



# Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

VOLUME LXII ISSUE 8 | March 2016

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## Our Executive Board:

### President

Connie Semonite

### Vice President

Maggie DeMello

Dominique Wilt

### Treasurer

Jessica Gregris

### Secretary

Laurel-Lee States

### AEMA Chairperson

Erica Shaw

It has been said the only thing constant about an Army life is change. And the month of March brings much change - daffodils are days away from bursting into bright blooms among the dreary winter flower beds, birds have returned to the stark tree branches and fill the warm Spring air with song, and our AESC board is in the midst of planning change as we seek members with a passion and love for our Engineer community to serve in leadership positions for the coming year. Wherever your hometown, I hope you will consider serving in this great organization Please find more information from Bette Meuleners in this issue.

This month our DC group will be hosting a beer tasting for local and visiting members, and the Castle Keepers of Fort Leonard Wood and Engineer spouses in Europe will be getting together. Is your group meeting this month? Send us some pictures and let us share! Official, unofficial, or just a few friends doing lunch - we are interested whenever Engineer spouses meet!! Feel free to forward items to our newsletter editor Allison Chamberlayne at [newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com).

While change can be fun and exciting, consistency is important to our membership as well. Consistent, fair, and ethical all describe the selection process that has been used for decades by our Army Engineer Memorial Awards' committee. This years' deadline has passed, applications received, and now the work begins in earnest. Please see the article from Erica Shaw for a Behind the Scenes look at our AEMA process. The AESC board learns recipients names at approximately the same time they are notified of their selection during the month of April. Did someone you know apply? Be assured their application is in the conscientious and honorable hands.

Life in the Engineer community is always filled with expected and sometimes surprising change. A summer PCS, a career move, perhaps a new AESC leadership position, or just a new Spring hydrangea for your flower bed - I hope you will embrace the change in your life and keep your optimism consistent.

Hug your Engineer today!

Warmly,

*Connie*

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



Please join the Army Engineer Spouses Club

For a **Brewery Tour & Beer Tasting**

Plus...take your beer sampling glass home!

**When:** March 26, 2016

**Where:** Capital City Brewery

The Village at Shirlington

4001 Campbell Ave.

Arlington, VA 22206

**Time:** 3pm – with the option to stay for an early dinner

**Cost:** \$10 per/person

## **RSVP**

If you have any questions/concerns, please contact

Maggie DeMello at [Maggie.liuzzi@gmail.com](mailto:Maggie.liuzzi@gmail.com)

# *AEMA*

## *Behind The Scenes*

### **Publicizing the AEMA and GKM awards:**

The Army Engineer Spouses' Club publicizes through our club newsletter, social media, the Engineer Blast, School Liaison Officers at the larger Army Posts, USACE Divisions, Districts, Centers and Labs. Our efforts ensure that our information is disseminated throughout the Engineer Community.

### **What's next?**

The AEMA Chair receives the application packets from the United States Postal Service (USPS) and the packets are assigned a number. The number assigned is given in the order received in the mail. For instance, the first package received in the mail is assigned the number of 1601. The first two numbers, **16** represent the fiscal year and the last two numbers, **01** represent the assigned number given to the packet when received.

Without a doubt, the process to alleviate conflict of interest is put first and foremost throughout the award review process. To further remove any probable encounters, each applicant's documents are copied for file records, removing names and personal identification information on the original documentation received. Hence the reason, AESC is unable to return original documentation received from the applicants.

### **Next up, the selection process:**

AESC issues merit-based awards to high school seniors. Our selection process is very fair and ethical. Weighted scoring is placed on grade point averages, national testing, leadership roles, extra-curricular activities, sports, awards, and employment. There are absolutely no points given for sponsors' rank, position, or time in service, however, the number of moves during the high school students' career is taken into consideration. The required essays are sent to educators outside of club membership for scoring. All of the applicants remain absolutely anonymous throughout the ranking process.

