



Backchannels

Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area

May 2020



PRESIDENT'S PEN

How is it May already and where has this year gone?

It has been an honor to serve as the President of this amazing club. I'm sure this will probably be remembered as one of our club's more "interesting" years, given our current circumstances.

As the saying goes, "many hands make light work" and we have been fortunate to have many people step forward to help this year. Our club's luncheons, events, and activities could not have happened without the dedication of our board members, Zip Code Group leaders, Special Activities Group leaders, and volunteers. These ladies devoted their time and energy to bring ASCGWA to greater heights because of their passion for military spouses and this organization.

I am so proud of what our board has accomplished this year. Kathy Fox, Ramona Smith, Holly Scherer, Kelly Kreis, Cecilia Dyer, Christie Kehoe, Suzie Woodring, Karen Grady, Amie Hovatter, and Maggie Hollinger made our luncheons THE place to be the third Thursday of each month. P.A. Mancini and Diane Martinez registered and kept track of our many members (a herculean task) and produced our awesome directory. Holli Aspland lead the effort to raise the funds for our club that allowed Kim Houston, Pikkwan Boston, and our scholarship committee to grant eight military children \$12,000 for their higher education. Melissa Pederson and Margaret Lepak graciously shared our club with our international spouses. LaDonna Cavanaugh, Jill Vaniman, Jennifer Stepetic, Michelle Zuniga, Mary Alice Jakso, and Kelli Reynoldson engaged our members with fun tours and activities. Connie Semonite superbly represented our club on the JAFOWL committee. Jackie Habel created the most wonderful flyers and newsletters. Pam Parker expertly administered our website and kept it relevant. Patty Barron helped us to stay informed about military affiliated organizations in our area and gave ASCGWA the opportunity to sell our Ways and Means items at AUSA. Jennifer Kiel kept us "legal" as we conducted the work of the club and led the committee responsible for the update of our governing documents. Last, but definitely not least, Laura Basye skillfully managed our club's finances (another enormous task).

Our club is blessed to have the encouragement, wisdom, and guidance of our honorary officers Maria McConville, Alexandra Grinston, Leann Martin, and Tracey Jones. Thank you for all you do to support ASCGWA.

We continue to look for members to be a part of our board for next year, particularly for the elected positions on the Executive Board. Our club cannot continue its over fifty-year tradition of friendship, fellowship, and service to our community without people to lead it. Please contact our Parliamentarian, Jennifer Kiel, or me if you would like to serve on next year's board or have questions about any of the board positions.

ASCGWA is special because of our members. On behalf of our board, THANK YOU for all your kind words this past year about our events and for your support. It saddens me that we may not have the opportunity to gather one last time to celebrate all our club has achieved this past year, recognize our outgoing board, and most importantly, simply be together as friends and military spouses.

Wishing you a wonderful summer! Hope to see you sometime soon, but if not, I look forward to seeing everyone next September at the Fall Kickoff.

Warmly,

Michelle Funkhouser

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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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Scholarship News

It is with great joy, we are announcing our 2020 ASCGWA scholarship recipients! This year, we awarded \$12,000 amongst eight deserving students. Four of the recipients are high school students and four are college students.

Each student is truly impressive! We extend our heartfelt congratulations to each of them, and to their proud parents and families as well.

Applicants were judged on the following criteria: academic success (GPA, SAT, ACT), awards, activities, sports, leadership, employment, and overall impression. High school students were also given consideration if they've attended multiple high schools due to PCS moves.

HIGH SCHOOL



Cecilia (Cece) Fenton
University of Notre Dame



Sophia Grinston
Virginia Commonwealth University



Ashley Pearson
Penn State University



Maddy Pederson
Northern Virginia Community College

COLLEGE



Hannah Lukow
University of Richmond



Alex Santiago-Anaya
Virginia Tech



Jessica Thompson
Texas State University



Sarah Woodring
Christopher Newport University

In addition to these categories, each applicant was required to submit an essay in response to the following question:

College student: How has your experience as a military family member influenced your life as a college student?

High school student: How has your experience as a military family member influenced your decision to pursue a college education?

We can attest to these impressive students' abilities to exceed the standards. Each of them also provided unique, sincerely touching, and inspiring essays about what it's like to be a military child, and how the military way of life has influenced them. We are immensely proud of them and wish them every

future success!

We would like to thank our judges, who due to the unprecedented events due to COVID-19, evaluated these students virtually and did an amazing job! We also want to thank the ASCGWA board who also worked virtually as a group to finalize our scholarship distributions via a zoom meeting vote. It has truly been a dedicated effort, and we would be remiss if we didn't thank our members for their support this year in order to make all of this possible!

Regards,

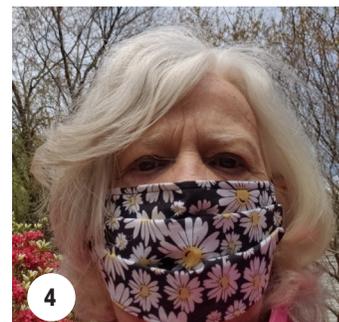
Kim Houston & Pikkwan Boston
ASCGWA Scholarship Co-Chairs



Guess the Member

Can you guess the member behind the COVID-19 mask? Look close and maybe you will recognized them from a luncheon, a tour, a tea, or maybe even from your zip code group!

