



# Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume V, Issue IV

November, 2014

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Please review  
pages 16 and 17  
for reminders  
about upcoming  
events, as well as  
important  
information about  
an all-membership  
vote!  
Thank you!



The Army Engineer Spouse Club would like to say a special "Thank You" to Lieutenant General and Mrs. Thomas P. Bostick for hosting the 2014 Cocktail Party. The weather was fantastic, the food was delicious, and the decorations were beautiful. Please enjoy the photos in this issue of the Castle Gram. Additional photos of the event can be found on the AESC Facebook page.



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



## ...a note from our President

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Dear Army Engineer Spouses' Club,

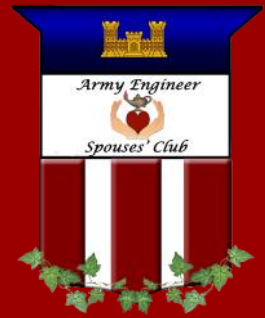
The stunning season of fall has fully embraced us here in Virginia. The trees are a gorgeous mixture of burgundy, rust, and honey, and change a bit each day. The paths in our woods are filled with leaves that just beg you to kick them in the air as you walk! I hope it's beautiful wherever you are and that you are enjoying the season.

The AESC Annual Cocktail Party held at LTG and Mrs. Bosticks' was a tremendous success. We had a record number of attendees, were thrilled with our membership response, and received an unprecedented amount in donations. I wish our membership were all together in the same room so I could lead a standing ovation for Allison Chamberlayne, truly in the starring role for this event. Her organizational skills and attention to detail made the function seem effortless. I know the entire AESC Board sends their appreciation for her extraordinary work.

Our November function is right around the corner on the 19th. Please join us in Purcellville, VA where we will be searching for personal treasures to upcycle or repurpose. There will be lots of shopping, but some members will just be looking, collecting ideas, and anxiously awaiting lunch at Magnolia's at the Mill! In conjunction with the upcycle theme, our Castle Boutique is offering a few items at [armyengineerspouses.com](http://armyengineerspouses.com) for those unable to make the trip. Check out the "AESC Members Only" tab, take a look at the specials and order fast - only a few are available and we will post any remaining items to our public site on December 1!

We are excited to welcome a new member to our AESC Board. Maggie DeMello will be taking on the role of Secretary and dabbling in Publicity assisting Glenda Hudson. Welcome Maggie - we are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with you! This month also brings along a bit of bittersweet news for our board. Our Webmaster, Laura Putnam is PCSing to Ft. Benning where she and her husband will be serving in exciting leadership positions. Laura has been an integral part of our organization for years, serving in many capacities including Scholarship Chair and AEMA Treasurer. We are delighted she will continue to serve as webmaster while at Ft. Benning, but we will certainly miss seeing her at our monthly meetings and functions.

Many of you had the opportunity to elect new leaders on November 4 and your vote changed the face of our government! Now, we are asking you to send us your vote on a change to the Scholarship Applicant Criteria in our Constitution and Bylaws as recommended by your AESC Board. You will find a mail-in ballot in this Castle Gram and the option to send in your vote via email on our web-site, [armyengineerspouses.com](http://armyengineerspouses.com). Please vote!



## THE GAVEL

You are invited to my house on December 3 for a fun cookie exchange! Our monthly board meeting will kick off at 10:30 a.m. and all AESC members are welcome to attend and watch the board do their thing. We hope to get through business in record fashion and finish by 11:30 so we can start the general membership function. If you are interested in working on the board someday, the 10:30 arrival is a great opportunity. If you come at 11:30, you will be right on time for the cookie exchange! Bring along three dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies (made or bought) – we'll have a few and then share the rest so that everyone can take samples home. If you would like to bring along a copy of your recipe, I will scan all of them after the event and share via email with those interested. Check [armyengineerspouses.com](http://armyengineerspouses.com) under the AESC Members Only tab for more detailed information with address, etc. I hope you can make it and we can start the Christmas season together!

But before we move along too fast, we get to celebrate Thanksgiving – what a wonderful holiday! The Semonites typically pack the house with family and friends, cook way too much food, watch a little football, and inevitably shake our heads over the neighborhood home that is already decorated for Christmas. There always seems to be at least one early bird and we've always found ourselves wondering why they can't wait until the last piece of pumpkin pie before tearing out the tinsel. Did they decide to skip Thanksgiving? Fast forward to today. Oh, how I wish I could take those comments back! You see, I am the crazy, early neighbor on my block for 2014. Because of calendar commitments and travels, I had to do it. Yep, the artificial tree is up and filled with ornaments. The outside decorations are staged and ready to go. The little snowy village is set up, tiny Santa's and snowmen are everywhere and I've even got candles in the window. See, I'll be spending Thanksgiving away this year and watching as a cute, young couple begins creating their own traditions. I know in my heart though, there will be one familiar practice I can count on - prayer. Our family always keeps our deployed soldiers and their families in our prayers throughout the year as I am sure many of you do, but Thanksgiving begins the Season of Family and with it, the need for special recognition of those serving far away from loved ones. This year, I have no doubt that the cute, young couple will continue our family practice of praying before Thanksgiving dinner to ask for continued blessings for our nation, safety for soldiers serving in far off places during the holidays, and peace for the families that miss them so very much during special celebrations.

