



Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume V, Issue VIII

March, 2015

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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



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



THE GAVEL



...a note from our President

Spring! Could it be? March 1 brought quite a roar of winter into our area and most everything shut down. Still, our dedicated board members continued with their duties from domestic offices while snowflakes fluttered outside the windows and home-bound, school-aged children provided fun distractions. It was easy to wonder, however exciting a snow day/week could be, “will winter ever end?”

Of course it will! Just ask Erica Shaw. She knows Spring is right around the corner because that’s her busiest time of year. As Scholarship Chair she is in the midst of receiving applications and is constantly reminding our members that the deadline is March 15. During the next few weeks while flower tips appear in the garden outside, Erica and her committee will quickly process the paperwork, evaluate and validate information and essays, and finally rank our applicants. Before you know it, daffodils will be dancing and Erica will be planning our Awards Luncheon with Holly Scherer, the Army Engineer Memorial Awards Chair. Your generous donations and monies raised in support of our fundraisers will, once again, go toward educating our next generation when they are presented during this special event on a Sunday, May 3, 2015.

Allison Chamberlayne is also kicking off the Spring season in a fun and exciting way. She has been planning our Annual Wine Tasting for weeks now. Lion or lamb - the weather outside won’t matter as once you’ve arrived, your day will revolve around bright, clear sunshine in a glass – unless of course, you happen to be tasting something red! Either way, we promise you will have fun, maybe learn a little about wine, and certainly have the opportunity to catch up with Engineer friends. Please join us on March 21.

I hope you have had a chance to thumb through your new Red Book. Perhaps you noticed some new names among familiar friends. We are so very pleased with our increased membership, but just like those pretty, Spring daffodils, we want our numbers to multiply each year. Therefore, as an incentive for new members, we are now offering partial club year memberships. All those joining between JAN 1 – MAY 31 will do so for \$15. We can’t send them a Red Book for that price, but all members can purchase one, as well as access our web-sites’ “Members Only” tab to take advantage of our Castle Boutique’s special offerings, and receive our fabulous Castle Gram through MAY 2015 - the remainder of our club year. Tell your friends!

I hope your March is a special one. Is the lion still roaring outside your door?, ... Maybe you are chasing Leprechauns with little four leaf clovers?,.... You might even be counting the fluffy lamb-like clouds in the sky. Where ever you are, whatever your days might hold, remember to hug your Engineer and give him a kiss for wearing the Army green!

Warmly,
Connie

PS: I always carry a shovel in my trunk!

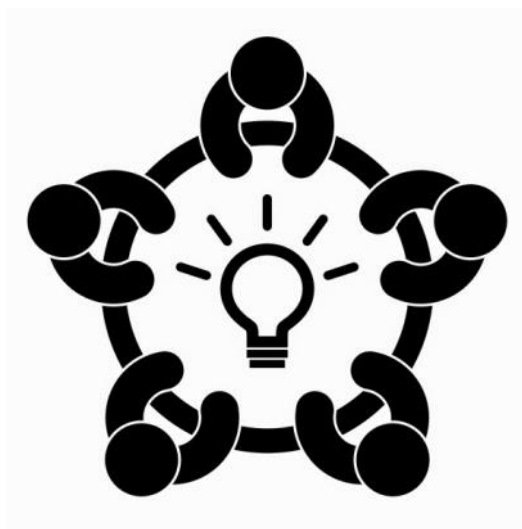
“A daffodil bulb will divide and re-divide endlessly. That's why, like the peony, it is one of the few flowers you can find around abandoned farmhouses, still blooming and increasing in numbers fifty years after the farmer and his wife have moved to heaven, or the other place, Boca Raton. If you dig up a clump when no one is nearby and there is no danger of being shot, you'll find that there are scores of little bulbs in each clump, the progeny of a dozen or so planted by the farmer's wife in 1942. If you take these home, separate them, and plant them in your own yard, within a couple of years, you'll have a hundred daffodils for the mere price of a trespassing fine or imprisonment or both. I had this adventure once, and I consider it one of the great cheap thrills of my gardening career. I am not advocating trespassing, especially on my property, but there is no law against having a shovel in the trunk of your car.”

— Cassandra Danz, *Mrs. Greenthumbs: How I Turned a Boring Yard into a Glorious Garden and How You Can, Too*



APRIL BOARD MEETING

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



*AESC Board Meeting
will be held on
April 1, 2015*

10:00 am - 12:00 am

at the

*Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center
10265 Fairfax Drive
Ft. Belvoir, Virginia*

2014-2015 AESC BOARD

Elected Officers

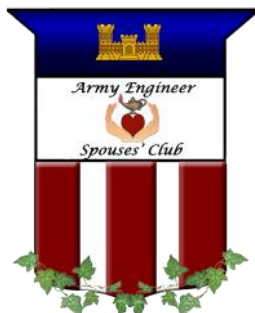
PRESIDENT – CONNIE SEMONITE
 VICE-PRESIDENT – ALLISON CHAMBERLAYNE
 SECRETARY – MAGGIE DEMELLO
 TREASURER – KATHY MOAKLER
 AEMA CHAIRPERSON – HOLLY SCHERER

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

KNOLLWOOD BAKE SALE

Upcoming Event:

Knollwood Bake Sale
6200 Oregon Ave NW
Washington, DC 20015
April 8, 10:00 am

We are delighted to have the opportunity to revisit Knollwood with baked goods, hors d'oeuvres, and special goodies for diabetics.

Knollwood is the home for retired military and their spouses. Our special treats are sold with all the revenue to return to Knollwood for the benefit of residents who need some financial assistance. We Engineers love to take care of our military families. We hope you will join us!

