

# Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

VOLUME LXIII ISSUE 10 | May 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 May, AESC Members! May is a month when we pause to reflect on our nation's military. National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) is celebrated every May and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity. NMAM honors the current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. The month of May is characterized by six national observances which highlight the contributions of those who have served.

1. **Loyalty Day** - Monday May 1 - It is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States, and to reflect on the proud heritage of our American freedom.
2. **Public Service Recognition Week** - May 7 - May 13 - A time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees and ensure that our government is the best in the world.
3. **Victory In Europe Day** - May 8th - May 8th, 1945 is the day when Germans throughout Europe unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. This day marked the end of World War II in Europe.
4. **Military Spouse Appreciation Day** - May 12 - Traditionally set for the Friday before Mother's Day, this is a day to honor military spouses and recognizes the important role our military families play in keeping our Armed Forces strong and our country safe.
5. **Armed Forces Day** - May 20th - A single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.
6. **Memorial Day** - May 29 - A remembrance of our veterans. Commemorates the men and women who died while in military service.

And of course, *AESC hosts our annual Army Engineer Memorial Awards luncheon this month on Sunday, May 21st.* We use this time to remember and honor the Army Engineers who lost their lives in the line of duty. This living memorial is passed on to the children of 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) through monetary awards towards their college education. We look forward to meeting our awardees at the Fairfax on Sunday May 21st at The Fairfax at Belvoir Woods. Invitations to follow.

**Please Celebrate With Us**



**Army Engineer Memorial Awards Luncheon**

**Sunday, May 21, 2017  
1:00 PM**

**The Fairfax at Belvoir Woods Community Center**  
9140 Belvoir Woods Pkwy, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

**Guest Speaker: LTG Todd Semonite**  
Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army and  
Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

We welcome ALL members of our Army Engineer family  
Attire: Sunday Dress

**Please RSVP by May 17th to:**  
**[RSVP@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:RSVP@armyengineerspouses.com)**  
\$30 per person collected at the door  
No charge for residents of The Fairfax at Belvoir Woods

# *From Our Honorary President*

This past month has been one of great preparation for the upcoming Army Engineer Spouses' Club year. Nominations for the 2017-18 year are almost complete. Once again, amazingly talented volunteers have willingly stepped forward, ready to embrace elected position responsibilities. I am constantly awed by the unwavering commitment of service among our spouses and feel blessed to work among them.

Our current team has also been busy finalizing rankings of the Army Engineer Memorial Awards as well as planning the luncheon honoring the awardees. The selection process for our merit based awards is the most fair, ethical, and transparent I have seen:



- Weighted scoring is placed on grade point averages, national testing, leadership roles, extra-curricular activities, sports, awards, and employment.
- Absolutely no points are given for sponsors' rank, position, time in service, etc.
- Required essays are sent to three separate educators outside of the club membership for scoring.
- All of the applicants and their household type remain anonymous throughout the ranking process
- Award amounts are graduated according to merit and change annually, based on that year's scoring.

Whew! ....the students receiving these awards honoring their high school achievements should be very proud! This process is quite lengthy, tedious and detailed, and we commend our AEMA Chair, Erica Shaw, for her commitment to 100% honorable excellence.

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

# Nominations

**To all members of the AESC: I'd like to thank the members who helped with nominations this year and a special thanks for those who agreed to be nominated for positions on the elected board.**

The nominations process for positions on the Elected Executive Board for 2017-2018 is now complete. No additional nominees have been submitted from the general membership.

This is your complete ballot. The vote is for the board of officers in total.

