Castle Gram

THE ARMY ENGINEER OFFICERS' WIVES' CLUB OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Volume LI, Issue 7 April 2006

Next Board Meetings:
Thursday
April 6, 2006
May 4, 2006
10:00am
Julie Strock's home
233 2nd St., Qtrs 9
Ft McNair

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Reservation Information

Last Names beginning in

A-M Mollie O'Neill
(703)317-3961 or
jomo67@aol.com

N-Z Pat O'Neill
(703)378-3624 or
pponeill6@aol.com

TOUR OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

10:00 Meet Tom Sherlock, ANC Historian in the Lobby of the Administration Building
10:00 - 11:45 Tour the cemetery with Tom Sherlock aboard a 25 seat bus provided by ANC.

12:00 Lunch at Nam Viet in Alexandria (3819 Mount Vernon Ave) PAY AS YOU GO

RSVP information:
BY **APRIL 13** to Pat O'Neill at 703-378-3624

Due to the limited seating we will take member's reservations as first come first served. We will wait-list guests in order they are called in. Any seats available on April 14 will be given to guest called in on the wait-list. Please leave a phone number with Pat so she or Willie can reach you to confirm guest reservations.

Directions:
Metro - Blue Line to Arlington National Cemetery
Driving: There is pay-parking available on Memorial Drive prior to the Visitor's Center. The cost is $1.25/hour for the first 3 hours then the charge becomes $2.00/hour.

Save The Date!

Army Engineer Memorial Awards Brunch
Sunday, May 7th, 2006
at The Fairfax - Ft Belvoir, VA

AEOWC 2005 – 2006 Executive Board

Honorary President	Julie Strock	202-554-0995	strockcj@aol.com
Elected Officers			
President	Bette Meuleners	703-754-0583	bmeuleners@comcast.net
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Treasurer	Isabel Stevens	703-780-3151	isabels_place@yahoo.com
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	Mollie O'Neill	703-317-3961	jomo67@aol.com
Services	Kathy Candido	703-780-3135	ace7corps@aol.com
	Mary Pratt	703-491-4976	billwpiva@aol.com

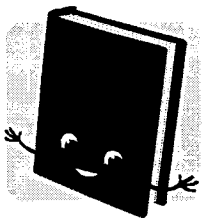
Corrections to the Red Book

Please change the address for Anna Marie Cox to 8515 Bobcat Drive * Round Rock TX 78681 * 512.310.7493 cell phone 254.394.2866

Page 12 of the Red Book is the Gift Items Order Form and needs the following correction: the address for sending in your order form has the *wrong city*, everything else is correct but the city should read "Alexandria, VA" instead of "Ft. Belvoir, VA".

New Member

Mary Ann Munn
COL Sherrill, USACE Chaplain
5961 Sunderleigh Dr.
Sunderland, MD 20689
Phone 410.286.7586
Email: ajoydancin@aol.com



See what's new with

NMFA
National Military Family Association

National Military Family Association at www.nmfa.com

The Gavel

~ a note from our President

As I write this we're coming up on St. Patrick's Day, Spring Break and then Easter. It still feels like winter as I've been at Lake Tahoe with our 2 younger kids and friends. Snow was wonderful for skiing, but not so hot as we drove over the pass back to San Francisco—even missed our daughter's flight because of a bad accident. She and her friend were rebooked 2 days later (tomorrow) so today I got to be an unofficial tour guide of San Francisco for the day. It was really fun and reminiscent of the time we lived near here, except a lot colder than I remembered, especially for this time of year. It even snowed in San Francisco yesterday!!!!

Our AEMA Treasurer, **Janice Smith**, and her committee have been working hard getting ready for the scholarship awards selections. We have some great applicants (children of current and former Army Engineer officers) and look forward to the independent committee (not made of AEOWC members) choosing the "recipients".

