

# Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

VOLUME LXIII ISSUE 8 | March 2017

## Inside the Issue:

AEMA	2
Nominations	3
Nuts & Bolts	4
Welfare & Service	5
Volunteer Spotlight	6
Around Town	7
Engineer History	8
Protocol	9
Keepers of the Castle	10
Engineers in Europe	11
Fun & Games	12

## Our Executive Board:

### President

Launa Klimowicz-Brown

### Vice President

Carolyn Hudson

### Treasurer

Jessica Gregris

### Secretary

Laurel-Lee States

Christy Preston

### AEMA Chairperson

Erica Shaw

Spring was in the air for a week or two....what happened? Crazy weather even the Cherry Blossoms are blooming here in Arlington.

It has been a busy winter for the AESC local members. Just last week about 18 of us got together at a local establishment the Westover Market Beer Garden and Haus. Westover Market is known throughout the DMV for it's "Great Wall of Beer", a who's who of craft brews. Its festive neighborhood atmosphere. If you are in the DMV area please join us!!!

Vanessa Joly our Welfare Chairperson set up a great fundraiser at the Hard Times Cafe in February. She also hooked us up to help with meals at the Fisher House.

As spring rolls in our VP Carolyn has set up a great daytime outing for us to visit the beautiful home and gardens of Hillwood Estate, the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post. Located at the edge of Rock Creek Park, this mansion features a large decorative arts collection, including Faberge eggs and French art.

Don't forget if you have a college bound senior in your home the deadline for our Army Engineer Memorial Awards and the Geraldine K Morris Memorial Award deadline is the 15th of March. This year we received a donation from LTG (R) Bostick and the Engineer NCO Corp for an award to go to an Enlisted Soldier's child.

We'd love to hear what all our members are doing through out the Engineer World - so please send us pictures and articles of all that is going on with you!!!!

Warmly,

Launa

[president@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:president@armyengineerspouses.com)

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

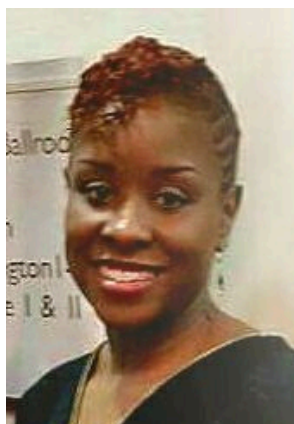
# AEMA

Hello Engineer Family and Friends!!! I am excited that you are assisting high school seniors with their AEMA applications. This year marks the first year the AEMA application can be submitted online along with transcripts, supporting documentation (i.e. transcripts, extracurricular activity documentation), and signatures. A brief review of the online submissions was conducted and the following are common mistakes:

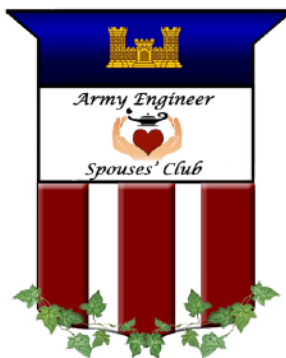
- ♣ **Digital signatures or signature pages for all three mandatory signatures are absent,**
- ♣ **essays are 1 paragraph or 1/2 page instead of 1 page or longer, and**
- ♣ **Transcripts are absent.**

*If your high school senior inadvertently forgot to include forms in the application, print out the forms and mail them to:*

**AEMA Scholarships  
PO Box 6332  
Alexandria, VA 22306-6332**



AEMA Chairperson, Erica Shaw



**March 15, 2017**  
AEMA Application Deadline

**March 15, 2017 to  
April 1, 2017**  
Review and Evaluation of  
Applications

**April 1, 2017 to  
April 21, 2017**  
Notification of Awards/  
Declinations

**May 21, 2017**  
AEMA Brunch

## How are applicants judged?

Applicants are judged equally on the basis of academic and extracurricular achievement during high school. The award is not based on financial need. The award must be applied toward tuition or scholastic expenses or fees at college, university, technical or vocational school.

# *Nominations*

Hopefully all of our AESC members who are reading this now also saw my article in last month's (February 2017) Castle Gram and in an email I sent out to our entire membership!!!