Voting will be:

- open from Sunday, 14 May to Monday to Saturday, 20 May.
- a *consensus* vote. **Only NAY responses need reply.**
- Email *only* to Roz Riley (parliamentarian) at [vote@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:vote@armyengineerspouses.com).
- In emails use subject line:  
AESc: Ballot-Voting - Executive Board 2017-2018
- OR you may mail in your ballot. \*

\_\_\_\_\_ **I vote AYE in favor of the nominees for the AESC 2017-2018 Board:**

**President—Launa Klimowicz-Brown**  
**Vice-President—Rosemary Davis**  
**Secretary—Christy Cramer Preston**  
**Treasurer—Kimberly Oborski**  
**AEMA Chairperson—Kara Anderson**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I vote NAY in favor of the nominees for the AESC 2017-2018 Board:**

**President—Launa Klimowicz-Brown**  
**Vice-President—Rosemary Davis**  
**Secretary—Christy Cramer Preston**  
**Treasurer—Kimberly Oborski**  
**AEMA Chairperson—Kara Anderson**

Thank you for your participation in this process.

Announcement of the voting results and complete 2017-2018 SESC Board will be sent via email and published in the next CastleGram.

Instructions for mail in ballots:

- Cast your vote on the form provided.
- Only NAY votes need to be mailed. Place the ballot in an envelope with your name and return address on the upper left.
- Your name must appear on the envelope to identify AESC membership.
- Mail in ballots must be postmarked by 20 May 2017. Ballots postmarked after then will not be counted.
- Mail to:  
AESc Ballot  
Executive Board 2017-2018  
c/o 8047 Fairfax Road  
Alexandria, VA 22308-1408

# Save the Date

**May 21**  
AEMA Awards Luncheon  
The Fairfax

**May 25**  
Provide meal for Fort  
Belvoir Fisher house  
*Volunteers needed*

**May 31**  
Sip & Paint Night  
Wine & Design  
7pm  
1506 Bell View Blvd  
Alexnadria, BA



## Nuts & Bolts

On the previous page, you read the ballot for our 2017-2018 Executive Board. We wanted to provide you a little background on our virtual voting process.



Our voting guidelines are developed with Robert's Rules of Order as our reference.

What is consensus voting?

**Consensus** process, by definition, seeks the maximum possible levels of agreement or consent. Thus, if a group using a **majority vote** decision rule is dominated by a **majority** faction that does not seek the agreement of all participants, the process would not be considered "**consensus**."

Why consensus voting?

Our bylaws approve on-site, email, and mail-in voting. In virtual (e-mail) voting, a consensus vote is the simplest with a ballot sent to the voting membership stating exactly what is to be voted on and a designated place for the member to mark a vote. With consensus voting, only NAY votes need to be counted (returned). No NAY votes mean the measure is approved, so not vote quorum applies.

What happens when there are NAY votes in a consensus voting process?

If the MAJORITY of the membership\* responds "NAY", the ballot will be reworked. This may include a vote on each position by email so that one can identify specific issues OR a vote at a general membership meeting (announced ahead of time to indicate the voting will occur) no matter the attendance. If a MAJORITY of the membership\* responds and casts an AYE vote, the ballot is approved by the general membership as submitted.

\*Membership total is verified by the Membership Chairman.

**Dollars & Sense** - From the Treasurer, Jessica L. Gregris

It has been another busy year for the treasurer. Please ensure any requests for reimbursement for this past year are submitted to [treasurer@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:treasurer@armyengineerspouses.com) by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, any recommendations or proposed changes to next year's budget should be submitted to the same email address by June 15<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of the Financial Committee's meeting later that month. The Committee will finalize the proposed budget for the next year which will be voted on by the new board.

Lastly, please contact anyone on the Executive Board if you or someone you know would be willing to donate a few hours in July assisting with reviewing AESC and AEMA finances.



# *AESC May Event*



Please make plans to join us for our AESC Sip & Paint Night on Wednesday, May 31 at 7 p.m. at Wine & Design, 1506 Belle View Boulevard Suite D, Alexandria, 22307.

We will be painting the Jefferson Monument with the cherry blossoms pictured above. This studio class includes 2 glasses of wine or one beer. There is also a selection of nonalcoholic beverages, and you are welcome to bring snacks with you.

The session will last approximately 2 hours. Please plan to arrive 15-20 minutes early to sign in, get your apron, etc. The cost is \$40.