I am sending my warmest wishes to you for a wonderful tradition-filled Thanksgiving. Oh, and I promise not to turn on the tree lights, window candles or outside lights until after my last piece of pumpkin pie!

Warmly,

Connie



## DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

**Upcoming Events: December Board Meeting**  
*Please join us at our upcoming Board Meeting*

*AESC Board Meeting*

*December 3*

*10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*

*At the home of Connie Semonite*

*10230 Fairfax Drive*

*Fort Belvoir, VA*



*AESC Cookie Exchange*

*December 3, 2014*

*11:30 a.m.*

*At the home of Connie Semonite*

*10230 Fairfax Drive*

*Fort Belvoir, VA 22060*

*AESC Members and Guests are Invited to Our  
 AESC Cookie Exchange*

*Bring three (3) dozen of your favorite homemade special Christmas cookies, bars, candies, etc. (Nothing from a mix please!) Please bring your recipe to share. I'll scan them all and send out a pdf. to everyone following the party.*

*If you run out of time, burn your cookies, have small children, or are already tired and it's just Dec. 2 - run to the bakery, buy three (3) dozen yummy cookies and bring them. (No pre-packaged cookies - go to the bakery please)*

*We'll put a few out to enjoy and the rest will be part of the exchange. You will get to bring home a wonderful selection of goodies!*

*The AESC December Board Meeting will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m., prior to the Cookie Exchange. You are welcome to attend both events!*



## 2014-2015 AESC BOARD

### Elected Officers

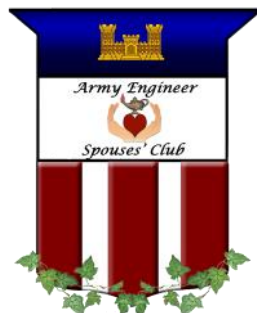
PRESIDENT – CONNIE SEMONITE  
 VICE-PRESIDENT – ALLISON CHAMBERLAYNE  
 SECRETARY – MAGGIE DEMELLO  
 TREASURER – KATHY MOAKLER  
 AEMA CHAIRPERSON – HOLLY SCHERER

### 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



### Join Us for a Road Trip to Purcellville!

**When:** Wednesday, November 19th starting at 10:30am  
**Where:** Re-Love It, 138 N 21st Street, Purcellville, VA  
Magnolia's at the Mill, 198 N 21st Street, Purcellville, VA

**RSVP: THREE CHOICES, but please RSVP to this event:**

**Call Allison – 540-449-3061**

**Email Allison – Allison@chamberlayne.net**

**Use this e-vite link:**

**[http://www.evite.com/  
event/0226VXYHXABVSYB3IEPEMVJCUFYL5A](http://www.evite.com/event/0226VXYHXABVSYB3IEPEMVJCUFYL5A)**

UPCOMING EVENTS





*DECEMBER ACTIVITY: December 17, 2014  
Holiday Lunch at the Gaylord*

Join us for lunch and an ornament exchange at Pienza Italian Market Restaurant at the Gaylord National Resort

Get in the spirit of the season as you discover the unique and festive décor around every bend of the entire resort! You'll be mesmerized by their Christmas decorations, including more than two million lights that illuminate the soaring, glass atrium and outdoor garden areas.

We will meet for lunch at 12pm at Pienza Italian Market in the Gaylord National Harbor Hotel, 201 Waterfront Street, National harbor, MD Please bring a wrapped ornament for our ornament exchange.

After lunch, feel free to enjoy all National Harbor has to offer!

\*Stay at the resort and enjoy a spa day! Make reservations online or call 301-965-4400

\*Visit ICE! Featuring Frosty The Snowman - Walk thru this classic Christmas story, slide down ice slides over two stories high and watch our artisans as they create these frozen marvels in our special bonus area - The Frostbite Factory - a LIVE ice carving zone. It's all part of Christmas on the Potomac! Buy your tickets at [gaylordnationaltickets.com](http://gaylordnationaltickets.com)

Walk the streets of National Harbor, visiting the shops and enjoying the sights.

\*Leave the immediate waterfront area and venture to the Tanger Outlet Mall just a few short minutes away.

RSVP:

Call Allison - 540-449-3061

Email Allison - [Allison@chamberlayne.net](mailto:Allison@chamberlayne.net)

Use this e-vite link:

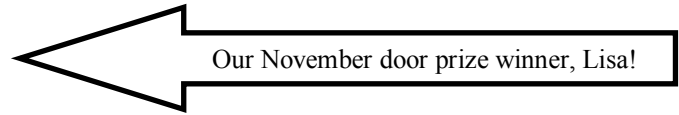
<http://www.evite.com/l/aKEdAYt2Yb>

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING



**PAST Events**



**BOARD MEETING**

*The AESC November board meeting was held on November 5, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at the Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center, Fort Belvoir, VA*

*Thank you to Linda Flowers, Vicky Groninger, and Pricilla Noah for hosting and for providing refreshments.*



See you soon, Laura! Thank you for your service to our organization. We hope your next assignment is full of adventure and fun!