We present one award in honor of Geraldine K. Morris. The selection criteria for this award, as well as all monies issued, are defined by the Morris family

### **Now what:**

AESC will announce the award recipients in early April. A formal announcement letter will be mailed to the award recipients extending our sincere congratulations on achievement. Next, AESC will host an AEMA Brunch to be held in May 2016 at The Fairfax at Belvoir Woods Community Center, located next to Fort Belvoir. Family and friends may attend for a small fee to celebrate your accolades.

# AEMA

As we prepare to send our Class of 2016 off to college, the Class of 2017 is just beginning this journey in earnest. Our AEMA Chair, Erica Shaw has been kind enough to research several opportunities each family should look into as they start this process. So, Class of 2017... Let's Get Started!!

- **FACT #1** – You are getting ready for college. Do you have a checklist? **Prepare A Four-Year Checklist.** Checklists can be found at [www.connectionsacademy.com/blog/posts/2012-09-28/Getting-Ready-for-College-A-Four-Year-Checklist-for-High-School-Teens.aspx](http://www.connectionsacademy.com/blog/posts/2012-09-28/Getting-Ready-for-College-A-Four-Year-Checklist-for-High-School-Teens.aspx)
- **FACT #2** – **The Army Engineer Spouses' Club (AESC) Army Engineer Memorial Award application to qualifying high school seniors is available online for download from December 1 through March 1** at [www.armyengineerspouses.com](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com). Completed applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2016. Mail completed applications to: AEMA AWARDS, P.O. Box 6332, Alexandria, VA 22306-6332.
- **FACT #3** – **College is Hard. Paying for it doesn't need to be.** Tuition increases annually for institutions, therefore, ensure high school students apply for scholarships. Where can I find scholarships? Scholarships can be found at the following websites:
  - o [www.myscholly.com](http://www.myscholly.com) – comprehensive and accurate scholarship search platform that matches scholarships to desired majors
  - o [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) – common category scholarships by grade level
  - o [www.usnews.com/education/scholarships-search-insider/2016/02/05/scholarships-with-spring-deadlines-can-grow-college-cash#](http://www.usnews.com/education/scholarships-search-insider/2016/02/05/scholarships-with-spring-deadlines-can-grow-college-cash#) – US News listing of scholarships with Spring Deadlines
  - o [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) – Search engine
  - o [www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com) – Search engine
  - o **Scholarships for Military Children**
    - ♣ [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org) – Fisher House Foundation Scholarship
    - ♣ [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil) – Defense Commissary Agency
    - ♣ <http://colleges.niche.com> – College Scholarships for Army Dependents
    - ♣ [www.armywomen.org](http://www.armywomen.org) – Women's Army Corps Veteran's Association Scholarship
    - ♣ [www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)
    - ♣ [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) – The American Legion Legacy Scholarship
- **FACT #4** – **Apply for Financial Aid!** Use The Financial Aid Process tool to guide you: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/financial-aid-process.png>

In closing the college process may seem time-consuming, but the reward of seeing your children off to college is greater! Parents, give yourselves a hand clap for the knowledge in your hands and an open heart to ensure your children find success and believe in the value and importance of education.

Do not hesitate to contact me, Erica Shaw, AEMA Chairwoman, Army Engineer Spouses Club, via email at [aema@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:aema@armyengineerspouses.com) or by phone at (573) 528-6717.

# 2015-2016 Volunteers

Parliamentarian

Roz Riley

Membership

Jackie Caldwell

Hospitality

Terri Stevens

Historian

Laurel-Lee States

Castle-Gram

Allison Chamberlayne

Webmaster

Laura Putnam

Circulation

Kara Anderson

Castle Boutique

Sheila Kelly

Welfare Services

Launa Brown

Retirement Residences

Liaison

Kay Burlin

Knollwood Bake Sale

Pricilla Noah

Nominations

Bette Meuleners

# *Welfare & Service*

## Honor Flights



Honor Flights resume in April. However, on Tuesday March 22nd at 9:30am, a special all female “Original Rosies” flight for women who worked in factories on the home front to support the war efforts will be arriving at Ronald Reagan National Airport. Wear your Engineer Red! Bring a Flag if you have one...we will have a few extra.