We're working to fill our board for next year—2017-2018. We need to find volunteers to be nominated for the elected positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and AEMA Chairperson.

There is no requirement of a previous AESC board role, but prior service helps in understanding our unique membership, location, and Army-wide mission. Love of the Engineer Community and experience in other roles is great as well!

The duties of the President are most focused on the board meetings (and you get a gavel!!) with the fun of attending as many events as possible. The Vice-President or co-Vice Presidents basically plan monthly activities for the local Washington, DC area. You are free to form committees to help you with all the activities. The VP also sits in for the President when he/she cannot be at a meeting. Obviously the Secretary takes notes and takes care of necessary correspondence. Our Treasurer is in charge of the funds for our club. AEMA (Army Engineer Memorial Awards) Chairperson manages the funds for the Memorial awards we give out at the end of our calendar year. The duties for all positions are listed in the current (2016-2017) Membership Book (Red Book).

If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in any of these positions, please let me know as soon as possible. We need to have a slate in place by the end of April and the election will be held by the end of May.

After our board is elected for the upcoming year (2017-2018), our President will appoint committee chair people to help run our club. We will have some vacancies, so let us know if you or a friend might be interested in joining the board in one of these positions? They are listed in the February 2017 Castle Gram on page 6 and in the 2016-2017 Red Book. It looks like we'll really need at least a Castle Gram Editor and a Ways and Means (Castle Boutique) Chairperson!

Thanks so much for considering our request!!!! I'll be sending out another email message soon. I look forward to hearing from many of you with a positive response!!!!

Fondly,

***Bette***

Bette Meuleners

AESC Nominations Chairperson, 2016-2017

**[nominations@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:nominations@armyengineerspouses.com)**

571-235-3566

# Save the Date

**March 14**  
AEMA Award Applications Due

**March 15**  
Tour & Lunch at Hillwood Estates

**March 28**  
Meal for the Fisher House, Ft  
Belvoir

**April 5**  
AESC Board Meeting and tour of  
the Women's Memorial at Arlington  
national Cemetery

**April 19**  
Knollwood Bake Sale

**April 29th**  
FairWinds Brewery

**May 21**  
AEMA Awards Luncheon  
The Fairfax



## 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 in the home of Priscilla Noah. Priscilla hosted a pot luck brunch for our board. Our next board meeting will be April 5th. We

will one again try to hold this meeting at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Our last attempt was rescheduled due to low numbers attending. We will meet at roam and hold our board meeting, then tour the memorial. Please let Terri Stevens or Launa Brown know if you would like to attend this meeting and tour.



## 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](mailto:circulation@armyengineerspouses.com) email address. The March Castle Gram will be sent from Kara's home email address and the [circulation@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto: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.

## March Event

Make plans to join us as we visit the beautiful home and gardens of Hillwood Estate, the former residence of Marjorie Merriweather Post. Located at the edge of Rock Creek Park, this mansion features a large decorative arts collection, including Faberge eggs and French art.

We are going on Wednesday, March 15. We will have tea at 11 a.m., followed by a tour of the mansion at 1:30 p.m. You are welcome to join us for both events, or just one, whichever fits your schedule better. The tea is \$25, and the tour is \$15.

On-site parking is complimentary. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. in front of the Visitor Center. Please RSVP to Carolyn Hudson at [vp@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:vp@armyengineerspouses.com)

# Welfare & Service

Members - Businesses - Military Supporters - About Us -

Helping Military and Veterans Find the Resources They Deserve!

Helping your everyday needs with a free, online ecosystem of military-focused resources

Key Resources in the G.I. Bucks Ecosystem

- Military Discounts**  
Save money by unlocking the exclusive discounts you earned for serving our country.  
Military Discounts Overview
- Military Services**  
Get support from the tens of thousands of non-profit organizations who are dedicated to serving you and your family.  
Military Services Overview
- Military Travel**  
Book airline reservations from a system which has access to every available "military class" discount.  
Travel Overview
- Veteran-owned Business Solutions**  
Veteran owners gain national exposure to both 11 million fellow veterans and 12 million of supportive non-veterans.  
VOBs Overview

Join the Legions of Fellow Service Members.

