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Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area

April 2020

April Showers Bring May Flowers



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The Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area (ASCGWA) is a non-profit organization seeking to enhance the quality of life of its members and the Military District of Washington community at large.

We offer friendship, monthly luncheons, special activities and many volunteer opportunities. Additionally, there are zip code groups to make it easier to connect to the military spouses who live near you. Our volunteers organize fun activities and share information about unique opportunities available in the Washington, D.C. area.



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PRESIDENT'S PEN

Lovely ASCGWA members,

This is not the message I envisioned writing for our April newsletter. Normally, I would be sharing how wonderful our past luncheon was and how I was looking forward to our next luncheon and upcoming club events. I could not have imagined while enjoying the International Showcase in February that we would now be sheltering at home, that our lives as we know them would change so drastically, and that it could be the last time we are able to gather as a club.

First and foremost, I hope that you and your family members are all doing well and staying safe. I know our board members join me in saying that we miss seeing you and look forward to being able to resume our club activities once we are able to do so.

Our April luncheon, volunteer appreciation celebration, the April Hillwood tea and the May Freeman Store and Museum tea have been canceled. We are monitoring the guidelines that pertain to social gatherings and will of course follow all mandates given by our state and local leadership. We are waiting to make a final decision about the May luncheon in case our current circumstances improve and we will be able to meet but if that is not the case we are going to try to have a luncheon in June.

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month. Thank you to all our remarkable club volunteers – we are so grateful for all you do on behalf of our club and its members!

We are seeking volunteers to serve on the Executive and Governing Board for 2020-2021. Currently, we have someone who has volunteered to serve as our Treasurer but we need members willing to serve as our President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary. ASCGWA cannot continue to endure without members to serve and lead our club. Our Parliamentarian, Jennifer Kiel, or I would love to answer any questions you have about any of our board positions. If you are interested in serving on our board next year or have a recommendation on someone who would be a great addition to the ASCGWA board, please email Jennifer at parliamentarian@armyspousesclub.org.

We, as military spouses, are resilient and are able to face and meet the challenges thrown at us. I am grateful for the many blessings in my life. I include all of you as one of those blessings and hope to see you again sooner than later!

Warmly,

Michelle Funkhouser

What A Year!




I WANT YOU
for the
2020-2021
ASCGWA
EXECUTIVE BOARD
POC: Jennifer Kiel
parliamentarian@armypousesclub.org



So Much Fun!





Our club Parliamentarian, Jennifer Kiel, is seeking members for nomination to the 2020-21 ASCGWA Board. In addition to our Executive Board, we have many Governing Board openings. The current Executive Board would like to share with you what they most enjoy about their positions!

President: It is an honor and privilege to serve as the President of ASCGWA, THE Army Spouses' Club for our area. I enjoy working with our creative, talented board as it plans and executes our club activities. It is wonderful to be a part of a dynamic team that collaborates together to create fun, memorable events for our members, such as our luncheons, tours, special activities, and zip code groups. As President I am the leader of our board but I consider myself to be more of a cheerleader, supporter, and at times, mentor, for the fabulous ladies that have stepped forward to conduct the "business" of running ASCGWA on behalf of our members. I feel the most important role of a president is to build and maintain relationships with our members because that is what makes our club special. We share experiences as Army spouses that bonds us together as a community. We understand and care for each other because of the bond we share. ASCGWA gives us the opportunity to gather with each other, maintain longtime friendships, welcome new spouses to our area, and have fun while helping others. Our club has a rich and storied history and has contributed so much to our military and local community through monetary and, in kind, donations to both on and off post organizations and scholarships to military children and spouses. I hope you will consider volunteering to serve as our club's President or in a position on our Executive Board. (Michelle Funkhouser)

First Vice President: I have really enjoyed serving as 1VP on the board of ASCGWA. As 1VP, I appreciated having the freedom and flexibility to try new things, such as introducing games to energize our members during luncheons. I loved keeping everyone on their toes, mixing things up from month to month: would it be a band, an author, a fundraiser or Bingo? I loved hearing feedback from all of you, which gave me even more ideas. It was also a lot of fun to work with other board members, such as the 2VP, the Fundraising Chair, and the International Liaison, to name a few, because we were able to create a great deal of synergy to bring about the best programs for our members. I hope that all of you reading this would seriously consider taking on the role of 1VP next year. You can take our monthly luncheons wherever your imagination leads! (Kathy Fox)

Second Vice President: Being the 2nd VP for the ASCGWA board has been a very fun and rewarding experience, primarily focused on planning the monthly luncheons and other forums. I enjoyed being able to conceive, organize, and execute these special events to make them entertaining and memorable for all our members and guests. I loved working with my fellow board members to come up with a vision for each event and then working to customize everything from the theme, the decorations, the menu, etc. I had the flexibility to be as creative as I wanted, incorporating traditions and cultures to enhance each month's event and working with the 5 star catering and the entire team at Patton Hall to make each month better than the last. Most of all, it brought me great joy to hear from our members, both old and new, how much they enjoyed themselves each month - it brought us all closer together. (Ramona Smith)

Secretary: Serving as the Army Spouses Club Secretary gave me an opportunity to meet and work with an awesome and talented group of ladies that are dedicated to the continued success of our outstanding club. Being on the board has been a great way to serve and have fun at the same time. (LaDonna Cavanaugh)

ASCGWA board members get creative as we learn to navigate the new normal; enjoying the day to day while living with the new constraints!



CC Dyer and family perfecting the TP workout!



COVID-19 Zoom Board Meeting



Christie Kehoe trying to "teach" her daughter, sneakers and leggings for workouts/running to prevent the Corona-15 from creeping on, and big smiles!