We're going to have to postpone our 2006 boat ride/tour of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Washington, DC. The trips have been put on hold as they ready for the May opening of the southern span of the bridge—under budget and ahead of time. Congratulations to **Russ Fuhrman** and his people for a job well done. We'll let you know when we get another tour set up. Those who went last fall thoroughly enjoyed the day and learned a lot.

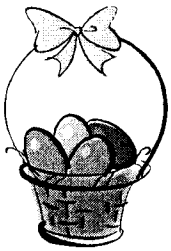
Speaking of learning a lot, boy did we have a chance to do that at our February Function. **Willie Berwick** set up a great day at the USACE Headquarters. Carol Saunders (Public Affairs Officer) briefed us first and introduced **COL John McMahon** who gave us the same basic "State of the Corps" that they give to Congress. Next **Dr. Bill Baldwin** of the Office of History briefly told us about the Corps involvement in the building of Washington, DC—unbelievable how many roads, bridges, monuments, etc were planned and/or built by the corps. A new book, Capital Engineers: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Development of Washington, D.C., 1790-2004 will be coming out in April which will cover the history of the Corps in the Nation's Capital—we'll all have to get one! We will have more information in the next newsletter about how to get your own copy. After a nice lunch we were briefed by **Gen Bill McCoy**, along with all of the Corps Headquarters staff, on the work of the Corps in Iraq. It was really nice to hear it from the prospective of someone actually over there.

Hopefully, many of you were able to bake or make something for the **AEOWC Fundraising Bake Sale for the Knollwood Retirement Home**. If not, I hope you considered donating some money to their foundation. It's a really worthwhile organization. If you were able to attend, I know you had a good time and were very much appreciated by the residents!

This month, in April, we head over to Arlington Cemetery where we will tour with the Arlington National Historian, Tom Sherlock. It should be just fascinating as I'm sure the history of Arlington is basically the history of our country. It's also our **Election of Officers for the next term – 2006 – 2007**. **Roz Riley and Anita Link** have given us a wonderful slate of officers and I/we really appreciate their efforts. **Thank you to everyone who agreed to be on the board, and especially to *Nancy Temple* for accepting the nomination for the Presidency**. I'm sure we'll have another terrific year during her term. The new and returning board members will be introduced at the May 7th Scholarship Award Brunch. Please plan on attending with your spouse to meet the officers, meet our award recipients, and visit with our AEOWC members and spouses. Plus...the food is wonderful and the price reasonable.

Please consider submitting articles about things that would interest our members such as events taking place in our Engineer family. We all love hearing about our friends and family!

As I close, I'd like to thank Master **Sergeant Mike Waller** (LTG and Mrs. Carl (Julie) Strock's aide) for all he has done for the board and AEOWC. He has been so very helpful for all of our board meetings, our annual fundraising cocktail party, and anything we've asked for or needed—always with a smile. We really appreciate everything he's done for us.



Happy Spring and Happy Easter!
Bette

Happy Birthday!

April Birthdays

Anne Pfeiffer	April 29
Mary Pratt	April 28
Laura Putnam	April 25
Heidi Rassatt	April 23
Wendy Reardon	April 22
Joyce Rebh	April 18
Julie Reichling	April 16
LuAnn Reno	April 13
Vivian M. Rhoades	April 12
Roslyn Riley	April 12
Diane Rivenburgh	April 2
Bonnie Rorabaugh	April 2
Jeanne Marie Rowan	April 2

Thank you to all that helped make our **Knollwood Bake Sale** a complete success. From those of you who baked, drove out to Knollwood to help or donated money, everyone should feel very proud of themselves/ We made $373.25 in sales plus another $170 in donations the day of the sale. Added to that is $225 that members had sent in earlier so our total so far is **$768.25**!

Thank you * Thank you!!!!

www.aeowc.com

Dear Castle Gram,

Recently, I was diagnosed with A. A. A. D. D. - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

This is how it manifests: I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide my car needs washing. As I start toward the garage, I notice that there is mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mailbox earlier. I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car. I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first. But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my checkbook off the table, and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking. I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I realize the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye--they need to be watered. I set the Coke down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers. I pour some water on the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do. At the end of the day: the driveway is flooded, the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, there is still only one check in my checkbook, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys. Then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired. Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, your day is coming.