Please bring the goodies to Knollwood already priced:

Bar Cookies and Brownies - \$1.50

Cupcakes - \$1.50

Mini Loaves - \$ 3.50 each

Cheese, Sausage or Spinach Balls - 12 @ \$4.00

Mini Quiches - 4 @ \$3.00

Snack Mixes - \$2.00/bag

Appetizers & Other Cocktail-Hour Nibbles - 6 @ \$3.00

Cookies – 1/2 doz. @ \$2.00 - \$3.00 depending on cookie size

We hope many of you will come join us for a fun day.
 Please plan to stay for lunch in the dining area.

If you can't make it to Knollwood (6200 Oregon Ave. NW, Washington DC 20015) on the 8th of April but would like to donate baked goods, email Priscilla Noah at general@crosslink.net

Also, you may make a donation to Knollwood. Please make check payable to AESC and mail to: AESC PO BOX 6332 Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

**Make note on check that is for Knollwood





Castle Boutique:

Visit our Members Only section on our website for EXCLUSIVE Castle Boutique Items!

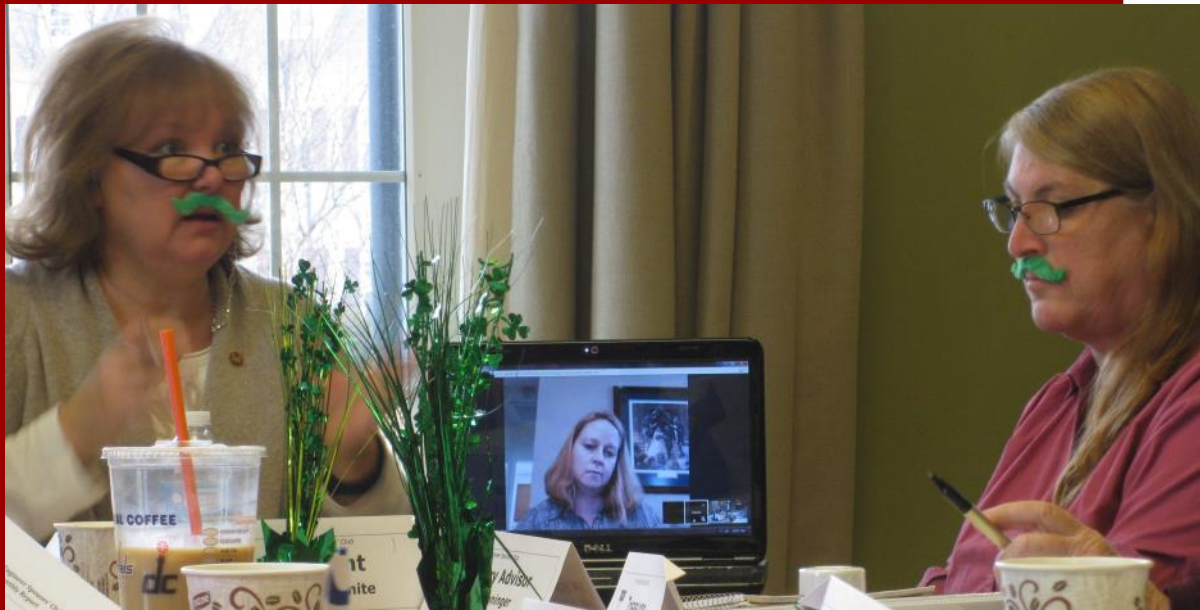
www.armyengineerspouses.com

Be sure to visit the Castle Boutique at the Wine Tasting Event this weekend!

CASTLE BOUTIQUE



MARCH BOARD MEETING



Above: Board members at the March meeting



*The March AESC Board Meeting
was held on March 4, 2015
From 10:00 am - 12:00 am
at the
Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center
Many thanks to Maggie for providing
refreshments!*





MARCH BOARD MEETING



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





Volunteers needed for AESC's Board for 2015-2016

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

2015-2016 AESC BOARD NOMINATIONS



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

<input type="text"/>	
name	birth date or anniversary date
<input type="text"/>	
address	
<input type="text"/>	
email address	
<input type="text"/>	

RED HOT & BLUE FUNDRAISER



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21st – 4pm to 6pm: AESC Annual Wine tasting Event to be held at the Fairfax Community Center on Fort Belvoir.

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

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

May 3rd – AEMA Luncheon at The Fairfax Senior Living Community, Fort Belvoir.

August 7, 2015: Castle Ball



EVENTS

Where do you hang your Engineer Flag? We at AESC would love to share photos of Engineers and their flags or castles around the world. Please submit your photos to the AESC Facebook page! Thanks to Lisa Stevenson for submitting the photo below, of LTC Mike Ryan and LTC Mark Gregis in San Pedro, Belize.



*Birthdays.....***March**

Beth Mazzanti	March 4
Marie Rundle	March 5
Barbara Fleming	March 8
Diane Messinger Galloway	March 11
Lynn Munch	March 15
Roz Riley	March 16
Tammie Morris	March 17
Shikatta Jackson	March 18
Mollie O'Neill	March 20
Susan Hill	March 22
Susan Welch	March 23
Jytte Hambric	March 27
Stacy Lloyd	March 28

April

Michelle DiCiro	April 1
Sally Ball	April 2
Robin Hakala	April 3
Karen Moseley	April 3
Jackie Beck	April 8
Carol Pawlowski	April 9
Jackie Danielson	April 12
Karen Moseley	April 12
Mary Scott	April 15
Lee Boutin	April 18
Anneliese Boutin	April 18
Susan Oliveri	April 20
Mary Lorber	April 23
Niddavone (Mui) Zecchini	April 24
Dolores Felch	April 29
Jennifer Riordan	April 30

***Please let me know if I have missed your Birthday!**



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