Click here to RSVP <https://www.facebook.com/events/1695518227392289/>

Thursday, March 24th a group of 30 of the 77 Medal of Honor recipients will be arriving at DCA at 1:30pm on American Airlines (Terminal C) Join us to welcome the American Heroes and wear red to show your Army Engineer Spirit!





# Cherry Blossom Events

go to  
[www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org)  
 for details

**March 18**  
 Pink Tie Party

**March 26**  
 Family Day

**March 26**  
 Opening Ceremony

**April 2**  
 Blossom Kite Festival

**April 9**  
 Southwest Waterfront  
 Fireworks Festival

**April 16**  
 Festival parade

**April 17**  
 Anacostia River Festival

## Around Town



Everyone one knows that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb! March is where we find the first day of spring. You can not talk about spring in the National Capital Region without talking about Cherry Blossoms!

Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington, DC. The gift and annual celebration honor the lasting friendship between the United States and Japan and the continued close relationship between the two countries.

Over the years, gifts have been exchanged between the two countries. In 1915, the United States Government reciprocated with a gift of flowering dogwood trees to the people of Japan. In 1981, the cycle of giving came full circle. Japanese horticulturists were given cuttings from the trees to replace some cherry trees in Japan which had been destroyed in a flood.

Today's National Cherry Blossom Festival has grown from modest beginnings to the nation's greatest springtime celebration. School children reenacted the initial planting and other activities, holding the first "festival" in 1927. Civic groups helped expand the festivities in 1935. The Festival expanded to two weeks in 1994 to accommodate a diverse schedule during the blooming period. Growing again in 2012, the 100-year anniversary of the gift was marked with a five-week celebration. Today, the Festival spans four weekends and welcomes more than 1.5 million people to enjoy diverse programming and the trees. Over the years, millions have participated in the annual event that heralds spring in the nation's capital.



# Nominations

Hopefully all of our AESC members who are reading this now also saw my article in last month's (February 2016) Castle Gram and in an email I sent out to our entire membership!!!

We're working to fill our board for next year—2016-2017. We first need to find volunteers to be nominated for the positions of President and Vice President. Our current President, Connie Semonite, is not able to be President for the upcoming year and our co-Vice Presidents won't be available either.

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!

As Connie says, "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 plans 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. The duties for both positions are listed on page 34 in the current (2015-2016) Membership Book (Red Book).

If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in either position, please let Connie or 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 (2016-2017), our new 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 2016 Castle Gram on page 8 and the 2015-2016 Red Book on pages 36-38. It looks like we'll really need at least a Castle Boutique and a Hospitality 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, 2015-2016  
[bmeuleners@gmail.com](mailto:bmeuleners@gmail.com)  
 571-235-3566



# Save the Date

**March 22**  
Rosies Honor Flight

**March 24**  
Medal of Honor  
Honor Flight

**March 26th**  
Beer Tasting

**April 6th**  
AESC Board Meeting

**April 14th**  
Merlot's Masterpieces

**May 4**  
AESC Board Meeting

**June 1**  
Joint Board Meeting



## Do You Know.....

what SES stands for? Many employees of the federal government strive to become an SES, but what does



that really mean? The “Senior Executive Service” is a position classification in the federal government that is somewhat analogous to a general officer. The Office of Personnel Management states that the Senior Executive Service consists of the men and women charged with leading the continuing transformation of government. The keystone of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, the SES was designed to be a corps of executives selected for their leadership qualifications. At the executive level, they operate and oversee nearly every government activity in approximately 75 Federal agencies.

Pictured above is the SES insignia. The emblem represents a keystone – the center stone that holds all the stones of an arch in place. This represents the critical role of the SES as a central coordinating point between Government's political leadership which sets the political agenda and the line workers who implement it. Members of the SES translate that political agenda into reality. The upright lines in the center of the keystone represent a column in which individual SES members are united into a single leadership corps. There is no particular symbolism to the number of lines, which has varied over the years with different iterations of the logo.

### Honorary Advisors

Renee Bostick - Spouse, Chief of Engineers

Jackie Caldwell - SES Spouse, Director of Military Programs

Joan Stockton - SES Spouse, Director of Civil Works





See "Chit Chat" for the recipe for these beautiful and delicious cookies we enjoyed at our last board meeting!