Sincerely,
Tired in Tulsa

MARDI GRAS 2006

After many questions and varying opinions as to the appropriateness in celebrating Mardi Gras in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina, the city of New Orleans and its surrounding communities put down their tools of debris removal and rebuilding for a moment to celebrate the rebirth of the area and the future ahead by welcoming in Mardi Gras 2006.

The parades were magnificent; despite many of the floats having been in flooded buildings. Floats were designed with a varying type of theme, from jazz type floats, synonymous with New Orleans, to The Wizard of Oz. The floats that stand out most in my mind are those depicting Blue roofs and some left empty to reflect the losses suffered during Katrina. After having attended a few parades, we truly have a better understanding of the fervor behind BEADS during the Mardi Gras Season. The signature beads of each Krewe (members of the parade) being the most desirable. We were able to bring home at least 60 lbs of various beads. What I will do with them all is still a question!

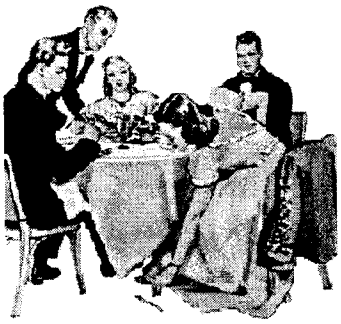
Ladies and Gentlemen came out in their finery to celebrate the balls of the season. We attended the Bacchus Ball which was quite the social event. The Bacchus Parade actually comes through the convention center. This year's "Bacchus King" was the actor Michael Keaton. I was able to get his autograph on my son's copy of Beetlejuice (I am sure he has done more significant works of art.....but my son just couldn't believe I would be meeting Beetlejuice!) We also had the opportunity to attend the "Rex Ball" which is the oldest ball/parade in New Orleans. This event is held to introduce societal young ladies to society and is mainly a ceremonial event (white tie/glove). Many of the ladies of the AEOWC responded to my plea for guidance regarding the etiquette behind white gloves (the last opportunity I had for glove wearing was an Easter many moons ago.) These ladies always have come through for me and are such a wealth of information. Thank you to all that heard my plea and responded! Needless to say, it was an absolutely grand event and we were honored to attend. <read more about the Rex Ball & White Gloves on the next page>

In retrospect, Mardi Gras 2006 was a much needed reprieve from the devastation of hurricane Katrina. Watching smiling faces amidst the backdrop of devastation was unusual, but it gave us all a sense of strength. We have overcome the very worst nature had to offer and now we pause for a moment to enjoy the parades and balls of Mardi Gras. It gave us all an opportunity to smile, laugh and enjoy the rich culture and traditions of New Orleans and the surrounding communities despite our current landscape. It has given us our second wind!

~Heather Wagenaar

Here's a picture of a great looking group that attended the Engineer Ball. The Jacobsens, Smiths, Sanfords, Hawthornes & Waters (from left to right).

Protocol & Etiquette



Ladies, I am in need of the proper etiquette for the wearing of full length white gloves. My husband and I will be attending the Rex Ball during this year's Mardi Gras. This is a "white tie" affair and I am required to wear full length gloves. It is my understanding that the right glove is to be removed when shaking hands. My question is this: Do I remove my gloves to eat? I believe one does.....but, with that being said I am not 100% sure! Any assistance one or all of you lovely ladies could give would be greatly appreciated.

~Modest at Mardi Gras

Dear Modest, if memory serves correctly, you may wear Long White Gloves that are above the elbow when you are wearing an off the shoulder or strapless dress. If you are in the company of the Royalty you keep your gloves on. I checked this information with a friend who attended a Buckingham Place reception in 2004. If you meet The DONALD Trump you shake hands with the GLOVES ON. You remove your gloves to eat. Place them in your evening bag when seated. Or just watch the other guests and follow suit. .