## AESC Cocktail Party October 25, 2014



2014 AESC COCKTAIL PARTY

2014 AESC COCKTAIL PARTY





2014 AESC COCKTAIL PARTY

2014 AESC COCKTAIL PARTY





2014 AESC COCKTAIL PARTY





2014 AESC COCKTAIL PARTY

*Birthdays.....*

November

Leanne Ogden	Nov 04
Kristine Schuster	Nov 04
Pat O'Neill	Nov 18
Majorie Williams	Nov 18
Ann Kem	Nov 21
Carolyn Wallace	Nov 21
Karina Hunter	Nov 22
Jacqui Ellis	Nov 23
Jacki Dixon	Nov 25
Norma Erwin	Nov 28
Nancy Temple	Nov 28

December

Vicky Groninger	Dec 3
Janice Smith	Dec 4
Mary Beth Savre	Dec 5
Jay Burcham	Dec 7
Shelley Hatch	Dec 7
Jenny Offringa	Dec 10
Tanya Dalton	Dec 14
Isabel Stevens	Dec 15
Holly Scherer	Dec 21
Nicole Gallagher	Dec 28
Joan Stockton	Dec 29
Shannon Hendrickson	Dec 31



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS



REMINDERS

Wow! November and December are going to be busy! This issue of the Castle Gram is full of dates and reminders. Here is a summary for your calendar!

**NOVEMBER 19: ROAD TRIP TO PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA**

In conjunction with the November event, the AESC is having our own version of Black Friday!

**Castle Boutique Special Members Only Sale!**

AESC members living or visiting the DC area are invited to Purcellville, VA, on NOV 19 to search for treasures to upcycle and repurpose. In conjunction with that theme, our Castle Boutique is offering a few items at [armyengineerspouses.com](http://armyengineerspouses.com) for members unable to make the trip. Be sure to visit the AESC website!

December, 2014: AEMA applications available (check the AESC website for more information)

December 3, 2014: AESC Board Meeting/ Cookie Exchange, 10:30 am

December 17, 2014: AESC December function: Lunch and ornament exchange at the Gaylord, 12:00 pm.

January 7, 2015:  
AESC Board Meeting

**Save the Date!**

**Kick off the New Year with AESC! I'd call it a Ladies' Night, but I'd love to see some of our male members join us for a night on the town! Details are still in the making, but please put the evening of January 21st on your calendar!**

April 8, 2015: Knollwood Bake Sale

May, 2015: AEMA Brunch

August 7, 2015: Castle Ball





# Voting Ballot for Proposed Changes to AESC Bylaws

(Approved by the Board on November 5, 2014)

All dues paying members of AESC may vote on the following proposed changes. Please enclose this ballot in an envelope with your name on the envelope only.

Do not put your name on the ballot. The envelope must be post-marked by **November 29, 2014**.

Return it to: AESC Ballot P.O. Box 6332 Alexandria, Virginia 22306-6332

Current Bylaws (last amended March 22, 2011) read (page 42):

X. Army Engineer Memorial Awards

The amount and number of the awards shall be at the discretion of the Club's Executive Board. Any candidate who is eligible because of the sponsor's military status must possess a valid DoD ID card showing the candidate to be a family member as of the final date for applications to be submitted.

The Army Engineer Memorial Awards, established in memory of Army Engineer Officers who died in Vietnam, shall be given annually to honor Engineers who die in the line of duty. A candidate for an award may be any high school senior who is a citizen of the United States and whose sponsor, parent, or legal guardian is a U.S. Army Engineer or Department of the Army employee of USACE. The sponsor, parent, or legal guardian may be on active duty, currently employed by USACE, retired, or deceased.

Proposed Bylaws **change** to read:

X. Army Engineer Memorial Awards

The amount and number of the awards shall be at the discretion of the Club's Executive Board. Any candidate who is eligible because of the sponsor's military status must possess a valid DoD ID card showing the candidate to be a family member as of the final date for applications to be submitted.

The Army Engineer Memorial Awards, established in memory of Army Engineer Officers who died in Vietnam, shall be given annually to honor Engineers who die in the line of duty. A candidate for an award may be any high school senior who is a citizen of the United States and whose sponsor, parent, or legal guardian is an 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, and a current member in good standing of the Army Engineer Spouses Club.**

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSED CHANGES TO AESC BYLAWS: PLEASE VOTE





**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.**

#### **2014-2015 AESC MEMBERSHIP**

**There are two options for submitting 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PRINT NAME as you would like to be listed in the Castle Directory (The Red Book)

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 July 1, 2014 until June 30, 2015. Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2014 will be included in the 2014-2015 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

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