

News & Views

*The Official Newsletter of the
Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Conn.*
<http://www.cgspouses-sect.org>

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 10

JUNE & JULY 2010

TIFFANI KAMINSKI, EDITOR

Committee Chair Openings for 2010-2011 Year

We have several openings for committee chairs beginning this summer. Do you have a couple hours per month to spare? That's all most of our positions take! Remember that by committing to be a committee chair you are NOT solely responsible for the job! You are encouraged to gather a committee of members to help you. We have already had two members graciously volunteer; Meredith Novak will be running our care package project, and Secret Pals will be headed up by Nova Seals. Below is a brief description of our other upcoming openings:

Ways & Means (co-chair position with Pat Simpson): Helps organize volunteers to sell our items at various CGA activities. This is one of our largest fundraisers!

Historian: Take photos at club events and publish a yearbook (on a site like Snapfish)

OCS Representative: Pass information between the OCS secretary and the club.

This is a good job for someone whose husband works in OCS or went through OCS.

Craft Chair: Coordinate social outings and craft activities.

For more detailed information, see our by-laws at

<http://www.cgspouses-sect.org/bylaws.html#IX>.

Please contact Trish Pruet at (680) 245-5583 or triciapruett@aol.com if you are interested in volunteering for a position!

Your Opinion Matters!!

We have set up an anonymous survey for you to tell us what you think about the CGSA. Do you have an opinion on what you love about us or what we could work on? Let us know! We will bring responses to the June meeting to help the new board move forward with the next year. Please give your responses by June 6. The survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HNZJF5H>.

Activities & Events

General Membership Meeting

Our next meeting will be **June 8** at Munro Hall. This will be a less formal meeting where everyone can come and share their thoughts and suggestions with the new board on the way the CGSA operates. In preparation for that meeting, please take a minute and fill out the survey at the link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HNZJF5H>.

Lunch Bunch in June at Captain Scotts Lobster Dock

Lets enjoy some summer seafood and the fresh sea breeze at Captain Scott's Lobster Dock on **Friday, June 25**, at 11:30AM.. The restaurant is located at 80 Hamilton St. in New London. Please RSVP to Sharnel Duarte 860-326-5405 or sharchar5@yahoo.com.

Summertime Fun at Buttonwood Farms

Have you ever seen the spectacle at Buttonwood Farm in July? Each year, they run a program called Sunflowers for Wishes in which they grow fields of sunflowers as far as the eye can see. You can buy a bouquet to take home, take a hayride through the sunflower fields, and enjoy homemade delicious ice cream. All proceeds go to the Make a Wish Foundation. Let's go for a hayride together on **Saturday, July 24**, at 3:30PM. We can enjoy some ice cream afterward. Rain date will be Sunday, July 25, at 3:30PM. Please RSVP to Christy Newell at christy.j.newell@gmail.com or 860-287-2282. Buttonwood Farms is located at 473 Shetucket Turnpike in Griswold, CT, 06351. More info can be found at <http://www.sunflowersforwishes.com>

July's Lunch Bunch will be at Dads Restaurant

Join us at Dads Restaurant for casual waterfront dining on **Wednesday, July 28**, at 11:30AM. The restaurant is located at 147 Main St. in Niantic. Please RSVP to Sharnel Duarte 860-326-5405 or sharchar5@yahoo.com.



Ways & Means-Upcoming Events

First off, a big thank you to Tricia Pruet & Christy Newell for helping us at OCS graduation!

We need volunteers to sell our items at Reporting-In Day on June 28 from 7AM - 1PM. We are selling denim shirts, fleece jackets, golf shirts, tote bags, cocktail napkins, etc. Come help us out for an hour or two and take a look at all we have. If you purchase items during the time you work, volunteers receive a 10% discount. Please contact Pat Simpson at (860) 739-4033 or suitecase37@yahoo.com if you can help out!

Looking ahead, we will also need volunteers for Alumni Weekend on Oct. 1-2 and Parents' Weekend on Oct. 8-9.

As always, we appreciate your support - Pat Simpson & Marion Gesele

The Cadet Cakes Committee Needs Your Help!

The Cadet Cake Committee needs volunteers for Reporting-In Day on June 28 from 7:00AM until 1:00PM. Cadet Cakes is one of our biggest fundraisers and this event is when the largest number of cadet cake orders are placed. Reporting-In Day is also a terrific time to meet the parents of incoming swabs and display the professional image of the Coast Guard Spouses Association. This is a fun event and we can use your help at the CGSA booth. Any volunteer time would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Megan Bennett from Cadet Cakes at: (860) 447-3345 or iflyuair@yahoo.com to schedule a time slot to assist.