Sign Up for Free!

## G.I. Bucks

Many of us savvy shoppers are well trained to ask for military discounts when purchasing anything from shoes to travel to our cell phone service. But what about some vet's who don't have a military ID to claim this discount? Just log on to [www.gibucks.com](http://www.gibucks.com) and sign up for your membership card. The membership is free and gives you access to a vast veteran friendly merchant database. (membership is open to veterans and active duty. You must verify your military status through <https://my.id.services/auth>) In addition to discounts, your membership will give you access to military services, travel programs, and resources for Veteran Owned businesses.

## Meals for the Fisher House

Have you or a military friend had a family member admitted to the hospital? Have you endured the added stress of the hospital stay in a city you didn't live in? We are fortunate to have a Fisher House on Ft. Belvoir to assist families with loved ones in the hospital. There are opportunities for us as a club and military community to provide meals for families staying at the Fisher House.

We have five dates AESC has offered to provide meals to those staying at the Fisher House. Our next open opportunity is on May 23rd. (A special thanks to those who have already filled our slots in January, February, March and April!) Click on <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4daca28aa8-meals> for details and dates where we could use your help. You could team up with a friend or provide a meal on your own. Please see if you can help us out! If you have any questions, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Vanessa Joly at [service@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:service@armyengineerspouses.com)



**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**

**The Castle Gram**

As the editor of this newsletter I get special privileges concerning its content! As you read on page 3, our Nominations Chair, Bette Meuleners is searching for volunteers to fill our board. I wanted to put in a special plug for the Castle Gram! I will be unable to continue as the editor and I need help finding a replacement.

Each month, I spend about 5 hours compiling the news for the Castle Gram. The two most important requirements for the job are the ability to attend the board meetings either in person or via phone call and access to a computer. I use Pages to create the newsletter each month, but it could easily be done in Word or Publisher. I would be happy to create a template in any of these programs for the incoming editor.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions or would consider taking on the job

**[newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com)** . Thank you!

*Allison Chamberlayne*

**Dedicated Hearts**

Dedicated hearts like yours

Are not so easy to find.

It takes a special person to be

So generous and kind.

To care so much for your fellow man

Is a quality all too rare.

Yet you give of your time and talents,

For all in need to share.

So thank you for being a volunteer,

We're privileged to work with you.

We want you to know how appreciated you are,

Not just today, but the whole year through.

# Local Events

**March 20-April 16**  
National Cherry Blossom Festival

**March 24-26**  
Maryland Day Celebration

**March 24 - May 6**  
Artomatic, Crystal City

**March 30 - April 2**  
Annapolis Film Festival

**April 1**  
International Pillow Fight Day,  
National Mall

**April 9**  
Anacostia River Festival

**April 15**  
Southwest Waterfront Festival  
and Fireworks

## Around Town

If there is one thing all of us military spouses have in common, its the appreciation of a great bargain! Check out some of these great shopping opportunities in the Norther Virginia Area.

**Chartreuse & Co** hosts a barn sale once a month.

The address is 4007 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, Maryland 21704. The next sale is 17 March -19 March. The prices are great and the selection is vast. One of a kind items. A picker's paradise.



**The Arlington Civitan Flea Market**

is open on the first Saturday of every month from April - October from 8am - noon. It's in the garage of the Washington-Lee HS. This flea market specializes in vintage items. Some tips: 1. bring a flashlight (lighting is dim), 2. Bring cash, 3. Remember there are 4 levels! 4. Don't be afraid to bargain, 5. Bring bags.



**The Georgetown Flea Market**

(located in the Hardy Middle School Parking lot) has EVERYTHING about, what is called, The Art of the Find. Haggle, dicker, bargain, negotiate - it's a wonderful way to spend any day of week; however, the Flea is only open 8am-4pm, weather permitting, on Sundays, so plan accordingly. The flea wraps up, around and behind the school there, so be sure to make the full run - there are treasures EVERYWHERE!



# Engineer History

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. Although we can trace the roots of the celebration back to 1911, the first International Women's Day, it was in 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as Women's History Month. Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1988, U.S. presidents have issued annual proclamations designating the month of March as Women's History Month.