Melissa Pederson decorating her windows with Toy Story figurines to give neighbors a smile on their walks.



Kathy Fox and her daughter share a birthday and pose in front of a sign dropped off by Ramona Smith and set up by Kathy's husband.



Jackie Habel, her husband, and neighbors practice social distancing while singing "Happy Birthday" to a neighbor who turned five and had to delay her party.



Ramona Smith's sons being taught to make stuffed peppers; a yummy dinner was enjoyed by the whole family.



P.A. Mancini reads *Will You Be My Sunshine* to her grandkids who live just across the road.



We have often heard the phrase “count your blessings.” We could not have foreseen that our world would be changed in such an abrupt way, but we are looking for moments during this time to count our blessings. A few of our board members have shared the blessings they have discovered amid the uncertainty!

1. We are eating three meals a day at the dinner table with the family, instead of just one, and we have been praying the rosary as a family. (Kathy Fox)

2. I’ve started writing letters to my friends and family. I’ve written a letter to my mother and my niece who is a graduating senior this year. I usually write about one a day. I’ve even started looking around the house for old craft supplies of my son’s so I can make cards. The letter I wrote today was to Alex’s 5th grade teacher. I admit I hope some of my letters will be answered. (Kelli Reynoldson)

3. A situation like this will definitely make us thankful for things we’ve never thought about. Like public school; I am thankful that my kids usually go to school each day. My kids are also thankful they can go to school and aren’t home

schooled by me. ;) I feel this is such a “good” experience that most of us are forced to slow down and just BE. Although there is a ton of media to entertain us, it’s good to be able to take a deep breath and exist in the moment. It also has made me really realize how important different jobs are; housekeeping in hospitals, clerks, grocery stockers, etc. (Holli Aspland)

4. My husband and I are blessed to have more time together, while still having a job. (CC Dyer)

5. Hanging out with my husband has been a blessing. We are trying out new recipes and it is forcing us to eat more vegetables! We are planning to vacation in our backyard since our Cabo vacation was canceled; on the positive side we won’t have to tip the bartender or wait staff. (Karen Grady)

6. I am thankful to be able to connect with my grandchildren through video. Singing songs, reading stories, playing games and above all laughter – these are the moments that make even quarantined days brighter. (P.A. Mancini)

7. I am one happy mama – I have my twins home, along with my daughter’s fiancé, and my husband is able to work from home. All of us take turns planning and cooking dinner each night, we have movie and game nights together, and walk every day. We are trying to find ways to help others during these unprecedented times; today my daughter and I will sew some face masks to share. We are doing everything possible to be vigilant against this awful virus, and if anyone gets sick I won’t be such a happy mama. But for now, my heart is full of gratitude. (Holly Scherer)

Ways & Means



Need a little retail therapy? Tired of Amazon, Walmart, and wanting something special? Look no further! The Ways and Means ladies are here to help! Although Covid-19 has us quarantined at home, the option to shop with ASCGWA Ways and Means is still available!

Simply email us and we will send you an order form! Once we fill the order, we will contact you to set up a time and place to drop off your items, or we can mail them to you. Of course, we will only be able to fill orders if it is safe to do so. Please direct further questions to Karen or Amie at waysandmeans@armypousesclub.org

OUT AND ABOUT VIRTUAL EDITION

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our newest member:

Jennifer Kluge
 11413 Newport Mill Road
 Silver Spring, MD 20902
thespicypouse@gmail.com
 781-249-0582
 John Kluge, LTC USA National
 Guard

These world famous museums offer virtual tours! Visit <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours> for links to the following museums:

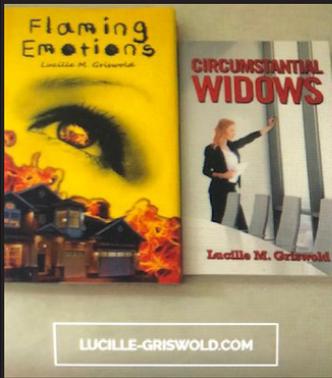
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|--|--|
| 1. British Museum, London | 7. Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam |
| 2. Guggenheim Museum, New York | 8. The J. Paul Getty Museum, L. A. |
| 3. National Gallery of Art, D.C. | 9. Uffizi Gallery, Florence |
| 4. Musée d'Orsay, Paris | 10. MASP, São Paulo |
| 5. National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul | 11. National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico City |
| 6. Pergamon Museum, Berlin | 12. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam |



Wishing the happiest of birthdays to our members with an April birthday!

April 2 - Kirstin Moser | April 8 - April Haynicz | April 9 - Edna Towry | April 10 - Jeanne Sander, Christie Kehoe, Kelly Divito, & Ann Morrison | April 11 - Christine Niklas | April 13 - Mary Alice Jakso | April 15 - Vivian Anaya & Ramona Smith | April 18 - Ruth Cowart & Patricia Cummins | April 21 - Rebeca LeMaire | April 24 - Robin Powers | April 25 - Lori Borgna-Strong | April 28 - Anna Gabavics

Advertisement Page



Flaming Emotions
Lucille M. Griswold

CIRCUMSTANTIAL WIDOWS
Lucille M. Griswold

When I Was Small

*When I was little, what fun it was
To look at the flowers and hear the bees buzz
To cool off with water in a huge metal tub
To play jacks on the porch or start a new club
To catch lightning bugs in the early night
To watch with awe their flickering light
To gather the group to play hide and seek
To ride our bikes every day by the creek
To be left alone to do as we pleased
To drink fresh lemonade sitting under the trees
To just lie around doing nothing at all
Gosh, life was great when I was small*

Lucille M. Griswold

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home buying or selling!*