## Protocol Points to Ponder

I was leaving the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center when all around me, cars were pulling over. It's been forever since I have lived on a military installation so it took me a minute to remember what was going on... It was Reveille. Every installation has it's own customs and courtesies when it comes to driving on post during Reveille and Retreat. In some locations, merely stopping your car is suffice, while other locations, you are expected to stop the car, get out and stand facing the flag. (of course you should take safety in consideration before exiting your vehicle). It is also prudent to turn off your car radio so you may hear the bugle and cannon when sounded.

So, what else do we need to know about driving a car on a military installation?

- The first courtesy one should extend upon entering a military base is to dim your headlights. As you approach the gate, ALWAYS dim your lights so as not to blind the gate guards. These soldiers and security guards are withstanding the elements to protect us and we can make them slightly more comfortable by simply dimming our headlights.
- Even though the state your base is located in may have different rules about mobile phones, the DOD has implemented hands-free regulations for all military bases. In a nutshell, no matter what the law is outside of base, all military installations will issue you a ticket if you are caught on your phone without a hands-free device.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. This is a pretty universal law. Courtesy is a trait that comes naturally to most military people and it is one thing that non-military civilians tend to notice most. When one sees a pedestrian trying to cross the street, the polite thing is to stop if that can be done safely.
- Most military installations have laws about passing troops in formation. My research tells me that romph is a fairly common across installations.

So remember, when driving on base (and elsewhere in the world!) mind your Ps and Qs and we will all get to our destination safely and happily!

# Castle Boutique

**Coming Soon!**



*Visit our  
website under  
the  
**MEMBERS  
ONLY TAB**  
for new items  
and exclusive  
discounts*

This beautiful new necklace will be offered first to our AESC members at a special members only price (\$22). Contact Sheila, our Castle Boutique Chair, to order your necklace today.

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

# Photo Gallery

Please enjoy these photos of our recent events!

These are some pictures of our February events

Want to see more? check out our web site

[www.armyengineerspouses.com](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com)

Or like us on FaceBook

[www.facebook.com/ArmyEngineerSpousesClub](http://www.facebook.com/ArmyEngineerSpousesClub)



The Castle Boutique was open at USACE Headquarter for the Executive Governance Meeting. Did you Engineer miss it? We'll be there again next Quarter!!

A fabulous Couple's Night was hosted at John Strongbow's win Alexandria. Did you know John Strongbow's is proudly owned and operated by veterans (most of them combat veterans). Go check out the history, wine, food and beer making.







# Keepers of the Castle

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).

Check out the basket KOTC put together for the Fort Wood Community Spouses' Club Annual Basket Auction. There were over 100 services and baskets donated by businesses, organizations and individuals in the surrounding communities. All proceeds benefit the Scholarship & Community Outreach Programs



For their program last month, they spent some time with 12k Plumbers and enjoyed a Pot Luck. KOTC also celebrated Engineer Week. Fort Leonard Wood is the proud home of the U.S. Army Engineer School.



# Engineers In Europe

If you or a friend are in Europe and you are NOT part of the Army Engineer Spouses' Group... You Are Missing Out! The Engineer Spouses host a monthly Lego League, socialize together at monthly coffees, and keep each other informed through their awesome Facebook group. Contact Michelle Tyler to catch up with this dynamic group! [mt Tyler1015@aol.com](mailto:mt Tyler1015@aol.com)





# Chit Chat

## Get to know our members!

This section is all about you! Give us the gossip about where you are, where you are heading and what you are doing. Send all pictures and submissions to Allison Chamberlayne [newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com).



Congratulations to our own AEMA chairperson, Erica Shaw's husband Kelcey for receiving the Black Engineer of the Year award for Professional Achievement (Government). LTG Bostick was also honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 30th anniversary of the BEYA STEM Conference in Philadelphia. Hosted by US Black Engineer & Information Technology magazine, The Council of HBCU Engineering Deans, and Lockheed Martin Corporation, the conference aims to address the inequities of diversity in technology and science as a means for increasing awareness, improving attitudes, and expanding opportunities for the current and future workforce.