The U.S. Army joins the nation in an amplified celebration of women's contributions to this nation and its Army. The Army honors the sacrifices and accomplishments of the women who have helped shape not only the service but the country.

Women Soldiers have recently made historic strides, from graduating from Ranger School to the appointment of the first black female Army surgeon general to the Department of Defense opening up all military occupational specialties (MOS) to women.

- Pvt. 1st. Class Katherine Beatty became the first female cannon crew member (2016).
- Maj. Gen. Linda Singh, the first woman and the first African-American to serve as adjutant general of the Maryland National Guard, took command of the Maryland National Guard (2015).
- Brig. Gen. Diana Holland was named the first female commandant of cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York (2015).

USACE has been on the forefront of this historic trend. Betty Farwell was appointed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' first female supergrade (GS-16) in 1978. Lieutenant General John W. Morris, Chief of Engineers, selected Mrs. Farwell as Real Estate Director, capping a long and distinguished career in private law practice and with the federal government.



In 1944, Rusty Dow gained distinction as the first

woman to drive the entire length of the Alaska Highway for the Alaska Defense Command. Driving a truck loaded with five tons of cement, Rusty made the trip in just seven days, covering the 1,560 miles from Fairbanks to Dawson Creek at better than 200 miles a day.

AESC Salutes the Women of the Corps of Engineers!





# Protocol Points to Ponder

Coffee groups and FRGs are not the same thing. A unit may have any number of coffee groups, but there is only one FRG per unit. Everyone connected to the unit is automatically considered a member of the FRG regardless of whether any of the Soldiers, civilians or family members (immediate and extended, such as parents, siblings, or fiancées) choose to participate. Further, the FRG has a specific stated function, which is to provide information and mutual support. The FRG may provide social activities, but does not serve solely as a social function.

Because a Family Readiness Group is a well defined portion of an operational unit, it is easy to understand who is a member and who is responsible for the group (You know I'm talking about the commander, right?!)... However, coffee groups can be tricky! These are social organizations with limited membership.

Many Coffee Group leaders have found it helpful to create "Coffee Group Rules". Rules that are shared with the group encourage consistency, and transparency. It can also help avoid the awkward need to have to tell a member that he/she can not bring a child, or must remember to RSVP, or needs to pay for his or her membership "dues" (usually the cost of a farewell gift)... Here are a few snippets from a sample Coffee Group Rules:

**WHO is included in the coffee group?** This coffee group is open to (ex - spouses of 1SG, CSM, and officer spouses) of (unit name). Children who are not yet walking or crawling are also welcome.

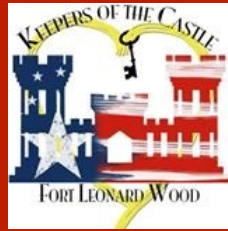
**WHAT do we do at a coffee?** Have FUN! The coffee group is meant to be a social event where we can all relax and get to know one another. Information about upcoming events may be discussed, but for the most part that will be left for the FRG chain.

**WHEN do we meet?** Our coffee group gets together once per month. Usually coffees are held in the evenings to accommodate those who work outside the home.

**WHERE does the coffee group meet?** Anywhere that is appropriate. It can be in a home, restaurant, bowling, movies, etc. If you sign up to host, feel free to cohost with a friend if you are nervous about doing one alone

**WHY do we have a coffee group?** The coffee group is a great way for us to build camaraderie and support one another. It is a place to connect and develop relationships. There will be many training exercises and a deployment to get through. We are all going to need to lean on one another to get through the busy months ahead. Let's make this fun and memorable!

It is also appropriate to include rules about purchasing farewell gifts, unit pins, and RSVP guidelines. try creating a similar document for your coffee group and sharing it with new spouses in your unit.



# 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](http://www.facebook.com/KeepersOfTheCastle) or via email [FLWKeepers@gmail.com](mailto:FLWKeepers@gmail.com).

*Date: 03/11/2017*

*Times: 4pm-3pm*

Brought to you by:  
Keepers of the Castle!



## Dress Swap

Formal or Semi-Formal dress swap. Open to all Engineer Spouses. This is a great opportunity to clean out your closet and trade for a "new to you" dress! Please join us for an afternoon of dress shopping but leave your wallet at home. Swap one dress for another. Long or Short, all sizes welcome!