Online payment is required to book your seat. Please click on the following link to see further details and make your reservation. <http://wineanddesign.com/calendars/event.php?id=62880>. Please make your reservation as soon as possible. If you are planning to come, or if you have questions, please email [vp@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:vp@armyengineerspouses.com). We hope to see you there!

# Welfare & Service

For those of you who had a chance to stop by the Knollwood Bake Sale last month, thank you for your support of this annual event! For those who could not attend, here is a sample of the goodies that were offered. This is a recipe from our VP, Carolyn Hudson.

## Spiced Rosemary Cashews

1 1/4 pounds cashew nuts  
 2 tablespoons coarsely chopped fresh rosemary leaves  
 1/2 teaspoon cayenne  
 2 teaspoons dark brown sugar  
 2 teaspoons kosher salt  
 1 tablespoon melted butter

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Place the nuts on an ungreased baking sheet and bake for about 10 minutes until they are warmed through. Meanwhile, combine the rosemary, pepper, sugar, salt and butter in a large bowl. Toss the warm nuts with the rosemary mixture until the nuts are completely coated. Serve warm or at room temperature.



AESC continues to provide monthly meals to the families staying at the Fisher House. Our slot for Tuesday May 25 is now available. 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](mailto:service@armyengineerspouses.com)

# Local Events

**May 13-14**

Green Festival  
Washington Convention  
Center

**May 13**

Northern Virginia Tour de  
Cure Bicycling Event, Reston,  
VA

**May 13**

Georgetown Garden Tour

**May 14-20**

National Police Week

**May 13**

Maryland Craft Beer Festival

**May 19-21**

Mount Vernon Wine Festival &  
Sunset Tour

**May 20**

National Asian Heritage  
Festival

**May 20**

Gaithersburg Book Festival

**May 21**

Taste of Arlington

## Around Town

"The Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay" sounds like a mystery novel, but it is actually one of the largest tangible reminders of World War I in the country.

Mallows Bay is a small bay on the Maryland side of the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland. The bay is the location of what is regarded as the "largest shipwreck fleet in the Western Hemisphere and is described as a "ship graveyard."

Charles County operates Mallows Bay Park (1440 Wilson Landing Road in Nanjemoy, Maryland). This small park contains the graves of more than 230 United States Shipping Board Merchant Fleet Corporation ships sunk in the river. Almost ninety were poorly constructed steamships built during World War I; in 1925 they were burned and scuttled in the bay. Bethlehem Steel then built a salvage basin during World War II to recover metal from the abandoned ships. The ships

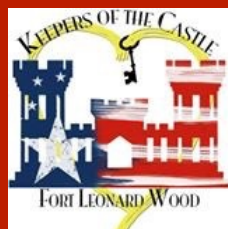
form a reef that hosts an array of wildlife. A 0.8-mile trail loops around Mallows Bay Park and the salvage basin.

In 2010, a boat ramp and pier for recreational use was constructed to provide access to the Potomac River at Mallows Bay. It is popular to canoe or kayak among the ship ruins.

Mallows Bay has passed the nomination process to become a National Marine Sanctuary and will be entering the next phase of designation involving a highly participatory and transparent public review process.







## *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).

Engineer Spouses Day was held on April 25th in conjunction with Regimental Week. The special events culminated with the annual Regimental Ball. From the pictures below, it looks like everyone had an amazing 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).



This “Building Strong Engineer” is from the Europe District, US Army Corps of Engineers Facebook page. He spreads the word that “last year USACE supported Combatant Commanders in more than 110 countries. Europe District supports EUCOM and AFRICOM in 44 nations throughout our area of operations.”

He’s not from AESG, but I couldn’t resist sharing!

There is a lot going on in AESG this Spring! In April, they hosted a Lego League where their “Engineers in training” acted as City Planners. Not only did they design and build buildings they thought every city needed, they joined forces using their individual masterpieces to create the perfect Lego City! The last Lego League for the current club year will be held May 20th.





# 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



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