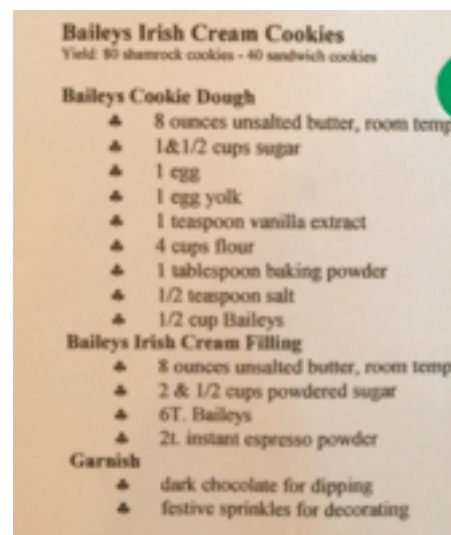
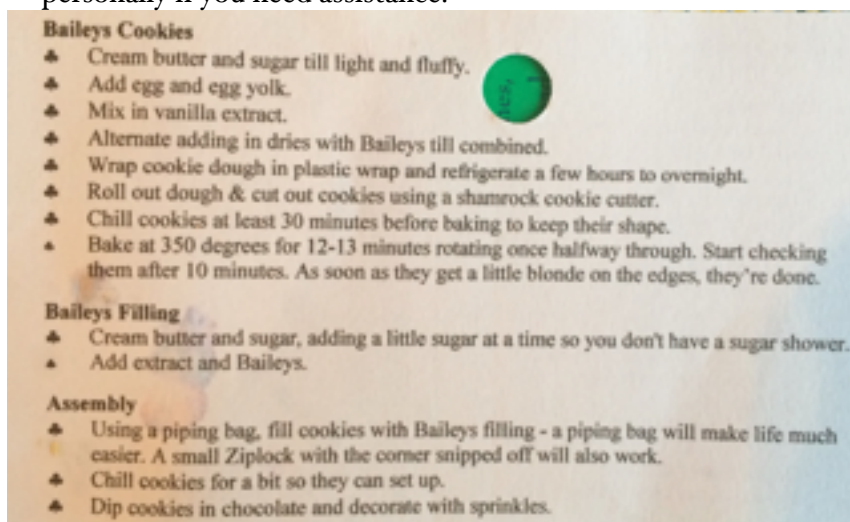
[ScholarshipSharing@gmail.com](mailto:ScholarshipSharing@gmail.com)

(804)577-8513

[www.ScholarshipSharing.org](http://www.ScholarshipSharing.org)