What do members 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, and 14 have in common?



1. P.A. Mancini 2. Melissa Pederson 3. Viviana Scrivner 4. Judy Jagielski 5. Jen Stepetic 6. Patty Barron 7. Kelly Kreis 8. Allene Martin 9. Dawn Zagame 10. Chris Jones 11. Lin Rhame 12. Michelle Funkhouser 13. Pat O'Neill 14. Janis Waller 15. Mary Alice Jakso 16. Christine Nicklas

Members 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, and 14 have all held the title of President of this club.



I WANT YOU
for the
2020-2021
ASCGWA
EXECUTIVE BOARD

POC: Jennifer Kiel
parliamentarian@armyspousesclub.org



Join us for
a fun game of
BINGO

May 11, 2020
11:00 a.m.
(20 person limit)
7:00 p.m.
(20 person limit)

We will offer two games of
Bingo on Zoom, with each
session allowing 20 people
to participate.
Contact Mary Alice or Kelli
for additional information
at:
tours@armyspousesclub.org

Bingo cards will be emailed to those registered
and prizes will be won in each Zoom session!



THE SILENT RANKS

I wear no uniforms, no blues or
army greens.

But I am in the Army in the ranks
rarely seen.

I have no rank upon my shoul-
ders – salutes I do not give.

But the military world is the
place where I live.

I'm not in the chain of command,
orders I do not get.

But my husband is the one who
does, this I can not forget.

I'm not the one who fires the
weapon, who puts my life on the
line.

But my job is just as tough. I'm
the one that's left behind.

My husband is a patriot, a brave
and prideful man.

And the call to serve his country
not all can understand.

Behind the lines I see the things
needed to keep this country free.

My husband makes the sacrifice,
but so do our kids and me.

I love the man I married, Soldier-
ing is his life.

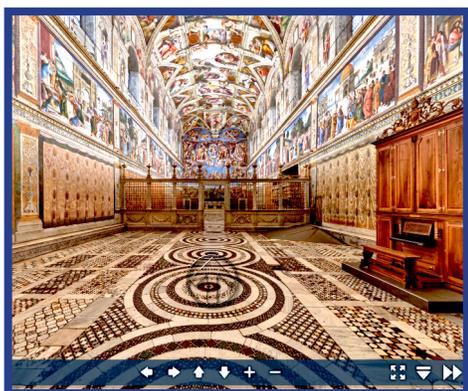
But I stand among the silent
ranks known as the Army Wife.

Author Unknown

Ways & Means



Ways & Means items can still be purchased! Simply contact Karen or Amie for information and an order form at: waysandmeans@armypousesclub.org



OUT AND ABOUT VIRTUAL EDITION

This month we suggest virtually touring the beauty within the Vatican City. You will be able to get up close to the Pio Clementino Museum, the Chiaramonti Museum, the new wing, the Sistine Chapel, Raphael's rooms, Niccoline Chapel, and the Room of the Chiaroscuro.

<http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html>



Wishing the happiest of birthdays to our members with a May birthday!

May 1 - Linda Wildes & Patricia Gagliemo-Prior | May 3 - Stacey Magan | May 5 - Bianca Johnson | May 6 - Terri Williams | May 7 - Michelle Jung | May 8 - Michelle Yvette Padilla-Georgia | May 9 - Elsa Francis | May 10 - Ruth Daly | May 12 - Stephanie Walters & Viviana Pazos | May 14 - Martha Gonzales | May 18 - Pikkwan Boston | May 19 - Lisa Huerth | May 21 - Heather Hornick | May 23 - Zarafet Burrell | May 25 - Marie Corbett | May 26 - CC Dyer | May 28 - Bette Meuleners



Congratulations to Ramona Smith for winning the April Cherry Blossom basket. We had 69 members respond to the Cherry Blossom quiz, for a chance to win this basket! Thank you to Holly Scherer for putting together another fabulous opportunity basket and for holding, along with her lovely daughter Helen, a live drawing on our club's Facebook page! Look for another opportunity to win a basket in May!



thank you

As our year club year comes to a close, I would like to think that most of us will look back with fond memories of wonderful friends, but undoubtedly, each of us may feel a little cheated in how abruptly our club year ended. In every cloudy day, it's important to look for the silver lining and to remember to count our blessings.

One of those blessings this year has been the graceful leader-

ship of our club president - Michelle Funkhouser. It takes a special person to commit herself to being the president of this club. Michelle has sacrificed an immeasurable amount of time, energy, blood, sweat and tears to continue the tradition of excellence for which this club is known. She approached the year with an open mind, lots of patience, and a love for this organization and its members. She embraced change, but al-

ways kept our members her top priority. Whether it was out front, behind the scenes, or at aboard meetings, Michelle always made everyone feel special and loved. She is always grateful for our efforts, and never allows an opportunity to pass without telling us how much she appreciates us. So, this time, we are saying, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We sincerely appreciate you, Michelle Funkhouser!

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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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RIGHT ON CUE

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 and to schedule a tour!

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