

News & Views

The Official Newsletter of the
Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Connecticut
WEB www.cgspouses-sect.org

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY 2012

Inside This Issue:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Happy Birthday | 2 |
| Cadet Cakes | 2 |
| Lunch Bunch | 2 |
| Welcome Aboard! | 2 |
| Thank You! | 2 |
| President's Corner | 3 |
| Bowling | 3 |
| New Treasurer | 3 |
| Committee Updates | 3 |
| Newsletter Submissions | 3 |
| Nomination Committee | 4 |
| MWR Info | 4 |
| 2011-2012 Roster | 4 |

General Membership Meeting Thursday, 9 February / 10AM

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, 9 February, at 10AM. This month's meeting will be held at Marion Gesele's home, 2 Seneca Drive, New London (at the CGA). Our meetings are open to all current members as well as those who may be interested in joining the CGSA. If you have a friend who may be interested in what we do, please bring them along!

Please RSVP to Meredith Novak at meredith.e.novak@gmail.com or (507) 271-1730.

Bowling Party

Wednesday, 1 February / 4:30PM

Come and join us for a night of bowling. Lanes will be available beginning at 4:30pm. As for dinner, Dry Dock (right down the hall) will be open and food is available for purchase. FYI, the restaurant accepts only cash. Hope to see you there.

Please RSVP to meredith.e.novak@gmail.com.

Please help: Bakers & Volunteers Wanted Friday, Saturday & Sunday, February 24-26

Your help is needed for our upcoming fundraiser in February. We will sell refreshments during the intermission of the upcoming musical production of *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. The show runs Friday to Sunday, February 24-26 at the CGA. We are looking for volunteers to donate baked goods and/or to work at the table selling both the baked goods and bottled drinks.

Working at the table will require only a short amount of your time. Ideally we'd like to have 2-3 volunteers per show. Volunteers are needed for Friday, from 8:30-9:30 PM, Saturday, 8:30-9:30 PM, and Sunday, 2:30-3:30 PM. These time blocks include set up and clean up.

Additionally, we ask you to consider being the contact person for this project. Please contact Jill Billiau at (860) 391-5601 or jill@billiau.com to donate baked goods, sign up to volunteer or to be the coordinator of this event.





Happy Birthday!

CGSA sends good wishes and cheer to the following members on their birthdays:

Susan Swithenbank

December 12

•

Sue Branagan

December 14

•

Andrea Kraulter

December 15

•

Christina Palacios

December 22

•

Tristan Horton

January 13

•

Rachel Barbiaux

January 28

•

Phyllis Teeson

January 29

•

Robbie McCarthy

February 4

•

Lynn Ruenzel

February 11

Cadet Cakes Update

Please consider baking a cadet cake in February. Although not romantic it will be appreciated. If Valentine's Day is not your thing, we have plenty of other dates available.

Please email Andrea Krautler directly (ainguam@hotmail.com) to volunteer. As always, feel free to specify dates you are not available, if you're willing to bake more than once per month, or if you can bake two cakes for delivery on the same day. Thank you and stay warm!

Lunch Bunch: Somewhere In Time Café Thursday, February 23 / 11:30AM

Join us for lunch at the cozy and local restaurant, Somewhere In Time, 3175 Gold Star Highway, Mystic on Thursday, 23 February at 11:30AM.

Check out their lunch menu:

http://www.somewhereintimecafe.com/lunch_menu.html

RSVP to Sharnel Duarte at sharchar5@yahoo.com or (714) 330-4607. Hope to see you there!

Welcome Aboard!

Happy birthday and welcome home to the CGSA's littlest ones:

August Billiau

14 November 2011

9lbs, 13oz

Welcomed home by
Jill, Christopher, Saylor & Hugo

Benjamin James Duarte

23 November 2011

6lbs, 4oz

Welcomed home on 19 December by
Sharnel, Ben & Alexia

Mark Your Calendars!

February 1 Family Bowling Night, CGA Bowling Alley

February 9 General Membership Meeting,

Marion's home, CGA

February 24-26 CGSA's Annual Bake Sale at CGA Musical

See our Facebook page for other events that members have organized: www.facebook.com/CGSACT

Thank You!

Many of you have answered the calls and emails requesting help for fellow members and for our events; for that we are grateful. Whether you've made a meal, baked a cake, helped with Ways & Means, or another club activity, please know you are appreciated!

Thank you, especially to Mr. Bob Volpe, for opening his home to us for our annual holiday party. We had a wonderful time and had a lot of laughs. The gift exchange was a lot of fun and brought back memories of past parties at our various duty stations.

President's Corner

Happy New Year!? It seems it was just November and here we are in February!

Time flies when you have three children! Thank you all for your patience with me as we get settled with our new family member. Many friends told me that adding a third child was a piece of cake and in some ways it has been but my "extra-curricular" activities definitely were neglected to a degree and I apologize. Thank you all who helped us with our transition and kept things with the CGSA going strong.

Hard to believe we are already halfway through our club year. Many of us are taking advantage of our activities: Dinner Club, Secret Pals, Lunch Bunch and Cadet Cakes.

If you haven't made it to an event this year, this is the perfect time to jump right in. This month we're bowling, going to lunch and selling treats at the CGA musical.

Speaking of jumping in, it's time to form a nominating committee for our board of directors and to also nominate committee chairs for next year already! We have a number of members transferring and there will be plenty of new opportunities for people to try. Even if you have no experience and haven't participated in many group activities, you are still more than welcome to take on a Board or Chair position. It's a great way to get to know some really wonderful people!