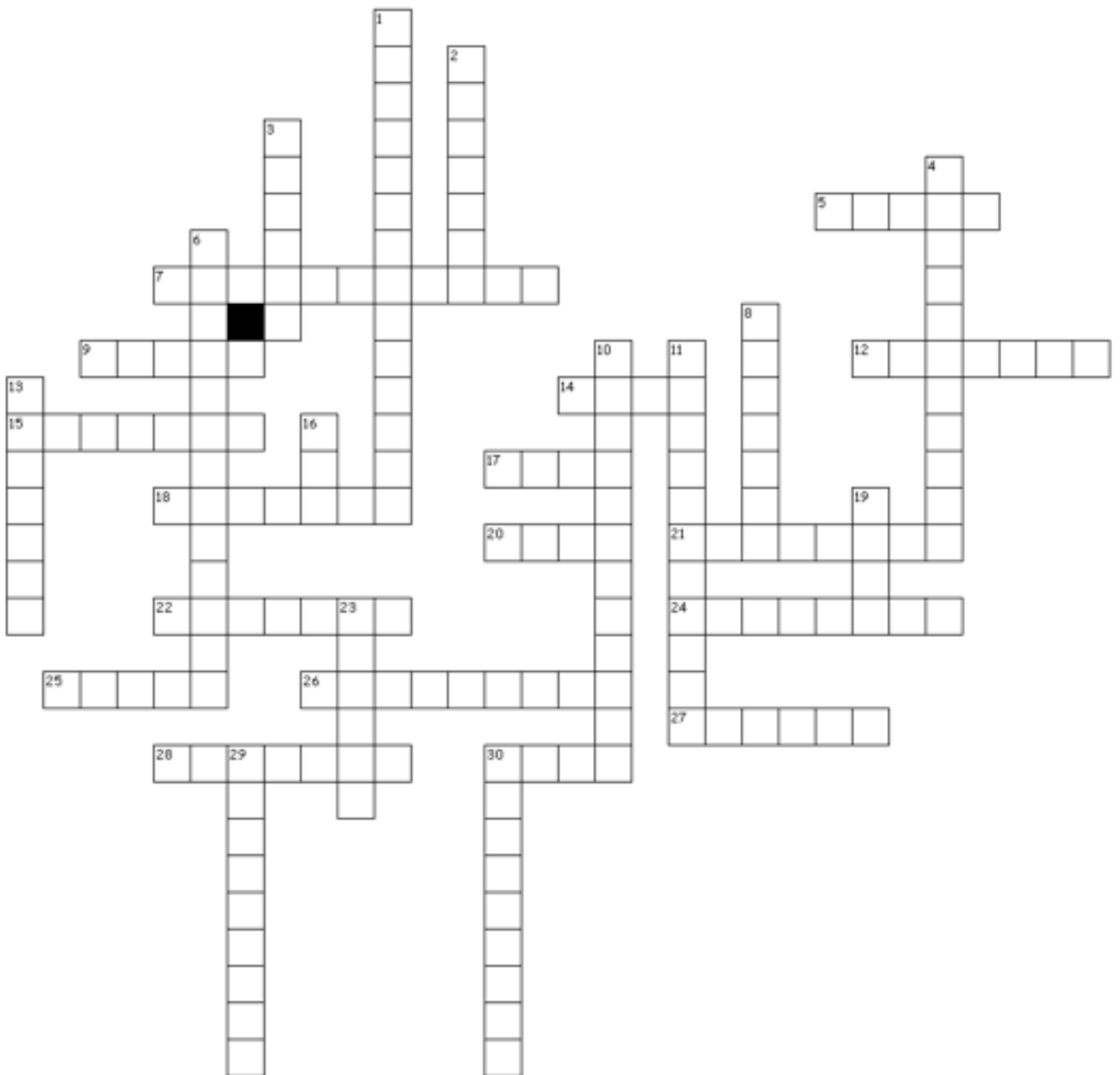
While attending a College Fair for her sorority, Erica Shaw met a young woman who has started her own business researching scholarships. Check out her website and feel free to reach out to her personally if you need assistance.



# Fun & Games

## Let's Review!

This one is a test of your memory! Have you been reading your Castle Grams? Each clue (on the next page) comes straight out of a previous edition of the newsletter. If you need to access the Castle Grams for clues, please see the Members' Only Section of the website. Good Luck!



# *Fun & Games*

## Across

5. Burlin's Unit in WWII
7. DCA Service Project
9. Location of Pumpkins & Latte's Event
12. Co-VP, former secretary
14. AESG-Europe's League
15. Cocktail Party Month
17. Number of USACE Divisions
18. Buffalo District's new survey vessel
20. Board member with new addition
21. Engineer Song
22. Outdated salute to flag
24. Ponder these points
25. Furniture donation family
26. Hubby retired, flip flops still active duty!
27. Castle Boutique tumbler
28. Active duty board member
30. Newcomer's Lunch Location

## Down

1. Always stand, salute if it's yours
2. February event
3. Army Engineer Museum's rare find
4. 1983 Holiday band
6. 3 sizes in the Castle Boutique
8. Holiday fundraiser
10. AEMA Established Year
11. Ladies' Dinner started in 1977
13. Exchanged in December
16. Castle Ball Host
19. Army Engineer Spouses in Ft Leonard Wood
23. Army nurse we honor with award
29. AEA Stuffing project
30. Board Member who was a sheriff's deputy

# 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 2015-2016 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, 2015 until June 30, 2016.

Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2015 will be included in the 2015-2016 Castle Directory. Thank you!

Half Year Membership Dues \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Castle Directory: Each \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

(while supplies last)

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