Club Notes

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

A big thank you to everyone who has made the past year possible for the CGSA! Megan Bennett wins the award for most Cadet Cakes baked, coming in at over 50! Patricia Pruett volunteered the most time for Ways & Means sales. Our fantastic committee chairs always deserve our thanks as well:

- ◆ Pat Simpson & Marion Gesele- Ways & Means
- ◆ Megan Bennett & Allison McSorley- Cadet Cakes
- ◆ Sharnel Duarte- Lunch Bunch
- ◆ Tiffani Kaminski- Newsletter
- ◆ Kim Davis- Membership
- ◆ Jill Billiau- Scholarships, Website, Family Support Fund
- ◆ Joellen Podoll- Hospitality, Luncheons & Socials
- ◆ Melissa Brown- Secret Pals, Care Packages

All of the ladies above were given a small gift as a token of our appreciation for their hard work this year. We hope you'll consider volunteering some of your time next year if you haven't had the chance already- our causes are so worthy and we need all the hands we can get!

The Coast Guard Academy is looking for Sponsor Families for the Class of 2014 cadets!

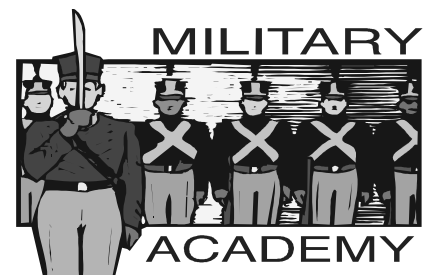
During the cadets' first year at the Academy, they will experience a drastic transition from a civilian to a military way of life. Some cadets adjust well, while others have a more difficult time. The Sponsor Program provides cadets with families who can help provide some relief, advice, and guidance. It is also an important means of support, friendship, and learning beyond the Academy environment, and helps to make the cadets' integration into the military community easier and more effective.

To be eligible for the Sponsor Program, applicants, both military and civilian, must be at least 28 years old and live within 25 miles of the Coast Guard Academy (exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis). Active duty military must have a rank/rate of E-7 or O-3 and above to be considered. All potential sponsors will undergo a background security check and provide two references with their application.

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsors family or have any questions about the program, go online to our website at www.cga.edu, (click on Cadet Life, then click on Cadet Resources and the Sponsor Program link is in the sidebar at the right) Or, go directly to www.uscga.edu/display.aspx?id=465 You can print off an application and send it in via mail or email.

If you have additional questions, contact the Sponsor Program Coordinator at 860/701-6119 or e-mail:

Erika.L.Lund@uscga.edu.



Club Notes

Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Connecticut General Membership Meeting • April 13, 2010 • CG Academy, Munro Hall

Present: Christy Newell, Jill Billau, Melissa Brown, Patricia Pruett, Alexis Plank, Laura Egan

Call to Order: Christy Newell called the meeting to order at 1845.

Report of the Recording Secretary: Laura Egan passed out copies of the minutes for March's meeting. Jill Billau accepted the published minutes and Patricia Pruett seconded the motion.

Report of the Treasurer: Jill provided copies of the Treasurer's Report. The reimbursements and deposits were up to date as of the meeting date. A deadline of May 15 has been set to receive all receipts for reimbursements from the CGSA members for the current fiscal year. Jill requested that all checks are to be cashed by June 1. A budget meeting will be held at the board member dinner on May 26.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary: A thank you note from a cadet and also for the donation for the musical were received by Christy. Melissa Brown reviewed the welcome aboard packet brochure. Jill will provide an updated membership form to accompany the welcome aboard packet info and will also reformat the brochure. It was decided that it is best to have the brochure and membership information delivered to the local CG units by mid-May.

Report of the Vice President: Christina Allen was unable to attend.

Report of Standing Committees:

Hospitality, Luncheons & Socials

Sunshine: Allison McSorley reported that no meals are needed. There are a few babies due in June and members will be contacted if they would like meals.

Lunch Bunch: Nothing to report

Secret Pals: Melissa has left over prizes that she will donate for upcoming events. Nova Seals will be taking over this committee.

International Dinner Club: Nothing to report.

Teas and Events: Christy reported that there are two upcoming events. The OCS Spouses' Tea is on May 4 and the Future Spouses Tea is on May 17.

Crafts: The next event Peggy Edwards is hosting is a day at the NEST and Mystic Market. RSVPs for this event are needed and it was requested to post why you are not able to attend. Megan Bennett will instruct the upcoming cheesemaking class.

Ways & Means

Merchandise: Marion Gesele reported that inventory was completed. A replacement is needed to take over Marion's position

Cadet Cakes: Megan Bennett will providing the CGSA with the amount received for donations. It was also suggested that for future cakes that an instruction sheet needs to be provided for those new to baking cadet cakes.

Club Operations

Membership: Nothing to report. Kim Davis will not continue as the membership chair for next year and a new chairperson is needed.

Historian: If anyone has taken pictures at a CGSA event, please post pictures on the Kodak website.

Audit Committee: Christina was unable to attend. Laura completed the audit and found no discrepancies.

MWR: The navy base will be hosting Comics on Duty this month.

Retirees: Nothing to report

OCS: Christy reminded us of the upcoming OCS Tea. The CGSA needs to determine who the next OCS liaison will be.

Newsletter: Tiffani Kaminski reported that the newsletter is within budget for this year. The deadline for the May newsletter is April 22.

Website: Jill will be providing Laura with the information to take over the website.

Philanthropy

Awards & Scholarships: Jill met with Gail regarding the scholarships. The book awards are coming up and she will follow-up with the guidance counselors. Jill is also in the process of choosing a book for the award. Volunteers are needed to deliver the books.