Location:

Raymer Residence

4 Essayons

Fort Leonard Wood

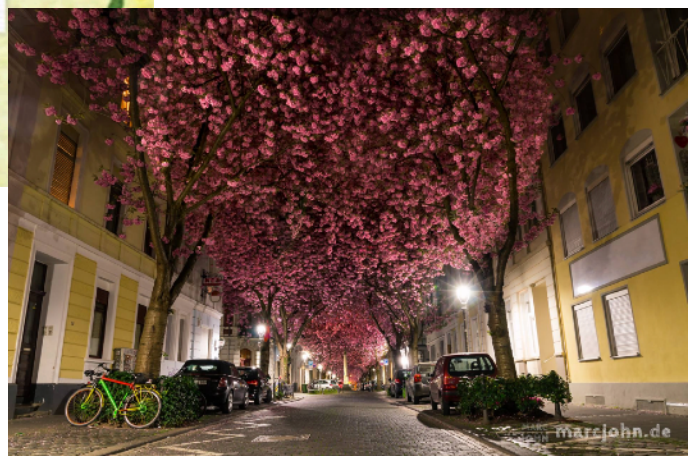
To drop off dresses early, please message Keepers of the Castle Facebook page.

This Month KOTC is hosting a Dress Swap. The date is in flux (just like our weather!) but you can watch their Facebook page to find the new date and time.

# 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](mailto:mtyler1015@aol.com).

In March, you will find the AESG-Europe members taking an “educational” tour about Champagne and celebrating the luck o’the Irish at their March Coffee. I hear some members have plans to check out Cherry Blossom Avenue in Bonn. I hope the blossoms there are luckier than our DC blooms! 10% to 90% of our blossoms are predicated to be killed by our impending snow/freeze.



# Fun & Games

Thank you, Erica Shaw for submitting this puzzle for this month's Castle Gram!

## Army Engineer Spouses Club Crossword Puzzle



**ACROSS**

- 5 Army Engineer Spouses Club President
- 6 At the end of the year, money is raised from various projects and sales in the \_\_\_ are transferred to the AEMA account.
- 7 The AEMA Chairman \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11 Money for these awards comes from donations made throughout the year from club members and friends of engineers.
- 13 This award was established in memory of former Army nurse, Army wife, wife of the 44th Chief of Engineers and Honorary President of the AEOWC.
- 15 The original awards were established in memory of Army Engineer Officers who died in Vietnam and are given annually to honor Engineer Officers who died in the line of duty.
- 16 \_\_\_ are available. Our club year runs from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

**DOWN**

- 1 Applications for AEMA awards are available for download at \_\_\_\_\_?
- 2 The castle changed from \_\_\_\_\_ to gold in 1921.
- 3 Army Wife, Wife of the 54th Chief of Engineers and Honorary President of AESC.
- 4 All donations are?
- 8 Mail completed applications to \_\_\_\_\_ PO Box 6332 Alexandria, VA 22306-6332
- 9 "Keeping our worldwide \_\_\_\_\_ connected through the years and across the miles"
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ shall be responsible for the memorial awards, be custodian of the memorial funds and the memorial record book, and be a member of the Budget Committee.
- 12 Support the AEMA through \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 was officially adopted as the insignia of the Corps of Engineers in 1839 by General Joseph G. Totten, Chief of Engineers.

**WORD BANK:** AEMASCHOLARSHIPS, AMAZONSMILE, ARMYENGINEERMEMORIALAWARDS, CASTLEBOUTIQUE, CONNIESEMONITE, DONATIONS, ENGINEERFAMILY, ERICASHAW, GERALDINEK MORRISAWARD, LAUNABROWN, MEMBERSHIPS, SILVER, TAXDEDUCTIBLE, THEAEMA CHAIRMAN, THECASTLE, WWW.ARMYENGINEERSPOUSES.COM

# Membership

Join online at  
[www.armyengineerspouses.com/membership.html](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/membership.html)

Questions?

Contact our  
Membership Chair

Jackie Caldwell

[membership@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto: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

