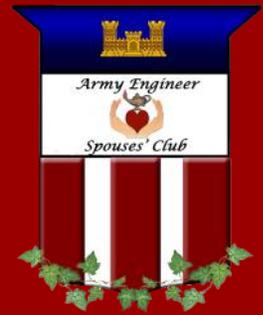
Our January 2015 board meeting was held at The Fairfax at Belvoir Woods, a unique military retirement community serving retired military personnel from the U.S. Uniformed Services, CIA, FBI, Foreign Service and other Federal Agencies, as well as the parents of active and retired military. AESC hosts our annual Army Engineer Memorial Awards Brunch in their ballroom every year, but we were delighted when board member, Kay Burlin, offered to coordinate our January Board Meeting on-site. Kay did a fantastic job scheduling detail after detail and every member in attendance agreed we need to make this an annual event! Thank you Kay, for your passionate commitment to our club.

We learned at the meeting that Kimberly and her husband Carl would be leaving the DC area for beautiful Fort Carson. Kimberly has truly embraced the Welfare and Service Chair position, so much that the club will still be announcing service initiatives she organized long after she and Carl are unpacked and settled into the Colorado lifestyle. Give her a warm hello, Ft. Carson AESC members! You are very lucky to have her in your community.

With Valentines' Day just around the corner, Sheila Drew, our Castle Boutique Chair, has put a few new items under the "Members Only" tab on our website, www.ArmEngineerSpouses.com. You can find the tab password in the welcome letter you received after joining the club. Those cute little silver knives and cheese plates are just perfect for your Valentine's Day celebration!

I hope you feel renewed after the busy holidays and have had a refreshing beginning of 2015. Now, let's go bowling!!

Connie



THE GAVEL



FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

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

AESC Board Meeting

will be held on

February 4, 2015

10:00 am - 12:00 am

at the

Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center

10265 Fairfax Dr

Ft. Belvoir

Refreshments provided by: Sheila and Maggie

Please join us:

February 18th - 9:30am Breakfast at Bob Evans near Potomac Mills. We'll have breakfast, then head off to Ikea or the outlets. *Children are welcome.* (Address: 14490 Smoketown Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192)

2014-2015 AESC BOARD**Elected Officers**

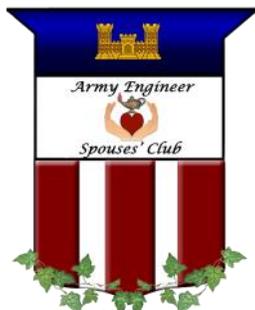
PRESIDENT – CONNIE SEMONITE
VICE-PRESIDENT – ALLISON CHAMBERLAYNE
SECRETARY – MAGGIE DEMELLO
TREASURER – KATHY MOAKLER
AEMA CHAIRPERSON – HOLLY SCHERER

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

**Volunteers needed for AESC's Board for 2015-2016**

Once again, it's time to start working on filling next year's Army Engineer Spouses' Club Board for the upcoming year (2015-2016)! We're supposed to have the nominations for the Elected Board (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, AEMA Treasurer (Army Engineer Memorial Awards) in place by our March 2015 meeting. The club will then vote for the Elected Board at the April 2015 meeting.

It's my "job," along with my committee, to select the nominees for the Elected Board. We will also try to help the upcoming President fill the vacancies in the Appointed Board.

We are working to find out what positions will be available for 2015-2016, but please let us know if you have any interest in being on our next board. It really is a great way to get to know other Engineer spouses and is a very enjoyable and rewarding activity!!!

Also, please let us know if you have any suggestions for members you think might like to be on our board for the next year—especially those new to the club!

Thanks so much for your help! We really appreciate it!

Bette Meuleners, AESC Nominations Chairperson, 2015-2016

bmeuleners@gmail.com, 571-235-3566



*Our January AESC Board Meeting
Was held on January 7, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.*

*As a special treat, we were invited to have our January Board
Meeting at The Fairfax. After our meeting, we enjoyed a
wonderful lunch.*

JANUARY BOARD MEETING



We appreciate
Kay Burlin, who
invited us to have our
January meeting at
The Fairfax.



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

If you prefer to send a monetary donation, please send a check, or use the following link to donate money:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aesc-supports-zero-2016-registration-15185581483>



Eventbrite

As many have you have noticed, AESC has begun to use a site called Eventbrite to invite you to our monthly functions, service projects, and special events. This site allows us an electronic invitation without advertisements and a whole host of bells and whistles such as on-line payment, social media marketing, guest lists, nametags... It practically does it all!

I thank you for your patience while we have tested this software and worked out the bugs. (Bugs are a polite term for the organizer's steep learning curve!) I wanted to invite you to provide me with your feedback on this site and to reassure you of your online security. We discovered this program recently when I registered for the USO ticketline. They have been using Eventbrite for their ticket distribution for some time. We have also used Eventbrite to register for local races, conventions and community activities.

This is a link to the Eventbrite security page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/security/>

Some highlights are as follows:

*Registered with both Visa and Mastercard as a PCI-compliant Service Provider (PCI = Payment Card Industry)

*Eventbrite does not sell personal information of their customers to third parties. You can find their privacy policy at <https://www.eventbrite.com/privacypolicy/>

*All credit card information is encrypted with strong industry-standard cryptographic protocols

Of course something so great isn't free! It is free for us to use when we do not charge for an event. So, for most of our monthly activities, we can have full use of the site for no cost. However, when we charge a fee or accept a donation, Eventbrite charges a processing fee. They define it several ways, but basically it's 2.5% plus \$.99. Depending on the event and circumstances, we will either pass that fee along to our members or absorb the cost ourselves.

If you have any questions or suggestions on this site, please contact Allison Chamberlayne at Allison@chamberlayne.net. We will never require our members to use this site. If you would ever like to attend an event or contribute, please contact Allison or any board member and we will assist you.

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

February 4, 2015, 10:00 am: February AESC Board Meeting

February 18th – 9:30am Breakfast at Bob Evans near Potomac Mills. We'll have breakfast, then head off to Ikea or the outlets. *Children are welcome.* (Address: 14490 Smoketown Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192)

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. Details to follow

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

August 7, 2015: Castle Ball

Birthdays.....

January

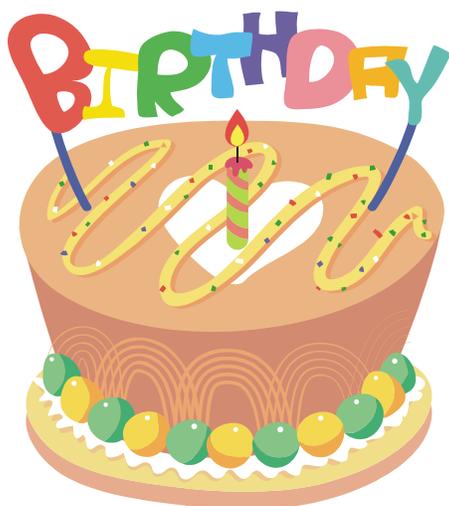
Joyce Rebh	Jan. 5
Priscilla Noah	Jan. 6
Marna Rockwell	Jan. 10
Harbans Singh	Jan. 10
Lynne Jackson	Jan. 13
Julie Strock	Jan. 16
Sheila Hancock	Jan. 21
Brandie Sinkler	Jan. 22
Elisa Kinsman	Jan. 23
Paula Van Antwerp	Jan. 25
Marilyn Milne	Jan. 28

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



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 + 1 copy of the Castle Directory \$15 _____

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