Dear Modest, "The Amy Vanderbilt Complete Book of Etiquette" has a section called "Removing Your Glove When Shaking Hands." It says "As a point of etiquette, the American woman was always taught to leave on her gloves when she shook hands with a gentleman. The previous editions of this book, for example, state this as proper. The U.S. is probably the only place in which a woman keeps her glove on while the man is supposed to remove his. After many years of living in Europe, I find our custom is an unfriendly, pretentious way to shake hands. It's as though the woman thinks the man's hand is not clean enough to touch hers. The real reason for a handshake is to say hello and to establish friendly contact between one person and another. Therefore for the man to remove his glove in greeting and the woman to retain hers is a contradiction. Regardless of sex, one should, I feel, remove one's glove on the right hand before shaking hands...."

The book also says:

"If a woman wearing long white gloves is part of a receiving line, it is proper for her to keep them on. However, any person going down the receiving line should have an ungloved hand to offer. A woman dining at a very formal dinner, such as a "white-tie" state dinner at the White House should remove her gloves before sitting down to the table. She can always put them back on for dancing after dinner."

For those of you wondering about how retirees can get on the **USACE Protocol List** so they can receive invitations to functions like the Engineer Ball, John McMahon, the USACE Chief of Staff, sent a message saying they should send an email to Shirley Rees (the USACE Protocol Officer) and ask to be put on the list. Here's her email address:

Shirley.M.Rees@hq02.usace.army.mil

The Rex Ball

The Rex ball is an example of a serious tableau ball. The ball is held after the parade on Mardi Gras night in the New Orleans Municipal Auditorium. Rex and Comus, another krewe, each have their own balls on opposite sides of the auditorium. The two courts meet at 7:30 p.m. to toast each other. The entire ball is televised. The Marine Forces Reserve Band of New Orleans plays the National Anthem at the Rex ball. The official court includes Rex, his Queen, two pages, eight maids and eight dukes. The end of the Rex ball is the official end of Mardi Gras.

PROPOSED (2 MAR 06) ARMY ENGINEER OFFICERS' WIVES' CLUB WASHINGTON, D. C.
Executive Board Slate for 2006-2007

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - Nancy Temple

VICE-PRESIDENT - Michelle Hottinger

SECRETARY - Tammie Morris

TREASURER - Jeanne Rowan

AEMA TREASURER - Janice Smith

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PARLIAMENTARIAN - Isabelle Stevens

MEMBERSHIP - Molly O'Neill

HOSPITALITY - Willie Berwick Joan Stockton Vickie Basham

NEWSLETTER - Anna Marie Cox

RESERVATIONS - Pat O'Neill Sarah Pearce

CIRCULATION - Cynthia Kam

SERVICES - Kathy Candido Mary Pratt

PUBLICITY - Kris Schuster

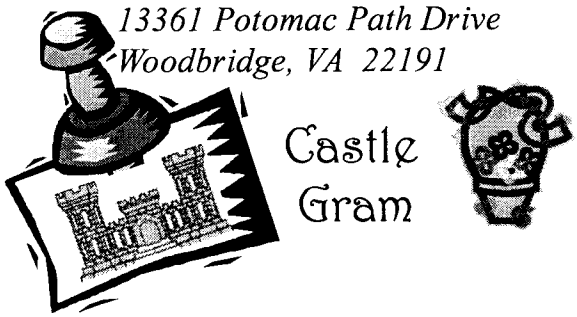
KNOLLWOOD LIAISON - Betty Swygert

KNOLLWOOD BAKE SALE - Priscilla Noah

NOMINATIONS - Bette Meuleners Anita Link Roz Riley

Election of Officers held at April meeting (majority of active members present).
Installation of officers at last Executive Board meeting of the year.

Cynthia Kam
13361 Potomac Path Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22191



THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS

2006 Joint Engineer Education and Training Conference & Expo

May 30-June 2, 2006

LOCATION
New Orleans, Louisiana

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Ashlyn Graves
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One Galleria Blvd.
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