Care Packages: Melissa reported that Meredith Novak may take over as the committee chair. Megan and Christy will present their care package at the second half of the meeting for all members.

Family Support Fund: Jill has received Peggy's request for \$1000. Guidelines for this money are needed since the funds are limited and not replenished.

New Business:

Upcoming Activities:

April 16: Lunch Bunch, Olive Garden 11:30am

April 17: Family Bowling, CGA, 3-6pm

April 22: May Deadline for Newsletter Articles

April 24: NEST outing, 11am

April 30: Retiree Luncheon, Main Street Grill, 12pm

May 1: Scholarship deadline

May 4: OCS Tea, Quarters One, 9:30am

May 5: OCS Graduation

May 8: Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 13: End of Year Dinner, Dev's on Bank, 7pm — the date for this dinner may be changed to May 12.

May 17: Future Spouses' Tea, Quarters One, 9:30am

General Membership meeting: There will be no meeting for May. A debrief meeting for ideas and wrap-up may be held in June.

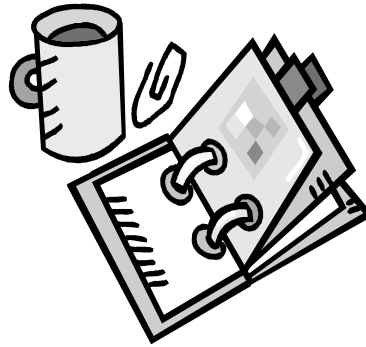
Survey: Christy would like to create a survey for opinions on how to improve the CGSA. Please send any suggestions for questions to her.

Adjournment: Christy adjourned the meeting at 1930.

Respectfully Submitted, April 22, 2010
Laura Egan, Recording Secretary

President's Corner

Hello and welcome to SUMMER! I want to start by saying thank you for voting me in as your new President and thank you to Christy Newell for doing such a fabulous job last year. Luckily she won't be far if I have questions since she has become our new Treasurer. I would also like to introduce the rest of our board for 2010-2011: Alexis Plank-Vice President, Laura Egan-Recording Secretary, Jennifer Nelson Calhoun-Corresponding Secretary, and again Christy Newell-Treasurer. Also a big thank you to the fabulous ladies that chaired our committees last year and to those who stepped up to volunteer this coming year. We still have committee openings if you would like to join us; we have a great bunch of volunteers and there is always room for more.



With so many people leaving and new people moving in please pass along our information to any new people you may run across. Save the date for our Welcome Picnic on August 14 and be on the lookout for other fun events this summer. If you would like to be put on the email list please email us and let us know or add us as a friend on facebook. If you miss a meeting but have questions or suggestions don't hesitate to contact us. You can find us online and on facebook at:

Website: <http://www.cgspouses-sect.org/>

Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/CGSAofSECT>

Thank you again and I look forward to a great year!

Irish Pruett
President

2010-2011 Leadership Roster

Honorary President

Betsy Burhoe

Sunshine
Ways & Means

Allison McSorley 848-3798
Pat Simpson 739-4033

Volunteer Needed

Executive Board

President	Patricia Pruett	(680) 245-5583
Vice President	Alexis Plank	333-1666
Treasurer	Christy Newell	287-2282
Recording Secretary	Laura Egan	405-8114
Corresponding Secretary	Jennifer Calhoun	(202) 309-5480

Babysitting
Bowling
Care Packages

Special Committees

Volunteer Needed
Janice Norton 437-3671
Meredith Novak (507) 271-1730
Christy Newell 287-2282

Standing Committees

Awards & Scholarships	Jill Billiau	391-5601
Cadet Cakes	Allison McSorley	848-3798
	Megan Bennett	447-3345
Luncheons/Socials/ Hospitality	Jamie Luzader	
Membership	Laura Egan	405-8114
News & Views	Tiffani Kaminski	(401) 348-8789
Parliamentarian	Kim Davis	434-7047

Crafts
Family Support Fund
Historian/Publicity
Lunch Bunch
MWR Representative
OCS Representative
Retiree Rep.
Secret Pals
Website

Volunteer Needed
Jill Billiau 391-5601
Volunteer Needed
Sharnel Duarte 326-5405
Pat Simpson 739-4033
Volunteer Needed
Sue Branagan 691-1285
Nova Seals 235-8072
Jill Billiau 391-5601

**COAST GUARD SPOUSES' ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT**

Coast Guard Spouses' Association
USCGA Chase Hall, Box A-25
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320

First Class Postage

Be sure to add info@cgsouples-sect.org to your email address book to ensure that all CGSA emails and newsletters always go straight to your inbox.

Mark Your Calendar!

General Membership Meeting ✦ June 8
June Lunch Bunch ✦ June 25
Reporting In Day ✦ June 28
Buttonwood Farms ✦ July 24
July Lunch Bunch ✦ July 28



Having trouble keeping up with all of our events? Want to hear about last-minute additions or changes to our schedule, or give your input on our event planning? **Become a Fan of CSGSA on Facebook!** Just sign in to Facebook (or visit www.facebook.com and create a free account) and search "Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Connecticut."