We hope to see you soon – what better way to pass the winter days until spring arrives than with the CGSA!

I hope you all have a special Valentine's Day!

Best regards,
Jill Billiau



Bowling

Come one, come all to the CGA's bowling alley on Tuesday mornings at 9:30AM. Join the "bowlers" at their weekly game. Contact Janice Norton for more information and the RSVP, jmnor@yahoo.com or (860) 437-3671.

International Dinner Club & Secret Pals Updates

By now we've met for our first meals for International Dinner Club and received gifts and cards from our Secret Pals. Thank you to all for making them successful!

If you have any questions, please contact the committee chair: IDC, Erika Lund, noahthedog@aol.com; Secret Pals, Nova Seals, nova_seals@yahoo.com.

Newsletter Submissions March Edition Deadline: 20 February

You are invited to submit something you think your fellow members would be interested in learning/reading.

Ideas: recipes, blogs, crafts, reviews of local places of interest, and more! Additionally, we are looking for a member who would be interested in being our News & Views editor. This job entails compiling articles submitted by the club and distributing finished newsletter via mail and email.

Interested in learning more? Contact Jill Billiau at (860) 391-5601/jill@billiau.com.

Appointment of 2011-2012 Treasurer

Per the bylaws of the Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Connecticut's (Article V, Section B-5), "Vacancies in any office other than the President shall be appointed by the majority of the Executive Board".

The Executive Board consisting of Jill Billiau, Meredith Novak and Jennifer Calhoun voted unanimously via electronic mail to elect Susan Swithenbank as the CGSA's incoming Treasurer to succeed Dory Heesch.

Volunteers Needed!

Consider Joining the Board of the CGSA

It's hard to believe that it's already time to form our nominating committee to assemble next year's Board of Directors. Are you interested in being a on the board or being part of a committee?

If you would like to volunteer to be on the nominating committee or learn more about our expected open positions, contact Jill Billiau at (860) 391-5601 or jill@billiau.com.

MWR Decoded

Did you know that you could rent a roto tiller or carpet shampooer for fractions less than buying your own? Or that there is a vacation club just for military members that provides timeshare rentals at deep discounts? These are just some of the services provided by our MWR. At our last meeting we heard from Paula Springer of the MWR office about all of the benefits available to Coast Guard active duty, depend- ants, retirees, and civilian employees. She cleared up some misconceptions about how the MWR program is run and shared information about many discounts and benefits available to all of us.

One common misconception about the MWR program is that they are able to provide events, tickets, and other perks at no cost to those they serve. While this may have been true in the past, a restructuring in the MWR funding program across the entire Coast Guard cut the Academy MWR budget from \$250,000 to only about \$14,000 per year. Instead of all of the exchange profits going directly to our MWR fund, they are now pooled and divided among all Coast Guard members. Each unit gets an equal number of MWR dollars per active duty member. So while MWR still has the capacity to plan special programs and events, attendees should expect to pay a fee to participate—the fees are usually nominal. Volunteers are also always needed to make MWR events more successful.

Here's a list of just a few of the many discounts and services offered by our MWR office:

- Equipment Rental Center: (860) 444-8470
 - Provides rentals of lawn and garden, camping, and household tools and equipment, as well as party tents and sporting goods.
- Armed Forces Vacation Club: www.afvclub.com
 - Rent a condo in thousands of worldwide locations from \$329/week
- Shades of Green resort reservations at Walt Disney World
 - This is a full service resort, using the same high quality standards found at Disney owned hotels.
- Mariners House Inn in Boston: www.marinershouse.org
 - Hotel in the North End of Boston exclusively for active duty mariners with rooms from \$50-\$95 per night
- Discount coupons for Broadway shows and area attractions
- Discount tickets to Bushnell Theatre

For more information, visit the MWR office in lower Leamy Hall by the Dry Dock and bowling alley, or call (860) 444-8476.

2011-2012 Leadership Roster

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| | Honorary Presidents Robert Volpe & Joyce Pierce | Sunshine Ways & Means | Volunteer Needed Pat Simpson (860) 739-4033 Volunteer Needed |
| | Executive Board | | Special Committees |
| President | Jill Billiau (860) 391-5601 | Babysitting | Volunteer Needed |
| Vice President | Meredith Novak (507) 271-1730 | Bowling | Janice Norton (860) 437-3671 |
| Treasurer | Susan Swithenbank (617) 750-1848 | Care Packages | Meredith Novak (507) 271-1730 |
| Corresponding Secretary | Jennifer Calhoun (202) 309-5480 | Family Support Fund | Jill Billiau (860) 391-5601 |
| Recording Secretary | Volunteer Needed | Historian/Publicity | Volunteer Needed |
| | Standing Committees | Lunch Bunch | Sharnel Duarte (860) 326-5405 |
| Awards & Scholarships | Jill Billiau (860) 391-5601 | MWR Representative | Pat Simpson (860) 739-4033 |
| Cadet Cakes | Andrea Krautler (860) 961-3600 | OCS Representative | Elizabeth Flynn |
| Luncheons/Socials | Dory Heesch | Retiree Representative | Sue Branagan (860) 691-1285 |
| Membership | Jennifer Calhoun | Secret Pals | Nova Seals (860) 235-8072 |
| News & Views | Volunteer Needed | Website/Facebook | Jill Billiau (860) 391-5601 |
| Parliamentarian | Volunteer Needed | | Meredith Novak (507) 271-1730 |